

GUNNER NEWS



Royal New Zealand Artillery Association Newsletter

Issue # 171

September 2016

Kia Ora & Welcome

A another bumper issue this time folks—29 pages ! I'll tell you what happens from my end of the stick. When I finish one newsletter I start to gather stuff for the next and it all gets put in an E file until I'm ready to start all over again. Which is fine if you are computer literate—I'm not! I pretend, but truth is I lose stuff—like I have lost the second half of Ian Ahearn's real story about the Battle of Coral. My apologies to those desperately looking forward to reading that—I'll will get it back !!

I came across a really interesting article about PTSD recently and have included it in it's entirety—this is an issue that we ignore at our peril.

I want to thank publicly Major Brent Morris, BC 163 Bty, who allowed me and a few other old Gunners onto his gun site in the Argo Valley a couple of months ago. We really appreciated your hospitality and the opportunity to talk to todays Gunners. Brent, if the quality of your men is anything to go by then the Corps is in fine hands.

The annual reunion for the Association is not that far away—this year at the East Coast Bays RSA over Labour Weekend—more details and the registration form is included with this newsletter. Help the organising committee by registering as soon as you can.

Ubique

David Bähler

Brent, if the quality of your men is anything to go by then the Corps is in fine hands.

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I have been thinking

Most people would think that I have no reason to be involved with Veterans Affairs, but because of the sins of my youth, I'm now officially deaf and have hearing aids and receive a small Disability Pension. Apparently my entitlement comes because the 'injury' was caused pre ACC.

I generally try to avoid officialdom, because their obsession with rules drives me crazy, but I recently had to advise Veterans Affairs that I had changed my bank account, so being the clued up old fella that I am, I thought I would send them an email. Two weeks later I get a message on my phone that that is not good enough – they want a certified copy of a bank statement or whatever showing my name and account number. Aside from the fact that I now have a totally E account, which costs me if I talk to a teller, I thought this was totally patronising. Are they saying I am so incompetent that I can't even recite my own bank account details? How is that that if I receive a benefit from WINZ I can go online and change my bank account but I can't do that with VANZ. Time Veterans Affairs got into the 21st century.

Added to that, I enquired into what had happened to a requested review of an earlier decision not to issue me with new hearing aids. My review request was submitted on 1 April 2016 and six months later I had heard nothing. In the meantime, I had had another two hearing tests, including one by a completely independent person, which must have cost VANZ heaps and yet they had not thought to keep me in the loop as to how my review was going. Very poor customer relations.

My hips are playing up now—God help me when I try to claim a VANZ benefit for their replacement.

I can now see why Veterans have problems with Veterans Affairs – one has to wonder why they are there. Are they there for the veteran or are they there to ensure the least is spent as possible.

They need to up their game.

Just saying.

David B

Last Post

CAMPBELL, John Neil. 31 May 2016. Gnr, 16th Field Regiment, Korea.

ALLEN, Ronald Desmond. 8.6.2016. Sgt RNZAF, J Force, Sgt 16 Fd Regt RNZA Korea

ROSSBOTHAN, Kieran. 12.6.2016. 161 Bty RNZA, SVN

TE POHE-BUSH, Robert Rapi. 15.6.2016. Bdr, 161 Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA.

SHEPPARD, Ron. 20.6.2016. 6 Fd Regt RNZA, 2nd NZEF, WW2

KAKE, Charlie Hare (Joe), 22.6.2016. 161 Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA

SUBRITZKY, Christopher Kevin. 29.6.2016. LBdr, 11 (A) Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA & 4 (G) Med Bty RNZA

THRUSH, Gavin. 1.7.2016. Gnr 161 Bty RNZA SVN & 4 (G) Med Bty RNZA

McISSAC, Colin. 3.7.2016. 161 Bty RNZA SVN.

MASKERY, Jack. 18.8.2016. WO1, 161 Bty, 16 Fd Regt RNZA, Korea

DONNELLY, Wally. 30.8.2016. RNZASC. 161 Bty RNZA SVN.

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

*We will remember them
We will remember them*

Presidents Report,

We have now emerged from the depths of winter, a cold and wet one at that, a turbulent one from a world perspective and an active one for gunners.

It was great to see the American gunners exercising with 16 Fd Regt in the depths of winter. As the 'Pacific Reserve Division' 25 Div (Tropic Lightening) have to be ready to deploy anywhere in the Pacific, and it sure tests them when they have to go from the sunshine of Hawaii to the snow of the Waiouru Training Area. The US gunners fitted in well with the 163 Bty gunners and long and important relationships can develop out of these joint exercises.

Five Trustees of the RNZA Heritage Trust took the opportunity to visit Waiouru and thoroughly enjoyed a day in the field with 163 Bty. The number of overseas visitors to 16 Fd Regt over the exercise period meant there was no opportunity for Ex Ben Cat this year, (with Assn members visiting the gun line), but we'll make all endeavours to get one organised next year.

The Trustees were also treated to a guided tour of the artillery equipment stored at the National Army Museum, and it is great to see such a thoroughly knowledgeable and enthusiastic ex-gunner, Grant (Hannibal) Hayes as the curator. Thanks Grant and keep up the good work.

Colin Jansen and the Ubique team also deserve a big shout-out. Under Grant Hayes' supervision a small team are travelling to Waiouru on a monthly basis to help with the restoration and display of the artillery equipment, currently held in a hangar inside the old camp. A big thank you to those who have been to the working bees.

I recently sent out an email to the members who form our network of Regional Reps and 'Committee-at-Large'. It reinforced to me that we truly have become a national organisation now; by moving the AGM/Reunion around the country over the past 6 years, and spreading the duties around the most qualified people regardless of where they live, we have created an active network which is way more capable of establishing and maintaining contact with all members. This is a big ask now that our membership covers such a long period of service. A big thank you to all those members who make up the committee- at- large.

VSA 14 Submission. I will cover this item at the AGM, but suffice



*The above lapel pins are available from
www.poppypins.co.uk*

to say at this time, we received a very underwhelming response from the CEO of Veterans Affairs to our submission, and we will be pursuing this on a slightly different tack shortly. Thanks for your ongoing support on this issue Mike Dakin.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM/Reunion. Remember that simply by turning up you are making a positive contribution to this very worthwhile organisation.

My very best wishes to you all

Ubique

Tony McLeod, President RNZA Assn

Quote of the Day

"There is NO job in the Field Artillery for the weak, the timid or the indecisive."
- Unknown

The Colonel Commandant reports:

The quarter has once again been a busy time for the Royal Regiment.

16 Fd Regt have had a series of exercises through the mid-winter months, keeping both batteries very busy. The exercises have included hosting 3/7th US Artillery on exercise in Linton and Waiouru, and US Marine Corps gunners on a separate exercise based in Waiouru and other parts of the country.

The Batteries have hosted a range of people during live firing from Chief of Army through to the team that provide historical support such as horse-drawn artillery to special events and historic occasions in New Zealand.

As Col Commandant, I attended one of 163 Bty's live shell practices in Waiouru in July at the bottom of the Argo Track near the horse corral. The exercise included the 3/7th team from the 25th US Division in Hawaii. The gun group had developed a fully dug in gun position and were live firing small arms and guns simultaneously as part of the exercise. The scenario was a supported force withdrawal, and the gun group eventually fired a number of rounds in direct fire from the dug-in gun position. The opportunity was also taken to train some QA Squadron mounted patrols in the observation of fire.

This was a successful few days. My only other comment is that the morning frost of minus seven was a bit brisk.

A major activity during the period has been the recent 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, and the 50th Anniversary Commemorations of the Vietnam War. Major commemorations were held in Canberra, Brisbane and Wellington, with a large number of other commemorations throughout both Australia and New Zealand.

A contingent of 39 New Zealand Vietnam Veterans were part of New Zealand's official representation at the commemorations in Canberra. Sixteen of these served in 161 Bty, with seven of the gunners being involved in the Battle of Long Tan. There were a number of functions and ceremonies, with the main commemoration being the national service at the Vietnam Memorial in Commonwealth Avenue. Perhaps the highlight of this commemoration was the flyover by two USAF B 52 bombers, direct from Guam.

16 Fd Regt were also well represented during the visit, with a gun detachment firing a 12 rounds FFE regimental mission over Lake Burley Griffin, alongside Australian and US Artillery detachments, during the national ceremony. The Regiment's team was lead by the CO, accompanied by the RSM, and the BC 163 Bty and BSM of 161 Bty.

A number of 161 Bty Long Tan gunners attended the Long Tan celebrations with 6RAR in Brisbane, including Willie Walker and Murray Broomhall, who were flown to Brisbane after the

Canberra commemorations.

Whilst in Canberra I took the opportunity, on behalf of the RNZA, to present a Bronze Gunner Trophy to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps to commemorate 100 years of combat support by New Zealand gunners to the Australian infantry. Our first support of the Australian infantry in combat was at 0620 on 26 April, 1915 on the beach at Anzac Cove. We still provide JFT (FOO) support to Australian combat forces in Iraq. The trophy was graciously accepted by the Col Commandant of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps, Major General Mark Kelly.

The RNZA Heritage Trust has been reasonably busy, with a visit to Waiouru for a day with 163 Bty at the bottom of the Argo Track, and a morning with Grant Hays looking at the National Army Museum's artillery and vehicle collection, which unfortunately is locked away inside Waiouru Camp. Grant is the assistant curator responsible for the collection. It is a very good collection of artillery pieces spanning more than 300 years, and 100 years of military vehicles, most of which are in working condition.

Grant and his museum team have done a good job with limited resources. Under the leadership of Colin Jansen, the Association now gets a team of volunteers down to Waiouru each month to assist Grant in restoring and maintaining the guns. The Trust assists with transport costs and the Museum provides rations and quarters. Anyone interested in joining Colin's team should contact him through the Association.

The Trust has also just taken possession of the framed Military Medal groups of Sergeants Smaill and Reid, respectively NZFA and RNZA. William Smaill, a Gallipoli veteran, won his Military Medal as a gun sergeant in 7 Battery at Passchendaele, keeping his gun in action throughout the battle despite heavy enemy shelling.

Reginald Reid won his Military Medal for two actions six months apart in 1951 and 1952 with 16 Field Regiment in Korea, both in support of 1KOSB. He was the Lines Bombardier for the first action and the Battery Signals Sergeant for the second, with 162 Bty. The award was for gallantry under fire maintaining line to the BC and OP parties during major Chinese attacks on the KOSBs. He was subsequently killed in action doing similar gallant work in 1953.

Both of these framed groups will be on display at RHQ in Linton.

I would like to thank Rob Munro for his work with the Trust. He has chaired it for the last few years and

recently stepped down. His guidance and support has been invaluable in our progress. Con Flinkenberg is the new Trustee.

In closing, it was an honour to represent all 161 Bty Vietnam veterans in Canberra, and very pleasing to see the number we managed to get through the ballot process. It was great catching up with them all, as well as all the veterans from the various Corps and Services who had served in Vietnam.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM in Auckland over Labour weekend.

Ubique

Barry Dreyer

Colonel Commandant: Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery



Members of the Dirty 13 Trucking Coy on sandbag duty—SVN

RNZA Artillery Band Engagements (as at 01.09.16)

Sun 25th Sept WW1 Concert for Auckland Council (Centenary of the Somme) Playhouse Theatre, Glen Eden - 2.00pm

Sat 8th October Band Camp (preparation for Melbourne), at Bandroom

Sun 9th October Band Camp. Grace Joel Village, St Heliers, 2.00pm

Sat 22/23 October Pre-Melbourne 'Band Camp' weekend at NZSAS Papakura

Tues 1st November Final Band Practice before Melbourne - load-up all gear/baggage

3-13th November Melbourne Tour

Sun 4th December Bruce McLaren Village, Howick, 2.00pm

There may be another SAS Regimental Dinner night on a Friday evening in Sept/Oct - tbc.

2016 RNZAA Reunion

The RNZA Association 2106 Reunion and AGM is to be held at the East Coast Bays RSA, North Shore, Auckland over Labour Weekend 21-23 October 2016

All the details and Registration forms are included with this newsletter.

Please complete the Registration form and return to Bernie McCort at RNZA Assn, 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010 or via email to:

rnza.association@gmail.com

before the cut off date of

2 October 2016.

A speech by The Queen at the Royal Artillery Tercentenary Parade on 26th May, 2016

Master Gunner,

I last reviewed my Royal Regiment in 1984 in Dortmund and you have, consistent with your motto - Ubique - since then taken part in many operations, always adapting quickly to new circumstances that face the Armed Forces today.

In all the theatres of war and in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions throughout the world, you have served with great distinction, especially so in the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It has indeed been a demanding period, for Gunners of all ranks and for your families who have so closely supported you. You should be rightly proud of your achievements.

I congratulate you on the journey of the Captain-General's Baton, which has so successfully reinforced the links between the Royal Regiment and the Commonwealth and our Allies and which, of course, characterises the strength and depth of my Regiment's commitment to our common cause of freedom and democracy around the world.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery has since 1716 proudly served the Nation all over the World and I wish all Gunners every success and good fortune in the future.

Some Strange History Facts of WWII

1. The first German serviceman killed in WW II was killed by the Japanese (China , 1937), The first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); The highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.
2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 years old: Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonourable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'); The shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the swastika. Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, an airman's chance of being killed was 71%.
5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

7 crazy facts you didn't know about the D-Day invasion

- 1: A 56-year-old general stormed the beaches with a cane. Not many people know that Brig. Gen.



Theodore Roosevelt Jr., (on the right in the photo, with Gen Patton) son of Teddy himself, fought on D-Day. What's even more badass is the fact that he wasn't even supposed to be there. At 56 years old, the arthritis-riddled general wasn't expected to survive the landing and so his division commander denied two verbal requests from Roosevelt to take part in the landings. This didn't slow Roosevelt down though, and after a written

request was reluctantly approved, he stormed Utah Beach with the first wave of troops. Upon landing, Roosevelt single-handedly changed his division's entire plan of attack, saving many of his comrades and earning himself the Medal of Honour. Sadly, he died of a heart attack the night before he would be notified of his nominations for the award, promotion to major general, and command of the 90th infantry division. He was the oldest person to storm the beaches that day.

- 2: One company of soldiers saw 60 percent casualties in the first 20 minutes of battle. American battalions suffered crippling



losses during the Normandy invasion, but the story of A Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry is especially devastating. Tasked with capturing a road that led to the small French village of Verville, things began to go wrong for the company before it even reached the

shore. Rough seas left the men dazed and sea sick. Heavy clouds blocked the view of U.S. bombers, stopping them from taking out the German gunners that waited for the company in the Dog Green Sector of Omaha Beach. When company A finally did run aground, it was overwhelmed by German mortar, artillery and machine gun fire. In under 20 minutes, 60 percent of the company's men — many of whom had never seen battle before — were dead or wounded.

- 3: The first fatality was an airborne Lieutenant who still rallied his men out of the aircraft despite his wounds. One of the first American officers to die on D-Day met his end before he got out of his parachute. Lt. Robert Mathias, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division's E Company, 508th Parachute Regiment, prepared to jump from his platoon's C-47 at around 2 a.m. on June 6, 1944. Before the officer leapt from the aircraft, German artillery fire sprayed the belly of the plane. Mathias was hit just

as the door light turned green, but survivors recount that the bleeding paratrooper shouted “Let’s go!” and jumped with the rest of the men anyway. His battered remains were later found on the ground, tangled in his parachute.

4: Much of the operation was planned by the British. Despite the perception that D-Day was mainly an American operation, it was actually the Brits who took the lead in battle. Nearly the entire plan for D-Day — or Operation Overlord, as it was codenamed — was orchestrated by British Gen. Bernard Montgomery, the land force commander. The naval plans for the battle were also created



by the Royal Navy, and of the 1,213 warships in the sea that day, the British boasted 892 compared to the American fleet of 200. The divide was even greater when it came to landing craft, with 4,126 pulling for the Queen and only 805 repping for Uncle Sam. Still, it was an Allied effort that involved planning and contributions from more than a dozen countries.

5: Future author J.D. Salinger was in the second wave — and carried chapters of his novel “The Catcher in the Rye”. On the fateful morning of June 6th, a young author landed on Utah beach amongst the fray of broken bodies, artillery fire and blood-soaked shores. J.D. Salinger was meant to arrive with the first wave of troops at 6:30 a.m., but ended up landing in the second



wave a few minutes later. The ocean’s current staggered the landing about 2,000 yards southward, taking Salinger and the other officers of the 4th Counter Intelligence Corps (C.I.C) detachment away from the strongest German defences. This small difference may have saved his life — and an American classic. In his backpack, Salinger was carrying the first six chapters of his novel *Catcher in the Rye*.

6: A British officer carried his sword into battle, and he actually put it to good use. Machine guns and explosives weren’t the only weapons tearing up the beaches on D-Day. One British officer, Lt. Col. John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming Churchill, appropriately nicknamed “Mad Jack,” actually jumped from his landing craft with a sword in hand, chucking a grenade for good measure as he ran towards the battle. Churchill managed to capture over 40 German officers at *sword point* in only one raid, and also holds the last

recorded longbow kill in history for a kill shot he made in 1940. He was also, not surprisingly, a little insane, and is reported to have complained that “If it wasn’t for those damn Yanks, we could have kept the war going another ten years.” Yikes. ‘Mad Mike’ can be seen on right with sword in hand.



7: Everyone was afraid to wake up Hitler to ask for reinforcements at Normandy. German forces were greatly outnumbered at Normandy, largely because the details of where the Allied invasion would take place was kept under lock and key until the moment troops hit the beaches on June 6th, 1944. A double agent working for the allies also gave the Germans false information about where the operation would occur, leaving the real locations with little German defence in place. It’s estimated that there were 175,000 allied troops on the beaches that day compared to a measly 10,000 Germans. Which begs the question: Why didn’t Germany just order reinforcements to those locations? Apparently, it was because Hitler was asleep! German officers were too afraid to wake up the Fuhrer, and too scared to send more troops without his permission. So long story short, Hitler’s nap may have contributed to the Allied victory.

So there you have it—you learn something new everyday and I always thought there was a reason for Officers to carry a sword.

Whilst I was away recently a friend sent me this email - I thought I would share it with my 'older' friends, now that I am in that age bracket!!!
"To help save the economy, the Government will announce in next month's budget that the Immigration Department will start deporting senior citizens instead of illegal immigrants in order to lower WINZ welfare costs.
Older people are easier to catch and will not remember how to get back home.
I started to cry when I thought of you..
Then it dawned on me...for goodness sake!.....
I'll see you on the bus!"

The Creation of Vietnam Veterans

When the Lord was creating Vietnam Veterans, He was into His 6th day of overtime working on the first fully operational model when an angel appeared.

The angel said to the Lord, "You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order? A Vet has to be able to run 5 clicks through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels full of rats, spiders and the enemy all the while keeping his weapons clean and operable. He has to be able to sit in his weapon pit all night during an attack, hold his mates as they die, act as forward scout in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger. He has to be in top physical condition existing on ration packs and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands."

The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pair of hands....no way."

The Lord says, "It's not the hands that are causing me problems. It's the 3 pair of eyes a Vet has to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his mates, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, "You'll make it"... when he knows he won't."

"Lord, rest, and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord. "Not until I have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 meters during a heavy contact, calm the fears of the latest reo and feed a family of 4 on a diggers pay"

The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?"

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can quote much of the relevant TOETs, understands Duty First', knows what 'Quo Fas Et Gloria Ducunt' means, recite all his rules of engagement, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Kiwi's back home to discuss the morality of the War and all the while, keep

his sense of humour."

The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spat on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones for which he fought."

Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak...I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear." "What's the tear for?" asked the angel.

"It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the New Zealand flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with its' demons with no one to care or help."

"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear.

The lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity's distant shores.

"I didn't put it there," He said.

Sourced from: 173D Airborne Brigade Association, Representing the 1RAR Group 1965-66, Southern Hemisphere Chapter's Magazine, VOL # 3 Issue # 29

Notices for the Labour Weekend Reunion in Brown's Bay

NZ Defence Service Medal Presentation. There will be a short medal presentation ceremony held after the AGM at about 11.45am on Sat 22 October at the ECB RSA by the Col Comdt Col Barry Dreyer. So if you have not yet had your NZ DSM presented formally, please let Bernie (Secretary, rnza.association@gmail.com) know if you would like to be included in this presentation ceremony. You will need to bring your medal with you to the AGM.

If you are eligible but have not yet received your medal, please go on-line and type in 'apply for NZ Defence Service Medal'. The application forms are all there with very clear instructions on what has to be done. Time is getting short, so don't delay.

Please note, you have to apply and bring the medal with you to the AGM.

161 Battery returns to South Korea

Exercise JASCO BLACK (EX JB) is an enduring bi-lateral exchange exercise between 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (5th ANGLICO), USMC, and 16 Fd Regt, RNZA. EX JB is conducted bi-annually, with each unit/nation hosting an event during a calendar year. For 16 Fd Regt; the relationship provides access to Close Air Support (CAS), along with 5th ANGLICO personnel who can pass on a wealth of experience in employment of this capability.

In early 2016, EX JB was hosted by 5th ANGLICO in the Republic of South Korea (ROK). The exercise saw the deployment of 60 personnel from 161 Bty in a dismounted mortar ORBAT. 161 Bty preparation for EX JB 16-1 started in Jan 16, with a deliberate training programme to ensure 161 Bty was ready for deployment to ROK. This included simulation training in IFOT for the JFTs and intensive dismounted mortar TTPs for the mortar line. The training culminated in a week long dismounted LFX in Waiouru; with external assessment from 16 Fd RHQ and the School of Artillery.

161 Bty flew to ROK in a RNZAF 757 Boeing, arriving in Pohang, home of the ROKMC Division. The Bty immediately started training in challenging and cold conditions with 7/3 ROKMC infantry Battalion.

The next stage of the deployment was an LFX activity which saw the coordination of CAS, 161 Bty mortars and 7/3 Battalion. This exercise proved that the RNZA is capable of interoperability and cooperation with both the USMC and the ROKMC.

161 Bty then embarked on two ROK Navy ships as part of Exercise Ssangyong (EX SY) 16. EX SY is a major multinational, amphibious exercise held every two years in the ROK. 161 Bty provided direct support to 7/3 Battalion, ROKMC, whilst still under the ANGLICO joint fires umbrella which enabled access to US CAS assets. 161 Bty conducted both amphibious assault and air mobile from ship to shore in support of the ROKMC. Once on land 161 Bty continued to provide direct support to 7/3 ROKMC Battalion's seizure of an airfield objective and dismounted clearance operations within the Battalion AO.

The deployment concluded with a 161 Bty visit to the DMZ, Seoul and a battlefield tour to Kapyong; a significant location from 16 Fd Regt's participation in the Korean War.



161 Bty— mortar drills in Pohang, ROK



161 Bty— LFX in Pohang, ROK



161 Bty embarking on the ROK ship DOCKDO





A JFT Commander arrives on shore in an USMC Osprey



EX SY fleet assembles



161 Bty participates in the amphibious beach assault



BC 161 Bty Maj Patterson presents a patu to Maj Miramontes, 5th ANGLICO, in Pohang, ROK at the conclusion of EX JB

A Young Infantry Officer

A young infantry officer in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a Gunner below. He descended a bit more and shouted: "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a fellow officer I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am". The Gunner below replied "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude".

"You must be a Battery Surveyor." said the balloonist. "I am" replied the Gunner "how did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you have told me is probably technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip with your talk."

The Gunner below responded, "You must be an officer". "I am" replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the Gunner "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fucking fault!"

Keep sharp in retirement !

As we slowly move through (or into) retirement, we need to keep ourselves occupied with small projects. Like this guy!



I know, I saw it right away too.... No safety glasses or hearing protection.

And I caught something else that is really important: He has no gloves on.

I might be up in age but I am still sharp as a tack.

Memorial Day, 2016

Words from Colonel Ken Smith US Army Retired

Today is a bitter sweet day for many.

Today we recall in a special way our comrades who fell in battle.

While we mourn their loss, we also remember the good times we shared with them; their courage, their wit, their wisdom and their friendship.

Sadly, from the ranks of the 1,738 Sky Soldiers who fell in combat, we will never know what great leaders, scientists, doctors, clergy, teachers, musicians and artists were lost to us and our nation.

As we recall what Sky Soldiers accomplished in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, the voices of those no longer in our midst are heard from years past.

They do not call us to remember their deeds -- for we will never forget what they did.

Their voices cry out instead for us to remember their legacy.

The lasting legacy of Sky Soldiers is not one of combat and captured hills, of missions accomplished or awards received.

Instead it is one of unbelievable courage, of commitment, sacrifice, and love of country.

Those of us whose lives were spared have this as the cost of our unique legacy.

More information for the Labour weekend reunion:

Widows invited to Dinner. We would like to make sure that member's widows are not forgotten, and so we have a 'Special Deal' of \$65.00 for attendance at the dinner only. If anyone knows of any members widows who may be interested in attending, please make contact with both them and Bernie.

Auckland Gunners. Sometimes attendance at these functions by the 'locals' is less than it could be. We would like to encourage as many locals to attend as possible, and for that reason we have set a dinner-only price at \$80.00. So if the out-of-town activities are of no interest, please don't switch off the whole weekend, come along to the dinner and bring as many other gunners as you can find. If the sun is shining and the fish are biting out in the Gulf, you can still enjoy Labour weekend and the dinner!.

The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

2016 Reunion and AGM

21-23 October 2016

East Coast Bays RSA—Browns, Bay, AUCKLAND

It is with great pleasure that the Northern Gunners invite you to attend the **2016 Annual General Meeting and Reunion**, over Labour Weekend 2016. The venue is the **East Coast Bays RSA**. It stands in the seaside suburb of Browns Bay, on Auckland's North Shore. The beach is a few minutes' walk away.

This RSA is well-appointed and sited close to the local shopping area. Albany Mall and Takapuna are within reach. The bus service is good and free for some. Various accommodation options are within easy driving distance of the RSA.

The **Programme** (subject to change) is as follows:

Friday :	1600 – 1900 Hrs	Registration & Nibbles – RSA
		Q Store sales & Raffles
		Dinner – own arrangements
Saturday :	1000 hrs	Morning Tea - RSA
	1030	AGM – RSA
	1000–1200 hrs	Partners activity – to be held at the same time as the AGM locally within an easy stroll of the RSA. (subsidised)
		Lunch – own arrangements
	1330 hrs	Optional Tour- Bus departs for the Auckland War Memorial Museum, which has many exhibits, including “NZ War Stories” Cost \$20.00
	1630hrs	Bus returns to RSA
	1800 for 1830	Semi Formal Dinner at RSA. Minimum Dress: Jacket & Tie – miniatures to be worn if appropriate
Sunday:	1000hrs	Memorial Service
	1030	Morning Tea

The cost is **\$105.00** per head, for all activities except for the Partners activity and the Optional Tour on Saturday afternoon.

Gunners are welcome to attend the **Dinner only** on the Saturday evening at **\$80.00** per head

A Registration Form is attached. Payment in full is required at the time of Registration. Registrations close on **Sunday 2 October 2016**.

For all enquires please contact: rnza.association@gmail.co.nz

Registration form

No attending: _____ Initials & Surname: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ (mobile preferred)

Service No: _____ Active Service Theatre & dates: _____

Names for Name Tags: _____

Registration Fee: \$105.00 per person includes all activities except for "Optional Tour". Dinner **only:** \$80.00 per person. Tour: \$ 20.00

Please indicate numbers attending:

Day	Event	Numbers Attending
Fri 21 Oct	1600 Registration/Meet & Greet	_____
Sat 22 Oct	AM 1000 Morning Tea	_____
	1030 AGM	_____
	1000 Partners Activity (subsidised)	_____
	PM 1330 Optional Tour (Cost \$20.00)	_____
	1800 Semi Formal Dinner	_____
Sun 23 Oct	1000 Memorial Service	_____
	1030 Morning tea	_____

Please note any Special Dietary requirements _____

Tick the Method of Payment:

_____ I have paid \$ _____ by Direct Credit to the RNZA Assn 's Kiwibank account (38 9007 0694501 00)

Ensure your name is recorded with Reunion in reference box.

Fill out the Registration form on www.rnzaa.org.nz and return by email or post.

_____ My cheque for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Mail cheque with this form completed to: RNZA Assn, 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010

Contact details: rnza.association@gmail.com

Registrations close on Sunday 2 October 2016

Healing a battle-scarred mind

Scientists went searching for the causes of post-traumatic stress disorder and came back with an unlikely answer: the immune system.
Brett Szmajda reports.

Daniel* deployed to Iraq aged 24. He thought he was invincible. His first firefight was intoxicating and Daniel quickly became the sort of squad leader everyone looked up to – unshakeable, the first into the line of fire. The problems began after one of Daniel's squad took a bullet to the face.

A couple of weeks later Daniel and his squad were en route to an engagement when panic overwhelmed him: his heart pounded, he couldn't breathe and he was so dizzy he had to brace against the door of the Humvee. Fortunately no one in his squad seemed to notice. Daniel wiped clammy hands down the sides of his pants, forced himself to breathe and focus on the mission ahead.

Three months into his tour of duty, Daniel was acting erratically. On one occasion he opened fire before the order was given; on another he froze. He told combat stress medics that he felt numb, that he was losing his grip on reality. Counselling didn't help. They sent Daniel home.

Daniel's family found that a different person had returned to them. Someone who flew into an explosive rage when a Jehovah's Witness knocked at the door; someone who shrank from crowded streets or malls. Daniel's war had not ended. Cut off in traffic, he was back in the Humvee as it lurched after an explosion. Sleeping next to his wife, he tasted the blood of his fallen comrade. More than anything else, Daniel wanted to forget – but that was the one thing that he seemingly could not do.

Two million American troops have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. Various studies estimate that between 8-13% will be diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For most people, a traumatic event will leave them in shock and re-living their terror. In time, however, the memory of the event becomes dissociated from the "life and death" feeling that went with it. But not for people with PTSD. They may be out of danger but any slight trigger pushes the replay button. Instead of getting better with time, they get worse.

After both World Wars, the common term for soldiers' trauma was "shell shock". In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, with huge numbers of veterans unable to readjust to normal life, the term PTSD entered the lexicon. PTSD is not only a huge problem for the military. In the 21st century, the theatre of war has relocated to our streets and coffee shops. And then there are the victims of natural disasters, violent attacks and rape. Women appear to be twice as susceptible to the disorder as men.

So far, predicting who will be smitten by PTSD has proved impossible. Why, for instance, can 10 soldiers in the same combat unit be exposed to the same traumatic events, yet only one develops PTSD?

Studies of those who live with the disorder are starting to give us answers. They point to a crucial dialogue between two parts of the body that were thought not to communicate: the brain and the immune system. That dialogue has now been established – and it provides a new way of understanding PTSD. As Indian neurobiologist Sumantra Chattarji put it, "it's a synergy people always suspected was there. This is an entire paradigm shift."

The hippocampus in the brain plays an important part in PTSD. Named for its resemblance to a seahorse, it is the brain's librarian – the hippocampus files away short-term experiences into long-term memory. It's also highly vulnerable: it disintegrates in Alzheimer's disease and shrinks in people exposed to chronic stress. Hints that differences in the hippocampus could predispose people to PTSD emerged when Mark Gilbertson and colleagues at Harvard Medical School decided to scan the brains of Vietnam vets suffering from the disorder. Sure enough, they revealed the hippocampus was noticeably smaller in those with PTSD. But the Harvard researchers thought to ask another question. Did those vets who developed PTSD have a smaller hippocampus to begin with? They found 40 veterans with twin brothers who didn't fight in the war. As they published in *Nature Neuroscience* in 2002, it turned out the untraumatised twins had a smaller hippocampus – like their traumatised brothers. So along with the colour of their eyes, the twins had also inherited an undersized hippocampus – and it seems a predisposition to PTSD.

The brain of a person with PTSD changes. In the hippocampus, which plays a role in sorting memories, circuits weaken. In the amygdala, which stores emotional memories, they grow stronger. Contrary to what we once believed, the cells of the immune system play a role in restoring the balance of the brain. – Anthony Calvert

It's a long way from the jungles of Vietnam to the white stone minarets, churches and synagogues of the Jerusalem hills. Nestled in one of the cobble-stoned streets in a leafy garden lies a colonial villa. Tranquil and romantic with its rose-gold limestone walls and green-shuttered windows, it appears to be a world apart from the conflicts of the day – until you read the plaque proclaiming your arrival at the Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Centre.

Jerusalem is far from peaceful. The City of Gold is also Israel's poorest city, a reflection of a demographic mix of ultra-religious, immigrant and Arab communities – and that 40% of the population is under the age of 14. The city also boasts the country's highest rate of stress disorders – often linked to terrorist attacks like those that targeted civilians in bus stops, city squares, pizza parlours and cafes in the early 2000s. That's the reason the children and adolescents of Jerusalem need the intervention centre.

Softly spoken child psychiatrist Esti Galili is the founding director. Daily she engages youngsters from her consulting room where a giant teddy bear and shelves of dolls and toys preside over the sessions. Soft skills are important but Galili is also at the forefront of bringing hard science to bear on the problems of PTSD.

Why are some children at more risk of developing the disorder than others? If there is a physiological basis, perhaps they might better be able to help the children; they might also be able to predict who will go on to develop the disorder.

That's how Galili came to collaborate with Ronen Segman, director of the National Institute of Psychobiology, based close to the intervention centre at Hadassah University Hospital. When questioned about the genetic markers of PTSD, Segman is cautious. "Human reactions are multifaceted and complex," he says, warning against distilling a complex disorder down to the action of a few genes. Nevertheless his studies over the past 10 years suggest that certain patterns of gene activity might be uniquely tied to PTSD – like a "fingerprint" for the condition.

An obvious place to start looking was the fight-or-flight response. Once aroused by danger, signals travel from the brain to the adrenal glands to release the stress hormones adrenalin and cortisone into the bloodstream. They prepare the body for action: the heart starts thumping and sugar pours into the bloodstream to fuel the muscles. Changes also occur in the brain. The stress starts chipping away at the connections in the hippocampus, while the connections in the amygdala – the part of the brain that stores emotional memories – grow stronger.

To find out if genes in the fight-or-flight pathway were different in PTSD sufferers, Segman and his colleagues recruited 24 people admitted to the emergency ward of Hadassah University Hospital after a traumatic event. One and four months later, the subjects were psychologically evaluated and blood samples taken. The signal strength of thousands of individual genes was gauged by measuring their output of so-called "messenger RNA".

Eight subjects showed symptoms of PTSD. Memories of explosions, dismembered bodies, screams and sirens, refused to fade. But were the emergency sirens inside their cells also blaring, unable to turn off? The results, published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry* in 2005, answered with a resounding "yes".

More than 650 genes had different signal strengths in those who developed PTSD compared with those who remained resilient. Like an intelligence agent tracking text messages, Segman could pick out familiar networks in the cellular data. As he'd guessed, many of these pathways related to the fight-or-flight response. One signal in particular came from a gene called FKBP5. (Later work by Rachel Yehudah and colleagues at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York also showed the same changes to this gene in people who developed PTSD after the September 11 attacks.)

But another activated pathway stood out. It was what you'd see when the cells of the immune system were being called to battle. So what does a system designed to fight microbes have to do with the development of PTSD? The question had Segman and his colleagues scratching their heads. The simplest explanation was that chronic stress was changing their immune systems – cortisol is well known to tamp down immunity. But Segman couldn't help wondering if the data was trying to tell him something else: could the unusual activity of the immune system explain why these people developed PTSD in the first place?

* * *

One person unsurprised by Segman's results was Michal Schwartz, now chairwoman of neuroimmunology at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science. Schwartz is small in stature, but big on passion – she speaks with an intensity underscored by nearly two decades of assaults on her scientific ideas.

"I was the first in the world to suggest that the immune system can help the brain," says Schwartz.

It was an assertion that tilted at one of medicine's most established beliefs: the immune system and the central nervous system (comprising the brain and spinal cord) supposedly led separate lives. The blood-brain barrier provided clear evidence for that belief. Immune cells execute their sorties via the bloodstream. Like five star generals, they merely flash their credentials (specific proteins on their surface) and squeeze through blood vessel walls into the target tissue. But if that target tissue happens to be the brain, access is denied. If they did gain access, disaster might ensue. Multiple sclerosis, for instance, is a disorder in which the immune system breaches the barrier and attacks the insulating sheath around brain cells.

The brain meanwhile carries out its own surveillance against microbial invaders via a domestic militia of cells called microglia. But microglia never cross out of the brain and the cells of the blood-borne immune system never cross in.

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Come commemorate and celebrate the forming of the RSA in Wellington 100 years ago.

The RNZRSA 100th National Council will be held at the Michael Fowler Centre on the 10 and 11 of October 2016.

Before this, on Sunday 9th October 2016 at 2pm, we will be holding a National ceremony at Pukeahu, the National War Memorial. Please put this in your diaries and newsletters!

There will be a parade of veterans and current serving personnel, followed by a wreath laying ceremony. We are hoping that the Chief of the Defence Force will be our Guest of Honour.

We encourage all veterans to participate in this parade to commemorate the forming of our organisation.

If you would like to march in the parade you just need to be at Pukeahu ready to form up in Tasman Street, by 1.30pm on the 9th October.

We will send out more details as the event comes closer.

For further information contact Bukit Hill at Bukithill@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 659 0679.

Operation Ubique—the restoration of old Artillery equipment



Tony McLeod, Grant Hayes, Tom Roche & an English tiffie





From page 15 Schwartz questioned the dogma. The blood-borne immune system was crucial for repairs in every other part of the body: the scab on your sore would not form without it. Might it not also help repair the central nervous system? In 1998, her lab tested the idea by injecting macrophages, one of the many types of immune cells found in the bloodstream, into the crushed spinal cords of mice. The result was stunning: the macrophages helped repair the damaged spinal cords.

Then they tested to see what effect the immune system might have on the brain's day-to-day functions – for instance the ability of mice to learn a maze. The classic test involves throwing them into a murky pool with a submerged platform. With the first dunk, the mice frantically swam around until their feet found the hidden platform. But with a bit of practice, they headed straight for safety – and they remembered their lesson. Schwartz did the test on mice with an impaired immune system that were missing T cells. It took them much longer to learn the position of the platform and the next day they appeared to have forgotten their lesson. The mice were also exceptionally jittery. When Schwartz fixed their immune system with a bone marrow graft, the slow learners came up to par. They also became much calmer.

How could the T cells of the immune system be affecting learning, memory and even stress responses?

Schwartz found a clue when she took a closer look at the brains of the mice with a defective immune system.

Mostly, the brain is rather poor at regenerating itself. But in 1998, Fred Gage and colleagues at California's Salk Institute discovered one part of the human brain can generate new cells in a process termed neurogenesis. That part turned out to be the librarian: the hippocampus.

So why, of all parts of the brain, is it the hippocampus that generates new cells? Is wiring new cells into the memory circuit the physical correlate of converting short-term to long-term memories? It turns out something more subtle is going on. The role of these new neurons is to help distinguish between memories that are closely associated – so called “pattern separation.”

In everyday life, this could influence such things as recalling where you parked the car this morning versus where you parked it yesterday morning. Or it could influence how a person recalls a traumatic event.

Many studies have shown that chronic stress dampens neurogenesis. And so, explains Gage, a soldier seeing his friends blown up will experience a slow-down in his production of new neurons. Even once returned to safety, fewer hippocampal neurons will make it harder for him to discriminate his memories: “He'll remember but he won't be able to separate the emotions then from the emotions now.”

Gage says that psychologists are taking advantage of the new research to try and boost neurogenesis in their patients while they try to layer a more positive association with the traumatic event. And one of the best ways of boosting neurogenesis, it turns out, is exercise. Mouse studies show that a month on a running wheel can boost the hippocampal brain cells of a mouse by up to 40%, says Gage. A stimulating environment, sex and anti-depressant drugs also boost neurogenesis – at least in mice.

And so does the immune system.

As Schwartz reported in 2006 in a paper in *Nature Neuroscience*, mice lacking T cells were not only slow learners, they were also worse at making new cells in the hippocampus.

The findings suggested some sort of crosstalk was going on between the immune system and the brain. Neurogenesis, learning and a normal stress response all seemed to rely on it. “That led us to think that the immune system is a partner in the maintenance of the brain,” summarised Schwartz. T cells normally home in on cells infected with viruses. But the T cells of the mice were travelling to the brain – which is what happens, to devastating effect, in autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis. Schwartz coined a new term for the paradoxical behaviour of the T cells: “protective autoimmunity”.

To make sense of all this requires taking a broader view. An immune system is an army but it can be commanded to do battle or carry out disaster relief. Schwarz believes that a stressed brain needs the immune army to provide the disaster relief. Seared by the chronic effects of cortisol, the stressed brain ends up activating the resident microglia. As if responding to an infection, they release toxins that inflame the surrounding tissue and hamper neurogenesis. Toning down the microglia and mopping up the damage relies on the support services of cells from the blood-borne immune system.

How do they breach the blood-brain barrier? The Schwartz lab found the entry point in 2013: the choroid plexus. It's a leaky set of structures near the base of the brain that during injury provides a back door for cells of the immune system. T cells can also relay their messages via the back door without actually passing through.

* * *

Segman's studies in people have continued to implicate the immune system in traumatic stress disorders. More recently his

studies have focused on a related disorder – post-partum depression. With one in seven new mothers at Hadassah Medical Centre suffering clinical depression, it is a serious problem. But the sheer number also provides Segman with plenty of subjects to study. He found a clear difference in the blood of women who will go on to develop depression – they show activation of genes known to rouse the immune system just 48 hours after giving birth.

Segman has also been tracking the survivors of the Jerusalem suicide bomb attacks. First seen by Esti Galili and her team more than a decade ago, they are now in their early 20s. Some have proved resilient; others developed chronic PTSD. How their immune systems differ is yet to be fully deciphered.

“We are still lacking biomarkers that would allow us to predict who will go on to develop chronic PTSD and we do not know how to prevent its development during the immediate time window after trauma,” Segman says. He hopes that the soon to be published long-term data set from the residents of Jerusalem will help clarify what distinguishes the immune systems of the resilient from the vulnerable.

* * *

Many soldiers still suffer from the lingering spectre of PTSD – not only Iraq and Afghanistan veterans such as Daniel; even Vietnam War veterans still report symptoms. More than a third of PTSD sufferers will never fully recover. “There generally seems to be low efficacy for medications or psychotherapy,” says Segman. Yet billions have been spent on various treatments according to a 2014 report from the US Institute of Medicine.

Could manipulating the immune system provide a remedy?

Schwartz has found that a vaccine that recruits immune cells to the brain for a limited time makes mice perform better in stressful situations – cat odours don’t petrify them and loud noises are less startling. When it comes to people, Schwartz speaks of a new immune-modulatory treatment her lab is developing that would also recruit immune cells to the back door of the brain. She suggests that if used in the hours after a trauma, it might be the beginning of a treatment to prevent the development of PTSD; a treatment that might be used to slow the procession of victims making their way to Galili’s Crisis Centre.

Or it could be used prophylactically for those about to be exposed to traumatic situations. One in 10 soldiers risk becoming debilitated by PTSD. Before deploying, they might be given a preventative “booster” to make them more stress resilient. “This is our vision,” says Schwartz.

**Daniel is not his real name.*

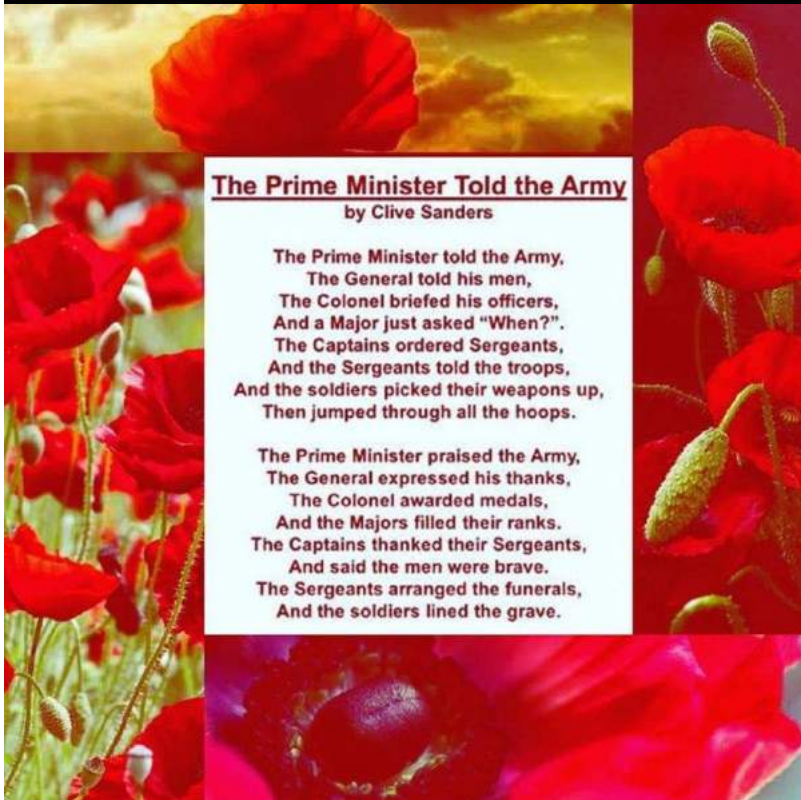
This article appeared in Cosmos 62 - Apr-May 2015 under the headline Shadows on the mind." Go to: cosmosmagazine.com



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One day, three officers were hiking together and unexpectedly came upon a wide, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so.

The Air Force Squadron Leader called out to God, praying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river."

POOF!

God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across. It did, however, take him more than an hour and he almost drowned a couple of times.

Seeing this, the Navy Commander prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and tools to cross this river."

POOF!

God gave him a rowboat and oars. He was able to row across but it still took almost an hour, it was very rough, and he almost capsized several times.

The Infantry Subaltern saw how things worked out for the other two, so when he prayed to God, he said, "Please God, give me the strength, tools, and the intelligence to cross this river."

POOF!

God turned him into a Lance Bombardier. He looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, and walked across the bridge.

What Happens to Your Partner When You Die?

The following article was lifted from an Australian Veterans newsletter and has been adapted to suit NZ conditions. The advice given here is intended to be general in purpose and should not be regarded as definitive – you are strongly advised to seek assistance from your RSA or WINZ or Veterans Affairs or any other government department to ensure life after the death of your partner goes as smoothly as possible.

David Weston tells me of a small "war" story but true - the wife of one of the 161 Bty guys KIA in Vietnam only had a joint account in Papakura - as soon as her husband's death was notified (in the paper) the bank froze that account. It took several weeks for the whole situation to be sorted, and in that time, she had to borrow money to keep the house and family going!!

Arrangements put in place now will save your partner grief and effort when the time comes.

Some Issues to Consider Now

Personal Bank Accounts. Most banks freeze joint accounts on the death of a signatory. Your partner will need an account IN THEIR OWN NAME before they can receive WINZ or VA benefits. It would therefore be prudent for both you and your partner now to each have one account in your own name.

WILLS, POWER OF ATTORNEY and ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY. Every adult over the age of eighteen should have a current Will and have completed Powers of Attorney. These should be kept in a secure place, the location of which is known to your Partner and at least one Executor; they should be updated on a regular basis, for example every 5 years

You may need two separate Powers of Attorney – one for Property matters (including finance), and the other for Personal Care and Welfare (which covers medical matters).

Remember that your Powers of Attorney may be needed by your partner at any time, e.g., if you are incapacitated due to even temporary medical care. Having Powers of Attorney means that your partner can pay bills, attend to your affairs and give instructions about your medical treatment if you are unable to do so.

A copy of your Service Record kept with these documents is also advisable.

Funeral Arrangements. Each partner should know the other's choice of funeral arrangements, have them written down and preferably kept with the Wills.

Routine Household Bills. Keep a list, or even just a file, of regular accounts and direct debits (e.g. rates, security systems, home and content insurances, vehicle insurance, health insurance, phone and mobile providers, internet service providers, water, gas and electricity). How and when they are paid and the approximate amounts will save your partner distress and uncertainty, particularly if he/she is not in the habit of handling those particular accounts. Preferably, both partners should be equally familiar with arrangements for paying household accounts.

These days it is particularly important that your partner can access and terminate such accounts either over the phone or via the Internet, so they will need your log-ins: usernames and passwords. You will be amazed how many you have and how often you, and therefore your partner, will need to be able to access them!

A list of trusted tradesmen, or their fridge magnets on the fridge door, can be a great help.

Club and Association Memberships. An up to date list of organizations of which you are a member, along with your membership numbers and their addresses, will be a help. Your partner may need, or wish, to become a member of some of them. It can also be very distressing for your partner to keep receiving mail from such organisations addressed to you personally long after you are gone.

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To purchase contact :
rnza.association@gmail.com

THE BRONZE GUNNER

COLONEL COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, fellow Gunners and families.

We have been working with the RNZA Heritage Trust and the NZ Defence Official Artist, Captain Matt Gauldie RNZA, to develop a distinctly Kiwi Gunner trophy of some impact and value. The result is this wonderful bronze of a gunner in action on his gun.

This is being produced by Captain Gauldie in a limited edition of fifty, each individually finished, signed and numbered.

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

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

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

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

Ubique

Barry Dreyer

Colonel Commandant Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery

Some Strange History of WWII—continued

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a big mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).

8. Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

Veterans' Entitlements. Your partner may be entitled to benefits from Veterans' Affairs, but to apply she/he will need documentation and proof of your Military Service. You should establish your partner's possible entitlements prior to their needing them, i.e., while both of you are still alive and can explain your circumstances. Collating this information NOW and having it on hand will greatly assist in any applications to VA. (Note: A Gold Card is not transferable. However if a widow is granted a War Widows pension, she will be entitled to her own Gold Card).

Other Matters To Consider For The Newly Bereaved

Based on my past experiences, the following are just some of the issues you should be aware that your newly bereaved partner may face. They will need to be dealt with by your partner and your executor at a stressful time, so any forward planning will be appreciated. The information is neither definitive nor applicable in all cases but is intended as a guide. Further details should be sought from your solicitor, or the relevant Government Departments.

Your Winz Benefit. Upon notification of the death of a recipient of a WINZ benefit, WINZ will cease payment until the necessary forms, correctly filled out, are submitted. Only then will the partner receive her/his entitlements, paid into an account IN HER/HIS OWN NAME.

Children. If there are dependent children and/or full time students, additional pension benefits may be payable. Documents required will include copies of the Marriage Certificate and the Death Certificate (though a copy of a newspaper notification of death may be accepted until the Death Certificate is available).

Marital Separation For a variety of reasons including dementia or invalidity, you and your partner may have needed to live separately for a period. Your partner may need written advice or a certificate from your doctor advising that the separation was for medical reasons before WINZ will commence your spouse's pension payment

Veterans' Entitlements. As mentioned previously, your partner will need to contact VA and be ready to provide the documentation required. If death was caused by a Service related injury (or the deceased was already in receipt of a VA pension) the partner may be entitled to a VA pension. As also mentioned previously, check on the possible entitlements prior to needing them, i.e. while both of you are still alive. Contact the VA, RSA, or other Veterans' Associations for further information. If there are entitlements to any other compensation payments these need to be submitted as soon as possible. Entitlements for dependent children may also be payable.

Banking. As also advised above, your partner will need an account IN HER/HIS OWN NAME. Some bank loans may be written off if insurance for the loan was paid. A signature of the surviving partner and/or your executor may need to be pre-recorded with the bank to allow ready access to some bank security boxes.

The House. After a required period of time (usually 28 days) a house in joint names may be transferred to the surviving Joint owner upon application to the relevant Titles Office. Documentation required may include copies of the Marriage Certificate, Death Certificate and the Will, and Title documents. The house and contents insurance policies will need to be transferred to a single name.

The Car. Your car can be transferred to your partner if he/she is the sole beneficiary of the Will. Ideally, the family car should be registered in both names. Insurance companies may need to be advised of any change of car ownership.

Tax Returns. A (final) tax return will need to be lodged with the IRD on behalf of the deceased's estate. Upon probate, the estate can be distributed to any beneficiaries, and sufficient money needs to be set aside to meet any final tax obligations. This will usually be arranged by your executor.

CLUBS, MEMBERSHIPS, And SUBSCRIPTIONS. All the deceased's memberships will need to be cancelled. Refunds may be payable. As with tax returns, centrally kept records will help manage these matters.

Private Health Insurance. Benefits may be payable from private health insurers. Future premiums may be reduced, particularly if the family rate reduces to the single rate, so the health fund must be informed of the death.

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Chateau Roche

From page 23POWER OF ATTORNEY and ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY. The continuing validity of these may vary. In general, the surviving partner should have a new Will and Powers of Attorney drawn up. After all, he or she has just lost you, their partner, who was probably central to their previous Will and Powers of Attorney. A solicitor should be contacted to assist in the revision of the Will of the surviving partner and the raising of a new Enduring Power of Attorney.

Contracts. The current trend towards contracts for mobile phones, Internet, security systems and the like can cause problems. These may have to be paid out in full. Some contracts may need to be re-negotiated or transferred to the surviving partner. Your partner needs to be able to access all relevant account details, passwords, etc, to be able to avoid running up further bills.

Finally I advise that the newly bereaved keep an exercise book to record all business phone calls etc made after the partner's death. In the fog of grief, memory can be faulty and a record of calls and decisions made will be very useful. Relatives and friends may make decisions and arrangements on her/his behalf and trying to remember all these will be difficult. A copy of all correspondence and forms completed and kept in an accordion file is an added bonus.

Nothing in this article is intended to be classified as expert advice - these are just some of the issues that may arise if your partner pre-deceases you and some thought and time spent now will be of immense help to you or your partner in the future.



Locals filling sandbags

And so it came to pass in an Ancient Land far away that a young Kiwi dreamt of leaving his mark on this land for all to see and for it to stand for all time as a tribute to his efforts and thoughts that were on a monumental scale.

In other words a certain young Kiwi Officer, who was filling in as Admin Officer at the time, noticed that the Watch Tower that the Troops used 24 hours a day was slowly disintegrating and he decided that a brand new watch tower should be built for the Unit and also so that he could place his mark on the local countryside.

He dreamt up the design, gathered the required supplies, nicking some as needed, (this was the Hydraulic Bty) and arranged a small workforce which henceforth would be eternally known as "The Black Hand Gang" as they came from all over the Battery, with quite a lot from "The Dirty 13 Trucking Company" and various others that were earmarked as "good navvies".

Let's see, there was the late Ken Edwards, Wally Conza, Rick Edwards, Billy "The Gnome" Douglas, Sel Johnson, The Farrell, Pete Le Noel, Trevor Duncan, Graham Gordon and others whose names have faded from memory but who will, on reading this, proudly step forward to be acknowledged. Oh yes and of course this writer described by some as a reprobate Gunner..

Well this young fellow with that toothy Catholic Grin, put this mob to work, first putting 2 connexes side by side on the site, one was to become the small arms store and the other our very own "Lock Up". Air Vents were cut into the door so the poor unfortunates who found themselves incarcerated could breathe.

Then came a frame of timbers using 6 x 6 or was it 8 x 8 timbers acquired from some unknown source. I can vividly remember hammering in some 9 inch Bridging Spikes to hold the 'Top Plates' in position. Shit my thumb is still flattened to this day where I missed a stroke or two. Right after having erected this skeleton frame there came some wire mesh to make up a base for hundreds of sand bags which provided the structure or more importantly the fellows behind them with some security.

These sand bags came from a pit down by the old buildings known as "The French Fort", we had them filled by the local population for 1 Piastre a bag from memory, there was truck load after truck load, I reckon I carried and laid some 2986 bags myself and all the others did a similar amount. See the photo on page 5.

All the time we were under the constant watchful gaze of this young Officer who had us slave away from dawn till

dusk till the structure was completed to his satisfaction.

In fact this young officer was so popular with the troopies that the job was completed poste haste and in record time without incident or having to resort to strikes or demarcation disputes. Such was the regard that the boys held him in.

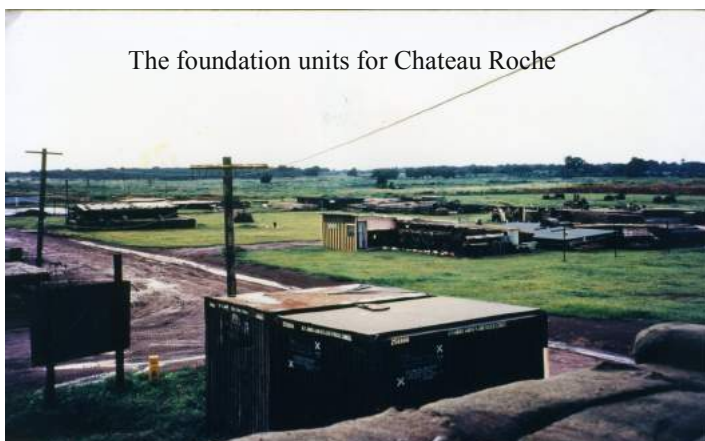
Steps were placed at the back of the structure and the armament at that time was an M60 Machine Gun plus a M79 Grenade launcher and a Heavy Barrel Auto SLR. Two Gunners were in the tower at all times 24/7 and they had their own SLR's as well. I believe at some later time a 50 cal Browning was added.

Not long after the Tower was completed "Kiwi Keith" the PM at the time paid a visit and he was taken up the steps to have a look out over the countryside, you could say that he did "The Official Opening" if you like.

One frequent visitor to the tower usually in the middle of the night, wanting to catch the poor bloody sentries asleep was our beloved BSM, "Barbed Wire Jack" renown for his impressive displays of barbed wire around the Battery Area and all Fire Bases that the Battery found themselves in.

You could hear "Jack" coming for miles before he got there as he was fond of singing a tune called "We are fighting for the Bastard Sigmund Rhee". It is thought that he was remembering another War that he had fought some years before. "Jack" would normally trip on the second or third step. Now I am not suggesting for a moment that he was affected by copious quantities of "Lunatic Soup" dispensed in the Sgt's Mess, but it was dark and it was easy for him to trip up, as a matter of fact he had a bit of a reputation of being able to fall into any pit or up against any barbed wire entanglement hence his nickname.

I don't think the tower was ever given a proper name but I like to refer to it as "The Chateau Roche" or "Toms Tower" some of you will have your own favourite name for it.



Hands up those of you who remember these lovely creatures



Comfort stop on the return from Vung Tau



I have it on good authority that these will be issued to all troops required to serve in a tropical environment

Some of us miss the old kind of (Yiddish) humour. Not a single swear word in their comic routines as shown below:

A car hit an elderly Jewish man. The paramedic says, "Are you comfortable?" The man says, "I make a good living."

I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.

I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years. If my wife finds out, she'll kill me!

Someone stole all my credit cards, but I won't be reporting it. The thief spends less than my wife did.

We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops.

My wife and I went to a hotel where we got a waterbed. My wife calls it the Dead Sea .

My wife and I revisited the hotel where we spent our wedding night. This time I was the one who stayed in the bathroom and cried.

My wife was at the beauty shop for two hours. That was only for the estimate. She got a mudpack and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.

The Doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so the doctor gave him another six months.

The Doctor called Mrs. Cohen saying, "Mrs. Cohen, your check came back." Mrs. Cohen replied, "So did my arthritis!"

Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!" Patient: "I AM 60!" Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"

A doctor held a stethoscope up to a man's chest. The man asks, "Doc, how do I stand? The doctor says, "That's what puzzles me!"

Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears. " Doctor: "Don't answer!"

A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says, "You've been brought here for drinking. The drunk says, "Okay, let's get started."

A man called his mother in Florida . "Mom, how are you?" "Not too good," said the mother. "I've been very weak." The son said, "Why are you so weak?" She said, "Because I haven't eaten in 38 days." The son said, "That's terrible. Why haven't you eaten in 38 days?" The mother answered, "Because, I didn't want my mouth to be full in case you should call."

A Jewish man said that when he was growing up, they always had two choices for dinner - Take it or leave it.

A Jewish boy comes home from school and tells his father he has a part in the play. He asks, "What part is it?" The boy says, "I play the part of the Jewish husband." The father scowls and says, "Go back and tell the teacher you want a speaking part."

Friends

CIVILIAN FRIENDS - Disown you for running around their house naked in front of a bunch of people none of you have ever met before

MILITARY FRIENDS - Take photos and then join you
CIVILIAN FRIENDS- Think it's disgusting that you got so drunk you pissed your pants and drowned the phone in your pocket - in their bed

MILITARY FRIENDS-Upon hearing what happened say "That's fucked - that's why I don't sleep with my mobile in my pocket anymore" and help you turn their mattress over

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you are too busy to talk to them for a week

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after many years; and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Never ask for food

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are the reason you have no food

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr and Mrs

MILITARY FRIENDS: Call your parents Mum and Dad

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Bail you out of jail and then tell you what you did was wrong

MILITARY FRIENDS: Would be sitting next to you saying, 'Mate...we fucked upbut what a giggle

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry

MILITARY FRIENDS: Cry with you

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you

MILITARY FRIENDS: Could write a book with a shed full of direct quotes from you

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that is what the crowd is doing

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will kick the backsides of whole crowds that left you behind

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Would knock on your door

MILITARY FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, 'I'm home, got any beer!

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Share a few experiences.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Share a lifetime of experiences no civilian could ever dream of.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You had better drink the rest of that, don't waste it." Then they carry you home and put you safely to bed.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will knock the crap out of people
who use your name in vain

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know where you buried the body

MILITARY FRIENDS: Helped you bury the body

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will call you 'mate' as a term of
endearment

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will call you a 'wanker' 'c*#t or
'tossler' as a term of endearment

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while.

MILITARY FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this

MILITARY FRIENDS: Will forward this to their military
mate

The Dunny Out The Back

This sophisticated piece of Aussie literature was written, as a joke, by Dick Hill, however, his brother George, after reading the poem added some of his own verses and it was decided to have it printed and try out the market place, just to see if other intellectuals, like the "Hill Brothers" would like such a poem hanging behind the door of the most important room in their home.

Many of us older Kiwi's will well remember the Dunny out the back—never forgetting some of the monuments to Kiwi ingenuity we had whilst out in the field.

They've destroyed our Aussie heritage, remember that old shack?

Now it's inside, called a toilet, 'twas the Dunny out the back
We've lost too much of bygone days, it's progress, you'll
here 'em say,
But they'll never know how the dunny helped to pass the
time away

They came in different sizes, some a two-hole stand.
Perched above a big, deep hole, poo-looted, but never bland.
It's awkward when you visit, whisper, "Where's the toilet,
Jack?"

For, when it was a dunny, it was always out the back.

We never had a toilet roll hooked on a silver ring,
Only squares of old newspaper tied up with a piece of string
The jokes were old, the ones we told, of kids in old Lock-
hardt,
About poor old Dan, the dunny man, with his horse and
dunny cart.

I had to walk my sister to the dunny one dark night,

She was doubled up with gastric and in an awful
plight.

As she walked in to the dunny she let out an awful
howl,

For, sitting on the wooden seat was a sleepy big
grey owl.

Well, sister left that dunny about the speed of
light,

And the owl left us a message to prove he got a
fright

The walk was often muddy from the dunny to the
gate,

But ya met the nicest people if the job in hand
could wait.

The red backs might attack ya, there was nothing
much to fear,

They always sneaked up from the back, so you'd
just protect ya rear.

The local rag was there to read. Had my first
smoke in the shack.

The news was never 'Stop Press' stuff, in the
dunny out the back.

Unique, our little dunny was, borrowed money
from the bank,

Made from corrugated iron just like a water tank.
Modern housewives have a problem keeping
toilets fresh and clean,

But when it was a dunny, folks could smell where
you had been.

It just doesn't seem to be the same, the acoustics
seem too good,

Don't enjoy it like a dunny although I know I orta
should.

I'm leaving this city's rat race, where a dunny's
called a loo,

Back to the bush and buy some land out back of
Dunedoo!!



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

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

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Andrew Donellan, Peter Miles & Maaka McKinney

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

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

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

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

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

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

Muzzle Flashes items to Skin at: **muzzleflashesnz@gmail.com**

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

Items for Gunner News to David at: **davidwbahler@gmail.com**

RNZA Assn Bank: **Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00**

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