

SALUTE TO T.P.

"Vrai et Fort"

## 22nd Battalion Association

### AUCKLAND BRANCH

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#### 22ND BATTALION NEWS

P.O. Box 13-058,  
Onehunga,  
Auckland, 6.  
MARCH, 1990

#### BRANCH SOCIAL FUNCTION - SUNDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1990

This will be our first Branch get-together since last April and your Branch Committee apologises for the fact that it was not practicable for us to hold a social function in the latter part of 1989. We know that many of our members (and their ladies) look forward to these gatherings and a question that we can look at on 25th March is whether we should hold two of them each year or settle for one good one, for which the month of March is the logical time. Most of us are not quite as full of vim and vigour as we used to be but we are active enough and spry enough to turn out to a Luncheon type gathering like this and find it well worth while when we make the small effort required. So, come along on March 25th and enjoy yourselves; this includes our out-of-town members who are able to make it.

The function will be almost entirely a social occasion, though we do also have to hold our AGM, which never lasts very long. The cost of the Luncheon will be \$14 per head, which will also be the admission charge. We do ask you to send pre-payments by mail, using the Reply Slip in this Newsletter. It saves the Treasurer a good deal of work at the door and also gives us the essential information we need for catering purposes. If you can't possibly make it, please send back the Reply Slip in any case, together with your sub. payment for 1990/91 and any arrears for the period ended 28/2/90.

#### VENUE:

Grey Lynn Returned Services Club  
1 Francis Street, Grey Lynn

#### TIMES:

Assemble at:-	11 a.m.
Luncheon at:-	1 p.m.
Close Down:-	3 p.m.

VISITORS (your friends or relatives) will be more than welcome.

THE COST:- \$14.00 per head (PLUS:- Subscription - \$5 per annum).

Drinks from the Bar will be available throughout and Wine for lunch will also be on sale.

NUMBERS FOR CATERING:- We MUST have catering numbers in advance.  
PLEASE fill in the Reply Slip NOW and send it with your remittance in time to reach the Treasurer's Office not later than 20th March.

LT.COL. R.R.T. YOUNG, D.S.O:- 1902-1990

RUSSELL YOUNG, better known in the Battalion (affectionately) as 'BRIGHAM' Young, has died in England in his 88th year. In the Libya, 1941 show and afterwards, he was OC D Company and the Battalion History records that, in Syria, he made a point of getting to know every man in his company by his first name. He was widely-known and highly regarded throughout the Battalion.

Following the disaster on RUWEISAT Ridge, Captain 'Brigham' Young was one of the many prisoners transported towards Libya but, when the convoy got to EL DABA, he escaped at a time "when every man was too exhausted even to think of escaping" and (apart from anything else) was without water. Russell Young's 'impossible' escape was deservedly given a good write-up in the History. Here are a few extracts:-

"On the march stragglers who looked as if they were contemplating escape had been warned that if anyone began wandering away he would be shot. At El Daba, outside the cage, the officers were separated from the other ranks, but Young had removed his pips on the march. He says:

"I waited until about half the other-ranks had been interrogated and put behind the netting. We were only about 20 yards from the guards' hut which appeared to be unoccupied. I wandered (casually, I thought and hoped) over to the hut and entered unobserved. Hanging on the wall was a water bottle full of coffee - I poured it into my own empty bottle and pocketed a small packet of biscuits lying on the table. I was relieved to get out and rejoin the others unobserved. Heartened by this success I wandered over a few minutes later to a small heap of kerosene tins (two high, I think) close to the guards' hut, and still appearing to be unobserved I lost no time in getting down behind them and hard up against them. I suppose my tensest moment up till then was waiting for a burst of machinegun or rifle fire had I been noticed. After a minute or two I felt safe and more relieved than I can tell. I felt that my best and safest course was to go to sleep, which I promptly did. Some time later, it was almost dark, a staff car drew up on the other side of the tins and someone got out - not six feet away. This woke me up. I remained there an hour or two longer. All was quiet save for two sentries, whose beat finished some yards away. I was facing south; the cage entrance and the sentries were to the left (east) of me.

"I crawled away from the tins, perhaps 300 yards to the right. Now I could see neither the cage nor the sentries. That night I headed due south by the stars. Once I thought I had run into their lines - I think they were vehicles - soon after I started. I gave them a wide margin. I walked till daylight - an estimated 15 miles, maybe more. I wrapped myself round a small desert shrub for the day. The flies were annoying. A few planes overhead."

The saga of this miraculous escape continued for a total of six days and nights, hiding by day and travelling by night, until he finally reached the lines of 25 Battalion. In the process, Young lost over one and a half stone in weight. "He had no head covering against the summer sun except a handkerchief used as a hat occasionally. He longed incessantly for a drink of milk (a curious desire, for he seldom touched milk) and thought longingly of an iced gin at the Maadi Club".

Why did a man who had already passed his 40th birthday endure what Russell Young went through on that desert trek? He gave a number of reasons, such as the duty of every P.O.W. to escape if at all possible, the ghastly thought of

Lt.Col. R.R.T. Young (Continued)

spending years in a prison camp and a refusal to take indignities lying down. In his own words:- "My inspiration was the satisfaction I would get of having achieved something worthwhile - and of making my wife happy. It was certainly worth it and, under similar circumstances, I would risk it again. My main thought was to get back to my Battalion at any cost. Yes, I was determined. I prayed once or twice for the necessary strength to see it through."

After leaving the Battalion, Russell Young achieved further fame as a soldier when he was CO of 28th Maori Battalion in the assault on the Cassino Railway Station. He was born in Wellington and, in civilian life, was an Executive for Shell Oil in New Zealand, Australia and Britain. A graduate of Victoria University, Wellington, he later completed the degree of M.Sc. at Cambridge University in England. He also had a distinguished sporting career (boxing and tennis) and was a member of the N.Z. Davis Cup team that defeated Portugal in 1928. Living in England after the war, he represented New Zealand on the International Lawn Tennis Association and was a trustee of the All England Tennis Club from 1978 until the date of his death. He was a fine man and a remarkable one in any man's language.

"ULTRA" & ALL THAT

It was not till well after World War 2 was over that the ordinary citizen became informed of the part played by ULTRA and other sophisticated code-breaking systems developed by our side during the war. The enemy countries were not too bad at code-breaking either but there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that ULTRA in particular gave the Western Allies a definite edge.

The problem for any country at war is, of course, to decide just how much use to make of Intelligence obtained in this way. If it becomes obvious to the enemy that his most complex coding system has been cracked, he will undoubtedly change the system he is using, thereby nullifying the advantage we have gained, and there was the further problem for our military commanders that the Intelligence obtained might not be reliable and that advance battle plans could be changed. The pros and cons of this problem, with particular reference to the Battle of Crete, were discussed in a book by ERNLE BRADFORD, published in 1985. Bradford said that, through ULTRA, General Freyberg had full warning in advance of General KURT STUDENT's plans for the airborne assault on Crete, including the date of the attack, the strength of the airborne formations and the airfields most likely to be used. But Bradford went on to say that, while a General could be forewarned of some intended enemy move, the use that he could make of this information was limited severely by the adequacy of the forces at his disposal. In the case of Crete, Freyberg did not have adequate forces or weapons to counter effectively the enemy's overwhelming air superiority and his ability to vary the focal point of his attack. We know, too, that the relentless air bombardment made communications almost impossible and that Freyberg also had warning of the German plans to reinforce by sea and did not know until it was too late to hold MALEME that the Royal Navy had destroyed the seaborne reinforcements. Thus, while the ULTRA information was extremely valuable, it was insufficiently helpful to enable Crete to be held.

There was an entirely different situation at the time of the desert battle of ALAM HALFA in September, 1942. Once again through ULTRA, Montgomery and his Divisional commanders had full advance warning of Rommel's final attempt to reach Alexandria. Fortunately for us, the 8th Army did by then have fully adequate resources and equally adequate air support and the German assault was halted in its tracks.

ROLL OF HONOUR

654434	W.T. RICKIT	Taupo	12/9/89
6389	W.J. JEFFERIES	Otaki	19/10/89
48036	J. DEANE	Hamilton	29/10/89
6928	R.A. NEWLAND	Pongaroa	24/11/89

PERSONAL NEWS

KEITH McBREARTY, a stalwart of Auckland Branch since it was formed and Branch President in 1966/68, wrote in December to say that he and Judith had shaken the dust of Auckland from their feet and moved to 55 Seaforth Road, Waihi Beach, this locality being an old favourite of theirs, with the attractions of Bowls and Fishing on their doorstep. We will miss them in Auckland but are pleased that they will not be that far away.

CES NEWBY and his wife are now firmly established in the city of Perth, where they are close to their family and have purchased a very nice 3-bedroom house and a car. Ces. reported a few months back that he had been having a few health problems since moving across the Tasman but seemed to be in good spirits.

SALUTE TO T.P.

If someone were to ask you which former member of 22nd Battalion has, during the post-war years, made his name more widely known than any other member of 22, you would probably have to think a bit before replying but I'm sure that you would agree with me that the award must go to T.P. (Terry) McLean of Auckland. Consider the evidence:- Terry has written no fewer than 26 books and an astronomical number of newspaper articles, mainly about Sport and Sporting personalities though, as a veteran journalist whose career dates back as far as 1930, he has covered many other topics too. Most of his books have been about Rugby football and so have many of his press articles but his articles have covered a great many other sports as well. Here is a small selection of the other Sports and Sports people that he has written about for the New Zealand Herald:-

<u>Cricket:</u>	JACK COWIE (1966)
<u>Athletics:</u>	ARTHUR LYDIARD (1971)
<u>Tennis:</u>	EVONNE GOOLAGONG (1971)
<u>Golf:</u>	STUART JONES (1974)
<u>Soccer:</u>	BRIAN TURNER (1979)
<u>Racing:</u>	LINDA JONES (1979)
<u>Cycling:</u>	ROY DUTTON (1981)
<u>Wrestling:</u>	EARL McCREADY (1984)
<u>Swimming:</u>	PHILIP RUSH (1984)

In a country as keen on Rugby as is New Zealand, Terry's books have had a very wide distribution, while his articles in the N.Z. Herald (which has by far the largest circulation of any newspaper in this country) have also been widely read and as widely appreciated. I don't think I have missed many of his Herald articles and I have also read quite a few of his books with considerable interest and pleasure. To refresh your memory, the titles of just a few of Terry's Rugby Tour books are:-

Cock of the Rugby Roost - 1961:- The Tricolours in New Zealand  
 The Lion Tamers - 1966:- British Lions in New Zealand  
 Battling the Boks - 1970:- All Blacks in South Africa



Salute to T.P. (Continued)

- All Black Magic - 1967:- All Blacks in the U.K. & France
- Lions Rampant - 1971:- British Lions in New Zealand
- I, George Nepia:- Written in conjunction with one of the greatest  
All Blacks of Rugby history
- Goodbye to Glory - 1976:- All Blacks in South Africa

One of the striking things about Terry McLean's prolific output in his books and press articles is that they have won the admiration not only of rank and file readers like you and me but also of many of his newspaper colleagues - his competitors in the field of journalism. About 3 years ago, a sports reporter from the Manawatu Evening Standard wrote a long and appreciative article about Terry; it appeared in the Nelson Evening Mail. Then, while flying to Brisbane last month, I filled in some of the time by glancing through Air New Zealand's magazine "Pacific Way" and was agreeably surprised to find that the issue contained a full page photograph and a two-page article on Terry, written by Phil Gifford, a sports writer for the Auckland Star. Also last month, a Herald columnist wrote a short piece entitled:- "No it's not T.P. in Drag". He, the columnist, had found a reference in the Cricketers' Almanack (WISDEN) to a book called "The Men in White Coats", a study of cricket umpires and umpiring by TERESA MCLEAN. He asked:- "Is this a chip off the old block or, heaven forbid, the master writing in drag?" He went on to say that Teresa was, in fact, a well-known cricket personality in England. Terry McLean has been described as a "white pointer shark among the minnows of New Zealand Rugby writers, long regarded as the doyen of New Zealand sports journalism with an international reputation based on a career spanning more than 50 years".

In his comments on top-level sportsmen, Terry has been nothing if not forthright or, as Phil Gifford put it, "he has always been blunt in his assessments of players' form". As a result, prominent sporting personalities have from time to time threatened to "drop" him and others have been stung by his criticisms. For example, that famous All Black DON CLARKE was far from pleased when T.P. described him as having played "like an aging hippo". Those of us who have watched Don Clarke in action on many occasions, whether for Waikato or the All Blacks, would not have used the same words but would have fully endorsed the criticism as valid and justified on many occasions. A sports reporter should give praise when it is due but should not be reluctant to say so when a top-level player has failed to measure up to the standard expected of him. Terry has a distinctive literary style and his opinions have always been authoritative, cogently expressed and well worth reading, so much so that, in his specialised field, he has become a legend in his own lifetime.

Despised, Rejected - Disbarred!

Away back in 1971, the Auckland Rugby Union banned McLean from the Eden Park press benches for something he had done that the Union disapproved of. Terry received the full backing of the Journalists Union, not to mention the Empire Press Union in London, and the following Monday there were no Rugby reports in either Herald or Star. The ban was very quickly lifted. Here is a little of what Terry had to say about the incident in his book "Lions Rampant":-

The Strange case of the Disbarred Journalist, or The Cove they wouldn't have was a merry, three-ring circus sidelight of the tour of New Zealand by the 1971 British Rugby Lions. The Lions were in no way responsible. It baffled them as it puzzled most bystanders. It affected one McLean, who was variously known as T.P., or Terry, or the Baldheaded Old Bastard, and who had purportedly been writing about Rugby for more years than the Oldest

Despised, Rejected - Disbarred! (Continued)

inhabitant cared to remember and very often at greater length than the O.I. was capable of digesting. A mysterious fellow, forsooth. Tallish, but certainly neither dark nor handsome. Capable of speech, but not given, in social intercourse, to prolonged flights of pleasing fancy. Understood to be fond of animals, from the worst of which he was said to have cultivated the very nasty habit of biting the hand that patted him. He explained his dull look by saying it was the vicariously concussive effect of watching so many boots put to so many balls so many millions of times. Last known to have smiled in '45 when Two-Two Battalion beat those bastards from Div. Amn. for the Freyberg Cup. Accustomed to emerging from a trance-like state at the final whistle and coming up like thunder out o'China cross the sea to smite his typewriter into a shapeless mass while from it poured wrath, scorn and vitriol. Not yet classified as one of the Great National Monuments, but dubiously famed in nurseries where Karitane nurses were accustomed to exclaiming to two-weeks' old male children: 'Terry will write about you if you don't watch out'.

End of a Famous Division

Even further back (January, 1946), T.P. McClean received the princely sum of four guineas for an article that he sent from Italy to the "Times" of London about the demise of 2nd N.Z. DIV. This reprint is taken from Terry's book "Best of McLean":-

The famous 2nd New Zealand Division for all practical purposes has ceased to exist. Except for administrative parties clearing up in Italy and the Middle East, the Division now consists of a brigade group of about 4000 men who are intended as the New Zealand contribution to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. This group, known as Jayforce, will become autonomous and the division will then have been dissolved.

The cost to New Zealand of the division's maintenance in the field from Greece to Trieste has been heavy. Almost 10,000 of its men died in battle and the total casualties were more than 25,000. In the years to come, the burden of the loss upon a country so small will be difficult to sustain. Yet in terms of achievement, the cost has not been out of proportion, for the division had its due share in the silencing of the Hitlerian thunder.

One valuable legacy for men of the division is a maturity unobtainable save for the exceptional few in a country so insular as New Zealand. Thousands of young men who fought in the division have discovered understanding both of themselves & of those with whom they mixed and fought. Their propagation of the discovery will be a valuable contribution toward the battle of the peace.

This is not to imply that the division always comprised earnest young men. On the contrary, among those who knew it the reputation for eccentricity of its members was outstanding. It invariably referred in terms of the fiercest affection to its commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg VC, who himself was given to conducting animated, friendly conversations with hilarious privates who had just hailed him with the famously inconsequential nickname of 'Tiny'. Yet in no division of the Eighth Army was the discipline better.

Perhaps one of the finest and most enduring of General Freyberg's accomplishments as commander was his understanding of, and pride in, his men. They called their officers by their Christian names and insisted upon a man-to-man understanding, they dressed outlandishly and their criticism of 'spit and polish' was unrestrained, though they could present an extremely smart turn-out when the occasion required. When the word was passed down that there was a job in hand, there was never any question of other than implicit obedience and there could be, and was, exhibited a dourness of concentration upon the task which was remarkable. In this way was endured the horror of Crete; the turmoil of Sidi Rezegh; the errors of Ruweisat Ridge, most expensive of divisional engagements; the ghastly bareness of Monastery Hill above Cassino; merging in the mind into Alamein, the sweep

### End of a Famous Division (Continued)

around Mareth, the incredible days of the break-out across the River Po and the long gallop to Trieste. To each of its tasks the division brought this dour quality, a grimness of determination almost fantastic in its unexpressed intensity.

The war is over, and there is no place, except in the memory, for the 2nd Division. Irrationally, the men who fought in it for the day when it no longer would be required feel regret and sadness that the time of dissolution has come.

Far too much happened in those grim years for all to be forgotten. It is a matter of pride to know of the division's esteem among the people of the Commonwealth and among the people of the United Kingdom especially. It is also a matter of pride to remember personal membership of the division. There could be no comparable experience.

### THE EXHILARATING EIGHTIES

Not everyone would choose the word 'exhilarating' to describe the decade that came to an end a few weeks ago; some would prefer adjectives like Exasperating or Exhausting or they would decline to use "apt alliteration's artful aid" and settle for a description such as The Bewildering Eighties or The Confusing Eighties. Much will depend on their ages and on their personal experiences of life during the past ten years, including such things as the effects of the decade on their own financial circumstances and how well they have been able to cope with the pace of economic change. However we describe the past decade individually, it has been one that none of us is likely to forget in a hurry; it has brought major changes affecting every one of us in a great many ways.

For the ex-servicemen of World War 2, the most noticeable change has been the dwindling of our numbers. Many of our members reached the end of the road between 1980 and 1989 and most of us have had to cope with the ailments that seem to multiply as we grow older. The deaths of so many of our former comrades have saddened us who are left and our feelings of severe loss have been heightened by the thought that our own life-spans are far from unlimited. Just the same, we press on regardless, making the most of life, maintaining our interest in the passing scene and enjoying our increased hours of leisure.

As citizens of our country, we have all been affected by the major changes that have taken place within New Zealand. The year 1984 saw the end of MULDOONISM and the beginning of ROGERNOMICS, coupled with a floating exchange rate and the de-regulation of the economy and followed by privatisation, corporatisation, the sale of state-owned enterprises, local body re-structuring and much else. Our strictly regulated economy changed to one in which market forces and user pays became the governing criteria and the pace of change, rather than change itself, caused great hardship to many people through business failures, redundancies and unemployment. The sharemarket crash of 1987 resulted in large numbers of New Zealanders suffering financial losses that many of them could ill afford. In both national and local affairs, a great deal of stress has been placed on biculturalism, an emphasis that puzzles those of us who firmly believe that ours is a multicultural society. The editor of these Newsletters was brave enough or foolhardy enough to comment in some issues on our country's Defence policies and was taken to task for doing so by 3 members of the Branch. But these criticisms were greatly outweighed by the many expressions of approval and the fact remains that we went to war to defend the freedoms that our country enjoys, including freedom of speech and the right to criticise the policies of the Government of the day, regardless of its political colour.

In sport, the greatest changes were those in our major sport - Rugby Union football. The Springbok tour of New Zealand in 1981 had extremely unpleasant repercussions that will not easily be forgotten. As a writer in a recent edition of the "Listener" summed it up:-



The Exhilarating Eighties (Continued)

"Civil disobedience changed to planned violence and the anti-apartheid emphasis switched to a get-the-police campaign". Rugby football lost a good deal of its popularity at the time of the 1986 'rebel' tour of South Africa, yet in 1987 the sport bounced back as a result of the inaugural Rugby World Cup, with the All Blacks defeating France in the Eden Park final and going on to chalk up a total of 19 successive Test wins by the end of 1989. In other sports, New Zealanders have not been quite so successful but we all rejoiced when KZ7 made it to the final of the America's Cup at Fremantle - a pity that this contest has since been transferred from the water to the court room.

On the world scene, the decade was marred by armed conflict in many parts of the world, notably the Falklands War, the Afghanistan War and the long-drawn out struggle between Iran and Iraq. On the credit side, we have seen the appearance of GLASNOST and PERESTROIKA in the U.S.S.R. under the leadership of MIKHAIL GORBACHEV and the very recent breaching of the "Wall of Death" that has so long separated Eastern and Western Europe. For a world weary of War, whether cold or hot, conventional or nuclear, localised or widespread, the collapse of the Iron Curtain is the most heartening news since Adolf Hitler died in his Berlin bunker. I am certain that each of us will hope that New Year's Day, 1990 has ushered in a decade in which the more troublous events of 1980/1989 will soon be forgotten.

THE TREASURER REPORTS

Our financial statement for the year ended 28/2/90 is in course of preparation and will be presented on March 25th. It is likely to show that our income was sufficient to cover our only major expense:- the cost of typing, printing, folding, enveloping and posting our Newsletters. Subscriptions paid were well below our costs but the short-fall was covered by Bank interest and some generous donations from a number of our members. The low subscription income for the 1989/90 year was caused mainly by the fact that we did not send our subscription accounts during the year; it costs money to send out accounts. As a result, less than half of our members are financial for the period ended 28/2/90. One thing needs to be made clear - we know that quite a few of our members are not particularly affluent, but those who can pay should do so. The continuation of these Newsletters depends on continuing financial support for the Branch. We are most grateful to all those members who don't wait for an account and to all those who send in donations.

22 Battalion Assn.,  
Box 13-058, Auckalnd 6

MARCH 1990

Branch Social Function - 25th March, 1990

I enclose the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, BEING:-

(1) Entrance for \_\_\_\_\_ people at the Branch function at \$14 per head.

AND/OR (2) My 1990/91 subscription (& Arrears/donations)

TOTAL

NAME (Block letters):- \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:- \_\_\_\_\_

(Please return by 20th March)