

"Vrai et Fort"

22nd Battalion Association

AUCKLAND BRANCH

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Secretary:

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22ND BATTALION NEWS

NATIONAL CIRCULAR

P.O. Box 13-058,
Onehunga,
Auckland, .6.

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November, 1986

1988 NATIONAL REUNION

During the past seven months, the Auckland Branch Committee has done almost all of its preliminary planning for the holding of the Association's 1988 National Reunion in Auckland and has received numerous enquiries as to the date of the Reunion and about the arrangements for accommodation bookings. We had no difficulty in deciding on the VENUE (Alexandra Park) and on the dates that we consider to be the most suitable:- these dates are either the last weekend in February, 1988 (1st choice) or the first weekend in March, 1988 (it will definitely be a Summer Reunion) BUT, at this moment, we are unable to tell you the exact date. This is because the availability of the ALEXANDRA PARK RACEWAY facilities is dependent on the publishing of the 1988 calendar for Trotting Meetings and the Auckland Trotting Club will not finalise its 1988 calendar until about 3 months from now - in mid-February, 1987. Next year (1987) there are no Trotting Meetings scheduled between February 17 and March 10 and there is a reasonable expectation that there will be a similar gap in the 1988 calendar but this cannot yet be confirmed with certainty. From the information at present available to us, we can say that the 1988 National Reunion will definitely be held at:-

ALEXANDRA PARK RACEWAY
Greenlane Road, Epsom.

TENTATIVE DATES (to be confirmed)

Weekend of February 26/28, 1988

(Could be a week later, or even a week earlier).

BE THERE FOR SURE!

Auckland Branch originated the T.F.S. scheme and our 1988 T.F.S. fund is now in full operation. We commend this scheme to you as very much in your interest, as well as being helpful to the organising of the Reunion. To take part, just send your initial remittance to Cedric Randerson, P.O. Box 13-058, Auckland, 6 and a T.F.S. book will be mailed to you right away. The T.F.S. prize is a free double ticket to the Reunion and everyone who has paid in at least \$100 by 31st December, 1987 will be in the draw for the T.F.S. prize.

REUNION COSTS

The major cost of attending a National Reunion, for those who do not live in the area where it is being held, is the cost of travel and accommodation.

BE THERE FOR SURE (CONTINUED)

The effects of inflation have caused these costs to escalate and there is nothing we can do to keep them down. Sadly, some Association members will be prevented from attending the 1988 Reunion by the cost factor but a great many of our 22nd people will make it by planning ahead, by travelling by car and by combining the 1988 National Reunion with a holiday trip to Auckland. Make full use of the T.F.S. scheme to accumulate funds in the kitty between now and February, 1988.

Be assured that we will use every trick in the book to keep down the cost of the Reunion itself and the present forecast is that the catering and overhead costs will not be unduly high.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS

We have engaged the services of Convention Management Services, a division of Atlantic & Pacific Travel Ltd., to handle the accommodation bookings on our behalf (and yours). No extra cost is involved, as the agency is paid commission by the Motels and Hotels. They will make reservations of 250 double and single rooms as soon as we can give them the exact dates of the Reunion.

The Agency says that very few Motels will accept reservations more than 12 months in advance and this ties in very satisfactorily with our inability to fix the exact date of the Reunion until February, 1987. Even if the exact Reunion date were known now, bookings prior to February or March next would be inadvisable. Motels have a tendency to change ownership and a reservation accepted more than a year in advance MIGHT NOT be still available if the Motel changed hands.

Our next National Circular will contain a list of the Motels and Hotels which will make accommodation available through the Agency and an Accommodation booking form.

ROLL OF HONOUR

37150	J. O.B. (BARNEY) BECKETT	Tauranga	11/3/86
30009	JACK BOSELEY	Hastings	8/6/86
36989	C.A. CROPP	Levin	14/7/86
35539	E.K. (EARL) CROSS	Tauranga	29/6/86
31623	E.S. CAMERON	Te Kuiti	4/6/86
615001	E. DEVEREUX	Christchurch	22/8/86
446391	J.C. ELLIOTT	Palmerston North	11/7/86
30021	G.R. FLETCHER	Levin	4/9/86
5954	S. HANTON	Wanganui	11/7/86
816672	D.B. HORN	Tauranga	10/7/86
38190	F.W. HUGHES	Auckland	25/7/86
616044	R.T. JEFFS	Auckland	6/2/86
42301	J.W. JOHNSON	Hawera	1/6/86
30507	W.M. JOHNSTON	Napier	25/7/86
45366	D. MICHEL	Palmerston North	24/7/86
33180	A.W. O'REILLY	Wellington	16/5/86
35794	T. ST. PEARSE	New Plymouth	25/7/86
37434	L.B. QUIRK	Napier	3/7/86

ROLL OF HONOUR (CONTINUED)

454494	N.T. RIDLER	Paraparaumu	27/6/86
16519	C.K. ROSSER	New Plymouth	1/4/86
37308	M.B. SHAW	New Plymouth	17/3/86
30203	E.H. (HAMISH) SIMPSON	Whakatane	2/6/86
6240	L.L. SUTTON	New Plymouth	10/8/86
30767	P.N. THACKER	New Plymouth	20/6/86
33850	A.J.S. WHITSON	Takapuna	June, 1986
440784	R.A. WINSTANLEY	New Plymouth	14/6/86

The length of the above list of deaths during 1986 makes for sad reading, especially as a number of them were widely known and greatly respected in the Battalion, including of course Lt.Col. Bert (Buzz) O'Reilly. A recent communication from Den Reidy, Keeper of the Roll, also records the passing, on 30th September, of BESSIE MEAD ANDREW, widow of the late Leslie Wilton Andrew. Mrs. Andrew was in her 93rd year.

THE FALLEN

Each Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and on the many other occasions when Returned Servicemen gather together, we observe silence to honour the memory of those who did not come back and we go through the ritual of the reciting of "The Ode" - that is those oft-quoted (and frequently misquoted) lines from LAURENCE BINYON's 'Poems For the Fallen':- "They shall grow not old - - - - -". Also, on such occasions, we enjoy nostalgic reminiscences of a period in our lives that we could not forget even if we wanted to do so. It is this aspect of the get-togethers of returned men that has given rise to accusations that our chief motivation is a desire to re-live "past glories". The critics seem totally unaware that most of us had no real wish to be soldiers, sailors or airmen, that we went to War only because an unpleasant job had to be done and that, long before it was over, we were yearning to return to normal living. If, along the way, we derived some satisfaction from the achievements of our Units, we can be pardoned for that and it certainly does not prove that we were militaristic types who revelled in the gore and carnage of military combat. The truth of the matter is that we all made considerable sacrifices, while seeing many of our comrades suffer death or disablement, because we believed that our country had a way of life worth preserving and worth fighting for. And, for the same reason, we came back very conscious of the tragic wastage of young lives and firmly resolved to do anything in our power to ensure that the rights and freedoms for which we fought and many died were not thrown away in an era of illusory peace.

In honouring the fallen, it would be easy to get carried away to the extent of building up each of them to heroic stature, whereas we know that most of them were ordinary and unremarkable young men who performed no outstanding feats of valour. In saying that, I am not forgetting that, while many acts of conspicuous gallantry were given justified acclaim, many similar acts received no official recognition and that countless numbers of servicemen displayed courage of a high order simply by overcoming their fears while doing the jobs they were given to do. Whether conspicuously courageous or not, each of those who did not come back was a personality in his own right and each was denied the chance of realising his full potential in life. Many left widows and children to mourn their passing and the death of each was a tragedy for his family and friends. Collectively, the loss of so many young lives was a national tragedy of a kind that nobody could wish to see repeated. Many of our War dead would have made their mark in the post-War period:- as community leaders, in business, in the professions,

THE FALLEN (CONTINUED)

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in industry, in the civil service, in politics. There could easily have been a Prime Minister among them or even a Governor-General.

All this was suggested by Laurence Binyon's memorable lines but it was expressed more clearly by a young British naval officer, RUPERT BROOKE, who became almost a national hero when he died on active service at the age of 28. Brooke had published his first book of poems when he was only 24. His two famous poems with a War theme were:- "The Soldier", beginning: 'If I should die, think only this of me - - - ', and "The Dead", from which the following verse is taken"-

"Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead!
There's none of these so lonely and poor of old,
But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold.
These laid the world away; poured out the red
Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be
Of work and joy, and that unhopd serene
That men call age; and those who would have been
Their sons; they gave their immortality." Cedric Randerson.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NATIONAL REUNION - 1986:- Auckland Branch extends its warm congratulations to WAIRARAPA on the success of the National Reunion held in Masterton early in April. Apart from a few minor hitches, everything went according to plan and the weekend was an unqualified success. Full marks to all members of the Wairarapa Reunion Committee, who worked long and hard on the planning and organising of the Reunion. Every Branch that has hosted one or more Nationals knows just how much depends on meticulous attention to points of detail and the Wairarapa Committee did their work well. Someone should also be congratulated on the kind of weather that Masterton turned on to grace the occasion, effacing the memories of that other weekend when it rained and rained and rained!

L.W. ANDREW V.C. BURSARY:- In August, HADDON DONALD presented this year's Bursary to SUSAN ORTON of Horowhenua College. The Bursary is awarded every second year and has a value of \$400. The College Board has expressed its appreciation of the Battalion Association's continued generosity. The Bursary is held in high regard, both within the College and the community, and is keenly sought after by senior students. Its presentation is a highlight of the College's year.

1988 NATIONAL REUNION COMMITTEE

The present Auckland Branch Committee, which will form the nucleus of the 1988 Reunion Committee, comprises:-

Branch (& National) President:- George Matthews.

Vice-Presidents:- Dudley Shirley-Thomson; Stan Johnson.

Branch (& National) Secretary:- Cedric Randerson.

Committee:- Jim Allen; Eric Benfield; Grant Borrie; Brian Galvin; Ron Jones; Scotty McMillan; Henry McRae; Massey Wood.