NZDF personnel patrolled the streets of Dili earlier this month, as Timor-Leste held its first Presidential elections since gaining independence from Indonesia. International forces from New Zealand and Australia provided a security presence in Dili where much of the unrest has occurred. Major Bill Keelan, Commander of Victor Company, said “We were unsure of how the voting would proceed, and whether there would be clashes between supporters of opposing political parties, but we’ve been very impressed with how the elections have been conducted”. NZDF personnel were well prepared to deal with disorder, but the elections passed without incident.
A memorial to the New Zealand tunnellers who built a vast underground city used by thousands of British troops during WWI was unveiled in France in early April. New Zealand’s Ambassador to France, Sarah Dennis, who unveiled the memorial, said, “This memorial is a welcome and fitting tribute to the courage and tenacity of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company. The scale and resilience of the network they constructed is remarkable: Arras deserves its prominent place in New Zealand’s shared memories of World War One.”

The tunnel network under the city of Arras in northern France, was built between 1916 and 1918 by members of the New Zealand Tunnelling Company, who were specially recruited from the coal and gold mining districts of New Zealand.

The 400-strong Kiwi tunnellers, after basic military training, fought the Germans underground. When the tunnellers arrived in Arras, the Germans already had a complex of tunnels under the British trenches and were in control of the ground below. Within weeks of their arrival the New Zealanders had grabbed control from the Germans and had driven them back under their own trench systems and largely knocked them out of the underground battle.

The underground war was a deadly affair which hinged on the speed of the digging. Tunnellers would dig a long shaft under the enemy trench system and carve out a bigger cave at the end of the tunnel. They would then pack the end cave with about 3000 pounds of explosives and detonate it. When an explosion of this size went underground, everyone in nearby tunnels, even unconnected to the explosion, was killed by carbon monoxide created by the blast. As they dug, the tunnellers would listen to the digging sounds of the enemy, chalk quarries built in medieval times to develop two cave systems under the main roads of Arras. In one system each cave is named after a New Zealand town - Russell, Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Nelson, Blenheim, Christchurch, Dunedin, and finally, just before the German front line, Bluff. These caves were so massive that an entire division of 20,000 men could be accommodated underground. This kept them out of the shellfire above ground. There was running water, electric lighting, kitchens, latrines, a light rail system and a medical centre with a fully equipped operating theatre. The final assault at Arras was mounted from this system.

During the final British offensives in 1918, when the war moved away from Arras and no more tunnels were required, the Kiwi tunnellers turned to bridge building. In spite of being miners, not engineers, they were incredibly successful. The prefabs Hopkins Bridge was designed to cover only about a 40 metre span. British engineers were building a maximum of 30 metres with a single span, but the New Zealand tunnellers as their first bridging task, in September 1918, happily put two bridges together and built the largest self-supporting bridge of the war, a 60 metre single-span bridge over the Havrincourt canal.

Contributed by MAJ Lindsay Amner

Out on a high

All good things must end, and it’s time for me to move on. This is the last Army News I will bring to you.

I feel very proud to have had the opportunity to bring you our news over the last two years, and I thank you all, for your support and contributions. The results of the recent reader survey indicated that you have enjoyed the changes made to the appearance and content of the paper, which was good news! Hopefully I’m leaving Army News in a healthy state for continued success.

Being the Editor has given me a strong appreciation for the history of the New Zealand Defence Force, and also a strong admiration of personnel, past and present, for their commitment to our service.

To all of you serving in Afghanistan, Sinai, the Pacific region, elsewhere in the world, and here in New Zealand, thank you, it’s been an absolute pleasure to have been your Editor, and I wish you all well for the future.

Lorraine Brown, Editor

IMPORTANT NOTE

Army News will move to a four-weekly distribution cycle for May and June, until a new Editor and Assistant Editor are appointed.

Issue #376 - 22 May
Issue #377 - 19 June
Issue #378 - 3 July (back to fortnightly cycle)
A delegation of 25 prominent New Zealand Niueans, among whom nine NZDF personnel, travelled to Niue last week with New Zealand's Governor-General, the Honorable Anand Satyanand. Each of the three Services was equally represented, and two NZDF civilians joined the group. SPR Codee Tumataki and CPL Alosio Nui represented Army.

The delegation was warmly welcomed by the Premier of Niue, Young Vivian, who is hoping to attract Niuean expatriates back to live on the island. Niue's current population is under 1700, while about 25,000 native Niueans reside in New Zealand. There is an added worry that people who have no intention to return to Niue still have land there, which they are reluctant to give up.

Although Niue is self-governing, it is in “free association” with New Zealand and the two nations are bound by strong ties. The team, made up of six RNZAF and two New Zealand Army personnel, was based in Honiara for a week.

A final flight departed on 15 April with supplies including clothes, tents, tarpaulins and generators.

Aid for the Solomon Islands

On 3 April a huge earthquake rocked the Solomon Islands, creating a tsunami that flooded areas along the Gizo coast. The New Zealand Defence Force had troops in the Solomon Islands at the time, as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), and some of these troops were moved from Honiara to assist with the relief effort. The NZDF contributed further by providing three aid flights of emergency supplies over a week period. The aid was flown to Munda airfield, 30km south of Gizo for distribution to affected areas.

A contingent of 43 New Zealand regular and territorial force soldiers will remain in the Solomon Islands in support of the RAMSI partnership.
A sapper’s work day

I am a field engineer in Southern Lebanon as part of the NZDF Battle Area Clearance Team (BAC). We consist of 12 personnel: six army engineers, three navy divers, a navy SNO and two locals; a medic and a driver/translator.

The medic, Mohammad Hani Dammari, is trained in trauma and injuries and in his spare time is a volunteer, providing assistance to the International Red Cross in Tyre, Southern Lebanon. He regularly encounters casualties, from vehicle accidents to cluster munitions, in his work for the Red Cross.

Our driver/translator, Issam Mousa, is an ex large loop (metal detector) team leader of a BAC team, and having teams on our team makes our time in Lebanon a lot easier. Every day we have the challenge of trying to communicate with the local people, from warning them about Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks, to talking to landowners and gathering information about the area.

Our typical day starts at 6.00am when we load our vehicles with our equipment ready for the task site. After a 45min drive (depending on where we are working) we carry out daily checks at the site to ensure the locals haven’t dropped off any cluster munitions – it does happen – and ensure our marking is still intact.

Once everything is in place we start our clearance. This has many phases and is dependent on ground, vegetation and the type of emergency clearance that may have been conducted prior to the war. We work in small teams of three or four people, clearing one square metre at a time. Our professional manner and work ethic, we have built up a good rapport with the local people and really set a benchmark for the other BAC teams.

The bar has been raised; are you up to it?

Contributed by LCPL Shaun Ruddle

A sapper in Tyre

Lebanon has been an area of great interest and conflict for at least three thousand years. The country is set as a gateway between the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East, in a very fertile and mountainous terrain. Thus the Lebanese populace has a diverse mix of Christian, Muslim, Eastern and Western beliefs and lifestyles. Lebanon was once known as Phoenicia and the Lebanese people descend from the ancient Phoenicians, traders and sea farers. (Probably why they drive such a hard bargain in town!) For these reasons Lebanon, and Tyre in particular due to its shipping and harbours, has had many foreign rulers and conquerors. From the ancient Babylonnians and Greeks, to Alexander the Great who built a causeway to the once island of Tyre, connecting it to the mainland. Though unseem, this causeway remains the foundations for the peninsular that is now Tyre. The Romans also had a foothold in Tyre for centuries, as did the crusaders and the Ottoman Empire. And the presence of conflict still remains today.

This vast history of rulers and conquerors in Lebanon brings an up side. Lebanon is now a multicultural, multilingual, cosmopolitan centre, with Beirut known as “The Paris of the Middle East”.

When we arrived in Lebanon we were surprised by the roads and buildings that had been damaged by the war. What we see on TV is one thing, but the extent of damage the war has done and buildings that had been damaged by the war. A number of civilian BAC teams are now in Lebanon clearing the land, with New Zealand the only military BAC team. With our professional manner and work ethic, we have built up a good rapport with the local people and really set a benchmark for the other BAC teams.

The bar has been raised; are you up to it?

Contributed by LCPL Shaun Ruddle

Comms homework bound

We were sitting in the back of a C-130 Hercules feeling pretty nauseous as we came in to land at Bamyan Airfield in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan. We began our descent and I felt I could probably hold off vomiting… just. Needless to say we were very happy to feel the hard dusty airfield under our feet when we eventually disembarked the Hercules. The first thing that struck me as we walked off the airfield was how the Bamyan valley seemed so barren and was yet so pretty. I stared in awe at the “jelly-baby” shaped holes in the side of the valley, the feature in the distance that had once housed the famous Buddhas; it was an immediate reminder why we were here.

The Communications (Comms) team for NZPRT 9 was a mixture of Army and Air Force operators. The extended Comms team consisted of three distinct groups being the S6/IS cell (CAPT Connolly, LCPL Rosser, LDR McKenzie, SPR Osbourne), the RegComms cell (LCPL Clapham, SGT Cossey, CAPT Connolly and LCPL Ian Sullivan) and Comms/prime cell (SPR Carey, LCPL Rosser, LDR Ngatuere, LDR McKenzie, SPR Osbourne). The Comms team consisted of three distinct groups being the S6/IS cell (CAPT Kerrin Connolly, LCPL Ian Sullivan and SPR Osbourne), the RegComms cell (LCPL Clapham, SGT Cossey, CAPT Connolly and LCPL Ian Sullivan) and Comms/prime cell (SPR Carey, LCPL Rosser, LDR Ngatuere, LDR McKenzie, SPR Osbourne).

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We work under the United Nations Mine Action Co-ordination Centre Southern Lebanon (UNMACC-SL). Prior to the war their main effort was to clear the area of landmines, and it was almost complete. But now there is believed to be one million unexploded ordnance (UXO) units littering schools, villages, orchards, crop fields and farms, crippling the local population’s livelihood as they can’t enter their land due to the dangers. Some landowners have paid workers to pick up munitions by hand, so the crops can be harvested, causing a lot of casualties.

UNMACC-SL is concentrating on emergency clearance of vital land so the people of Lebanon can start to rebuild their lives, the first phase in southern Lebanon having been completed. The second phase of clearance operations is aimed at clearing rural areas in order to return farmers and growers to their land without the threat of UXO’s.

A number of civilian BAC teams are now in Lebanon clearing the land, with New Zealand the only military BAC team. With our professional manner and work ethic, we have built up a good rapport with the local people and really set a benchmark for the other BAC teams.

The bar has been raised; are you up to it?

Contributed by LCPL Shaun Ruddle

A half at 8000 feet

April Fools Day was a day of high activity for the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZPRT) in Bamyan. As well as being the 70th Anniversary of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, the NZPRT held the first ever Bamyan half marathon and 80km road race (for those not so athletic).

The sun was shining, with only a slight breeze – a perfect day for a little exercise. The half marathon had 15 starters, some who had carried out a lot of training, and others who thought 22 laps around the wire didn’t sound so far. They soon found that at an altitude of over 8000ft it was certainly going to be an achievement. For some starters, this was their first attempt to run such a distance. There were a couple of dress-ups, namely PTE Fatu in his one piece pink ski suit. Great effort, but where did he get that suit?

There were a number of supporters keeping the runners well hydrated and providing necessary encouragement. LCH Mike Dudson got behind his Navy peer, LCA “Knobby” Hall, pledging to eat a pie and drink a can of coke for every lap that Knobby completed – Knobby completed all 22 laps.

The winner of the half marathon was LT COL Chuck Dowdell. The 80km road race was a three-way tie for first place, between CPL Fitzwater, LCPL Sullivan and Interpreter Manir. Special mention needs to be made of TPR Leathart and PTE Wood, who participated in the half marathon and 8km from the end they were called away on a task.

It was a great day and an occasion to remember as NZPRT 9 nears the end of their tour.

Contributed by CAPT Kerrin Connolly

L-R: CPL Kelly Clapham, SGT Glen Cossey, CAPT Kerrin Connolly and LCPL Ian Sullivan

L-R: SPR Carey, LCPL Rosser, LDR Ngatuere, LDR McKenzie, SPR Osbourne

L-R: CPL Kelly Clapham, SGT Glen Cossey, CAPT Kerrin Connolly and LCPL Ian Sullivan

L-R: SPR Carey, LCPL Rosser, LDR Ngatuere, LDR McKenzie, SPR Osbourne

L-R: LT COL Chuck Dowdell, LCPL Sullivan and CPL Fitzwater

L-R: Interpreter Manir, LT COL Dowdell, LCPL Sullivan and CPL Fitzwater
Goings on at Linton

Musical soldiers

Some musicians are put off joining the New Zealand Army Band because they think the Army lifestyle jars with that of a carefree, free-spirited artiste. But Army Bandsman Corporal Jess Blair says military discipline and values have given her much-needed drive and determination.

“Musicians tend to be quite frumpy people, and it’s really interesting getting civilians to shift from being how they were, carefree, into disciplined.

“But when I think about how I was before I joined the band, and now – I’ve changed so much in the last seven years, for the better. I really like what the Army has done to me, how it’s shaped me. Before, I didn’t have any focus, I was just drifting, but the Army has turned me around and made me focused.”

CPL Blair has been “shaped” by training that last year included the junior NCOs course and the Assistant Physical Training Instructor (APTI) course. “I learnt a lot about myself doing that course,” she says of the APTI course, which allowed her to indulge her passion for fitness. “One thing I really like about the Army is that it’s active. I get paid to play music and keep fit – so it’s great!” she enthuses.

Of course, being a member of the Army Band has also extended her musically. The Army supported her getting her letters, the LRSM (Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music) in euphonium performance, and her membership of several (civilian) national bands – even paying for her to tour Europe with the National Band of New Zealand in 2005.

While CPL Blair joined the band only intending to stay for a year, opportunities like these have made it impossible for her to leave, she says. She calculates that you still need to be proactive. “But if you know where you want to go and where you want to be, they will absolutely come to the party.”

She has been able to play at some “amazing” festivals, including two trips to Scotland’s Edinburgh Festival to play at the prestigious Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and trips to Korea and Australia. This month (April), the band joined celebrated jazz musician James Morrison when he played in New Zealand.

“He’s a world-renowned, top, awesome, awesome jazz musician and he specifically requested that the [NZ] Army Band play with him – so it’s very exciting!” she says.

Some Army personnel might be surprised to learn that the band plays at stage concerts such as James Morrison’s, and gives concerts to the troops in the field.

“‘They probably just see us on the parade ground, which is only one aspect. We do have a lot of variety in our job. The band is most famous for its display marching, like what we do at Edinburgh.’

In fact, she says some people in the Army – and we can only assume they’re Army newbies – are even surprised to hear the Army has a band of full-time musicians.

But the Army Band members aren’t a constant fixture around camp, she admits. For example, last year she did her 10-week Junior NCO course, went to Edinburgh in July for 10 weeks, returned to New Zealand for two weeks, and then went to Perth for two weeks, before returning to New Zealand and going to Woodbourne for the APTI course. The band also does a lot of travelling around New Zealand, performing at schools and community events.

“It’s so busy that you don’t get much time hanging around Burnham. You need to be fl exible with your lifestyle and should enjoy travelling.

“They should also be light-hearted; not a person who takes themselves too seriously. And you have to be able to work with others, and also be self-motivated, able to work well without supervision.

“You also need to be quite focused; if you want to work well in the band you have to know exactly what you want out of it. You need to know what you’re doing and what style of music you like, and who you want to try and emulate as a musician. You need to be able to babysit your career and know where it’s going.”

Reported by Anna Norman

 JOB: ARMY BANDSMAN

Based on Burnham Military Camp, the NZ Army Band performs at military and state occasions. The all-brass band is supplemented with a rhythm section, also includes a number of smaller ensembles such as a Brass Band, Marching Band, Dance Band, and a Brass Quintet, which perform at schools, festivals, and public concerts.

Internationally, the NZ Army Band has earned its reputation as one of the finest marching bands in the world, and this reputation is upheld through rigorous drills and rehearsals.

You can enlist directly into the NZ Army Band without undertaking a basic military training course, unlike all other Army recruits. However, soon after you join you will have to undertake basic training competencies. As your career progresses, you will attend courses that assist with advancement and promotion. These Army courses are held at various army camps around the country.

You need previous musical experience, and will need to pass an interview and an audition. You need to be self-motivated, focused, willing to travel, and able to work well in a team.
WHY DO WE CELEBRATE ON 1 AUGUST?

Considerable comment has been received about why 1 RNZIR celebrates the Battalion birthday on 1 August each year, and the following text explains why.

This is 51 years’ worth of history. 1 RNZIR hasn’t been able to observe 1 August as the Battalion’s birthday as 1 August 1957 marked the birth of the Battalion. The Battalion was officially formed on 1 August 1957 at Waiouru especially for service in Malaya.

The 1 RNZIR web pages on the NZ Army website will be continually updated with further details on the 50th Birthday celebrations and other historical and current matters pertaining to 1 RNZIR.

Contributed by MAJ Jeff Howe

1 RNZIR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE 1957-2007

WHEN: Saturday 04 August and Sunday 05 August 2007
WHERE: Linton Military Camp, Linton, PALMERSTON NORTH

The 1 RNZIR 50th Birthday is a unique opportunity for previous and current members of the 1st Battalion to celebrate the unit’s 50 years of service in New Zealand and overseas.

There has never been a Military birthday celebration or reunion of this scale in New Zealand before and although 1 RNZIR will endeavour to cater for all previous unit members, the limited number of places will fill fast. Partners are also encouraged to attend.

WHATS ON

Saturday 4th August

OPEN DAY
Previous unit members and guests will be welcomed onto the 1 RNZIR Parade Ground to commence the celebration activities. The Parade Band will be the only formal welcome conducted and will commence at 10.00am.

CEREMONIAL BEAT RETREAT PARADE
Commencing at approximately 4.30pm, 1 RNZIR supported by the NZ Army Band will conduct a Ceremonial Parade. During the parade previous members of 1 RNZIR will be offered the opportunity to participate in the ceremony to reinforce the bond between previous and current unit members.

ALL BANKS AND GUESTS FUNCTION
At the conclusion of the parade an indoor function will be held within the Battalion lines. Alfresco dinner will be provided and full bar facilities will be available. Live entertainment will be provided by the NZ Army Swing Band and by The Beat Girls who will perform music from each respective decade of the Battalion’s history. Formal activities will be minimal to enable previous and current unit members to socialise and reminisce. Sunday 5th August

MARSHALING AT PALMERSTON NORTH AND CEREMONY SERVICE
Departing from the Palmerston North RSA at approximately 5.30am, 1 RNZIR will march through Palmerston North to the Consul, where a memorial service will be conducted. This will be the final birthday celebration activity.

WHO IS INVITED?

Previous unit members and partners.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS?

There is no charge to attend the Powhiri, Open Day and parade. The cover charge/ticket cost for the all ranks function is $35.00.

HOW DO I PURCHASE TICKETS?

Registration forms are available online at www.army.mil.nz, or complete the form below, clip it out, and return to:

PALMERSTON NORTH
Linton Military Camp

1 RNZIR

to:

Email

NOTE

Guests who wish to attend only the free-of-charge activities in Linton Military Camp are also requested to submit a registration form so the appropriate entry to the camp and NZDF security arrangements can be put in place. This information is also important so the unit can ensure sufficient facilities can be in place to ensure anticipated demand.

On receipt of registration forms 1 RNZIR will forward a ticket pack in due course.

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Throughout the day and night of Saturday 4th August a bus shuttle service for guests will run continuously from selected pick up points in Palmerston North to Linton Military Camp and return. Entry onto the bus will be on a gold coin donation to assist with costs. Guests are requested to indicate on the registration form whether they will utilise this service or not so that sufficient buses can be made available.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be available within Linton Military Camp over the weekend of 04-05 August. Details of accommodation providers within the Palmerston North area can be found online in the 1 RNZIR web pages. For more information visit www.army.mil.nz.

The 1 RNZIR web pages on the NZ Army website will be continually updated with further details on the 50th Birthday celebrations and other historical and current matters pertaining to 1 RNZIR.

Contributed by MAJ Jeff Howe

WHERE: Linton Military Camp

1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment 1957 – 2007

For further information visit www.army.mil.nz

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete a separate form for each person attending and return to:

1 RNZIR 50th
C / RNZIR, Linton Military Camp
Palmerston North

Name
Address
Phone
Email

I WISH TO ATTEND:

Open Day and parade

Open Day, parade and function

Function only

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for $35 made payable to 1 RNZIR UPF

Last Rank held in 1 RNZIR

I would use shuttle transport from Palmerston North to Linton Military Camp if available:

Yes

No

SERVICE DETAILS

Years served in 1 RNZIR

Sub unit service HQ A B/B C/W Spt Log

OPERATIONAL TOURS

40 & 05 August 2007
Linton Military Camp

1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment 1957 – 2007
The story of the Rifle Regiment (Royal Greenjackets) Campaign of 1809-14 in Portugal and Spain would be one of these books that should be on a compulsory reading list for professional army personnel.

Mark Urban, a BBC journalist and author, is one of those writers with the gift of telling a story that is both accurate, and with factual detail. It is told through the lived experiences of the soldiers and their families. What a relief it must have been to them...to falter. Of course, this sort of formation and tactic was very much the emerging pattern, and the British had to learn it the hard way. So, the story is exciting and holds the reader's interest as we follow these fascinating lives.

Any reader who has enjoyed Bernard Cornwell's "Shape" series, either in the book or film presentation, will surely appreciate Urban's "Rifles". It has all the easy narrative flow of Cornwell's novels but it is a fiction presentation of a campaign that began in Portugal in 1809 and ended at Waterloo in June 1815.

Urban's book can be enjoyed on several levels. Firstly, there is the sheer story telling power as we follow the careers of the very young Lt George Simmons, the grizzled veteran CAPT Robert Ewart, the gunner who shot and others through their desperate soldering. They are destined for glory (Badaouj), horrific wounds (musket ball through the forehead), brushes with disgrace (loss of regimental funding) promotion and demotion, and for some, death. The treatment dished out to these soldiers is breathtakingly harsh, mean and demanding. They respond, in the most part, with loyalty, courage and endurance that is hard to imagine. Their stories are both inspiring and touching. They were taught to identify targets and camouflage and aimed rifle fire. The sacrilege of encouraging skill-at-arms competitions. These tactics were not accepted universally and opposition, especially from the Grenadiers, was scathing. However, the more thoughtful professional had witnessed the decimation of competent regiments at the hands (or rifles) of the American soldier of the War of Independence and realised change was required. The Rifle Regiment (9th Regiment) became part of Lord Wellington's famous "Light Division" that was to prove so effective in the "Peninsula" Campaign (Spain/Portugal). So effective were they, they gained a reputation for being first into action (skirmishes) and last out of it (covering withdrawals). As well, the Light Division was in all of the action, from major pitched battles, to assaults in siege breeches. It became obvious to the entire senior British Commanders that the Light Division was the way to go. The French Commanders lamented the fighting qualities of the Light Division and especially noted the fact that their soldiers would suffer heavily in the casualty count if they were opposed by these "green devils".

Urban is not guilty of overlooking the praiseworthy qualities of the riflemen. He provides a fascinating picture of a division exhausted by their over- exploitation, a victim of their success. We are witness to disciplinary incidents, the treatment of the injured and the loss of many. These youngsters saw men go out on an operational flight and fail to return which brought the realisation that they themselves might be the next to not come back. The cost was the loss of some 1850 young NZ men. The bonds that were made during these tumultuous years have been enduring. In Night after Night "...Canadian Don Smith, sole survivor of a bomber downed over Denmark in April 1943, directed that his ashes be scattered over the graves of his crew in St. John the Baptist War Cemetery after his death. On 4 May 1999 - Denmark's Freedom Day - when the 62 RAF bomber crew, eight of them New Zealanders, who lie in the cemetery, were honoured, Smith's wishes were carried out with due ceremony.

Often when reading this book, seeing pictures of the damage inflicted by enemy fighters, one wonders why the British were so slow to fit their aircraft with heavier weaponry to counter the 20mm cannon of the German fighters and perhaps provide the bombers with better protection. Perhaps hindsight and modern knowledge does not grasp the full significance of the British supply capability of the time. At a time when many young New Zealanders are seeking a link to our nation's past, as evidenced by the numbers attending ANZAC Day parades, this book is a valuable resource to help create that link. Night after Night is a deeply moving book and a great asset for those who seek detailed reference material, particularly those families who lost fathers and sons.

First published in 2005, this masterpiece tells the story of New Zealanders who served in Bomber Command during World War 2. Many stories relating to the exploits of the fighter pilots have been told but the Kiwi bomber crews have until now been largely overlooked. The contribution to the war effort by the men in Bomber Command, well researched and documented in this book filled with personal reminiscences and family history, anecdotes (both harrowing and humorous), facts and information about aircraft and enemy tactics fills that gap.

Night after Night encourages the reader to reflect on and understand some of the stresses of fear, fatigue, and horrors faced by the crews. Not only did these young men have to confront enemy fighters, anti-aircraft flak, and weather, they also had to tackle problems of aircraft malfunction, hits from bombs raining down from aircraft above them, mid-air crashes, and on occasion being fired on by their own forces usually with fatal consequences. An English crewman who flew in one of the bombers highlighted by some of these wartime aspects wrote, "Anyone whose solo experience of flying is confined to holiday jists has simply no idea of what it was like to fly in a wartime bomber; the numbing cold... the shattering noise, the constant teeth-jarring vibration, the turbulence causing the whole airframe to flex and creak; having to wear an oxygen mask which made every breath reek of wet rubber..." Stories of those who survived being shot down and became prisoners of war also had their highs and lows. Many of these suffered gruesome injuries and privations, surviving for days without food or water as they floated powerless in their small dinghies waiting to be rescued. Some were fortunate and were rescued by our own forces only to later become casualties as they returned to flight again.

The reader can see how the young crewmen lived hard and played hard as life was for many was short. These youngsters saw men go out on an operational flight and fail to return which brought the realisation that they themselves might be the next not to come back. The cost was the loss of some 1850 young NZ men. The bonds that were made during these tumultuous years have been enduring. In Night after Night "...Canadian Don Smith, sole survivor of a bomber downed over Denmark in April 1943, directed that his ashes be scattered over the graves of his crew in St. John the Baptist War Cemetery after his death. On 4 May 1999 - Denmark's Freedom Day - when the 62 RAF bomber crew, eight of them New Zealanders, who lie in the cemetery, were honoured, Smith's wishes were carried out with due ceremony.

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Without it, you’re all foot soldiers

The largest Regular Force Combat Intermediate Course for selected RF Officers and SNCOs ever held at Combat School, was conducted recently in Waikoura. Twenty four students were assessed, primarily through the use of Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs). Completing a total of 12 throughout the course, the TEWTs were a mixture of traditional conventional warfare scenarios as well as scenarios set in a more contemporary, complex environment.

A short phase of TEWTs was held in the Hawkes Bay region and was well supported by the 7th Wellington and Hawkes Bay Battalion Group, who allowed utilisation of their facilities in Napier. This was the first time for several years that the Napier phase was conducted, and received positive feedback from guest instructors and students.

Captain Aidas Malskaitis, 1 RNZIR, was awarded the prize of Top Student. Guest Directing Staff (DS) to assist with the TEWTs and lessons came from a variety of Army posts. Without their assistance the course would be unable to introduce the students to such a diverse range of combat arms aspects.

It’s been 17 years since the Army last ran a Petroleum Managers (Pet Mgr) Course. Back then the corp was RNZAOC, and two of this year’s civilian instructors were privates on that course. Since then the army has had many Pet Mgrs, but with a shortage over the last few years, the course has been reinstated.

The first task for the instructors was to modernise the course to reflect fuel handling legislation and practices in line with the 21st century. The course now comprises fuel hydraulics, incident management including incidents involving pollution, first aid and fire fighting. It involved visits to external agencies including Marsden Point Oil Refinery, RNZAF and Navy fuel facilities, BP Oils’ mixing plant, Fuelquip and Log Exec. Students were tested in the field which comprised sighting and commissioning a bulk fuel installation and then daily management of 45,000 litre bladder tanks and ancillary equipment; unit bulk refuelling equipment, bulk liquid fuel tankers; running a POL account; jerri-can refurbishment equipment, and conducting confined space entry operations, the most dangerous job for a Pet Op to undertake.

The course provided real-time fuel support to Exercise Hellfire, RNZALR Intermediate Supply Course and RDTW 30 Day course. After a very testing field phase where even the most experienced of the students learnt something new, the NZ Army now has four newly-qualified Pet Mgrs who are capable of providing specialist fuel advice to commanders at all levels and commanding Bulk Fuel Installations and their associated tasks, both in NZ and overseas.

Special thanks to Mr B Haami and Mr D Rennie for returning to the fold and assisting with the course, ensuring that the Army has qualified personnel to meet current commitments.

Remember without fuel and petrol operator support, you are all foot soldiers.
**Reminiscing**

The Editor

**Mr Kennedy BRIG (Rtd)**

Over the last 12 months I have received many wonderful letters from Mr Kennedy BRIG (Rtd), as he reminisces about his time in the New Zealand Army. I thought I would share some of them with you, as he has with me. Ed

Stuffy dinners

At a rather stuffy dinner party in Washington DC, the wife of the First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy, a cheerful young thing, was seated next to the Russian ambassador. After some idle chat she discovered that he had two sets of twins.

“Oh”, she said brightly. “So you have twins every time!”

“Oh no”, said the Ambassador, looking a bit like a stunned mullet. “Most of the time nothing happens at all.”

The Gurkhas

On one occasion when we were coming out of the line in Italy in World War II 1944, we met a Gurkha Battalion moving in. (I have always admired these short bandy legged stout hearted soldiers!). We had to pass a rather nasty crossroads which was being subjected so by their Ressaldar Major (RSM).

He replied that they were pithy, direct and simple: “Tighten your arse and run like Hell!”.

Hey, gringo!

When I was in Washington DC in the 1970s as Military Attaché, the Cold War was in full swing. Most Western Attachés were discouraged by their Embassies from having any contact with the Eastern lot; mine did not think of it, so I did. It was great fun as they were an intelligent, articulate group, with the Czech being probably the most fun. None of them was allowed more than one hundred miles from the capital so they could not “spy” far afield – yet on his second weekend the Czech was picked up in New York, some 200 miles away! He explained that he was so confused with all the briefings of what he could and could not do, that he just thought: “what the Hell, and went!” (He explained to me later that if he did not do it early in his term he would never get away with it later!).

The Russian General Myscheriakov, was another quality man. He spent two years in Mexico beforehand so that he could see and learn from afar. What really upset him there, so he told me, was when the Mexicans referred to him as “you Americano gringo”!

I enjoyed the time, and the experiences.

**CROSSWORD**

BY MIKE DUNCAN

AQUARIUS

Jan 21 to Feb 19

While others seek answers, you seek questions that others will seek to answer. That makes you a lot smarter than them. Remind them frequently.

PISCES

Feb 20 to Mar 20

The potential for disaster rises exponentially the further away from your control a project gets. Centralise everything, and micromanage each step. You’re micromanaging exponentially the further away from your control a project gets!

ARIES

Mar 21 to Apr 20

Your search for honesty and authenticity often comes up against people’s pragmatic quest for survival. For some reason, pragmatism seems to win out more often than not. Don’t get disheartened. Too much.

TAURUS

Apr 21 to May 21

Different cultures see the world in different ways. What seems normal and natural to some, may be perverse and disgusting to others. This could be a defence, but I wouldn’t count on it.

GEMINI

May 22 to June 21

It’s a good time to expand your horizons with extra courses and training. It might not always pay off career-wise, but it could come in handy at a quiz night.

CANCER

June 22 to July 23

It is time you spoke up and let everyone know what you are thinking about in the matter of a Big Issue. Or maybe you could just email it in while on leave. If it’s a good thought, somebody else would have picked it up by the time your return, and if it’s a stinker, then hopefully it will be dead and buried.

LEO

July 24 to Aug 23

Someone will be out to get you, one way or another. Ignore them, you are by far their superior in every way. Let them know this, and then carry on regardless.

VIRGO

Aug 24 to Sept 23

Money can be made if you are smart with your investments. These may seem blindingly obvious, but the past evidence would indicate it’s obviously not obvious enough.

LIBRA

Sept 24 to Oct 23

You may feel it is necessary to take drastic measures. All the others are preaching moderation, which is a recipe for monkhood. (The state of being a monk, as opposed to the hood that some monks wear… just in case it was a tad confusing.)

SCORPIO

Oct 24 to Nov 22

It’s time to start thinking about your future and where you see yourself in a year from now. Funnily enough, I said this precisely a year ago. I imagine your life has changed greatly.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23 to Dec 20

Anger or criticism will get you nowhere. It will, of course, make you feel much better. It’s weighing up the consequences of short-term benefits to you psyche, and the long-term betterment of your career.

CAPRICORN

Dec 21 to Jan 20

Someone you don’t believe will tell you information you don’t trust about a subject you know nothing about. Put it in a brown envelope marked urgent and leave it on someone’s desk who doesn’t know your handwriting.

ACROSS:

1   Vulnerable
2   Military accommodation
3   Powder
4   Birds of prey
5   Part of the foot
6   Guards, prominent UK infantry regiment currently roled as a mechanised bat-
7   Military space (anag)
8   MD space (anag)
10  Guards, prominent UK infantry regiment currently roled as a mechanised bat-
14  Jolt, shock
15  Preventing clear radio recep-
16  NZ Governor General 1957-
17  British Prime Minister
18  HQ
19  10----- Guards, prominent UK
20  Locales
21  Preventing clear radio recep-
22  10----- Guards, prominent UK
23  10----- Guards, prominent UK

DOWN:

1   Official language of Uzbeki-
2   Accepted level or standard
3   Check marks
4   Dismiss with dishonour
5   Detach from one military unit to another

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1  Vulnerable
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9  Military space (anag)
10  Guards, prominent UK infantry regiment currently roled as a mechanised bat-
11  Part of the foot
12  Conflict between two parties
13  Jolt, shock
14  Preventing clear radio recep-
15  Locate
16  NZ Governor General 1957-
17  British Prime Minister
18  Ant
19  Guide
20  10----- Guards, prominent UK
21  Preventing clear radio recep-
22  10----- Guards, prominent UK

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*PREVIOUS PUZZLE*
Easter fun at Linton

The Easter break and current operational activities meant the number of entries was down for this year’s 2 LFG Command Trophy Sports Inter Sub-Unit Athletics Competition.

Organiser LCPL Luke Woodroff said the last competition was held in 2004 with top honours going to SME. The winning team this year was 2 HSB with 274 points, followed by 5 Mov/HQ on 240 and Kap Bty with 239. A total of 11 teams took part in the event, which was held at the Massey University athletics track.

Entrys took part in the 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 3000, 4x100 and 4x400 metre track events, as well as discuss, javelin, high jump, shot put and long jump. In addition there were some less serious events, including egg and spoon races, an egg toss, gumboot throw, three-legged race, sack race and the chunder run.

The chunder run attracted a huge field of male competitors – not surprisingly there were no females willing to run backwards, drink fish oil and eat whole chillies, anchovies and Weetbix with mustard and chilli paste, before doing forward rolls. Within minutes of finishing, it was easy to see how the event got its name!

Despite threats of rain, the weather held and the all-weather surface of the track remained untested.

Prize winners

1st 2 HSB  274 Pts
2nd 5 MOV/HQ  240 Pts
3rd KAP BTY  239 Pts
4th SUPT COY  239 Pts
5th 2 SIGS  201 Pts
6th 2 SUPS  189 Pts
7th 2 ESS  178 Pts
8th SME  163 Pts
9th MINOR UNITS  149 Pts
10th 2 Wk SP  132 Pts
11th OCS  100 Pts

Reported by Faye Laugher

What a blast!

GDT Ashleigh Lindsay from OCS Linton shows her form on her way to winning the 200m final

A big thank you to the Social Club for supporting the event and providing the prizes.

Winner, ED Workshops, Joe Gray and Kevin Brain

Devoted and enthusiastic fans Phillipa and Lisa

MAJ Spike Milliken, MAJ Terry Reed and Ian Barrows
ABOVE: This highly unorthodox style saw PTE Liam Meha secure first place in the men’s high jump
BELOW: Showing the unusual style that saw him take second place in the men’s high jump is PTE Jos Boonen, 2HSB

RAISING THE BAR