

# **16 Field Regiment**

**Royal New Zealand Artillery**



## **Some Aspects of Regimental History**

**1950-1976**



*16th Field Regiment  
Royal Regiment of  
New Zealand Artillery  
Papakura Camp*

*8* October 1976

We have been concerned for some time now that gunners joining the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery are not as aware of our history and traditions as they might be. This booklet is an attempt to rectify this. We have used the term Regimental History in all its aspects, the Royal Regiment as a whole, the Royal Regiment of Artillery in New Zealand and of course our own 16th Field Regiment RNZA.

A copy of this booklet will be sent to all gunners on enlistment into the Regiment. We trust that it forms the basis of a closer interest in all things Regimental, for we are the inheritors of a history and tradition second to none.

(D.R. KENNING)  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding Officer

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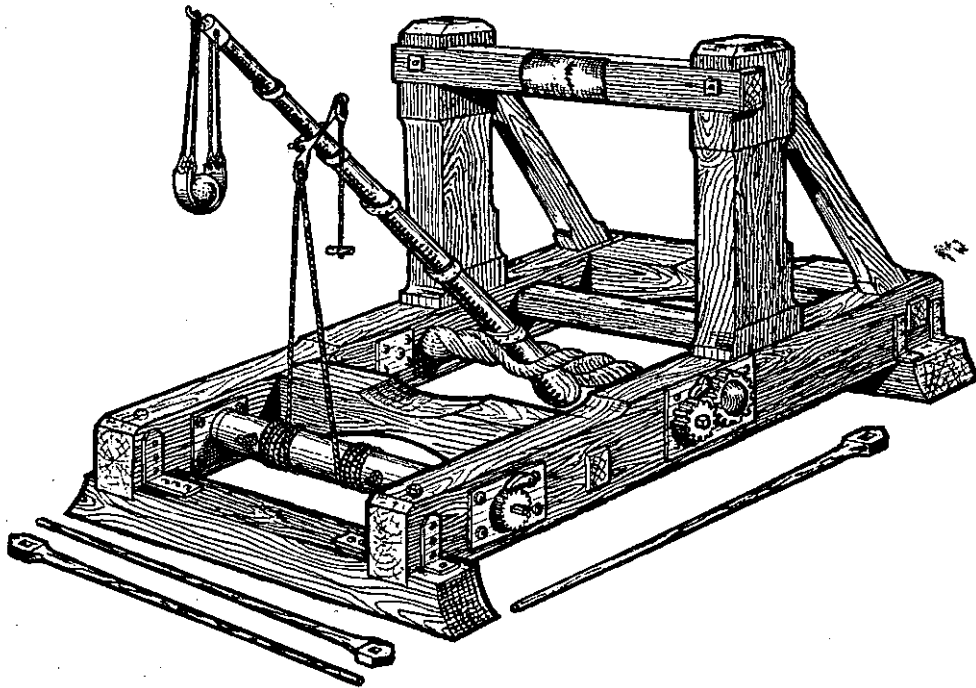
**The Evolution Of Artillery Weapons**

1. "Some Talk of Alexander"
2. The First Spark
3. The Cannons Opening Roar
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5. From Peninsula to Crimea
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**1. "Some Talk of Alexander"**

Artillerymen who gaily sing this song probably little realise that they are singing the praises of one of the first Artillery captains known to history; for it is on record that, as long ago as 320 BC this famous Greek general whose army conquered the world, had a whole array of stone-throwers and arrow-firing catapults. Nor were these

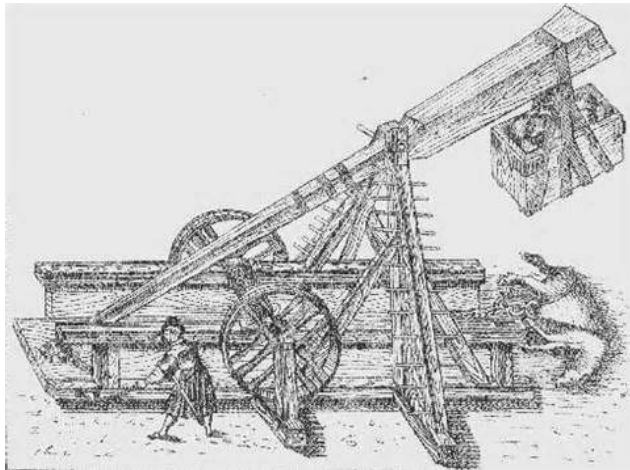
mere toys, for they could hurl their projectiles a distance of some 800 yards. The catapult in those days was looked upon as a siege piece; but the enterprising Alexander used it both as field and as mountain artillery, and used it to good effect, too. So if you are tempted to regard artillery as a comparatively modern science, remember that the Greeks had a word for it!



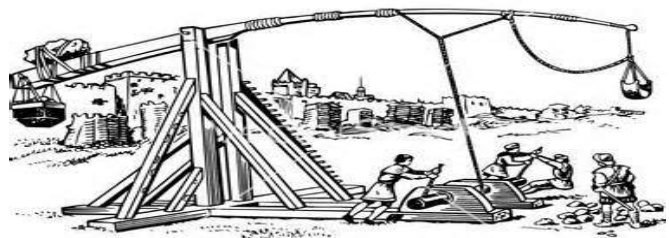
*Catapult 1*

Next came the Romans, and the great days first of the Republic and then of the Empire. In Caesars time there was a small field-piece known as a ballista, and a Roman legion contained 50 of these pieces and 10 catapults — the equivalent of 60 field guns and 10 howitzers. Caesar, another military genius, thought of transporting the former in carriages drawn by mules, which bears a strong resemblance to the Field Artillery in later times.

In the Dark Ages that followed the fall of Rome, little progress was made in warfare, or in anything else. But round about 1100 AD a fresh engine of war appeared known as the trebuchet, Its “projectile-force” was obtained from the gravitation of a heavy weight, in contrast to the twisted cordage that worked the catapult and the ballista. We are told that it could cast a stone weighing twelve hundred-weight, and that there was scarcely any limit to its power. Indeed it seems, quite literally, to have thrown everything but the kitchen stove at its opponents, for John, Duke of



Normandy, is alleged to have fired a dead horse into a town he was besieging and so



started a pestilence.

The real reason why a dead horse became such a popular projectile as to pass on the unpleasant duty of burial. The gunners never did like digging. More than once, in this age of chivalry, some luckless; envoy or messenger was tied up alive and shot back whence he came by the trebuchet. The gunners in those days were men of initiative.

### ***Catapult 2***

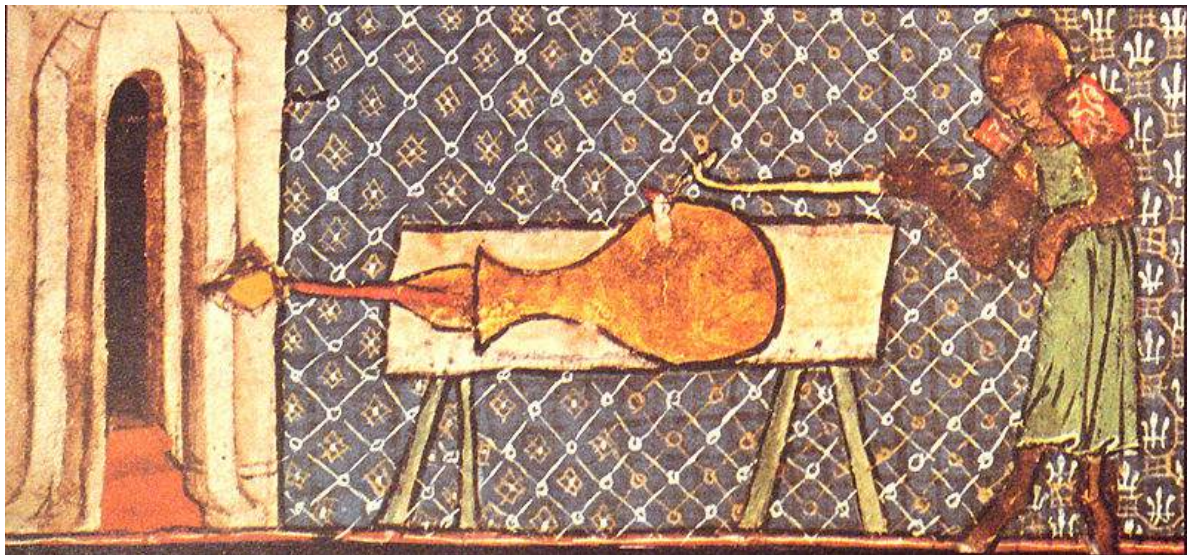
### ***Catapult 3***

## **2. The First Spark**



About 1248 came the invention which was destined to change the course of European history Gunpowder. The inventor is generally thought to be a man named Roger Bacon, He was not a soldier, as one might suppose, but a monk and amateur scientist. He had not set out deliberately to concoct any weapon of destruction, but having made his discovery he seems to have had a shrewd idea that it might be put to such a use; for he purposely with-held his knowledge from the public, and wrote his formula in code. It was thus some twenty or more years before the secret was out; and even longer before any real use was made of it.

Of course, sooner or later, something was bound to happen, In 1313 gunpowder was first used as a propellant, and the first “gun” to be so fired was the Dart-throwing Vase or Pot-de-Fer. This contraption consisted of a vase-shaped receptacle containing some of the powder which was ignited by means of a red-hot poker applied to a hole called the touch-hole; and this caused the arrow to speed on its way. Very primitive you will say and no doubt the “muzzle-velocity” was not very high. But seldom, if ever, can such a small beginning have led to such great results! It was an invention of the first magnitude which was destined to revolutionise war.

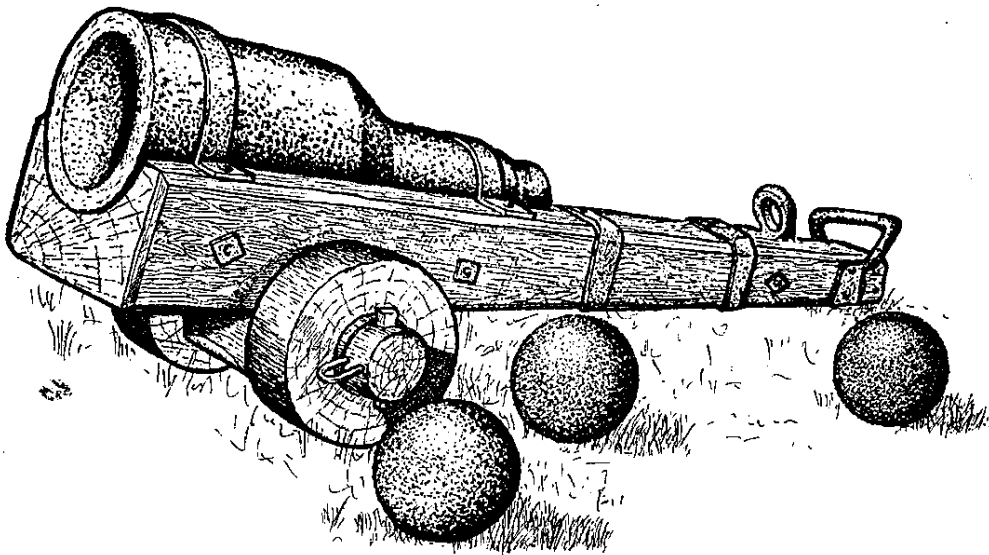


*Pot-de-Fer from Walter de Milemetes manuscript 1326*

### 3 The Cannon's Opening Roar

At first, this new weapon did not set the Thames, or anywhere else, on fire. It was indeed greatly inferior both in range and weight of projectile to the old catapult and trebuchet; and so these latter instruments were not immediately supplanted. At the same time gunpowder was a new and fascinating toy for men to play with, and this being so progress was fairly rapid.

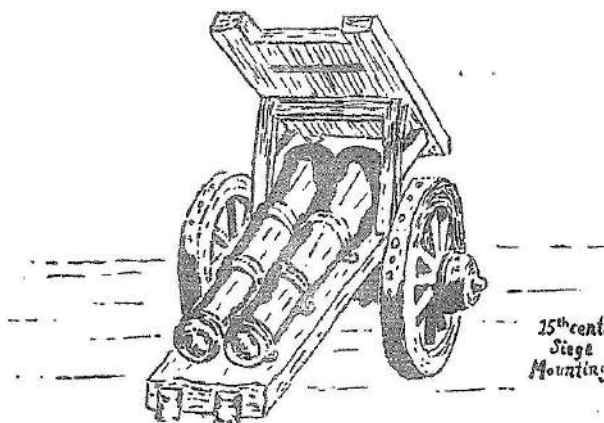
Round about 1340, powder mills were opened at Augsburg, and six years later Edward III was attacking the French with a primitive sort of cannon known as a bombard, firing a round stone cannon ball. Historians disagree as to whether or not he used it at Crecy; but he certainly used it at the siege of Calais the following year. From this cannon we get our modern term "Bombardier"



1346

### ***Crecy Bombard***

These early guns were made of wrought iron and it was not long before iron shot was introduced.





## ***15<sup>th</sup> Century Siege Mounting***

In this way mediaeval warfare progressed till in 1453 came the famous siege of Constantinople, when Mahomet II brought up thirteen enormous bronze cannons to bombard the town. These pieces had the huge calibre of 25 inches; they weighed 19 tons and could fire a 600 lb shot. The din was terrific and one writer said “Since the creation of the world nothing like it had been heard on the shores of the Bosphorous”.



***Dardanelles Gun, a 1464 Ottoman bombard***

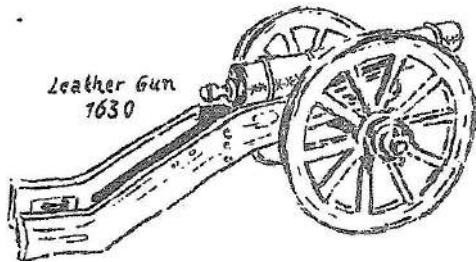
We can well believe it. Against this however, each gun took two hours to load and could only be fired seven times a day. It needed 30 wagons drawn by 60 oxen to move it, plus a team of 200 men to march beside it, and 200 more (of the Pioneer Corps?) to level the road. After a three weeks bombardment Constantinople fell, which is not surprising.

From now on the place of the cannon as a weapon of war was assured, although it was not popular with the soldiers themselves who called it “devilish artillery”.

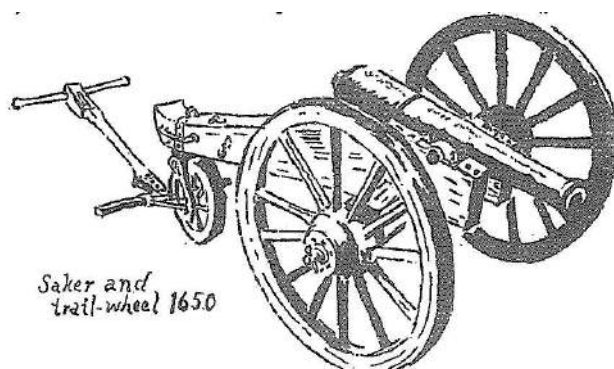
In Tudor England, it was naval warfare that, held the stage, Henry VIII started foundries mostly in Sussex and Kent, to turn out cannon for his ships. The “Great Harry” for instance, carried four “Great-cannon” (60 pounders) and a number of “Demi-cannon” (32 pounders). In 1542, also in Sussex, the first cast-iron guns and mortars were produced. These soon replaced the brass cannon which were outshot and outranged in the great Armada fight. As a result, a new gun-making industry arose in England, the gun-makers becoming so famous that foreign countries were soon clamoring for their products.

#### 4. Shot and Shell

About 1630 a new figure appeared, Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, to give a fresh fillip to the art of gunnery. This most able general fully realised the value of artillery and owed his most important victories to the skilful use of that arm. But he wanted it mobile, and so, for lightness, he experimented with a leather gun. This was not successful so he replaced it by light 4 pounders and 2 pounders, which proved most effective in the field.

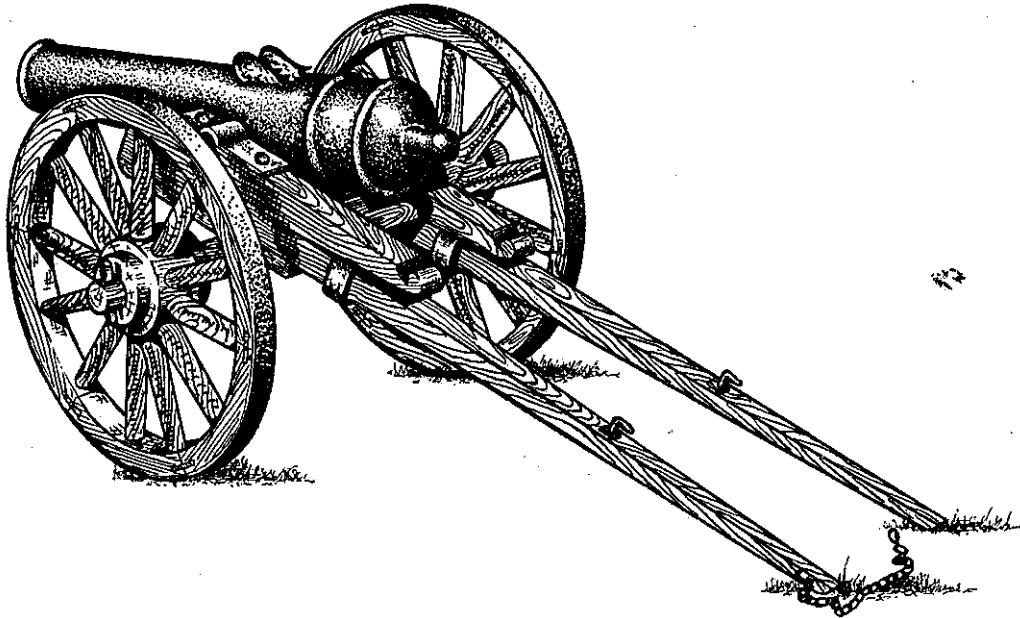


As the Civil War in England followed so soon, it is hard to understand why artillery was neglected by both Royalist and Roundhead. Even the great Cromwell seems to have under rated it. Non the less, progress continued to be made. In 1650 guns were first fitted with a trail wheel, and this in turn led to the limber. A single horse was harnessed to the limber shafts and the rest of the team were harnessed in pairs in front. As however, the gun detachment had to walk beside their guns, much of this new-found mobility was lost, Another disadvantage at this time was that the drivers and waggoners were civilians and not soldiers. Consequently they could, and often did, abscond when they felt like it, especially if in a “hot spot”



With the coming of Marlborough the efficiency and reputation of the whole Army, artillery included, rocketed sky high. At Blenheim every gun was sited under his own eye, and in all his battles he handled them brilliantly. Sensing too the value of mobility, he introduced the “galloper” gun. This was horse-drawn and galloped into action led

by a separately mounted driver. Marlborough raised the whole status of both gunners and gunnery. He was indeed the founder of the Regiment for as Master General of the Ordnance, he formed the first two units of the Royal Artillery with effect from 26 May 1716.



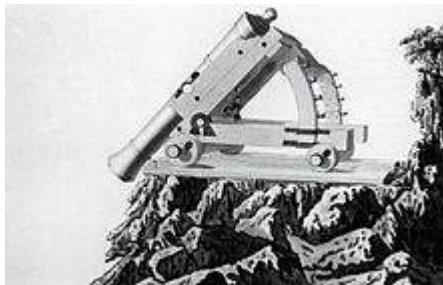
***Galloper Gun***

The next invention was a change in the method of manufacture. Up to 1740 the gun was cast in one piece and when removed from the mould the chamber was already formed. But now gun makers at Geneva, Switzerland, started to cast the gun in one solid mass and then to “bore” the chamber afterwards. This boring gave greater accuracy and a truer piece. The new method also speeded up production and guns were turned out in much greater numbers. Howitzers of 8” and 10” calibre were used. All these guns were smooth-bore muzzle-loaders, mostly firing solid ball, Case-shot was used as an anti-personnel projectile at short range.

At this time more progress was made on the Continent than in England. Frederick the Great of Prussia introduced Horse Artillery, and in 1762 massed 45 howitzers in one battery. The French entirely reorganised their artillery. Gun—carriages were all made to a uniform model, with interchangeable parts. Limber boxes were fitted and horses harnessed in pairs instead of file.

Finally, two further inventions were to mark the close of the century. The first occurred in 1781 when the Spaniards attempted to recapture Gibraltar from us. As the attack came mostly from the sea it was found that our guns, high up on “The Rock” could not depress sufficiently to engage the foe. So a Lieutenant Koehler invented a gun carriage which could be depressed the required number of degrees. That was one problem solved, The next was to find a “shell” with a really effective range. In 1784 came a new gun-projectile a hollow shell filled with round shot and powder. The fuze was set to ignite over the target and the charge opened the outer shell, scattering the round shot.

This invention, known at the time as “spherical case” was disregarded for twenty years. It was, however, to prove a winner. The officer who invented it was one lieutenant Henry Shrapnel, RA. His name lived with the shell he invented.



*Koehlers Depressing carriage*

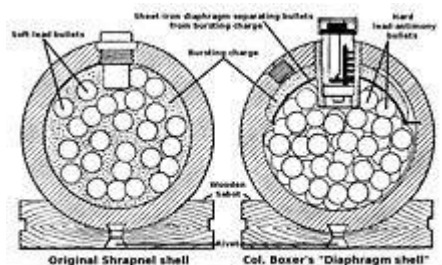


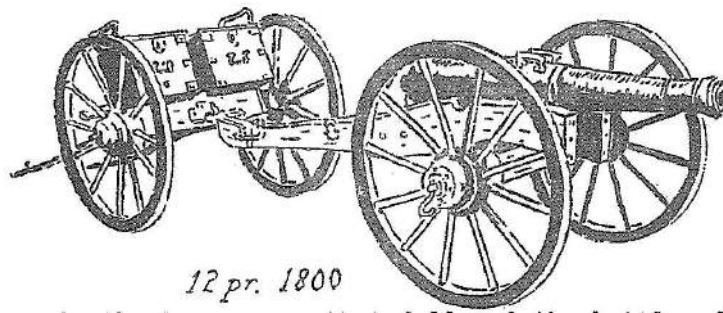
Fig. 2. Original Shell designed by Lieut. Henry Shrapnel and Col. Boxer's improvement

*Shrapnel shell and Boxers improved version*

## 5. From Peninsula to Crimea

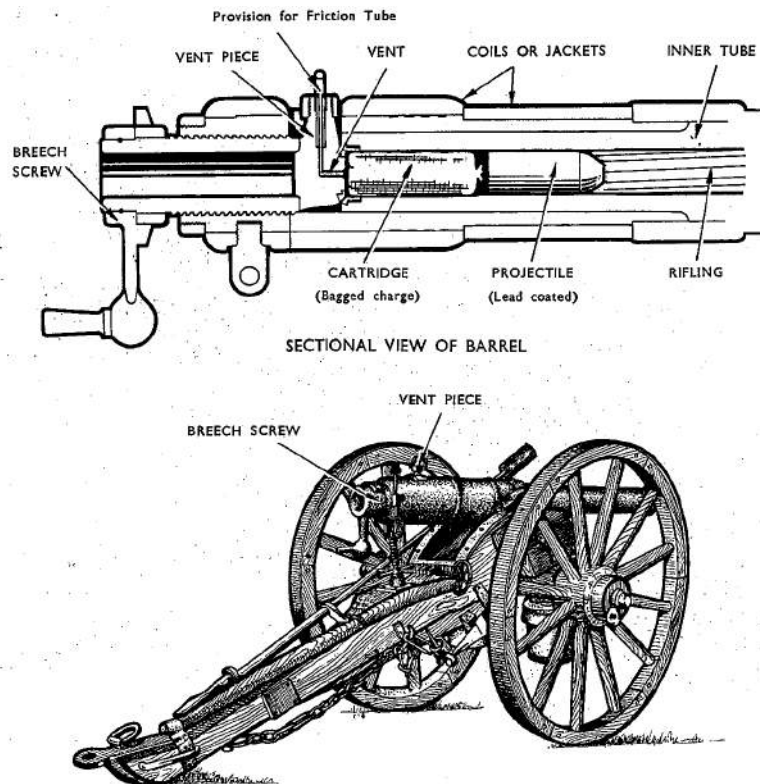
The early years of the nineteenth century brought the Napoleonic Wars — and war always stimulates new ideas. In 1801 appeared the first fixed sight. In 1804 an Ordnance Committee decided to experiment with Shrapnel's invention, with the result that it was immediately adopted, and four years later “wrought terrible havoc on the French brigades at Vimiera during the Peninsula War”. The advantage of shrapnel was that it produced a large number of small bullets heavy enough to kill and retaining their remaining velocity reasonably well; it was therefore superior to the powder filled

shell which burst in the air and gave a comparatively small number of large fragments. About this time too, a clergyman named Forsyth patented a percussion powder for priming.



In the long peace that followed the battle of Waterloo, 1815, invention lay fallow until in 1849 a Captain Boxer produced a new time-fuze which greatly increased the efficiency of shrapnel

In spite of this, when the war with Russia opened in 1854, most of the British cannon was still of a Waterloo pattern. Very soon, however, improvements began to appear, as is usual in time of war. Rifled, breech-loading guns, firing cylindrical shells, began to replace the old smooth-bore, muzzle-loaders with their round shot. The range too was “stepped up” to 2,600 yards, so that the bombardment of Sebastapol was called a “very hideous thing”. A Tyneside engineer named Armstrong deserves credit for most of these improvements. Starting with an oval bore, he changed to the polygroove system, as we know it today; and the elongated projectile was coated with lead. Thus it came about that the Crimean War produced the most revolutionary changes and improvements in artillery weapons. But alas for the hopes of inventors; The war had been over but a few years when, quite incredible to relate, the military experts decided against breech-loading and returned to the muzzle-loading gun.



## 6. Into Modern Times

The next ten years or so were taken up with much wrangling over the respective merits of muzzle-loading and breech-loading guns, and the cause of the latter was not furthered when in 1871 it was found that 200 guns from the famous Krupps works (all breech-loaders) had failed owing to crude mechanism. Still, by 1880, the muzzle-loader was declared obsolete, and the British Army returned, this time finally, to the breech-loader. In the nineties a new smokeless propellant, cordite, was substituted for gunpowder and a new high explosive, lyddite, was used for shell—firing. Guns were now mostly made of steel, and reliable range-finders had been adopted and were found to be successful.

So we come to the Boer War and the advent of modern gunnery. In South Africa it was soon obvious that the British would have to alter their tactics radically. No longer could guns be sited on hills so as to get a good view of the enemy. No longer could they be sited in the open at all, If they were, they were wiped out. The introduction of magazine rifles compelled the Artillery to use covered or semi-covered positions. From now on the guns had to be hidden from view, and open sights were useless as the gunners could not actually see the target—hence the “Gunners Arc”, indirect fire, and

OPs, The first of these was very primitive and after the war gave way to the telescopic and dial sight.

We have now traced the history of artillery weapons for more than 2,000 years from the arrow-firing catapults and stone-throwers of Alexander to weapons for modern times. In the mad armaments race of the twentieth century, the cry has always been for more, bigger and longer-ranged guns, which the arms factories have produced in ever-increasing numbers. We have seen the 15" naval guns, the guns that can fire across the Channel, and the Big Bertha of World War I that bombarded Paris from the Belgian frontier, at a range of seventy-five miles. The invention of the aeroplane called forth the Anti-aircraft gun. This brings us to the present day, and gunners do not need to have their gun described to them. They know it.



## **THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY**

1. Enter the Gunner
2. The Royal Artillery
3. “Ubique”
4. “Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt”.
5. Exit the Horse
6. The Last Round

### **1. Enter the Gunner**

Although artillery was used by the Ancients and during the Middle Ages, it was not until Tudor times, as far as England is concerned, that the gunner really came into his own.

Henry VIII was very artillery-minded and it was he who first established a permanent force of gunners in this country when he appointed a Master Gunner and twelve paid gunners to the Tower of London.

This idea was expanded and master gunners held permanent positions in all our main towers and castles where, in addition to caring for equipment, they trained their gunners and taught certain civilians who were paid a retaining fee and came up for service when called. The master gunner at the Tower was senior and was known as the Master Gunner of England. This appointment can be traced to 1263 and since 1796, has been known as “The Master Gunner of St James’ Park”.

As there was no Regular Army in those days, these forts and the iron foundries, came under a Board of Ordnance whose chief was the Master, or Master-General of the Ordnance. In time of war, this Master-General was called upon to raise a team of artillery to which certain pieces of ordnance were allotted together with master-gunners, mates ad matrosses (gunners assistants). In addition, this Master of the Ordnance signed all artillery and engineer officer commissions, as

distinct from those other army officers whose commissions were signed by the King. (To this day the R.A. and R.E. wear the same combination of colours).

These old gunners were the forerunners of the whole of the Royal Artillery. They enlisted for life, many of them serving until a ripe old age. Henry VIII also founded a Guild of St George (later to become the Honorable Artillery Company) about a hundred years before Cromwell's time.

It will be readily seen that we must not confuse the origin of the Royal Regiment of Artillery with the birth of the Regular Army. The former was a permanent fighting force a full century before 1660.

## **2. The Royal Artillery**

During the Great Civil War and in Stuart times generally artillery did not play a very prominent part. Indeed, they enjoyed no very high reputation at that time. They were unpopular with the infantry who considered that they were conceited and gave themselves airs and they were notorious for profane swearing. It was left to the Duke of Marlborough to improve this situation. Marlborough, besides being Captain-General of the Forces, was also Master-General of the Ordnance and in his campaigns the gunners won for themselves great renown. A siege train in his day consisted of 100 guns 60 mortars, 3,000 wagons, 15,000 horses, and took up a road space of 15 miles. Soon after the great victories of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet, the gunners got their reward, and on 26 May 1716 a permanent force of artillery consisting of two companies was created by Royal Warrant. Each company consisted of a captain, two lieutenants, two lieutenant fire-workers, three sergeants, three corporals, three bombardiers, thirty gunners and fifty matrosses; but no drivers or horses were included in this establishment. They were all supplied by civilians. Naturally this force should be quartered near a gun factory and the site chosen was Woolwich, a naval dockyard and port — the home of the gunners and headquarters of the Royal Artillery to this day.

Unhappily in that same year, the great Duke died, but the policy was not changed. Six years later, in 1722, the two existing Trains of Artillery (one at Gibraltar and one in Minorca) were reorganised as Companies of Artillery, and, being added to the original two Companies already at Woolwich, the whole was formed into a regiment which was

called “The Royal Regiment of Artillery”. The title “Royal” was not given as a reward for gallantry.

Their first Colonel was a Danish officer who had fought for us with distinction in the French wars, one Colonel Albert Borgard. He was a fine soldier and during the thirty years of his command it is written of him that “by good organisation and training he laid the foundations on which the regiment has been firmly built”. To him and his officers the regiment owes the code that when supporting other arms “the guns fire to the last round, so long as a gunner remains alive to load”.

In 1741, the Royal Military Academy for the training of artillery officers, came into being. This was just as well for during the next twenty years we had to fight the French not only in Europe but in India and Canada as well.

Five years later, we find the Royal Regiment taking the “Right of the line”. This order of precedence dates from an official letter of the Duke of Cumberland written on 15 April, 1756 stating that the Royal Artillery was to “take the right of Foot and of all dragoons when dismounted”. There was no question whatever of a reward for gallantry. Admittedly the right; of the line was always considered the post of honour and was normally held in a battalion by the Grenadier Company. But the award to the Royal Artillery was one of precedence and not a reward for gallantry.

A year later the Regiment had increased to 24 companies, divided into two battalions, and when the guns were grouped together in action they were known as a “brigade of guns”.

It was about this time too, that British artillery really began to become mobile - no doubt influenced by the genius of Frederick the Great of Prussia. Both at Minden (1759) and Warburg we read of artillery galloping onto the field of action. In the former engagement a company commander named Phillips adopted these tactics most successfully; and it was this same man, incidentally, who started the first RA Band. Even so, it was not till 1793 that the Royal Horse Artillery was formed. Four troops were raised in that year, and shortly after this, the normal armament was four guns (generally 6 pounders) and two Howitzers (usually 12 pounders or 24 pounders). All personnel were mounted. This was a great improvement. As one writer says: “A self-contained, highly mobile fighting unit of artillery had at long last arrived”. Established as a “corps d’elite”, to this day the Royal Horse Artillery with their guns take the right

and march at the head of the Household Cavalry - they lead the Army.

The Regiment won undying fame in the Napoleonic and Peninsula years. One episode, and one name (Norman Ramsay - later killed at Waterloo) will live forever in the history of the Regiment. "After being completely surrounded by the French cavalry at Fuentes d' Onoro (1811) and given up for lost, he galloped through threw with his guns and detachments complete. His bravery and devotion to duty have served as an example and an inspiration for all gunners ever since". To quote again, this time from General Foy, one of

Napoleon's greatest artillerymen: "The English gunners are distinguished from the other soldiers by their excellent spirit. In action their handling is skilful, their aim perfect, and their courage supreme."

In 1815 Waterloo, where "the gunners of Captain Mercer's troop never left their guns and the cavalry never got through them ...", closed the first chapter of their story, The Royal Regiment had been in existence just on one hundred years.

### **3. *UBIQUE***

The next hundred years started dully but, as we shall see, were to be as eventful as their predecessors.

In 1835, as the Regiment had by then taken part in practically every engagement all over the world, it was decided that the various units should cease to display individual Battery "honour titles" and that in their place the word "UBIQUE" (meaning "Everywhere") should be used for the whole of the Artillery. At the same time the privilege of bearing the Royal Arms over a gun, with the motto "QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT" (With Right and Glory Lead) was granted by William IV and eventually replaced the old Board of Ordnance badge.

On 29th June 1856 the Victoria Cross was instituted and among the first to receive the award were Sergeant Major A. Henry of 4 Company, 11 Battalion, RA (now 49 Field Battery) who defended his gun at Inkerman after all his detachment had been killed and until he himself collapsed from twelve bayonet wounds. There was also Gunner Thomas Arthur who showed devoted heroism in sallying out of the trenches (at the assault on the Redan - Crimea) on numerous occasions and bringing in wounded officers and men, also in carrying ammunition across the open while under fire.

A great change now took place in the organisation of the Artillery as a result Of the experience of the Crimean War. The Board of Ordnance was abolished after 400 years of unbroken power, and both Artillery and Engineers now came under the direct control of the War Office and the Commander-in-Chief, like the rest of the Army. Troops and companies were rechristened batteries, grouped together for administrative purposes and called brigades. Batteries were allotted either Field or Garrison weapons, but these were interchangeable, according to the task in hand.

The Regiment was again to the fore in the Indian Mutiny (1857—59). Several officers and men of 3 Coy, 8 Bn RA won the Victoria Cross for the company's outstanding gallantry on 25 September 1857 in the 1st Relief of Lucknow. Lieutenant Willoughby also won immortal fame in 1857 at Delhi by blowing himself up with the powder magazine in order to prevent it falling into the hands of the rebels.

In 1861 following the suppression of the Mutiny, the artillery of the East India Company was amalgamated with the Royal Artillery, and adopted the same battle-honour "UBIQUE". If this word had proved applicable in the past it was to be equally or more so in the future, In the closing stages of Queen Victoria's reign we had military commitments in all quarters, and the gunners were to be found literally everywhere — New Zealand, Afghanistan, Egypt, South Africa.

The Second Afghan War (1878—80) is noted for two things, Firstly (and this may surprise some people) it was the last war in which elephants were used on both sides for artillery transport. Secondly it was famous for the march from Kabul to Kandahar carried out by Major-General Roberts. A force of 10,000 strong, including three mountain batteries, covered a distance of 300 miles over bad roads and through a hostile country in the amazing time of twenty-four days; at the end of which they defeated the enemy and relieved the city. This ranks as one of the greatest feats in British military history and its hero when he was made a peer, took the title of Roberts of Kandahar.

In 1899, on the eve of the South African war, the Regiment was divided into separate Corps - one consisting of Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, and the other the Royal Garrison (including Mountain Artillery).

Mention has already been made earlier of the Boer War; and of how we fought for the first time in Khaki, and had to learn a fresh artillery technique. As usual we started badly and many a time, notably at Colenso, decorations were won for dragging the guns out of impossible positions. Roberts, however, (now a Field Marshal and affectionately known as “Bobs”) was in command and it was to him that we chiefly owed final victory. An interesting point, and worth noting is that at one stage, when there was a shortage of mounted troops, many artillery batteries actually returned their guns into store and were temporarily converted into Artillery Mounted Rifles. In this new role, the Royal Artillery not only lived up to its reputation, but enhanced it, obtaining the highest praise for “good horse- mastership” in difficult circumstances, and for skill in mounted infantry work.

#### 4 **“Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt”**

Great as all those exploits undoubtedly were, they have since paled into insignificance when compared with the two shattering world wars of this century.

In 1914, war with Germany took the Regiment not only to France but to Gallipoli, Mesopotamia (now Iraq), Salonika, North Russia, Egypt, Palestine, East and West Africa - in fact everywhere. In less than a month from 4 August, the gunners had won 7 VCs in the famous retreat from Mons, including Captain Reynold’s exploit at Le Cateau, and that of L Battery, RHA at Nery.

It must not, he thought, however, that when events became static the Royal Artillery just took a rest. On the contrary, they were busier than ever. In those days artillery cover was as important; as air-cover is today; and every time the infantry went “over the top”, they expected in artillery barrage to precede them. They expected, but they didn’t always get it, for during the first years of the war ‘we suffered from an appalling shortage of shells.

In 1916 the Regiment reached its second centenary, and received a special message from Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the BEF in France, which ended: “discipline and devotion to duty displayed by the officers, NCOs and men of the .artillery throughout this campaign have been in accord with the highest tradition of their Regiment”. He spoke the simple truth, and right to the end, the same high standard was maintained.

Thus we find as late as April 1918 at Messines a certain Captain Dougall adding to the many brave deeds of the Gunners. “Although exposed to both rifle and machine-gun

fire he fearlessly walked about as though on parade, calmly giving orders and encouraging everybody. His remark to the Infantry:

‘So long as you stick to your trenches I will, keep my guns here’ had a most inspiring effect on all ranks”. This gallant officer killed in action, was awarded a posthumous VC.

Altogether in this war the Regiment won 15 VCs, large number of DSOs and Military Crosses ( a new decoration instituted on 28 December 1914) and no fewer than 2,602 DCM’s. In addition the 5th Battery RFA obtained a distinction unique in the records of the Royal Artillery for they were awarded the Croix—de--Guerre by the French Government for their action at Pontavert in May 1918 when, surrounded by the enemy, using Lewis guns and rifles, they fought to the last man.

## **5. Exit the Horse**

The story of the Royal Artillery between the wars is very similar to that of the rest of the Army and can be summed up in two words - reorganisation and mechanisation. In 1922 the Royal Artillery Depot, comprising two training brigades and a depot brigade, was formed-at Woolwich by amalgamating all the reserve brigades and depots.

Army Order 164 of 1924 stated that “Existing titles of Royal Artillery and Royal Garrison Artillery shall be abolished“ and the distinctions between Horse, Field and Garrison Artillery ceased to exist. The Royal Artillery became one Regiment which included the artillery of the Territorial Army.

Meanwhile, the days of the horse were numbered. During the recent war many siege batteries were mechanized, and had acquired transport driven by RASC drivers - a divided control recalling the days of the Driver Corps. By 1927 the draught horse had been dispensed with for all medium artillery which was now tractor driven; and with the appearance of the “Driver I.C.” all the personnel were Royal Artillery. At first battery staff were mounted and the guns were towed by “dragons” which also carried the detachments. Now year by year more horsed brigades were converted, and during the thirties the dragons were superseded by six-wheel vehicles to which a track could be fixed if required. Pneumatic tyres were also introduced, and the old wooden wheels disappeared.

Then the Second World War broke out in 1939 the mechanisation of the Royal Artillery was complete except in India. To the gunners who loved their horses this was a sad blow. All that now remained to form a link with the past were a few units on foreign



service, and a ceremonial battery of Royal Horse Artillery in London. Every year, in peace time, the Royal Horse Artillery stage their Musical Drive for the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, a thing of wonder to the new generation and for the old veterans, a moving tribute to the days that will never return.

## **6. The last Round**

The Second World War has not yet passed into history. It is sufficient to say that, true to its motto, the Royal Regiment saw service in almost every quarter of the globe - Burma, Libya, Greece, Italy, Normandy - the row of different campaign medals tells its own story.

Perhaps the Gunners finest hour was at El Alamein when they paved the way for the victory of the Eighth Army, which was to prove the turning point of the war. In these years the size of the Royal Artillery grew to enormous proportions, at one time being nearly one third of the whole army, and numbered more than 8,000,000 men.

Many gunners have risen to the highest rank, and have won a Field Marshal's baton, or the proud title of Master Gunner, or both. Among these are Lord Roberts, Lord Milne and Lord Alanbrooke. Many more, as we have seen, have won honour and fame for themselves and their regiment. In most citations where decorations are awarded we read the words: most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty". The opportunity does not come to all of us to display the former; but we can all, every day of our lives, show the latter.

In this way the traditions of the Royal Regiment of Artillery can never die, but with added glory will give inspiration to gunners everywhere. Field Marshal Montgomery, in an address to artillery officers in Germany in 1945 said, "The contribution of the Artillery to the final victory in the German war has been immense. In my experience the Artillery has never been so efficient as it is today". Here is a great tradition to be maintained by each of you, the Gunners of today.

## Key Dates In The History Of The Royal Regiment Of Artillery

“The more a man knows of the deeds of those who have preceded him in his Corps the more likely he is to emulate them”

Duncan, Regimental Historian

1248 - 1704

**1248 - Invention of gunpowder** by Roger Bacon an English monk.

**1346 - Battle of Crecy:** Bombards used by English Army. “Which with fire throw little balls to frighten and destroy horses.”

**14th & 15th Centuries:** Artillery used as a *siege* weapon. Wooden shields were constructed to protect Gunners from Arrows. Then shields were again introduced at the end of last century there was an outcry in the press that shields were not in the true tradition of the Artillery.

**1453 - Mahomet's Bronze Cannon:** Constructed by Mahomet II for siege of Constantinople in 1453. Calibre 625 mm, weight 17 tonnes, length 5 metres. It took 30 wagons and 60 oxen to move it. 200 men had to escort it and 250 men had to go ahead to smooth out the road and strengthen bridges. It took 2 months to move it 150 miles.

**1453 - Siege of TEROUENNE:** *The Twelve Apostles* were 12 huge guns used by Henry VIII. St (*sic*) John disgraced himself by getting stuck in the mud and being consequently captured. The guns were said to have wrought havoc in this siege.

**1537 - First mention of Quadrants and Ballistics** as we know them today. Nicholas Tartaglia (an Italian) in his text book dedicated to Henry VIII, suggests means for causing “Any great piece of Artillerie to make in his discharge an exceeding great noyse and marvellous rore.” Artillery was still regarded, except for battering down walls, as an anti-morale weapon.

**1542 - First cast-iron cannon constructed in Sussex** by Ralph Hog superiority of the English naval cannon in Battle with Armada (1588) was instrumental in achieving a great victory.

**1545 - Henry VIII established first permanent force of Gunners in England:** 12 Paid Gunners installed in Tower of London under the Master Gunner of England. These Gunners were responsible to train certain civilians who were under obligation for service in an emergency. A present day parallel could well be regarded as the permanent staff of the T.A. and the members of the T.A.

The Trayne of Artillerie first made its appearance under Henry VIII. It could consist of upwards of two guns. It was followed by wagons containing every luxury of life including hire woman. Hence the term “Son of a Gun”. The training of Artillery came under the Board of Ordnance unlike the rest of the Army which came under the Commander-in-Chief. Officers of Artillery and Engineers had their commissions signed by the Master General of the Ordnance and not by their King.

**1563 - Mention of a BARTAREY (Battery)** at Siege of Havre de Grace Normandy.

**1630 - Mobile use of Artillery** by Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden.

**1645 - The new model Army formed.** The Artillery was considered of insufficient importance to justify reorganization. The Artillerist of the time could think of nothing more for the tactical use of their heavy guns than that they should be “posted on an eminence, since a ball travels with greater force down hill than up hill”. Even this limited plan was offset by the danger of the shot rolling out of the muzzle before the gun could be fired.

**1686 - Introduction of the rank of BOMBARDIER.** The first military ranks began to appear in the Artillery. Lack of discipline due to lack of organisation. Unpopularity with other Arms due to conceit and ill behaviour. Terrific pride in themselves and their guns.

**1704 - Blenheim, The first example of English Artillery being used in a mobile role,** Marlborough as Master General of the Ordnance personally supervised the laying of each gun. Fortescue (Historian of the British Army) writes: ‘For the other part, the artillery came out of the war with not less, perhaps with even more brilliancy than the other Corps of the Army, and it is likely that no Artillery officers ever worked

more strenuously and skillfully in the face of enormous difficulties than the defeated men who brought their guns first down the South side of the Danube and then back across the river to the Battle field of Blenheim”.

Colonel BLOOD was the Artillery Commander. *Blenheim was a turning point in the history of Artillery.* The Gunners more than proved their worth in the eyes of the Army and the Country. Marlborough's great battles of which Blenheim was the first were directly instrumental in the forming of the Regiment in 1716 and its proud designation as the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1722.

### **1716 - 1939**

**1716 - Formation of the Royal Artillery by Royal Warrant 26 May 1716.** The Regiment was formed as a direct result of the fine service rendered by the Royal Artillery in Marlborough's stirring battles of the early 1700's (Blenheim, Ramilles, Oudernarde and Malplaquet). The Regiment owed much to the Duke and it was tragic that this man, who was more responsible than anyone else for the transition of the Gunner from a person of "evil reputation" to one who could take his place with the bravest and most devoted servant of the King, died in this same year of 1716.

**1722 - Designated Royal Regiment of Artillery.** The first Colonel was ALBERT BOGARD.

The Unit of Artillery was a COMPANY Of which there were two, each consisted of:

- One Captain
- Two Lieutenants
- Two Lieutenant Fire Workers
- Three Sergeants
- Three Corporals
- Three Bombardiers
- 30 Gunners
- 50 Mattroses (Gunners mates)

No drivers or horses were included and no equipment issued. Companies manned defences of the Garrison in which they were stationed. If sent on a campaign they took over field equipment and moved it with hired horses which were in charge of civilian drivers.

**Uniform:** Blue, long-skirted coats faced with red; trimmed with gold lace or braid according to rank. Cocked hats, waist coats and breeches Red for Officers, Blue for ORs. White Spatter-dashes, Undress for fatigues etc. A blue coat.

## **Small Arms**

NCO, Balberts and Swords

Gunners, Linstock, powder horn and sword

Mattresses, Muskets and Bayonets

The original companies were stationed at Woolwich near the Gun Factory which is now Woolwich Arsenal. It was decided in 1950 after much controversy that the Regimental Home should remain at Woolwich.

**1743 - Battle of DETTIWGEN:** Last battle in which a King of England personally led his troops. Three companies of Artillery took part manning 24 pdrs.

**1745 - Battle of FONTENOY:** Two Battalion Guns (manned by Gnrs) support with each Infantry Battalion. Fontenoy is famous in regimental Annals because the civilian drivers ran away, taking their horses with them, and the guns were manhandled into action, keeping pace with the Infantry. It is also recorded that our 6 pdrs engaged the French Artillery. This must be one of the first examples of Counter Battery as we know it today.

**1751 - Death of Colonel BORGARD:** Artillery officers commissions signed by King instead of Master General of the Ordnance.

**1755 - Establishment raised to 16 Companies:** For practice and war the tactical unit of Artillery became known as a Brigade. A Brigade consisted of 4, 5 or 6 guns of the same type.

**1756 - 63 Seven Years War.**

**1756 - Royal Artillery took “Pride of place - The Right of the Line”.** This was probably derived from the position of the Battalion guns being on the right of the Infantry Battalions. This privilege is jealously guarded to this day. The order of precedence is:

Household Cavalry

Royal Armoured Corps,

Royal Artillery, etc.

The Royal Horse Artillery, however take precedence over all units when dismounted EXCEPT the Household Cavalry. With guns on parade, the Royal Horse Artillery takes precedence over all other units including the Household Cavalry.

**1757 - Regiment raised to 24 Coys.** (Two Bns of 12 Coys each).

**1759 – MINDEN:** The first example of Fire and movement Ten 12 pdrs were rushed into the front line, when our Infantry were being marched, and so placed that they achieved complete surprise over the enemy. “We accordingly drew up our ten guns close to the six Regiments on the right and there awaited undiscovered till the enemy came almost within pistol shot, like a cloud, with numbers, and when they were just going to gallop down sword in hand amongst our poor mangled Regiments, we clapt our matches to the ten guns and gave them such a salute as they little expected as they have since told us,” Letter from an Artillery Officer.

**1759 - Battle of QUEBEC:** Storming of the Heights of Abraham.

**1762 - RA Band formed in Germany:** Later transferred to London.

**1779 - Woolwich Barracks built.** Siege of Gibraltar, 1779-1803. Red hot shot used against Spanish war ships. Lt KOEHLER invented a carriage which would depress the piece. **Uniforms:** White breeches with long black gaiters were introduced for all ranks.

**1784 - SHRAPNEL invented his Shell.** *Note:* no real advance was made in ammunition development between the 1550 COMMON SHELL (FUZE 1), an ordinary cannon ball, and 1784. BAR, CHAIN and GRAPE shot were in common use from early 16th century onwards.

**1793 - Formation of Royal Horse Artillery:** It was at this time that Cavalry became a reconnaissance, pursuit and rearguard Arm. The Guns and Horses of the Field Artillery were too heavy and cumbersome to gallop with the Cavalry. The RHA had on their establishment six pdr guns, 45 drivers and 187 horses. The RHA was therefore the first self contained fighting unit of Artillery. The first troop were horsed with chestnut horses and were known from their formation as “The Chestnut Troop”. The Horse Artillery rapidly established itself as a *Corps D’Elite* inside the Regiment and today it has many proud traditions to live up to.

**1795-1814 - Revolutionary and Peninsular Wars.**

**1806 - Eleven troops of RHA were in existence.**



**1809 - CORRUNA:** Sir John Moore wrote “*The Artillery consists of particularly well behaved men*”.

**1811 - FIJENTES D’ONORO:** The exploit of Norman Ramsay, while second captain BULLS TROOP RHA, (now 1 Battery) which earned him immortal fame, was probably the most dashing feat of any junior Artillery Commander before or since, in the History of the Regiment. Cut off with his troop by French Cavalry and given up for lost, he formed his guns up in line and charged the French ranks. The official historian writes “And suddenly a shout arose an English shout and Norman Ramsay appeared at the head of his Battery. Horses stretched like greyhounds across the plain-guns bounding behind them like things of no weight, mounted gunners with pointed sabres all bent low in deathless career”. To this day, “drivers' day” is celebrated annually on May 4th by Bulls Troop in memory of this engagement and the youngest driver recites the stirring words from the official history. Norman Ramsay was killed while commanding H Battery at Waterloo — a troop which still bears his name.

**1813 - San Sebastian:** For the first time, the guns fired over the heads of the Infantry, “lifting for the final assault.” This was the nature of an experiment but it was an immense success. This was therefore the forerunner of the screening barrage.

**1815 - Waterloo:** Napoleon escaped from ELBA (an island off the west coast of ITALY) in February. He was received with the greatest enthusiasm by his army and by June he had an army of 125000 men and 370 guns. Wellington had an army of 93000 men and 126 guns (only 42,000 were British). Eight Horse Artillery Troops and five brigades took part at Waterloo –

*Equipment:*

<u>RHA 4 Troops</u> each 5 x 9 pdr	I x 5 1/2” How
1 Troop 6 x 5 1/2” How	
3 Troops 5 x 6pdr	1 x 5 1/2” How
Gun teams consisted of eight horses	
Wagon teams consisted of six horses.	
<u>Field Brigade.</u> 5 x 9 pdr	I x 5 1/2” How

Three Brigades of 18 pdrs were also formed under Colonel Sir Alexandra DICKSON. Artillery Commander Colonel Sir G.A. Wood C.R.H.A. Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Frazer

## **Waterloo**

The part played by the Artillery in this battle was of the greatest importance. Out-numbered and out-gunned, the British SQUARES took terrible punishment from the French Artillery and Cavalry. The British guns, being so few in number to act in a counter battery role supported the Infantry by engaging the French Infantry and Cavalry. Two names stand out above the rest of the Gunners at Waterloo, Captain Mercer commanding 'G' RHA and Captain Bolton commanding a Brigade.

The tactics for dealing with Cavalry at that time were to deploy the guns in front of the Infantry SQUARE. The Gunners engaged the cavalry until the last minute, when having removed the wheels of their guns, they retired inside the SQUARE. MERCER, feeling that such a move might well be regarded as a signal for retreat fought his guns with such determination that the French cavalry, supposed to have been led by Marshall NEY in person, recoiled from the very cannon's mouth, and never came to grips with the SQUARE behind.

BOLTON's Brigade covered itself with glory. When Napoleon, as a last desperate effort flung the "Glory of France - the OLD GUARD" in a final charge they were met by a withering fire from BOLTON's guns, As this charge wavered and broke - the hopes of Napoleon set with the sun.

There was no love lost between the Artillery and the Duke of Wellington. It was supposed that the Duke resented the Artillery being under the Orders of the Board of Ordnance and not under him as a Commander in Chief. He accused the Gunners of indiscipline after Waterloo, stating that they had disobeyed his orders. It is assured he was referring to the exploit of MERCERS Troop recounted here, This caused great indignation in the Regiment. Perhaps it was nullified by a report written by General FOY one of Napoleon's greatest Artillery commanders:

"The English Gunners are distinguished from the other soldiers by their excellent spirit. In addition their handling is skilful, their aim perfect, and their courage supreme".

**1882 - Corps of drivers abolished:** Men enlisted as Gnr and Dvr.

**1835 - Addition of battle honours by William IV.** Award of motto *UBIQUE QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT*. (Everywhere whither duty and glory lead).

**1834 - Regimental slow march written** by the Duchess of Kent (Queen Victoria's mother).

Drastic cut down of Army. No manoeuvres for 38 years (1815-1853).

**1854 CRIMEAN WAR:** Cannon left over from Waterloo still in service. Modified SHRAPNEL introduced by BOXER incorporating his time fuze. Appalling hardship of troops, lack of clothing and medical supplies; sacrifice of the Light Brigade at Balaclava - the blunder and Lord Raglan's order. Reduction of SEVASTOPOL by British and French guns. Abolition of Board of Ordnance. Gunners and Sappers come under C in C of War Office, Gunner badge introduced. (9 pdr as used at Waterloo).

**1857-1859 INDIAN MUTINY:** All Gunner units except two troops and eight companies remained loyal. Action of TOMBS TROOP - VC's won by Lt HILLS and Major TOMBS. Massacre of **CAWNPORE** - SIXTY Gunners killed fighting their guns to the last round. (9 pdrs finished by firing 6 pdr ammunition). **LUCKNOW** - Every Gunnery Officer in the garrison was killed or wounded. **DELHI** - Lieut RENNY won VC for climbing Anenan wall and throwing shells with fuzes alight among rebels inside. Lieut WILLOUGHBY defended Arsenal for many hours with 8 gunners, when enemy penetrated defences WILLOUGHBY gave orders to blow up the magazine - 5 defenders died in the explosion, 4 survivors were recommended for VC (WILLOUGHBY was murdered before he received it), Lieut F.S. ROBERTS won VC at KHODANUNGE (Later Lord ROBERTS of KANDAHAR).

**1859 - Artillery battalions became Artillery Brigades.**

**1860-1899 Small wars:** N.W, Frontier, ZULU Wars, SUDAN Campaign.

**1860 - Introduction of rifling and breech loading guns.** Wire wound instead of castings.

**1865 - Committee reported "that the breech loading guns, are far inferior to muzzle loading** as regards simplicity of construction and cannot be compared to them in this respect in efficiency for active service".

**1870 - "The majority of RA Officers were convinced that no system of breech loading was necessary in the field".**

**1878 - Long barrels for slow burning powder** which were necessary on account of heavier projectiles. Gas check brought into use and introduction of driving band.

**1880 - 1890 Improved design of breech mechanism. Return to breech loaders.**

**1900 - Recoil systems in experimental stage.**

**1899-1902 - South African War.**

**1899 - Colenso 15 Dec 1899.** Three VC awarded to Gunners.

**1900 - Sannas Post 31 Mar 1900.** Q Battery RHA; 4 VCs awarded to Battery.

**1910 - Last muzzle loaders replaced by 13 pdrs.**

**1914 - BEF. 5 divisions “Old Contemptibles” retreat from:**

**Mons** 23 August

**Le Cateau** 26 August

**Nery** 1 September.

**1915 - Death of Lord ROBERTS, VC** on active service: “Bobs was Master Gunner of St James Park and was visiting the Indian Divisions in France when he died. “He passed in the very smoke of the war he had decried. Three hundred miles of cannon spoke when the Master Gunner died”. *Kipling*

**1918 - 59,000 all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery** fell in the war of 1914-1918.

**1939-45 - 24,000 officers and men of the Regiment** lost their lives in World War 2.

# **The Royal Regiment Of New Zealand Artillery**

## **Introduction**

1. The history of the RNZA is closely allied with the early settlement and colonisation of New Zealand. To this day our close association with the Royal Regiment of Artillery is remembered in the “New Zealand” honour title held by 94 (NZ) Battery, RA.
2. Defence in New Zealand started with the Regular British Army providing men and material for the protection of settlers, and senior offices advising the governor and government on defence matters.
3. Local volunteer units were raised to support British troops in specific actions and later personnel were enlisted to form the initial Regular Force of the Colony and Dominion.
4. The Regular Force was commanded and trained by British Officers seconded to New Zealand for this purpose, but in due course were replaced by New Zealand nationals.

## **History**

There are six broad phases in the RNZA history. Each phase is dealt with below.

### 1830—1908

4. The first regular troops to be stationed in New Zealand were a Sergeant and four troopers of the New South Wales Mounted Police. These soldiers arrived in the Bay of Islands on 30 Jan 1840 and were quickly followed by some troops of the 80th

Regiment. Highlights during this period were:

a. **The Militia Ordinance 1845.** This Ordinance, which made able-bodied men liable to serve in the forces was enacted in response to the Maori skirmishes in the Southern Bay of Islands district when Te Kooti and Kawiti defied British authority in that area, Few men were enlisted because more British troops, including the first artillery units, arrived from Sydney and cut down the fighting in the following year.

b. **The Armed Constabulary.** This force was raised in 1846 and disbanded in 1830, Tile Constabulary was a particularly useful unit and besides normal para-military police action in the colony's frontier' areas it also played a valuable role in the Maori Wars. Consequently much New Zealand history is written around individuals of this unit. When disbanded it's 800 members were given the option of joining either the newly raised civil police force or the Garrison Artillery, the main New Zealand Regular Force at that time.

c. **The Militia Act 1858.** A section of this act, which placed all able-bodied men at the disposal of the Government, originated the volunteer system of service in New Zealand.

d. **Defence Act 1863.** This act organised the New Zealand Permanent Militia into Garrison Artillery. Although intended primarily for internal defence, this force also manned installations such as Fort Britomart in Auckland. This deployment reflects the then Government's concern over coastal defences, for in 1878, 24 guns were ordered for those defences at Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton, Dunedin and Invercargill and construction was further intensified as a result of the Russian war scares in the late 1870s and 1880s. This 1863 Act led to the 'self-reliant' policy by which New Zealand gradually became responsible for her own defence. By 1870 the last British units had left New Zealand and the colony was wholly responsible for her military force's.

e. **New Zealand Artillery Volunteers.** In 1864 the first batteries of the New Zealand Artillery Volunteers were raised with a maximum establishment of one captain, two subalterns and 25 other ranks, Subsequently 15 batteries, lettered 'A' to 'O' were formed and located all over New Zealand, The original batteries were equipped with 12 pounder Armstrongs (the iron gun) costing \$425.00 each. It is interesting to note that the cost of a 105 mm howitzer today is approximately \$80,000. Despite various redesignations and Army reorganisations some of these original batteries exist even today and the letter title of the original batteries has recently been incorporated in the titles of the descendent batteries.

f. **Defence Act 1886.** The 1886 Act provided for a Permanent Militia of:

(1) Four garrison batteries (Artillery Corps) each of 30 men to ten posts. The Corps was renamed the No 1 Service Company of the Permanent Force in 1897.

(2) A Torpedo Corps (Submarine Miners) of 50 men.

(3) An Engineer Corps of 20 men. This Corps was amalgamated with the Artillery and Torpedo Corps in 1888.

g. **RNZA.** In 1902 No 1 Service Company of the Permanent Force was renamed the Royal New Zealand Artillery and in 1911 the field branch section of the RNZA was formed. The territorial force component was called the New Zealand Artillery (NZA) and also comprised field, (NZFA) and garrison artillery (NZGA).

### **1909—1921**

5. The 1909 Defence Act made military training universal in New Zealand. New Zealand Artillery participated in the World War I major campaigns, including Gallipoli and 'A', 'B', 'C', 'E', 'F', 'G' and 'H' Batteries were units of 1 NZEF.

6. In 1919 the RNZA was allied to the RA at the request of the Master Gunner, St James Park, and two years later the letter designation of batteries was replaced with numerals.

### **1920—1939**

7. Points of interests during the 1920—1959 period are that:

a. In 1925 the rank of "Corporal" was changed to Bombardier and the rank of "Driver" was discontinued; all personnel below the rank of Lance Bombardier, were designated "Gunner".

b. The RNZA and NZA were organised into:

(1) Twelve batteries of field artillery in three brigades. (A brigade equates with our present day regiment).

(2) Four batteries of medium artillery in one brigade.

(5) Two batteries of coast artillery.

(4) Two batteries of pack artillery.

### **1959—1945**

8. New Zealand Gunners served with distinction in North Africa, Greece, Crete, Sicily, Italy and the Pacific throughout the Second World War. Coast defences in New Zealand were fully manned and home defence field and anti-aircraft units were mobilised. Units serving overseas were:

a. **2 New Zealand Division** (Middle East)

HQRA

4, 5, 6 Fd Regts

7 Anti—tank Regt

14 LAA Regt

36 NZ Svy Bty

**b. 3 New Zealand Division (Pacific)**

HQRA

17 Fd Regt - 12, 55, 37 Fd Btys

28 HAA Regt - 202, 203 HAA Btys

29 LAA Regt - 207, 208, 209, 214 LAA Btys

33 Heavy Regt - 150, 151, 152 Heavy Btys

114 Lt Bty

53, 54 Anti-tank Btys

**1946-1964**

9. The Territorial Force (NZA) was reactivated in 1946 and amalgamated with the NZA in the following year. During most of this period the RNZA order of battle was:

RNZA Directorate, Army HQ

School of Artillery, The Army Schools

HQRA, NZ Division

I Fd Regt RNZA (Auckland)

2 Fd Regt RNZA (Palmerston North)

3 Fd Regt RNZA (Dunedin)

4 Mdm Regt RNZA (Hamilton)

5 Lt Regt RNZA (Wellington)

6 LAA Regt RNZA (Auckland)

9, 10, 11 Coast Regts, RNZA (Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton respectively)

12 HAA Regt RNZA (Auckland; Btys at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch)

I Loc Bty, RNZA (Auckland)

10. **16 Rd Regt, RNZA, was raised in 1950** as part of a United Nations emergency force for Korea, and served from 1951—1954 in that theatre. This unit has several ‘firsts’ to its credit — the first RNZA unit to serve overseas and the first to carry the title “Royal New Zealand Artillery” into battle. Previous units were designated “New Zealand Artillery”. The Regiment was disbanded at the end of the emergency but



reactivated in 1958 as part of the Regular Force Brigade Group. As such it was the first Regular Force artillery regiment in the Army.

11. **In 1955** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second graciously accepted the appointment of Captain General of the RNZA and in 1958 the Regiment was redesignated the “Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery”. Short title RNZA.

12. **In March 1964 the New Zealand Army was reorganised** into an integrated Regular/Territorial Force formation. The RNZA order of battle was:

- RNZA Directorate, Army HQ
- The School of Artillery, The Army Schools
- ‘A’ Bty, Territorial Force Depot, Army Training Gp, Waiouru
- 16 Fd Regt RNZA
- 4 Mdm Bty, RNZA
- 1 LAA Bty, RNZA (Not raised)
- 1 Loc Tp, which later became part of 16 Fd Regt.
- 3 Fd Regt RNZA
- 9, 10, 11 Coast Regt Cadres, RNZA (disbanded later)

## 1965—1972

13. **July 1965: the RF 161 Battery of 16 Field Regiment deployed to South Vietnam** where initially it was under the operational command of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, US Army, based at BIEN HOA. Later the bty moved to Nui Dat and the 1st Australian Task Force, when that formation arrived in-country in 1966. The Battery, which has supported all the Allied forces in South Vietnam, except the Koreans, fired its 225,000th round during March 1971,

14. The titles of 11, 22, 31 and 32 and 4 Medium Batteries were recently changed in order to reflect the historical associations of these batteries in particular and the RNZA in general. These batteries can trace their history to the Volunteer Artillery forces of the mid-nineteenth century and are still located in the towns which fostered the original

### Origin of the Colours

As armies became trained and adopted set formations, each **regiment's** ability to keep its formation was potentially critical to its, and therefore its army's, success. In the chaos of battle, not least due to the amount of dust and smoke on a battlefield, soldiers needed to be able to determine where their regiment was.

Regimental flags are generally awarded to a regiment by a head-of-State during a ceremony. They were therefore treated with reverence as they represented the honour and traditions of the regiment. Colours may be inscribed with the names of battles or other symbols representing former achievements (see **battle honours**).

Regiments tended to adopt "**flag guards**", composed of experienced or élite soldiers, to protect their colours. As a result, the capture of an enemy's standard was considered as a great feat of arms.

They are never capriciously destroyed - when too old to use they are replaced and then laid-up in museums, religious buildings and other places of significance to their regiment. However, in most modern armies, standing orders now call for the Colours to be intentionally destroyed if they are ever in jeopardy of being captured by the enemy.

Due to the advent of modern weapons, and subsequent changes in tactics, Colours are no longer carried into battle, but continue to be used at events of formal character.

batteries. Accordingly, it was decided that these batteries should have the letter of their 'parent battery incorporated in their present titles. In 1975, the batteries were called:

- 11 (A) Battery, Auckland
- 22 (D) Battery, Wellington
- 31 (B) Battery, Dunedin
- 32 (E) Battery, Christchurch
- 4 (G) Battery, Hamilton

### **Colours**

15. Following British Army tradition the colours of the RNZA are the guns.

*(See text box, right.)*

### **Current Role and Organisation**

16. The role of Field Branch Artillery is to provide close support for the infantry to the combat zone. So that this role may be effectively achieved, the following organisation has been authorised for the RNZA:

a. 1 Inf Bde Gp

(1) 16 Field Regiment. An integrated Regular Force/Territorial Force Volunteer Field Regiment of 105 mm pack howitzers.

(a) Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Battery are located at Papakura. These elements have a large proportion of RF personnel in key appointments, eg, Commanding Officer or Second in Command, the Adjutant, Quartermaster, RSM and RQMS.

(b) 161 Battery. From 1965 to 1971 this RF Battery was deployed in South Vietnam. The battery was equipped initially with L5 howitzers and then with M2A2 howitzers in Vietnam. On return to NZ it was re-equipped with 105mm pack howitzers (L5).

(c) 11 (A) and 22 (D) Batteries are both TFV sub units and are located at Papakura and Fort Dorset respectively. Each have RF cadre staffs of a subaltern, BSM, BQMS a Sergeant instructor and clerk.

(d) 1 Locating Troop. This troop consists of artillery intelligence survey, meteorological and mortar locating sections and is located at Waiouru. It has a large RF cadre, particularly in the meteorological section, 'which contributes daily information to the national meteorological network.

(2) 4(G)Medium Battery. A TF Battery of 5.5 inch guns which is located at Hamilton. This battery has a RF cadre slightly larger to that of 11 (A) and 22 (D) Batteries,

(3) 1 Light Air Defence Battery. This unit is yet to be raised.

**3 Inf Bde Gp.** The only RNZA unit in this formation is 3 Field Regiment which has two 25 pounder gun batteries, This is a TF unit with a small RF cadre in each sub-unit. Sub-unit locations are:

(1) Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Burnham Camp.

(2) 31 (B) Battery, Dunedin

(3) 32 (E) Battery, Christchurch.

### **Static Support Force**

(1) **Directorate of Artillery** The Directorate is a section of the Army General Staff Branch at Defence Headquarters. It is responsible for RNZA policy and personnel management and Army aviation.

(2) **The School of Artillery** A sub-unit of the Army Schools which is responsible for the technical training of all RNZA Officers and other ranks and technical advice to the Directorate.

## **The Royal Regiment Of New Zealand Artillery**

### **A sketch history of the Senior Corps of the New Zealand Army**

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*By J. Bryand Haigh*

ARTILLERY, mainly ships' guns formed a prominent part of early New Zealand colonial defence, most settlements having a varied assortment. When Capt A. Wakefield, R.N. and his party fell in the "Wairau Massacre," 1st June 1843, the infant Nelson settlement built "the strongest fort south of Auckland" equipped with long 18-pdr carronades.

At the defence of Kororareka, 11 Mar 1845, Mr C. Hector's colonial volunteer "Blockhouse Battery" of three ships' guns gave spirited support to H.M. 96th Foot and the Naval Brigade of H.M.S. Hazard. "Nothing could have been finer than Mr Hector's work as battery commander, and it certainly was not his fault that the post had to be

abandoned. A review of the day's fighting and the day's blunders prompts the conclusion that had the conduct of operations been in this amateur gunner's hands instead of ..... the town in spite of the destruction of the stockade need not have been abandoned ... "J. Cowan The New Zealand Wars Vol 1 p 31 (1922). This was the most distinguished action of "Colonial Artillery" in the Maori Wars of the 1840s and 1860s though the Royal Artillery distinguished itself and a detachment of the Hon East India Company Artillery saw action at the capture of Ruapekapeka (January 1846). In the later Maori Wars of the late 1860s the NZ Armed Constabulary Field Force columns used Cohorn Mortars (notably at the Siege of Ngatapu 1<sup>st</sup> - 5th January 1869) and an occasional Armstrong gun.

### **The New Zealand Artillery Volunteers**

In 1858 an attempt to form a volunteer artillery company at Auckland failed (due to lack of guns), the volunteers becoming infantry. The earliest volunteer artillery unit (with guns) was the briefly lived Nelson Naval Artillery Volunteers) disbanded in 1862. Other early volunteer units which did not survive were the Lyttelton Artillery Volunteers (two batteries), 1864 -1875, Wakapuaka Artillery Volunteers, 1866 - September 1871, Nelson City Artillery Volunteers, May 1867 - April 1871, Akaroa Artillery Volunteers June 1875 - October 1877.

In the 1860's and 70s the artillery volunteers were usually armed with 12-pdr Armstrong guns. In December 1878, the New Zealand Regiment of Artillery volunteers was formed as follows:

A Battery (Auckland Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1864. B Battery (Dunedin Artillery Volunteers) accepted February 1864. C Battery (Timaru Artillery Volunteers) accepted October 1866. D Battery (Wellington Artillery Volunteers) accepted July 1867. E Battery (Christchurch Artillery Volunteers) accepted December 1867. F Battery (Napier Artillery Volunteers) accepted as the Napier Horse Artillery Volunteers in August 1869. G Battery (Invercargill Artillery Volunteers) accepted January 1872, H Battery (Nelson Artillery Volunteers) accepted March 1873. I Battery (Oamaru Artillery Volunteers) accepted July 1875. J Battery (Cook County Artillery Volunteers) accepted November 1878. K Battery (Invercargill Engineer Artillery Volunteers), May 1878. L Battery was raised at Port Chalmers in June 1879 and M Battery came into being by change of duties of the Queenstown Rifle Volunteers in November. 1879. The Parihaka Crisis (1881) saw C.D., and H Batteries mobilized. In June 1883 G and K Batteries combined as G Battery. N (Lyttelton) and O (Parnell,

Auckland) were both raised in June 1885. The Regiment formed into two brigades in March 1886, initially the 1st consisting of all North Island units and the 2nd all South Island units, but H Battery transferred to the 1st Brigade shortly after.

J Battery disbanded in February 1889, M in May 1890, and O in June 1891. In 1893 each battery had three or four 9 pdr. Armstrong R.B.L. guns except D, F and H with 6 pdr Nordenfeldts and G with 12 pdr. In July 1894 L Battery was absorbed into the Port Chalmers Naval Artillery Volunteers and in late 1897 I and C Batteries reverted to infantry, F and G following in mid 1898. December 1902 saw N Battery change to No 7 Coy Regiment NZ Garrison Artillery Volunteers and the surviving batteries (A, B, D, E and H) became the Regiment of New Zealand Field Artillery Volunteers in January 1903. A new I Battery (Westport Position) was added in April 1904 by change of title from No 10 Coy Regiment NZ Garrison Artillery Volunteers, but disbanded in June 1907.

### **The New Zealand Naval and Garrison Artillery Volunteers**

Apart from the Nelson Naval Artillery Volunteers previously mentioned a number of mainly short-lived Naval and Coastguard Volunteer units served in the Maori Wars (manning various small craft), The “Russian Scare” of the 1880s caused a revival of naval volunteer units (as Naval Artillery, existing units being converted to Naval Artillery). Although these units dressed nautically, operated cutters and took instruction in rowing and signalling etc, they came under Army command and were trained to operate heavy port defence ordnance.

Units which did not survive were the Thames Naval Volunteers, raised October 1869, became Naval Artillery in February 1883 and reverted to infantry October 1900.

Wanganui Naval Brigade raised November 1881 became Naval Artillery in February 1885 and disbanded in March 1898,

Bluff Naval Artillery Volunteers, January 1883 - June 1898. Oamaru Naval Artillery

Volunteers, September 1884 - October 1895. Timaru Naval Artillery Volunteers,

January 1885 - August 1897. Napier Naval Artillery Volunteers, January 1885 -

October 1897. Onehunga Naval Artillery Volunteers, May

1885 - August 1889. Greymouth Naval Artillery Volunteers May, 1885 - August 1897.

Westport Naval Artillery Volunteers, August 1885 — April 1895. Waitemata Naval

Artillery Volunteers, August 1886 - August 1889.

The Naval Artillery Volunteers formed a Corp in June 1885, the units in the Auckland area becoming in January 1886 the 1st Battalion. In 1893 guns varied from the one 6 pdr of the Wanganui Naval Artillery Volunteers to the three 24 pdrs of the Bluff Naval Artillery Volunteers and the solitary 64 pdr of the Timaru Navals. The Wellington Naval Brigade (raised 1879) became in January 1883 the Wellington and Petone Naval Artillery Volunteers and from November 1893 were renamed A and B Batteries, Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteer Brigade. A No 2 Coy Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers was formed in 1900. In December 1902 the Regiment of New Zealand Garrison Artillery Volunteers was formed as follows:

No 1 Coy (Auckland Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1864. No 2 Coy (Dunedin Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1864. No 3 Coy (Port Chalmers Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1864. No 4 Coy (A and No 2 Coy Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers). No 5 (Lyttleton Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1880. No 6 Coy (B (Petone) Battery, Wellington Naval Artillery Volunteers), No 7 Coy (N Battery NZ Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1865. No 8 Coy (Ponsonby Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1885. No 9 Coy (Devonport Coastguard Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1898. No 10 Coy (Westport Position Naval Artillery Volunteers) accepted 1901.

The Regiment was organized into four divisions as follows:

Auckland 1, 8 and 9 Coys, Wellington 4 and 6 Coys, Lyttleton 5 and 7 Coys, Dunedin 2 and 3 Coys.

In 1911 the Garrison Artillery was reorganised and renumbered.

### **The New Zealand Territorial Artillery**

With the abolition of Volunteers and the coming of the territorial system (NZ Field Artillery) in 1911 the country was divided into four military districts with a brigade of two batteries per district plus one mountain battery (D Wellington) extra. These were: Auckland F. A. Brigade (A Auckland and G Hamilton) Wellington F.A. Brigade (F Napier and J Palmerston North). Canterbury F.A. Brigade (E Christchurch and H Nelson). Otago F.A. Brigade (B Dunedin and C Invercargill).

They were all equipped with 18 pdrs except B and J who had 4.5 in howitzers.

In 1921 New Zealand Military districts were reduced to three, the artillery simply

becoming “New Zealand Artillery” - of three brigades (12 batteries) of field artillery, one brigade (four batteries) of medium artillery, two coast batteries and two light (3.7 in) pack batteries. This reorganisation saw the end of the old alphabetically named units and the introduction of numbered batteries. The first anti-aircraft units were formed in 1936. In 1937 the first experiments with mechanical haulage for field guns (Mark II 18 pdrs) took place although pneumatic tyres were not used till 1939.

In 1950 (with compulsory military service and today with selective compulsory service) the territorial artillery was once again re-organised and renumbered,

### **The New Zealand Regular Artillery**

When the New Zealand Permanent Militia formed in 1886, from the Field Force portion of the New Zealand Armed Constabulary, it contained four garrison artillery batteries (6, 7 and 8 in) at the four main ports, and one field artillery battery (6 pdr Nordenfeldts), The first permanent instructor in gunnery to these regulars being appointed in late 1891. In 1897 these regular gunners became No 1 Service Coy NZ Permanent Force, a portion of which with two Nordenfeldts took part in the Waima Expedition of 1898. In 1902 this unit then just over 200 strong became the Royal New Zealand Artillery, (No 2 Service Coy at the same time became the Royal New Zealand Engineers, a unit absorbed into the Royal New Zealand Artillery in 1907); In 1947 the RNZA and the NZA (territorials) combined to be the RNZA. In April 1958 the title was changed to “The Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.” 1964 saw the formation of the New Zealand Field Force (Combat Brigade Group), the Field Regiment of the force, containing both regular and territorial batteries, being numbered 16th in memory of the NZ Field Regiment of the Korean War. Eighty-four regulars of 16 Field Regiment took part in full public duties in London in late 1964 (see Soldier 1965).

### **Active Service Formations Anglo-Boer War**

An unnumbered Hotchkiss battery accompanied the 2nd Contingent NZ Mounted Rifles to South Africa. Although it saw a little action with French's Column on the march to Kroonstadt (May 1900) the guns were found to be terribly heavy for the horses and only of 1000 yards range which placed them within Mauser range and that battery was broken up. The 1st NZ Battery (2nd Brigade Rhodesian Field Force) of six pdrs was formed in Africa in mid 1900 principally from

No 11 (Auckland) Coy 5th Contingent NZ Mounted Rifles, first seeing action in August 1900 and distinguishing itself in support of the 1st Bn Northumberland Fusiliers at the defence of Lichenburg March 1901.

### **Great War 1914—1918**

When New Zealand Forces seized German Samoa, 29 August 1914, “D” Battery NZ Field Artillery with two 15 pdrs and two Nordenfeldts was the artillery component. This was the only NZ territorial artillery battery to serve as a complete unit outside New Zealand.

In the Main Body of the 1st New Zealand Expeditionary Force to the Middle East in 1914 was a NZ Field Artillery Brigade of three batteries (numbered 1, 2 and 3) each of four 18 pdrs and a Brigade Ammunition Column, With the 2nd Reinforcements sailed No 4 (Howitzer) Battery of four 4.5 howitzers, At Anzac Cove Gallipoli 4 (Howitzer) Battery became the first NZFA unit to land early morning 26 Apr 1915 - Gunner Busher being reputed to have fired the first New Zealand shot at 6.5 am. This was the only howitzer unit at Anzac for several months. “It is beyond question that had the howitzer batteries of the NZ Territorial Forces not been in possession of these very modern guns before the outbreak of war they would not have been available in Egypt, and the Colonial troops would not have had the benefit of their protection on Gallipoli” J. Byrne *New Zealand Artillery in the Field 1914* (1922) p. 20. With the later arrival of 5 Battery (18 pdrs) and 6 (Howitzer) Battery the NZFA was reorganised as two Brigades — 1st, 1, 3 and 6 Batteries and 2nd, 2, 4 and 5 Batteries. Due to lack of room at Anzac 3 Battery served at Cape Helles till August, attached to 147 Brigade 2FA. During the August offensive an extra NZFA Battery (“Daniell’s”) was formed from surplus 18 pdrs IX Corps. On Gallipoli the 18 pdrs used only shrapnel (due to chronic ammunition shortage), the howitzers using both shrapnel and high explosive. The last NZFA guns evacuated from Gallipoli were from 1 and 3 Batteries 19 Dec 1915.

On formation of the New Zealand Division (February 1916) the NZFA formed four brigades - 1, 2 and 3 Brigades each of four 18 pdr. batteries, 4 Brigade of three 4.5 howitzer batteries, most of the personnel for this expansion coming from surplus NZ Mounted Rifles Reinforcements drafts.

When the NZ Division went into the line in France (May 1916) the NZFA had been reorganised as follows:

I Brigade: 1, 3 7 and 15 (Howitzer) Batteries



2 Brigade: 2, 5, 6 (Howitzer) and 9 Batteries  
3 Brigade: 4 (Howitzer) 11, 12 and 13 Batteries  
4 Brigade: 8, 10 and 14 Batteries.

In January 1917, 4 Brigade was broken up and six-gun batteries formed in the other three brigades (16 Howitzer Battery which had just arrived was also broken up). In March 1917, 2 Brigade became an Army Brigade and 6 Howitzer Battery of this brigade was overrun in the Lys fighting 9 April 1918. The NZFA first used gas (both lethal and lachrymatory) shells from the howitzers on the Somme in late 1916. 1917 saw the 19 pdrs start using smoke and thermite shells. Other NZFA units in France were X, Y and Z Medium Trench Mortar Batteries and No I Heavy Mortar Bty. From 1916-18 the NZFA maintained a depot at Ewshot, England.

No NZ artillery served in the Palestine campaign, the NZ Mounted Rifles Brigade (of Anzac Mounted Division) being usually supported by the 18 pdrs of the Somerset Battery RHA.

## **World War 1939—45**

The Royal NZ Artillery (Regulars) claimed to have ‘fired the first British shot of the war’ when a shot was put across the bows of a ship which did not stop for inspection at Wellington Harbour Heads 9.45 am 3 September 1939 (9.45 pm 2 September, Greenwich Mean Time).

New Zealand Artillery units 2 NZEF raised for service in the Middle East were 4 Field Regiment (25, 26 and 46 Batteries), 5 Field Regiment (27, 28 and 47 Batteries), 6 Field Regiment (29, 50 and 48 Batteries), 7 Anti-Tank Regiment (41, 42, 43 and X Batteries), 1 Survey Troop and 36 Survey Battery. Unlike the Great War the Divisional Ammunition Company was NZASC and not Artillery personnel. 34 Anti-Tank Battery raised in England from New Zealand Nationals initially included several ex-members of the ‘British’ Battalion, XV International Brigade of the Spanish Civil War.

The three Regiments (25 pdrs) and 7 Anti-Tank Regiment first saw action in Greece, Sergeant W.F. McCarthy, E Troop, 28 Battery, 5 Field Regiment, being reputed to have fired the first NZ shot - on the Aliakmon River, North Greece 12 April 1941, 4 and 5 Field Regiments (the majority serving as infantry) suffered heavy losses in the Crete

fighting. (The only HZ Artillery manned guns on Crete were three 75 mm howitzers two 3.7 in howitzers and four French 75 mm).

The NZ Artillery saw much action in North Africa and Italy, the 1941 Libyan Campaign in particular seeing many desperate and notable actions, three instances of which are here given:

- a. When the 5th HZ Infantry Brigade HQ Group was over-whelmed at Sidi Azeiz 27 Nov 1941, E Troop, 28 Battery (the same troop which fired the first NZ shots in Greece) made a very gallant stand - Major A.N. Grigg, MC, MP, mortally wounded keeping the last 25 pdr in action being unsuccessfully recommended for a posthumous VC.
- b. The stand of 6 Field Regiment (and 47 Battery, 5 Field Regiment) at Belhamed 1st December 1941, where 23 out of the 32 HZ field guns engaged were lost and the casualties (14 officers and 170 other ranks) were the heaviest ever sustained by a NZ Artillery unit in a single day, the CRA 2 NZ Division serving in the gun line being among those wounded and taken prisoner.
- c. The success of 4 Field Regiment (and a few other guns under 4 Field's command) at Zaafran the same day when alone, with no infantry in front, no guidance from higher command and firing over open sights, halted the hitherto victorious 15 Panzer Division from overrunning the remnants of the 2 NZ Division. 4 Field Regiment claimed at the end of the North Africa campaign that it was then the senior field regiment of the 8th Army.

The NZ Artillery depot in the Middle East was at Maadi, Egypt, and in 1945 was named 32 Field Regiment.

NZ Artillery formations which saw action in the Pacific (Solomon Islands Campaign 1943) with 3 NZ Division were 17 Field Regiment (12, 35 and 37 Batteries), 38 Field Regiment (49, 50 and 52 Batteries), 29 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment (207, 208, 209 and 214 Batteries), 53 and 54 Anti-Tank Batteries, 144 Independent (Howitzer) Battery and No 4 Survey Troop. The third field regiment of the Division (37 Field) did not leave New Zealand. M Troop 209 Anti-Aircraft Battery caught landing on the beach at Vella Levella September 1943, by Japanese aircraft suffered heavy casualties.

War raised NZ Artillery formations which served outside New Zealand without seeing

action were 28 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment (on New Caledonia), 33 Heavy Regiment (150 and 151 Batteries on New Caledonia and 152 Battery on Norfolk Island), 215 Composite Anti-Aircraft Battery (on Norfolk) and 45 Field Battery (on Fanning Island). The artillery units of the Fiji Military Forces (1st Heavy Regiment and 1st Field Battery) and the Tonga Defence Force (two 18 pdr field batteries one heavy and one light anti-aircraft batteries) all had NZ Artillery officers and NCO's. New Zealand Artillery representation in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan 1946–48 was 25 Battery 4 Field Regiment.

### **Korea 1951–54**

New Zealand's major contribution to the United Nation's Forces in the Korean War was 16 Field Regiment (161, 162 and 163 Batteries - 25 pdrs) which fired its first shots 29 Jan 1951, South East of Seoul in support of 27 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. For their support of 3 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment at Kap'yong April 1951, 16 Field was presented in February 1952, with a South. Korean "Presidential Citation".

### **South Vietnam 1965–1972**

Following New Zealand's decision to take an active part in the Vietnam Thr 161 Battery 16 Field Regiment RNZA (105 mm pack howitzers) arrived at Bien Hoa in July 1965 to support 1 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (part of 173 US Airborne Brigade). On formation of the 1st Australian Task Force (1966) the battery was integrated into 12 Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. In March 1969, 12 Field Regiment RAA was replaced in Vietnam by 1 Field Regiment RAA, the New Zealand Battery being incorporated in that unit.

### **Bands**

When HM 58th Foot laid up their Colours at Government House, Auckland, 1860, prior to leaving New Zealand for England (where new Colours awaited them (see Special Issue, Bulletin No 1, p. 41) the occasion was marked by the first public appearance of the band of the Auckland Rifles Volunteers. This became the Auckland Artillery Band in 1864 and in 1869 Lieutenant A.R. Hunter became Bandmaster, a position he held for 36 years. Today known as the Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery it claims the honour of being the oldest continuous brass band in New Zealand and holds the distinction of having volunteered its services (as a complete unit) in both World Wars and being accepted as such.

Other known artillery bands were the Nelson Artillery Band c. 1873, Wellington Artillery Band c. 1875, J. (Cook County) Battery Band c. 1878, C (Timaru) Battery Band which won the Band Contest at the 1882 Christchurch International Exhibition and the bands of the Oamaru and Thames Naval Artillery Volunteers. From December 1944 on, the 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery in Italy had a pipe band.

Acknowledgement:

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## **The Origins Of The Band of The Royal Regiment Of New Zealand Artillery**

The Auckland Militia was formed in 1858. Originally, it was intended that it should be an Artillery unit, but these plans failed due to a lack of guns.

Along with the Militia came a Band which was attached to the 1st Company of the Auckland Volunteer Rifles, composed largely of men from the 58th and 65th Regiments who had taken their discharges in Auckland. The announcement of the intention to form a band appeared in the "Southern Cross". It was dated August 7, 1860.

Under a heading "Auckland Voluntary Rifles" it said:

"The formation of a band in connection with the above Corps being in contemplation, it is requested that any persons who may be willing to join will communicate on or before 11th inst., with the secretaries of either of the companies, or to Mr J.H. Beale, Hobson Street".

A few days later a longer item appeared and it spoke of a "special committee appointed to consider the practicability of forming and the mode of establishing, a band, in connection with the Volunteer Corps". The report added: "We understand that it is intended to obtain first the cost of the instruments, music, and the needful appurtenances, by voluntary subscriptions from members of the Corps and the inhabitants of the City of Auckland, and this amount contributed, the Corps will hereafter provide the necessary funds for the maintenance and conduct of the band." The newspaper rounded off this report with the words: "We heartily wish the project every possible success.

One of the Band's earliest problems was that of finding a place to practice - a hurdle which the Band has found itself forced to take often down the years. As early as August 28, 1860, Lieutenant-Colonel Balneavis of the Auckland Militia Regiment wrote to the Officer Commanding the 65th Volunteer Regiment: The Auckland Volunteer Rifles being desirous of obtaining a room for Band practice, I have the honour to ask whether you would have any objection to their making use of the Bandroom in the barracks for that purpose (temporarily)!"

There is no record of the reply, but it must be assumed that the request was turned

down, for on November 19, 1860, Colonel Balneavis wrote again, this time to the N.G, of the Fountain of Friendship Lodge, I.O, O.F.M. M. , Auckland:

“It having come to my knowledge that, the Society of Odd Fellows having kindly offered the use of their Hall, for the Band to practice in, I tender my thanks and that of the members of the Corps, for the handsome offer, which is gladly accepted!”

In the meantime - on September 12 actually - the *New Zealander* carried a story which said that “a very liberal subscription (we believe £300) was lately raised within a few days for the purpose of purchasing instruments for a full military band to be composed of members of the different Volunteer and Militia Corps under the direction of Mr. J.H. Beale as bandmaster.

“The order has been sent to one of the most eminent houses in London for the instruments which are to comprise all the most approved descriptions for a full military brass band of some four or six and twenty strong”.

It was pointed out in this story that it would be some months before the instruments could be expected to arrive, and added: “In the meantime practice has already commenced with such instruments as can be at once procured and a band of 17 or 18 will soon be in regular practice twice or more times a week. Even now they perform some airs very creditably, especially when the youth of Some, and late want of practice of most of the members are considered”.

This newspaper then listed the instruments in use: Cornets, 12; flutes, 2; bassoon 1; ophicleides, 2; drum, 1.

“We hope”, said the “New Zealander”, “to hear of their receiving speedy accession to their numbers, and to see the Auckland Volunteer Rifles mustering for full parade to the strong strains of their own Volunteer Band.”

Practices were Obviously fruitful because by November 24 of that year an advertisement headed, “Miscellaneous Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music, Mechanics Institute” appeared in the paper. The concert, it said, was “under the patronage of Lieutenant Colonel Balneavis, officers and men of the Auckland Rifle Volunteers.

It added that Mr. J.H. Beale and family would give the concert on November 27 under

the distinguished patronage of Colonel Balneavis.

A report of the concert appeared on December 6, and after praising the work of Mr Beale and his family had this to say about the newly-formed band:

“The young band of the Auckland Rifle Volunteers made their first appearance in uniform and in a concert programme. Considering the very short time they have been organised and the various ages and ‘make’ of their present instruments, they acquitted themselves creditably; and when they have received their new instruments and have played together more frequently indoors as well as the open air, we have no doubt they will prove a most acceptable and serviceable addition to our body of local instrumentalists.”

The Band then was launched on November 27, 1860, but at this stage it was a rifle one. It was to become a gunner band later. While the Band was now in being and the problem of band-room was over, there were times when it was not always easy to call the players together. Demands for the Band’s services were frequent, but on at least one occasion, Colonel Balneavis simply could not oblige.

On April 4, 1861, he wrote to Bishop Pompallier: “I have received your Lordship’s letter applying for the Rifle Band for this day. I regret exceedingly that I cannot accede to your request for this reason, that all the Band live in different parts of the Town and Suburbs and are all now gone to their different occupations and without sounding an alarm which would bring them together (at the same time it would frighten the whole town), I cannot assemble them. It is different with soldiers in a Barracks where they can turnout at once. Had I been aware I would have made arrangements and I am sure the Band would have readily attended. I am sorry that I cannot meet your Lordship’s wishes.”

By this time the Band was meeting difficulties of another kind. An extract from the minute book dated February 20, 1861, says:

“The Secretary then invited from the meeting an expression of their opinion as to the best action to be resorted to in order to obtain the Band subscription now due by the Royal Company. But the subject not being of a very pleasing nature several gentlemen not relishing the idea of being obliged to pay, particularly, W. Scott who expressed in very emphatic language his determination to refuse payment, was permitted to drop without any action being taken.”

This kind of financial wrangle was to plague the Band for years. More troubles lay ahead of the Band. Money again was the bogey and by May the papers were carrying reports of a concert to be given in aid of the Auckland Rifle Volunteer Band fund. The item' said: "We hope this effort of the Band Committee will prove successful in extricating them from the pecuniary obligations they incurred in organising this Band and procuring the instruments. These have been purchased at a cost of £300 from Messrs Key and Coy, Charing Cross, London, musical instrument makers to Her Majesty's Forces of the Hon. East India Coy., and may shortly be expected to arrive". It seems that, when the Band was formed many promises of money to buy instruments were received, but as the. paper put it: "Owing to a variety of causes a considerable amount of that remained uncollected, and the Committee are therefore, held personally responsible for the balance. We are sure this fact only requires publicity to have an effort made to indemnify these gentlemen, who have taken such a lively interest, not only in the Rifle Volunteer movement, but also in promoting a musical taste among the people of Auckland."

The concert was given in July 1861, and the town mustered strong to hear our military musicians. Mr Beale conducted and Mr Fleetwood was pianoforte accompanist. The report said the overture from "Don Giovanni" was well rendered by the full orchestra, but "Zampa" was "certainly the gem of the evening. The mastery over their instruments which the Band have acquired speaks well for their zeal and able instructions of Mr Beale" .

To the Band went the honour of playing at the presentation of the first Victoria Cross awarded to anyone in New Zealand other than an Imperial soldier. At a parade in the Albert Barracks Major Heaphy had the highest award for gallantry presented. A sharp contrast was the occasion on which the Band was called upon to play at the funeral of Commodore William Burnett, RN, and the men of HMS *Orpheus*. The ship was wrecked on the Manukau Bar on February 7, 1863 in New Zealand's worst maritime disaster.

It was late in 1864 that th3 first artillery pieces were handed over to the Volunteers. Subsequently, A Battery was formed, but it is not clear at what point the Band assumed the title of Artillery. There is written evidence to show that the Band was still known as the Auckland Volunteer Rifles Band in 1865. On the 11th of February the "Weekly



News” published a letter written to the former Bandmaster, Mr Gassner, before his departure to England.

The letter said:

“To G. Gassner, Esq., Band-master of the Auckland Rifle Volunteers Band,  
We the undersigned members of the Auckland Rifle Volunteers Band are desirous of expressing our deep regret at your leaving Auckland just at a time when we all felt that through your instructions we should become musicians, with a thorough knowledge of the rudiments and theory of music which you so kindly instructed us in. Accept then, our warmest thanks for the very kind attention which you have invariably shown us and we hope on your return you will again be able to resume duties. Wishing you then a pleasant voyage and a safe return in which we include Mrs Gassner and family. We remain your very truly,  
Sgt Thomas Gibbons, Cpl John Carter, William Lepine, Thomas Gee, Isaac Levy, John Rathbone, James Trays, Henry Carrol, Samuel Montgomery, Horace Baker, John Gaskin, William Lane, William Cherritt, E. Tremaine, W.H, Skinner, James G. Culpin, Alexander Tait, Cooper. February 11, 1865”

Financial difficulties continued to beset the Band. The minutes of undated report of a meeting believed to have been held in March, 1866, state: “The Band funds being exhausted, a Fund must be created if the Band is to be kept up. To meet this the members are asked to pay 6d per month per member and Commissioned Officers not less than £1/1/- per annum.”

At a meeting held in the Wheatsheaf Hotel on May 2, 1866 it was decided that each member pay 1/— per week into the Company funds, and from this 6d per Band member be paid into Band funds. That the position must have improved is shown by an entry in the minutes of a meeting held on March 27, 1867. There it is recorded that it was decided that the facings of the uniforms on order for the Band should be white. A later entry under the heading of “Band clothes” shows an expenditure of £29/5/—. It is not clear if this sum was spent on uniforms, but if it was they were remarkably cheap.

# **Royal New Zealand Artillery**

## **With The 2nd New Zealand Division 1939-45**

**By Brigadier C.E. Weir CE, CBE, DSO and Bar  
CRA, 2nd NZ Division**

Shortly after the proclamation of a state of war by Mr Chamberlain on September 3rd 1939, it became known that an Expeditionary Force of divisional size, with certain attached troops, would be sent overseas from New Zealand as soon as it was possible to mobilise and train.

In so far as the Gunners were concerned, the force included initially the three Field Regiments, 4th, 5th and 6th, and the 7th Anti-tank Regiment. The 14th LAA Regiment and the 36th Survey Battery were formed at a later stage.

Mobilisation produced the usual problems of a rapid expansion based on slender peace-time resources and preparations. Lack of trained personnel, shortage of even obsolescent equipment, lack of adequate training grounds, were only some of the problems which had to be surmounted. To complicate matters even more, the organisation of the Field Regiment was introduced into New Zealand in September 1939 displacing that of the old Field Brigade. Most of the Gunners passed through the training came at Ngaruawahia and Papakura before being posted overseas.

The concentration of the artillery of 2nd NZ Division was finally effected at Helwan in the Nile valley in January 1941. About the same time the Depot was established at Maadi also on the Nile, and it was with Maadi and Helwan that most New Zealand Gunners were principally associated whilst in Egypt.

Early February 1941 saw the departure of the Gunner regiments from Egypt for the short but lively campaign in Greece. From Greece most of the Gunners were evacuated to Egypt, but some went to Crete to take part in the defence of Crete, in many cases fighting as infantry.

After a period of reorganisation and training in the Nile Valley, the artillery regiment assembled round the Bagush Box, prior to marching with the remainder of the division into Libya in November 1941. The Gunner regiments emerged from this short but fiercely contested campaign with heavy losses, and it was towards the end of the Libyan battles that the 2nd Divisional Artillery had the misfortune to lose their first

CRA, Brigadier R. Miles, unfortunately taken prisoner at Bel Hamed. A long march to the Suez Canal and later to Syria followed the Libyan battles. Our Syrian stay was characterized by pleasant days round Baalbeck, the Djeddie valley and Aleppo, with exercises and range practices in the Forguloss and Cherriffee areas.

Rommel's rapid breaking of the Gazala line in early June 1942 hastened the return of the Division to the Western Desert. The way was led by the regiments of artillery in one of their most historic marches, in which they left the Baalbeck valley on Monday, June 15th 1942, and concentrated on the western outskirts of Mersa Matruh on the evening, of Friday, June 19th. Events moved rapidly from there on, and after the historic engagements at Minquar Quaim began the withdrawal to El Alamein, followed by periods of constant movement and sharp engagements on the southern Alamein position. Most New Zealand Gunners of that time will remember the Quattara Box, Mubafid and Munassib Depressions, Ruweisat Ridge, El Mrier Alani Nyal and Himeimat and the New Zealand Box.

It was at this stage that 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery began to perfect its technique as a battle fighting machine. Regiments fought under centralised control. The famous "Stonk" was first applied to the enemy at this time, together with the equally well known "Methods A and B". Ably assisted by the 4th, 7th, 11th Field Regiments RA and 7th and 64th Medium Regiments RA, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery inflicted severe punishment on Rommel's last attempt to reach Alexandria, when he made his wheel round the south of the Alamein line to Alam Halfa.

The offensive battle at Alamein, commencing October 23rd, 1942, called for an all-out effort for 12 days from all regiments, but the strenuous labours of the battle did not dim the exhilarating moments of November 4th, 1942, when all regiments got under way towards the open desert to begin their long and eventful trek to Enfidaville in eastern Tunisia.

A week later saw the leading regiments underneath the Halfaya and Sollum Passes, harassing the last Germans to leave Egypt. After a brief rest south of Bardia, the long trek to the staging area at El Hasiat, south of Agedabia, began; and a few days after arrival at El Hasiat, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery, with the remainder of the Division, set off by way of Chrystals Gap to "left hook" the El Agheila position. A week before Christmas Day 1942 the Gunners emerged on the coast just west of Nofilia, where the

regiments settled down to spend a comfortable Christmas and New Years thanks to the efforts of Eighth Army 'Q Staff.

Middle January 1943 saw us moving westward again, this time with Tripoli as the goal. After negotiating very difficult terrain in some places and fighting engagements at Geddohia, Sedada, Beni Ulid and Azizzia, the Gunners entered Tripoli from the south on January 23rd 1943. Our stay in Tripoli was cut short by adverse events in lower Tunisia and at very short notice we made a rapid march to Medenine, southeast of the Mareth line. Rommel's last offensive effort in North Africa was checked here, in a brilliant one-day battle in which the fire technique of 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery exercised a dominating influence over the battlefield.

A short respite at Medenine and we were on the move again through Fom Tatahouine to concentrate west of the Matmata Hills in preparation for the "left hooking" of the Mareth line. The climax of this move was reached when the Tebaga Gap switch line was attacked on the afternoon of March 26th, 1943. 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery assisted by the artillery of 1st Armoured Division supporting the attack by a fast moving barrage. Movement through the Gap commenced the following day and continued through Gabes up to the Wadi Akrit. Here 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery, under command of 50th (Northumbrian) Division took part in the forcing of the Wadi Akrit position and rejoined 2nd NZ Division as the latter broke out beyond the Wadi.

In a steady northward move through Faucaonnerie to La Hencha Sousse, 2nd BTZ Divisional Artillery deployed in front of Enfidaville by mid-April 1943. A month later came the end in Africa, when HQ RA 6th Armoured Division, the leading division of the First Army, requested support from 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery in the Bou Ficha area. That brought the end and 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery had the privilege of witnessing the surrender of its German and Italian opponents on the Enfidaville Plain. Almost immediately, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery started its journey back to the Nile valley, reaching Maadi in early June 1943, thus ending a journey beginning at Baalbeck a year earlier, and involving a trek of more than 5,000 miles, a good deal, of it across trackless desert

Owing to the advent of war leave, considerable reorganisation and training followed our return to the Nile valley. After this was completed, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery moved to Burg El Arab to embark at Alexandria for Taranto, arriving in the early days of

October 1943. Early November saw the regiments on the move to the north to deploy behind 8th Indian Division between the Trigno and Sangro rivers.

The first rounds to herald the arrival of 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery in Europe were fired by 5th NZ Field Regiment just north of Casalanquida on the early afternoon of November 14th, 1943. Steady but hard fighting under rapidly deteriorating weather conditions took us across the Sangro river through Castelfrentano to Porgiofiorito nearly into Orsogna and towards Guadiagrele. Most Gunners will remember the blizzard on New Years Eve 1944, and the greeting which they wrote in the snow for Adolph Hitler on January 2nd 1944.

After handing over the Sangro positions to the 4th Indian Division, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery marched to the Cassino front to operate first under command of II US Corps - in their final attacks against Cassino and the Monastery Hill. Later NZ Corps became the dominant formation in front of Cassino, and 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery, in conjunction with a vast concentration of other artilleries, took part in the second attempt to eliminate the defenders of Monastery Hill and Cassino town.

In early April 1944, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery were relieved in the Cassino area and took over from II Polish Corps positions in the San Croce-Casale-Acquafondata areas for the Rapido offensive, commencing on May 11th 1944. Most of the 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery supported the 5th (Kresowa) Polish Division and saw the Polish flag hoisted on the Monastery on its capture on May 18th 1944. On the fall of Monte Cassino 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery, in company with 2 AGRA, marched up the Atina valley in support of 2nd NZ Division, and after the capture of Sora concentrated with the rest of the Division at Acre.

July 1944 saw the Gunner regiments on the move northward again, this time to support 2nd NZ Division in the battles south of Florence. A short respite after this in the Trasimene area, after which we marched back again to the Adriatic coast, just north of Senigallia, this time to support I Canadian Corps and 2nd NZ Division in the Gothic line battles and the approaches to the Savio river. On reaching the Savio river, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery was relieved and concentrated at Fabriano for a short rest.

Operations were resumed in mid- December 1944 with the task of enlarging the bridgehead over the Lamone river and closing up to the Senio. On the conclusion of these operations 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery, with the remainder of the Division, returned again to Fabriano, this time to train for the approaching battles of the spring.

On the afternoon of April 9th 1945, 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery began its support of the operations for the Senio crossing. This was rapidly followed by the assault on the Santerno, Sillaro, Idice, Rena, Po and Adige rivers, beyond which the German was past concentrated resistance. The advance was continued through Badia, Estre, Padua Mestre to Trieste, which was entered in early May 1945. The war in Italy and for the artillery of 2nd NZ Division was at an end. There only remained the homeward march to New Zealand.

No story of the march of 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery would be complete without recalling its associations with the other regiments of artillery and acknowledging and paying tribute to those regiments who so valorously supported 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery in most of its battles. Chief of these was the Royal Regiment of Artillery, with whom it was the proud privilege of 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery to be associated from early western Desert days of 1939, till the end in Trieste in 1945. This association will not be forgotten, and 2nd NZ Divisional Artillery will remember with pride and gratitude the efforts and sacrifices of the formations and regiments of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in the many battles in which they fought together.

Similarly will be remembered the associations with the Royal Canadian Artillery, the Royal Australian Artillery, the South African Artillery, the Artillery of the United States, the Artillery of the Fighting French, the Artillery of the Polish Army and the Royal Greek Artillery, with whom at one time and another 2nd Ni Divisional Artillery found itself in proud association during the war of 1939-45.

## Order of Battle of 2 Nz Div Arty

As at 1 Nov 41

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### HQRA

#### 4 Fd Regt

25 Bty

26 Bty

46 Bty

#### 7 ATK Regt

31 Bty

32 Bty

33 Bty

34 Bty

#### 5 Fd Regt

27 Bty

28 Bty

47 Bty

#### 14 LAA Regt

41 Bty

42 Bty

43 Bty

#### 6 Fd Regt

29 Bty

30 Bty

48 Bty

#### 36 (NZ) Svy Bty

#### 1 (NZ) Svy Tp

## **3rd NZ Divisional Artillery In The Pacific**

**By Brigadier CSJ Duff, DSO, who was CRA**

In July 1940 it was decided to send New Zealand troops to Fiji to strengthen the defences there, and in October of that year 8 Brigade Group sailed. With it went 35th Field Battery, on which, as time went by, was built the 3rd NZ Divisional Artillery. After Pearl Harbour the Brigade was expanded to divisional strength, but the artillery component, although strengthened, did not become a normal divisional artillery, being rather a composite force of field, coast and anti-aircraft without the usual headquarters. The Division was finally relieved by the 37th US Division and returned to New Zealand to be reconstituted.

Intensive training was commenced to convert the artillery from its previous static role to that of the normal division, with emphasis on mobility. Hardly had this reorganisation got well under way when the Division was put under orders for overseas service - in the first instance to relieve the US forces on Guadalcanal. Once again the Divisional Artillery became abnormal, but this time to the other extreme. At this stage it was organised with Headquarters Divisional Artillery and three field regiments (25 pdr), one independent battery (3.7 howitzers), two anti-tank batteries (6 pdr), one LAA regiment (40mm), one HAA regiment (3.7 howitzers) and one coast regiment (one battery 6 inch MK VII, one battery 155 mm).

Originally it was intended that the anti—aircraft and coast artillery should have a separate commander and staff under the CRA, but finally the whole force was placed under the CRA direct. The peculiar difficulties of terrain and probable employment in two distinct roles forced upon the CRA the usual expedient of having two independent staff, i.e., one CRA with two brigade majors, one for the divisional artillery and one for coast and anti-aircraft artillery, with all the appropriate other appointments, but with one intelligence officer common to both. It is believed that this is unique in the history of the Royal Regiment.

In early November 1942 the Division moved in US transports to New Caledonia, where it relieved an American division. Here the Coast Regiment took over the defence of Noumea with AA support by both NZ and US troops. The mobile portion of the artillery moved some 250 miles north with the Division, and settled down to further



gunnery training, calibration and preparation for what appeared then to be the imminent invasion of the island. The heavy and light AA settled down to the monotonous task of guarding the airfields of Tontouta and Plaine Des Gaiacs. Later it became known that the fear of attack was lessening, and the emphasis swung away towards amphibious operations and training with 'mock up' landing craft, landing nets, etc.

Next came the order to move to Guadalcanal, as a staging point for what was to become known as 'island hopping'. The move, again in US transports and under very real threat of enemy action, was carried out as a full-scale rehearsal of a landing operation - one landing being made at Vila in the New Hebrides and the final landing at Guadalcanal as an operation of war, albeit one which could not be opposed from the land. From now on, training was concentrated on 'island hopping' and jungle warfare combined. For this there was little or no precedent, but on Guadalcanal there were all the requirements for the purely gunnery training — heavy jungle, mud, poor roads, more mud and, always, sweat. It was early realised that most of the tried and proven rules, even the 'rules of ranging' had to be ignored.

To train FOOs - and it was obvious that nothing but a FOO would be practicable - Japanese type 'bunkers' were built in heavy jungle and, some 80 yards away, two slit trenches were dug and lightly covered with boughs as, we hoped, splinter proof cover. One slit trench was used as the usual practice camp OP with the CRA, CO, BC, signallers etc. The other was for infantry officers as visitors. Each temporary FOO was set the task of finding his own way, complete with assistant and signallers, from any nominated spot to the OP, carrying out a compass traverse as he went. From his final 'fix' and still in a muck—sweat, he was required to give his fire orders and to engage the target. The system evolved was to allow a maximum of two rounds smoke to establish whether his line was to his left or his right, and then, working almost entirely by sound, he used a form of close target procedure with HE Fuze 119 cap on, to bring the rounds within view, or at least to a point where leaves, branches, etc, could be seen falling. The MPI (mean point of impact) was usually established in 12—14 rounds.

The Survey Troop, a unit not usually included in divisional artillery, proved invaluable in establishing the divisional grid and also acted as our only source of meteorological data for artillery purposes, as well as for general map correction work.

So much for gunnery. There was still to be solved the question of employment. To clear a field of fire among the high Solomon Island mahogany timber would have taken days, and it was soon realised that the only practicable gun positions must be in the front edge of the jungle, on the shores of an inlet Or on a neighboring island, which naturally complicated the whole defensive layout and led in turn to considerably more interest in small arms training, grenade throwing and defensive wiring. Finally, there was the ever-present worry of the need for economising in MT, from the shipping point of view. In most of the actions the only MT allotted to a battery was one quad, and in order to make this more or a general load carrier, the body top was cut off to the level of the doors, which allowed of loading bulky stores and many men. Once the guns were in position that quad really earned its keep as a maid-of-all-work for all and sundry.

In August 1943, the Division's first fighting task fell to 14 Brigade Group, who cleared Vella Lavella; and with this Group went two field batteries, 35th and 12th. The operation involved a wide pincer movement round the island to corner the Japanese garrison. It also involved endless moves by landing craft with almost everything to be man -handled every time, The conditions were harsh and difficult. Rain fell, drenching men and stores and turning the jungle into a bog. Always with the leading infantry went the FOOs and their gallant and marvelously enduring assistants and signallers. The two batteries gave the enemy no rest. At each change of site men handled 25 pdrs and ammunition ashore over coral and through mangrove swamps, and on one occasion it took three days to get one battery ashore and emplaced.

By October 5th the enemy garrison was pinned down and the two columns were in touch; so much so that the northbound battery fired a barrage, in reverse, for the south-bound infantry. Meanwhile batteries of the LAA Regiment had their share of excitement, nightly low-flying raids being common both at the 'front' and at the rear beaches and areas. Gun detachments of the Regiment coming forward were used as AA protection for the LSTs, (landing ship tanks) on which they traveled, and in one case helped to deal with particularly vicious dive-bombing attacks in which 15 Gunners were killed.

On October 27th, 1943, 8 Brigade Group 'assaulted and captured the Treasury Islands west of Bougainville. This attack, as for Vella Lavella and later for Nissan, was one of the series of leapfrog attacks beyond other islands still held by the Japanese, and as

each successive jump took the attacking troops further north and nearer the Japanese main strongholds so the uneasy feeling of being out on the end of a bough became accentuated. The Treasury operation was vitally necessary for the establishment of a radar station to cover the proposed landing on Bougainville by the US XIV Corps and to secure an airstrip and a motor-torpedo-boat base from which to maintain pressure on the Japanese bases to the north. Included in the force were 38th Field Regiment, HQ and two batteries of 29th LAA Regiment, 54th ATk Battery of 6 pdrs (for use against landing craft and MTBs) and a battalion of US 90 mm AA guns.

In the Vella Lavella operation the Gunners had had no artillery in opposition, but at Treasury [*Island*] the Japanese had two 37mm mountain guns well sited on a hill and well concealed. These took no part in the initial phases of the landing, but shrewdly held their fire until the LSTs had beached and guns and stores were partly unloaded. Then the 37mm guns and some concealed 90mm mortars gave a most unpleasant surprise to our troops, causing many casualties and destroying a 25 pdr, a Bofors and a 90 mm AA gun, besides blowing up a 3 ton truck of ammunition and one of the enemy's own ammunition dumps into the bargain.

In December 1943 plans were drawn up for another operation, this time to capture Nissan, or Green Island, to the north of Bougainville, close to Rabaul, one of the main Japanese strongholds and some four degrees from the Equator.

Nissan was known to be a staging point for Japanese small craft and it was required for an advanced airfield from which to strike at Truk. The island is almost a complete oval atoll, the inner lagoon being seven miles long by four miles wide, with the land never more than a mile wide and often only a few hundred yards from coast to coast. The only possible entrance for LST's is by one narrow channel some 100 yards across. Little was known of the anchorage or channel or of the actual terrain, and to overcome this difficulty a reconnaissance in force was made two weeks before the attack, with Gunner officers in attendance. The artillery for the operation consisted of: HQ 3rd Divisional Artillery; 17th Field Regiment RNZA; 144th Indian Battery RNZA (3.7 howitzers); 53rd ATk Battery RNZA (for anti-MTB work); 4th Survey Troop RNZA; 29th LAA Regiment RNZA; one battalion HAA 90mm (USA); one company AA Searchlights (USA); one company Coast Artillery 155mm (USA).

For the approach and the assault, a very strong naval escort was provided and all plans for naval fire support were made, officers of RNZA flying in US Navy aircraft to direct fire.

The landing went to schedule, in spite of some bombing of the convoy during the previous night and a dive-bombing attack on the LST's as the infantry landing was being made at dawn. The unfortunate Gunners, handicapped by the lack of motor transport, had a very gruelling time landing guns and stores through heavy jungle and over rugged coral. Field and AA were ready for action in very rudimentary positions by late afternoon, but it was days before the coast guns were in action or the AA operations rooms and radars could be set up.

The peculiar geography of the island forced the field artillery to the inner shores of the lagoon, with 180 degree arcs of fire, and their FOO's on the opposite side of the lagoon thus greatly complicating the communications. Previous experience of radio in the jungle had shown the advisability of using line whenever possible, so landing craft had been made available as cable layers and line was laid across the lagoon. Ordinary field cable lasts many weeks in the sea, and the problem of preventing the shore end from fraying apart on the coral was solved (as at the Treasury Islands) by attaching the line to coconuts and floating it out into deep water; there were always plenty of coconuts! On land it was found that the quickest way to secure cable was to drop it into a head-high machete slash in a tree-trunk.

Fighting on the island did not end until D+5, yet on D+11 fighter aircraft were using the airstrip, and as the airfield developed so did the AA layout. All AA sites both heavy and light were organised under one control and one operations room manned by a composite team of Americans and New Zealanders. All heavy sites and all Bofors were connected to the "hot-loop" or continuous listening system, and with the AA and coast radar layouts early warning really became early warning - a very necessary item with Rabaul only 20 minutes flying away. So good was the radar watch that from D+2 no permanent black-out was imposed, but one problem was the passing on of the 'Red' warning to truck and bulldozer drivers on airfield and road construction work.

Under Pacific conditions 'Red' was indicated by three long blasts on a siren or whistle, and the drivers could not hear these warning sounds. The problem was solved by laying certain Bofors on selected bearings which gave wide coverage and at safe angles of elevation; and these guns, on receipt of the 'Red' warning over the 'hot loop', fired

three rounds. The pattern of their tracers gave ample warning, as did the three reports, and a complete 'black-out' could be imposed by these means in a few seconds. The AA defence was too heavy for the Japanese, and after the first few nights only occasional scares occurred and 'Gun Operation Room' spent most of its time tracking our own aircraft. The coast artillery radar was responsible on several occasions for saving the crews of bombers which had got lost on their way back to base.

Months of weary garrison duty followed on an island cursed with all the pests and diseases one can imagine. So ended 3rd Divisional Artillery's active service. It had been a campaign for which there were no precedents, where normal ideas of gunnery, ammunition, equipment, clothing, transport had all to be used merely as groundwork on which the Divisional Artillery had to build new and constantly changing techniques to meet the ever-varied demands of this strange form of warfare.

**Order of Battle of 3 NZ Div Arty**  
**As at 1 Nov 42**

HQR A

17 Fd Regt

12 Bty

35 Bty

37 Bty

33 Hy Regt

151 Bty

152 Bty

153 Bty

28 HAA Regt

202 Bty

203 Bty

114 Lt Bty

53 ATk Bty

29 LAA Regt

207 Bty

208 Bty

209 Ety

214 Bty

54 ATk Bt.y

## **The School Of Artillery, Waioruru**

The Royal Regiment can claim association with Waioruru for longer than any other Corps. The Army Board first showed interest in Waioruru as a training area in the 1920s. As a result of a survey and reconnaissance carried out in 1932 by Capt R.S. Park RNZA (later Brigadier) and Capt G.B. Parkinson (later Maj General), the suitability of the area was established, shooting rights were obtained in 1934, and the first Artillery Camp took place in 1937. RNZA Annual Refresher Courses were held in 1938-39, NZA(TF) Units still used Waioruru for Annual Camps during the early years of the war and one of the largest concentrations of TF Units and firepower took place in 1941.

Prior to the Second World War the 'gunner' underwent a period of intensive basic corps training at Army Schools Trentham, which included a considerable amount of artillery subjects. He emerged from this course with a very sound basic knowledge of corps subjects. From then on the mastery of new techniques was to a large extent an individual responsibility involving constant study and supplemented by Cadre training. The introduction of new equipment did not mean a course at which those concerned were guided through the drills and equipment. The Gunner studied the pamphlets published on the subject and gained his knowledge by his own efforts. Some standardization was achieved by holding Annual RNZA Refresher courses which were attended by all Gunners. The standard reached by the personnel of the RNZA in those years and the reputation they gained reflected the greatest credit on them and are well known to all serving Gunners.

The necessity for a School of Artillery patterned on today's lines presented itself during World War Two with a result that the first School of Artillery (Coast) was established in July 1940 at Fort Dorset, with the added responsibility for Anti-Aircraft training until early 1942. An Artillery Wing was formed at Trentham in Feb 1941 as a separate Wing of Army Schools for specialized training. There was also the Artillery Training Regiment at Trentham for training re-enforcements' for Field Army Artillery for NZEF and recruits for TF. 5 Mar 1942 saw a new phase in the School's development when it was decided to amalgamate all Artillery Branches in Wellington. HQ and the AA Branch, School of Artillery was formed at the Karitane Home, Melrose Park, Wellington. Coast Branch continued at Fort Dorset.

It is interesting to note that many returned regular personnel were employed as instructors with the various branches, thereby ensuring that practical lessons and

experiences were passed on with theoretical training to troops being trained for overseas. These branches continued to function throughout the war years, although the Anti-Tank and Field Branches were later moved to Plimmerton in about Sep 42. This organisation continued until the School of Artillery was disbanded on 4 Feb 44.

On completion of hostilities, with the re-formation of the RF it was decided in Jun 48 that a School of Artillery was necessary and on 26 Aug 48 approval was given for the formation of a RNZA School of Instruction, consisting of two branches: Coast and Field. The Field branch was to consist of two wings, Field and Anti-Aircraft. It was formed at Trentham on 1 Oct 48. Almost immediately, the School was transferred to Waiouru and renamed the School of Artillery because:

- a. the best live shell practice ranges are located at Waiouru;
- b. there is unrestricted training areas, for both firing and manoeuvre;
- c. it enabled co-operation with other arms and Schools.

The first Chief Instructor was Capt J.G. Gilberd RNZA, who, with the assistance of SMIGs WO1s I.J. Doak and L.J. Auty, was responsible for the original setting up of the School at Block 3. This included the development of training facilities, range survey and many essential details connected with establishing any unit on a Sound basis. Added to this scene of activity was the first post-war course; a three week RNZA 6 pdr and 17 pdr Anti-Tank course commencing nine days after the School was transferred from Trentham, Capt Gilberd remained CI until 1949 and his good work has been continued by Major H.L. Jones 1949-52, R.D.P. Hassett 1952-54, P.W.F. Joplin 1954-56, R.H. Smith 1956-57, R.K.G. Porter 1957-59, G.E. Tomline 1959-61, D.R. Kenning 1961-64, G.J. Allen RA 1965-67, J.M. Masters 1967-70, K.P. Murphy 1970-72, P.C. Jones 1972-74, and G.D. Carter the present Chief Instructor.

During 1949 the School moved from Block 3 to Block 1 and the Anti-Aircraft Wing (equipped with 40mm guns, 3.7in guns and Radar) was added.

Nov 63 saw the School moved once more to its present location with the addition of an excellent indoor gunpark.

Initially the School taught A/Tk and Field Branch Artillery subjects and was equipped with a section each of 6 pdr and 17 pdr A/Tk guns, a troop of 25 pdrs, a section of 6 in Howitzers and a section of 4.2in mortars with associated command post and signal stores. The anti-tank equipments were disposed of in 1949 and the 6in Hows replaced



by the 5.5in gun a little later. On 31 Jun 50 the School was integrated with the remainder of The Army Schools, As a result it has been possible to maintain a close liaison with the other Corps Schools. Co-operation with other arms is an essential part of 'gunner' training and this aspect has received its proper emphasis by the frequent inter-change of lectures, plays and demonstrations between the various other Schools and even services.

In 1961 the anti-aircraft branch was closed down, however the Field Branch has progressed and is responsible for training gunners in a wide range of subjects. The trades for which courses are held include: Instructors, Surveyors, Technical Assistants, FACE operators, Driver Operators, Meteorological Assistants, Radar Operators, Operators Artillery Intelligence and Gunners. Field Branch equipments and gun drills covered by students include 25 pdr gun, 105mm howitzer, 5.5in gun, FACE, Wild Ark 1, WF3 Radar, M2A2, PIM and soon, Cymbeline.

The technical procedures associated with these equipments are covered on separate courses. Additional specialist knowledge can be acquired at other courses. RF and TF Officers promotion courses and TF weekend and Annual Camps occupy a large part of the programme of the School.

## **An Outline History of 3 Field Regiment RNZA**

3 Fd Regt was formed in 1940 by the amalgamation of the Field Artillery Brigades from Dunedin and Christchurch, The Regt was based at Addington and was tasked with training reinforcements for 2 and 3 (NZ) Divisions in the Middle East and the Pacific. Training was carried out at Addington and in Burnham, Wingatui and Hororata Areas.

The Regt was reactivated in 1946 as the NZA Fd Regt in the South Island and in 1949 moved to Central Bty at Dunedin. RHQ moved to Burnham in 1961 where it remains to the present. At the start of CMT in 1950 Btys were deployed as follows:

- 31 Bty Dunedin
- 32 Bty Christchurch
- 33 Bty Invercargill

33 Bty was disbanded in 1961 leaving the Regt with two firing batteries and a small RHQ, HQ Bty was raised at Burnham in 1967.

3 Fd Regt is currently equipped with the 25 pdr gun. [1975]

## **4 Medium Battery RNZA**

There is no record of an artillery unit being formed in the Waikato during the volunteer days. It was not until the beginning of the territorial force scheme in 1911 that G Bty NZFA was founded in Hamilton as part of the Auckland FA Brigade. The Bty was equipped with the 18 pdr gun, the current equipment of that period.

In late 1914 elements of G Bty proceeded overseas with the main body of Expeditionary Force, landing in Egypt in December 1914. Then followed a period of training, garrison duty on the Suez Canal and preparation for Gallipoli. Members of G Bty served at Gallipoli and later in France and Belgium in the 1st and 2nd NZ Field Artillery Brigades.

In 1921 G Bty became the 2nd Bty NZA, still retaining the 18 Pdrs until it was disbanded in 1929 as an economy measure during the depression. The Bty was reformed again in 1936, on a volunteer basis and equipped with 60 pdrs.

The Bty had a varied history during World War 2. Between 1939 and 1942 it was known as 2nd Bty and later as 7 Med Bty. Early in the war the troop system was developed and the Bty had A Tp of 4 x 6 in Howitzers stationed in Auckland and B Tp of 4 x 60 Pdrs stationed in Hamilton. Early in 1942 these Tps were further broken down to:

- 2 x 6 in Howitzers at Picton
- 2 x 6 in Howitiers on Great Barrier Island
- 2 x 60 Pdrs at Whangaparaoa, and
- 2 x 60 Pdrs remained at Hamilton.

Late in 1942 the Bty reformed as 8 Med Bty and joined 4 (NZ) Division at Palmerston North. In 1943 this Bty was placed on a care and maintenance basis only and remained as such until the end of hostilities in 1945.

The Hamilton gunners were reactivated again in 1948 as 4 Med Regt. The Regt was at first equipped again with 6 in Howitzers, but these were replaced by the present 5.5 in guns in 1951. The organisation during the CMT days was:

- RHQ Hamilton
- 41 Bty Hamilton
- 42 Bty Te Kuiti

At the 1964 reorganisation of the NZ Army 4 Med Regt reduced in size to become 4 Med Bty, and at the same time the Bty moved from Hamilton to Ngaruawahia. In 1961 the City of Hamilton granted the Bty the freedom of the City and to commemorate this the Bty carries the City Crest on its guns. The parent 'G' Bty title was incorporated in the 4 Med Bty title in 1972, and in 1974 the Bty once again moved back into Hamilton City.

## **16 Field Regiment RNZA**

16 Fd Regt RNZA was raised in 1950 as part of a United Nations Emergency Force for Korea, and served from 1951 to 1954 in that theatre. Even at this time the unit had

several “firsts” to its credit - the first RNZA unit to serve overseas and the first to carry the title “Royal New Zealand Artillery” into battle. (Previous units had been designated “New Zealand Artillery”). More “firsts” were to come later. It was disbanded at the end of the Emergency, but reactivated again in 1958, The Regiment’s history can be divided into periods as follows:

Origins and The Korean Emergency 1950—54

Reactivation and the Regular Force Regt 1958—64

Reorganisation 1964

Vietnam 1965-72

The Present

## **Origins and the Korean Emergency 1950-54**

### **Introduction**

It was cold, bitterly cold, as only Korea can be in mid winter. The place NAEGON-NI, about 40 miles from the west coast and 5 miles north of the 37th Parallel; the time: 1218 hours on 29 January 1951.

The twenty-four guns of 16 Fd Regt, RNZA had just moved up the previous day in support of the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. Over the wireless came “Battery target ... enemy movement in village”. The ranging gun from 163 Battery fired and the first Kiwi shell streamed on its way towards the Communist enemy.

From then until the Truce Agreement on 27 July 1953, the Regiment fired more than 800,000 rounds into the enemy, suffered eighty-nine casualties and won fifty-nine decorations including a Korean Presidential Citation from President Syngman Rhee.

### **The Formation - 1950**

On 29 August 1950 the men destined to become 16 Fd Regt RNZA entered training camps in New Zealand. Basic training was completed in these camps and in early October the Regiment was concentrated at Waiouru to begin corps training. The Commanding Officer was Lt Col J.W. MOODIE, DSO, ED.

The main body of the Regiment left Wellington on 10 December 1950 and arrived in Pusan South Korea on New Year’s Eve.

## **Guerillas Strike**

Within a fortnight the Regiment suffered its first two casualties even though at the stage it was not in action. The Regiment was moving into an area about forty miles north of Pusan to calibrate the guns. One vehicle had dropped behind the convoy and a TSM and his driver went back to find it. Somewhere along the way they mistakenly turned off the main supply route and ran into a party of guerillas. They were later found dead.

## **Action**

On 28 January 1951 the Regiment came under command of 27 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. The Brigade at this stage consisted of:

1 Middlesex	UK
1 Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders	
3 Royal Australian Regiment	Aust
1 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry	Canada
16 Field Regiment, RNZA	
An Indian Field Ambulance	

It was during the period that the Regiment was with 27 Brigade that it participated in the Battle of Kapyong.

## **Kapyong**

The Regiment's first major battle came in April 1951 when the Chinese attacked in great strength and sought to achieve a complete breakthrough. For four days the Regiment was to fire almost without pause. At Kapyong 163 Bty was in direct support of 3 RAR.

During the 30 hours preceding the dawn of Anzac Day 1951 the Regiment fired 10,000 rounds at ranges from 10,000 to 3,000 yards. At one stage seven American batteries were under command to give added firepower to the defence. During the action the Regiment had to withdraw several times. At one stage eleven gunners from 163 Bty were killed or wounded as a direct result of enemy infantry action.

It is to the credit of the CO that he extricated the Regiment without the loss of a single gun or a vehicle and at the same time was able to provide fire wherever and whenever it was required.

Following the action, 3 RAR and 1 PPCLI were awarded US Presidential Citations and 16 Fd Regt a Korean Presidential Citation. The 16 Fd Regt Citation was presented by the Korean Minister of National Defence, Mr Ko Poong Lee, and the original is now on display in 16 Fd Regt at Papakura.

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

***Office of the President***

***November 1, 1951***

**PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION**

The President of the Republic of Korea takes profound pleasure in citing  
for exceptionally meritorious service and heroism

**THE 16th FIELD REGIMENT**

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY**

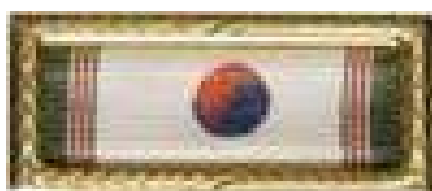
for the award of

**THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION**

This unit joined the United Nations Forces in Korea at the beginning of the year and has given outstanding support, firstly to the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, later to the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade, and since the Formation of 1st British Commonwealth Division as part of that Division.

Its performance in the April enemy offensive merits the highest praise. Two Batteries were initially forward in support of 6 Republic of Korea Division and these were skillfully withdrawn to join the balance of the Regiment in a new position which 27th British Commonwealth Brigade had been ordered to hold at all costs, Throughout the battle during the nights of 23rd and 24th April and all day of 24th April it operated its guns ceaselessly and efficiently and played an important part in the holding of the position.

Signed ***Syngman Rhee***



## **28<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Infantry Briade Group**

After Kapyong, 27 Brigade was withdrawn from Korea and 16 Fd Regt came under command 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group. The Regiment was to remain with this Brigade for the remainder of the war.

During January 1951, the Brigade advanced to the line of the Imjin River and remained in this location until the signing of the Truce Agreement , The static war was characterised by trench warfare and, patrol clashes.

On 28 July 1951 the 1st British Commonwealth Division was formed and 16 Fd Regt became part of the Divisional Artillery. The Regiment was placed under command of HQ RA and in direct support of 28 Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group.

### **Rounds by the Thousands**

On 4 November 1951, the Regiment fired its record number of rounds for one day 10,387.

The 200,000th round was fired on 7 November 1951 and the quarter millionth round on 23 November 1951. On 26 November 52 the 500,000th round was fired by the Divisional Commander, Major General M.A.R. WEST. On 26 June 1953, the 750,000th shell was fired an impressive total which gave the Regiment a firing average of 850 rounds per day in the two and a half years that it had been in Korea up to that time.

### **1952**

On 24 March 1952 Lt Col R. McK. Paterson, DSO took over command of the Regiment and over the next few months a gradual replacement system for the changeover of personnel was instituted. At no time was the Regiment withdrawn from active duty to allow for this changeover.

At various times towards the end of the year the Regiment remained in the line in support of a Republic of Korea Division, and later in support of the 2nd US Inf Div, whilst the Commonwealth Division was in reserve.

### **1953**

The Commonwealth Division remained in reserve until April 1953. In the meantime the Regiment continued in support of the Americans. In February 1953, Lt Col J. Burns, MBE, DSO took over command from Lt Col Paterson.

The Regiments main fire tasks were in support of patrols and counter bombardment work.

### **“Cease Fire”**

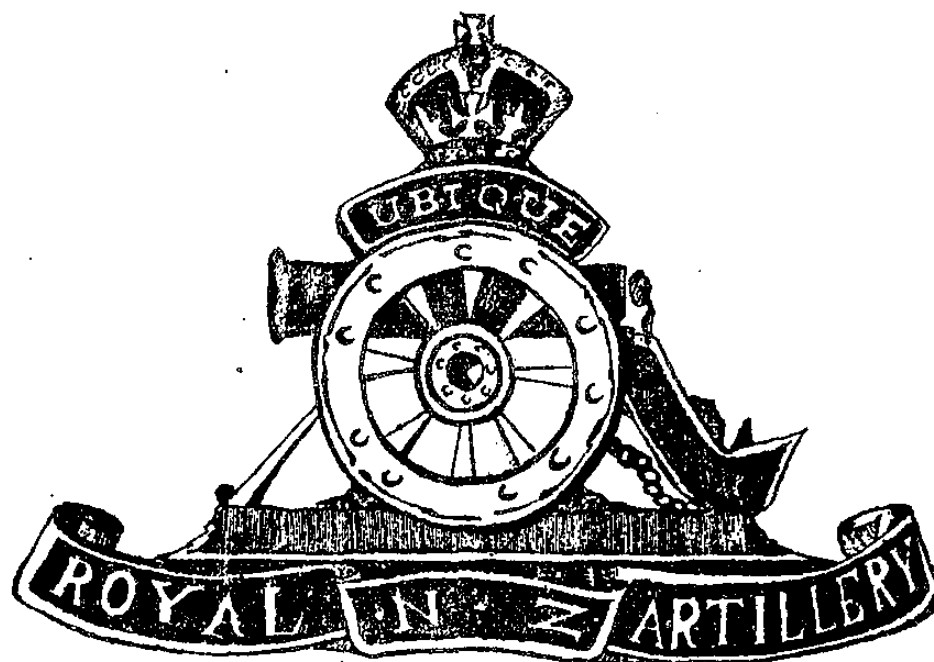
The last rounds were fired at 0530 hours 27 July 1953, four and a half hours before the truce became effective, The Regiments total of over 800,000 shells fired at the enemy was the highest for any field regiment in Korea.

The Regiment remained in Korea until October 1954 as part of the occupation force. It officially became non- operational on 7 October 1954 and on its return to New Zealand in November 1954 the Regiment was disbanded.

### **Unofficial History 1950-54**

Just prior to its return to New Zealand an unofficial history was written under the auspices of the then CO, Lt Col J.A. Poutney MBE, and a copy of this booklet follows.





*16<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment*  
*1950-1954*

# ROLL OF HONOUR

## --- KILLED IN ACTION ---

203631	WO II	LONG	R.G.	13-1-51
203353	GNR	MacDONALD	R.	13-1-51
203621	2/LT	FIELDEN	D.S.	24-4-51
203658	GNR	DICKSON	W.B.	4-10-51
203513	GNR	COOPER	L.J.	13-10-51
207931	GNR	BAILEY	A.	17-11-51
203572	GNR	SCAHILL	J.M.C.	18-11-51
204264	GNR.	O'NEILL	T.M.	13-9-52
204192	L/EDR	SHORTLAND	J.	17-2-53
644568	GNR	BERRY	P.R.	17-2-53
204461	GNR	GRIFFITHS	E.J.	17-2-53
205204	SGT	REID	R.J.	2-5-53
204368	GNR	McRAE	J.	2-5-53

## --- DIED OF WOUNDS ---

203526	GNR	FRITH	M.F.	5-11-51
206066	GNR	COMPTON	R.E.	24-11-51
207937	GNR	ALLNATT	E.W.	26-11-51
208611	GNR	MORTIMER	R.H.	14-9-52

## --- ACCIDENTALLY KILLED ---

33946	GNR	CARSON	R.D.	6-6-53
-------	-----	--------	------	--------

## --- DIED OF SICKNESS ---

203586	SGT	VUGLER	C.J.	11-2-51
206403	GNR	WATSON	J.R.	18-11-51
206360	GNR	JACKSON	D.C.	27-11-51
206405	SGT	MURRAY	L.	27-12-52

## --- DIED AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT ---

208707	GNR	CLARK	I.R.	5-6-54
--------	-----	-------	------	--------

## --- DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE ---

208405	GNR	McDONALD	R.	15-11-52
--------	-----	----------	----	----------

\* \* \* \* \*



BREXIDIER MAW ROWLANDSON O.B.E.

Commanding Royal Artillery

I. Commonwealth Division,

British Army Post Office 2

6 Oct 54.

16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery will shortly be leaving this Division after nearly four years service in Korea.

It is appropriate that in the reduction of the Commonwealth forces this Regiment should be the first Artillery unit to leave for it has served longer here than any other, and served well indeed as this pamphlet records. Appropriate or not, it is a sad

occasion for me; I lose a fine Regiment from my command and many good friends.

16th Field Regiment leaves the Commonwealth Division very much liked, and well respected as good Gunners.

Maw Rowlandson.  
Brig.

## **Foreword**

**by**

**Lt-Col J. A. Pountney MBE**

This booklet in no way attempts to set down the official history of 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery, It has been produced simply in an attempt to give members, past and present, some useful and interesting information on the activities of their unit from its formation in August 1950 until its departure from Korea in November 1954

In these four years the regiment has travelled many rough and dusty , from Pusan to Hill 355, advancing, withdrawing and holding firm. It has taken part in many notable actions; Kapyong, “The Hook” and others. It has fought and lived in snow and mud, unpleasant heat and extreme cold, has suffered casualties, setbacks and disappointments, but withal has kept its spirit high and done nothing to tarnish the reputation of our corps, of which we are all so proud. In the period since the shooting War ended the regiment has carried out faithfully at all times the less exciting but more difficult and irksome task of being ready to fight without fighting. Mobile and static training, frequent live shell practice, digging gun pits, command posts and bunkers, blasting tunnels through solid rock to observation posts - all these activities have kept the men fit and ready for any eventuality.

As this booklet is being printed, we are in the process of running down in personnel, dismantling our camp, both of them sad tasks, and preparing for our return to home and loved ones. Homecoming is a great anticipation, but tinged with regret at the prospects both of disbanding this regiment and severing, for the time being at any rate, our military association in the field with other Commonwealth forces. This Commonwealth Division has been a magnificent experiment in which we have been privileged to play an important part. It has taught the men of each component a great deal about the others, how they work and live and fight, and has given them complete confidence in each other. For us, even more than the others, it has given the opportunity of training in an operational division, something we can never achieve at home in peace, and it has given to the Royal New Zealand Artillery a large trained group of officers and men who will be ready to play their parts again whenever they are required.

It has not been my privilege to command 16th Field Regiment in war. This foreword should properly have been written by one of the three Commanding Officers who did, and to them I make due apology. However, both fighting and under truce conditions, all, officers and men have worked for the good of the regiment, the corps and the army as a whole. Although shortly to be disbanded after having successfully carried out the task for which it was created, this regiment WILL NOT be forgotten.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Paunton". Below the signature, the words "COMMANDING OFFICER" are printed in a small, sans-serif font.

COMMANDING OFFICER

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## **“Battery Target, Suspected Enemy Movement in Village”**

It was cold, bitterly cold, as only Korea can be in the middle of winter. The place – Naegon-ni, about forty miles from the West coast the rugged Korean peninsula and not more than five miles North of the 37th Parallel. The time - soon after midday on January 29, 1951.

The twenty-four guns of the 16th Field Regiment, RNZA, were in position on the ice-crusted paddy fields; the gunners stood by, stamping their feet and slapping their arms to keep warm against the freezing wind which blew, as it seemed, from the very heart of the Arctic Circle. Up in the observation posts alongside the Australian infantry, troop commanders peered out over No Man’s Land at the enemy positions. The stage was set. Since 0600 hours the previous day the regiment had been waiting, ready to open up in support of the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

Then it happened! The wireless crackled into life: ‘Battery target.... Suspected enemy movement in village” From the Roger Battery command post fire orders echoed out over the tannoy system and the gunners leapt into action. “TAKE POST.....BATTERY TARGET”.

The ranging gun barked into life and the first Kiwi shell screamed on its way toward the Communist enemy, Down came corrections from the forward observation officer, Captain H. Honner, and the whole battery opened up. The regiment was in action in Korea for the first time.

From then until the signing of the Truce Agreement became effective, July 27, 1953, the regiment poured more than three-quarters of a million rounds into the enemy, suffered eighty-nine casualties and won fifty-nine decorations, including a Presidential Unit Citation from Synwnan Rhee.

But the story of the regiment really starts five months before . ...

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When the Security Council of UNO asked member nations to provide forces for service in Korea, the New Zealand Government at once, announced that it would recruit about a thousand men for New Zealand Kayforce. The force was to include a Field Artillery Regiment

equipped with 25-pr guns, a transport platoon, a bde HQ unit and a reinforcement training unit, About a year later, New Zealand’s commitment to the UN was considerably expanded. On July 28, 1951. the Commonwealth Division was formed and New Zealand contributed, in addition to the

Field Artillery Regiment, a Transport Company, the New Zealand component of the Div Signals Regiment, plus a division HIQ transport platoon, an LAD for a British Field Engineer Regiment and many officers and other ranks to serve in divisional units in the interests of integration. Within a few days of the Governments

call for volunteers, 6,000 men had offered their services.

On August 29, 1950, some 1,100 officers and men, most of them destined for the artillery, entered three camps. Less than one in ten of these volunteers had previously had any gunner training and only a third had seen service of any sort. The Maori population was well represented; as was almost every trade and profession in the country.

Brigadier P. S. Park, CB, CBE, who was appointed to command the whole force, had, a distinguished military record behind him.

In 1939, just before the outbreak of the Second World War, he had become New Zealand Military Liaison Officer in the United Kingdom. From 1941 until 1946 he commanded the United Kingdom section of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force and from 1942 was the New Zealand representative on the Joint Planning Staff. At the Paris Peace Conference in 1946 he was Military Advisor to the New Zealand delegation.

“CHEERIO NEW ZEALAND”

Throughout ‘September, the officers and men of the regiment were hard at work doing their basic training, getting fit and becoming efficient fighting soldiers. Then there was six weeks corps training to be completed before the regiment officially came into being as a unit October 27, 1950.

After a well-earned eight days final leave, the men of the regiment returned to camp for two weeks unit training under the first commanding officer, Lt-Col J. W. Moodie, DSO, ED.

Now they were ready for active service. The clerks, university students, labourers, carpenters, farmers and trade apprentices of a few weeks before were now trained and competent Artillerymen.

The guns and other heavy equipment were shipped to Korea in late November on the freighter “Ganges”.

A small advance party under Lieutenant (later Major) P. King, DSO, MC, flew to Korea and unloaded the freighter when it arrived at Pusan.

The main body left Wellington on December 10 in the “Ormonde” and reached Pusan on New Year’s Eve.

#### GUERILLAS STRIKE

Within a fortnight the regiment suffered its first two casualties even though at that stage it had not gone into action.

It happened when the regiment moved to Miryang, about forty miles North of Pusan, to calibrate the guns.

One vehicle was found to have dropped behind the convoy and not



arrived at the scheduled time, Warrant Officer R. G. Long and his driver, Gunner P. MacDonald went back by jeep to search for the missing vehicle. Somewhere along the way they must have mistakenly turned off the main supply route and run into a party of guerillas. They were later found shot dead at Samnangjin—ni, a village about ten miles South from Miryang.

For a week the regiment was busy calibrating the guns and getting ready for action. Then the long convoy headed North over narrow, twisting roads that were never designed for heavy military transport. In two days the regiment covered, just on two hundred miles and moved into position in support of the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade.

At 0600 hours on January 26, 1951 the regiment took over support of the brigade from a United States battalion which had been equipped with 105 mm howitzers. Then shortly after midday on January 29 the wireless in Roger Battery command post crackled out the warning for the regiment's first rounds to be fired in anger. "Battery Target,,,,,,,, Suspected enemy movement in village." From then until the brigade was withdrawn from Korea at the end of April, it was supported by the 16th Field Regiment.

And it was during this period that the regiment took part in the now-famous battle of Kap'yong which won for it Syngman Rhee's Presidential Unit

Citation.

During the brigade's brief periods of rest, the regiment supported troops of the Republic of Korea and of the United States Eighth Army, including the US 24th Division, the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Cavalry Division.

### FIRST DECORATIONS

Peter Battery was now in direct support of the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment; Queen Battery supported the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; and Roger Battery was in support of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Early in February, the brigade was made "Four Square" by the arrival of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and each of the batteries were associated with this battalion until it later joined the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade.

It was during this same month that the regiment's first awards an immediate Military Cross and a Military Medal were won, Captain A. A. Roxburgh (later Major) was forward observation officer with A Company, 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, when the Chinese put in a savage attack, Lance—Bombardier H. K. McGubbin was his wireless operator.

The attack swept in relentlessly as assaulting waves of (Chinese broke screaming over the Company area.

While Captain Roxburgh directed the withering rein of artillery fire, he and his operator had to defend their post with small arms.

They protected their post and also killed many of the attacking Chinese

It was also in February that the regiment moved North across the Han River at Yoju to support the brigade in “Operation Killer”. An attempt was made to trap the Chinese in a pincers movement but they managed to escape at Wonju. Although the major aim of the attack was not achieved, the week-long advance continued over about 20 miles.

During that time, the regiment fired its first creeping barrage.

As the infantry would move in close to the protective line of artillery fire the range of the guns would be lifted another two or three hundred yards to establish a further barrage line.

When the Chinese escaped the trap, the regiment, which had been moving across the Korean Peninsula from West to East, swung North again and went into support of the 1st US Cavalry Division at a point just South of Hongchon.

The brigade went out of the line to rest for ten days at Yongdogwon—ni.

Before the brigade moved up into the line again, the regiment supported the 1st US Marine Division for two days a few miles East of Hongchon.

#### THE EVE OF KAP'YONG

The regiment's first major test came in April when the Chinese attacked in great strength and sought to achieve a complete break-through.

When the brigade moved up into the line again, the regiment went with it across the Pukhan River and on to Kap'yong.

There the brigade remained in reserve while the regiment moved up in support of a South Korean Division.

About this time, the Chinese threw in a heavy counter-attack and the South Korean troops collapsed, opening up a ten-mile gap in the front.

The regiment was located in a narrow valley which led over the 38th Parallel;

They were directly in the line of the Chinese advance. Taking advantage of the gap which had been opened up in the front line, the Chinese troops poured South in mass and it was immediately apparent that they threatened to split the United Nations Army in two. Had they not been stopped later at Kap'yong, they might well have succeeded.

The 27th Brigade was some twenty miles further back but as the South Korean troops broke and started to filter back through the New Zealand gun positions, the Middlesex Battalion was rushed up to provide the gunners with local cover. It was dusk on April 23 - just two days before Anzac Day: the famous anniversary of the assault on Gallipoli and the day the New Zealanders and Australians were to make yet another heroic stand.

This time they were to break the back of the Communist advance in what was later described by a newspaper correspondent as “some of the bloodiest and fiercest fighting ever to take place in Anzac history”.

*Continues . . .*

## OUT OF THE VALLEY

In the words of one observer "The gunners remained by their guns and as dusk was falling they were given their first target - valleys along which the enemy were advancing.

"Orders to withdraw were given that night the main task of the guns in the valley being to cover the Middlesex while they came down from their protective perimeter in the surrounding hills".

Firing at almost point-blank range, the gunners put down a heavy curtain of fire as the infantry withdrew from the high ground. As each company reached the valley floor, one troop was taken out of action, the infanteers scrambled up on the guns and vehicles and the dash back to new positions started. One gun tractor, towing a trailer and a gun, moved out with more than twenty British soldiers clinging to every conceivable handhold.

The orderly withdrawal continued until only the four guns of Baker Troop remained in action. They continued firing at increasingly shorter range until the last of the infantry were ready to pull out. Then Baker Troop, bringing the last few infanteers with them, joined the made race out of the valley. It was a nightmare journey along a narrow, winding road. No lights were allowed and the road was clogged with disorganised, withdrawing South Korean troops.

Just a few minutes after the last vehicle roared out of the valley and on to the

main road, the advancing Chinese overran the South Korean Divisional Headquarters at the cross-roads. In the meantime, the rest of the 27th Brigade, which had been rushed up from reserve to stem the gap, hastily prepared positions to form a second line of defence. The New Zealand gunners sped back into position and immediately opened up in support of the Australian and Canadian infantry. The target - the mouth of the valley from which the regiment had just emerged.

## ANOTHER ANZAC DAY

Only two hours after they had taken up their new position, at 0100 hours on April 24, the eve of Anzac Day, the regiment was forced to move again back to Kap'yong. There were reports that the Chinese had penetrated the gun positions, and for the next four days and nights, the regiment was to fire almost without pause while the gunners sweated over their smoking, paint-blistered guns.

By this time, the Australians were bearing the full brunt of the savage Chinese attack about forty miles North-East of Seoul. Under the command of the regiment were seven American batteries to give added fire power to the defence.

The Australian Battalion was under very heavy pressure and for some time they were cut off. In almost every company there was bitter hand-to-hand fighting. The New Zealand gunners, stripped to the waist, continued to pound the enemy relentlessly, but in spite of heavy losses, the Chinese repeatedly threw wave after wave of troops

into the artillery barrage in suicidal attempts to overrun the Australian positions.

During the thirty hours preceding the dawn of ANZAC Day, the regiment fired about 10,000 rounds at targets ranging in distance from 10,000 yards to 3,000 yards. The amount of artillery available permitted a terrific volume of fire to be directed against the masses of Chinese infantry advancing in waves in the open. Australian casualties were heavy, but the infantry, with the support of the, artillery, accounted for an estimated 1,000 Chinese killed and 3,000 wounded. At dawn on ANZAC Day, all the brigade infantry were holding their ground although about this time the Chinese massed for the greatest assaults of the battle.

Meeting the advance with murderous fire, the Australians piled up at least 500 enemy dead around their positions. Then the break-through started to frizzle out. New ANZAC traditions had been made. Victory was announced by a laconic radio news item: "Pressure eased considerably."

#### **"MERITORIOUS SERVICE AND HEROISM"**

It was not until the night of the 28th-29th that the gunners, drawn back to a harbour area behind the Pukhan River, were able to enjoy their first real sleep in six days.

For their deeds during this period, the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian

Regiment, were awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation and the 16th Field Regiment received the Presidential Unit Citation from Dr Syngman Rhee, the President of the Republic of Korea, The Citation read:—

"The President takes profound pleasure in citing for exceptionally meritorious service and heroism the 16th New Zealand Field Regiment.....

Its performance in the April enemy offensive merits the highest praise,

"Two batteries were initially forward in support of the 6th Republic of Korea Division and these were skillfully withdrawn to join the balance of the Regiment in a new position which the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade had been ordered to hold at all costs. "Throughout the battle during the nights of 23rd and 24th April, and all day on 24th April, it operated its guns ceaselessly and efficiently and played an important role in holding the position."

The Citation was received by -the regiment in February 1952. It was read out by the Minister of National Defence, Mr Ko Poong Lee, at an impressive ceremony which would be forgotten by few, With the flags of the Republic of Korea, the United States and New Zealand flying above them, the regiment was inspected on the parade ground by senior officers of the Republic, the Commonwealth Division - which had been formed by this time - and the Corps with which the regiment was by then operating.

During the action, Lt-Col Moodie, extricated the regiment without losing a single gun or a

vehicle and at the same time was able to provide fire whenever and wherever it was required, as a result, he was made a companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

#### NEW BRIGADE

At the end of April, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were replaced by the 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the Middlesex were replaced by the 1st Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, The name was changed to 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. In name, the 27th Brigade was withdrawn from Korea.

From that time until the present, the regiment has supported the 28th Brigade. Before long the regiment was on the move again this time heading North in support of 28th Brigade.

Immediately behind, in reserve, went the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade which had now joined the United Nations Forces. The 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, which had joined the old 27th Brigade in February to make it "Four Square", now transferred to the Canadian Brigade.

May found the regiment tiring heavily in the defence of the Han and Paithan Rivers. Then during June the advance to the Imjin River took place. By June 10, 1951, the brigade, with the regiment in support, had reached the general location it occupied right until the signing of the

Truce Agreement and the "Static War" was under way, characterised by trench warfare and patrol clashes. For a few months the brigade, and later the division, remained on the South bank of the Imjin River. Before long, however, it pushed forward and occupied positions a few miles North of the River.

#### **"Kiwi Tracks in Korea"**

##### PUSAN

Here the 16th Field Regiment landed in Korea on New Year's Eve, 1950 The freighter "Ganges" had arrived in the same port a few weeks before bringing the regiment's guns and heavy equipment

##### Point 1 - MIRYANG

Here the regiment spent a week calibrating the guns and getting ready for action, From here the long convoy headed North towards Naegon—ni.

##### Point 2 - SAMNANGJIN-NI

Here Warrant Officer R. G. Long and his driver, Gnr R. MacDonald were killed by guerillas. They had gone back to search for a vehicle missing from the convoy which arrived at Miryang.

##### Point 3 - NAEGON—NI

At 0600 hours on January 20, 1951, the regiment took over support of the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade here. Shortly after midday the following day, the guns barked into action for the first time against the Chinese Communists.

#### Point 4 YOGU

Here, in February, 1951, the regiment crossed the Han River to support “operation Killer”. An attempt was being made in this action to trap the Chinese in a pincers movement.

#### Point 5 WONJU

The Chinese were able to escape the “Operation Killer” trap in this general area. The regiment had been moving across the Korean Peninsula from West to East at that time, but now it swung north.

#### Point 6 YONGDOGWON—NI

Here the 27th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade rested for ten days but the regiment moved on North in support of the Americans.

#### Point 7 HONGCHON

Just South of this village, the regiment

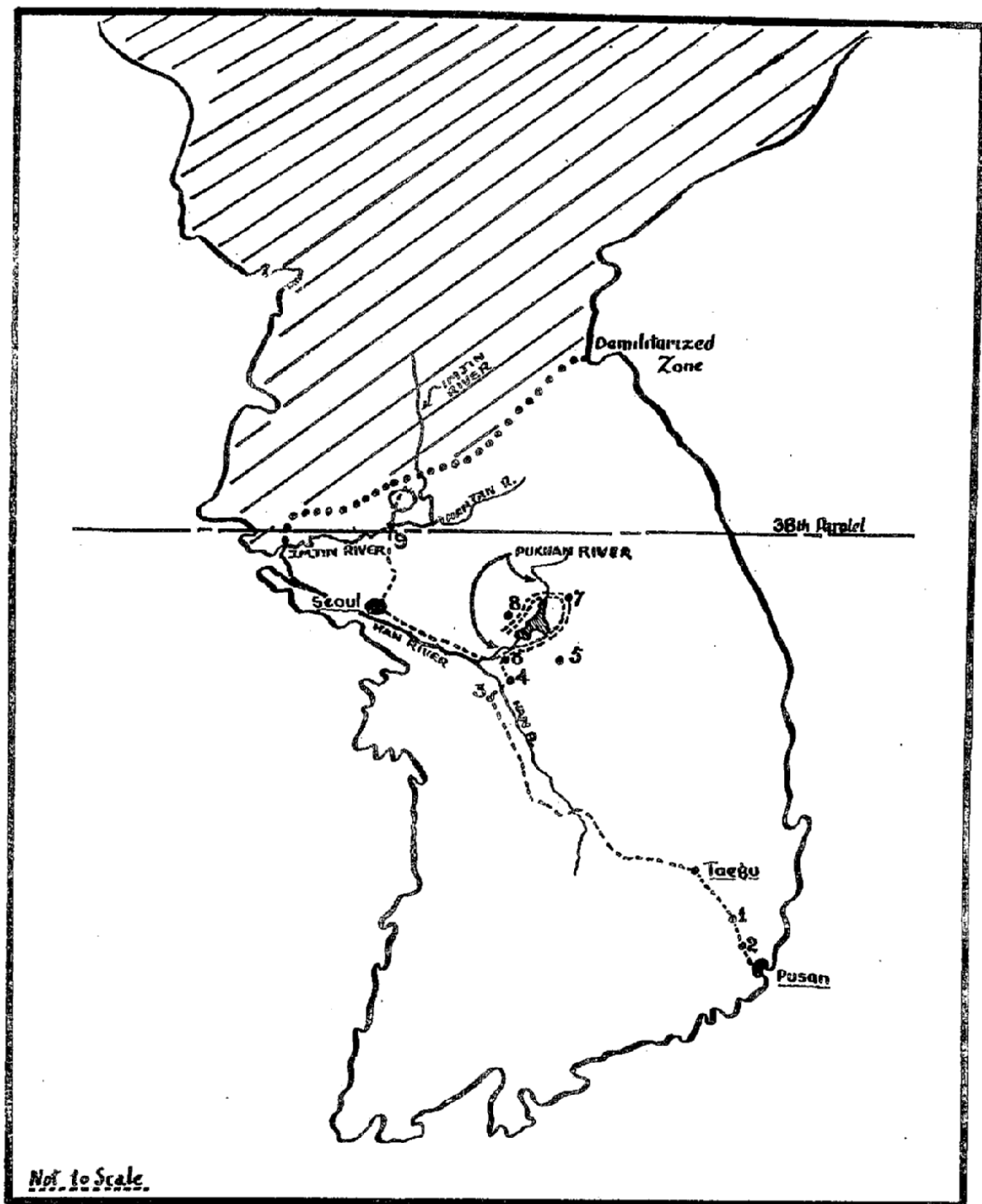
supported the 1st US Cavalry Division for about a week. Immediately after that, it went into support of the 1st US Marine Division for two days a few miles east of the village.

#### Point 8 - KAP'YONG

Here for four days and nights the regiment tired almost without pause - it was the location of the now famous battle of Kap'yong which won for the regiment the South Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

#### Point 9 IMJIN RIVER CROSSING

In October, 1951, the regiment pushed Across the Imjin River in this general area to support the 1st British Commonwealth Division in “Operation Commando”, From then on was the static phases of the war in Force.



### *Regimental Route Map*

The rigours of that first winter in Korea could hardly be compared with the later conditions under which the regiment served. In the first place, the men faced one of the most severe winters the country

had experienced for many years. And they were not equipped with the abundance of special winter clothing which was issued at the end of 1951.

The regiment was also constantly on the

move; that laid a heavy burden on the shoulders of the signallers and the Light Aid Detachment, Royal New Zealand Electrical And Mechanical Engineers, which was allied with the regiment. In fact, much of the smooth-working efficiency of the regiment during those early days was directly due to the work carried out by the Light Aid Detachment, commanded from the very beginning to the present day by Captain J. M. Wilson, MBE.

Guns were almost always on the move along rugged roads and often, vehicles which were not particularly new, were kept working like clock work only because of the tenacity of the mechanics under very trying conditions.

#### “THE LINE IS THROUGH SIR”

George Signals Troop, attached to regiment and responsible for providing communications between it and Brigade headquarters, and between the regimental headquarters and the batteries had arduous task to perform.

Communications are just as important to an artillery regiment as nerves are to the human body.

All the troop personnel, with the exception three radio mechanics who lived one at each battery to maintain wireless sets and charge wireless batteries, were attached to the regimental headquarters.

Set down in cold words and figures, the job of George troop seemed like simple, routine work; but it was often done in the dark, in freezing temperatures and on lonely stretches of road when the enemy's

position was not clearly known.

It called time and time again for a high degree of devotion to duty.

Reporting on the difficulties experienced by signalmen in Korea, Lieutenant J, R. Clarke, the first officer commanding the troop, said in February 1951:-

“At times the batteries operating the telephone systems freeze overnight in the sub—zero temperatures rendering the exchanges useless, and the damp cold corrodes contact points on the wireless sets used as secondary lines of communication.

“Warmth is the only effective remedy against technical faults caused by Korea's cold.

“Now we make sure that the equipment is kept as warm as possible, but there is nothing we can do about the lines we lay around the areas each time the regiment moves.

“However, we visit other signal units and profit by their experience and now all our equipment is functioning as it should be - though we are still having occasional trouble with wireless communications because the mountainous country does not lend itself to radio transmission.”

At this time, seventeen of the troop were responsible for operating the signal office, the regimental exchange, and the regiment's wireless and radio telephone links.

The signal office containing the exchange had been set up in a special three-ton lorry, which the signalmen had made comfortable by lining it with matting and installing a heater.

KOREA -STYLE DON-Rs



Nine men made up three line detachments.

Their job was to lay and maintain about eight to ten miles of telephone line between the three batteries, the regiment's Bren-gun outposts, and Brigade Headquarters.

They were on call twenty-four hours a day to repair lines put out by vehicles or enemy action.

Four signalmen worked as despatch riders; but they used jeeps instead of the motor-cycles with which they were originally issued.

Apart from the state of the roads, ice-covered or a foot deep in slush, the cold alone made it physically impossible for a man to ride a motor-cycle for long at a time.

These despatch riders rushed messages up to thirty or forty miles, travelling one to a vehicle by day, but two to a Vehicle by night for protection.

## THE DIVISION IS FORMED

On July 28, 1951, when the 1st British Commonwealth Division was officially formed, the regiment became a part of the "Div Arty".

However, it continued to support the 28th Brigade.

The other two brigades were 29th, a British brigade, and 25th, the Canadian brigade.

It was about this time that New Zealand's commitment to the United Nations Forces was considerably expanded.

For the next three and a half months, while the division remained in position on the South bank of the Imjin River, individual batteries were moved forward from time to time in order to support deep infantry patrols which were crossing the River to search out the enemy.

Towards the end of August, the Kayforce expansion draft of some 550 officers and men began to arrive in Japan by air from Darwin, Australia,

They had been on the troopship "Wahine" which foundered in shallow water with her entire cargo of equipment and stores although no lives were lost.

Towards the end of September, the three-month period of comparative inactivity came to an abrupt close with the advance of the division right up to the Imjin River.

The heavy firing programme was stepped up in October when the division, in "Operation Commando", advanced North of the River to drive the enemy from vital ground and secure a strong defence line forward of the Imjin.

The regiment, now composed of veteran gunners and gunner officers, played an important part in this operation and materially assisted the infantry battalions to take and hold their objectives.

The Chinese stubbornly resisted the advance and there was very heavy fighting all along the front.

The expenditure of ammunition for October was the highest for any month since the regiment had been in action in Korea 72,000 rounds.

The following extract appeared in the

regimental monthly report:-

“It is considered that October, 1951, will be recorded in historic annals as the first occasion on which a British Commonwealth Division, comprised of English, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and Indians, has gone into action as one fighting force and achieved so great a measure of success.” Throughout November the enemy hit back savagely, but their attacks were repulsed.

#### KIWI POW

Until this time the regiment had campaigned in Korea for more than nine months and had lost only three killed in action and a dozen wounded.

From now on, casualties increased.

Some of them occurred among the gunners in their regimental areas for the Chinese Communists were using more and heavier artillery in counter-bombardment.

However, the majority of casualties were among the observation post parties up with the infantry.

The only Kayforce prisoner of war in Korea was Gnr N. C. Garland, one of the “originals” in the regiment.

He was captured on the night of November 17 when he was with an observation party from the regiment in support of the 1st Battalion, King’s Shropshire Light Infantry.

The company position the party was in came under heavy fire from Communist self-propelled guns and shortly after was attacked by the enemy.

When the fighting quietened down, Gnr Garland went outside the dug-out and met

two sole survivors of an infantry section which had been dug in near the observation post.

The three started to go over the top of the hill to company headquarters but, were seen by a small party of Chinese armed with automatic weapons who forced them to surrender at gunpoint.

They were marched to the Chinese command post two or three miles away where they were interrogated for half an hour, They were then marched 23 miles to the rear where they were imprisoned with other Commonwealth captives.

Gnr Garland’s version follows:- “Two days later we started on a 125-mile march North to a mining camp,

“We were on the road for about ten days and found it very cold as we were still in light clothing and there was much snow around.

“At the mining camp, the Chinese issued us with their quilted winter clothing and took us part of the journey in trucks to Camp Five.”

#### “I’M A KIWI”

At Camp Five, Gnr Garland was put in a United Kingdom company and lived with these men all the time.

For food he generally had two cups of rice a day. In winter this was augmented with a midday snack of a cup of “charred barley” brew.

Monotony was his worst enemy.

He remained in enemy hands for twenty-one months and was repatriated at the Panmunjom prisoner exchange on August 7,

1953.

He looked surprisingly well when he was released although he was very thin.

Introducing himself to Major - General N, West, the commander of the Commonwealth Division at the time, he was waiting to welcome returnees - Garland cheerfully said: "My name is Garland, sir, a Kiwi,"

Among others who were there at Parumunjom to welcome him back was Captain H J. McLean, who' had been with him the night he was captured.

#### 'ANOTHER 10,000 SHELLS'

The regiment's two hundred thousandth round was fired on November 7. The quarter millionth round was fired without ceremony on November 23. But it was during one 24-hour period early in the month of November that the regiment fired its 'record number of rounds for a day --10,387.

One observer said of that day:- "November 4 will long be remembered by New Zealand gunners.

"Gains made during Operation Commando were being consolidated and the Chinese selected that day to launch a fanatical drive aimed at recapturing strategic features our infantry had gained in the advance.

"The drive was supported by heavier artillery barrages than the enemy had ever laid on before.

"Shells of about 155 millimeter calibre fell among the New Zealand gun positions for the first time since the regiment was committed.

"However, the New Zealand gunners stood by their guns all day, pounding all types of targets disclosed among the Chinese attackers.

"When the day ended, the attacks appeared to be easing in intensity and the blistered, greenish-khaki painted barrels of the twenty-five pounders had added another 10,000 shells to the total launched against the enemy.

"The gunners who manned them were almost exhausted."

#### "FOR GALLANTRY"

It was also on November 4, 1951, that Major P. P. King, MC, won the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry

With him on that occasion was Gnr D. E, Rixon.

For his part in the battle he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

It happened during the night when Major King was forward artillery observation officer in support of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, the King's Own Scottish Borderers.

Shortly after last light the company positions came under intense artillery and mortar fire. This was followed by an enemy infantry attack.

However, the defensive fire called down by Major King was successful in breaking up the attack.

An hour later the enemy massed and attacked again in even greater strength. Major King continued to call down heavy and accurate defensive fire until his radio set was destroyed and his line communications

cut by enemy shell fire, the enemy continued to advance and soon penetrated the company positions.

Completely ignoring the heavy shell fire and small arms fire, Major King moved in to the penetrated area and there, armed with grenades and supported by light machine-gun parties, he endeavored to restore the situation.

He then engaged the enemy in hand to hand combat.

The Chinese continued the attack, pressing harder than ever.

Major King repeated his actions again and again under intense fire even though he was wounded three times,

Two hours after the attack started, he was ordered to withdraw by the company commander.

#### DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

Gnr Rixon was serving as wireless operator for Major King at the time of the attack.

Coolly and efficiently he worked his radio set, passing back fire orders to the guns.

He continued to pass the orders until his radio set was destroyed by shell fire and the telephone lines knocked out.

He then joined Major King and, armed with grenades, charged through heavy fire to engage the enemy at close quarters.

For one and a half hours he continued hurling grenades and making numerous trips back to company headquarters to carry up grenades and urgently needed ammunition.

Although wounded in the head, he assisted

to carry his wounded officer to safety and was himself wounded a second time while he was doing it.

It was this very same day, November 4 that the regiment's gun positions came under very heavy enemy shell fire.

Net casualties - one gunner died of wounds and another was wounded.

Some vehicles were badly holed by shrapnel. The gun positions were shelled again the following month but there were no casualties.

Other "busy days" followed at intervals, but the winter of 1951-52 was, on the whole, a comparatively quiet one for the regiment. Fire was delivered when and where it was wanted, but moves were few.

In comparison with the winter before, officers and men, occupying well-found tents and dug-outs and wearing special improved winter clothes, were living "in comfort".

#### ON TO 1952

In mid-December, 1951, the division adopted the principle of two brigades in the line and one in reserve.

The 28th Brigade was the first to be rested and so the regiment had six weeks of comparative quiet with no observation parties deployed.

The regiment's first Christmas in Korea was quite a joyous affair as a result,

It would have been happier, however, had it not been for an unpleasant incident just a few days before.

An HE round exploded prematurely when the driving band was still two inches inside the muzzle on one of Dog Troop's guns.

One gunner died a few minutes after being hit by shrapnel and another was evacuated to hospital with wounds

The regiment returned to the line on January 21, 1952,

In February, for the first time, it started shooting "propaganda shells" on to selected points along the Chinese line, Into these shells were shoved all sorts of propaganda material and they were timed to burst above the ground over the Chinese positions.

On March 24, Lt-Col P. Mc K.

Paterson, DSO, took over command of the regiment.

From January to the end of October, the regiment spent alternate periods of twelve weeks in the line in direct support of 28 Brigade and six weeks with no observation parties deployed in general support.

At the end of October, however, a change was made.

All three brigades were committed to the line, each having one battalion in reserve. Battalions, and their supporting batteries from the regiment, were each fifty-six days in the line and twenty- eight days in reserve.

This meant for the regiment a breaking down of the really intimate contact between one battery and one battalion because previously, in May, 28th Brigade once again became 'Four Square' with the committal of the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

#### REINFORCEMENTS

July 1952 saw most of the original Kayforce men back in New Zealand.

Their place had been taken by fresh volunteers who, strengthened by a small cadre of originals, quickly proved that they were every bit as good as those who had served before them.

The replacement scheme was functioning smoothly with drafts arriving and departing on an average of two aircraft each month.

This gradual replacement system meant that at no time was any unit of Kayforce withdrawn from active duty to allow for the change-over of personnel.

In July, activities along the front continued quiet.

Since then, the line remained static although from time to time there were fierce actions in which the regiment distinguished itself, adding further lustre to its reputation.

The regiment continued day and night to harass the Chinese with observed and predicted fire, helping the infantry deny the Reds freedom of movement in No Man's Land.

On September 13, the regiment received the severe attention of the enemy artillery.

In fact, all during that month, the enemy artillery spasmodically bombarded the regiment's gun positions,

Roger Battery was particularly hard hit on the 13th and as a result of the shelling had one gunner killed, another die of wounds and two others wounded.

#### INCREASED ACTIVITY

On the Commonwealth front, the first big action of the year came in October 23 when the Chinese launched a battalion-sized attack on the Royal Canadian Regiment near Kowang San Point 355. They completely overran one position but it was later restored. The regiment, along with the rest of the divisional artillery, engaged forming up points and other targets during the operation.

After a short time in a reserve position, the regiment continued in direct support of 28th Brigade on November 2.

Enemy shelling and mortaring continued steadily on Points 355 and 159, where the regiment had its observation posts.

Later in the month - November - there was a determined enemy company-size attack on 1st Battalion, Black Watch, and the regiment again swept into action.

The regiment did not really open up, however, until November when an assault group from the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers was ambushed.

For the twenty-four hour period during that action, the regiment fired 5126 rounds - its highest total in twelve months.

Ever since it first went into action in January 1951, the regiment had maintained a steady rate of fire against the enemy and at 1200 hours on November 26, 1952, it fired its 500,000th round.

It was a ceremonial occasion, attended by senior officers of the division.

Major-General M. A. R. West, the divisional commander, sent the round away himself.

Seven months later, on June 25, 1953, the regiment was to fire its three-quarter millionth shell - an impressive total which gave the regiment a firing average of 830 rounds a day in the two and a half years it had been in Korea up to that time.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE ROKs

In December, 1952, the regiment continued in its direct support role but with one battery in reserve after the implementation of the winter policy.

This month saw the regiment firing in support of the 1st Republic Of Korea Division on the right of the Commonwealth when, on December 11, the enemy put in an attack and started a series of bloody actions which continued for three days and nights.

During this time, the regiment fired 3400 rounds in support of the ROK Division.

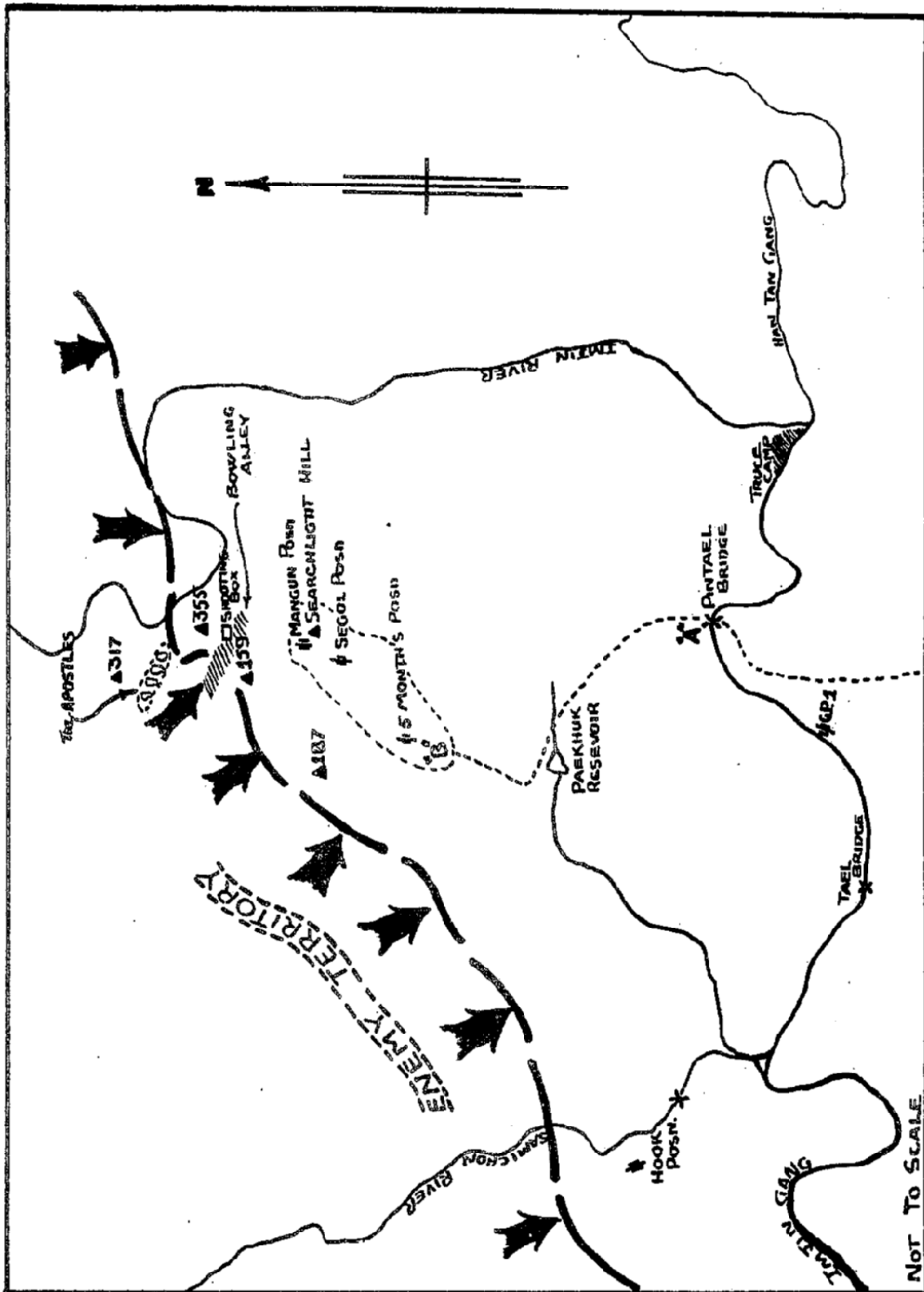
The last two months of the year also saw several deep aggressive patrols by 28th Brigade.

Each involved large regimental fire plans.

Unsuccessful "Operation Pimlico" by the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers with the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment creating a diversion in the right, was quite the largest.

Another patrol by the Australians in early December was more successful but Captain John Salmon - an Australian artillery officer posted to the regiment - was wounded as the patrol returned. He was forward observation officer with the patrol.

When the Commonwealth Division was relieved in the line by the 2nd US Infantry Division on January 29, the regiment, along with the rest of the Commonwealth Artillery, stayed in support of the Americans.



#### Gun Position 1,

From this general location the regiment supported “Operation Commando” during October, 1951.

Here they also met a rather comical misfit from the Ref Air Force whom they named “Bed Check Charlie”.

Flying a pre-Second World War single engine bi-plane, he would swoop on the area at night and fire a burp-gun over the side. He also dropped grenades and mortar bombs.

#### Pintail Bridge

At the time of “Operation Commando” Pintail Bridge, as it stands today, was under construction.

The regiment crossed to the North side of the Imjin River during October on a temporary pontoon bridge built by the Americans.

#### Line A—B.

Along this line the regiment had several gun positions in the move North during “Operation Commando”.

Until the Truce Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, the guns remained in the general area outlined by the ring, In this area were the Segol Position the Five Months Position and the Mangun Position.

#### Hill 317

This was the further-most point reached by the brigade infantry during “Operation Commando”,

However, they encountered stiff resistance and were forced to withdraw to the positions

which were held right to the end of the war.

#### Hill 355

This was known by the Americans as “Little Gibraltar”.

The regiment had two observation posts on top of the hill which were continually under shell fire,

The hill itself was about 1,000 feet high and had very steep sides,

A flying fox on a cable running to the rear of the hill was used for hauling up supplies and ammunition.

On the whole divisional front, this particular hill was the nearest to the Chinese positions. It was also the highest point on the divisional front and provided a perfect natural observation post for the artillery.

There was frequent heavy fighting on the slopes.

Between Hill John, one of the Apostles group which was held by the Chinese , and Hill 355, there was frequent sniping,

#### Truce Camp,

The regiment moved into this area after the Truce and remained there until it left Korea.

#### Hill 159.

This feature was only about half the height of Hill 355 but from a tactical point of view it was extremely important.

By holding this feature, the division was able to maintain a spearhead bulge in the Chinese front.

Fighting patrols frequently set out into No



Man's Land from this hill and the enemy made many efforts to take it.

The regiment maintained just one observation post on the hill-top but it commanded an admirable view of the near slopes of the Apostles group.

It was subject at times to particularly heavy shell fire and mortar fire,

A Centurian tank manned by New Zealand Regulars was also located on top of 159, alongside the observation post

#### Hill 187

On this 450-foot high feature the regiment maintained another observation post.

There were several heavy battles in the area.

#### The Apostles.

The four hills named from left to right, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, were held by the Chinese. They were very heavily defended and many of the regiment's biggest fire programmes were directed against these features. They were also the target for many air strikes. It was on John that Gnr N G Garland was captured.

#### Searchlight Hill

For some months, the three batteries of the regiment were in position just North of this 600-foot feature. On top of the hill were searchlights which could cover practically the whole of the brigade front. They were often used to light up the Bowling Alley.

For a time, the searchlights were manned by gunners of the regiment.

#### The Bowling Alley.

This route was frequently used by patrols going out towards The Apostles.

There were a large number of patrol clashes in the general area,

It was also there that Gnr Clarke won his immediate Military Medal for evacuating American wounded from the area on March 17, 1953.

#### The Shooting Box,

These were the most forward positions occupied by the regiment's guns,

In the general area, each battery in turn would occupy the positions for a few hours.

This enabled them to gain additional range in harassing the enemy.

During the Christmas period, before the Commonwealth Division went into Corps reserve, it received its first seasonal greetings in card form, from the enemy.

From the night of 16/17 December until September 31, 1952, the division was greeted with cards, pamphlets, placards, banners, gifts, innumerable broadcasts and a Christmas tree which was presented to the 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Many of these pamphlets and cards were dropped by enemy aircraft.

## HEAVY ATTACKS ON AMERICANS

The Commonwealth Division did not return to the line again until early in April. Until then, the Americans were faced with a number of very heavy attacks, Both sides patrolled vigorously throughout February, but there were no probes of a serious nature during the month. However, March was probably the busiest month of the year, with the regiment firing thousands of shells in support of the Americans during very determined attacks by the enemy on Point 355 - one attack of battalion strength.

The Communist troops started the month with a two-company assault on the left forward spur of the feature. They were supported by a heavy artillery and mortar bombardment.

The regiment fired DFs and counter-bombardment tasks in helping to hurl back the attack.

Then again on March 17, at 0130 hrs, the Chinese attacked the left spur of Point 355 with a battalion.

A friendly company was overrun and fighting continued until 1000 hrs when the area was restored. In this particular action, the regiment fired 4600 rounds and was credited with many of the heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

## IMMEDIATE MILITARY MEDAL

During this same night of March 17, Gnr W. L. Clarke won an immediate Military Medal. He drove his jeep up and down a heavily shelled road to evacuate wounded

American soldiers.

The regiment at the time was firing in support of the Americans on "Little Gibraltar Hill" who were under heavy attack.

Gnr Clarke was checking artillery telephone cables which run up an open valley next to the kill.

The battle was raging fiercely and the area was being shelled continuously when Gnr Clarke approached a partly overrun American platoon.

He saw wounded being evacuated to the rear and he helped to take them out with his jeep.

From that time on, Gnr Clarke voluntarily drove his jeep from forward to rear of the platoon position no fewer than ten times in spite of the fact that the enemy were, in occupation of the centre of the position.

On these trips he evacuated 31 casualties and on each return trip he brought forward much - needed supplies and ammunition.

Each journey was made under heavy shell and mortar fire and, in the early stages, under enemy machine-gun fire.

Before the division was replaced in the line by the returning Commonwealth Division, its commander, Major-General James C. Fry presented 25 Divisional Certificates - "The Order of the Indian Head" - to members of the regiment. At a special presentation parade, he described its work in support of his division as "magnificent".

Up until the time the division was

withdrawn from Korea - September 1954 - there were many Americans, especially from the 9th US Infantry Regiment which had taken over 28th Brigade positions during those few months, who frequently visited the regiment. They had been with the division during those March battles.

“WELCOME AUSSIES..”

The Commonwealth Division returned to the line on April 9, 1953, but there was a marked slackening of enemy interest in the 28th Brigade sector.

However, the Chinese apparently knew the brigade was back. During May, in one of the regular propaganda broadcasts beamed on to the divisional front line by loudspeaker, a charming female voice announced:- “Welcome Aussies... Here is some Australian music...” This was followed by a recording of ‘12th street Rag’.

Although April was a “quiet” month, the front flared up again during the May, June and July period when “The Hook” area was subject to way very heavy attacks.

In February, Lt-Col S. Burns, MBE, DSO, had taken over command of the regiment from Lt-Col Paterson.

In that same month, two members of the regiment left Korea to join the Coronation Contingent. They were Captain T. M, Fenton and Gnr (now 2’Lt) T. Crapp.

There were three other NCOs from separate Kayforce units in the Contingent.

On May 2, 1953, two companies of Chinese attacked 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian

Regiment, on the 25th Canadian Brigade sector, and overran a forward platoon.

Again the regiment was called into action along with both the divisional and corps artillery, to support the defending infantrymen.

Later in the same month, the regiment helped to smash the enemy’s biggest attack of the year.

Two Chinese battalions attacked “The Hook” at 2100 hours on May 28.

A bombardment of some 10,000 rounds of mixed mortars and shells preceded the attack - made in conjunction with a brigade-sized attack on the Turkish Brigade to the left of the feature.

A forward company of the Duke of Wellington’s was heavily hit and one platoon was completely overrun.

A fierce counter-attack at 0230 hrs was successful in restoring the position.

All available divisional and corps artillery was used in support of the defenders and the regiment fired some 4500 rounds out of a total 24000 expended.

With the exception of a number of light patrol clashes, there was little activity on the brigade front during June. Enemy effort in the main was directed against the ROK forces to the right of the division where increased activity resulted in the loss of “Little Nori”.

The regiment fired some 2300 rounds in support of the ROKs during the month. However, the regiment’s main fire was in support of patrols and counter-bombardment work.

The enemy continued to harass forward

-companies by day, particularly in the Point 355 and 159 areas where most of the regiment's casualties occurred

In the last few days of the war, the enemy put in some very heavy attacks on features to the left of the brigade and the regiment provided some very solid fire support to assist the defenders - it happened, the regiment's comrades of 29 months previously, the 1st US Marine Division.

#### "CEASE FIRE!"

The regiment was still firing up to within five hours of the time the truce became effective - 1000 hrs, July 27.

News of the cease-fire agreement came after two nights of heated action on the front.

The New Zealand gunners were up for the greater part of both nights, pouring shells into the enemy.

Chinese bodies were still being carried out even after hostilities had ceased.

The last rounds were fired at 0530 hours on July 27, 1953.

After two and a half years almost continuously in the line, the guns became silent.

The regiment's tally of shells fired came to almost 800,000 - the highest for any field' regiment in Korea,

It was a record the regiment could remember with pride.

Brigadier Park, who was appointed to command Kayforce on its formation was still holding that appointment when the truce began.

In November, he was succeeded by

Brigadier J. T., Burrows, DSO, ED, who remained in command until the regiment left the theatre of war.

#### THE UNEASY TRUCE PERIOD

An uneasy truce now settled over Korea.

Across a narrow No Man's Land the 4000 yard wide Demilitarised Zone - which stretched from one coast to the other, two great armies stood - face to face.

There was a Truce; not a complete and satisfactory Peace,

And there was no time for a complacent "Occupation Force" state of mind.

As the, present Commanding Officer of the regiment said in his Foreword:— "In the period since the shooting war ended, the regiment has carried out faithfully at all times the less exciting but more difficult and irksome task of being ready to fight without fighting".

At any moment, war could have broken out again in Korea and the regiment would have had to swing into action with the same efficiency which had earned for it a proud reputation within the Commonwealth Division during the pre-Truce days.

#### READY FOR ACTION

In fact, the signing of the Truce Agreement meant more work for everyone in the regiment.

New positions had to be prepared, training was intensified, exercises were frequent; and in addition to all this, the normal routine tasks of an artillery regiment in the

field had to be carried out.

The first big task was to clear the gun positions and observation posts in the Demilitarised Zone.

This had to be completed by September 13, 1953.

Every piece of equipment that could be salvaged was brought back to be used in a new defensive line.

At the same time, the regiment had to move back to a new truce position.

This was an area that had never been occupied before and roads, drains, living sites and gun parks had to be constructed. It meant long hours of arduous labour for all ranks, but before the regiment left Korea the result of their efforts was very plain to see.

The regimental truce position ranked among the best in the divisional area, Quonset huts were erected for messing, a regimental theatre was built, also a special wet canteen for the men.

But the emphasis was on training.

Many men had arrived in the theatre since the end of the war and they had to be prepared for whatever the future might have held.

At the same time, the “veterans” were not allowed to forget what they had learnt by hard experience.

Early in 1954, the regiment found itself slipping severely under strength.

For some months, recruiting in New Zealand had been slackening off and replacements were just not coming forward to take over from the men whose period of service in Korea was completed.

The position became serious and it was decided to augment the New Zealand personnel in the regiment with British National Servicemen who were already posted to the theatre.

A number of British artillery officers were already attached to the regiment.

At first a trial group of ten British gunners were attached to the regiment to see if the suggested scheme was practicable.

They were all volunteers and at the end of their trial period, it was quite apparent that the scheme could be a success.

About 70 volunteers were called for among the British units but more than 200 put their names forward.

There was no problem in obtaining British officers to serve with the regiment and for the remainder of the time it stayed in Korea, there were always about seven or eight on attachment.

The British gunners who were attached to the regiment stayed until early October, 1954, when the “running down” process was started.

They served the regiment well and they certainly seemed to enjoy their period of attachment.

It was something of a novelty for them to serve with “the Kiwis”. Toward the end of March, Lt-Col J. A. Pountney, MBE, had arrived to take over command of the regiment from Lt-Col Burns.

On his shoulders fell the task of finally moving the regiment out of Korea in November, 1954.

## “FAREWELL KOREA”

At last it was announced that the 1st British Commonwealth Division was to be reduced in strength by about two-thirds.

A few weeks later the regiment knew it would soon be on the way home.

Then on October 7, 1954, it officially became non-operational.

A special parade was held early in October and it was attended by the Commander of the Divisional Artillery, Brigadier M. A. W. Rowlandson, OBE.

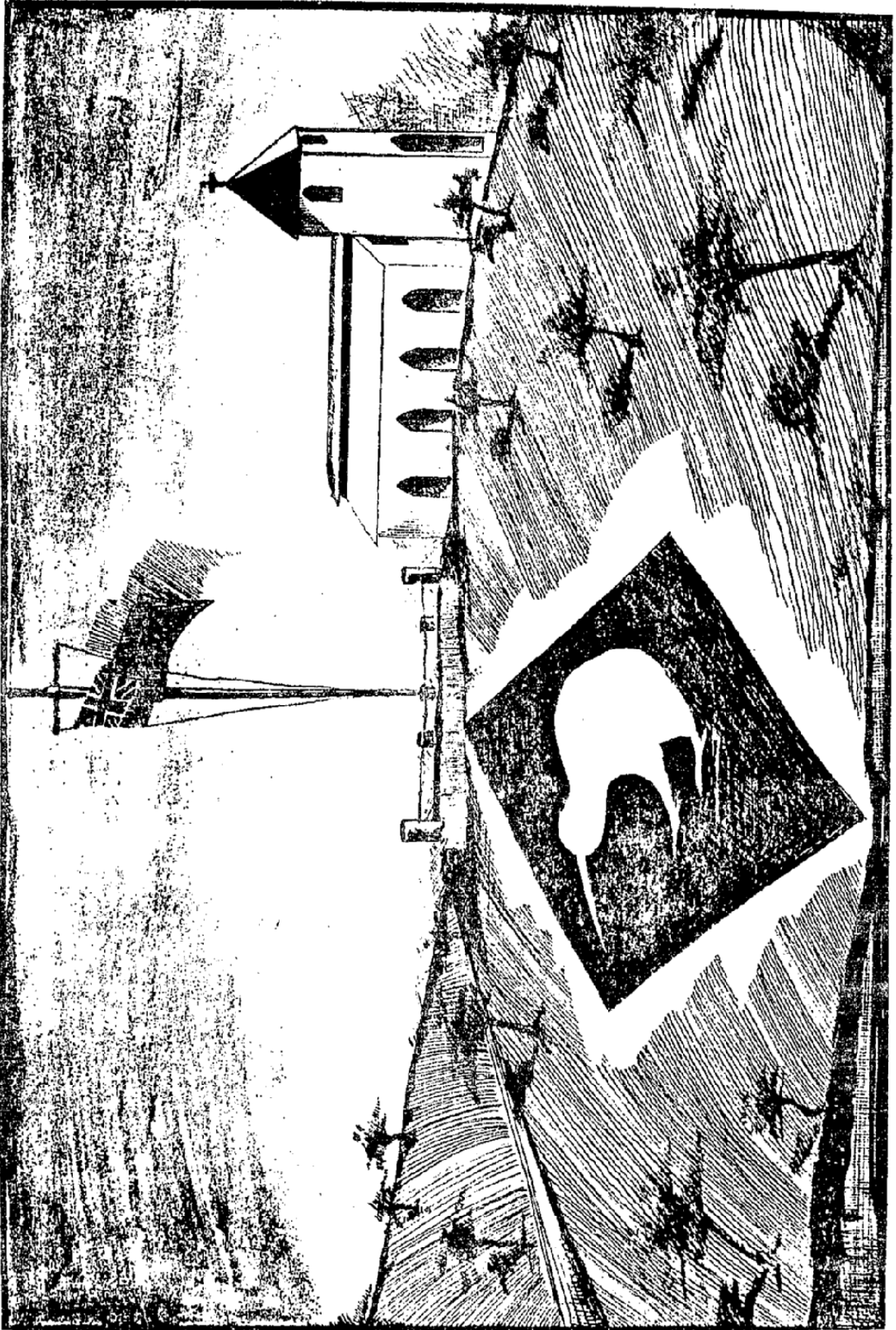
Addressing the regiment after the inspection and march past, he said— “you are going away, certainly well-liked and respected”. Not all the members of the regiment returned to New Zealand. Some, who had recently arrived, were transferred to 10 Company, RNZASC, which was

staying back as the New Zealand component of the Commonwealth Brigade which remained.

Others were posted to Japan to complete the one hundred and one “clean up” jobs which remained to be done.

But for the majority, it was “farewell Korea”. The 16th Field Regiment, RNZA, which had acquitted itself with honour both in war and peace, ceased to exist.

St BARBARA By The IMJIN:— On the opposite page is a line drawing of the regiment’s chapel in the Truce Camp position. The Kiwi on the hillside in the foreground was constructed with rocks set into the ground and was visible for miles. At the masthead flew the flags of both New Zealand and the United Nations.



## **Sporting Highlights**

The men of the 16th Field Regiment generally provided the backbone of the Kayforce and Commonwealth rugby teams which toured Japan annually from 1952 to 1954.

It had the champion team of the Commonwealth Division and through former members, enabled the Kayforce teams in Japan to dominate the BCFK competitions,

And, of course, there were the never-to-be-forgotten annual matches between rival teams from the regiment and 10 Company, RNZASC.

Eight serving members of the regiment were included in the 1952 Kayforce team which toured Japan. Some of the players from base units had previously served with the regiment. They included some of the really outstanding players of the tour - Gnr L. M. Harris, Gnr C. Maskill, Gnr P. Howatt, Gnr L. Murray and Gur P. Hapi.

The team manager was Gnr Maskill, a back row forward from the regiment and the coach was Captain D. B. Doake, who had formerly served with the regiment.

The team's record was:— Against All Kyushu, lost 3-22;  
Seibu Students, won 25-8; All Kansai,  
won 21-9;  
Tohbu Students, won 23-0;  
All Kanto, won 15-9;  
All Japan, won 19-3.

### **THE 1953 TEAM**

Ten serving members of the regiment were included in the 1953 team and, once again, some of the leading players from base had formerly served with the regiment.

Prominent players from the regiment included Gnr P. T. Joyce, who was vice- captain, Gnr I. C, A. Flavell and Gnr R. D, McMeeking.

The team manager was Captain Doake and the coach was Warrant Officer F. W. Jennings.

This team's record was:- Against All Kyushu, won 22—9;  
All Kansai, won 19—11;  
All Japan, lost 17—32;  
All Kanto Student Stars, won 29—114;  
All Japan, won 17—9.

### **THE COMMONWEALTH TEAM**

Both the 1952 and the 1953 teams were entirely Kayforce, representing the Commonwealth. However, the 1954 team had full Commonwealth representation.

It included two members of the regiment and two former members of the regiment who had been in the 1953 team. They were Gnr T. T. Harrison, Bdr C. G. Morton, L/Bdr I, C. A. Flavell and Sgt O. W. Gleeson. There were also other former regiment players in the team which



included 15 Kayforce men out of a total touring strength of 23 players. Undoubtedly the star player of the tour was L/Bdr Flavell, who was freely regarded as All Black material.

The team's record was:- Against All Kansai, lost 15-18;

Kanto Student Stars, won 22-3;

Acorn Club, Tokyo, drew 12-12.

## THE RIVALS

But the matches which promoted most interest within the regiment were the annual clashes between the regiment and their old rivals, 10 Company, RNZASC.

There were three games altogether and the regiment won each of them.

In March, 1952, the two teams met in the early evening under the shadow of the guns which were very active at the time. During the match three battery targets were fired, some of the shots passing right over the field.

An observer considered that the 10 Company team was unnerved by the unaccustomed noise - according to the company, probably pre-planned - and, again according to the company, "it was in those numbed moments of terror that someone got offside". Anyhow, the regiment won 6-3.

The next match was played on November, 1953, at the regiment's Truce Camp position. It was a closely-contested, very exciting game, and Brigadier Burrows, the Commander of Kayforce at that time, was present.

He has said many times since, that he regarded this particular match as one of the best he had seen for many a year. The final result - regiment 11, company 9.

Then in September 1954, the two teams met again, this time at the company's location. The occasion was the opening of the company's new football field, "Freyberg Park". The result again was a victory for the regiment, 21-8.

But the company lost in the very fine sportsmanlike manner which has always been a feature of these hard fought matches.

In a special programme which the company handed out before the match, the following extract appeared:—

"We shall be trying to avenge those two previous defeats and if we do not, you should know that we would sooner lose to you than anyone else in the division."

# Decorations and Awards

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

200042	Lt-Col	J.W. MOODIE, ED
206382	Capt	P. E. KING, MC
30056	Lt-Col	R. McK. PATERSON
30055	Lt-Col	J. BURNS, MBE

## MEMBER of the BRITISH EMPIRE

202250	Maj	C. SOLOMON
206377	Capt	J.M. WILSON
203512	Capt	A. CHANNINGS
206660	Capt	J.C. BROWN
	Lt	W.M, HILL

## MILITARY\_\_CROSS

206382	Capt	P.E. KING, DSO
206379	Capt	A.A. ROXBURGH
206085	Capt	R.F. MASON
206084	Capt	N.L. MILLER
20638I	Capt	R.M. RESToN
203627	Lt	W. HENDRY
30162	Maj	V.G. SKILTON
207885	Capt	M.C. STANAWAY
30167	Maj	E.J. MANDERS
206081	Maj	V.J.DULEY
30156	Maj	J.R. SPENCE

## DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

206285	Gnr	RIXON D.E.
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### MILITARY MEDAL

203851	L/Bdr	McGUBBIN H.K.
207782	L/Bdr	BUCHANAN N.J.
207731	L/Bdr	JONES L.R.
207553	Bdr	GORDON L.J.M.
208057	Gnr	CLARKE W.L.
206204	Sgt	REID R.J. (KIA 2/5/53)
207014	Sgt	REDHEARN P.A.

### BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

203960	Gnr	BLUETT
203880	S/Sgt	SMITH R.M.

### MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES

206375	Maj	E.W. HUNT
203624	2/Lt	D.S. FIELDEN (KIA 24/4//51)
30099	Maj	R.j.H. WEBB
206380	Capt	R.S. CHESSUM
202241	Maj	H.G. NATHAN
30231	Capt	R.K.G. PORTER
207685	LT	D.J. SCOTT
203916	Bdr	CARE C.
203813	Gnr	SEMMENS M.K.
30222	Capt	P.W.F. JOPLIN
203627	2/Lt	W. HENDRY, MC
207921	L/Bdr	POLLARD G.W.
206295	Gnr	WILSON G.
206088	Capt	C.J. MOLOUGHNEY
31037	Capt	T.A.N. VINE
203312	WO 2.	J.DICKINSON
207711	Sgt	BENYON R.T.
206232	Bdr	BEANGE J.H.
206706	Gnr	REID J.P.
208534	Gnr	RYAN C.E.

30173	Maj	R.D.P. HASSETT
203713	Lt	W.J.HICKEY
207940	Bdr	BELL W.J.
206293	Bdr	THOMPSON G.H.
203689	S/Sgt	LONG S.V.
203629	L/Bdr	CONWAY K.L.
204277	Gnr	TAIMANA H.R.
206084	Maj	N.L MILLER, MC
206616	Gnr	BOLTON A.
206907	Gnr	McLEOD T.

## **Reactivation as a Regular Force Regiment**

On 8 August 1958 the Regular Force of the NZ Army was reorganised and a regular force brigade group (4 Inf Bde Gp) was established. 16 Fd Regt was reactivated at this time as a two gun battery regiment, with RHQ, a small HQ Bty and 161 Bty at Papakura and 163 Bty at Burnham. The Regt thus became the first regular force RNZA unit in NZ history. Maj D. A. Phillips RNZA was appointed 2IC in the absence of a Commanding Officer being posted. On 28 Jul 60 Lt Col J.R. Spence, MBE, MC, RNZA was appointed Commanding Officer.

At this stage the Regiment was equipped with 25 pdrs, each Bty having two troops each of four guns. 4.2 in mortars were also issued as an airortable weapon, and to keep the mortar art alive. 4 Inf Bde Gp exercises were held annually and 163 Bty was generally able to join the rest of the Regiment in the North Island for these. In addition the Papakura based elements regularly joined the TF Divisional Artillery for its annual camps at Waiouru. In Feb 62 a joint 161/163 Bty made the Regts first peace time foray overseas, to Australia as part of the NZ contingent on Exercise Tasman 1, The joint Bty joined 4 (AS) Fd Regt at Wacol (near Brisbane) and exercised with them for two weeks at Tin Can Bay.

In late 1962 163 Bty moved from Burnham to Waiouru and, because of lack of numbers, reduced to a Bty HQ and one Troop organisation. With 163 Bty in the North Island Regimental exercises became more realistic and a keen competitive spirit developed between the two gun batteries. 163 Battery remained in Waiouru until late in 1963 when it was moved to Papakura and disbanded due to lack of numbers. During its period in Waiouru it served on occasions as a demonstration Bty for the School of Artillery.

1963 saw the end of the eight gun battery organisation and the 25 pdr. Early in the year the British Army, and consequently all our training pamphlets, changed from the 8 gun, two troop organisation to the simpler 6 gun battery, partly for manpower and partly for economic reasons. We soon followed suit. Also by this time it was quite apparent that the NZ Army would be unlikely to fight in the Middle East again and that South East Asia must be our prime area for concern. The 25 pdr was not all that suitable for jungle warfare and was replaced by the lighter, easily dismantled, helicopter portable and standard 105 mm calibre L5 Italian Pack Howitzer.

## Reorganisation

On 1 March 1964 the New Zealand Division and 4 Inf Bde Gp were disbanded and an integrated RF/TF combat brigade group (1 Inf Bde Gp), combat reserve brigade group (3 mi Bde Gp) and LSG were formed. A reorganised 16 Fd Regt became the close support regiment for I Inf Bde Gp. Lt Col R.M. Grierson RNZA was appointed the first TF Commanding Officer and 16 Fd Regt inherited the traditions of the old Divisional Artillery units that joined it. These links are maintained in the Regiment to the present day and are:

RHQ, HQ Bty and 161 Bty:	from the original 6 Fd Regt RNZA
11 Bty :	from 1 Fd Regt RNZA
22 Bty :	from 2 Fd Regt RNZA

1 Loc Tp, a carryover from I Loc Bty RNZA, was to join the Regt later. I Fd Regt, 2 Fd Regt and I Loc Bty were raised in 1946 when the New Zealand Artillery was reactivated after the Second World War, however the two Fd Regts can trace their history back to A and D Btys of the New Zealand Artillery Volunteers, and I Loc Tp to 36 NZ Svy Bty of 2 NZEF days.

The establishment of the new 16 Ed Regt was very much the same as it is today, except that the 161 Bty establishment allowed for two guns to be TF manned. 161 Bty did not revert to its fully RF status until it deployed to Vietnam in 1965.

In October/November 1964 the New Zealand Army sent a contingent to the United Kingdom on what was called "Exercise Powderhorn." The contingent comprised 84 RNZA, 24 RNZAC, 16 RNZEME and a small HQ party of 8. The RF soldiers of 16 Ed Regt filled the RNZA vacancies. The contingent assembled at Papakura and flew to UK by RAF aircraft via Hawaii and Canada arriving at Lyneham on 30 October. The 16 Fd Regt group spent the next six days at Larkhill with 6 Fd Regt RA, the Depot Regt for the School of Artillery and managed to get in two days shooting (over 600 rounds allotted) a tour of the School and some short courses. 7 to 10 Oct were spent at the home of the RA at Woolwich and the next two weeks on public duties in London. The contingent's hosts in London were the 1st Bn Welsh Guards based at Chelsea Barracks. The contingent provided guards at Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, The Tower of London, and the Bank of England on 12/14/16/18/20/22 November 1964. 16 Fd Regt provided the full guard at Buckingham Palace and the

Tower of London on each of these days, mounting at 1100 hours and dismounting 24 hours later, with the RNZAC contingent providing the St James Palace Guard and the Bank of England Guard alternating between the RNZEME and the Gunners. Another first for the Regiment. Copies of 16 Fd Regt Guard reports for Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London are shown on pages 92 and 93.

GUARDS FORM 1

REPORT ON THE Recounting of the Detachment of the Guards FURNISHED BY 16 Fd Regt Hqs RNZAC GUARDS  
 MOUNTED AT CHELSEA BARRACKS AT 10.00 HRS DISMOUNTED CHELSEA AT 12.30 HRS  
 ON SAT. 14 NOV 64 ON SUN. 15 NOV 64

DETAIL OF GUARD - DUTIES ETC

- (a) OFFICERS IN GUARD LIEUTENANT A.J. WALES DETACHMENT COMMANDER  
 (b) OTHER RANKS ON GUARD ONE STAFF SERGEANT, ONE SERGEANT, TWO BOMBARDIERS, FIFTEEN GUNNERS ONE P

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	CORPS	TIME AND POST ROLL												PATROL	
				POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	PIER	11
245456	CNR	EPHA	161 BTY	1	C.M	1300	1	1700	1900	1	2300	0100	1	0500	0700	11.45	
41246	CNR	MCQUARRIE	"	2A	C.M	1300	2A	1700	1900	2A	2300	0100	2A	0500	0700	12.15	
41240	CNR	CAMPBELL	"	3B	C.M	1300	3B	1700	1900	3B	2300	0100	3B	0500	0700	15.30	
39768	CNR	LEE	"	4		1800	4	2354	0200	4	0600	0640	4			17.45	
305406	CNR	FERNYH	"	1		1300	1	1900	2100	1	0100	0200	1	0700	0900	20.15	
210196	CNR	RAE	"	2A		1300	2A	1900	2100	2A	0100	0200	2A	0700	0900	23.00	
39931	CNR	OPAI	"	3B		1300	3B	1900	2100	3B	0100	0300	3B	0700	0900	02.30	
306626	CNR	KAKE	"	4		2000	4	0700	0900	4	0640	0720	4				
354626	CNR	STEWART	"	1		1500	1	2100	2300	1	0300	0500	1	0900	G.D	00.45	
358397	CNR	NORTHOVER	"	2A		1500	2A	2100	2300	2A	0300	0500	2A	0900	G.D	07.30	
33940	CNR	RONCATH	"	3B		1500	3B	2100	2300	3B	0300	0500	3B	0900	G.D	09.15	
209722	CNR	MCLELLAN	"	4		2200	4	0900	0600	4	0720	0800	4			10.00	
333586	SGT	CLARK	161 BTY	BUGLER ON GUARD												2 DENOTES OFFICER	PATROLS
352746	BDR	CLAMP	"	CONDUCTING RELIEFS													
39276	BDR	MURPHY	"														
34102	SGT	CROOKES	161 BTY	JUNIOR SERGEANT ON GUARD													
36358	S/SGT	PARKER	"	SENIOR SERGEANT ON GUARD													

CERTIFICATES

NB. Certificates will be recorded hereon in manuscript, as applicable to the Guard.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:-

- (1) THE ORDERS RELATING TO THE COMPLIMENTS TO BE PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE READ TO GUARD ON MOUNTING AND TO THE FIRST RELIEF ON ITS RETURN TO THE GUARD ROOM.
- (2) ONE COPY OF HER MAJESTY'S REGULATIONS FOR THE HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE AND ONE COPY OF STANDING ORDERS FOR THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS WERE HANDED OVER PRESENT AND CORRECT.
- (3) THREE BOXES OF 7.62mm S.A. AMM WERE HANDED OVER PRESENT AND CORRECT WITH INNER SEALS INTACT
- (4) NOTHING UNUSUAL OCCURRED DURING MY TOUR OF DUTY

A.J. Wales LIEUTENANT  
 HANDING OVER  
 16 Fd REGT RNZAC

Certificate to be signed by the Relieving Guard Commander  
 The Guard Room is Queen's Guard

Time 1135

Date 15/11/64

A.J. Wales CAPT  
 TAKING OVER  
 1st BN IRISH GUARDS

A.J. Wales CAPT  
 Guard Commander

Notes: 1 copy of this form will be prepared for the Officer Commanding the Battalion furnishing the Guard.  
 1 copy will be prepared and displayed for the information of the men regarding duties. This copy will then be handed over to the Relieving Guard.

SEEN \_\_\_\_\_ Lieutenant Colonel Commanding,  
 1st BN IRISH GUARDS

GUARDS FORM 4

REPORT ON THE HER MAJESTY'S TOWER OF LONDON GUARD FURNISHED BY 16 Field Regt BN RNZG - GUARDS  
MOUNTED AT CHELSEA BARRACKS AT 1230 HRS DISMOUNTED CHELSEA AT 1200 HRS  
ON SAT 14 NOV 64 ON SUN 15 NOV 64

DETAIL OF GUARD - DUTIES ETC

- (a) OFFICERS IN GUARD CAPTAIN C. D. BIRCH GUARD COMMANDER  
(b) OTHER RANKS ON GUARD THREE SERGEANTS ONE BOMBARDIER NINE GUNNERS ONE (12.1)

NUMBER	RANK	NAME	COY	TIME AND POST ROLL												PATROLS
				POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	POST	FROM	TO	
9323	CNR	HEPERAKA	161 Bty	4	CM	1330	3	1800	2000	1	2359	0200	2	0600	0800	1300
62949	CNR	MARSHALL	"	4		1330	2	1430	2000	3	0200	0400	1	0800	1000	2100
9378	CNR	HATU	"	4		1430	1	2000	2200	2	0200	0400	3	0800	1000	2100
44836	CNR	McMATH	"	4		1530	3	2000	2200	1	0200	0400	2	0800	1000	0210
2082	CNR	POTTS	"	1		1630	2	2200	2359	3	0400	0600	1	1000	CD	1615
0628	CNR	RAWRI	"	2		1630	3	2200	2359	1	0400	0600	2	1000	CD	1645
0713	CNR	HARDING	"	3		1630	1	2200	2359	2	0400	0600	3	1000	CD	1645
0375	CNR	SENB	"	1		1800	2	2359	0200	3	0600	0800				2210
10468	CNR	KEER	"	2		1800	3	2359	0200	1	0600	0800				2240
17981	BDR	DWANE	"													
09251	SGT	KEARNEY	"													
152931	BDR	GWYNNE	"													
152205	SGT	PIESTLEY	"													
14486	SGT	HENDL	"													

CERTIFICATES

NB. Certificates will be recorded hereon in manuscript, as applicable to the Guard.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:-  
THE ORDERS RELATING TO THE COMPLIMENTS TO BE PAID TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WERE READ TO THE GUARDS  
ON MOUNTING, AND TO THE FIRST RELIEF ON HIS RETURN TO THE GUARD ROOM.  
ONE (1) COPY OF HER MAJESTY'S REGULATION FOR THE HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE AND ONE (1) COPY OF STANDING ORDER  
FOR THE BRIGADE OF GUARDS WERE HANDED OVER PRESENT AND CORRECT  
TWO (2) FIRED MAGAZINES ONE (1) BOX OF 7.62mm SAA AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX (176) ROUNDS OF 7.62mm  
SAA WERE HANDED OVER PRESENT AND CORRECT  
NOTHING UNUSUAL OCCURRED DURING MY TOUR OF DUTY

*C. D. Birch* CAPTAIN  
IN CHARGE GUARD  
16 REGT. R.N.Z.A.

Certificate to be signed by the Relieving Guard Commander

The Guard Room is clean and tidy

Time 1100

Date 15/11/64

*J. R. R. R.* CAPTAIN  
TAKING OVER  
1st BN 12th GUARDS  
*J. R. R. R.*  
Guard Commander

Notes: 1 copy of this form will be prepared for the Officer Commanding the Battalion furnishing the Guard.  
1 copy will be prepared and displayed for the information of the men regarding duties. This copy will then be handed over to the Relieving Guard.

SEEN \_\_\_\_\_ Lieutenant Colonel  
Commanding,  
1st Bn 12th Guards





### Vietnam

On 27 May 1965 the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Sir Keith Holyoake announced in the House of Representatives “that in response to a request from the Republic of Vietnam the Government has decided to send a combat unit to assist that country in the struggle against Communist aggression”. That unit was to be 161 Bty. The Bty was to be of four guns only and initially comprised 83 RNZA with 13 reinforcements and a further 8 logistic detachment. There were insufficient eligible gunners in 161 Bty at Papakura at the time to make up the numbers needed so a new Bty, based on the old but including RNZAC and RNZASC volunteers, formed at Papakura on 2 Jun 1965 under its new BC, Maj D.R, Kenning.

A hectic month followed, training, getting fit and collecting stores at Papakura, “tropical” training in Waionuru in June, a farewell by the Governor General, Sir Bernard Fergusson, and then final leave. While the main body were on final leave the advance party deployed, one landrover (K) and trailer, 27,000 lbs of camp equipment and 27 personnel. They arrived at Bien Hoa in two C130 on 9/10 July 1965 and immediately started establishing the base camp, aided by the non combatant NZ engineer team which had withdrawn from Thu Dau Mot soon after the Prime Minister’s announcement of combat aid.

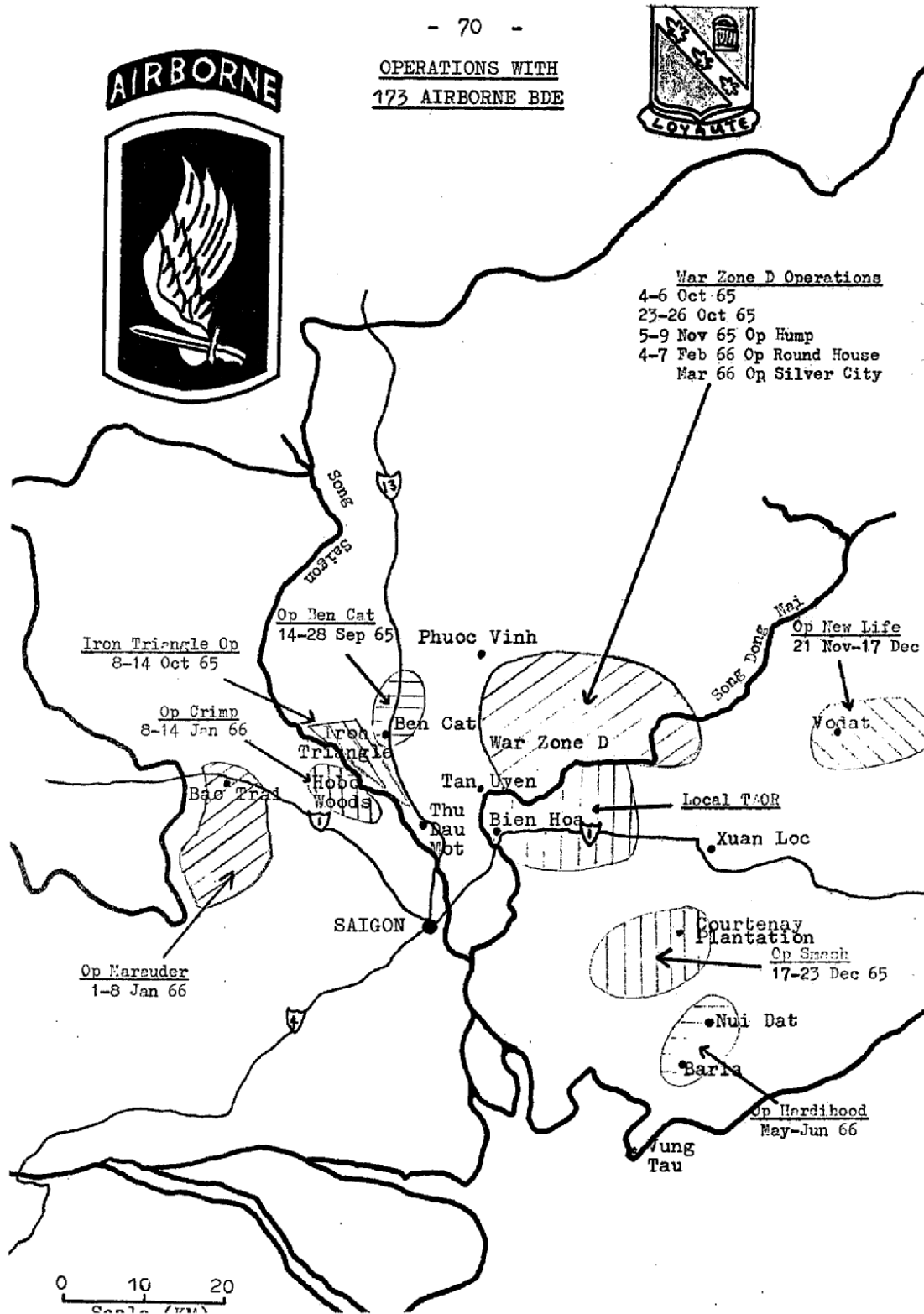
The main body deployed to Bien Hoa in nine C130 loads 24 hrs apart from 12—25 July 1965. The aircraft were loaded in secret at Whenuapai each night and took off at 0100 hrs, staging through Port Moresby and arriving at Bien Hoa at 4 pm local time

the same day as they left New Zealand. The BC and one gun arrived at Bien Boa on 17 July 1965 and "Single Gun Ready" was reported within 24 hours of leaving Papakura.

161 Bty joined the US 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Boa becoming the third Btry of the 3rd Bn 319th Artillery. 173 Bde had deployed to Vietnam from Okinawa some two months before with an immediate mission to secure and defend the Bien Boa Airbase. The mission was later extended and the Bde became the ready reaction force for the Vietnamese III Corps. 161 Bty was to accompany the Bde on most of these operations.

Prior to leaving New Zealand it had been arranged that 161 Bty would spend its first month in Vietnam at Bien Boa undergoing acclimatisation. This allowed construction work to proceed in the base area while the OP parties carried out: local patrolling with I RAR, the supported battalion. The first rounds were fired in response to a mortar attack on Bien Boa Airbase on the evening of 20 July. 6 rounds fire for effect were called for on the withdrawal routes. The guns first ventured away from the base location on 18 August to support a ARVN Bn operating out of Tan Uyen, the Bty being deployed in rice paddy near the Dong Nai River.

OPERATIONS WITH  
173 AIRBORNE BDE



Major operations followed, the first being Ben Cat from 14 to 28 September 1965. 161 Bty suffered its first casualties on 14 September during the road deployment. Sgt Don and Bdr Whyte were killed when their vehicle, (R2) being used as an ammunition vehicle, was destroyed by a command detonated mine. Operation Ben Cat was 161

Bty's introduction to US type search and destroy tactics and was characterised by saturation patrolling and rapid movement of the guns by landrover, APC and Iroquois helicopter.

The Bde returned to the Ben Cat area again from 8-14 October 1965, this time to mount an operation in the "Iron Triangle", a VC military and psychological stronghold. This was another fast moving operation resulting in 106 VC being killed and numerous camps destroyed. It was during this operation that B52 bombers were first used in direct support of ground troops.

From 25 to 26 October and again from 9 to 10 November the Bde operated in War Zone D, long a VC training and administrative area, and formerly used as a redoubt by Viet minh and earlier still, Vietnamese bandits. Operation Hump was the more significant for the Bde with two major actions. On the afternoon of 7 November A Coy of I RAR was ambushed by a larger VC force. Our FOO party with A Coy and the guns were kept busy for about three hours holding off the enemy until the Coy could extricate itself. On the following morning 1/503 Bn contacted 273 VC Regt and a battle raged throughout the day until the VC broke at dusk, leaving 403 dead behind. A busy two days for the guns.

Operation New Life in the La Nga River valley north of Vo Dat commenced on 21 November. This was an interesting deployment in that the Bde carried out an air assault from Bien Hoa to Vo Dat airstrip, a distance of some 60 Km, by 25 C130 Hercules. Three infantry battalions, four artillery batteries, the Bde HQ and a cavalry troop deployed in this way within three hours. The mission for this operation was to prevent the rice harvest from falling into enemy hands, and, to return the valley to government control. An intensive civic action programme was conducted throughout this operation including the relocation of some villages to safer areas.

From Operation New Life 173 Bde moved on 17 December direct to Operation Smash in the Courtenay Rubber Plantation and Hat Dich areas. Intelligence sources had indicated a sizeable VC buildup there in preparation for a Christmas attack on Baria. There was a major contact on 18 December but the IC chose to break rather than fight, so it was back to Bien Hoa on 22 December for Christmas.

New Years Day saw 173 Bde launched into the Plain of Reeds on the Cambodian border, and into the Mekong Delta for the first time on Operation Marauder. After one major action and numerous small contacts the Bde. moved out on the 8 January 1966, direct to the Hobo Woods and Operation Crimp. This was the largest US operation conducted in the war to date, and firepower included B52 bombers and 26 batteries (175 mm, 8In, 155 mm, and 105 mm, including our L5s). The mission was to drive through the Ho Bo Woods and destroy the Headquarters of VC Military Region 4, which controlled activities in the greater Saigon area.

1 RAR moved in first and in the air assault almost landed on the top of the HQ. 1RAR encountered only light resistance on landing, but soon became engaged in a vicious battle for the rest of the day, the VC fighting from tunnel and trench systems. The VC headquarters turned out to be a three level underground tunnel system, many kilometres long, with various rooms off them. In addition to the VC killed and weapons captured, 1 RAR collected over 100,000 pages of important documents, tape recorders, a duplicating machine, typewriters and a printing press. The documents revealed VC organisation, plans and included records of past activities.

Next came Operations Roundhouse and Silver City in War Zone 'D, a period of operation about Bien Hoa, and about March 1966 161 Bty was told it was to join 1 Australian Task Force at Nui Dat on its deployment into Vietnam. The last operation with 173 Bde was the clearance of the Nui Dat base. The Bty left Bien Hoa during May 1966 and moved by road to Phuoc Tuy Province to commence Operation Hardihood, the clearing operation, and say farewell to 173 US Airborne Bde and to our first supported battalion, 1 RAR, which was returned to Australia.

161 Bty found during its period at Bien Hoa that the L5 pack howitzer had some deficiencies. Although the barrels stood up well to sustained firing the carriage did not. After - some five months in action laterite dust in the wheel bearings and condensation in the brake drums were causing concern. Soon there was excessive wear in the elevating and traversing gears and constant maintenance and EME repair was necessary to keep the guns operational. In addition the 3/4 ton landrover was found to be too small and under-powered for gun towing under active service conditions.

In September 1965 the Australian Government deployed a 6 gun 105 L5 Bty to Bien Hoa and it soon became apparent that 161 Bty should be increased to its normal establishment of six guns. This was done in June 1966.

During its period with 173 Bde the Bty deployed by landrover, M113 APC, UH1D Iroquois, C130 Hercules and CH47 Chinook. Before the Chinook helicopter reached Vietnam in October 1965 the L5 was the only heliportable gun in the theatre.

The Bty area at Nui Dat was in young rubber, which was cleared mainly by machetes as few axes were available. Development was slow due to the hard laterite base, the onset of the wet monsoon and an acute shortage of construction materials and stores. The Australian Task Force (1 ATF) initially comprised only two battalions of infantry and with three 105 mm batteries available, 161 Bty was to find itself -in general support for long periods at a time. The artillery organisation was an Australian Fd Regt (1 Fd Regt) less one battery, 161 Bty, an Australian locating battery detachment and a United States medium battery. In July 1966 Maj H. B. Honnor MVO took over from Maj Kenning as BC.

The first few months at Nui Dat were notable for the large number of defensive and harassing fire tasks fired nightly, and the difficulties of developing the position. One of the first deployments out of Nui Dat was with the guns towed by M113 APCs through a swamp at the southern end of the "Warburton Mountains", not the most successful ways to move.

During June and July the VC fired odd harassing rounds about the I ATF base, Then, after a few weeks of quiet, on the night of 17 August the VC fired some 100-130 rounds into the south eastern part of the base, delivered by a force of five 82 mm mortars, three 57 mm RCL and it is believed one 75 mm gun. This was followed the next day by the battle of Long Tan. A VC main force regiment and the local force D445 Bn were moving in to attack the I ATF base when they were encountered by D Coy of 6 RAR on a routine patrol, some 3000M east of Nui Dat. A major battle resulted when D Coy, aided by the TF artillery, 1 APC Tp and air support, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The VC sustained 245 killed with extensive equipment and material losses, to the 1 ATF losses of 17 killed and 22 wounded with one AR 15 rifle lost, 161 Bty was in direct support of 6 RAR for this operation and the FOO party with D Coy was commanded by Capt M.D. Stanley RNZA, who was later awarded a

MBE for this action. From a Bty point of view the heaviest supporting fire was provided between 1730 and 1830 hours during a violent electrical storm. The gunners were exhilarated by the urgency of the moment. At one stage during the storm communications were lost between the command post and the guns and the signallers relayed fire order by radio until new line could be laid. Cooks, drivers and Q elements were all employed in the supply of ammunition.

Next followed a period of consolidation operations. Long Tan reduced the influence of the VC main and local force units, however 1 ATF still had to contend with small guerilla groups and the clandestine VC infrastructure. On 30 October the Task Force cordoned the local, village of Hoa Long, and managed to disrupt the VC infrastructure. The Bty reputation for being lucky was vindicated on the night of 5 November while on an operation near Long Tan. A VC crawled some distance across paddy fields and set up a large Chinese type claymore mine alongside the Bty position. Fortunately the mine was sited the wrong way round, the only casualty being the firer.

In December 1966 a US composite artillery HQ and a US composite heavy battery joined the artillery already at Nui Dat.

1967 saw the expansion of consolidation operations throughout Phuoc Tuy Province, the establishment of the Horseshoe position and the construction of the mine field from Horseshoe to the coast. Maj T.G. Martin RNZA took over as BC from Maj Honnor in May. By this time the L5 Pack Howitzers were required to attract constant EME attention and the Australians were changing over to the heavier Canadian type 105 mm M2A2 Howitzer. 161 Bty changed over to the M2A2 in December 1967.

December also saw the deployment of a third infantry battalion into 1 ATF, 3 RAR. This meant the end of long periods in general support, and to 161 Bty's great joy, the renewal of the affiliation of 16 Fd Regt with 3 RAR, 16 years after Kapyong.

3 RAR arrived just after the Khe Sanh siege of October 1967 when the entire country was building up to the massive effort by the NVA and VC to bring the conflict to a military conclusion at Tet 1968.

3 RAR carried out two shakedown operations on 6 January and 9—11 January, with 161 Bty in direct support, and then spent the rest of the month establishing their battalion base and patrolling about their TAOR.

The Tet offensive in Phuoc Tuy Province commenced on 31 January with D445 Local Force Bn occupying Baria. The next eight days were spent in Street fighting, both in Baria and Long Dien. At the same time a significant enemy threat had arisen against the Long Binh - Bien Hoa logistic and airfield complexes and 1 ATF (-) joined a defensive screen about these, so located to limit enemy movement and forestall the rocketing and mortaring of the bases. This was Operation Coburg. 161 Bty deployed onto the Bien Hoa Long Khanh border near Trang Bom into Fire Support Base (FSB) Andersen. On the night of 17/18 February 1968 the base was mortared, followed by a ground assault on our neighbouring US Mdm Bty (B Bty 2/35 Arty) and the battalion mortar platoon, and then a second mortar and rocket attack on B Bty and 161 Bty gun positions. Miraculously 161 Bty suffered no casualties. Further attacks were mounted on FSB Andersen on 19/20 and 28 February. 3 RAR and 161 Bty moved back to Nui Dat on 1 March.

Next came Operation Pinnaroo, from 8 March to 15 April. This operation was mounted to capture and destroy the VC safe haven bases in the Long Hai Hills. The VC had taken elaborate measures to protect this area, the whole complex being heavily mined and booby trapped, 161 Bty first supported 3 RAR from the Horseshoe Feature and then from FSB Herring as the battalion probed deeper into the hills. After the mines were cleared the deep cave systems had to be searched then destroyed by explosives.

In April 1968 Maj G.A. Hitchings took over from Maj Martin as BC.

Operation Toan Thang 1 lasted from 21 April to 5 June 1968 and saw 3 RAR deployed initially in a reconnaissance in force role in the southern Hat Dich area of Phuoc Tuy Province. The battalion was then moved into Bien Hoa and Binh Duong Provinces to take part in allied operations designed to counter the enemies May offensive against Saigon. It was during May that 3 RAR and 161 Bty fought against major units of the North Vietnamese Army in a series of actions about FSB Coogee, Balmoral and Coral.



Since early May substantial enemy forces had attempted to close in on Saigon. Five enemy main force regiments were reported operating NW of the Song Dong Nai, some 25 miles north of Saigon in Binh Duong Province, and 1 ATF was deployed into this area. 3 RAR and 161 Bty deployed on 12 May with the task of securing, FSB Coral. A defensive position was secured that night close to the proposed Coral site, with 1 RAR, 102 Bty and 3 RAR mortars occupying another base close by.

That night 161 Bty helped break up a battalion sized attack on the 1 RAR position. Coral was secured some seven days later and 161 Bty eventually moved in on 26 May. Later the same day the Bty covered Bn HQ and D Coy of 3 RAR, and a troop of Centurion Tanks, into a new FSB called Balmoral. Gunners Day 1968 saw FSB Balmoral assaulted by a NVA battalion.

Contacts gradually increased in intensity and at 0230 hrs on 28 May Balmoral was assaulted by a NVA regiment. The enemy pressed their 'attack for two hours before retreating leaving 42 dead, 7 prisoners and a large amount of equipment. Minor contacts continued until the end of the operation, but the sting had been removed and 3 RAR with 161 Bty returned to base on 5 June.

Operation Toan Thang 2 (3—18 July) again saw 161 Bty in direct support of 3 RAR denying enemy access to the "rocket belt" east of Bien Hoa, FSB Kiama became the 3 RAR base for company blocking operations to prevent the enemy conducting rocket and mortar attacks against the Long Binh Logistic Base and Bien Hoa Airfield. On 18 July 161 Bty moved by road to the Hat Dich, and on the 20th by air to FSB Hawk in the northern Hat Dich area. Thus commenced Operation Merino, (18 — 24 Jul) a reconnaissance in force to hunt down 274 Regt, D440 and D445 Bns, and elements of 84 Rear Services Group. Several sharp clashes with the enemy occurred and considerable quantities of ammunition, equipment and supplies were captured.

The central Hat Dich, a traditional base camp and retraining area for the VC, was to be the area of another 3 RAR reconnaissance in force named Operation Platypus, from 2 to 13 August. One large training complex was destroyed using B52 bombers, but there were few contacts. Between 23 August and 2 November operations were conducted mainly in Phuoc Tuy Province, the Bty venturing out of Nui Dat on only four 'occasions, These were Operation Diamantina, another reconnaissance' in force this time in the Binh Gia area; Operation Windsor(28 September — 12 October) in

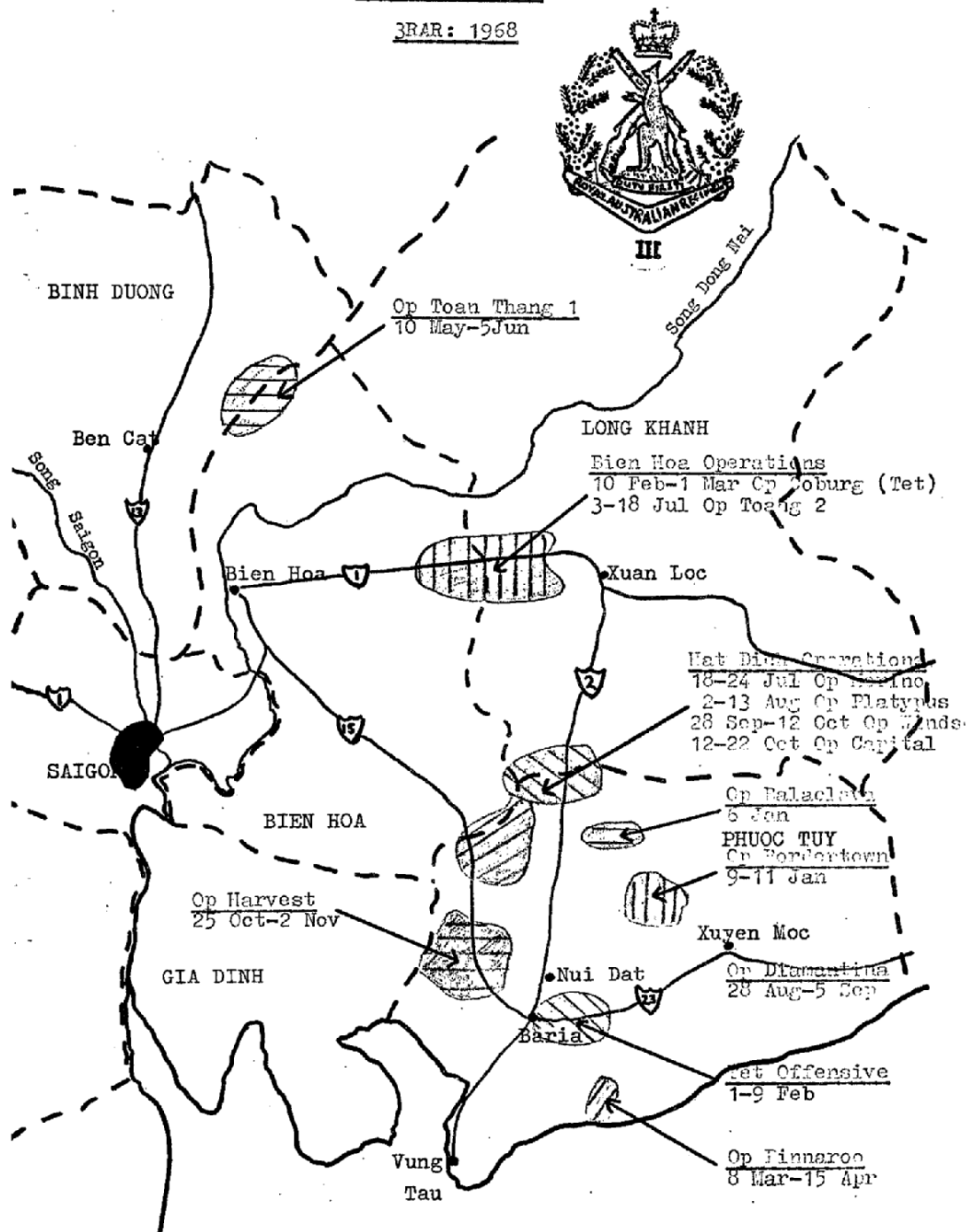
the Hat Dich; Operation Capital (12 — 22 October) again in the Hat Dich, which resulted in 18 enemy being killed; and Operation Harvest (22 October — 2 November) which as the name suggests was to deny the rice harvest to the enemy. Several caches were found, the largest containing 2 tons of rice and 900 lb of salt. This operation was conducted in Nui Thi Vai Hills on the western boundary of Phuoc Tuy Province.

3 RAR departed Vietnam 19/20 November 1968 and the replacement attation, to which 161 Bty was to be affiliated, was 9 RAR. Late November and December were spent in familiarization training, conducting - live, shell practices impacting about the Horseshoe and outside the 9 RAR perimeter to give officers and senior NOOs practice in fire adjustment.

The Bty also supported several company sized familiarisation operations about Nui Dat. Then came a cordon and search of An Nhut Village, just east of Long Dien. Bty elements remained in base at Nui Dat to support the move in of the cordon, and later the balance of the Bty under the BK formed an infantry company (-) to release 9 RAR company for the search.

# OPERATIONS WITH

3RAR: 1968



Christmas and New Year were spent back at base, and then off to the Hat Dich for an extended operation through to February 1969. The Bty then redeployed with 9 RAR into a Task Force FSB on Route 1 east of Bien Hoa once more into a spoiling position in the rocket belt. Several spectacular NVA/VC rocket firings were observed with successful CB fire being brought down on one site. Then back to Nui Dat. Maj J.O.B. Horsford took over as BC from Maj G.A. Hitchings in March 1969.

Now came a period of less intense enemy activity with the Task Force operating back in Phuoc Tuy Province. On several occasions the Bty deployed by half batteries. There were basically two reasons for this. The first was the need to give additional support to another battalion, either during a fly-in or to cover an AO extension; or in the case of our own direct supported battalion, when the AO was extended out of initial gun range.

Maj R.J. Andrews took over as BC in September and in November 1969 9 RAR was replaced by 8 RAR.

In December 1969 the Bty deployed by Chinook to FSB Peggy, NW of Binh Ba, the command post trailer full of signals equipment being dropped en route. Most equipment was written off. The operation was quiet until during the fourth week when a 8 RAR patrol contacted 6-800 enemy outside the perimeter just after last light. Reinforcements were sent from the FSB by APC, Puff (a machine gun armed C130 aircraft) and a flare ship called in and illumination rounds fired all night, but no further contact resulted.

And this was the pattern. Operations continued throughout Phuoc Tuy but contacts were generally few and fleeting. 8 RAR returned to Australia in September 1970 without replacement, and 161 Bty assumed a general support role. Maj J.M. Masters MC replaced Maj R.J. Andrews as BC in August 1970.

The final period of the Btys tour was one of de-escalation and Vietnamisation. De-escalation seemed to be more in the minds of politicians than in those of the soldiers. The VC, although severely weakened, still existed, and the NVA appeared from time to time in reconnaissance parties, and to ginger up the VC.

Further the deliberate thinning out of Free World Forces meant that those left behind had more ground to cover and were therefore still kept busy. Vietnamisation was the process whereby local RVN troops were to take over from the Free World Forces in providing their own security.

Within 1 ATF the policy was to thin out combat infantrymen while retaining available fire power as long as possible. Being in general support 161 Bty was deployed frequently to cover distant companies moving beyond the range of their direct support batteries. For a while the Bty became busier than was normal when in DS,

with the entire Bty except the BCs party fully stretched. During this period the Bty deployed 14 times and fired 11,076 rounds. The activity was described in the BCs operational diary as follows:

7 Nov 70. Right sect returned from FSB LONGREACH after handing over to sect 107 Bty in situ.

27 Nov 70. Bty deployed to FSB COOK with 4 guns in spt 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC). Bn ops in the RUN SAT. Two gun detachments were employed as local def gp and patrolled extensively.

27 Nov 70. At the same time 20 from the Bty were deployed to Long SON Island to protect a Radar Stn. Group were in contact on Ni 30 Nov/1 Dec.  
No casualties.

2 Dec 70. Bty from FSB COOK and party from LONG SON Island returned NUI DAT. Many stirring tales told of gunners acting as infantry and coming under fire.

3 Dec 70. Bty again deployed to FSB LE LOI IV with 4 guns in action and detachments from 2 guns as protection. The figure IV denotes our fourth visit to this area. In spt 2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Bn which was working West of Route 2.

9 Dec 70. Bty deployed direct from FSB LE LOI IV by road to FSB FEATHERS (YS7167) in spt of 7 RAR who were in close contact with D445 Bn. Road distance was 40 km with last 15 km designated RED. Time from Wng o at LE LOI to report ready at FEATHERS was 5hrs 5mm. APCs and air cover provided for that last part of journey as main contact area was within 3 km of new FSB. A busy day for all as tps were below ground and wire up by last light, after firing a 375 round fire plan.

13 Dec 70. Bty returned NUI DAT for period of 6 days. Time used for much needed maintenance and repair.

19 Dec 70. Bty deployed with now normal system of 4 guns to FSB RAGLAN (YS6080) in sp 7 RAR ops to the NORTH, Gunners in local defence patrolling uncovered 3 bunker complexes which were destroyed. As RAGLAN was outside civilian access area, restraining on all SA Wpns was carried out.

20 Dec 70. BC took over as G2 Arty; 1 ATF from BC HQ Bty, in addition to normal duties.

2 Jan 71. Bty again deployed direct from RAGLAN to FSB BRUISER by combined road and air move. In spt 7 RAR.

28 Jan 71. Bty returned from FSB BRUISER by road and next day, contrary to NZ newspaper reports describing our Christmas Dinner on 24 Dec, we had a Christmas and New Year combined dinner, and majority of gunners had their first beer since 19 Dec. Some on duty still missed out.

30 Jan 71. Road move and securing party left for FSB LYNX (YS 7582). Late afternoon one tank struck a mine, 30 lb, and was recovered forward to LYNX. Fortunately no casualties but very lucky escape for 4 gunners. Guns moved by air to LYNX next morning and fired 375 rd Fire Plan in spt insertion 2/12(US) Bn. Bn HQ joined us at LYNX and FSB resembled MASCOT airport for 2 days.

1 Feb 71. 161 Bty in DS 7 RAR for final 21 days of their tour. All FOs deployed and FCC established. Gun locations were Right Sect FSB LYNX in DS 7 RAR and in sp 2/12 Bn. Left Sect at FSB HORSESHOE in DS 7 RAR and in spt 302 (RF) Bn. This could have been an awkward liaison but we fitted well with 7 RAR and period was marked by mutual respect and much shooting. A happy association.

21 Feb 71. Bty ceased DS 7 BAR which ceased operations. Left Sect remained at FSB HORSESHOE in spt 3 RAR. Right Sect returned by air from FSB LYNX and FOs and BC became operationally superfluous again.

28 Feb 71. Left Sect remains at FSB HORSESHOE for an indefinite period. An R & C break at Vung Tau planned for 50 pers, and CES checks, maintenance etc begins.

These operations reflected the enemies reduced capacity. Deployments were carried out without infantry protection parties, the concept being a variation of: reducing to four guns in action; having an APC section under operational control throughout to

provide a reaction force and heavy automatic weapons; and the remaining two gun detachments for local defence, piquets and patrols.

The wind down of operations, and return home -RTNZ was the operational abbreviation - was filled with normal Q considerations. Advance parties were sent off and farewells etc were the order of the day. On Saturday 12 May 1971 the main body of 161 Bty, consisting of 100 all ranks, paraded at Vung Tau before General Nguyen Van Mirth, Commander MR III, to receive the South Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation with the Cross of Gallantry.

This was a unique parade. Firstly the Bty had not taken part in a formal drill parade for over five years and considerable liberties were taken in respect of the Drill Manual. Secondly the tiny parade of Kiwis, barely a Majors command, produced thirteen General Salutes as the dignitaries arrived, and of course repeated them on their departure.

The citation provides a good summary of 161 Btys activities in Vietnam and a translation is on page 80.

During its almost six years on continuous active service 161 Bty provided close fire support for all allied forces in South Vietnam except the Koreans, and served on continuous active service longer than any other unit in NZ history. Seventeen members of the Bty received New Zealand decorations, consisting of seven awards of the MBE, one MC, four BEMs, one Queens Commendation for Bravery and four MIDs. Three US Presidential Unit Citation awards and several South Vietnamese awards were also made. Four members of the Bty were killed in action, and sixteen wounded.

### **The Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation**

“On 17 July 1965, 161 Battery, Royal New Zealand. Artillery arrived in the, Republic of South Vietnam. This small, all volunteer unit was New Zealand’s first and immediate contribution to the Free World Military Forces who were fighting to preserve the integrity of a free nation against overt communist aggression.

Over the past six years the Battery has served continuously, with not one day out of action as a unit. While experiencing every change of fortune with the people of South

Vietnam by their continued presence, the Battery has also built itself an enviable record for its professionalism and competency.

Initially the Battery served with 173D Airborne Brigade and during this period, the Battery saw heavy fighting in Pleiku (1) Kontum, War Zone D, Ben Cat, Bien Hoa and the Iron Triangle. Their sterling efforts at that time were recognised on 12 October 1965 when the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star was awarded to the Battery Commander for all ranks.

Since 1966 the Battery has served as part of 1st Australian Task Force mainly in Phuoc Tuy Province although it has seen hard action in Bien Hoa, Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces. During this time the Battery has served as an integral component of six successive Australian Field Regiments and provided close fire support to all nine infantry battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment.

It has also operated in support of expanding South Vietnamese Regional Force operations in the Province and was the first unit to provide Artillery Forward Observers and fire support to Regional Forces long range company operations. An immediate mutual respect between Infantry and Artillery of the two nations was achieved. Later operations in support of 302 (RF) Battalion in the Long Hai confirmed this strong liaison.

After six years of fighting, the Battery has fired nearly a quarter of a million artillery rounds and occupied 73 fire support bases to provide fire support for Free World, and South Vietnamese ground troops. 21,138 fire missions have been fired including 665 missions in support of troops in direct, close contact with the enemy., The Battery has itself served as infantry, and in 'this role too, clashed with the enemy. Most of the casualties sustained by the Battery were caused by mines. Only one officer and one soldier were killed directly as a result of enemy action.

In their long stay in South Vietnam the Battery soldiers have made many local friends, particularly among the children. Orphanages have been adopted wherever they have served but they also leave village wells and two schools behind them as a mark of concern for, and faith in, the future of the country they have fought for."

Note: (1) This is wrong. The Bty did not accompany 173 AB Bde to Pleiku or Kontum.



While 161 Bty was in Vietnam a Depot Bty was formed at Papakura to train reinforcements. This Bty was situated in the old 161 Bty lines and. maintained a loose affiliation with 16 Fd Regt. 11 Bty found that a considerable amount of its equipment was used by the Depot during this period., and at one time the Depot strength reached 250. Personnel in Vietnam were replaced on a monthly “dribble” basis, with approximately 150 officers and men passing through the Bty annually. About 100 men completed: two terms and 15 completed three.

### **The Present**

161 Bty returned to New Zealand on 9 May 1971 and paraded through Auckland before rejoining 16 Fd Regt at Papakura. After a period of leave the Bty publicly, thanked the people of the County Town of Raglan, who had supported them so enthusiastically throughout the war. This association had previously been cemented when in March 1969 Raglan granted 16 Fd Regt the Freedom of the Town. A copy of the charter is on page 106.

16 Fd Regt was a full regiment again and exercises continued both in NZ and: overseas. RF and TF were deployed on exercises to Fiji, Australia, Singapore and Hawaii, while the RF ventured further afield to the South Island, UK, Federal Republic of Germany and Antarctica. TF WRACs first joined the Regt in 1974 and a solid core now exists. The current organization is shown on. page 107 with a list of Cos on page 108.

### **County of Raglan**

### **CHARTER**

### **16 Field Regiment**

### **Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery**

Whereas the Chairman, Councillors & Inhabitants of the County of Raglan being sensible of the honourable record and traditions of the 16 Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery and being desirous of recognising and cementing and fostering the intimate association which is now and has for some time been enjoyed between the County Town of Raglan and the 16 Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of Artillery:

Now therefore the Chairman and Councillors of the County of Raglan do hereby confer upon the said. 16 Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery the right and privilege without further permission having been obtained of marching with drums beating, bands playing, bayonets fixed, and swords drawn through the streets of the County Town of Raglan:

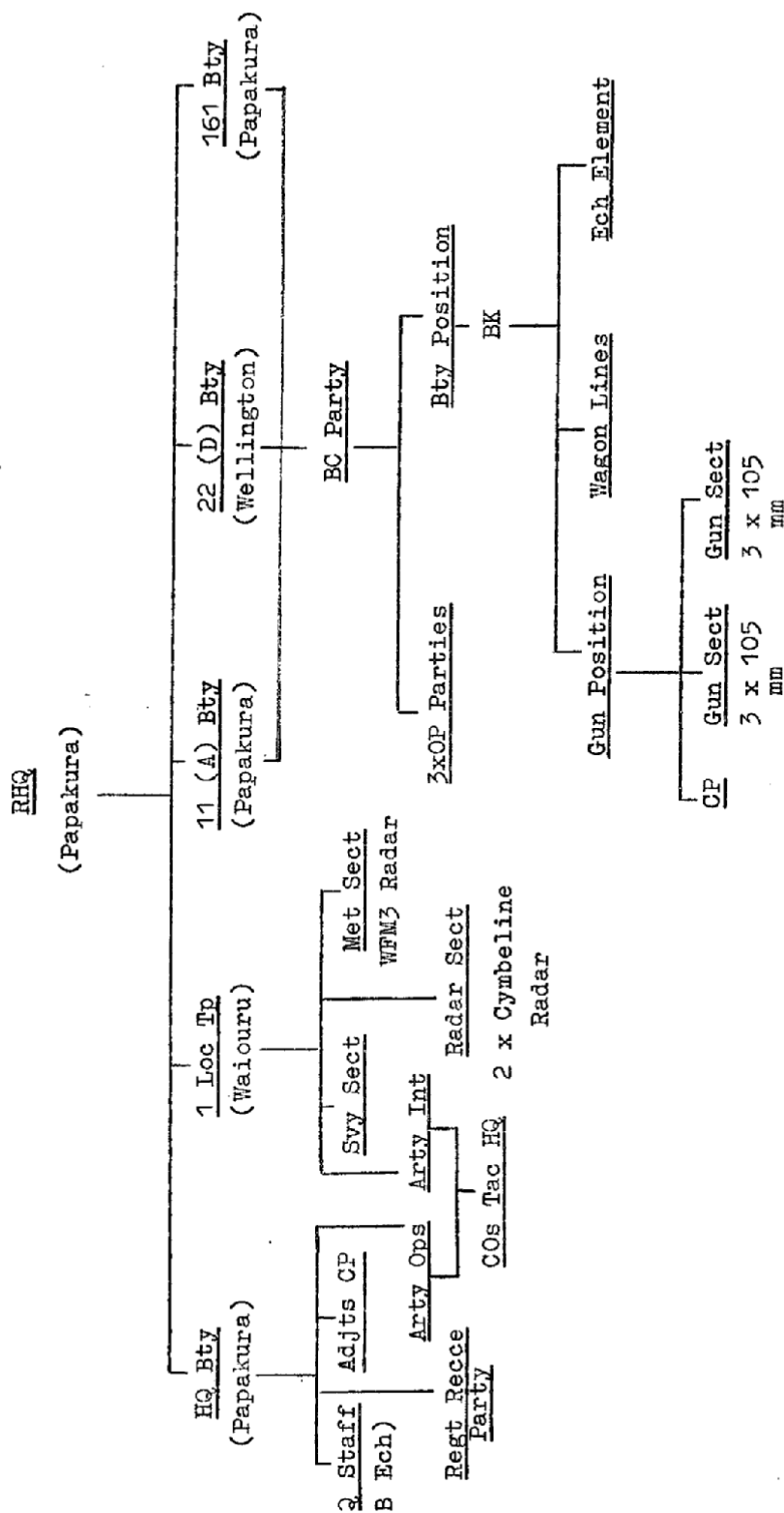
And do hereby accept the Honour of inspecting the 16 Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery by arrangement with the Commanding Officer.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Raglan County Council passed on the 24th day of March 1969, the common seal of the Chairman and Councillors & Inhabitants of the County of Raglan was hereto affixed in the presence of:

Chairman

County Clerk

OUTLINE ORGANISATION BY TACTICAL GROUPING : 16 FD REGT RNZA



Permanently Attached

16 Fd Regt LAD

Band of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF 16 FD REGT RNZA

1950—52    Lt Col J.W. Moodie, DSO, ED

1952—53    Lt Col R. MoK. Paterson, DSO

1953—54    Lt Col J. Burns, DSO, MBE

1954    Lt Col J.A. Pountney, MBE

1960—64    Lt Col J.R. Spence, MBE, MC

1964—68    Lt Col R.M. Grierson, OBE, ED

1968—69    Lt Col D.R. Kenning, MBE

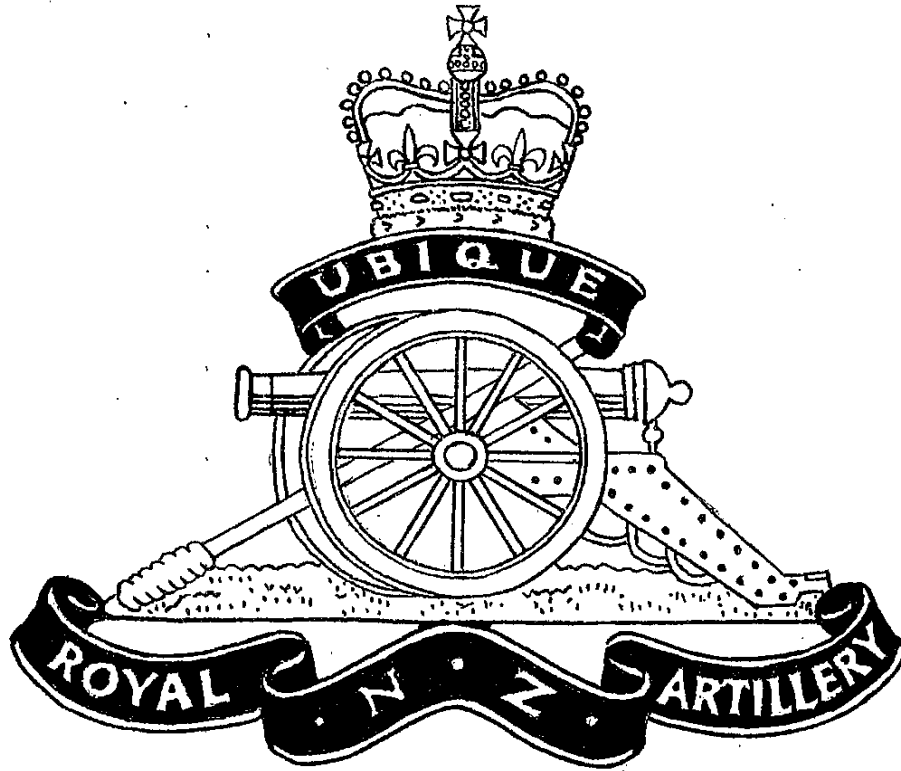
1970—71    Lt Col E.J. Valintine, ED

1971 —76    Lt Col F.E. Hopkinson, MBE, ED

1976    Lt Col D.R. Kenning, MBE

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## THE BADGE



The battle honours won by the Royal Artillery are far too numerous to display on colours. It was decided in 1833 that a badge be cast incorporating a design that would indicate to all the honours held by the Royal Artillery.

A replica of the type of nine pounder gun used at the Battle of Waterloo was selected as the centre piece of the badge. The battle scroll "UBIQUE" meaning "EVERYWHERE", indicated that the Royal Artillery had fought in every major engagement that the British Army had fought, and took the place of individual battle honours. Above the battle scroll was placed the Royal Coat of Arms. This was later replaced by a crown only. A scroll bearing the motto of the Royal Artillery, QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT (Where right and glory lead) was placed below the gun.

The badge of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery is at the top of this page. It should be noted that "Royal NZ Artillery" has been inscribed on the scroll in lieu of the motto "Quo fas et Gloria Ducunt". This is the last of a series of badges that have evolved since the New Zealand Artillery Volunteers days.

The bronzed officers and WO1 cap and collar badges were introduced just prior to World War 2 because they were less conspicuous in battle than the brass type. This was particularly important for OP officers. It should be remembered that prior to World War 2 the dress for service in the field was Service Dress.

Some other artillery badges that have been worn in New Zealand are shown overleaf.

SOME BADGES WORN BY ARTILLERY IN NEW ZEALAND



Pre 1911 Helmet Plate



New Zealand  
Field Artillery



New Zealand Regiment of  
Artillery Volunteers



NZA (Pre 1947)



RNZA (Pre 1947)



Examples of Individual Unit Badges



Collar Badge  
RNZA



Collar Badge  
NZA

The collar badges represent a grenade of seven flames

## **Some Traditions**

### Right of the Line

By the middle of the 18th century development of military tactics had led to the guns being placed on the right flank of infantry formations in battle. It is because of this, and an increasing admiration for the skill and accuracy of the gunners, that in 1756 King George II stated that the Royal Artillery was to “take the right of Foot and all Dragoons when dismounted”. The right of the line was always considered the post of honour and this order of precedence has continued in effect to this day.

### Our Colours

The term “Colours” normally refers to Cavalry Standards and Guidons, and Infantry Colours. These bear the battle honours of the unit concerned. In 1835 The Royal Regiment of Artillery, because its battle honours were so numerous, was granted the honour title “UBIQUE” and our guns were accepted as colours, “an emblem to be kept bright and free from all reproach”.

Today the Colours of The Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery are its guns. When on parade on ceremonial occasions the guns are accorded the same compliments as the Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Cavalry and Infantry. It is impracticable in modern times to treat the guns as Colours on non-ceremonial occasions, but they are always to be treated with dignity and respect.

### Colonel in Chief — Captain General

Between 1722 and 1950 each reigning Sovereign in turn accepted the appointment of “Colonel in Chief of the Regiment.” In 1950 King George VI expressed the wish that this appointment be changed to ‘Captain General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.’ In 1953 Queen Elizabeth II accepted the appointment of “Captain General of the RNZA.”

### The Master Gunner

Henry VIII first established a permanent force of gunners in England when he appointed a Master Gunner and twelve paid gunners to the Tower of London. This idea was later expanded and Master Gunners were appointed to all main towers and castles. They were responsible for the care of their equipment, training the gunners and for retaining the service of some civilians to be called to the colours if required (The first TF?)

In 1545 Henry VIII appointed the Master Gunner of The Tower of London to be Master Gunner of England, with jurisdiction over all other Master Gunners. This title was changed in 1796 to Master Gunner of St James Park, and remains so to this day.

The Master Gunner St James Park is selected personally by the sovereign from among the Colonel Commandants and becomes a deputy to the Captain General. His functions include the selection of Colonel Commandants and representing the Sovereign at Gunner functions or where functions require Gunner representation.

### Colonels Commandant

Colonels Commandant are distinguished Gunner officers who are appointed to maintain the traditions of the Royal Regiment. Our present Colonel Commandant in New Zealand is Birg J. Burns, DSO, MBE, ED, a past Commanding Officer of 16 Field Regiment and DRNZA.

### Bayonets

Bayonets are not fixed on normal ceremonial parades in the Royal Artillery because they are not traditional weapons of the Artillery. They were used by the Foot Artillery in the 18th century, but for the 150 years up to World War II they were not issued to the Regiment at all. It was considered, and rightly, that the Gunners could defend themselves against close-quarter attack with their guns, firing case shot, and later shrapnel shell with Fuze O, timed to burst at the muzzle. In the horsed days the rifles were carried in leather rifle buckets on the horses or on clips on the gun limbers and wagons, and it would have been inconvenient for a man riding a horse to have a bayonet on his belt.

During World War 2, bayonets were issued to Gunner units in Burma, and later elsewhere, for use against enemy infantry infiltrating into the gun positions at night, and they have been with us ever since. However, at the time that the ceremonial drills were evolved we had no bayonets to fix, and we have carried on the tradition of not fixing them except on very special occasions. These are normally confined to Guards of Honour for Her Majesty The Queen or persons representing Her Majesty.

### Lanyards

Lanyards were first issued to the Royal Artillery during the 19<sup>th</sup> century to secure the gunners jack knives and fuze keys. Initially they were a simple piece of



string about four feet long. The spike of the jack knife was used as a hoof pick to remove stones from the horses hooves, and the blade was used in an emergency to cut the horses free from their head and heel ropes. The fuze key was needed to set the fuzes on the then shrapnel shells. The knife and key were carried in the right breast pocket of the service dress jacket because the bandolier then worn by the Royal Artillery made it difficult to carry and extract articles from the left breast pocket. The lanyard was therefore worn on the right shoulder.

The string lanyard soon became dirty and unsightly. This did not matter in war, but in peacetime it was plaited and blanched white to make it look smarter, and to match the white waist belts worn at that time. It is for this reason that Artillery and Cavalry units, who were issued lanyards as an article of military use, still wear white lanyards. All other regiments and corps, who have adopted the lanyard purely as an adornment, wear coloured lanyards.

#### Regimental Music

Slow	: RA Slow March
Quick	: Bonnie Dundee
March Past	: British Grenadiers

#### Gunners Day 26 May

The anniversary of the formation of the Royal Artillery by Royal Warrant dated 26th May 1716.

#### Patron Saint

Our patron saint is St Barbara. Somewhat to the chagrin of gunners she was decanonised, in Roman Catholic eyes when the Pope purged his list of saints in 1970. Her feast day is 4th December. Some legends about her are given later in history on pages 88 to 91.

#### The Beret Diamond

The red over blue diamond worn on the beret behind badge is a corps distinction of the RNZA. It is of recent origin, having only been worn since 1965, when it was authorised by the CGS for 161 Bty to wear in Vietnam. This distinction was soon applied to the RNZA as a whole.

### The Firing of Salutes

The custom of firing salutes on important occasion dates from the early 15th Century, when it was customary for ships on entering a foreign port or harbour, to discharge their gun so that they were then defenceless and in the power of the individual or country to whom it was desired to pay honour. In 1688 the scale of salutes was, officially laid down, with 19 being the maximum fired, for the highest ranks which might be honoured. Later, this was increased to 21 guns in the case honours paid to members of Royalty.

## **Legends of St Barbara The Patron Saint of Artillerymen**

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of Artillerymen. Her feast day, the 4th December, is celebrated throughout the Regiment. There are at least two legends of Saint Barbara, that given first below being the one most appropriate to the Regiment. Both are taken from the RA Journal VOL LXXI, No 3 of July 1944.

### First Legend

This beautiful legend shows us how appropriate was the choice of the Virgin and Martyr St Barbara as the patroness of artillerymen.

Alypius, the Saint's father, during military service in the East, became friendly with a certain Fakir, from whom he learned marvellous secrets as to the use of naphtha and saltpetre. From the same source he also learned the preparation of Bengal lights.

Alpius, on his return to his native town, Hippo, devoted his life to the study of chemistry. Barbara received a liberal education, spoke several languages, and in addition became deeply in her fathers research work. By their united efforts in the laboratory an explosive of extraordinary power was discovered.

The beauty of Barbara attracted many suitors, but she rejected them all and entered the convent of St Perpetua, founded by St Augustine.

Africa was then a prey to invasions, and one evening, in the summer of AD 430 the Vandals arrived under the walls of Hippo. The town closed its gates and a siege began.

The barbarians dug wide trenches round the city walls and threw therein the dead bodies of men and animals, the slain of their recent conflict. By this means they hoped to overcome the causing besieged by causing death from fever and plague.

Alpius, in this hour of need, summoned his daughter from the convent to assist in the defence of the city. While they were placing large jars, full of mysterious substance, in position Alpius was killed by an arrow. Barbara the sole possessor of her fathers secrets, was called upon to continue the heroic combat. She ordered the contents of the urns to be poured into the enemy's trenches. In an instant the substance ignited, and putrified bodies were consumed and the pestilential miasmas were dispelled.

During a siege that lasted 14 months, all the surprise attacks of the enemy were frustrated by the frequent use of Bengal lights and at intervals incandescent globes of fire were hurled from catapults at the enemy.

After an heroic struggle the besiegers captured the city and thirsting for revenge, stormed into the convent whither Barbara had returned when the city was forced to surrender.

The warrior saint was prepared for emergencies and had accumulated a quantity of explosives in one of the subterranean passages of the convent.

At the crucial moment a deafening explosion was heard and both conquerors and vanquished were crushed beneath the debris of masonry. Thus did the Saint with her companions escape the outrages of a licentious soldiery.

### Second Legend

There is no reference to St Barbara by early christian authorities, neither does her name appear in the original of St Jerome's Martyrology. Veneration of the Saint was common, however, from the 7th century onwards.

About this time there was in existence legends of her martyrdom which were inserted in the writings of Symeon Metaphrates, which were used as well by such authors as Ado, Usuardus, Boronius, Mombritus and other during the 9th century. According to

these narratives, which are essentially the same, Barbara was the beautiful daughter of a wealthy, bad tempered and heathen Greek named Diocorus. Diocorus in his wicked and pagan mind conceived the idea of using his beautiful daughter to increase his worldly wealth. For this purpose he allowed her very little liberty, so that she might grow up free from worldly contamination. She was only allowed to have with her, her hand-maiden Juliana, and to receive at stated intervals her tutors who were selected from old and repulsive looking men.

In her youth Barbara embraced Christianity, the teachings of which she had no doubt obtained from the tutors who were provided for her.

Amongst Diocorus's friends was a magistrate named Marcian, a wealthy and wicked man like Diocorus. One day Diocorus, for the purpose of evading punishment for his many misdeeds, offered his beautiful daughter Barbara to Marcian. Upon informing his daughter of his intention to part with her to Marcian, Barbara told her father that she had embraced Christianity, and therefore could not consent to the arrangement, having dedicated her virginity to God. This so enraged Diocorus that he imprisoned her in a very high tower which concealed her from the view of the outside world.

Sometime after her imprisonment her father was called away, but before his departure Barbara persuaded him to gratify her wish for three windows to be constructed in the tower, in order to admit light. In reality Barbara's intentions were that the windows should be a symbol of the Trinity, and the admission of Light the emblem of Christianity, Barbara's desire being opened to make known her conversion; and this was her only way of showing it to the outside world.

On account of her open acknowledgement of Christianity she received a Spiritual Blessing. This Blessing made her even more beautiful than she had previously been; she, therefore, prayed for a bathing pool in which to disport herself and while away the tediousness of the long hours of her incarceration.

One day, upon drawing her finger in the form of a cross on the floor of the Tower, the rocks were parted and in the midst of a blaze of light through the three windows, a pool appeared, the cross remaining permanently furrowed in the stone at the edge of the pool.

Upon her father's return from his journey he discovered the great light streaming through the windows on to the cross. This greatly angered him, and he remonstrated with her. Barbara took this occasion to preach to her father; she told him of the mystery of the Trinity and used her persuasion with a view to converting him to Christianity. Diocurus became furious on account of Barbara's pleadings; he drew his sword and rushed upon Barbara to kill her. Barbara avoided her father and miraculously escaped from the Tower where she left him striking furiously on the flinty floor in an endeavour to obliterate the cross.

The enraged parent, accompanied by soldiers, scoured the mountain side for his daughter who had taken refuge in a leafy glade some distance from the Tower. Encountering two shepherds during his search, he asked them if they had seen his daughter. The first one, being a godly man and fearing for Barbara's safety, to shield her told an untruth to Diocurus and said she was not in the forest; the other shepherd being of evil mind told him where she was hiding. Her father found her, beat her unmercifully and dragged her by the hair before the Magistrate Marcian.

When Marcian saw her he was captivated by her beauty and did his utmost to persuade her to give up her Christianity and marry him. She steadfastly refused and repulsed all Marcian's advances, whereupon he ordered her to be stripped and beaten in front of him, Still resisting his entreaties she was taken to prison where a blaze of light streamed upon her, and healed her wounds.

Next day she was again brought before the Magistrate Marcian. She still persisted in refusing his entreaties; he then ordered her to be torn with iron combs and her saintly head to be hammered. Her hand-maiden, Juliana, on witnessing these barbarities, burst into tears, and was promptly arrested and treated in the same cruel manner, Marcian was at a loss for further tortures to exercise on Barbara without destroying her beauty, so in revenge for having all his advances refused, he ordered her to be led naked round the town accompanied by her hand-maiden, Juliana.

Notwithstanding the beating on her "Venerable Head", Barbara preserved her faculties and was able to address an eloquent prayer to Heaven, which was answered and a mantle was cast about her body. This enabled her to lift herself and preach to the people, whom she implored to embrace Christianity. So thoroughly enraged her father at this, that in a fit of violent temper he struck off her head together with that

of her hand—maiden Juliana, At this moment a vivid flash of lightening fell which completely consumed Diocurus, a moment later a second flash appeared which reduced Marcian to a heap of smoking ashes.

For this reason Barbara is held to be the patroness of Fire, Cannon and Firearms; she is also invoked against the thunder and lightening's of Heaven, for just previous to her death Barbara prayed that whosoever should invoke her aid might receive protection against implements of war and lightening.

A pious man named Valentinus buried the bodies of the virgins. At this grave the sick were healed and the pilgrims who came to pray received aid and consolation.

It is certain that before the 9th century she was publicly venerated both in the East and in the west, and that she was very popular with the Christian populace, being called upon as intercessor to assure the receiving of the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist at the hour of death.

An occurrence in the year AD 1446 did much to spread the veneration of the saint. A man named Henry Kock was nearly burnt to death in a fire at Gorkum, He called upon St Barbara to whom he had always shown great devotion. She aided him to escape from the burning building and kept him alive until he could receive the last sacrament, .A similar occurrence is related in the *Legende Aurea*".

The Emperor in whose reign the martyrdom is placed is sometimes called Maximinus and sometimes Maxiamianus, but there is not sufficient evidence to ascertain whether Maximinus Thrax (AD 235—238) or Maxiamianus Dza is meant.

Traditions vary as to the place of martyrdom. Symeon Mataphrates and Mombritus, the Latin scholar, make Heliopolis in Egypt the site. Usuardus and Ado in their Martyrologies mention Tuscany; and Boronius whose account might be considered the most reliable, in his "Martyrologium Romanum Paruum" (about AD 700), quotes "In Tusia Barbarae Virginis et Martyris". Saint Jerome and Bedessay "Roame Barbarae Virginis" or "Apud Antiochiam Passio Saint Barbarae Virg", whilst others give the place as Nicomedia. These various statements prove, however, only the local adaption of the Veneration of the saintly martyr.

In the Greek and Roman Calendars the Feasts of St Barbara fall upon the 4th December, while martyrologies of the 9th century, with the exception of Robanus Maurus, place it on the 16th December. It is quite possible to suppose, however, that the period from the 4th December to the 16th December was the time of her escape from the Tower until her death on the 16th December.

Saint Barbara has often been depicted in art, always carrying the palm frond of a martyr in her hand and often with the chalice and sacramental wafer, She has been represented standing by a tower with three windows and sometimes, fire cannon, firearms and lightening are displayed near her.

(The above information was obtained from the Vicar of the New Church of St Barbara, Earlsdon Coventry,)

## **THE ART**

*The Art is like a circle without end, or like to a labrinth, where a man being well entered in, knoweth not how to get out again, and therefore it must be exercise and industry that must make a perfect Gunner.*

William Eldred, Mr Gnr 1646

## **The Properties Office And Duetie Of A Gunner**

A gunner ought to be sober, wakeful, lustie, patient, and a quick spirited man; he ought also to have a good eyesight, a good judgement, and perfect knowledge to select a convenient place in the day of service, to plant his ordnance where it may doe most hurt into the enemies, and be least annoyed by them, and where his ordnance may not be surprised by the enemie.

A Gunner ought to be skilfull. in Arithmeticke, and Geometrie, to the end he may be able by his knowledge in those artes to measure heights depthes, breadthes, and lengthes, and to drawe the plot of any piece of ground, and to make mines, counter-mines, artificial fireworks, rampiars, gabbions or baskets of earth, and such like things which are used in times of warre to be made for offensive and defensive service.

A Gunner ought also to procure with all his power the friendship and love of every person, and to be careful for his own safetie, and for the preservation of all those that shall be about him.

Also he ought to be no surfeter, nor a great or sluggish sleeper, but he must gouverne him selfe in all times as a wise, modest, sober, honest and skilfull man ought to do, that through want of understanding he may never loose his credit, nor a universall victorie which oftentimes by the means of good Gunners well managing their peeces is gotten.

Also a Gunner ought at the receipt of his charge to make an Invitorie of all such things as shal be committed to his charge as well as to render an account, as to consider the want of such necessaries as to the Artillerie apperteineth.

Also when a Gunner shal be appointed to do an exployte, he must lay his powder twenty paces from his peeces in such a place where no fire, water or hurt may come unto it through any person or by reason of any winde, weather, or otherwise, and keeping his powder always covered, he must not be unmindful of this; that it is a very dangerous thing for a gunner to trust many, because a general hurt and death may thereuppon followe.

Also a gunner ought not to sleepe much at any time of the day, or night, when he is appoynted to serve in the felde, or in any other place, not to eate or drinke in any other roome than where his .peeces may be choked, poysoned, and harmed by diver wayes, and that he may many times uppon a sudden have good occasion to discharge all his peeces.

And it is requisite for a Gunner to fixe upon the tayle of the carriage of his peece a cheat to holde his necessary things, and to defende him from small shot when he shal serve in a place when no baskets of earth are set to defend him.



## Screw-Guns

*By: Rudyard Kipling*

Smokin' my pipe on the mountings, sniffin' the mornin' cool,  
I walks in my old brown gaiters along o' my old brown mule,  
With seventy gunners be'ind me, an' never a beggar forgets  
It's only the pick of the Army that handles the dear little pets—'Tss! 'Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns -- the screw-guns they all love you!  
So when we call round with a few guns, o' course *you* will know what to do -- hoo!  
hoo!

Jest send in your Chief an' surrender -- it's worse if you fights or you runs  
You can go where you please, you can skid up the trees, but you don't get away from  
the guns!

They sends us along where the roads are, but mostly we goes where they ain't  
We'd climb up the side of a sign-board an' trust to the stick o' the pain  
We've chivied the Naga an' Looshai, we've give the Afreedeeman fits,  
For we fancies ourselves at two thousand, we guns that are built in two bits --- 'Tss'  
'Tss,

For you all love the screw guns .....

If a man doesn't work, why, we drills 'im an' teaches 'im to behave:  
If a beggar cant march, why, we kills 'im 'an rattles 'im into 'is grave.  
You've got to stand up to our business an' spring without snatchin' or fuss  
D'you say that you sweat with the field guns? By god, you must lather with us --'Tss'.  
For you all love the screw guns.....

The eagles is screamin' around us, the river's amoanin' below,  
We're clear o' the pine the oak-scrub we're out on the rocks an' the snow,  
An' the wind is thin as a whip-lash what carries away to the plains.                The rattle  
an' stamp o' the lead-mules-the jinglety jink o' the chains -- 'Tss! 'Tss!  
For you all love the screw guns.....

There's a whell on the Horns o' the Mornin', an' a whell on the edge o' the Pit,  
An' a drop into nothin' beneath you as straight as a beggar can spit:  
With the sweat runnin' out o' your shirt-sleeves, an' the sun off the snow in your face,  
An' 'art o' the men on the drag-ropes to hold the old gun in'er place -- 'Tss Tss

For you all love the screw guns .....

Smokin' my pipe on' the mountings, sniff in' the mornin' cool,

I climbs in my old brown gaiters along o' my old brown mule.

The monkey can say what our road was—the wild—goat 'e knows where  
we passed

Stand easy, you long-eared old darlin's'

Out drag-ropes' With shrapnel' Hold, fast -- 'Tss! 'Tss!

For you all love the screw-guns — the screw guns they all love you!

So when we take tea with a few guns, o' course you will know what to do — hoo! hoo!

Jest send in your Chief an' surrender -- It's worse if you fights or you runs

You may hide in the caves, they'll be only your graves, but you can't get away from the  
guns!