

"Vrai et Fort"

22nd Battalion Association

AUCKLAND BRANCH

Telephone 664-792

Secretary :

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(Registered at Post Office as a Magazine)

22ND BATTALION NEWS

P.O. Box 13-058,

Onehunga,

Auckland, 6.

MARCH, 1987

FOR AUCKLAND BRANCH MEMBERS

BRANCH SOCIAL FUNCTION (and A.G.M.) - Will be held on **SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1987** at Grey Lynn Returned Services Club (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please be there if you can to show your support for your 1988 National Reunion Committee.

See full notice and Reply Slip on back page of this Newsletter.

1988 NATIONAL REUNION

We can now confirm the date and venue for next year's National shindig, the Auckland Trotting Club having advised us that there are no Trotting meetings on their 1988 Trotting Calendar for the last weekend in February and that Alexandra Park is therefore available for our use from February 26th to 28th, 1988:-

Venue:- Alexandra Park Raceway,
Greenlane Road, Epsom,

Dates:- Friday, 26/2/88 to Sunday, 28/2/88.

BE THERE FOR SURE!

There has been a good response to our T.F.S. scheme for 1988 but we hope to have many more contributors to the fund during the next 9 months. It will help you to have funds in the kitty and your contributions will be a big help to the 1988 Reunion Committee. We remind you that to qualify for the draw for the T.F.S. prize, you must have \$100 in T.F.S. by 31/12/87.

REUNION REGISTRATIONS:- If you intend (or hope) to be at next year's National Reunion, PLEASE fill in and return the Reply Slip in this Newsletter. This does not commit you (should you be unable to be there when the time comes) but it will be of great assistance to the Reunion Committee in the planning and organising for February 26/28, 1988. Please send your reply whether or not you wish to contribute to T.F.S.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS

Now that the date of the 1988 Reunion can be confirmed, the way is open for you to reserve accommodation for next February. As we told you in November, all reservations must be made through our Agency:- Convention Management Services.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS (CONTINUED)

It needs to be clearly understood that the Reunion Committee does not have the resources to deal with Accommodation arrangements and this applies especially to those who have already asked for accommodation to be reserved for them, in specified Motels in some cases. It would only cause confusion if we were to attempt to pass on your previous requests to the Agency and, in any case, your requirements may have changed since you wrote in about them. So, please note that you should now use the Request for Accommodation form in this Newsletter and that, until you do so, your accommodation needs will not have been recorded.

We have tried to make the list of Motels as informative as possible, including an indication as to which Motels have self-contained Units - that is with cooking facilities. The Motels in Greenlane Road are the ones nearest to Alexandra Park but those in Manukau Road are also close to our venue. Manukau Road intersects with Greenlane Road near to Alexandra Park and is a main Bus route. Alpers Avenue is just off Manukau Road. The Motels in Great South Road, Campbell Road and Ellerslie are a bit further away from our venue. The Alexandra Motor Inn has 18 units with Fridge, Shower, etc. and 7 family flats. You will note that 5 of the Motels on the list offer two grades of accommodation and are listed twice. Please note, too, that the costs of accommodation were quoted to us six months ago and therefore do not include GST and are obviously subject to any price rises that may occur.

NATIONAL REUNION COSTS

We repeat the assurance we gave in our first National Circular in November that we will be making determined efforts to keep down the cost of the Reunion itself. Unfortunately, we have no control over the cost of travel and accommodation and G.S.T. is now a fact of life that we all have to live with. We are still confident that the catering and overhead costs for the Reunion will not be unduly high and that they will be reasonably comparable with the costs for past National Reunions. One way in which the costs will be kept down is by applying the "user pay" principle to liquid refreshments to the maximum extent possible. It is simply inequitable to expect the non-drinkers and moderate drinkers to subsidise those who like their potion. We will be preparing our Reunion Budget as soon as we can.

REGISTRATION FORM1988 NATIONAL REUNION

March, 1987

22nd Battalion Assn.,
Box 13-058, Auckland, 6.

I/We plan to be at Alexandra Park Raceway for the National Reunion in February, 1988. Please register me/us as likely starters.

Name(s) (BLOCK LETTERS) _____

Address:- _____

T.F.S.:- I enclose a T.F.S. contribution of \$ _____. Please send me a T.F.S. book.

ROLL OF HONOUR

435101	A.N. ALGIE	ALFREDTON	14/1/87
455468	B.P. FORREST	MARTON	10/2/87
30359	A.F. GOATHAM	WELLINGTON	18/1/87
252460	D.R. LOGAN	NAPIER	28/12/86
449597	G.C. SCOTT	OPUNAKE	27/9/86
474903	H.V. STOVELL	WAIKANAE	17/12/86
439954	J.W. STRANG	WAIPAWA	10/1/87
30716	F.M. WAN	WANGANUI	19/12/86
40517	B.C. WILSON	WAIKANAE	18/1/87

LT. COL. A.W.F. O'REILLY

We reprint the following Obituary from "R.S.A. Review" of 6/2/87, with acknowledgements to R.S.A. Review:-

"LT. COLONEL A.W.F. (Bert) O'Reilly, M.C., M.I.D., who died recently at the age of 80, was an outstanding soldier. He was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in dispatches for his service in the field of battle. During his years of service he was, by his own example, a true leader of men and was an inspiration to all who had served under his command.

Bert O'Reilly was twice wounded. During the Battle of El Alamein he received severe leg wounds, and in Italy during an attack was wounded in the head. In both actions he refused to leave his men, and finally directed them to their objectives.

A man of explicit integrity, Colonel O'Reilly held high moral standards; he did not suffer fools gladly. He was always available to give constructive advice to any of his men, and to give compassion whenever it was called for him to do so. One of his greatest attributes was his remarkable memory, and his love for his fellow men. He could remember most, if not all, of the men who served under him. In civilian life he was always happy to meet any one of them, or their families if the need was there to do so.

At a Battalion parade in Italy in 1945 before returning home to New Zealand, Colonel O'Reilly was personally thanked by Lord Freyberg for his efficiency and leadership of 22nd Battalion and for his own soldierly qualities. Always a keen supporter and Patron of the 22nd Battalion, he took much pride in leading his men on Anzac Day parades in Wellington.

His wife, Joan, predeceased him several years ago and he is survived by his son, John, and his three daughters, Kathleen, Monica and Patsy."

A personal tribute:- My contacts with 'BUZZ' O'Reilly extended over a period of about 3 years - between 1941 and 1944. I first encountered him on the "Mauretania" en route to the Middle East and met up with him again in 'U' Area, when the 5th Reinforcements were awaiting postings to the line Battalions after Crete. I got to know him well when he became a Platoon Commander in A. Company (in 1942 I think) and more so when he was in command of 6 (MG) Platoon and I was Platoon Sergeant. It was on his recommendation that I was sent to OCTU in the U.K.

I think it is an accurate assessment to say that one had to know Buzz well to appreciate his true worth as a man and as a soldier. Among the rank and file Askaris he was regarded (at first) as a little too precise in his speech and

LT.COL. A.W.F. O'REILLY (CONTINUED)

a little too strict in his training standards for complete acceptance and respect but that view of him changed dramatically when his men went into action with him. His very deep concern for the welfare of the men under him became very quickly apparent and his outstanding qualities of leadership and integrity won him total respect and admiration. I remember very clearly the day (in the Million Dollar Hill area, south of Cassino) when Buzz instructed me to fall in 6 Platoon for a route march. This unwelcome order was received by the platoon with strong disfavour, especially as the other platoons in the company were doing precisely nothing that day. One fellow in particular (a fairly recent arrival) complained very bitterly and gave me his opinion of Buzz O'Reilly in scathing language. I told him that he was by no means the first man in A Company to hold such views and I predicted to him that he would change his tune the first time he was in action with Buzz. And so he did.

Buzz also seemed to take time to gain the respect to which he was entitled at higher Army levels. He must have been by far the most senior Captain in the Division when he eventually gained his majority. Of his many fine qualities, I remember more than anything else his patience and understanding. He was a gentleman in the best sense of the word.

Cedric Randerson

THE FALLEN (POSTSCRIPT)

In the November issue of this Newsletter was an article, entitled "The Fallen", that spoke about such things as the tragic wastage of young lives in War and re-emphasised that each of those who did not come back was denied the chance to realise his full potential in life. The article quoted that well-known verse from a Rupert Brooke poem that begins:- "Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead - -" and ends with the words:- " - - - they gave their immortality."

The article and Rupert Brooke's lines prompted STEWART NAIRN of Tauranga to send me the following verse on the same theme:-

" Let them in, Peter, they are very tired;
 Give them the couches where the Angels sleep.
 Let them wake whole again to new dawns fired
 with sun, not war, and may their peace be deep.
 Remember where the broken bodies lie.....
 and give them things they like. Let them make noise,
 God knows how young they were to have to die!
 Give swing bands, not gold harps, to these our boys.
 Let them love, Peter -- they have had no time - -
 Girls sweet as meadow wind, the flowering hair . . .
 They should have trees and bird song, hills to climb - -
 The taste of summer in a ripened pear.
 Tell them how they are missed, say not to fear;
 It's going to be alright with us down here."

Elma Dean.

ACCOMMODATION - 1988 NATIONAL REUNIONMotels available for bookings through Convention Management Services

PLEASE NOTE:- (1) The rates were quoted last August (before GST).

(2) Motels with units with cooking facilities are indicated by an asterisk.

(1) \$50 & under:-

ALEXANDRA MOTOR INN,
Greenlane Road*ALPERS LODGE,
Alpers Avenue, Epsom.*AABERDEEN MOTEL,
Greenlane Road* BEST WESTERN RAMFURLY,
Manukau Road

(2) \$65 & under:-

*CARDIGAN BAY MOTEL,
Manukau RoadALEXANDRA MOTOR INN,
Greenlane Road*ALPERS LODGE,
Alpers Avenue, Epsom*AABERDEEN MOTEL,
Greenlane Road

(2) \$65 & under (continued)

*GALLOP MOTOR INN,
Ellerslie*BEST WESTERN INTERNATIONAL,
Greenlane Road*DILWORTH MOTEL,
Great South Road.*ELLERSLIE HIGHWAY MOTEL,
Ellerslie*BEST WESTERN RAMFURLY
Manukau Road*EPSOM MOTOR INN,
Greenlane Road

(3) \$80 & Under

*GALLOP MOTOR INN,
Ellerslie

(4) \$100 & Under:-

LOGAN PARK MOTEL
Campbell Road, Greenlane22ND BATTALION ASSN. NATIONAL REUNION - FEB. 26/28, 1988ACCOMMODATION REQUEST FORM

NAME:-

(Block Letters)

ADDRESS:-

(Block Letters)

Please indicate the rate of accommodation you prefer by inserting (1) for first preference and (2) for your second choice:-

() \$50 & under.

() \$65 & under.

() \$80 & under.

() \$100 & under.

NAME OF MOTEL PREFERRED:-

NUMBER TO BE ACCOMMODATED:-

NO. OF NIGHTS:

TYPE OF UNIT REQUESTED (TICK ONE BOX)

1 bedroom Unit

☐

;

2 bedroom Unit

☐TWIN OR DOUBLE (TICK ONE BOX)

Twin-bedded

☐

;

Double-bedded

☐Please send with \$50 deposit to
Convention Management Services,
P.O. Box 3839, Auckland

TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELDSPART 3 - VENICE & TRIESTE

We retraced our steps to Bologna along that wonderful Autostrada and headed for the River Po. April, 1945 saw the New Zealanders make their last assault across this mighty stream and head for Padova. A brief halt for lunch (oh those prices) in the city of St. Anthony reminded us of the overnight stop we made here before the dash to Venice and Trieste in April-May in the last week of the war. We didn't see Venice that evening as our hotel was in Mestre, the industrial centre on the mainland opposite the City of Canals. The next day we awoke to the most torrential downpour we had experienced during the last four weeks. It simply bucketed down and our day in Venice loomed fairly miserably. We bused along the causeway, dashed to our launch and chugged along the lagoon, not the canal, in almost blindfolded condition until we reached the steps opposite Piazzetta San Marco. The Pope had said Mass in the Main Square the evening before and all the staging and walkways were still up but looking very bedraggled in the pouring rain. We ran after our guide who took us straight to a glassworks where we were grateful for the shelter. We saw a display of the glassblowers art and then spent some time in the showroom, once again being tempted to spend our Kiwi dollars on the most fabulous glassware we had ever seen. The rain stopped and our guide was ready to show us the attractions of Venice, chiefly the Basilica, Doges Palace and the Bridge of Sighs.

Most of the afternoon was spent re-exploring this fascinating place, particularly a return to the Danielli Hotel, where many of us spent leave in undreamt of luxury 40 years ago. How this famous hotel became a leave centre for ordinary soldiers makes a unique chapter in the history of the 2nd NZEF. A group of us wandered into the place finding the downstairs foyer exactly the same although the majestic occupants of the Reception desk were somewhat cool when we mentioned the purpose of our visit. Apparently there is a chapter of the Danielli's history which the management prefers to forget. Our return to the hotel in Mestre was much more pleasant - in brilliant sunshine along the Grand Canal and under the famous Rialto Bridge. The Pope was completing his visit to this area and we were fortunate enough to gain a very close view as he drove through the streets near our hotel.

The next day it was once again the road to Trieste. It was along this highway that the New Zealanders finished their triumphal march to victory across the Piave and Isonzo Rivers and into the city that we came to love. Incidentally it was at the latter river that we first encountered our Allies, the Yugoslav Liberation Army, and it was with these people that we finished the war on a less than cheerful note. We made a brief halt at Castello Miramare where A Company of 22nd Battalion had an almost ludicrous passage of arms with a very numerically superior group of surrendering Germans. On arrival in Trieste we were summoned to the City Hall where the Deputy Mayor (His Worship was out of town) and several dignitaries made us most welcome with vino and food. Everywhere we went in the city we were greeted warmly by many of the citizens who were old enough to remember us. I took a nostalgic bus trip up the hills to Villa Opicina, a spot well remembered by members of A Company 22nd Battalion. That evening our hotel was visited by dozens of Triestini making enquiries about the whereabouts of soldiers they knew so long ago. It was a memorable visit and one of the highlights of the tour.

The next day we left Italy for Austria, Germany, France and England.

JACK McMILLAN

THE GREEK CAMPAIGN - 1941

Captain P.D. WINTER, Australian Army, has written to the Association concerning a thesis he is writing for a degree course (and a possible book) on the subject of Australian involvement in the 1941 campaign in Greece. Capt. Winter evidently believes that some of those who served with 2nd N.Z. Div. in Greece may have comments to make that would be helpful to his thesis and book and he has sent us the same questionnaire (with a few modifications) that he has sent to Australian Unit Associations. The questionnaire deals mainly with the political background to the sending of Australians & New Zealanders to Greece, though it also invites comments on a well-known Australian General of that period and on the effects of the campaign on the morale of the soldiers who took part in it.

The Auckland Branch Committee feels that we would do well to keep right out of this kind of debunking exercise but, if any member of the Association feels strongly enough about the subject matter of Capt. Winter's thesis to wish to become involved, we will send him a copy of the questionnaire on request.

BIRTH OF THE "LEMON SQUEEZER" HAT

DOUG FROGGATT of Tauranga has contributed material for these Newsletters from time to time and he has sent us some extracts from the "Official History of the N.Z. Rifle Brigade - 1914 - 1918" for use in the Newsletters when space is available. Here is an extract about the origin of the Kiwi Lemon Squeezer in 1916:-

"The felt hats, officially known as "smasher" hats, were still worn with the longitudinal crease in the top, and the distinguishing black patch was retained on the puggaree until May 23rd, when it was transferred to the sleeve of the tunic. It was not until the 7th September following that the now familiar peaked arrangement of the crown was ordered. The resemblance between our hats and those of the Americans was afterwards freely commented upon. This likeness, however, was only general; for whereas we had a puggaree the Americans had a cord, and while our creasing brought the ridges one running from front to rear and the other across on the line of the shoulders, the ridges of the American hats crossed diagonally.:

AUCKLAND BRANCHSOCIAL FUNCTION (& A.G.M.) - SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1987

Some further details about our Branch function this month (see front page). We repeat the appeal made by your Committee in December - for a big turnout of Auckland members on 22nd March and as many as possible from other parts of our Branch area. The National Reunion Committee seeks your moral support and encouragement for the big task it has taken on for 1988 and you can best show this by being at Grey Lynn R.S.C. on the 22nd (an apt date for our Battalion). So, we ask you to forego or cancel any other commitments for that day.

The A.G.M. shouldn't take long. You will be asked to accept a Committee recommendation that the annual subscription be raised to \$5, the first increase since 1983/84. Our costs (postages, printing, etc.) have gone up like everyone else's in the past 4 years. Quite a few of our members have already paid their subs. for 1987/88 at the old rate but this is unlikely to cause anyone concern. We are most grateful to all those who pay in advance.

The lunch will be the smorgasbord type at a cost of \$10 per head, this charge also being the admission fee to the function. Drinks from the Bar will be available throughout and Wine for lunch will also be on sale.

VENUE:-

Grey Lynn R.S. Club,
1 Francis Street, Grey Lynn.

TIMES:-

Assemble at:- 11 a.m.
Close down:- 3 p.m.

VISITORS:- Your friends and/or relatives will be most welcome.

ADMISSION:- \$10 per head (PLUS 1987/88 subscription, if not already paid).

REPLIES PLEASE!! We must know the numbers for catering in advance/ PLEASE help us by completing and returning the Reply Slip by 18TH MARCH.

22nd Battalion Assn.
Box 13-058, Auckland, 6.

March, 1987

I/We will be at the Branch function on 22nd March, 1987. I enclose the sum of \$ _____, being entrance for _____ people at \$10 per head, plus subscription of \$5 for the coming year.

Name (Block Letters):- _____

Address:- _____

(RETURN BY 18TH MARCH PLEASE)