

THE NZ SAPPER



UBIQUE *I Nga Wahi Katoa*

Magazine No 188: August 2011



THE NZ SAPPER

Magazine No 188

August 2011

“THE NZ SAPPER” is the official publication of:

The Sappers Association (NZ) Incorporated

C/o Palmerston North RSA, P.O. Box 88, Palmerston North 4440.

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Cover picture: MILITARY MOVERS: Lance Corporal Kerry Brockelbank inspects the stand he and two other Linton Military Camp soldiers built for the Palmerston North RSA's howitzer gun while lifting the gun into position.

(Inside front cover)



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Pre-press requirements for submitted articles.

Newspaper clippings are suitable for reference only and cannot be used for prepress as the poor quality of newsprint prevents suitable scanning. Similarly, photos must be the original or emailed as a scanned .jpg file at a resolution of no less than **300dpi** preferably 600dpi. Those with a clever bent for photo manipulation can reduce the size to postcard before emailing as an attachment. This will reduce email size. **DO NOT IMBED IN A WORD DOCUMENT PLEASE, AS THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT AND TAKE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME.** Any text to be sent can be sent as an email text or as a printed, typed sheet of paper. Files in Word or Works, with formatting, inserts code that is difficult to remove and interferes with printing. Please be aware that many newspapers now charge large fees for any files and photos sent out to the public, so if you can wheedle these for nothing from your local newspaper and put onto a CD, then send to the Editor, and he will return all received articles to the sender when finished with.

For your diary

1. "Cut off" dates for magazine articles:

15 March for April issue, 15 July for August issue, 15 November for December issue
Content and articles are always required, don't be shy. Use the Editor's email if you are so inclined or post to the Editor at the address on the previous page.



"FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN"

Dear Members,

I trust you are keeping dry and warm as we seem to be experiencing some real extremes of weather this winter. First a lack of snow, then drifts and blizzards which even close off the ski fields temporarily, heavy downpours that saturate the ground for some days and weeks and gale-force winds. Quite weird, what have we humans done to the planet ? Of course, Engineers know how to work with nature, but it is a real challenge when nature works against you, as in the case of the Christchurch earthquake situation. Having been down there several more times in recent months and in meeting with the City Council, CERA representatives and others working on the recovery, deconstruction and remediation, as well the planning and reconstruction, it is a sombre, albeit challenging opportunity to rebuild Christchurch to survive these natural disasters and continual after-shocks and secure its future for many years to come. As I mentioned in my last editorial, it is good to see the part that RNZE has and are playing in assisting with the major recovery situation.

On another sad note, we offer our heart-felt condolences and sympathies to Joyce Rutherford and families of the late Col Ken Rutherford, who passed away in Auckland on 21 May 2011. Apart from being Chief Engineer, Director of (Defence) Works and Col Comdt (or Hon Col) RNZE (1993-97) during his outstanding military career, he was also a staunch and valued member of the Sappers Association, since its formation in 1960. Dear Ken was a long-standing member, committee man, Treasurer, Convenor and Guardian of the Funds, a recipient of the Meritorious Service Award (2004) and Vice-Patron of the Association from 2005. He was always one of the mainstays of the Auckland (now Northern) Branch and Engineer Reunion organising team, along with him being a key player in establishing the Association bursary scheme and also in improving the communications and welfare contact throughout NZ. His leadership and support of the Auckland Sapper Officers' Mess is also noteworthy. We wish the wider Rutherford family a long life and may he rest in peace and be in our fond memories forever.

We now have the RNZE Charitable Trust in place, which was incorporated on 12 May 2011 and became a registered charity approved by the Charities Commission on 14 July 2011. The objects and purposes of the Trust are quite succinct and are stated as follows :

To maintain, develop and preserve research, historical records, artefacts, collections and memorabilia of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers (RNZE) for the purposes of :

1. Illustrating to the public the role the RNZE has played in the establishment and development of New Zealand infrastructure and New Zealand military and engineering history; and
2. Providing the New Zealand Defence Force/New Zealand Army with an aid in the teaching of military and military engineering history.

The Trust Board comprises our Patron, Hon Col George Butcher, Col Anthony Wilson (Col Comdt, RNZE), Lt Col Don Jones (CO and Regt Col), Maj Mike Pettersen (Regt XO), Clas Chamberlain (Deputy Chair and Hon Curator ECMC), WO1 Brent Wilson (Secretary/Treasurer and SSM, SME) and myself as Chair. We had a preparatory meeting on 9 June and are in the process of establishing accounts and other requirements of the Trust. We now wish to attract contributions towards the Trust so that we can build up our funds to support both the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the ECMC library and museum, but also the RNZE Corps History project. I am sure that other projects will emerge in the future and I will keep you informed of further progress with the Trust.

Speaking about the history project, both Lt Cols Don Jones and Todd Hart have made further progress in finalising the agreement with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage (MCH), so that we can get some activity underway. A trial interview will commence soon with Clas Chamberlain, so that we can work our way through the detailed questionnaire being used to collate base information. A prioritised interview list has been agreed, so that we will 'collect' a number of key contributors in a few locations so that further questionnaires and



interviews can be completed. It is intended to conduct a minimum of 12 interviews over the next 11 months and have this phase of the project concluded by 30 June 2012. MCH will ensure that copies of the interview tapes and videos, probably stored on CDs/DVDs, will be available at the National Library and also at the ECMC at Linton Camp. More information will be provided as this project progresses, but we will also be looking for financial contributions to add to the funds allocated to this project. Currently, NZDF/Army has committed to providing some financial support, along with funds from the new RNZE Charitable Trust.

We apologise for the delay of the April newsletter, for reasons already explained, which were totally beyond our control. I understand that the remaining reports from our AGM on 20 March 2011 will be provided elsewhere in this latest issue, which we hope will bring you all up to date. It is intended that this (August) newsletter still come out on time, regardless of the last issue being delayed. I understand that the various ANZAC Day celebrations went well about the country, as we now look forward to Sappers Day soon, this time observed on a Saturday ! Also a reminder about the Riccarton Road (and Addington Barracks) Reunion, based out of the Papanui RSA in Christchurch, over the weekend 28-30 October 2011 (and after the RWC) ! It would be great to get some feedback, reports and photos on all of these activities within the branches about NZ, which we can share with you by way of our last newsletter for the year, which should be available before the close of the end of this year in December.

That should bring you up to date with developments over recent months and since the last issue. Just remember that all of the work undertaken by your Executive Council and branch committees is voluntary and totally dependent upon individuals and their available spare time. We really do appreciate the efforts that many of our committee members put in to try and keep the affairs of the Association moving along. A few more willing helpers and financial contributions would also be very much appreciated !

Best regards to all. I Nga Wahi Katoa

Joe Hollander
President

Palmerston North
August 2011

Important notice - Reminder

To date we have had 89 members notify us of their preference to have their newsletter emailed. A steady increase that we hope continues to grow. It is in a PDF format and 20 x A4 pages. Colour will be included while this is still an economical printing option. **A PDF Reader will be required. NOTE: The file is approx 730 - 900Kb so broadband may be an important consideration in your choice.** The saving to the Association is considerable in reduced numbers for printing and the attendant postage costs. To this end, we are asking for members who wish to take up this option, to email the Editor, Ken Avenell, at ***ken-inez@inspire.net.nz*** confirming your acceptance and current email address. **ONLY THOSE** who confirm, will receive this option, as many email addresses currently recorded on the Association database have changed over the years and the members not notified us of the change, therefore there **WILL NOT** be a blanket emailing to the existing list. Be warned - should your email address change at any time, your newsletters will **STOP** until the new details are sent to Ken. Your addresses will **NOT** be available to outside sources as Ken is the sole source of the newsletter distribution and your personal email security will be strictly maintained. This notice is upgraded periodically to reflect changes, so don't pass over it



Howitzer back in front line *(front page photo)*

ROBERT KITCHIN/Manawatu Standard

For more than 12 years, a World War II howitzer gun stood as a symbol of military pride on the street in front of Palmerston North RSA's clubrooms.

Passersby may have wondered why the green gun disappeared from the footpath outside the Broadway Ave building last year – but it had not gone far.

The gun spent several months in the garden near the Returned and Services Association restaurant, but was restored to a position of prominence in the clubrooms' car park yesterday.

Three Linton Military Camp engineers from the 25 Engineer Support Squadron spent two days constructing a concrete stand for the gun, complete with a sandbag-shaped base.

Staff Sergeant Terry Grant said about 14 soldiers were needed to roll the gun on to the stand.

"They had no problems at all," he said. "They did it on time and to budget. It was a pretty good job, especially because it was for the RSA. It keeps us in touch with them."

The RSA provided the materials for the stand but Staff Sergeant Grant said the army gave labour for free.

The Linton Military Camp gifted the M2A2 105mm field artillery to the RSA in 1998.

Palmerston North RSA president Gary Griggs said he was happy the gun had been moved as it was a source of pride for club members.

"I think it's really good where it is now. A lot of the RSA members take their photos with it and I think they will be taking more photos now."

Palmerston North RSA chief executive Lindsay McKinney said the gun had been used in combat but he was unsure how many times.

"It's definitely fired shots in anger in Vietnam but I think it would have caused more injuries here," he said.

"We've all cut ourselves on it, and twisted ankles and dropped it on toes."

Mr McKinney said the gun was removed from the street because the RSA no longer owned the front part of the building.

"When the building was renovated, we sold that part of the land. It's probably better where it is now though."

The M2A2 105mm field gun was used extensively by the United States Army and Marine Corps during World War II and the Korean War, and then by New Zealand forces in the Vietnam War.

The 161st Battery of New Zealand's 16th Field Regiment adopted the weapon in late 1966 or early 1967, to replace the 105mm Italian howitzer.

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (NZ) INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010



INCOME	2010	2009
Fees/Subs	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 420.00
Interest/Dividends Note 1	\$ 620.04	\$ 490.24
Donations	\$ 294.48	\$ 1,116.78
Sales (Corps Supplies)	\$ 40.00	
Advertising	\$ 112.00	
GST Refunds	\$ 290.68	\$ 327.46
Branches	\$ 6,080.51	\$ 2,769.00
Capital Repayments Note 2	\$ 1,189.49	\$ 16,507.92
Reunion Note 3	\$ 18,234.00	\$ 1,828.63
Railway Book Proceeds		\$ 83.73
Corp History Fund		\$ 600.00
Miscellaneous Note 4	\$ 95.00	
	\$ 27,976.20	\$ 24,143.76
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletter Publications		\$ 620.00
Postage/Stationery	\$ 1,024.43	\$ 1,337.80
Tolls/Web Site	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Bursaries and Prizes		
Miscellaneous Note 4	\$ 1,346.74	\$ 580.00
Branches	\$ 7,020.55	\$ 2,333.23
Railway Book Disbursement		\$ 16.75
Investments		\$ 15,000.00
Reunion	\$ 20,038.40	
	\$ 29,730.12	\$ 20,187.78
Net Surplus/Deficit for year	-\$ 1,753.92	\$ 3,955.98

Note 1	Interest for 2010		
	South Canterbury Finance		\$ 110.67
	BNZ Term Saver Interest	57617561-03003	\$ 74.43
	BNZ Term Investment Interest	57617561-03001	\$ 397.06
	Interest BNZ Cheque Accounts	Executive	\$ 15.73
		Auckland	\$ 11.96
		Reunion	\$ 2.58
		Christchurch	\$ 5.33
		Dunedin	\$ 1.08
		Wellington	\$ 1.20
			<u>\$ 620.04</u>

Note 2	Capital Repayments for 2010		
	OPI Finance		\$ 265.31
	St Laurence		\$ 692.62
	Strategic		<u>\$ 231.56</u>
			<u>\$ 1,189.49</u>



Note 3

Reunion

As per Bank Statements	Income	\$ 18,234.00
	Expenditure	\$ 20,038.40
		<u>-\$ 1,804.40</u>

Note 4

Miscellaneous

Income	NZ Post	\$ 95.00
Expenditure	Association Reunion Subsidy to Auckland Branch	\$ 1,000.00
	Courtesy Van PNRSA	\$ 150.00
	OPE K Avenell	\$ 39.59
	OPE B McDonald	\$ 157.15
		<u>\$ 1,346.74</u>

Note 5

Investments

The following investments are at risk as the Companies are in Receivership:

Bridgecorp Holdings Ltd	\$ 5,000.00
Bridgecorp Holdings Ltd	\$ 10,949.44
OPI Pacific Finance Ltd	\$ 12,074.89
Strategic Finance Ltd	\$ 11,346.55
St Laurence Mortgages Ltd	\$ 10,908.98
St Laurence Mortgages Ltd	\$ 4,675.30
Property Finance Securities	\$ 5,938.06
Property Finance Securities	\$ 7,044.35
	<u>\$ 67,937.57</u>

The following are the remaining investments held as at 31/12/10:

Note 6	57617561-3002	BNZ Term Saver	Matures 7 June 2011	\$ 10,000.00
	57617561-3003	BNZ Fixed Term Investment	Rolls over monthly	\$ 5,074.43
	BNZ Term Investment		Matures 15 Dec 2011	\$ 5,000.00
				<u>\$ 20,074.43</u>
			Total Investments	<u>\$ 88,012.00</u>

Simplified Accounting Approach (no Accruals) has been taken for Year Ending 2010

Sappers Association (NZ) Inc
Statement of Financial Position
For the Year ended 31 December 2010



Current Liabilities	2010	2009
Investments ^{Note 5}	\$ 67,937.57	\$ 84,298.34
Investments ^{Note 6}	\$ 20,074.43	
Members Equity	\$ 10,779.61	\$ 18,290.90
	<u>\$ 98,791.61</u>	<u>\$ 102,589.24</u>
Current Assets		
Cash on hand	\$ 10,779.61	\$ 18,290.90
Investments ^{Note 5}	\$ 67,937.57	\$ 84,298.34
Investments ^{Note 6}	\$ 20,074.43	
	<u>\$ 98,791.61</u>	<u>\$ 102,589.24</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 98,791.61</u>	<u>\$ 102,589.24</u>

Statement of Movement in Equity
For the Year ended 31 December 2010

Equity as at the beginning of the period	\$ 12,533.53	\$ 14,334.92
Investments held	\$ 88,012.00	\$ 84,298.34
Operating Surplus/Deficit for the period	- \$ 1,753.92	\$ 3,955.98
Equity as at the end of the period	<u>\$ 98,791.61</u>	<u>\$ 102,589.24</u>

Signed on behalf of the Sappers Association Council

G. Findon
Treasurer
31 Dec 2010

J.S. Hollander
President
31 Dec 2010

Audit Statement

I have examined the Statement of Financial Performance indicating the Income and Expenditures, the Statement of Financial Position, and the financial records presented for audit and, in my position they set out the financial position of the Sappers Association (NZ) Incorporated for the financial Year ending at the 31st December 2010.

Gordon A. Reid
Honorary Auditor



North Otago's Unique War Memorial

Memorials to the war dead come in many forms, be they humble headstones, civic war memorials or cenotaphs. They are usually of stone, and can be found in almost every corner of New Zealand, both urban and rural. Each Anzac Day services are held at these memorials to remember those who died in defence of their heritage and peace.

But in North Otago there is a different form of memorial. Observant travellers through the district will have noticed magnificent oak trees at mile intervals in rural areas, with a small white concrete cross beneath. These trees are Memorial Oaks and how they came to be dotted along our highways and town streets is fascinating.

In 1913, the Antarctic supply ship, Terra Nova anchored off Oamaru Harbour, to allow two seamen to relay the sad news of the demise of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and his four companions on their return journey from the South Pole.

The Oamaru Beautifying Society planted an oak tree on the path that the sailors too on their way to the Harbour Master's house. Soon after that, World War I broke out, with all its attendant horrors of trench warfare on the Western Front. By 1918 few families in New Zealand were unaffected by the result, most families knowing somebody who had lost their life on foreign soil, and the question arose of how to remember them. In most cases, bodies were not able to be repatriated, and so there was no grave or headstone to mourn over. The President of the Oamaru Beautifying Society knew people wanted a permanent memorial, but not one that glorified war. He suggested enlarging the Scott Memorial oak scheme with an oak tree for each soldier, as near to where they lived as possible. The authorities were delighted and invited families to apply. Over 400 names were put forward and soon oak trees were planted along the rural roads from Oamaru to Kurow, Weston to Livingstone, Oamaru to Shag Point, and along town streets in Oamaru as well. The scheme is unique since each tree is a living memorial to an individual.

Slowly over the years some of the trees have been lost due to power lines, road widening and becoming busier, and the oak trees were removed when they become inconvenient.

In the 1950's an effort was made to save the oaks by re-planting in groves where they become a collective memorial. But in the 1990's the North Otago branch of the Historic Places Trust alerted people to the plight of the remaining oaks and a committee was formed to survey the entire scheme, research each tree and the soldier to whom it belonged, and have cast and engraved a concrete cross to be placed under each tree.

Today there are 220 trees with memorial crosses and they remain a living memorial to fallen heroes, just as the founders of the Scheme had intended all those years ago.

Written by Rob Douglas Secretary North Otago Memorial Oaks at the request of

Donald Ellis a member of the New Zealand Sapper Association.

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Eulogy - Major Colin Douglas, Royal New Zealand Engineers.

Much more than just a soldier; he was also son, a brother, an uncle, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather and a friend. Colin had two families central to his entire life – his familial one and the military, both of which he served with honour and distinction. Those that knew Colin will remember a generous friend who gave willingly of his time, expecting nothing more in return than honesty and genuine effort. He was uncompromising in his standards, both in his own endeavours and of those upon whom he relied. Colin didn't suffer fools gladly and was always quick to point out ways where improvements could be made. There were very few shades of grey in Colin's world; he saw things in black & white. You were either doing the right thing, or you weren't and you were left in no doubt that if you wanted his assistance, you had better make sure that what you were doing was 100% legal and appropriate. I have in my life, never met another soul with as much integrity or as strong a morale compass as that possessed by Colin. As a father, he provided an uncompromising example and set standards that anyone would be proud to achieve. As a commanding officer, he was dedicated, honest and fair, and every bit as demanding as he was in his private life. These deeply ingrained qualities helped shape his life and the lives of those around him, both within his family and his professional career.

As a professional soldier, Colin served New Zealand over five decades, willing to put his life on the line in support of others, not for glory and certainly not for the pay check, but because it was the right thing to do. His life as an engineer began during the great depression, as a Carpentry Apprentice with the Otago Education Board at the age of 13. He worked hard, completed his apprenticeship and continued to study in the evenings at Technical College where he learned construction and engineering. All this while holding down a day job to help support his mother and father. Colin was heavily involved in the Scouting movement and at the age of 19 met his wife to be, Rata Ramsay. It was now 1941 and the NZ Govt was asking for volunteers to complete three months of military training to form the basis of a larger standing army to meet the growing need in Europe and to blunt the more local threat posed by Japan. Colin signed up and on completion became an instructor at Burnham camp. In September 1942 Colin completed Officer training and as a shiny new 2nd Lieutenant was posted to the 1st Otago Regiment. In November 1942, Colin married Rata and after a brief honeymoon in Wellington, he was posted overseas. At the time, the threat from Japanese forces had receded to the point where recently commissioned officers were asked to either return to civilian life or to give up their commission and serve overseas at the rank of Sergeant. By November 1943, Sergeant Douglas, was involved in very heavy fighting with 23 Battalion in Italy, slowly advancing northwards towards Rome.



Now a platoon commander, Colin fought intense engagements culminating in the now famous attack to wrest the Casino monastery from German control. Colin was subsequently wounded by a German 88MM shell fragment in an action close to the Italian city of Florence. This effectively ended his active involvement in the fighting and he spent the remainder of the war running the military hospital in Bari. This allowed him time to develop a close bond with both Italy and the Italian people. This very strong bond stayed with him for the remainder of his life, influencing his taste in music and food. At the end of the war, Colin, along with so many others was de-mobbed and headed back to civilian life. His carpentry skills provided a home for him as a woodworking teacher at Hawera High School, where he also taught mathematics and technical drawing. After several years of civilian life, Colin was drawn back to the military and joined the Royal New Zealand Engineers at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. After various postings and promotions, Colin, now a Captain became the CO and Chief Instructor of the School of Military Engineering at Linton Military Camp. He was later promoted to Major and posted to 2 Construction Squadron as the Commanding Officer. The following years saw him represent the Royal New Zealand Engineers in Australia and Hawaii where he was tasked with learning new engineering techniques to bring home and pass on.

This knowledge proved invaluable when he lead a team of Army engineers, the first people on site, in atrocious weather conditions to rescue survivors and recover bodies from the Tangiwai disaster – New Zealand's worst train crash. It would have been easy to delegate the role to a subordinate and direct efforts from the safety of his office – but that wasn't Colin's style. He lead from the front and took personal responsibility for the task, because it was the right thing to do. Years later, the RAF covered themselves in glory when visiting nearby Ohakea Air base, a Vulcan bomber had taxied off the runway and got completely stuck in the mud. No amount of coaxing would get the bomber, which had sunk down over the top of the wheels, out of the mud and so the Army engineers were brought in to rescue the Air Force. Colin's imaginative solution was to use giant air-bags under the wings to spread the load and gently lift the airframe free from the mud allowing metal plates to be placed under the wheels and the aircraft to be recovered. These days this would be considered a pretty routine recovery, but in the early sixties, this was a ground-breaking (excuse the pun) technique, which earned Colin and the Royal New Zealand Engineers great kudos within the armed forces family both at home and in Britain.

After a period serving as the Commanding Officer of the Southern Army Region in Christchurch, Colin was seconded to the United Nations as a Military Observer, an un-armed peacekeeper in the Middle East. Based initially in Damascus in Syria and manning observation posts in no-man's land between Syria and Israel on the Golan Heights, Colin's organisational skills quickly impressed his superiors and he was re-assigned as Operations Officer in the very busy UN base at Tiberias, in Israel. He continued to excel and 2 years later was seconded by the Commander of all UN Forces in the Middle East, a Finish officer, General Salisvo, to headquarters in Jerusalem. Now at the end of his 2 year secondment and first year extension, the New Zealand Army wanted Colin back. It was unknown for any New Zealand officer to be granted two extensions and the NZ Army were keen not to set a precedent. General Salisvo however personally asked UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to intercede and get New Zealand approval for a further 1 year's extension. Reluctantly, Army HQ relented. This was a highly volatile period in the Middle East, and included the 1973 Yom Kippur war, where Colin lost several friends, United Nations officers killed in action during the fighting. Among them Carlo Oliveri, an Italian officer with whom Colin had become particularly close. During the Yom Kippur conflict, General Salisvo was stranded in Damascus and used Colin as his proxy in Jerusalem to prepare and coordinate the UN response to events as they unfolded. During this period Colin oversaw the introduction of Russian officers into the UN observer role and was pivotal in the very sensitive negotiations to secure agreement between the Israeli and Syrian governments for their placement despite vocal objections from America. The historic document agreeing to the Russian officer deployments bears the signatures of the Syrian President, the Israeli Prime Minister and our very own Major Colin Douglas. This document is held in the secure archive at UN Headquarters in New York.

During his time in Jerusalem, Colin worked closely with an Austrian officer, Hans Hobisch. Interestingly, Hans had been drafted into the German Army during the second world war and served in Italy at the same period as Colin. After some analysis between the pair, it became apparent that they had been positioned less than a kilometre from each other in Italy for a period of several weeks. One thing they both joked about was that during the Casino campaign, "when the British bombed, the Germans took cover, when the Germans bombed, the Allies took cover. But when the Americans bombed, everyone took cover!" It seems that some things are timeless.

On his eventual return to New Zealand, Colin took up the role of 2IC or second in command at Linton. This was a position he held until he retired at the age of fifty-five. Family was always important to Colin and Rata and they spent the remainder of their lives visiting daughter Glenys and son John overseas and doting on their grandchildren and remaining active with championship level lawn bowls. Always a keen observer of military and political events, Colin took a strong interest in current affairs, watching the news and debating the outcome with anyone foolish enough to venture an opinion.

ROLL OF HONOUR



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Name	Unit	Died	Place
* Burn B L, Ben, 36827	5 Fd Pk; 8 Fd Coy	16.07.11	Hastings
* Douglas C M, Colin, 30586	DCRE, SMD; 2 Constr Sqn; SME; SD Constr Sqn	05.08.11	Palmerston North
* Gapes A L, Alfred (Len), 647361	15 Fd Engrs, RE	15.05.11	Panmure
* Hamilton T J, Terry, (Fossil) B691243	6 Fd Sqn; 2 Constr Sqn; CRE Wks; 1 Engr Regt; 5 Spt Sqn	22.08.11	Lower Hutt
* Holmes S F G, Sam, 256410	3 Div HQ NZE	Unknown	Methven
Lewis P, Poul, 716032	2 Fd Sqn	04.08.11	Levin
* Wilson R, Ron, 28402	20 Fd Coy; 8 Fd Coy	03.04.11	Orakei

Pertinent to note that many of the names listed in this column are not members of the Association or of our main database. Association members are identified with an (*). Members very kindly send me notices from their local papers by email or letter where the entry can be identified as that of an ex-Engineer. This is very much appreciated as it is the only way the Membership Secretary can update the database and membership, and helps recipients of this newsletter with information of their old comrades. Members who are RSA members, are urged to list their Unit served or at least the Corps of Engrs with their local RSA records. Many have recorded only WWII or 2 NZEF. This info becomes part of the RSA Last Post listing and helps identify you and bring you to our notice.

DONATIONS

Mike Robinsin
Simon Bigg-Wither

NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Michael ROBINSON, Australia. 1 Fd Sqn; 17 Constr Sqn
Simon BIGG-WITHER, Auckland. TTW
Colin ROWLANDSON, Cambridge. 1 FdSqn; 3 Fd Sqn
Ross BRUNTON, Hamilton. 1 FD Sqn; 3 Fd Sqn; 2 Engr Regt
Dan CUNNINGHAM, Palmerston North. 2 Constr Sqn; 2 Fd Sqn; SME; 6 Fd Sqn; NZ Wks Svcs,
Singapore; Engr Sqn RFMF

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

As at 24.08.11

Current Database Roll (Members and non-members) is 986 with 148 listed as GNA
Sprs Assn membership is 692 with 147 GNA (Gone - no address)
89 currently on the email newsletter list

Editor's Note: Only the Association members receive this newsletter.

Mrs. Johnson decided to have her own portrait painted and told the artist:

"Paint me with one-carat diamond earrings, a large 2 carat diamond ring, and a beautiful, red ruby pendant."

"But ma'am, you are not wearing any of those things."

"I know. My health is not good and my husband is having an affair with his secretary. When I die I'm sure he will marry her, and I want the bitch to go nuts looking for the jewelry"



Branch News

NORTHERN REGION BRANCH.

C/o Papakura RSA, PO Box 72-011, Papakura, Auckland 2244

Email: tusitala@slingshot.co.nz

THE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE.

Chairman:-

Sec/Treas:- Don Rolle (09) 298-8176

Committee members:- Trevor Campton (09) 296-0565 Vail Hubner (07) 575-3787 Noel Woodley (09) 262-0371

Peter Foster (09) 298-3295 Lcpl Roger Gummer TF Liaison (09) 255-5603

The Sappers Association (Northern Region) held a "Sappers Get Together" at the Morrinsville RSA on Saturday 9th July.

We had 17 Sappers and Wives who were treated to a supplied buffet dinner and subsidised drinks.

It was a grand evening with everyone inter-mingling and enjoying ones company. The local patrons and RSA its self were most hospitable and joined in.

A very worthwhile event.

Our next "Sappers Get Together" effort is at the Takapuna RSA on the 3rd September, staring around 1700hrs.

Any Sapper wishing to attend let the Secretary of the Northern Region know.

Don Rolle

Secretary

09 2988176



WAIRARAPA BRANCH.
C/o George Butcher
Email: fernleigh@xtra.co.nz
Ph: (06) 377-5958



WELLINGTON BRANCH.
C/o Dave Robinson
Email: david.robbyn@xtra.co.nz

THE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE. (Subject to confirmation)

Chairman: Dave Robinson (04) 526-4880 Vice Chairman: Gary Corlett (04) 904-8685

Secretary: Treasurer:

Committee members: Tony Hill (04) 971-0708 Ian Butler (04) 902-0779 Eric Wood (04) 528-4943
Graeme Sweetman (04) 527-5113 (Wk)

Ed's Note: This Branch currently appears to be in recess

MANAWATU SOCIAL SAPPERS

C/o Hugh Mawson
Ph: (06) 354-0904
Email: hmawson@paradise.net.nz

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND BRANCH.

C/o Secretary, Don Bates, 27 Hood Street, Wakari, Dunedin 9001
Email: donbates@free.net.nz

THE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE.

Chairman: Paul Fricker (03) 455 2122

Secretary/Treas: Don Bates (03) 476-2005

Committee members: Chris Aimers (03) 453-6718

Edgar Black (03) 487-8899



Well, things are on the improve and this newsletter is well on the way of coming out during the month it is meant to. Many thanks for the kind offers of assistance I have received, but as the typing and folding are currently acting as much needed therapy to the wrist, and the room in my office is now somewhat crammed due to being full of packed boxes prior to moving to another house, it is better that I box on on my own (excuse the pun). Always looking for articles and photos, so if they don't go into one issue, they should make it to the next. The Sappers Association now has an e-mail address shown on the inside of the front page. Remember, any details of coming events pertinent to the month of the newsletter should be submitted in time for the previous issue. Pleasing to see the number of our members taking up the option of receiving the newsletter by email. A steady increase every month is making the job so much easier and controllable. If you have any knowledge of any of our members in a poorly way or suffering undue hardship, drop me a line and we'll put it out in the Welfasre column so members can drop around for some comfort or assistance. We are not getting any younger most of us, except for Pettersen who is ageless.

Cheers,
Ave
Editor



3rd RNZE BRANCH
C/o Secretary, Jack Blyth, 3 Sayers Cres., Christchurch 8041
Email: jackblyth@xtra.co.nz
CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE. www.44sappers.co.nz

THE OFFICE HOLDERS ARE.

Chairman: Bernie Rose: (03) 313-1569 Vice-Chairman: Eric Elley (03) 385-8951
 Secretary: Jack Blyth: (03) 348-4871
 Committee members: BJ Clark (03) 359-4522 Colin Walsh (03) 347-6605
 George Jason-Smith (03) 312-4844 Geoff Church (03) 349-2313
 Norm Smith (03) 348-1562 John Fischer (03) 347-9305
 Owen Phillips (03) 435-0507 Brian McTurk (03) 981-8291
 Co-opted members: 3 Fd Tp. Ssgt Garth Boyd & Ssgt Paul Greer

What's been happening during 2010-2011?

The get togethers have been going well, with more old sappers turning up on each occasion, which makes for a good night, with plenty of old stories flying around. The Sappers Day dinner was again very successful. ANZAC day turnout was well attended at Papanui, but Akaroa was down in numbers, with only one from the regulars there, due to other commitments in Christchurch (the earth quake). The Papanui RSA, our home base, has been refurbished and extended, the opening is coming up on the 2 July 11. This will make for a great place for the Reunion in October. We must congratulate BJ and his team on the great job with what they have achieved.

What's coming up 2011-12

12 August 2011	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs
14 October 2011	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs
28 29 30 October 2011	REUNION!
	Riccarton Rd and Assoc units reunion at the Papanui RSA
9 December 2011	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs
10 February 2012	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs
13 April 2012	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs (including this month this year)
25 April 2012	ANZAC parades at Papanui and Akaroa
8 June 2012	Get together at the Papanui RSA from 1700hrs

Mark these dates on your Calendar for future reference.

Get togethers: These are informal gatherings and are being well supported; we hope to see new faces turning up each time. These are held at the South Island Sappers HQs, the Papanui RSA. Any time after 1700hrs, on the second Friday of the even months of the year, see dates above, Food is available, as are Drinks. Come along and see who turns up.

Anzac Day: We would like to see as many as possible turn out to the parades at Papanui and Akaroa. Akaroa of course is where the Sappers have the Freedom of the Borough and the RF troops normally parade and march with the locals over there every year. Good day trip or have weekend over there, maybe in the Army Motels.

REUNION 2011 44 Riccarton Road & Associated Units

This is to be held on the weekend of the 28-29-30 October 2011 at the Papanui RSA, which has been fully refurbished and extended. Should make for a great venue for the reunion. There is to be a get together on the Friday night, a dinner on Saturday night and a parade & BBQ on the Sunday. Presentations of the New Zealand Defence Service Medals will be made at this parade to those wishing it. It is now 36 years since 44 Riccarton Road closed (November 1975) and 8 years since our last reunion (2003). This reunion is likely to be the last for the old 44 Riccarton Road Sappers, as age is catching up on a lot of us.

Cost only \$65 per head. Just fill out the attached form and forward to:-

Reunion. C/o Villa 25, 3 Reeves Rd, Rangiora 7400. Or Email the form to: - riccrd44@xtra.co.nz or if would like more info just phone Bernie on 03 3131569

Look forward to seeing you all there.



44 Riccarton Road & Associated Units Reunion

**Papanui RSA October 28-29-30
2011**

REGISTRATION FORM

**To be filled out and returned with cheques made payable to:
3rd RNZE Branch.**

Surname:

First Name:

Others attending:(eg partner):

Address:

Phone: **Mobile:**

Email:

Any Special Diet needs Yes/No () If yes, what type:

Registration Fee: No of pers @. \$65.00 per person. \$

**Forward payment to: Reunion, Villa 25, Northbrook Villas,
3 Reeves Road.
RANGIORA 7400**

Email or Phone Bernie Rose at: 03-3131569
riccrd44@xtra.co.nz

Do you wish to play golf Saturday morning. Yes/No ()

Total \$ **Cheque No:**



Lost Souls

If you know of their present address or contact number, could you please contact the database archivist, Ken Avenell with the details.

Many thanks for the excellent feedback to date. Since the last newsletter, this has allowed members who have not recorded change of address to start receiving their newsletters again. It has also brought to our notice members who have deceased, thereby allowing us to upgrade our records and and, where possible, send condolences to family.

Name/Init	First Name (Nickname)	Last known Location
Toia	Derek	Northland
Topp	A M, Alan (Toppy)	Rotorua
Trevelyan	F J	Waipukurau
Van der Beeke	P G J, Paul	??
Vincent	F G, Frank	Waihi
Vincent	M R, Malcolm (Shorty)	??
Voight	A E, (Toos)	??
Wakefield	H M, Harry	??
Walker	A D, Arthur	Auckland
Walker	R T, Robert	Nelson
Walton	A J, Allen	Hamilton
Warnock	W H, Bill	??
Watson	R StG, Raymond (Wattie)	??
Welham	R E, Richard	Auckland
White	L J, Lesley (Chalky)	Auckland
White	R B	Christchurch
White	R J, Roger (Pronto)	??
Whitworth	A P, Alex	Auckland
Willcocks	A H, Alby	Christchurch
Williams	A D, Alby	Auckland
Williams	D R, Douglas	??
Wilson	C D, Chris	Palmerston North
Wilton	P M, Peter	??
Akari	B N, Ben	Australia
Alcock	D F, David (Dismal Dave)	Auckland
Andrews	M E, Mark (Buzz)	Ashhurst
Bailey	L J, Leo	Auckland
Baillie	G E, George	Pahia
Barltrop	J C, John	Upper Hutt



THE SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (NZ) Incorporated

The Membership Secretary
C/o Palmerston North RSA
P.O. Box 88
Palmerston North 4440
NEW ZEALAND



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Qualification: Persons who have served, or are still serving, in any sapper unit of His/Her Majesty's Forces in war, or in peace, for any period.

(Please print)

Regimental No. Rank (current or on discharge):

Surname:

First Name(s):

Nickname: (optional)

Address:

Phone: (Hm) (Mobile)

E-mail:

Do you wish to be included in the Yahoo Groups NZSappers email list? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you wish your newsletter to be delivered by email? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

Next of Kin: Relationship

Address (if different)

Engineer Units served with:

Honours and Awards (optional):

NOTE: The database will be used to address the magazine issued three times yearly. If you would like your rank and/or your honours/awards included, please indicate by a tick. ☐ Rank ☐ Awards

Signature: Date:

Please forward a Life Membership Fee of \$60.00 which includes Life Membership Card and Lapel Badge. You may add a donation towards the "Serving Sappers Bursary Awards" if you wish.

Joining & Membership Fee: \$60.00 Donation: \$ Amount enclosed: \$

Office Use ONLY

Receipt No.: Database entry: Date: Initial:

Magazine Editor: Date actioned: Badge & LM Card posted:

Noted in N/ltr Approved at Council meeting dated

If undelivered, please return to:
The Editor, Sappers Newsletter
The Sappers Association (NZ) Inc
c/o Palmerston North RSA
P.O Box 88
Palmerston North 4440
NEW ZEALAND

ATTENTION - POST OFFICE

If undelivered - PLEASE **DO**
NOT obscure the recipient with
your stamps as this makes follow-
up of our membership extremely
difficult