



The New Zealand Gunner

Official Journal of the

Royal New Zealand Artillery Association (Inc)

Founded 1934

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Dated March 2014

1. PRESIDENTS REPORT

A great reunion in Palmerston North last October has been followed by a relatively quiet period for the committee as we gather our energy for the year ahead.

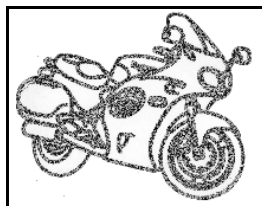
In addition to the regular calendar of events ie ANZAC Day, Gunners Day, AGM/ Reunion and St Barbara's Day, this year we will also be looking at commemorating the 80th Birthday of the RNZA Association and the 150th year since the 'Acceptance' of 'A' Battery in Auckland. The Annual Reunion will be held in Wellington in November and an organising committee under David Weston has already started its planning. It is through this calendar of events that we perform our real role; that of maintaining contact with our fellow gunners, and thereby identifying those who may be in need of our help. So if you get involved with these activities you are doing your bit to help in our welfare aims. I urge all gunners to 'get involved'.

Mike Dakin has decided to hand over his duties on the committee, and we are very lucky to have Skin Frances step into the role of webmaster, and Peter Miles to become our new 'Support Adviser'. We will no doubt continue to get valued guidance from Mike, and we look forward to any fresh ideas Skin and Peter may bring to their roles.

I would also urge all members to spread the word to your fellow gunner about the website, and in particular registering themselves as members. We haven't yet got the 'deluge' of new members we had been expecting with membership being FREE, but its still early days.

Best wishes to you all for continuing comradeship. Get involved, attend the activities.

Ubique. Tony McLeod President, RNZA Assn



2. LAST POST

814386 **BELLAMY** John Philip
WO1 RNZA. Ex 161 Bty SVN
1969 BSM. Passed away at his
home in Nelson, on Tuesday 4
February 2014

HARGEST James Capt RNZA. Christchurch's paper for Tuesday, 14 January, 2014 had the notice for James Hargest. I worked under him in King Edward Barracks in 1970. At the time he was to me Captain Hargest. I didn't realize then that he was with the Guns in Korea. He was a lovely man to work for. Cheers Wayne Searle.

T465146 **HUGHES** William George (Bill),
RNZA, ex 161 Bty SVN, 1965 L/Bdr Dvr Op and
1970 L/Bdr Dvr Op, passed away at Whangarei,
on Tuesday 25 February 2014, aged 76.

206110 **TOFT** Terence John (Terry). Bdr RNZA
Korean War. Late of Dundowaran Beach. Passed
away 18 Dec aged 85 year.

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3. REPORT FROM COL COMDT

A. UBIQUE 300

I briefly mentioned Ubiq 300 in the December Newsletter. Ubiq 300 is the ceremony and celebrations around 26 May 2016, 300 years since founding of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. We now have some more information from the Master Gunner, particularly about *The Captain General's Baton*.

There will be a variety of events around May 2016, and we will get more detail on these later. The RNZA certainly hopes to be involved at least some of the U.K.'s ceremonial.

However, *The Captain General's Baton* will start well before that date. Essentially it is a round the world Gunner relay, delivering the *Baton* through all of the countries in which the respective Artillery's have been engaged. The aim is to develop an understanding of the 300 year milestone and an understanding of the history of the Royal Artillery, joining this with an adventure training challenge along the way.

The task will involve a west to east circumnavigation of the globe, starting in mid-2015 at the birthplace of the Royal Artillery in Woolwich, and finishing on 26 May, 2016 at the new home of the Royal Artillery at Larkhill in the United Kingdom.

The circumnavigation will be a relay involving in different ways all of the Royal Artillery Regiments, veterans and cadets, close allies and industry partners and the artillery Regiments and artillery veterans of the Commonwealth.

A specially designed baton, representing the 300 years, will be carried by the teams around the globe. It will contain a message of Loyal Greetings from the Regiment to the Captain General and will be presented to Her Majesty at the Larkhill Review on Gunners Day 2016. The Queen has agreed that the baton will bear her name as "*The Captain General's Baton*". It will subsequently become a trophy for sporting competition within the Royal Artillery.

The baton route will include all Commonwealth countries. The baton will be in our zone (primarily Australia, New Zealand and Fiji) in our early autumn 2016. It will deliver Loyal Greetings from Her Majesty and collect a message from us. The baton will go from our zone to the Americas from which it will depart in early May 2016 on the yacht *St Barbara V* to cross the Atlantic to the United Kingdom.

The actual route through our zone (stretching from Borneo to Fiji) will be indicated by the UK-based planners in May this year.

I have indicated to the Master Gunner on behalf of the RNZA Assn that we want to be active participants in the relay.

Most of the participation is likely to be from 16 Field Regiment and the CEO will appoint a Contact Officer to facilitate our involvement. However, I would encourage all retired gunners and

their supporters to think of ways that we can all be involved in.

We should be innovative and adventurous. We have important links to the artilleries in Fiji, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the United States, as well as to other Commonwealth nations from World War II and Korea. We should look to develop those linkages. As an example, one of the RA Regiments with Korean War experience is planning to skydive in California and visit the 11th Marine Regiment with whom 16 Field Regiment has also served. Another is to challenge a French Regiment to a race from North to South across Corsica. There should be plenty of ideas we can come up with.

Perhaps some of you older Gunners might like to redevelop contacts with 3/319 Arty, A Bty 2/35th, or A Bty 1/83rd Artys. There are also a lot of Royal Australian Artillery linkages we should develop.

Please put your thinking caps on, get together some ideas and let me know at b.dreyer@clear.net.nz, or let the Regiment's contact officer know when we have he or she appointed.

Ubiq. Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt, RNZA

B. RNZA Historical Trust

The Historical Trust was formed about 18 months ago. Broadly, its aim is to locate, identify, and record historical items belonging to the RNZA, the previous units that made up the RNZA, and their respective Unit Private Funds property. The trust will also receive historical items and artefacts that may be donated to the RNZA in the future.

The Trustees have been appointed representing the Regiment, the RNZA Association, and the wider community of gunners in New Zealand. There have been two meetings of Trustees, firstly to form the Trust and decide on the wording of the Trust Deed, and secondly to develop and trial some operating procedures around the recording of information.

In the last few months we have been given a range of important historic information. These range from Brig Harry Honnor's personal papers around the battle of Kapyong and the battle of Long Tan, through to the transcript of a soldier's diary from landing at Gallipoli through to the end of the First World War. We also have personal recollections of World War II and Vietnam gunners taken mostly from their diaries at the time.

The Trustees are meeting in April in Linton to develop some policies around the collection and storage of these and similar documents. Some of these documents (and ones we may get in the future) are important national items, so it is incumbent on the Trustees to both recognise this and to do something about that in terms of storage and access in the future.

It may well be that copies, transcripts or

digital copies are held in the Regiment and the originals go to the National Archives. That will be a decision of the Trustees in consultation with the donor.

More on this in the next Newsletter.

In the meantime, if you have something in your possession that may be important please talk to me, Regiment or Association committee on the matter. And, remember sometimes the smallest or most innocuous item can be the most important.

Ubique. Barry Dreyer, Col Comdt, RNZA

4. ANZAC DAY - Attendance by Members of the Royal Regiment RNZA

Contingents from the Royal Regiment will parade at:

161 Bty - Raglan

163 Bty - Paraparaumu

HQ Bty - Hunterville

11/4 Bty - Hamilton



5. VERCOE, George Walter Hugh ONZM, QSM

Congratulations to Hugh Vercoe on being appointed an 'Officer of the NZ Order of Merit' (ONZM) in the 2014 New Years Honours.

Hugh was Battery Commander of 4 (G) Mdm Battery from 1976-1982, and Mayor of the Matamata-Piako County (Waikato) from 1998-2013.

Well done Hugh, a great honour. The RNZA Association is very proud of your achievement.



6. PERSONEL RECORD OF AN OLD GUNNER - Cyril Hayden RNZA

I spent some time as a troop commander at Lyttleton on the reclaimed area where we had a bofors battery. Mostly things went smoothly except for one poor gunner who others complained didn't wash. They called him Dirty Dan. I brought him to the MO who stated the bloke had to be bathed, but Dirty Dan refused and it looked like resulting in a charge. When I questioned the boy on his own I found he suffered

with acne on the body and that he was sensitive about stripping to the buff in front of others. I took him to the nearby Naval ablutions, officers-for-the-use-of and let have the luxury of an officer's private bathroom. No further trouble.

Later I was posted to Dunedin to the 3.7 regiment there. At that time things were slack. Officers used to go out of camp any night they had no duty. On one occasion, when I was Orderly Officer, two girls were doing a stint on Radar picked up a blip just after 10pm. They ran the alarm bell.

There were only two officers in camp myself and another one-pipper who was acting Adjutant. I took off to the command post, checked the radar sighting, rang air force who advised they nothing airborne, nor had the civvy street blokes.

We locked onto the target and loaded HE119, but there was a problem or two:

1. He was flying at 30,000 feet and what with meteor we couldn't reach more that about 28,500.
2. Standing orders stated that we were only to open fire if an aircraft took hostile action (such as dropping a bomb or a spanner or something).

We had an English Warrant Officer who was standing alongside me and suggesting:

"Open fire at the booger, sir."

"He's not low enough, Sergeant-Major."

"Don't matter a stoof, sir. It'd wake up those bloodie civilians in this dump 'oo don't know there's a bleedin' war on!"

Needless to say I didn't follow the suggestion. It had an aftermath. After the war we found out that the aircraft was carried by a Japanese submarine off the coast. The recce aircraft flew over Dunedin and the pilot had orders not to drop a bomb unless he was fired upon!

While I was at Dunedin, the threat to New Zealand eased with the Battle of the Coral Sea and the pundits decided it was time we went overseas. We were given three alternatives:

1. We could transfer with our rank to Navy.
2. We could transfer with our rank to Air Force.

Only a few would be accepted for either of these as it would need a conversion course, unless any officer had had experience in one of the other services. We hadn't!

Or:

3. We could resign our commissions and we could be sent to 2NZEF with acting rank of sergeants.

As a group we discussed our futures and all decided we would not resign our commissions. About 20 of us were sent to Burnham Camp where we again interviewed, this time by the Camp Commandant. He asked us again to resign our commissions. Again we refused.

He then told us we would have to go overseas as acting sergeants (later altered to temporary-sergeants). We asked if that was an order. He said it was. We then said we would obey the order and we took down our pips and put up stripes

This later had repercussions. Somehow or other Churchill heard of this and sent a personal protest to the NZ Government. He argued that never in the history of British military history had an officer been reduced to the ranks other than by Court Martial or by his own request.

The wires evidently buzzed between Wellington and HQ 2NZEF in Italy for we then were all offered our commissions back, provided we transferred to Indian units. There may be one of two who did. I believe there were. But again most of us didn't want to leave our New Zealand units and we stayed with them. When we arrived overseas we were reduced to Bombardiers. Most of us crawled back through the ranks and some us were recommissioned. I became a GPOA with the rank of Sergeant. Later the unit (6 Fd Regt) was asked to appoint a Unit Historian and given the job with rank of Staff-Sergeant.

I spent some time at Ancora writing up the early history of the unit. I remember researching a number of stories with chaps who had served in the early days. One good story related a time in the desert when water was particularly scarce. The unit was advised by signal that the water trucks were on their way. A gunner in one troop immediately on hearing this soaked his dirty socks in the remainder of the water in his water tin. His troop then received another signal to say that the water truck had gone up on a mine, so the gunner concerned rescued his socks, strained the water and made tea with it.

This was too good a story not to record, but I had to have eye-witness accounts. I trailed the scent through 29 Battery, 30 and 48, but in spite of many a gunner who said he knew it happened to a bloke in the next Battery, I never could get confirmation.

I served with 6th Field from just before Cassino until we took the guns to Lake Trasameno for proof firing. While we were in the Cassino show we had a heavy American battery come in alongside us. I went over to see them and I was able to listen in to their fire orders on a spare headset. Line, range and target details came down and the gun was loaded. I will always remember the sequence of orders that followed:

Gun Officer: "She's ready, Al."

OP Officer: "Okay, Sy, let her go."

Gun Officer (to Gun Crew): "Okay boys, do it!"

The gun fired and there was dead silence for some seconds, until:

OP Officer: "I don't know where that one went, Sy."

Gun Officer: "Dunno where she went Al. She left here on time!"

Contrasted with the meticulous manner in which we passed fire orders this was typical Yankee freedom of expression. It wouldn't have done for the CRA, old boy!

After Trasameno I applied for and landed a job at Bari as an Official War Photographer (Warrant Officer Class II) and finished my war in that capacity.

When they called for officers back in New Zealand to establish a Territorial Force again, I went back and served with 13th Heavy AA Regiment with rank of Temporary Captain for a few years. I later, about 1948 applied for a short service commission in the Regular Force and served with the rank of Captain at Papakura with Artillery Wing generally with the AA branch, although I was posted to 161 Bty for a short time before I retired. I served three or four years and I formed a high opinion of those Regular NCOs handling the compulsory trainees.

This is maybe a not-so-brief biography of my gunner years, and I have not bothered to include school cadets as most of that time I was sergeant of the Grammar School Band.

**Regards 457077 Captain Cyril Joseph HAYDEN,
Served 1928-1949. Awarded the Efficiency Medal.**

7. MESSAGE FROM THE RNZA ASSN SECRETARY

A. Please note that there is a change in the Mailing address for the Association due to the P.O. Box being closed:

It is now : Royal New Zealand Artillery
Association
18 Walford Drive
ROTORUA 3010

This is for **all correspondence and payments.**

B. There has been some issues with SPAM on our "Membership Registration" on the website. We are working towards rectifying this at present.

C. When making payments to RNZAA Bank Account, please indicate clearly who the payment is from and what it is for. Just a Regimental No is NOT okay. If there are no details it will be classed as a donation !!!!

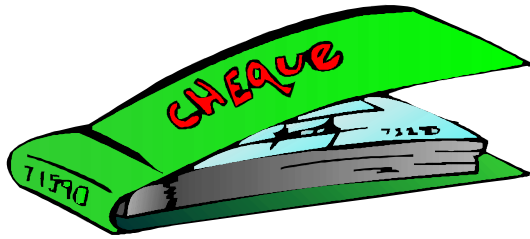
If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me on: rnza.association@gmail.com

Ubique. Bernie McCort, Sec RNZA Assn

PS - Payment of subs/donation:

To those who hold Associate Membership (those who have been attached to an RNZA Unit or have had a close affiliation therewith, or are close family of RNZA Gunners or are a Gunner of any nation around

the world) **plus** those who wish to receive their newsletter by post (snail mail) your \$20 sub/donation is now due for the 2014 year. For details as to how to pay can be viewed on the back page of this newsletter.



8. The Club With Cheap Beer And Pokies No Longer Focuses On The War Veterans Whose Names It Invokes - RSL Clubs now march to a different beat.

At 6.00 pm precisely and at more than 270 RSL clubs across New South Wales the staggered scraping backwards of chairs echoes as the room heaves to its feet.

Heads bow to reflect on the sacrifice of veterans who have fought in so many wars, old and new. Scattered across the walls are military memorabilia and faded photos of men fighting in far off lands. Some clubs have entrances graced by artillery guns, tanks and in one case a fighter jet.

All point to their deep origins in support for the returned soldiers of world wars and an ongoing concern for the veteran's community. Some are little more than tin and fibro shacks in country hamlets, unlocked every now and then so that old companions can gather, remember and share. Some are giant sparkling casinos with bowling alleys, multi-storey car parks and vast marketing budgets.

Today the service clubs are a multi-billion dollar industry employing thousands, with a 40 per cent share of NSW's \$3.2 billion of annual gaming machine profits. The RSL and clubs network brings together thousands of unselfish volunteers dedicated to helping one another and bound by the ideal of community. All are linked by the shared sacred rites of Anzac and Anzac Day, the imagery of military service and a mutual commitment to care for the veterans of Australia's wars. Except that they're often not linked, and often not following through on their commitments.

What was once a symbiotic relationship between registered RSL clubs and veterans has become poisonous in some cases? RSL clubs, originally a grand idea to grant special privileges in return for a promise to support veterans, have become tangled thickets of vested interests and multi-million dollar property deals.

Someone walking into an RSL club, ordering a beer and tucking into a chicken parmigiana might think that they are helping support

veterans. After all, one of the pillars of the campaign against poker machine reform was 'clubs support our diggers'. But in many cases clubs are doing little more than offering an annual Anzac Day commemorative service. Three days before Anzac Day last year, Don Rowe, the president of the NSW RSL, made an uncharacteristically critical and detailed media intervention. "We want nothing to do with the clubs and the poker machines and the drinking. The clubs aren't serving our members," he said. "The clubs don't contribute to us or the welfare of veterans. They are trading off the Anzac traditions and the Anzac legend. Let's divorce ourselves, if you like, of the family tree. Let's call it quits and we'll get on with our business." The reply from Clubs NSW was equally direct. "To say that there is no contribution made by RSL clubs to the RSL is just flatout wrong," said the CEO, Anthony Ball. "RSL clubs have made and continue to make an enormous contribution to our veterans to the tune of millions of dollars each year ... money that they've generated from the general community that has allowed them to assist veterans and support the ideals of the RSL." The chairman of the RSL and Service Clubs Association, Bryn Miller, also leapt to the defence, saying, "There are many examples of RSL clubs assisting and helping veterans," and denying that clubs were exploiting the Anzac spirit. The average beer-drinking, parma-polishing New South Welshman may well have been confused to see something he had long considered one and the same dividing and attacking itself in public.

It's a common and understandable misconception that RSL Clubs and the Returned and Services League are the same thing, but a little history is helpful in understanding what has now become a complex web existing under the banner of 'the RSL'. Returned servicemen's organisations arose from private efforts to look after the welfare of troops in 1917. Local clubs were formed to host soldiers on their disembarkation from troopships and benefit them and their families.

In return, these organisations were given the right to claim the sacred word Anzac as their own and to use it in their fundraising. As the associations became more established, they acquired their own clubhouses - in some cases gifted by wealthy families or state governments, or purchased from fundraising efforts. Over time these clubs consolidated in the Returned and Services League, separately incorporated in each state of Australia. In NSW, the RSL is incorporated under an act of state parliament. It has hundreds of semi-autonomous local organisations called sub-branches, each with its own president and board of directors.

Until 2013 military service was a prerequisite to join these sub-branches, although the threshold was set low - a few months as a reservist was enough to get you across the line to full membership. The sub-branches report to a state

council and president but largely set their own priorities and conduct their own operations. In the 1970s the NSW government passed the Registered Clubs Act, which effectively meant that RSL sub-branches big and small could no longer govern the operation of their own clubhouse bars and poker machines. The Act created new legal entities: registered clubs limited by guarantee and governed by a new board, responsible for operating the clubhouse. These were called RSL Clubs, and in many cases you did not need to have served in the military to be a director of an RSL Club.

In each case the relationship between RSL sub-branch and RSL Club was different. In some cases the two entities had the same board members or were closely linked. I'm lucky enough to work on the executive of the North Bondi RSL sub-branch in Sydney, which has one of the largest memberships of serving military members in the state. We maintain a separate board from the small registered club that runs our clubhouse, but we have excellent relations with them and they are full partners in our efforts to help veterans. In other cases, the two entities have grown apart. Graeme Carroll, the CEO of the RSL and Services Clubs in NSW, is right when he says, "clubs and the RSL are inextricably linked". But Don Rowe is equally right in his criticism that "A lot of clubs have gone completely away from the ideals and aims of [when] they were founded 50 or 60 years ago by the RSL sub-branch guys, and they've now become big business." Though there might be military memorabilia on the walls, fewer than one in 20 of the members of RSL Clubs state-wide have been in the military, and even fewer have ever been to war. And, over time, RSL Clubs have become a very big business.

So colossally does the Rooty Hill RSL Club loom over Western Sydney that for the past several years it has waged a campaign demanding its own postcode. Within its grounds are a full Novotel and bowling alley. Its gaming floor is a sea of hundreds of poker machines. The then prime minister decamped her entourage to the club in 2013 and it has played host to prime ministerial debates in the last two federal election campaigns.

The 'Last Post' is played every night, governors have paid tribute at the club's war memorial and the NSW RSL held its conference there in 2012 - but this suburban casino is no veterans organisation.

In 2012, the Rooty Hill RSL Club brought in \$71.5 million in revenue from its operations, with \$46.1 million of this coming from gambling activities alone. Donations to charity and community groups, including in-kind donations of venue space and hospitality, amounted to just \$900,000 and Rooty Hill will not divulge whether this included veteran's charities. The Castle Hill and Parramatta RSL Clubs combined brought in \$52 million of

revenue, yet less than half of a per cent of this (\$250,000) went towards 'veteran support and welfare'. In 2013, the Dee Why RSL Club won the Clubs NSW award for making the greatest contribution to the community of all RSL and Service Clubs in NSW - in other words, its donation rate was the highest in the state. From total revenue of \$54 million and post tax profits of \$9.3 million, it found just \$1.2 million to donate to more than 120 community and charity groups. Among these 120 groups, only two had links to the veteran's community.

The issue is not that RSL Clubs aren't doing charitable work. The issue is that they are not doing nearly enough charitable work given the extraordinarily privileged position they occupy in society. From the rivers of gold that flow into the clubs, barely a trickle reaches veterans. Most of the money is ploughed into clubhouse renovations. Rooty Hill now boasts more than \$110 million of assets, Castle Hill \$96 million and Dee Why a whopping \$145 million. The social compact to look after veterans has been broken. And there's limited transparency. Put up a war memorial, play the 'Last Post', leverage the symbolism of Anzac and no one will hold you to your promise of looking after veterans.

Many RSL Clubs no longer even refer to veterans in their mission statement, instead proclaiming their support of sporting clubs and social members.

Extract from *Anzac's Long Shadow: The Cost of our National Obsession* by James Brown a former Army Officer.

9. Now I Know How My Parents Felt

Nine (9) Things That Will Disappear In Our Lifetime. Whether these changes are good or bad depends in part on how we adapt to them. But, ready or not, here they come.

1. **The Post Office.** Get ready to imagine a world without the post office. They are so deeply in financial trouble that there is probably no way to sustain it long term. Email, Fastway, Fed Ex, and UPS have just about wiped out the minimum revenue needed to keep the post office alive. Most of your mail every day is junk mail and bills.

2. **The Cheque.** Britain is already laying the groundwork to do away with cheque by 2018. It costs the financial system billions of dollars a year to process cheques. Plastic cards and online transactions will lead to the eventual demise of the cheque. This plays right into the death of the post office.. If you never paid your bills by mail and never received them by mail, the post office would

absolutely go out of business.

3. **The Newspaper** .The younger generation simply doesn't read the newspaper. They certainly don't subscribe to a daily delivered print edition. That may go the way of the milkman, butcher, baker and fruit and veg man. As for reading the paper online, get ready to pay for it. The rise in mobile Internet devices and e-readers has caused all the newspaper and magazine publishers to form an alliance. They have met with Apple, Amazon, and the major cell phone companies to develop a model for paid subscription services.

4. **The Book**. You say you will never give up the physical book that you hold in your hand and turn the literal pages. Many said the same thing about downloading music from iTunes because they wanted hard copy CD. When they discovered they get albums for half the price without ever leaving home to get the latest music they changed their minds. The same thing will happen with books. You can browse a bookstore online and even read a preview chapter before you buy. And the price is less than half that of a real book.. Just think of the convenience! Once you start flicking your fingers on the screen instead of the book, you find that you are lost in the story, can't wait to see what happens next, and you forget that you're holding a gadget instead of a book.

5. **The Land Line Telephone**. Unless you have a large family and make a lot of local calls, you don't need it anymore. Most people keep it simply because they've always had it. But you are paying double charges for that extra service. All the cell phone companies will let you call customers using the same cell provider for no charge against your minutes

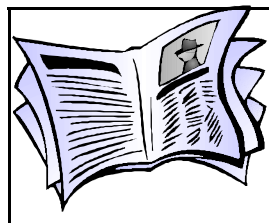
6. **Music**. This is one of the saddest parts of the change story. The music industry is dying a slow death. Not just because of illegal downloading. It's the lack of innovative new music being given a chance to get to the people who would like to hear it. Greed and corruption is the problem. The record labels and the radio conglomerates are simply self-destructing. Over 40% of the music purchased today is "catalogue items," meaning traditional music that the public is familiar with. Older established artists. This is also true on the live concert circuit. To explore this fascinating and disturbing topic further, check out the book, "Appetite for Self-Destruction" by Steve Knopper, and the video documentary, "Before the Music Dies."

7. **Television**. Revenues to the networks are down dramatically. Not just because of the economy.. Many people are watching TV and movies streamed from their computers. And they're playing games and doing lots of other things that take up the time that

used to be spent watching TV. Prime time shows have degenerated down to lower than the lowest common denominator. Cable rates are skyrocketing and commercials run about every 4 minutes and 30 seconds. It's time for the cable companies to be put out of our misery. People will choose what they want to watch online and through Netflix.

8. The **"Things"** That You Own. Many of the very possessions that we used to own are still in our lives, but we may not actually own them in the future. They may simply reside in "the cloud." Today your computer has a hard drive and you store your pictures, music, movies, and documents. Your software is on a CD or DVD, and you can always re-install it if need be. But all of that is changing. Apple, Microsoft, and Google are all finishing up their latest "cloud services." That means that when you turn on a computer, the Internet will be built into the operating system.. So, Windows, Google, and the Mac OS will be tied straight into the Internet.. If you click an icon, it will open something in the Internet cloud. If you save something, it will be saved to the cloud. And you may pay a monthly subscription fee to the cloud provider. In this virtual world, you can access your music or your books, or your whatever from any laptop or handheld device. That's the good news. But, will you actually own any of this "stuff" or will it all be able to disappear at any moment in a big "Poof?" Will most of the things in our lives be disposable and whimsical? It makes you want to run to the cupboard and pull out that photo album, grab a book from the shelf, or open up a CD case and pull out the insert.

9. **Privacy**. If there ever was a concept that we can look back on nostalgically, it would be privacy. That's gone. It's been gone for a long time anyway.. There are cameras on the street, in most of the buildings, and even built into your computer and cell phone. But you can be sure that 24/7, "They" know who you are and where you are, right down to the GPS coordinates, and the Google Street View. If you buy something, your habit is put into a zillion profiles, and your ads will change to reflect those habits. "They" will try to get you to buy something else. Again and again.



10. 65764 TED HOLMES RNZA, Tells a few yarns as an ANZAC in North Africa 1940-1944

“Here’s wishing you all a happy and healthy 2014 ”

Ted Holmes volunteered for the army because “I wanted to fight for my country - I couldn’t stay back home while others were off doing their bit.” I was initially denied entry to the infantry army because of a broken foot, I was however very insistent with the medical officer and was eventually passed as “fit”.

I became a Gunner in 1941 and was placed in the 5th Field Regiment and trained by Allan Boyd. I sat on the gun (howitzer) for 3 days and nights as we battled the constant assault of artillery fire during the Battle of El Alamein. Consequently I became deaf in the right ear. The chapter that saw me injured and eventually returned home was when myself and 3 other blokes were assigned to courier supplies ahead in a truck. We met with a landmine. I yelled to the guys to get out of the truck but sadly two went underneath it. ...and the shrapnel got me in the left arm through one side and out the other – what a mess. It was a hot night in the desert and they laid me on a stretcher. I was drenched in blood and freezing cold and experienced something that stays with you for the rest of your life. I thought I was in a chapel, I saw my mother and father and sisters all around me and in the distance I could hear a choir of angels as clear as a bell. The Pastor later told me it is sometimes called “the rustle of angel feathers,” or as we often hear these days “near death experience”.

I was sent for hospital treatment and ended up in Tripoli and after much travelling caught the Hospital ship the Oranje back home to NZ.

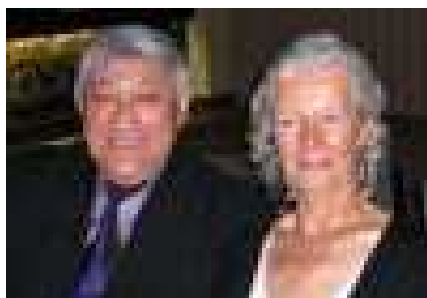
I have marched in ANZAC parades in both NZ and Australia every year until about 6 years ago when my knee just would not allow. My daughter and Grandsons have often marched on my behalf. My service overseas in the NZ army and proud kinship with our Maori Battalion brought me close to our allied soldiers from Australia, USA and Britain. These experiences impacted and changed my life forever and will never be forgotten, they are also a very big part of my outlook and strength in life.



11. LAST POST

82645 HADFIELD, Robert Tohatu Whaitiri, RNZA. Bdr 161 Bty SVN 1966, No 3 and No 6 Gun. Passed away suddenly on 29 March 2014 at Auckland aged 75.

42318 NIWA, John (Hoani) Watino (Johnny), RNZA. Gnr 161 Bty SVN 1967 No 4 Gun and Bdr 1970 Echo Gun. Passed away 26th March 2014 in Auckland, Tangi held at Kairau Marae, Waitara and laid to rest at Kaipakopako, Bell Block, New Plymouth.



Above Johnny and Allwyn NIWA

12. THE QUARTERMASTER’S STORE - Quartermaster: Colin Jansen

Email Orders & enquires to: rnzaqstore@gmail.com
Ordering details and other useful information:

- Post is included within New Zealand.
- Some items are made to order but requests for items (such as name tags) will not be placed on our vendor/manufacturers nor items dispatched to prospective purchasers until payment has been identified as received by the purchaser.
- Purchasers will have 14 days from placement of order to furnish relevant payment, after which the order will be deemed void. Remember to advise all relevant details when placing an order.
- Correct name, size where relevant, and delivery address.
- When making payment remember to include your name AND the item being purchased in the reference fields for the RNZA account so the Treasurer can identify who and what the payment is for.
- We are working on additional items as well as the future promotion of items available from the 16 Fd UPF to create a central point of purchase, so keep an eye on this and the Website Q-Store pages for future developments.
- If you do not have a computer you can still purchase items by writing and enclosing a cheque with the details of your purchase to:
The Quartermaster, RNZA Assn, 18 Walford Drive, Rotorua 3010

1. Right POLO A:

Word Gunners (logo) on right breast
with Gun Crest on left breast.

Cost: \$65.00 each

Colour:

Black with Red piping and embroidered logos.



2. Right POLO B:

Gun Crest on left Breast.

Cost \$60.00 each

Colour:

Black with red piping and embroidered crest



3. Right POLO C:

Word Gunners (Logo) on left breast.

Cost \$55.00 each

Colour:

Black with red piping and embroidered logo.



Note: Due to the manufacturer having a minimum order quantity requiring the RNZA Association to have paid purchase requests for 10 or more shirts there may be a reasonable lead-time between placing/ paying for and receiving your shirt.

4. Near Right NAME TAG

Laser etched with gold lapel pin permanently affixed

Cost: 27.50 each

Colours Black background, white lettering.



5. Far Right LAPEL PIN

Cost \$10.00 each

6. Right RNZAA Baseball Cap Type A

Embroidered Gun Crest on Black, this is the original old style individually made to order.

Cost \$35.00 each



7. Right RNZAA Baseball Cap Type B

New style, embroidered Gun Crest.

Colours: Black with red piping

Cost: \$25.00 each



8. RNZAA Coffee Mugs

Colours: Cobalt Blue with gold printed logo.

Cost \$25.00 each

Behind the Lines: The Editors Page

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Facebook Site; <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=209704013801>

Subscriptions: For those members wishing to receive a printed copy of the Newsletter a \$20 fee is payable. Please forward by cheque to **The Treasurer, 18 Walford Drive, Lynmore, 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, let him have your address. Have you changed ISPs? Have you updated your Internet address? Some mail is being returned.

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

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.

Web Items to Web Master at: **webmaster.rnzaa@gmail.com**

Secretarial/Treasurer Matters to: rnza.association@gmail.com

Items for The NZ Gunner to Marie at: dgroberts@xtra.co.nz

RNZA Assn Bank Ac # 38 9007 0694501 00