

JOURNAL
OF THE
WELLINGTON
WEST COAST
AND
TARANAKI
BATTALION

1983/84





Journal of the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

1983 / 84 TRAINING YEAR

BATTLE HONOURS BORNE ON THE COLOURS

SOMME 1916-18
BAPAUME 1918
FRANCES & FLANDERS 1916-18
GREECE 1941
MINQAR QAIM
CASSINO 1

NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH AFRICA
YPRES 1917
LANDING AT
ANZAC
CRETE
EL ALAMEIN
THE SENIO
SOLOMONS

MESSINES 1917
SARI BAIR 1915
EGYPT 1915
SIDI REZEGH 1941
NORTH AFRICA 1940-43
ITALY 1943-45

BATTLE HONOURS NOT BORNE ON THE COLOURS

FLERS COURCELLETTE
POLYGON WOOD
ARRAS 1918
HABRINCOURT
SEELE
KRITHIA
SUVLA
MOUNT OLYMPUS
ELASSON
GALATAS
WITHDRAWAL TO SPHAKIA
SIDI AZEIZ
ALEM HAMZA
RUWEISAT RIDGE
EL AGHEILA
EL HAMMA
THE SANGRO
AREZZO
CERBAIA
CELLE
PISCIADELLO
SILLATO CROSSING
TREASURY ISLANDS

MORBAL
BROONSEINDE
ANCRE 1918
CANAL DU NORD
SAMBRE
ANZAC
SERVIA PASS
MOLOS
CANEA
MIDDLE EAST 1941-44
BELHAMED
MERSA MATRUH
EL MREIR
TEBAGA GAP
ENFIDAVILLE
CASTEL FRENTANE
MONTE LIGNANO
SAN MICHELLE
FAENZA POCKET
SANTERNO CROSSING
GAIANA CROSSING

LE TRANSLOY
PASSCHENDAELE
ALBERT 1918
CAMBRAI 1918
HELLES
DEFENCE OF ANZAC
SUEZ CANAL
OLYMPUS PASS
MALEME
42nd STREET
TOBRUK 1941
ZEMLA
DEFENCE OF ALAMEIN LINE
ALAM EL HALFA
POINT 201 (Roman Wall)
TAKROUNA
ORSOGNA
ADVANCE TO FLORENCE
PAULA LINE
RIO FONTANACCIA
BOLOGNA
IDICE BRIDGEHEAD
SOUTH PACIFIC 1942-44



It is with great pleasure that I write a foreword for this 125th Anniversary Edition of the 5th (WWCT) Infantry Battalion Journal.

The Fifth Battalion is formed from the amalgamation of the Taranaki and Wellington West Coast Regiments, both of whom trace their history to the early colonial days of 1859/1860 when militia and volunteer corps were raised to fight in the Maori Wars. It has therefore, a long and proud history, and has been the military home of thousands of our young men and women through the 125 years of its existence.

It is a Battalion which has always engendered a spirit of service, sacrifice, dedication and loyalty, and this is reflected in the calibre and character of those who have served, and who are serving, in its ranks. During the wars in which this country has been involved, members of the Battalion have served New Zealand faithfully and well. This service is remembered by the twenty-two battle honours on its colours. In peace time, the unit has fulfilled its task of not only training for war, but also that of providing a vehicle for the development of a communal spirit, a self discipline and a sense of pride in the young people within its ranks. An acknowledgement and appreciation of this service, is shown by the honour of being granted the freedom and support of the cities of New Plymouth and Wanganui, and of Hawera.

I would be sadly amiss if I did not also mention the support, given by the wives, girlfriends and parents of all ranks of the Unit. Over the years, their sacrifice has been considerable, to an extent which is difficult for those in the field to understand.

Your support and loyalty are very much appreciated.

I wish all members of the 5th Battalion, past and present, the very best for the future.

There is no doubt, the 5th Battalion (WWCT) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, will continue to flourish.

MAJ. J.T. SHAW, E.D.
Honorary Colonel

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

The Battalion theme for the past twelve months has been "challenge" — the challenge of retaining the Freyberg Trophy, of combining a rigorous field camp at Waiouru with the equally demanding but different ceremonial of the 125th Anniversary celebrations in New Plymouth during February and, under the threat of a possible drastic reorganisation, the challenge of survival as a unit. These challenges have been met. The Freyberg Trophy sits today in Battalion Headquarters, the 1984 Annual Camp must be one of the more memorable and we are still and will remain the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Battalion, with a strong presence in all our traditional areas.



Credit for our successes and the high reputation of this Battalion is due not only to the leaders and staff involved but to the efforts of all our soldiers; their teamwork, determination and loyalty.

I believe the Battalion can once again look forward to a time of progress. We have a core of keen and experienced soldiers at all levels, excellent facilities and some of the best training areas in New Zealand. The challenge now is for all of us to make the best use of these resources to ensure the 5 WWCT remains a good unit to belong to and is kept strong and efficient.

I would like to thank all who have contributed or helped in some way with the production of this journal and am grateful in particular to Lieutenant Colonel Peter Jenkins for his work as editor.

EDITORIAL

At last we have managed to make it into print. My sincere thanks to all those who took time out to make contributions to what is really your Journal.

From the contributions it is particularly pleasing to see that many of the important things about our Battalion are still maintained. I refer of course to the visits to our Affiliated Regiments by the Adjutant, our Charter Parades, which remind the people of our own areas that we belong to them and are part of their history and their society, and some of our training such as the skill at arms.

The production of our own Battalion Journal is only further proof of our coming of age. For a New Zealand Unit we have a long and quite distinguished history, indeed a history which is unique in the annals of Commonwealth armies. My thanks to Murray Moorhead for providing a readable account of the origins of our present Battalion.

The 125th Anniversary year of the Taranaki Regiment has been remarkable for your achievements. Congratulations on the very rare distinction of retaining the Freyberg Trophy, of retaining your independence as a Unit of the New Zealand Army, and the manner in which you are approaching the maintenance of that existence in the future.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about your achievements as much as past members like myself have enjoyed reading about their old friends and comrades.

Good luck, and may God be with you all.

PETER JENKINS
Editor

FIRST IN ARMS . . . FINEST IN ARMS

by Murray Moorhead

TWO INTO ONE DOES GO

A subject definitely not to be mentioned in front of an old Taranaki Regiment man while the children are around is the amalgamation of the regiment with the Wellington West Coast Regiment in 1948.

Any disbandment, amalgamation or other form of tampering with the established traditions of a military unit is sure to raise a howl of dismay from those whose lives and interests have at some time been a part of that unit. But to do these things to a unit with the unique traditions of the old 11th Taranaki was seen as being something roughly akin to fitting the All Blacks out in a new playing uniform of poofster pink jerseys and powder blue shorts. It mattered not to the thunderstruck Taranakian that the foreigners from down the line came fully equipped with some proud traditions of their own, or that the Wellington West Coasters were just as put out over the amalgamation as they were.

Sadly, after all these years have elapsed, the sense of betrayal is still there, to be clearly seen, heard and felt at any gathering of old Taranaki Regiment types. However, it is probably only a small minority now who still feel so aggrieved. The great majority accept that a new regiment has been born, that it has already gained a history and traditions of its own, and that its modern members no longer care to see the two original regiments as entities to be compared one with the other.

NEITHER GODS NOR GUARDSMEN

Over the years there have been some incredibly rosy-coloured views taken of the capabilities of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps. In the great hoo-hah over the Battle of Waireka, fought on March 28, 1860, the Volunteers and their serving-brothers of the Taranaki Militia were extravagantly lauded, and in some quarters credited with almost God or Guards-like qualities of bravery and military genius. In fact, all that they really deserved was credit for having performed a good, workmanlike job in trying circumstances. To be sure, others with less self confidence, or lacking their pugna-

esprit de corps might not have stood their ground in the same situation, so there can be no criticism of the way in which New Plymouth's settlers-turned-soldiers handled themselves in their first taste of action.

They were only ordinary men placed into an extraordinary role. They displayed all the faults and failings of ordinary men. They got themselves drawn into a fight when they had been specifically ordered not to. For a brief moment they knew the panic of ordinary men; one or two fled the field and others had to be held at gunpoint until their urge to run had subsided. Until the day the last of them died, veterans of the battle would tell and retell tales of how the Maoris fell like scythed wheat before them. Yet history records that dusk found them with barely one round of ammunition left between each three men at the end of an afternoon of wasteful, artless, and, as was eventually proved, totally ineffective shooting. Elite troops? No, just farmers, tradesmen and labourers placed into the unenviable position of having to take up arms in the defence of their homes and doing the job as well as any others given the same incentives.

CHOCK FULL OF FIGHT AND BRAG

New Plymouth began to get hints of troubles to come from the very earliest years of its development. Even before Governor Fitzroy took back all of the settlers' rural land and gave it back to the Maoris there had been disputes over boundaries, rights of access, etc. By 1855 the disputes had escalated into a bitter and bloody feud which broke out between pro and anti land sales factions of local Maoris. In response to cries of alarm from the settlers the acting Governor, Colonel Wynyard, agreed to provide military protection. Marsland Hill in the heart of New Plymouth was fitted out with a stockade and military barracks and the first of what was to be a 25-year succession of British military units, the 58th Regiment, took up residence. In agreeing to provide military protection Col Wynyard took pains to point out, with no small amount of sarcasm, that the menfolk of the town had a lot to answer for in having failed on two

occasions in the past to respond to the call-out of their local militia force.

The criticism was well founded, and the townsmen knew it, so that when the militia was next called out, in 1858, an almost full muster was achieved. This time however, the enthusiastic response went unrewarded. After six months the militiamen were stood down on the grounds of the costs of keeping them active, when no fighting had eventuated, being more than the government coffers could bear.

There was dismay among the militiamen, for at that time a war with the Maoris appeared inevitable. A number of them therefore decided to form a volunteer corps, and at a public meeting on September 1, 1858, a resolution to that effect was passed. The birth of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps became official on January 13, 1859, the date of Governor Gore-Browne's proclamation of the event.

The corps enjoyed a year of the peaceful life during which time its members became reasonably well trained, but, more importantly, developed the esprit de corps which was to stand them in such excellent stead when they found themselves at war. They were, as the Americans used to say, "chock full of fight and brag".

So strong was the "fight and brag" that when the war broke out on March 17, 1860, and neither the Volunteer Corps nor the town-based Taranaki Militia companies were invited to take part in the opening clash, there was alarm and consternation that the war would be over, ended by a single and decisive British victory at Waitara, before the local participants even got to hear a shot fired in anger. Well, it is history now that far from being knocked out in the opening round, the Maoris emerged from their first encounter with the vaunted redcoats virtually unscathed and delighted to have learned that facing the Kuini's soldiers with their big guns was not at all the daunting prospect it had originally seemed.

PRIMUS IN ARMIS

The Rifle Volunteers and their Militia comrades got their chance to win a battle honour on March 28 at Waireka. The battle followed the murder of five settlers at Omata, on the outskirts of New Plymouth, on the previous day. Two parties, one comprising

65th Regiment soldiers and sailors from HMS Niger, and the other combining the Volunteers and Militia, marched to Omata with the intention of extricating a number of neutral (non-British and clergy mainly) from an area dominated by a newly built Maori pa. The mission was supposed to be carried out without clash or drama, but the settler force was in no mood for that. After all, had not they just come from viewing the tomahawked corpses of their five fellow settlers . . . two of whom had been only in their early teens? Little wonder then that the Volunteers and Militia ignored the instructions of Col Gold (65th) and got themselves into a fight.

This was just one of the legacies of Waireka that led to a certain amount of discord between the local forces and the British military leadership. Dusk on March 28 found the settler force in a bit more trouble than some of the brashest of its members might have foreseen. With several men wounded, the force was all but surrounded, almost out of ammunition and faced with the certainty of a Maori attack as soon as the light began to fade. Assistance from the 65th contingent? No. Lt-Col Murray had taken up a position at some distance from the battle site, and apart from sending a small reconnaissance party to scout the fringes of the fight, had no intention of committing his troops further. Uppermost in his mind was Gold's instruction that the whole force be back in town before nightfall, and even if the local warriors were not going to be able to make it, he was! Just on dusk, therefore, Murray withdrew his troops.

This would surely have spelled the end for the Rifle Volunteers and Militia had it not been for Captain Cracroft of HMS Niger. Eager to get into whatever action was going on, he rushed to Omata with a small party of bluejackets, arriving there just as Murray's party was pulling out. All that they could see of the Maoris was their pa high up on a hill overlooking the battle site. Cracroft immediately led his men in a wild charge. The pa was taken; the attack was successful in drawing the Maoris away from the settler force and giving the Volunteers and Militiamen the opportunity to get away without being further molested.

Waireka counts for nothing in British military histories, but to the men of the

Taranaki Rifle Volunteers it was the fount from which all things sprang. It would have mattered not had the Volunteers never fought again; to have been at Waireka was akin, in local eyes, to having been at Waterloo or Balaclava.

SOLDIERING ON

Throughout the winter of 1860 the Volunteers took part in a few meaningless wanders out into the burned, vandalised and devastated countryside around New Plymouth without ever seeing a hostile Maori. Between outings they were confined to the job of defending the town. While the British made one venture against the Maoris at Puke-ta-kauere in June and suffered the high cost of 31 dead for no result, the Volunteers also had their losses — three men killed in ambushes while carrying out their duties just outside the town.

If anything was to save the remainder of the Rifle Volunteers' year from becoming totally unmemorable, it was the Battle of Mahoetahi, fought near Waitara on November 6. Although the day began with a display of pettiness by both the commanders of the British and Volunteers contingents over whether or not the local warriors considered it worth their while to take part in the action, it ended with the men of both parties linking arms and celebrating a resounding victory in which each had shared with equal dash and daring. After Mahoetahi the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps might have gone on to bigger and better things, but the antagonism between settler and British military leaders remained unresolved. Thus when, on the last day of the year, Major General Pratt set out at the head of the greatest force the war had yet seen to capture the Maori stronghold of Te Arei, the local Volunteer and Militia elements were conspicuous by their absence. Another little display of pettiness had seen the settler participation brusquely wiped out of consideration at the last moment. So, while the major campaign of the war was fought over a period of two and a half weary, but history-making months, the Volunteers continued to man the blockhouses and forage for ripening farm crops.

When the war ended on March 19, 1861, the Volunteers had only the high points of Waireka and Mahoetahi to look back on. But they were enough. When their first Colours

were presented in 1862, Waireka was the single Battle Honour chosen to adorn them.

THE BUSHRANGER WAR

Most of the dissension between local and Imperial military elements during the first Taranaki war had arisen from the settlers' eagerness to get to grips with the Maoris. The defensive policy adopted by the British command had seen the entire Taranaki garrison penned for most of the time behind stockade walls, or moving about the countryside in such large groups that the chances of the Maoris showing themselves were nil. And while they did these things, the Maoris were given virtually free rein to do as they would with the countryside. No farm escaped their attentions, and the only farm houses to survive were those set aside by the Maoris themselves for use as accommodation during their wanders. Even "suburban" houses were destroyed within sight and sound of the blockhouses.

The Rifle Volunteers had frequently put forward proposals that they be allowed to range outside the town limits and to tackle the Maori in their own way, but their ideas found no acceptance. However, with the coming peace and the advent of a new British commander, Col H.J. Warre, 57th Regiment, the outlook began to improve. Warre listened with much more sympathy to local views.

On May 4, 1863, war broke out again in Taranaki with the ambush and killing of eight men of the 57th Regiment at Oakura. That night the Volunteers and Militia were back on fulltime duty in the blockhouses and on the familiar old sentry beats of 1860-61. But now there was no sense of dissatisfaction over that role; everyone knew the winds of change were blowing.

On June 1 a general muster was called of all members of the Rifle Volunteers and Militia to hear Captain Charles Brown announce that Warre had given permission for armed parties to be sent out into the countryside to deny the Maoris the sort of freedom and domination that they had enjoyed in the previous conflict. They would be voluntary forays, initially carried out as an addition to normal garrison duties. Bush-ranging, or "gorilla" warfare as some referred to it as in their writings, proved to be the sort of activity in which the settlers were

completely in their element. Initially there were two 45-men bushranger companies which operated month about, but the concept quickly became so popular that the turn-about idea went by the board, and it was not unusual for both parties to be out at the same time. Furthermore, the difference between the British soldier of just three years apart was conclusively proved by the way in which the men of both the 57th and 70th Regiments clamoured to be allowed to go along with the Bushrangers as observers. And good value the Imperials proved to be too. It was not long before they were sending out patrols of their own.

The success of the bushranging programme was measured not by the number of Maoris ambushed and shot — they could have been counted on one man's fingers — but in the quick and lively disappearance of Maori raiding parties from their old stamping grounds. Here was the positive proof that had the proposals of the settlers been listened to back in 1860, the whole course of events in New Zealand might have been greatly altered.

The Bushranger part of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps' history was one of intensive activity in a comparatively short period of time — between June and September 1863. Most of the action took place within the first two or three weeks. After that the companies patrolled and lay in wait hour after hour, day after day, with little reward. Their job was done. That was good, because the spring brought new emphasis on more conventional military operations against fortified positions. The summer brought the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps new battle honours with its members taking part in the Battle of Allen's Hill in October 1863, and in both the attacks on the strong Kaitake positions in March 1864. Their last action was the capture of Manutahi (North Taranaki) Pa in October 1864.

On October 25, with the area around New Plymouth declared to have been pacified, the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps and Taranaki Militia were stood down from active service. The Volunteer Corps did not disband though. Members continued to meet, to train, and, on occasions, to rattle the sabres when the continuing wars in South Taranaki seemed to be getting out of hand.

UNHAPPY RELATIONS

While the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps was forging itself an important niche in New Zealand's military history, its contemporaries in the Wanganui district were having problems in even getting activated. Two companies of the Wanganui Rifles were formed in July 1860. Although they were formed only one day apart, someone saw fit to backdate the commissions of the officers of the 1st Company, thereby establishing a clear seniority status. This discrimination remained a source of dissent between the two companies until January 1862 when the problems escalated into a bitter, open dispute which succeeded only in sending the entire unit crashing to destruction.

From the wreckage of the Wanganui Rifles was born, in 1865, a new unit called the Victoria Rifles. This unit, along with the Prince of Wales Rifles, Caledonian Rangers and Wanganui Bushranger Volunteers, which were all formed during the same period, gave good service during the first half of that year when military operations were carried out north of Wanganui. The first three served locally, but the Bushrangers, following a role in the relief of the garrison at Pipiriki, became part of the expeditionary force formed to take part in the East Coast campaign from September 1865 to May 1866. On its return to Wanganui the unit was transferred to Major McDonnell's field force which campaigned in South Taranaki until the end of 1866. The unit was then disbanded.

In 1868 the Wanganui Rifle Volunteer Corps was formed. This unit had its hour of glory in November of that year when it defended Weraroa Redoubt against an attack by Titokowaru until ordered to give up the post. During the autumn of the following year the Rifle Volunteers took part in operations under Major Noake in Waitotara and South Taranaki.

The first real continuity of service came about in 1870 with the formation of the Wanganui Rifles. The Rifles, along with the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps, served at Parihaka in 1881.

RIFLE VOLUNTEERS VERSES RUSSIAN INVADERS?

Parihaka marked the end of a colourful and storied era in New Zealand military history. Although there was still no absolute

certainty that peace between Maori and Pakeha had achieved for all time, it was clear that there would probably never again be any call made upon local volunteer units to take up arms in defence of their own homes as the Taranakians had had to do in 1860. Any further fighting involving the Maoris would primarily be the responsibility of the Armed Constabulary.

All that any "warry" type of young man in a volunteer uniform could possibly look forward to would be the coming to fruition of the so-called Russian threat. From as early as 1878 the people of the South Seas had been experiencing butterflies in the stomach over rumours of an unhealthy interest being shown by the Russians in this part of the world. These scares would continue to surface off and on until 1905 when the Japanese Fleet challenged and totally destroyed the Russian Pacific Fleet right up in the North Pacific.

They were rather dissatisfying years to those whose interest in being in uniform was a tier or two above the frivolous. After Parihaka interest in the volunteer movement throughout New Zealand fluctuated wildly. The Taranaki experience was typical. In 1882, in order to meet the requirements of new government regulations, the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps had to scrape the bottom of the barrel in order to be able to muster the 42 rank and file required to keep the unit on the active list. Yet a mere four years later, when all units between New Plymouth and Wanganui were united together to form the West Coast Battalion, there was no problem filling the ranks. Perhaps it was the new scarlet tunic, blue trousers and ceremonial blue pickelhaube helmet which appealed after the shabby campaigning garb of the preceding years.

In 1888, another Russian scare having come and gone, many of the regional battalions were disbanded, among them the West Coast Battalion. Scores of the smaller units that had made up these battalions simply disappeared, but some, the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps included, determined to carry on even though the Government, while not openly withdrawing its support of the movement, quite clearly hoped that remaining units might get on with doing their own things — without making any demands on the public purse. There were really only two

things that kept volunteer units going over the next few years. In some cases it was the "popinjay" uniforms. In other cases — and this would surely have applied most strongly to the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps — it was a sense of tradition and a reaction to the dismay of veterans of the Sixties to any slowing of the unit heartbeat.

Thus the volunteer movement hobbled along until 1892 when someone compiled a report on the situation — and publicised the findings so widely that officialdom just had to do something. Weapons that had been old at Parihaka were replaced, standardised drill manuals were produced and standards of general efficiency set. Furthermore, there was a return to the regional unit concept, this helped along by yet another Russian scare in 1894. Top priority was given to volunteer units in main-port areas (the most likely Russian invasion targets), so that it was not until 1896 that the Taranaki and the Wellington West Coast volunteer units became battalions of the Wellington Rifles.

NEW BATTLE HONOURS

Although they belonged to a Rifles Battalion, sufficient Taranaki and Wanganui volunteers "mounted up" and served in the South African War (1899-1902) to enable both units to claim the battle honour South Africa. For the volunteer movement as a whole, the New Zealand excursion into its first overseas war served to warn that the concept of defending home and hearth was becoming dimmer than ever. In 1909, with Europe rumbling like an awakening volcano the volunteer movement was brought to an abrupt end to be replaced by a territorial force system based on a concept of compulsory military training.

In 1911 the Taranaki Rifles Regiment and the Wellington West Coast Infantry Regiments were formed.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 each of the two regiments provided a company in each of the battalions of the Wellington Regiment. Thus, after the war, both the Wellington West Coast Regiment and the newly reformed Taranaki Regiment each received exactly the same battle honours to be emblazoned on their respective Colours. They were. Somme 1916-18, Ypres 1817, Hindenburg Line, Landing at Anzac, Egypt 1915-16, Messines 1917, Bapaume 1918,

France and Flanders 1916-18, Sari Bair 1915 and Gallipoli 1915.

World War Two again saw the two regimental areas contributing men largely to the 19th, 22nd, 25th and 36th Battalions, while the two territorial units served as part of the New Zealand defensive system. The 2nd Battalion of the Wellington West Coast, in fact, spent some time on Norfolk Island during 1943-44, one of the few territorial

units to serve overseas.

Again, the battle honours from the war were identical: Greece 1941, Sidi Rezegh 1941, El Alamein, Cassino, Italy 1943-45, Crete, Minqar Qain, North Africa 1940-43, The Senio and Solomons.

In 1948 the two regiments were amalgamated to form the Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment.

ALPHA COMPANY

Situated on the northern side of Mt Egmont is New Plymouth, the Headquarters for Alpha Company with its members hailing from the North Taranaki area. Geographically 160kms from HQ 5WWCT, Alpha is the northern most company, and out on a limb, finds it difficult travelling 2 hours to attend any Bn activities. However, internal training and attendance has been excellent and never before has the company been in better spirits. This is because whether he is young, fit and fast or a bit older and bolder the Alpha Company soldier is a special breed, renowned for his endurance, adaptability, flexibility and ability to produce the goods when required (read on and check his credentials).

With the availability of the Army Hall and good training facilities the calendar has been full of training and social activities.

A COMPANY TRAINING CALENDAR (1st April to 31 October 1984)

Date	Event	Attendance
April	8 Cobbers Day Shoot	40
	18 Coy Night Training	52
	* Port to Park Run	
May	2 Coy Night Training	32
	16 Coy Night Training	34
	19/20 Bn Live Firing (Waiouru)	21
	* Coy Night Training	49
	* Basketball (Ministry of Transport)	
July	4 Coy Night Training	53
	7/8 Coy Shooting Weekend	40
	* Basketball (Social team)	
August	1 Coy Night Training (RFL)	42
	4/5 Meuli Shoot	Team
September	5 Coy Night Training (RFL)	46
	* Basketball (Services Tournament)	
	* Rugby (Hawera, BN, Shuttleworth)	
October	3 Coy Night Training	46
	6/7 Defence Ex (prep for CTE)	39
	* Basketball (Services Tournament)	

NIGHT PARADE AVERAGE = 44

* - Social activities

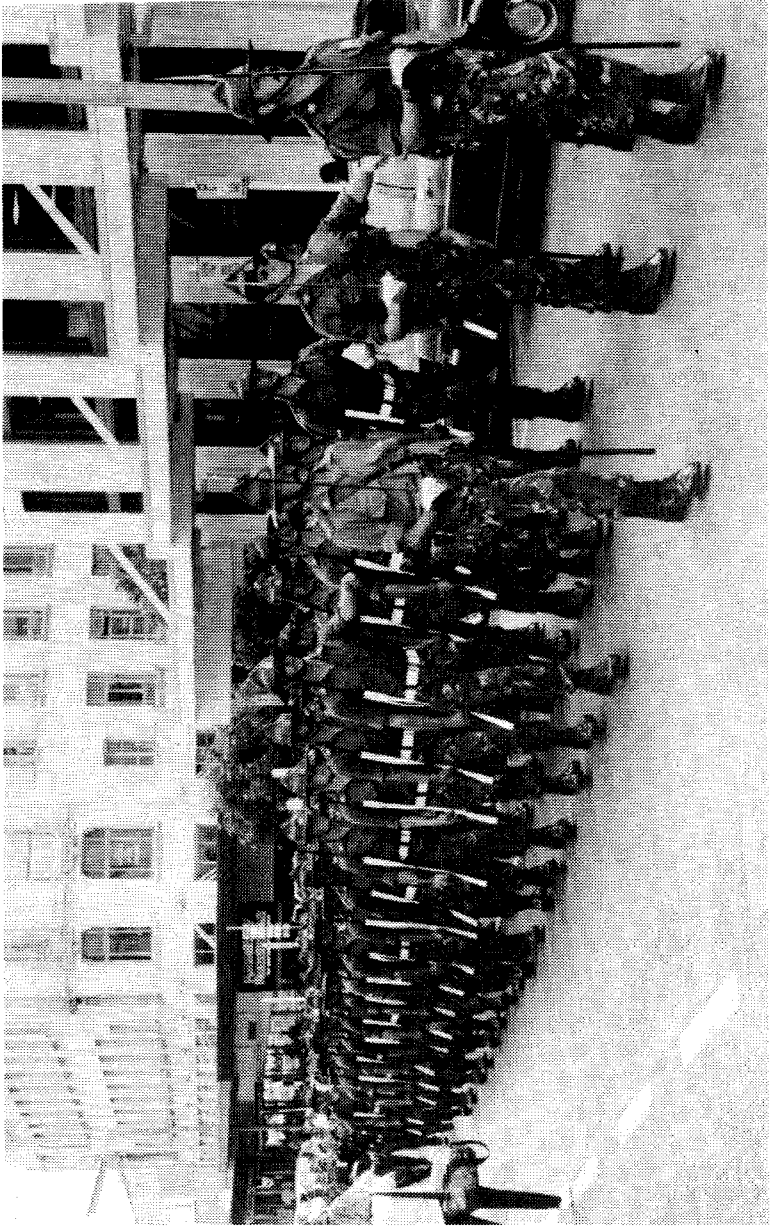
COBBERS DAY SHOOT

This is a open day where the members of A Company invite their families, friends and employers along to see what equipment and weapons are used by the Territorial Force soldier. They have an opportunity to use some of the weapons and also participate in a falling plate shoot. 48 teams (5 per team) participated this year which included representatives from local organisations, firms, banks, city council and government departments. The eventual winners were the local Air Training Corps.

COMPANY NIGHT TRAINING

As shown by the training calendar the attendance to night training for the year has been excellent. The average for each parade being 44.

The training itself commenced rather slow with drill and administration but for the last few nights the company was given something new to handle and use with lessons on the starlight scope, GPMG in the sustained role and an introduction to nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. Even the RFL produced a good turn out. A look to the future is to conduct more outdoor activities.



A Coy parading through the streets of New Plymouth during the 125th Anniversary Celebrations, February 1984.

PORT TO PARK RUN

Organised by the New Plymouth Joggers Club and City Council the port to park run is approximately 12km and open to the public. Mustering half a platoon dressed in boots, DPM's, shirt A Coy set off with the rest of the runners. Not first and not last the Army received plenty of moral support from the civilians.

BN LIVE FIRING (Waiouru)

Activities carried out:

- (1) Throw 4 grenades
- (2) Fire 1 subcal M72
- (3) Fire 2HE M79
- (4) Visit Army Museum

Waiouru being the closest camp with a grenade range meant the Bn was required to travel there for its live firing. As shown by the training calendar this was the company's lowest attendance. Conducted in the middle of rugby season (winter) and the fact that those attending had to sit on the back of a cold unimog for 4½ hours one way probably accounted for the low figure.

SOCIAL BASKETBALL

With the Army Hall at its disposal A Company has a chance to invite social clubs and organisations along to play games on the court inside. The Army has won all the social games but not without a few laughs. Because you have to learn to play, everyone is encouraged to participate. If that does not work the Garrison Club is at the far end.

COMPANY SHOOTING WEEKEND

The Company carried out its annual classification shoot at Rewa Rewa Range. This was also carried out during rugby season but because of the proximity and the fact that those who were required to play were released accounted for the high attendance. The shoot produced good results with 95% of those who shot qualifying on practice three. This also served as a basis to select the Company shooting team.

MEULI SHOOT

A Company travelled south full of confidence and just about pulled it off, however were just pipped at the post (about 100 pts). Second place was a pleasing result but wait until next year.

A Company Team:

Lt J. Miller	Pte M. Byrne	Pte W. Streeter
Ssgt G Hamilton	Pte C. Cleland	Pte I. Adlam
Cpl M. Cavanagh	Pte P. Nottingham	Sgt J. Baunton (Res)
Lcpl S. Reed	Pte M. Lodge	Pte M. Willcox

The following Company personnel represented the Bn in the Shuttleworth Cup.

Cpl M Cavanagh	Pte P. Nottingham
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SERVICES BASKETBALL (September to December)

The New Plymouth Services Basketball Tournament is in its first year. Played in the Army Hall it is designed to foster a closer relationship between the various participating Government departments. These include the Army, Fire, Police, Traffic, Ambulance and Justice. A Company has two teams competing in this tournament.

RUGBY

The first game for the A Company rugby players was when they teamed up with B Company to form a Taranaki Army team. The game was against Hawera 3rd and 4th combined team which we narrowly won. It was then off to Wanganui to play the Bn south team. The north narrowly won 6-4.

The following company personnel represented the Bn north team.

D. Te Paea	P. Manihera	R. Dimmock	S. Sikisini
P. Phillips	C. Stewart	D. Wharehoka	A. Hunia

The Bn team to play for the Kenning Cup (Central Region) and Harding Cup (1 TFR Trophy) was selected from the north-south game.

Bn team:

M. Hardgrave
P. Phillips

P. Manihera
D Te Paea

A. Hunia

C.T.E. PRACTICE

The exercise was conducted on local farm land at Egmont Village. The No 8 ATC unit provided the enemy party that nearly out-numbered the friendly forces. Friendlies consisting 39 A Coy and 7 B Coy. Most aspects of the defence were taught and practiced. The starlight scopes were on the position and this gave those who had never used it a good opportunity. The exercise culminated in a dawn attack.

COMBINED SERVICE RELAY (17 November 1984)

This is an annual relay organised and conducted by A Company with the Army, Police, Fire and Traffic Departments of New Plymouth competing for the Services Shield. The relay is run to raise funds for the Taranaki Base Hospital Children's Ward and also for the children of the community. All donations this year go towards buying:

- (a) An Apnoea Alarm Mattress
- (b) Fisher & Paykel Humidifer
- (c) High Lo Child Size Bed

SCHOOL CADETS

- (a) New Plymouth Boys High
- (b) Francis Douglas Memorial College

SWWCT is responsible for the two school cadet units within its region. Both schools are situated in New Plymouth and apart from the stores provided by Bn HQ most of the training, administration and advisory support hails from A Company. This year A Company has provided weapon instructors, drill instructors, range NCO's and advisors to the cadet unit.



Our Mayor of New Plymouth, His Worship Mr D.L. Lean talks to Pte C.M. (Clarky) Harris during the New Plymouth Charter Parade, February 1984.

No 8 SQN (City of NP) ATC

"No 8" as the above unit is affectionally known have become part of A Company. Requests for their assistance are always confirmed. Well known to the Company they are also well known to other members of the Bn through their efforts at the Putiki range. They provided the butt party for the Bn Meuli Shoot and the Bn Shuttleworth practice. They have been involved in the following A Company activities.

- (a) Cobbers Day Shoot
- (b) Company Shoot
- (c) A Company practice
- (d) A Company Defence exercise

Alpha Company thanks Sqn Ldr Brown and No 8 for their assistance and hopes that the two units maintain a close relationship in the future.

CORRECT USE OF THE TELEPHONE

On this particular occasion Alpha Company HQ was unman-
ed (again) with its phone ringing. Hearing the phone, Pte
Bloggs runs in and answers:

Bloggs: Yeah!! What you want?
Caller: What do you mean! what you want?
You don't answer the phone like that.
You give your company, your name and answer
with 'Sir'.
Now, do you know who's speaking?
Bloggs: Nope.
Caller: Well "it's the CO".
Bloggs: Do you know who's speaking?
CO: No.
Bloggs: Thanks F - - - for that.
Clang !!!!

BRAVO COMPANY

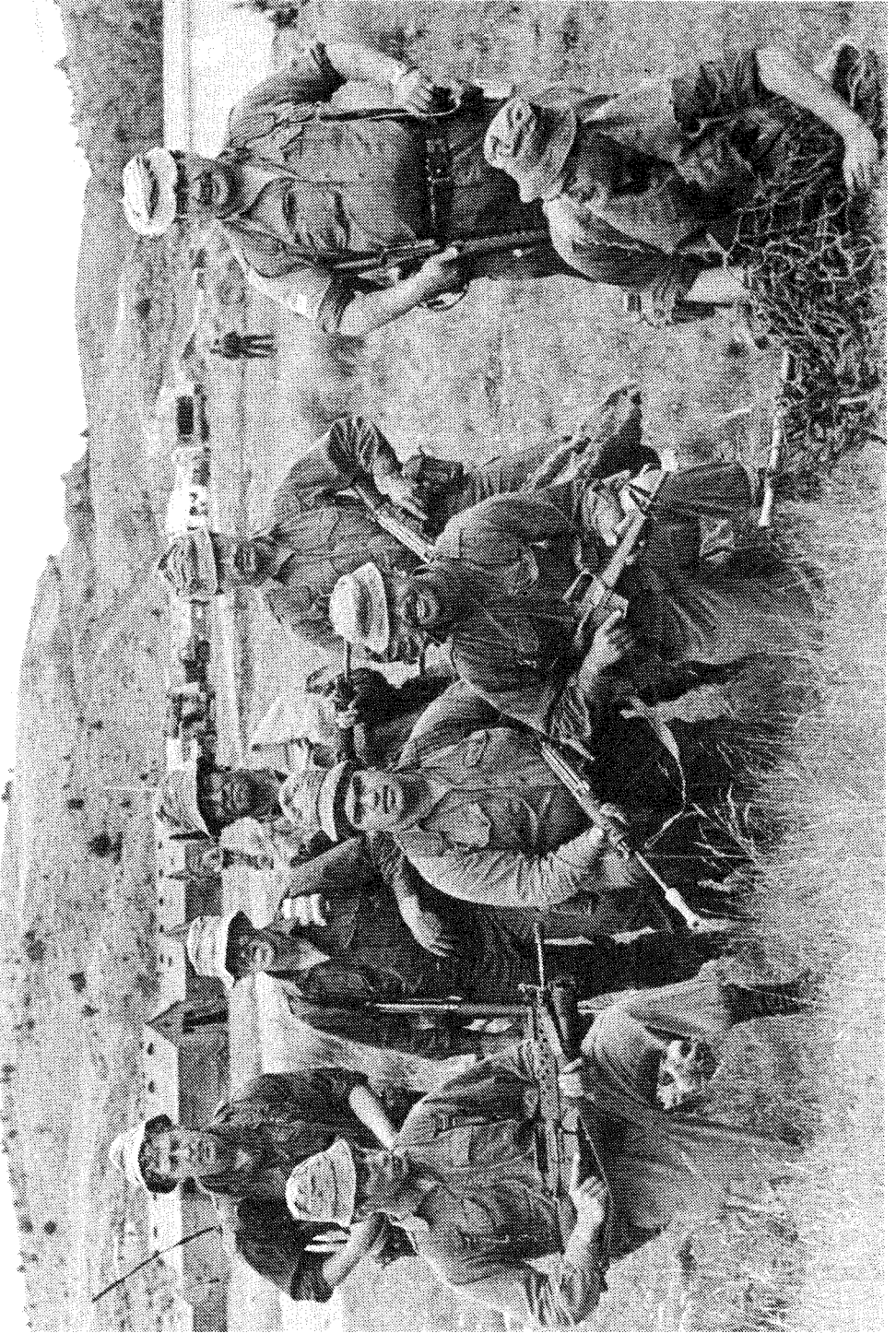
1984 has been a year of rebuilding and restructuring for Bravo Company, with the appointment of a new Company Commander, new Platoon Commanders, several new Section Commanders, and a new C.S.M. The old system of 3 understrength platoons was replaced by 2 platoons, one at full strength and the other at half strength, plus a general platoon composed of soldiers not attending training regularly. This system has led to a dramatic improvement in communications, and has put Commanders at the various levels in a more realistic situation. Combined with a successful recruiting campaign, this has resulted in presenting a bright future for Bravo Company.

During the year, training nights were held in Hawera, where topics covered ranged from T.O.E.T.S to night navigation to A.P.C. drills. The emphasis has been on making training as interesting as possible. Because the Meuli Cup Competition was brought forward, the company shooting weekends had to be held in June - July. However, the Taranaki weather had different ideas, providing driving rain and ankle deep mud on most shooting days. This meant that soldiers did not have enough shooting practice and did not perform well in the Meuli Cup shooting competition. But the next day, the team, led by Cpl Southcombe, had a complete reversal of form in the Section Shoot, to finish in 2nd place.

In April, the company mounted its usual Anzac Day guards and firing parties throughout the South Taranaki region. In Hawera, Bravo Company provided the Cenotaph Guard with 47 Squadron of the A.T.C. providing the firing party, under the command of Sgt Kururangi. Then over 100 Returned Servicemen were invited to the Army Hall for the breakfast provided by company personnel.



The Old Soldier Himself – WOII Doug Wilkinson



Cpl Solomon and his skill at Arms Team

In September, Bravo combined with Alpha to form a rugby team. A practice game was held against a Hawera Rugby Football Club selection on 16 September, with the Hawera selection winning 10-8. Seven members of the company, Ssgt Tawhara, Sgt Soloman, Cpl Kemp, Lcpl Dunn and Ptes Hill, Kahu and Wanahi were selected for the Battalion team after trials in Wanganui on 22 September.

However, the highlight of the year was the Charter Parade held in Hawera during the Battalion's Anniversary celebrations. Many of our soldiers had cause to feel proud as Bravo Company led the rest of the Battalion through the streets of its home town, where many of the people watching were friends or family.

NEW COMPANY PERSONNEL

Capt Brewer, Lt Woods, Ptes Blackaby, Gladding, Katene, Chubb, Marsh, McKay, Ngatai, Candy, Rees, Hughson, Dietschin, Evans, Tipene, Palmers, Hotter, Wallis, Farr and Reid.

A BREAKDOWN OF BRAVO COMPANY

Headquarters Staff –

- O.C. The year commenced with Major Rae Mills in Command of Bravo Company. Mid year saw Major Mills being transferred to Christchurch and Captain Tim Brewer step in as his replacement. Although living in New Plymouth, Capt Brewer quickly made his presence felt.
- 2IC Lt Keith Hogan, having successfully sorted out Admin Company, was posted back home to Bravo Company. As Senior Officer in Hawera he had to attend to many of the day to day activities, such as successfully arranging an Officer Recruitment programme and several shooting weekends. However, he wasn't so successful in arranging the weather.
- C.S.M. This year marked the retirement of WO II Doug Wilkinson after over 12 years service to Bravo Company. In whatever he did, WO II Wilkinson always had the interest of Bravo Company at heart, and he will be greatly missed.



Pte Broughton setting up practice Claymore

- C.Q.M.S.** Ssgt Kevin Fairweather continues to provide excellent service in the company stores, whether it be issuing uniforms or weapons, or providing a welcome hot brew in the field. As no replacement C.S.M. has been named, Ssgt Fairweather is also temporarily filling this position as well.
- Storeman** Cpl Roger Holmes has spent yet another year understudying the C.Q.; learning the art of lifting heavy boxes, cleaning dirty equipment and counting returned stores. As one of the few qualified Unimog drivers, Cpl Holmes' presence has been very much appreciated at times.

NORTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Lt Kevin Woods

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt Jim Te Wiki

Covering the Eltham — Stratford region the North Platoon has been going from strength to strength, under the Command of Sgt Te Wiki, and then Lt Woods. A well organised recruiting programme has resulted in many new recruits, and an increase in the size of the platoon. This programme involved a display at Stratford in July, various newspaper reports, and the placing of posters around the region.

In September the platoon welcomed Lt Woods as the new platoon commander. There were some reports of soldiers being a little apprehensive as they had heard that Lt Woods had just returned from an S.A.S. selection course. Annual Camp should prove interesting.

There has been one promotion in the platoon this year. Congratulations to Ian Howarth on his promotion to Lcpl.



Checking for scratches? Ssgt Tawhara and B Coy Unimog

SOUTH PLATOON

Platoon Commander — 2Lt Warren Southcombe

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt Peri Soloman

Covering the Hawera — Patea — Waverley region, the South Platoon provides the main source of manpower for the company. As a full strength platoon, it provides good, realistic training for the platoon commander and the three section commanders. After commanding the platoon for almost three years, Lt Eric Hansen was posted to the General Platoon in September, and his place was taken by 2Lt Southcombe, who had just completed his P.L.C.

South Platoon was also involved in a recruiting campaign, resulting in several articles appearing in local and Taranaki papers.

The platoon was heavily committed in Anzac Day services, with guards mounted in Manaia and Hawera, and providing firing parties at Patea and Waverley. Lt Hansen travelled to Waverley and was the guest speaker at the RSA service; his topic being the Solider of Today.

Promotions in the platoon were 2Lt Hansen to Lt; Lcpl Southcombe to Cpl and then 2Lt; Cpl Soloman to Sgt and Pte Charlie Waenga to Lcpl.

CADRE STAFF

Ssgt John Tawhara and Sgt Archie Kururangi continue to provide the experience and advice so necessary in the effective running of a rifle company. Both have been actively involved in the Hawera Garrison Club, organising various events, and participating in the company volleyball and basketball teams that play in a local competition. And always working away in the background in the office is our typist, Mrs Teresa Luke, her trusty typewriter close at hand ready to type up any one of the hundreds of reports and notices that flood into her office.

CHARLIE COMPANY

The highlight of the 1983-84 training year for Charlie Company was the award of the B.E.M. to Sgt M. Roiri (9 platoon) for services to Kohiteri Training School and for his efforts in raising and administering the Levin Platoon. Congratulations Marty!

During the year a number of soldiers were selected to participate in overseas deployments in both Fiji and Singapore. Those selected to attend Exercise Tropic Coral from 13 June to 2 July were Capt D. Beattie, WOII A. Quarie, Cpl G. Frost, L.Cpl P. Housiaux and Pte W. Dynan. Capt D. Beattie was also given the opportunity to attend Exercise Jalan ULU from 22 July to 24 August as an umpire.

On the weekend of 27/28 August C Coy deployed to the Brunswick area N.E. of Wanganui for the C.T.E. conducted on the attack phase of war. Training during the earlier part of the year concentrated on the development of skills and knowledge associated particularly with this phase. Spt Coy joined with C Coy to conduct this exercise. While C Coy provided the main attack force Spt Coy provided mortar support and a mini pioneer team as well as battle simulation, and exercise control. The realism of the battle simulation at close quarters followed by an attack through a well defended position proved the effectiveness of the training although constraints of real time limited the extent of the reorganisation phase. The heli-lift back to the Wanganui Airfield was without doubt the highlight of the weekend. Both companies agreed that the lessons learnt and the benefits to be gained from combined company exercises warrant further exploitation.

Two night parades of particular interest involved presentations by visitors, one from R.N.Z.E. and one from Civil Defence. On September 19, SSgt Postend R.N.Z.E. from S.M.E. Linton presented "The Role of the Engineers in the NZ Army". An excellent film and slide sequence accompanied an enthusiastic lecture and lively discussion session. On 17 October



Confidence Course — Skill at Arms '84
L.Cpl T. Craddock, L.Cpl I.J. Moeau



Confidence Course — Skill at Arms '84

Facing camera left to right. D. Henderson, A. Lammas, A. White, K.D. Smith, L.Cpl D. Tregoweth

Mr Lynn Smith provided very good reasons for servicemen taking time to ensure that they and their families are fully prepared to cope with a civil emergency. His talk also covered the fundamental operational framework of civil defence and some interesting points arising from the experience of the service assistance provided during the civil emergency in Darwin.

C. Coy's Mueli Trophy challenge commenced on 13 November with a weapon zeroing shoot at the 25m range at Linton. The Company selected their team: Capt D. Beattie, Sgt K. Stokes, Cpl T. Fenwick, Cpl P. Housiaux, L Cpl D. Ryland, Pte W. Daly, Pte B. Grahame, Pte R. Lochrie and Pte S. Minhinnick at the shoot on the weekend of 19-20 November. This team performed well but finished only 3rd after a good contest. Interestingly the Company score would have been good enough to win the competition the year before in 1982.

During the Skill at Arms Competition held at Annual Camp, however, teams from C Coy were placed, 1st, 2nd and 3rd and the winning team also won the Confidence Course Competition. This creditable effort can be attributed to sound leadership at section level and reflects the effectiveness of the training in soldier skills during the year.

We were sorry to have to farewell Sgt K. Stokes and Carol on 7 April, however, he was seen off in fine style taking with him two silver goblets suitably inscribed as a reminder of his dedicated service as Cadre Sgt with C Coy. L Cpl Tregowarth was also farewelled, however, it is pleasing to note the reappearance of his name on the manning board.

Charlie Company Social Club ably lead by our P.M.C. Sgt K. Olsen organised a full programme of varied activities during the year. Sporting fixtures with a number of service clubs proved popular and the basketball team are to be congratulated for their runner up placing in the local competition. The highlight of the social club's year was the Christmas party held at the Awapuni Tavern where good cheer and an excellent barbecue was enjoyed by all.

Father Christmas was a big hit with the young children once again — thanks Sgt Greg Frost. The 1983-84 year will be remembered as a busy, productive year.

— Stan Foote

ADMINISTRATION COMPANY

WANTED ADVERTISEMENT

Wanted: Cooks, Storepersons, Medics and Bandsmen.

Not the most glamorous appointments BUT without us the rest of the Battalion may:

- become footweary
- hungry
- become badly equipped
- find difficulty recovering quickly from illness or injury
- find ceremonial occasions more difficult

We are essential AND we must also be competent infantrymen.

ANNUAL CAMP

- Our driver especially the unimog lot were kept busy running up tremendous mileages and keeping track of vehicles and/or keys and/or RI's.
- Some officers and NCO's really tested our initiative in keeping track of vehicles, etc.
- Our Cooks ably supported by our '130' workers kept up a great service serving meals at all hours - sometimes with inadequate kit - but always with a smile!
- The Q team positioned, repositioned, repositioned, etc stores for all sorts of contingencies - and still some folk who wanted kit five minutes ago managed to grumble when there were shortfalls. Stores planning, accountability and care practiced by all will help us all.
- The Medics lead by the broadfellow gave their bestest with sympathetic understanding to all who need their ministrations. Those medical packs are heavy to hump around on top of such other unnecessaries such as shelters, spare clothing, sleeping bag and rations.
- Many infantrymen have two left feet but when the band strikes up the natural truth descends on most people - left, right, left, right, etc. - and weren't those Charter Parades great especially when the troops were marching.
- When the band stopped playing and forming up, standing still and officers saluting etc took over - the mistakes were more obvious.

DURING THE YEAR

Our turn out hasn't been too good this year so back to seeking a formula which will improve that situation, however we did manage to win the Mueli Trophy, the premier shooting trophy in the Battalion.

OUR CADRE NCO

We have a most approachable, thoughtful, hard working RF Cadre NCO in Sgt Sonny Metekingi - and all of us TF's wish to record our appreciation.

OBSERVATIONS ON COMPANY HQ PERSONS

Which OC gave EYES LEFT when we were marching past the Mayor of New Plymouth when His Worship was on the RIGHT?

Our Coy's enthusiasm, fitness and dedication is a worthy example to all soldiers who wish to aspire to higher things.

The CQMS's job is always tough especially when a General is dining at the mess you are servicing and the cooks give you one hot box of meal and three of washing water.

The cooks deny this.

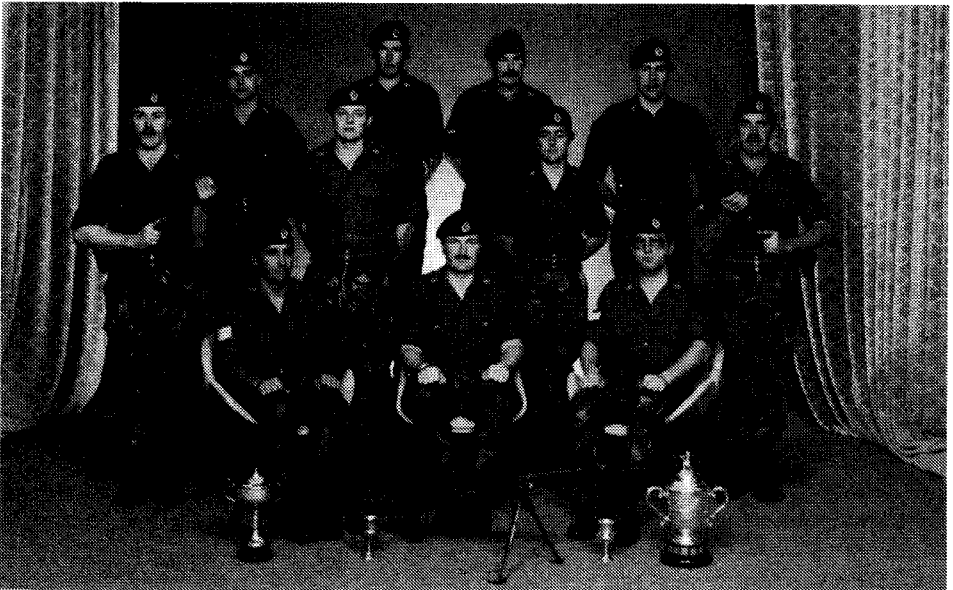
Balloons are expensive targets.

MUELI CUP 1983 – 1984
Winners – Administration Company



Back Row: L.Cpl James Talbot, Pte Jerald Twomey, Pte Ian Shaw, Pte Shane Holland, Pte Paul Channing
Front Row: L.Cpl Kevin Harvey, SSgt Iain Carruthers, L.Cpl Nick Huia, WO2 Alan MacDonald,
Lte G. Hogan, Cpl Laurie Rod.

1984



Back Row: Pte Roger Bidois, Pte Alister Harvey, L.Cpl K. Harvey, Pte I. Shaw
Centre Row: Pte Andy McDowell, Pte Murray Woodcock, Pte Craig Wallace, Cpl L. Rod
Sitting: Sgt P. Metekingi, WO2 Graeme Burnett, SSgt I. Carruthers

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE . . . FLASHBACK TO DABA, 1955



THE PARODY OF HOOD

Once upon a time there lived a female personnel whose nomenclature was Hood, Red, Riding, Little, qty 1. She was a girl, little, happy. Her uniform consisted of the following items: Dress, red, cotton, qty 1 Cape, red w/hood, qty 1. Her appointment was food-handler.

One day Hood, Red, Riding, Little, received a TP from her Mother, Grand, Old, who lived off camp in a Cottage, Brick, Red, W/Chimney, WO/TV, Housing Corporation Type, qty 1. The TP read as follows: "Dear Hood, this is to advise that this morning's report should read. Dy to Sk, Confined to Qtrs as of 0100 hrs 10 Jan 76. Attended sick parade yesterday (LD Chit yes), confined for indefinite period. However, I am feeling somewhat better. Love, Relative Type, Mother, Grand, Your. ADDED . . . Please draw from Q store the following: Ration Pack, Soldiers, 24 hr, qty 1.

Hood took the TP to the message centre with the following 1st endorsement: Basic communication complied with. ETA your loc approx 1600 hrs this day. ADDED UNOFFICIAL: please bake cookies, ginger type, w/nuts, wo/icing. Hood then filled out a leave app (compassionate) and departed hand-carrying the following items: (a) Basket, picnic, wicker type, wo/top, (b) Ration pack, 24 hr, qty 1. (c) Sandwiches, salami, w/pickle and onion, wo/mustard and mayonnaise, qty 2.

While en route to destination, personnel concerned came to a forest, thick, primevil, stage 3. Suddenly out of the thicket, briar, emerged a Wolf, bad, big, brown, qty 1. Wolf said "Halt, who goes there and state regt no." Hood answered, "36-24-36, Hood, Red, Riding, Little, I am en route on leave (compassionate), and am looking for the house of my Mother, Grand."

"It is just down the road, turn left at Bldg 2355," instructed the Wolf.

"How do you know where she lives?" asked Hood.

"I've had guard duty in this area," says Wolf, who then catches a bus to Granny's . . . upon arrival, Wolf, Bad, Big, Brown, swallows Granny in a single swallow, qty 1. Wolf, Bad, Big, Brown, then emus' the area including butt tins and jumps into the bed issued to Mother, Grand, on a permanent loan. Wolf, Bad, Big, Brown, then proceeds to don pyjamas, 47 pat, in issue to Mother, Grand. 1-2-3-1-2-3-1-2-3-1 etc

Hood enters, "Hello Mother, Grand."

"The fool, stupid, little, does not know that it is really me the Wolf, Big, Bad, Brown," chuckled the Wolf.

"What big teeth you have," exclaims Hood, Red, Riding, Little.

"All the better to maintain maximum efficiency at minimum cost with nil effects," replies the Wolf.

THEN . . . enter the chopper, wood type, handsome, qty 1. Chopper, wood type, kills Wolf with a blow, qty 1, performs necessary surgical procedures to remove Mother, Grand, from the stomach of the Wolf, Big, Bad, Brown.

With extended leave and rations and quarters allowance they all live happily ever after.

SUPPORT COMPANY

1 April 1983 to 31 October 1984

Over this period of 20 months the Coy has continued to fulfill its role of supporting the Bn. There have been quite a few comings and goings on, on the personnel side. At the beginning of this period Maj J. Hughes was OC, since then the present CO, Lt Col J.R. McGregor has had a stint of 10 months and since July Capt R.A. Shirley has filled the slot.

Other officers to come and go, were: Capt A.S. Mazengarb, a returnee from wider climes and thence to OC of C Coy; Lt D.H. Smith to C Coy, Lt A.J. White likewise, Lt M.D. Chivers from C Coy and the elevation from Cpl to 2Lt M.R. Lewis. The CSM position has been held by the RF appointment of WOII C.J. Hooper, WOII G.R. Bright and of late, SSgt D.G. Turvey. The SNCO's have also seen the resignations of WOII G.R. Bright, Sgt C.F. Bird and Sgt B.P. Nolan, the transfer of WOII G.J. Burnett and SSgt B.E. Hall to Admin Coy, WOII C.J. Hooper to the Bn Trg WO slot and Sgt J.F. Broughton to 4 O'South.



EXERCISE
"FELL, MILL ...

... AND BUILD"





Support Company Meuli Trophy Team, 1983

Later in the month the series of night parades on "Methods of Instruction" began.

May 19-20 was the Bn directed live firing weekend held in Waiouru for 21 Coy members to fire the M72 and M79 and for 20, to throw the grenades. The next weekend saw Lt's Dawson and Shirley attend Ex Ironclad, an Inf/Armd co-op ex in Waiouru whilst SSgt Parker and Pte Hina attended a Q - cse in Wanganui. Sgt Barber and Lt Shirley qualified on Anti-Armoured Course.

In June Lt's Nolan, Dawson and Shirley attended the 1TF Tac Study weekend, in Papakura. The BM rapidly learnt the names of all three. The weekend 16-17, consisted of Phoenix I, the Bn directed Sigs course, 11 from the Coy were involved, whilst 3 others attended Rangitira I.

The last weekend of the month saw a small number travel to New Plymouth to fire the annual classification shoot.

The 11th of July saw the loss of Maj J.R. McGregor from the company with the change of command parade seeing the arrival of Lt Col J.R. McGregor. The period 27th-29th saw Cpl M.R. Lewis successfully attend a POSB.

August was the beginning of the present two night parades a month. The first weekend of the month saw the Meuli Competition with Lcpl Sheehy taking out the best SLR trophy. The next weekend was PI trg with 42 attending. Sgt Kaye rejoined the Coy from his Aslt Pnr instructors eight-week course.

September had 2 CPX's for the Sigs PI, the first in Wanganui and the second being the TF CPX, in Papakura. The last two weekends consisted of team selection for the Shuttleworth/Harding Cup competitions in Wanganui and the actual events in Papakura. Pte's McMeekan and Tutauha played Rugby, Pte B.J. Edwards was in the shooting team and Capt Shirley and Pte Edwards were part of the winning skill-at-arms team; second, 4 minutes behind, were the SAS team.

Ex Triad involved Sgt's Kaye and Fallaver over the 1-14 October period. On 27-28, Coy trg was held. After splashing in Lake Pauri on the Saturday, the formal Coy Dinner was held.

The guest speaker was the original "Portly Major" and ex-OC, Maj B.K. Cunningham. Navigation sorted out a few of the less clear heads the next day.

And so ends our tale of twenty months, onward into the future. Annual Camp '85 beckons just round the corner.

SKILL AT ARMS COMPETITION 1983/84

For the fifth year in succession the skill at arms competition was held at Annual Camp in 1984. However, this year the concept was changed to fit in with the tactical requirements for the training year. The aim was to produce a realistic tactical environment over a 24 hour period with testing under operational conditions of tasks common to the infantryman in the attack phase of war.

In all, twelve sections took part in the competition which commenced for each of them with a full set of orders from which the commanders extracted the aspects relevant to them. Unlike previous years, the sections were unaware of exactly what tests lay before them when they arrived in the training area.

Having arrived in the training area, each section moved over a piece of ground for 2000m being observed from hiding and their formations, reaction to signals, spacing and section commanders control were assessed. Whilst not tested for points, navigation was also noted and this would appear to have become a weaker aspect of our training.

Having moved over the allocated terrain, the section was then set a mine-breaching task although there had been little or no mine training undertaken during the training year. In spite of this, the activity was basically well done, although the unavailability of inkpot mines removed some of the realism and the soldiers' enjoyment. Some tactical lessons were well learned and the knowledge of breaching techniques was certainly much greater at the end of the exercise.

Following the mine-breaching exercise, the section commander was removed from his section which was then required to conceal itself without the benefit of his direction. The Section Commander observed from the enemy point of view with the Directing Staff. It was encouraging to note that soldiers immediately applied camouflage when they realised that tactical movement and concealment was part of the overall test.

With no grenade training having taken place during the year, the inclusion of this as an individual test proved very popular. However, the fact that we do not undertake grenade training annually showed some rusty areas, including remembering the need to overcome curiosity and to DUCK before the grenade exploded. The engagement of unexpected targets during the small arms section of the individual exercises was also popular, although individual reaction to being caught unprepared varied from red faces to "OH!" Visiting Red Hats were unable to resist trying their luck, but their success was put down to failing light and the absence of soldiers.

The night task fell into three phases of formal orders, night ambush and night routine. The night ambush was designed to test under practical conditions navigation sighting of the Claymore mine, sighting of a trip flare, occupation and withdrawal planning and ambush siting. To give realism, the initiation of the ambushes was done by the Directing Staff who listened to the Claymore firing devices operating and then dropped a dummy and ran through the ambush. The lesson that was learned here was that what sounded like a good ambush was not necessarily so as the following morning revealed dummies out of position in relation to trip flares and Claymores. However, the mechanics of short term ambushing were quite well done and we are quite sure that one certain section will never tie a trip flare to a thistle again. The section that sited its Claymore to take out its own troops would also be thankful this was only an exercise.

We are pleased to report, however, that the age of hope is not lost, and a notional Claymore sited by one enterprising section commander, earned notional points from the Directing Staff.

The bread and butter of the infantryman and the core of the section skill at arms competition since its inception five years ago, is the section live firing battle drill, and this year each section was given the same incident in which to apply battle drills 1 to 6. Success in this is usually due to commander experience, and although there are still the usual faults made, the standard is certainly higher than it was prior to the introduction of the test. The execution of this with live ammunition always encourages the soldiers to do their best.

The only other survivor of previous years' section skill at arms was the Confidence Course. As usual, this consisted of sections in full battle order completing the full confidence course, including negotiating certain obstacles including the Burma Bridge with a stretcher-borne casualty, a two mile run to the range and a small arms shoot on arrival. With the sections assessed on the time taken to complete the confidence course and the two mile run, treatment of the casualty and the shooting score, this part of the skill at arms is as much a test of team work and determination as it ever was.

Overall the competition was demanding embracing the individual, team and command elements, and reflects the importance of the section in the Battalion's training. But most important of all, as usual, it was enjoyed by the majority taking part.

For the first time in its history, one Company made a clean sweep of the competition with C Company's 3 Section under L.Cpl Craddock running out the overall winners, 1 Sect. C Company under L.Cpl Tregoweth being second, and 2 Sect. C Company under Cpl Holmes third. On the Confidence Course test, L.Cpl Tregoweth's section was first, L.Cpl Craddock's section second, and Cpl Holmes' section third. A magnificent effort from the fellows from the South.



The Burma Bridge — Skill at Arms '84

There's something about
a 12' wall.

Skill at Arms '84



HISTORY OF THE PIPES AND DRUMS WWCT

WO1 Pritchard

History does not record any Pipe Bands during the early days of the Regiment, but the writer believes there probably was one or two. The piper of the 1860s would have been a soldier first, and a piper to a Company. Brass Bands were extensively used by the Regiments in the early days.

Compulsory Military Training (CMT), introduced before World War I included cadets who trained for three days every three months and transferred to the Territorials at age 18. Still no record of Pipe Band activity in WWC Regt, as there were no organised pipe bands in the area at that time.

The Wanganui Highland Pipe Band was formed in 1918 and played for many Regimental parades. Those members of the Band who were also Territorials were excused duties to attend Band engagements. Band practice was held in the Drill Hall in Maria Place, where the Memorial Hall now stands. This arrangement ended in 1936 when CMT was abolished.

At the outbreak of WWII Col Andrew obtained permission from Gen Freyberg to form a Pipe Band within the Battalion, the proviso being that the officers would be responsible for them and that members were to be soldiers first and bandmen second. This was agreed to and all bands within the Battalion's catchment boundaries were written to inviting members to join the Regiment.

The 22nd Battalion's first parade at 7.00pm on 18th January 1940 at Trentham saw the WWC Regimental Pipe Band on parade for the first time — six drummers and six pipers under L.Cpl E.S. Cameron. The pipes had been presented by the NZ Scots through the president of the Highland Society of New Zealand, Mr E.D. Cameron. The 22nd Battalion was commanded by Col Andrew and included Companies from both the Taranaki and Wellington West Coast Regiments.

Whilst camped in England in 1940, some of the pipers from the Band won prizes in competition against well known piping identities from Britain. The Band also fulfilled

numerous engagements, including concerts, as well as appearances on parades and route marches. L.Cpl E. (Jock) Cameron was made honorary Pipe Major.

From England the Battalion sailed to Egypt, then to Greece and Crete where its band ranks were depleted and all equipment broken up to save it from German souvenir hunters. In 1942 Col Andrew returned to New Zealand where he was offered replacement of the lost instruments by well wishing Scots. Through this generosity he was later able to forward a complete set of band instruments to the Battalion. Through casualties and other causes, the original band was now reduced to three pipers, but Capt H.V. Donald (later CO of the Battalion), a keen supporter of pipe bands, was responsible for having the strength increased to eight pipers and seven drummers.

Cpl John Meikle was made honorary Pipe Major and the new Band acquitted itself capably, its first "task" being to play the Battalion on its long march from Maadi to Burge el Arab before embarking to Italy. Much of the success of this march was due to the Band. Col Campbell said,

"they marched and played and carried along many weary bodies which might otherwise have faltered."

In Italy the Band numbers suffered from casualties, and with the Ruapehu scheme allowing the longer serving to return home, others left for New Zealand.

Often being the first Allied Band to appear after occupation, the Band played in many Italian cities from Taranto to Trieste, finishing the Italian campaign with a triumphal march through the latter on the second day after liberation.

The 22nd Battalion Band was unique in the annals of the New Zealand Division:

It was one of only two pipe bands in the Division, the other, belonging to the Artillery, has long since been disbanded.

It was the only Unit Band in the Division, and in spite of battle casualties, and of an occasional indifference on the part of the 22nd in its travels from New Zealand to England, to Greece, to Crete, throughout the

campaigns in the Western Desert, through Syria and Italy and on to Japan.

With the inclusion of 22nd Battalion in 'J' Force in Florence in October 1945, the survivors of the Unit Band were joined with those gathered from other Units and the Patriotic Fund Board, which had charge of the instruments from the Artillery Band, were persuaded to supply them to the Unit. In the course of time a Band consisting of a Drum Major, thirteen pipers and eight drummers was developed.

This Band enjoyed popularity on board the troopship RMS Strathmore on the voyage from Italy to Japan, and playing the ship in and out of ports. On landing at Kure, the Band marched the Unit to the railway station, claiming to be the first Pipe Band to ever play in Japan. (One wonders what the Japanese thought. - Ed.) The part played by the Band within the Unit and the enthusiasm developed among its members is demonstrated by the fact that special permission was obtained for Pipe Major H. Burbury and Pipe Major Petty to remain in Japan in order to help reform the Band when the first relief force arrived in July 1946.

With the departure of Burbury and Petty back to New Zealand, the Band came under the guidance of Drum Major McCormack and Pipe Major Buchan. This Band also proved popular. Stationed with the Battalion at Chofu, it paraded in Tokyo three times, on ceremonial parades and on numerous occasions such as Retreats, farewells (some at 3am) and public appearances.

Unfortunately, a spate of fires in the Camp saw all the Pipe and Brass band instruments destroyed, and when the Relief Force departed Japan in 1947, the 2nd Relief, having no instruments, did not carry on the Band.

The Wellington West Coast Regiment also had pipers and drummers in the 29th Battalion. Due to the encouragement of Col Lilburn and Lt L.G. Cross, the then Adjutant, three pipers and two drummers formed a small section of the Brass Band under Lt A. Ramsay. These pipe bandmen were mainly involved in playing for route marches, with the occasional brass/pipe band concert. They also played as company pipers, usually a piper and a drummer to a company.

The 29th Battalion served in Fiji where the small band continued to provide company pipers and drummers. The Battalion returned to New Zealand and at Papakura they became part of the 3rd Division which subsequently served in the Solomon Islands.

At this point it should be remembered that service overseas gave the members of these Bands some considerable difficulties. Bagpipes required a dressing of treacle, which must have been messy in the tropical heat where flies and mosquitoes were pests. Reeds would have been difficult to obtain, and quality drum skins almost impossible. Yet somehow, sooner or later, a substitute was always found or goods came to hand.

At the conclusion of 'J' Force the Regiment was left with no Pipe Band and any parades were accompanied by local bands. In Wanganui the City of Wanganui Highland Pipe Band paraded with the Regiment thus coming full circle from the beginning of the Century.

In 1949 CMT was reintroduced, most intakes having a makeshift band for their basic training. Service was for 2 weeks once per year for the following three years. Col C Armstrong was CO of the by then amalgamated Taranaki and Wellington West Coast Regiments and he persuaded Mr J.A. Macgee and his son I.H. Macgee to take up duties in the Regiment. The first Drum Major was WOII W.J. Fitchett, a piper who had served in the Second Relief Force to Japan when no Band was retained. He played in the Band as a piper when S.Sgt P.J. McGuinness took over in later years. The plan was for Pipe Major Macgee to tutor a band of CMT pipers during their annual training. This was very popular with an abundance of bandmen making themselves available, and of course the Regiment's area now stretched as far as New Plymouth. The 1st Battalion strength was such that a few local pipers and drummers became full time bandmen.

By 1957 the Band's musical ability led them to compete in the 'C' Grade at the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships. The members of the competing Band all came from Wanganui. 1960 saw the Band compete and win the B' Grade Championship.

Pipe Major Macgee's dream was to have the Band play at the Edinburgh Tattoo. This was not to be, as in 1963 his health obliged him to leave the Regiment. The Band was

disbanded in 1963 and amalgamated with the City of Wanganui Highland Pipe Band under Pipe Major D.J. Fitchett, previously Pipe Sergeant of the 1st Battalion. Under a new CO, Major J.T. Shaw and Adjutant Lt B. Sinclair, the Band was reformed in 1965 with Pipe Major E. Gray and Drum Major P.J. McGuinness. This Band had mixed fortunes and fluctuating numbers. Pipe Major Gray served until 1978.

In 1980 Col Jenkins and Major Kereama were responsible for engaging Pipe Major

N.G. Pritchard and Drum Major P.J. MacGuinness to take over the Band. The old instruments and uniforms sold to the City of Wanganui's Junior Band some years before returned with the engagement of many from that organisation, thus carrying on the tradition of wearing the Armstrong Tartan begun in 1949. By this time further reorganisation had resulted in the Unit being called 5WWCT. In 1984 S.Sgt I.R. Carruthers was appointed Pipe Major.

A VISIT TO OUR AFFILIATED REGIMENTS

by Captain N.H. Bleasdale

Having finished Exercise Lionheart, I was fortunate enough to arrange through the New Zealand Defence Liaison Staff at the London High Commission, visits to the Regimental Headquarters of our two allied Regiments —

The Royal Hampshire Regiment
The Queen's Regiment

On Saturday, 29 September 1984, I boarded the train at Waterloo Station and travelled to Winchester to be met by the Regimental Headquarters Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel C.D. Darroch. Then it was off straight away to Serle's House, the Regimental Headquarters. A delightful building set in picturesque surroundings and located next to the Light Division Depot.

After a welcome drink to sooth my tired travelling nerves, I was given a quick update of the Regiment and its current standing. To familiarise my readers, the Royal Hampshire Regiment is part of the Prince of Wales Division and currently, its only regular battalion, the 1st Battalion, is on duty in Berlin. Two territorial units, A and B Companies complete the Regiment.

This update occurred in the splendid Ante Room of Serle's House. Set on the first floor, the large bay windows overlook the Garden of Remembrance. Surrounded by portraits of the current and previous Colonels of the Regiment, one gets a feeling of military history and presence. After signing the visitors' book and praying that the pen would write without splashing, Colonel Darroch escorted me on a personal tour of the museum.

Having to share our regimental history with all other units, Corps and the public, in the Waiouru Castle (Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum), it was amazing to see a museum of slightly smaller size yet containing as good as exhibitions dedicated to one Regiment. Its all very well passing this off by saying that their Regiment is many times older than our Army. Yet, all donations were presented by past members or families from one Regiment rather than one Army.

Colonel Darroch had an obvious pride in his Regiment which manifests itself in the way he explained each item of note. There are obviously too many to be mentioned here but two that are of particular note are:

A posthumous VC presented to the Regiment by its recipient, and
A DSO, MM and two Bars

All the displays are categorised by era or campaign which made for easy assimilation of the Regiment's history.

No trip to Winchester would be complete without visiting Winchester Cathedral. Yes, the same one as in the song. Even here the Regiment had a presence. The tombstone to Thomas Thetcher, a Royal Hampshire soldier from 1764 and the Regimental Book of Remembrance, one page of which is turned each day at 1100 hours.

I left Winchester by train late in the day, extremely pleased for having gone, extremely thankful to Colonel Darroch for having given up his Saturday to look after me, and with post cards, newspapers and the latest LP record by the 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshires Band – Tigers on Parade.

Unfortunately, my train trip to Canterbury the following day did not go as smoothly. On Sundays, British Rail insist on doing track maintenance. So, arriving one and a half hours late, I was suitably embarrassed to find Lieutenant Colonel J.J. White, the Deputy Regimental Secretary, patiently waiting for me. Further embarrassment followed as I found his family patiently waiting for this visitor to arrive, so that the Sunday roast could commence.

After lunch, Colonel White took me to the Regimental Headquarters of the Queen's Regiment in Howe Barracks. Here too I signed the visitors' book and was given an update. The Queen's Regiment has three regular battalions, two of which were on their Op Banner tour of Northern Ireland, the third battalion having just moved from Northern Ireland back to Germany. Two territorial battalions and the upcoming formation of a third territorial battalion will see the Queen's Regiment form a large part of the Queen's Division. Unfortunately the writer was so slow in assimilating the Regiment's history that Colonel White had to resort to giving him charts showing the lineage.

The Regimental Museum was of similar size to the Royal Hampshire and contained many interesting displays. One interesting feature was the pictorial presentations of uniforms throughout the ages of the six former Regiments which now make the Queen's Regiment. Two items pertaining to 5WWCT caught my eye. They were, Taranaki spelt Taranarki and that 2 Cant NMWC had presented something to the Queen's whereas 5WWCT was conspicuous by its absence.

Due to Colonel White's enthusiasm, one found one's self caught up in the euphoria of regimental history and the realisation how little we really have for ourselves.

A trip to Canterbury Cathedral followed where the Queen's Regiment have a chapel dedicated to their former Regiments and fallen comrades. Many previous Colours hang from the high walls and the Book of Remembrance also has one page turned daily.

Again loaded with goodies such as magazines, pamphlets and a Regimental Ice Bucket Drum, I bid farewell and place my life in the hands of British Rail.

I greatly enjoyed my visits to our allied Regiments. It was pleasing to see that we were known and well thought of. I also was educated into the importance and benefit of Regimental Histories and Associations. My thanks to Colonels Darroch and White for giving up part of their weekends and for the way in which I was treated.

Oh yes, you may be asking, 'If he was given all those goodies, what did we give in return?' Well I can only suggest you ask the RSM why the two framed and engraved photos of the 5WWCT Colours in St Mary's, New Plymouth did not arrive in London in time for a personal presentation.

– N.H. Bleasdale, Captain

Note: They arrived the day after the Adjt left. RSM.