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22nd Battalion Association
AUCKLAND BRANCH

SEPTEMBER, 1970

EDITOR: B.A.Cox,
126 Exmouth Rd.,
Northcote, 9.

Secretary: C.W.Handerson,
Box 13-058,
Onehunga.

LADIES NIGHT: LADIES NIGHT will be held :-

ON SATURDAY -- 3rd OCTOBER, 1970.

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AT 7:30 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.

VENUE: OFFICERS' CLUB, QUEENS ARCADE, AUCKLAND.
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This is an entirely new venue, so far Ladies Nights are concerned. You will enjoy it. A buffet meal will be served, and a band will be in attendance, so come prepared for an evening of DINING AND DANCING.

Visitors will be welcome, but NOTE THIS -- ALL, Members and Visitors, must be booked in advance. We cannot afford to cater for those who do not turn up, and the caterers can provide only for the number who have booked in. Accommodation is not unlimited, so it will be strictly, first in, first served so far as bookings are concerned.

✓ Dress: Lounge Suits; Cocktail Frocks or Long Frocks - as preferred.

✓ Refreshments will be served at Club Prices.

How to get to the Officers' Club? Read this carefully.

Just inside the Customs Street entrance to Queens Arcade, on the right hand side (from Customs St.) you will find a lift. Take this lift to the 4th Floor, and you're home and dry.

✓ The Cost will be \$8 per double -- \$8 per double.

NATIONAL REUNION: The reunion is now history, but history should be recorded. My own impression is that the Napier effort was outstanding, and that Frank Twigg and his team did a magnificent job. The attendance was around 700. Hawkes Bay had the courage to face up to changing conditions, and did so by turning on a mixed evening (ladies present) on the Saturday. I understand South Island, two years ago, made a move in this direction - they brought in the ladies later in the evening. Both were successful. But, and I feel this is most important, there must be lashings of space where unattached males can foregather. If a bloke is not married, or, if his wife cannot attend, or, if he goes solo because he feels that reunions - army reunions, that is - "are not for the birds." That bloke is entitled to expect to be catered for. He must be provided with space for a male get-together. Napier met that condition. True, the weather let them down. Not since I fled the South Island, six years ago, have I had to scrape ice off the wind screen. That was unfortunate, but must always be a possibility. Your Committee (Auckland) chewed over this one at some length, and came up with a poser. "Why do we always have to hold reunions in mid-winter?" The troops are getting older every year, and some will not face a long winter drive to attend, they just do not, or can not, face up to winter travel. The 64 dollar question is, "Would a change result in better attendances?" We do not know. We do not wish to upset National arrangements, but would like our delegates to go to next National meeting fully informed as to the opinions of Auckland members. And we would like to know:-

Would you attend reunions held on some other date? - say Labour Day.

Would you prefer the present June date be retained?

Please understand we are not trying to rock the boat - the question has been raised. We believe it should be answered to the satisfaction of our own members. We are well aware the June is the best time for many members. Others have different circumstances, but would they come on another date? Many functions have been spoiled because Committees have strived to cut expenses, and have turned on a cheap show. The end result has been that they have catered for those who don't turn up anyway. That, then, is my appreciation of your Committee's views. I hope I have got it straight. There will be a meeting before this screed goes to the printer so if you find bits crossed out in your copy then you will know that I have gone wrong.

Next NATIONAL REUNION - WANGANUI - 1972. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

NATIONAL RE-UNION - WANGANUI - 1972. QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

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YOUR R.S.A. -- DO YOU BELONG? -- HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

The R.S.A. is not just a matter of tub-thumping, pressure groups, or beer-swilling. It is a pressure group! Yes, when the interests of returned service personnel are involved. It is our advocate when an ex-serviceman seeks a pension. It is his family's advocate if that man dies as a result of war service. It is a gathering of men with a common bond. It is not a political group -- but can any group of that size keep aloof when the

interests of its members are involved, or the security of the country is played around with. Then the R.S.A. speaks with the voice of experience. And it is the most experienced body so to speak.

The war is over, forget it. That is the excuse of those who just don't want to be bothered. When people forget the war then that is just the time to start getting ready for the next one. And if you don't believe that people can forget the war, try and see how many can tell you what anniversary occurred on 3rd September. The newspapers carried the story that morning, and the radio stations plugged it. So I asked several youngsters what day it was. Very few had a clue. The war is over we've forgotten it!!

But the R.S.A. remembers! And when you get further along the road and are looking for a helping hand, the R.S.A. will remember, provided you let them know who you are.

THE R.S.A. NEEDS YOU --- but perhaps not as much as you MAY NEED THE R.S.A.

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Gosh! Do I get myself involved, or do I? And all the Committee said was, "Put in a plug for membership of the R.S.A." Well, I tried, and now I reread my note. It says, "Plug for payment of R.S.A. subs!"

P. P. DONOGHUE: When Paul Donoghue died on 2nd April, Wellington Rugby lost an ardent and enthusiastic administrator; the 22nd lost an honoured member; and many of our members lost an old and valued friend.

I have a sheaf of cuttings from Wellington papers. They all tell the same story -- "the gentle giant" -- "kindly" -- "sensitive to the plight of others" -- "his faith" -- we all knew Paul; we all know the things that would be said of him. We will miss him.

C. R. GATES: We were amazed to read in the "R.S.A. Review" that "Basher" had died on 9th June. The pity is that we were not aware at the time.

MR. OWEN WILSON: You will recall how, some years ago, when Auckland Branch decided to open its Crete Fund the local newspapers wrote up the story. Mr. Wilson, not a 22nd man, asked could he sponsor a child through the fund. His offer was accepted with gratitude. Since then Mr. Wilson has sent to us his annual donation. When the cost, per child, was increased Mr. Wilson raised his contribution to meet the increased charge. We regret to advise that Mr. Wilson passed away last March. But the story does not end there. Mrs. Wilson wrote asking could she take over her late husband's sponsorship, and we were happy to accept her generous offer. So the good work will be carried on. Our sincere sympathy, together with our grateful thanks, go to Mrs. Wilson.

LT. COL. T. THORNTON: Tom Thornton was commissioned in the 22nd, but did his final rank of LT. COL. was gained in another unit. We make that explanation lest any of you were confused by the newspaper reports at the time of his death, last June.

CRETE FUND: At Napier, Barry Houlahan, that indefatigable collector of funds for the cause, roped in \$47 odd at the re-union.

Thanks, again, Barry.

Following our discussion at the last Auckland Branch re-union our Secretary wrote asking for details of further sponsorships. You will recall he reported that the kids we had sponsored up till now had grown up. We have selected:-

Ioannis Kaliotzakis, of Maleme, age 11 years. We had asked for someone in the Maleme area. His parents were both born in 1932, so they will have been in Crete as kids, themselves, during the war. His father earns very little to support his family. We think this is a very worthy case.

These kids write to us regularly, but it is all Greek to us. However the controlling body send translations of the letters -- which is very helpful. Here are two of the translations.

PKM.

GR.2406

NEW ZEALAND



ΥΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΥΠΗΧΟΝΗΝ ΠΡΟΕΣΤΑΣΙΑΝ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΕΠΙΤΙΜΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΙΑΝ
ΤΗΣ Α.Μ. ΕΤΗΣ ΒΑΛΙΑΝΤΗΣ

ΤΕΟΧΑ 5

P. I. K. P. A.

ATHENS

My Dear and Respected Sponsor,

My family and I wish you MANY HAPPY RETURNS and Good Health Happiness and Prosperity throughout the New Year 1970.

I received through the PIKPA's branch office of Crete, your monetary donation which you sent me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Your kind assistance is a great relief to my family and myself. We are deeply grateful and indebted for your interest & your generosity towards us.

I wonder if you can imagine the extend of the happiness of my parents, the 5 other children of the family and mine when we received your gift. We bought some feedstuff and a few needings for the nearing Holy Days.

Thank to your noble assistance I was able to follow my studies at the Secondary School. You may rest assured that my gratitude and that of my family will follow you all our life.

I thank you once again and I wish that Almighty God may keep you and your honorable family always Healthy and Happy and materialize all your noble desires.

I Salute you with respect and affection
NASSIOU CONSTANTINOS



PKM.

GR.2404

NEW ZEALAND

Honourables Sponsors,

GOOD MORNING.! I wish that my letter finds you in Good Health and Happy. As regards us, Thank God, we are quite well.

Please believe me, Dears Sponsors, that I can't find the right words which would express my gratitude and that of my family for your kind assistance which gives us a great relief. You can't imagine how eagerly I was expecting to get your donation in view to give it to my sick mother and to dispose it for the needs of my little unprotected brothers and sisters.

As you are aware I found a good companion for my life whom I married. He is not a rich man but he is a good one. Thank God I feel quite well.

God Bless you and give you back much more and keep you all in Good Health and happiness. My family and I will never forget what we owe you. May Good - Lord largely reward you for your gentle feelings.

I Salute you and I send you my tenderly kisses

Ex HARALAMBOUS EVANGHELLIA (now WRANA)

And may Good - Lord largely reward you too, Haraloumbus Evanghellia, not only you, but your gallant people. New Zealand will remember: Some will, anyway.

Don't forget the CRETE FUND is still open. It will remain open so long as we feel this Association can manage to raise enough to earn the "tenderly kisses" and the "respect and affection" of these kids to whom so little means so much.

GENERAL WESTPHAL: We were interested to note that General Westphal has been invited to attend the Anzac Day celebrations in Auckland. Desmond Young, in his book, "ROMMEL," tells how during the 1941 campaign, von Ravenstein turned up in Bardia with his division, and reported to Rommel. "Rommel exploded," he had ordered von Ravenstein to "be ready to attack from Halfaya." Lt. Col. Westphal as G1(Ops) had recognised the flaw in Rommel's plan and changed it. Later he and Rommel burnt Hitler's message instructing that enemy troops on "so called Commando missions be slaughtered to the last man." He was wounded at Knightsbridge in 1942 and evacuated to Europe.

"THE KING'S NAVEE": Three Kiwis - myself (three stripes and all) and two askaris from my gun crew (wish I could remember their names), sightseeing in Taranto, were at peace with the world. We had found the "pram shop", that oasis where, when vino was elsewhere unprocurable, you strode in through the shop, into a curtained recess at the rear, produced the lire and Tony did the decent.

Tony had done the decent and a bottle of vermouth had been stowed away where it would do most good. We set out to see the sights.

Along came a magnificent figure - the King's Navee personified. A square man, almost as broad as he was tall. "Chunky" would be the best description. He was, must have been, the pattern in which junior officers of the Royal Navy cast themselves during their "Walter Mitty" moments. Apart from his striking physique his dress was immaculate, including the walking cane he swung vigorously as he progressed along the strada, and the gold braid - the masses of gold braid that adorned his cap and his sleeves - Blimy! this was an admiral - must have been - THE ADMIRAL - THE LORD HIGH ADMIRAL - he probably owned the bloody fleet.

He hove to across the bows of the more junior service and addressed himself to me (probably on account of me stripes).

HE: Is there anything in your regulations against saluting naval officers?

me: Not that I know of, SIR.

HE: The way you men look at a Naval Officer and then turn away FAIR MAKES ME SICK! (To add emphasis to the last four words he bounced up and down, and pounded the pavement with his cane.)

me, (in an attempt to pour oil on the troubled navy);

I'm sorry, SIR, but there's nothing we can do about it, is there? I can still hear the snort, and the rapid fire of his cane, as his ribs took off up the strada. God help any Kiwi matelot, officer, or, in fact any 'colonial' who crossed his path that day.

"ACK-ACK PIQUET": A British unit, part of the "Battle Axe" Division, pulled in alongside the 22nd lines at Mignano. It was a bitterly cold day and raining heavily. As the Air Force put it, visibility was zero. On top of one truck sat a Tommy, soaked to the skin and obviously, half frozen. He was the ack-ack piquet, and despite the fact that visibility was nil, and even suppose any aircraft was aloft it certainly would not be flying low; despite all that, he sat there doing an utterly useless job under the most miserable conditions. Ah well, the book said an ack-ack piquet would be posted, and posted one was. No one could say his officer was not "on the job."

A Kiwi, taking pity on the poor wretch, passed up a lighted cigarette. The piquet had taken not more than a couple of puffs when a scream rent the air. He dropped the gasper in dismay as an officer leapt from the comparative comfort of a truck and demanded to know didn't that man know better than to smoke on duty, and would the sergeant take his name.

Apparently the book had provided for that contingency also, and Sergeant appeared with waterproof note book and pencil that wrote under water.

And in spite of that type of proceeding, or maybe because of it, they were great troops and bonny fighters.

----- CUT ALONG THIS LINE -----

MAIL THIS SLIP TO REACH THE SECRETARY BEFORE 25th SEPTEMBER - THAT MEANS NOW

MR. C. W. RANDERSON,
Box 13-058,
ONEHUNGA.

I WILL BE ATTENDING THE LADIES' NIGHT ON 3rd OCTOBER.

I ENCLOSE \$ FOR TICKETS.

Name (printed please)

Address:

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The Secretary is again looking for subs. Notices will appear any day, telling you if you have not paid. Watch for that steely glint when he "welcomes" you at the door. But don't let that deter you. Your attendance at Ladies Night is more important. Pay your sub later, if necessary.