

NEW ZEALAND PERMANENT FORCE OLD COMRADES ASSN INC

PO BOX 33 710, TAKAPUNA, AUCKLAND 9

NEWSLETTER No 65

March 1990

A Registered Publication

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Are now due for 1990. To be financial to 31 Dec 1990 you owe us S. . . . Please send this amount to Secretary at above address as soon as possible. Under Rule 4F members who are three years or more in arrears may be struck off strength.

LAST POST:

1813 G.L. (Gordon or 'Action') Williams, 16 Dec 89, at Invercargill (Life Member)

1569 D.M. (Dave) Crichton, 22 Jan 90, at Foxton.

Lt Gen Sir Richard Webb KBE CB, 24 Jan 90, at Kawakawa.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Brig R.J. Andrews CBE to 16 Benbow St, St Heliers, Auckland 5.

Lt Col E.W. Anker to NZDSU (SEA), Sembawang PO Box 40, Singapore 9175.

Major D.K. Bowler to Maungakawa RD1, Cambridge.

E.W. Hargreaves to Wellington City Mission, Hadfield House, Constable St, Newtown, Wellington.

Col M.A. Harvey to 50A Scarborough Rd, Sumner, Christchurch 8.

W.G. Hopkins to 44 Awaroa Rd, Henderson.

Lt Col W.B.F. McCallum to 123 Nayland St, Christchurch 8.

T. Swift to 2/1 Bellcroft Place, Takapuna, Auckland 9.

G.R. Young MBE to 2 Wesleydale Place, Papakura.

Major E.G. Willbond MBE to 23 Robinson Cres., Palmerston North.

J.D. Waters to 34A South Street, Papakura.

GONE NO ADDRESS:

LAST KNOWN LOC

A.N. Cameron

3 Ewbank Place, Manurewa.

J.W. Niwa

16 Fd Regt.

Any member knowing the whereabouts of these members please inform Secretary.

REUNIONS: 10 Coast Regiment: Under the sponsorship of the Wellington Army Assn, the 50th Anniversary of 10 Coast will be celebrated in Wellington 11-13 May 1990. The event is not only important for those who served in the Regiment, but is also important from the historic sites aspect. The Association is currently taking an active interest in the preservation of those battery sites remaining, particularly Fort Ballance. All personnel who served in the Regiment are eligible to attend including CMT, and partners, plus members of units preceding 10 Coast. For Registration Forms and further information contact Mrs Sheila Fitzgibbon, Reunion Secretary, 1/22 Richard St, Titahi Bay, Wellington.

6 Field Regt NZA: The 50th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment will be celebrated at the next national reunion to be held in Auckland 25-27 May 1990. Reunion HQ will be at Ellerslie Racecourse. For further details contact G.A. (Geoff) Maxwell, Secretary/Treasurer, Box 38 806, Howick, Phone 09/534 5353.

NZPFOCA Gunners Day Social: will be held in the Birkenhead RSA from 1100 hrs Wednesday 23 May 90. This is Alf Smith's show so please

let him know if you intend to come, Phone 09/410 4564. The RSA restaurant serves an excellent luncheon for only \$6-70 from a fairly comprehensive menu.

ACCOMMODATION SINGAPORE: If you are contemplating a trip to Singapore, read the following from Lt Col Wayne Anker (see changes of address): 'I've recently assumed command of the small administrative unit that remains in Singapore, the RTNZ of NZFORSEA and 1 RNZIR. We are a small tri-service unit of 25 (incl 5 Aussies) domiciled in one half of the building that used to be HQ NZFORSEA, in the Sembawang Naval Basin. We've retained some 15 bungalows in the Kings/Queens Ave area as our married quarters, as well as the Fernleaf centre.

This 100-plus bed 'private hotel' style accommodation centre used to be the barracks for many of the single servicemen posted to HQ and Support Units. Its permanent occupancy is now reduced to some seven of my single service personnel. As a result, I'm opening it up to servicemen and ex-servicemen and their families to use as holiday accommodation when they're passing through Singapore.

I'll be quite frank: it's not the Hilton, and it's not in the centre of town; but the rooms are clean and comfortable, there's a dining room, snack bar, swimming pool, and licensed bar, together with tailor, photo/gift shop and bootmaker on the premises. Prices are the cheapest in Singapore, at \$20 per person per night in a single room exclusive of meals. Twin rooms are a bit cheaper.

Bookings or further enquiries can be made direct to the unit, NZDSU (SEA), Sembawang P.O. Box 40, Singapore 9175, or by phone to Singapore 257-5511, or by Fax message to Singapore 758-1081. We'd be happy to share your company if any members pass this way - and I forgot to mention how cheap the beer was!'

GALLANTRY AWARDS to New Zealanders in World War 2: A reference work so entitled has been recently published by Regal Medals, PO Box 13-234, Christchurch. It is available for \$29-95 plus \$2-50 postage, and may be obtained from the publisher.

LIFE MEMBERS: In accordance with a longstanding custom of our Association Cyril Hayden and Tom Chapman who both turned 80 last December have been made Life Members. They retain all the privileges of paying members but pay no subscriptions.

SERGEANT-MAJOR OF THE ARMY: Yet another Gunner has been selected by CGS to fill this appointment, now held by WO1 P.B. (Paul) O'Connor. We wish him every success.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES: The following have been appointed:

WO1 P. (Paul) Gregg RNZA - Papakura/16 Field Regiment. Ph 299 9370
Ext 7410.

Mr S.E. (Spencer) Morrison - Southland. Address: 28 Rata Rd,
Otatara No 9 RD, Invercargill.

REORGANISATION: A certain soldier once said, "We trained hard, but when it seemed we were beginning to work as a team, we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising, and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralisation."

And who was the soldier? One Pretorius, First Roman Legion, in AD 65.

Truly, saith the sage, there is nothing new under the sun!

NEWS FROM AROUND AND ABOUT: Ernie Hargreaves turned 90 on 19 Jan 90, and is looking forward to celebrating his hundredth birthday. He still enjoys life and would greatly appreciate visitors. See changes of address.

Col Roger Pearce in Wellington is now well into his second career - in real estate with Jones Long Wootton, a company of UK origin.

After three years as head of NZ Defence Liaison Staff in London Brig Ray Andrews has now settled in Auckland. See changes of address.

Jack Osmers is in North Shore Hospital, Ward 14 Room 3, and would appreciate any Old Comrade visiting him.

Darkie Forrester has been visiting his son who is serving in the Army and who is stationed in Papakura. Next time you come up from the Mainland, Darkie, try and get out to Birkenhead RSA on a Friday morning.

The RNZA Directorate is to be disbanded with its current responsibilities split between several Corps and General Staff agencies.

Harry Fantham and his good lady are about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them well.

OBITUARY

Lieutenant General Sir Richard James Holden Webb KBE CB

The New Zealand Army invited members of our Association to be represented at the funeral service for Sir Richard held at the Wellington Cathedral on the 30th January 1990. In addition to those attending from the Wellington area, a number of our Auckland and Taupo members were able to be present, and were deeply appreciative of the transport and catering provided by the Army and by the Royal New Zealand Airforce.

His Excellency the Governor General was represented by his ADC and the service was attended by past and present Chiefs of Defence Staff, and by past and present Chiefs of General Staff of the NZ Army from which group the Pall Bearers were drawn. Also present were serving and retired members of the three services and veterans of 2NZEF including the President of NZRSA.

The Guard of Honour was provided by the NZ Army.

As the hour approached for the commencement of the service the Cathedral quickly filled to capacity. As the procession entered, all stood and sang 'Praise my soul, the King of Heaven ...' to accompaniment of both Band and Cathedral Organ.

The service was conducted by the Rev Peter Sutton, Bishop of Nelson, assisted by the Sub-Dean. The First Lesson was read by Lieutenant General J... Mace CB OBE, Chief of Defence Staff, and the second by Major (Retd) S. Toogood QSO ED.

The Eulogy was given by Major General R.D.P. Hassett CB CBE, Colonel Commandant RNZA, and Patron of our Association.

at the conclusion of the Cathedral Service the casket was placed upon the gun carriage and the cortege moved slowly off to the Crematorium Chapel at Karori where the Guard of Honour had reformed.

The Committal was accompanied by the Firing of Volleys, the sounding of Last Post and Reveille, and the Blessing.

It was a sad occasion marked by impressive ceremonial befitting the service and achievement of the late Lieutenant General Sir Richard (Dick) Webb.

R.H. Dyson

NB: A further service for the committal of Sir Richard's ashes was held at the Church of St John the Baptist, Waimate North, on 17 Feb 90.

BOOT AND SADDLE

Continued from Newsletter No 64.

By Jim Gilberd.

It was the rainy season in Taranaki and the horses were picketed in the open. Lieutenant Rait spent some time exercising his squadron in riding, carbine, pistol, and sword drill.

In April 1863 the disputed land in Taranaki was peacefully occupied. However, it was short-lived - ambushes by Maoris on detachments of the 57th Regiment of Foot caused hostilities to break out again.

The mounted squadron was continually employed on night patrols and as mounted messengers during daylight hours. Despatches were carried between the Force H.Q. at New Plymouth and the various Army posts in the Province, proving the value of the military horse in this type of warfare.

As the winter came on these duties were arduous, incessant rain, very few tracks, and very deep mud causing problems and casualties to horses.

WAIKATO WARS:

1st July 1863 saw Mercer's Battery being sent back to Auckland by sea and kept in readiness for General Cameron's expedition against the hostile Waikato tribes. The Mounted Artillery Squadron arrived a little later and were reduced from 100 mounted men to 50, the Gunners going back to their Armstrong guns, while the Drivers continued to act as Cavalry under the command of Lt Rait.

The remaining horses and saddlery were given over to the commissariat transport corps, who provided Drivers to move Mercer's guns. Both horses and bullocks were used for this purpose. In those days field gun limbers were fitted with shafts as on ordinary drays, i.e. the method of moving the equipments with horses was by 'shaft draught.' However, when bullocks were used the limbers were fitted with locally-made poles, 'pole draught' being thus substituted for shaft. Pole draught was not adopted for use with horses until 1895.

In October 1863 Lt Rait's cavalry was sent to Ngaruawahia where they were employed on reconnaissance, foraging, and orderly duties.

On 22 February 1864 at Rangiaowahia the native entrenchments were assaulted and taken by the 50th Regiment of Foot covered by artillery fire from two 6-pr Armstrong guns from 'I' Battery 4 Brigade RA, and while the natives were dispersing in all directions

they were charged by Lt Rait's mounted men, and good service was done despite very rough ground. One Driver and his horse were killed, three or four men and horses wounded including Lt Rait's own horse. The high fern country was difficult for cavalry; this difficulty was overcome by detaching sword scabbards from their belts and attaching them to the saddles, the carbine being carried in a leather bucket in front of the right leg until required for use.

The uniform worn by these troops was a blue serge 'jumper' or short frock coat with shoulder straps. The Drivers were supplied with long boots and hunting spurs.

Again near Rangiaowahia Lt Rait's mounted men and detachments of Colonial Defence Force Cavalry were used to harass hostile Maoris trying to escape, but again the country was difficult for cavalry operations owing to dense bush. Veterinary Surgeon Blake's horse was shot in this skirmish.

Horses were used extensively during 1863-64 in the Waikato, mounted men carrying out a variety of duties. Particularly were they effective in harassing retreating Maoris during this time.

The mounted branch of the Armed Constabulary was involved through the New Zealand Wars and under General Whitmore's command ranged far and wide over the Waikato, Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and Taupo districts.

One incident relating to the Armed Constabulary illustrates the arduous nature of soldiering in this rugged country. It happened in Taranaki in 1867: a Trooper Smith, Armed Constabulary, was killed and his body mutilated by hostile Maoris. Smith had gone out of the stockade to look for his horse, and was shot from ambush. A detachment was sent out to get his body but all they found was the lower part; the upper half had been carried away by the Hau Haus to Te Ngutu where it was cooked and eaten.

In the Bay of Plenty area during 1864-65 the Colonial Defence Force Cavalry and Lt Rait's mounted Gunners were involved in many mounted actions.

ARMED CONSTABULARY:

With the departure of the British troops from New Zealand in 1870 the defence of the country was in the hands of the Armed Constabulary, which was raised in 1867 under the authority of the Armed Constabulary Act, and so became the fighting force for the colony. It eventually comprised nine divisions, each of 80 men, and included a number of mounted units. Large scale operations against hostile Maoris had diminished but there were still skirmishes in many areas, and as these were scattered over a wide area the use of mounted men became a necessity.

At this time with peace returning to the colony many new settlers arrived in the country, so the Armed Constabulary also took on the duties of a Police Force to ensure law and order prevailed in the settlements and also at the goldfields. Mounted detachments were used as escorts for the gold that was moved from the mining areas to the banks.

The ranks in this Force at that time were:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Commissioner | Sergeant Major |
| Inspector | Sergeant |
| Sub-Inspector | Constable. |

The Depot was in Wellington which was also the headquarters of the Force. At the Depot all entrants went through a medical examination, were kitted out with uniform and equipment, and underwent a course of drill and weapon training.

ARMS AND ACCOUTREMENTS - MOUNTED BRANCH:

Each member of the Force below the rank of Sub-Inspector was issued with the following equipment:

Breech-loading carbine (or rifle) w/sling.	
Cleaning rod	Breastplate
Wire cleaning brush	Crupper
Snap cap and chain	Wallets
Cap pocket	Head collar
Pouch and belt	Reins
Revolver	Bit
Revolver sheath	Curb chain and hooks
Revolver ball bag	Picketing rein
Sword	Straps cloak
Scabbard steel	" wallet
Sword belt bron leather	" holster
Saddle	Carbine bucket
Girths leather	saddle mounted pattern
Numna (blanket)	Headcollar stable
Stirrup irons	Handcuffs and key
Rules and Regulations AC Force	Memorandum book
	Extracts from Colonial Acts.

These items were required to be signed for in the presence of the issuing Officer who countersigned the receipt.

Prior to the recipient receiving his monthly pay all items were inspected and a certificate made out to the effect they were in good order and condition. In the event of any member of the Force leaving the Service and taking with him any of the items mentioned he could be charged with felony.

HORSES:

Horses for the Force were purchased as required. All horses were inspected by a veterinary surgeon and certified by him as to age, soundness, and general fitness before payment was made for them.

Each member of the AC Mounted Branch was furnished with a horse which was branded ^{fire on the hooves} with a crown and number, the Officer or Constable taking charge of it was held accountable for the manner in which it was treated, and the general condition in which it was kept.

The following extract from AC Regulations is worth quoting: '...Should it be found that any member of the Force, whether Officer or otherwise, either ill-treats or permits to be ill-treated or neglected, the horse told off to him, or any other horse under his charge, he will, in addition to such other punishment as may be inflicted upon him, be dismissed the service.'

No member of the Foot constabulary except under special circumstances was to be mounted, nor was any mounted Constable to be dismounted without the authority of the Commissioner.

Each Officer in charge of a district was required to keep a register of the horses under his charge, in which their age, height, distinguishing marks, branded letters and numbers were to be carefully entered, and on no occasion were horses belonging to one district to be ridden or otherwise used by Officers and Constables of another district.

All horses not in actual use in the district were kept in a reserve paddock for that purpose, under the charge of a competent NCO who made reports on the state in which he found them. a horse record

The NCO was required to keep a book containing details of all horses received by him, and as occasion required forward reports of the general condition of animals under his charge and their fitness for duty or otherwise.

He was not to permit any of the horses to be used or to leave his charge without an order in writing from an Inspector or the Commissioner.

He was allowed a supply of forage for the purpose of giving an occasional feed to any horse that for want of pasture in the paddock might be in need of it, and the forage so supplied had to be accounted for at stated intervals.

Officers in charge of districts were to see that every horse under them, as well as its rider, had a fair share of the work to be done and were not to allow some horses to be 'petted' and kept idle in the stables while others were being injured by severe usage and neglect, nor were any horses to be kept rugged in stables unless sick.

All members of the Mounted Force were to ensure that saddles were carefully fitted to horses backs and Officers in charge of districts held men accountable for horses in their charge having sore backs or saddle galls (which in most cases are caused by hard riding in badly fitting saddles). No excuse was accepted for a horse being rendered unseizable from such cause, unless it could be satisfactorily proved that some accidental and unlooked for circumstance made it necessary the horse should be so used; and unless the the cause could be traced to some source other than neglect, the Constable to whom the horse was told off could be charged for the forage the animal consumed while unfit for use, in addition to such other punishments as might be awarded.

No horse was to travel at a pace exceeding five miles per hour, unless in cases of emergency, such as the pursuit of offenders etc, where speed was absolutely necessary.

When any horse from disease or injuries received became totally unfit a report of the circumstances was to be sent to the Commissioner, when an order would be given for its disposal, but in the event of a limb being fractured or any other severe injury the Officer in charge was to at once put an end to its misery by killing it on the spot, forwarding a report of the case in the normal manner.

A table stating the daily prescribed ration for each horse was issued, and a copy was hung in every stable wherein Police horses were permanently foraged, and the party having charge of the horses was held responsible that all animals received the prescribed ration.

No mounted Officer or Constable under any consideration was to use in harness the horse set apart for him unless ordered to do so for Government purposes by his superior Officer, nor was any member of the Force to use his horse unless in the execution of his duties.

In the event of any horse being sold by the Force it was to be disposed of by public auction in such a manner as the Commissioner might direct. Prior to sale it was branded "condemned" together with a private mark to prevent fraud. All branding was to be done on the horses' hooves.

FORAGE:

Members of the Force in charge of stations were expected to give notice to local contractors stating the supplies of forage needed in accordance with the terms of contract. Where no contract existed sufficient notice had to be given to the Commissioner.

When forage was delivered to any station by a contractor, the nett weight had to be ascertained, and the receipts signed for that quantity. In issuing the Officer who signed the receipts was held responsible for it. If a station was in charge of a subordinate member of the Force he was to permit no one but himself to issue forage. At large stations one Constable only was authorised to issue. Fresh forage received at a station was not to be issued until old stock in store had been issued.

No forage was on any account to be issued from Police stations to any Government Officer or any other person whatever without special authority, and in every instance where forage was issued for for any other service a requisition had to be obtained from that service. A weekly forage return had to be made to which was attached any such requisition together with particulars of the amount drawn, the Officer's name, and details of the duty he was engaged upon.

The regulation scale of forage was:

- 10 lbs oats or maize)
- 1 lb bran) per horse per day.
- 11 lbs hay)

With the disbanding of the Armed Constabulary in 1886 many of the mounted Constables and their mounts transferred to the newly-formed Police Force. They became the mounted branch of the Police.

To be continued.

NOTICE: In keeping with current commercial practice we intend to cease sending out receipts with newsletters unless members ask for them.

Best regards,

Wally Russell

Ellison's view

ELLISON

