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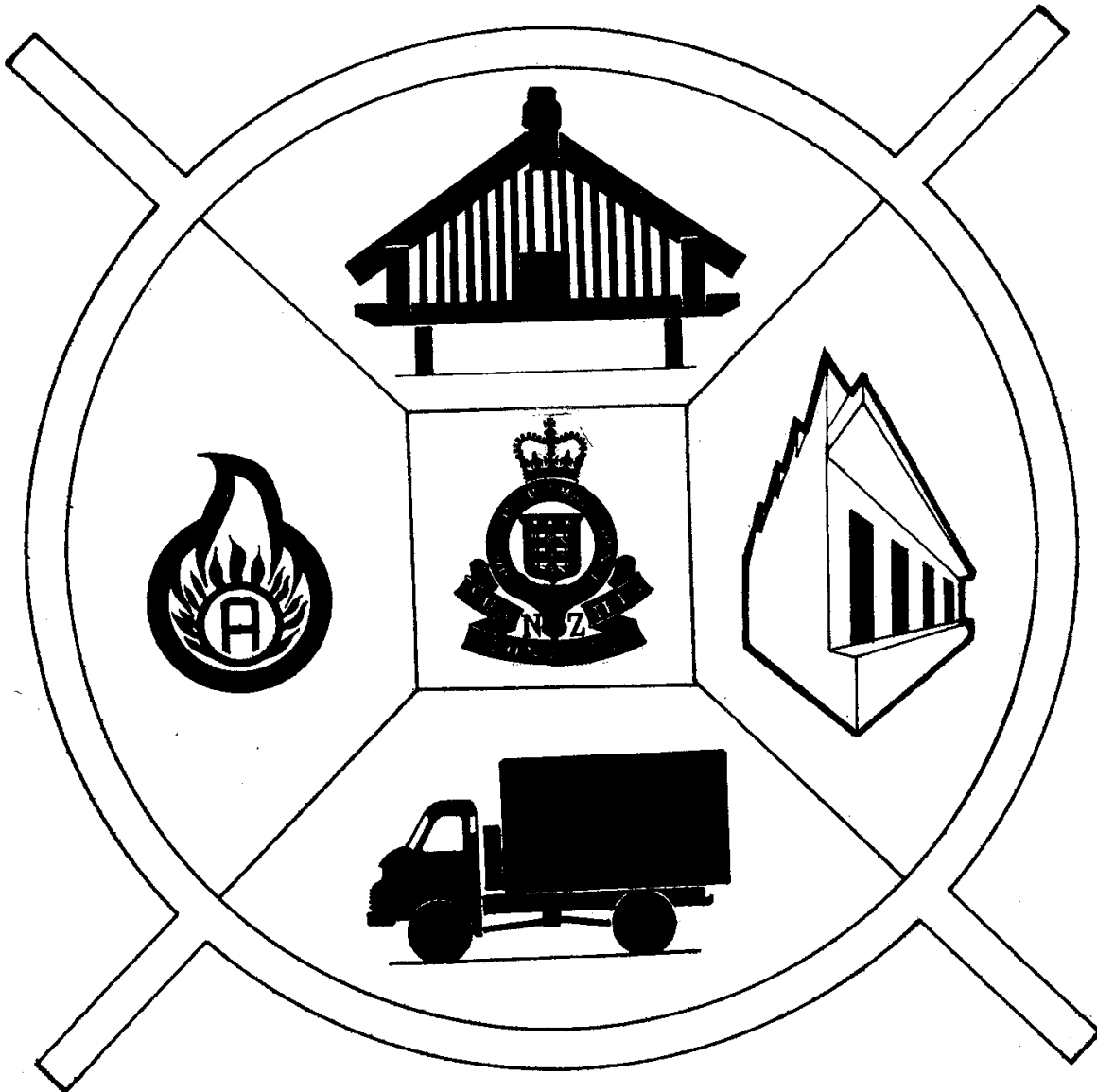
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# PATAKA



THE MAGAZINE OF THE **RNZAO**

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Readers will be pleased to note that there is a large share of this edition devoted to the lads in Singapore. For months I have been waiting to hear from them and now find that at least two contributions have not reached me. Gremlins perhaps? Anyway by safe hand of Jim Twist comes news of the boys, and also included is an article from Lt Mike Cowan. Thank you both and keep us posted please.

309. Pride of place on our pages is given this newsletter to

Ssgt John BYROM

John has received the Armed Forces Honor Medal Second Class for his services in South Vietnam. The citation reads as follows:

'' Staff Sergeant John Walter BYROM arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on March 18, 1971 and was initially appointed Storeman/Clerk 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot RAAOC, 1 ALSG and subsequently in January 1972 as Administrative NCO, Headquarters New Zealand Vietnam Force.

Staff Sergeant BYROM has fostered and maintained throughout his tour a high degree of close co-operation with Vietnamese Armed Forces and civilian personnel in the performance of his duties.

During his tour of duty in Vietnam, Staff Sergeant BYROM spared no effort in completing the wide variety of tasks entrusted to him. His duties involved long hours of work, often under difficult conditions and demanded considerable versatility and expertise in their execution. Throughout his tour, Staff Sergeant BYROM showed himself to be a capable and efficient NCO.

His devotion to duty, his energy and capacity for hard work have been an example to all who have served with him and reflect credit upon himself, his Corps and the New Zealand Army. ''

The Citation is signed by

Lieutenant General TRAN NGOC TAM  
Chairman  
Free World Military Assistance  
Working Committee

Well Done John! Enjoy your well-earned Leave.

Our thanks to Sgt Swain for supplying the above information, and best wishes for his tour of duty in Vietnam as John's replacement.

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### 3 . NOTES ON ANZUK ORDNANCE DEPOT

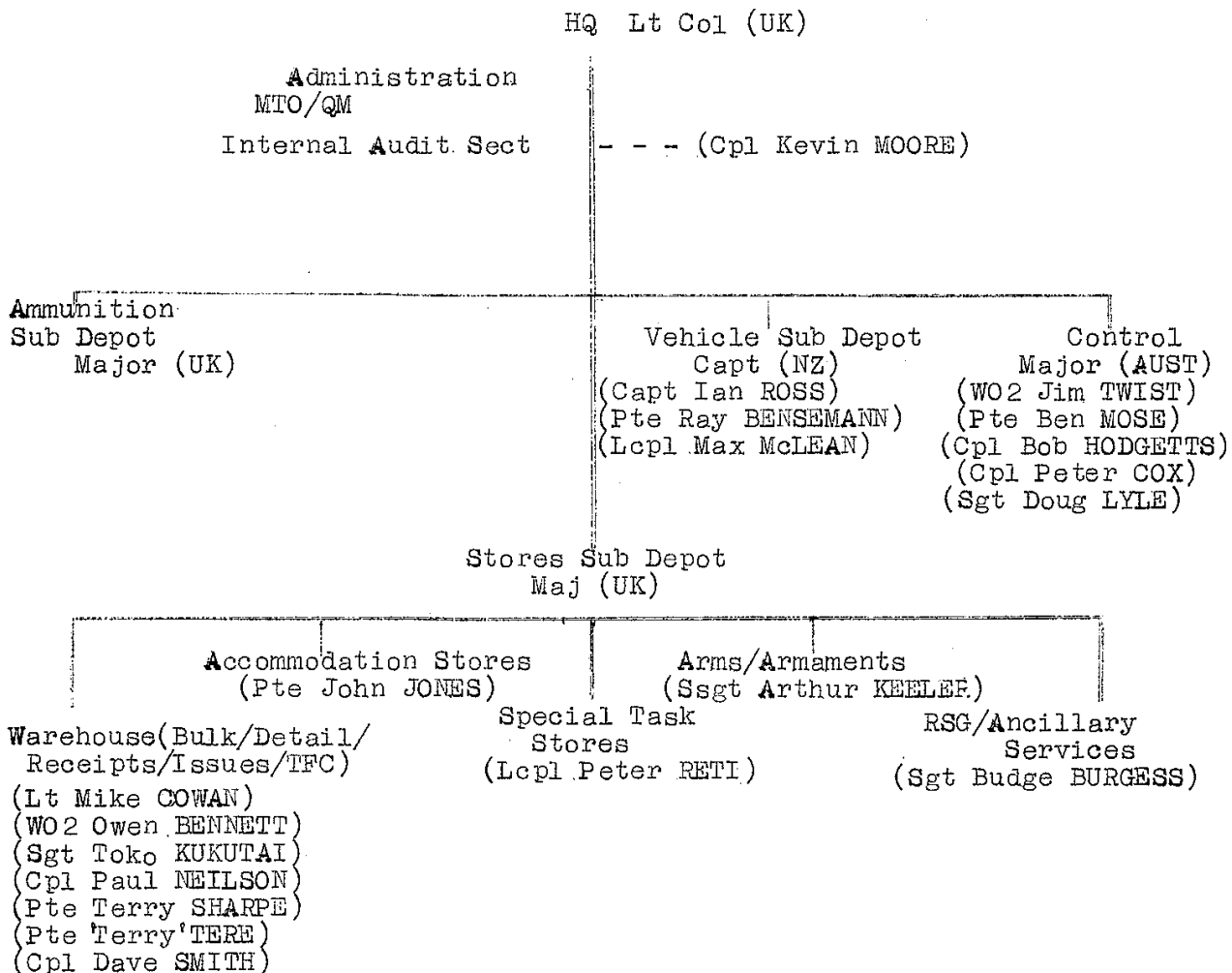
#### The Depot

The first six months of ANZUK have passed and the smoke is starting to clear. The initial problems of sharing all our storehouses with the UK Navy (us moving in and them moving out) have been solved with their final departure.

The Depot has a staff of more than 440 broken down into 60 UK, 60 AUST, 20 NZ and more than 300 LECs (Locally

/employed

employed civilians). The NZ complement is the meat in many sandwiches!! At present we are holding 45,000 line items in several areas. For many reasons the depot is not split into obvious groups or sub depots in the stores side but the following family tree will show you the organisation.



The FOD

The unit also has a field detachment known as the FOD, (Forward Ordnance Detachment), that supports the Brigade on every exercise in Malaysia. It is permanently commanded by Lt Mike COWAN who ventures forth with a bin truck, a bulk truck, lots of 11 x 11 tents and a shower unit. The FOD has a manning of nine and is a transit agency with 350 items of fast moving stores that everyone hopes are what are required. It is noticeable that on the last two exercises the bulk of the staff have been Kiwis. Question! Are we that good at 'warries' or, are they getting rid of us by keeping us out of the way?

Sports, Etc

In the sports and social fields the minority are also making themselves felt. Last rugby season when the unit fielded its strongest team (which finished second in the 2nd Division Competition) it contained the following Kiwis:

Cpl Kevin MOORE (Hooker), Cpl Dave SMITH (Prop), Cpl Peter COX (Lock), Lt Mike COWAN (Breakaway), Pte John JONES (Halfback), (then he got tired and was replaced by Pte Terry TERE), Pte Ben MOSE (Centre) and Pte Ray BENSEMANN (Wing). Not bad when you consider that most of those not included were too old anyway!!

/ The

The Aussies and Brits love to get together when our vocal Maori members produce a battered old guitar and sing 'til oblivion. The hangi has become an SOP for unit do's. Sgt Toko KUKUTAI and Cpl Dave SMITH have been part of the backbone of the RNZIR concert party for the duration of their tours here and were on the wharf to farewell the Queen after the Royal visit to ANZUK.

RTNZ

The first of our members have already returned to their first cold night for two years. By the time this gets to print a few others will be home or getting close. They include -

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| WOII Jim TWIST  | Departs June |
| Cpl Dave SMITH  | " August     |
| Cpl Kevin MOORE | " August     |
| Lcpl Peter RETI | " July       |

A special thought too for Sgt Budge BURGESS who, through no fault of his own had to leave us prematurely. All the best back home, Budge.

From Our Singapore Correspondent

Your correspondent from Singapore is unable to understand or explain why previous contributions to PATAKA have not arrived at their destination and can only surmise that the Gremlins intercepted them. This time, WO2 Twist, who is about to return home is taking this with him and so we may again have our little say.

(Its a mystery to us too, Doug. Do you think it was censored out of existence? Perhaps the indecent publications Tribunal or Miss Barnett got their hands on it?)

As it is so long since anything was printed from over here, probably a little information on each of the ANZUK Ord Depot members would be welcome.

CAPTAIN ROSS and family are fit and well, but since his purchase of his new Mercedes car, it is rather hard to find him outside of working hours and definitely near impossible to discuss anything else.

LT COWAN, a much slimmer and fitter man than when he first arrived, is right in the thick of things and among other tasks is OC of the Depot's Field Ord Detachment. Jenny and children are thriving.

WOII Owen BENNETT has one of the hardest jobs in the Depot as the IC Receipts, Issues, etc; but he doesn't seem to let it worry him much. He, his wife and family are in the best of health and all appear to be enjoying life over here.

WOII Jim TWIST and family, are, as we said earlier, about to return to NZ and we wish them the best of luck there. Both Jim and Muriel have said many times how much they have enjoyed Singapore and I think that we in Singapore have enjoyed them. We owe them both much for the very frequent times that they have aided by words and deeds and we trust that they will prosper at home.

WO2 Tony HIINI, Lena and family, arrived two days ago and have already taken up residence in Seletar Camp. Tony is to take over Jim's position and an extremely responsible one it is too. But, no doubt Tony will take it in his stride, as always.

Ssgt Arthur KEELER, another who has faded away to a shadow, is the NCO IC of the Armoury and at the moment is tucked away

/in a

in a beautiful, secluded spot within the Ammo Sub-Depot, but we believe that eventually he and the Armoury are to be moved into the Depot proper. Too bad, Arthur. Mary is her usual healthy and happy self and the children are fine. Incidentally, they are a short time only, from becoming proud parents again.

Sgt Toko KUKUTAI (Grey, to the ignorant), Elsie and family, have been having the time of their lives over here and as returning home time draws closer, they are showing signs of a little sadness at having to leave. We can well understand this. In the meantime though, Toko is very busy with the NZ Maori Concert Party and Elsie is a stalwart in the Netball, Basketball and Softball teams here.

Sgt Doug LYLE, (who has got fatter and now sports a horrible red-coloured moustache), and Charmaine, are hale and hearty and are another couple who will be reluctant to return when the time comes. Charmaine is also devoting a lot of her time to the sports teams over here, quite often at the expense of her husband's meals. (Then, why the weight increase Doug??)

Sgt John GODDARD, wife Nancy and child are newly arrived and are showing every indication of enjoying themselves here. At this time it is not known what is in store for John in the employment line but no doubt he will find out soon enough.

Cpl Paul NEILSON and Aira are now happy parents. Paul is doing a clerical job within the stores and is very busy and is of course coping well, but he must take a bit of a beating from it because little is seen of him these days at any social function. Or maybe it is the baby keeping him at home.

Cpl Peter COX, Jenny and family are fine although Peter has been complaining of dizzy spells lately. With his job we are not surprized. Jenny is another who devotes a lot of her spare time to the sports teams.

Corporals SMITH and MOORE I have deliberately lumped together, as, where one is the other is not far away. And whenever anything is on, good and not so good, you can bet your boots that this pair is somewhere around.

Cpl Bob HODGETTS has settled in well and is another who has discarded a lot of un-necessary weight. -(I wish I knew the secret). Bob has quite a job in co-ordinating the mail runs, movement of files, etc., and is doing well at this nasty but necessary task.

Lcpl Peter RETI has, since our last letter, taken the plunge and is now married to a lovely Singapore girl. It is amazing how quiet he is these days.

As to the remainder of the single boys, Privates Terry SHARPE, Maori TERE, Ray BENSEMANN, John JONES, Ben MOSE and Lcpl Max McLEAN, other than being a bairn on the life of the Woodlands Base RSM, little is heard from or about them. They are working well and all seem to be enjoying life in Singapore. Not mentioned yet is the information that Ben MOSE is about to follow Peter into married bliss. His fiancée is a WRAC in the Australian forces.

Just a word here about Sgt Budge BURGESS and family. They were very popular whilst here and all of us were very sorry that Budge suffered ill health and was forced to return to NZ. He left a lasting good impression here as borne out by the many good comments passed by members of all the nationalities within the Depot and out. Probably the most appropriate, is that passed by one of the Chinese men here which was simply 'He is a nice man'.

/Now

Now that you have got to know us again we can tell you a little of some of our activities.

The Kiwis are tied in with all that goes on within the Depot and are employed in all aspects of the work here except the ammo, but with a bit of luck and thought on the part of our Corps leaders this may yet be rectified. The Field Ord Detachment has twice been in the field and is only nine or ten strong. The Depot has a military strength of 142 of whom 20 are Kiwis, and of these, 12 of us have so far done our stint, --some of us twice. We swear that we have an even stronger representation on any of the big parades. Anyway, the fact is that we are fully pulling our weight. -(That word again, darn it)!

The men are also very busy with some of the other things that happen here, such as rugby and other sports teams, the Concert Party, and, as NZ Nights are very popular here, many are engaged in organising these nights to include Hangis, etc. Our good ladies have been behind us all the way in helping with these activities and in providing backbone for the ladies teams sports.

Ordinary social activity seems to have dropped to a minimum for various reasons. For many it is getting close to return home time and there is still a lot to do and prepare. Things that were once a novelty are now commonplace and we are finding that many things such as food and entertainment have risen quite considerably in price. (a gentle hint for our back pay and rise, please).

On Tuesday 6th June the NZ members and their wives toured the island and assembled at Changi to farewell WOII Jim TWIST, Muriel and the family. With Dave Smith in good form on the guitar and everybody in party mood a most enjoyable night was had by all.

Well, as I have already taken up a lot of space and I know that Lt Cowan has sent an article also I will close this contribution with firstly, a rather clever little ditty written by an Aussie over here about the Depot (and praising the Aussies) and secondly with our reply. Hope you like them -

I've seen some funny set-ups, in forty years or more  
From Aussie to Vietnam and up to Singapore  
Its hard to mention everything but, Oh, for goodness sake  
ANZUK Ordnance Depot is the one that takes the cake.

It's an Ordnance installation and only one year old  
The blokes that help to make it go are big and brave and bold  
And its going to be successful or at least that's what we think  
But we'll have to get our fingers out or we'll finish in the  
drink

The Poms are represented in the good old British style  
Telling us how to do it,---sometimes takes a while  
They go back to King Harold when the good old arrows flew  
Nothing very exciting and definitely nothing new

Now the Kiwis in their grass skirts are also in the fray  
Helping out the situation in the good old Kiwi way  
But they're gentle, kind and cheerful and always gay and hearty  
If they're not away on holidays, they're with the Concert Party

There is one more mob to mention and of course you need not ask  
The blokes from down in Aussie, sent up to do the task  
They are rough and ready customers but get there just the same  
They are popular ambassadors and have a real good name

/ Now before

Now before I wind this short verse up and put the pen away  
There is one more thing before I go I'd really like to say  
Take note the Brits and Kiwis and don't go away in fear  
Remember now and always that you have the AUSSIES here.

As we thought this Aussie got rather carried away we decided to  
put him right and so we replied -

The set-up in the Depot is funny we agree  
The words as spoken here before, by an unknown Aussie  
Are fairly correct in most respects but here we have to say  
In his patriotic fervour this Aussie's gone astray

This fellow from Australia has forgotten one small point  
They sent the Kiwis up here to straighten up the joint  
We're here to get things moving and make the Depot run  
And despite the Aussie soldiers, this is what we've done.

Of the soldiers in the Depot twenty are Kiwis  
Without these valiant warriors the Depot would sure freeze  
Apart from their work and the Rugby team that they have made  
so hearty  
They've even found the time of day to aid the Concert Party

The Brits we have here with us are learning every day  
That the method to get things moving is to use the Kiwi way  
One day we'll have them working, nearly as they should  
But never, never, NEVER, as well as a Kiwi could

But the Aussies are so different and are indeed a weird mob  
They're more to be found where the beer is, than ever on the job  
Whenever there's a pay-day no Aussies can be found  
And never can you find them when there's work around

But Aussies in your envy, please don't be annoyed  
The presence of the Aussies and Brits the Kiwis have enjoyed  
And here we'll say it, in this verse, before it is too late  
Lets really get together mates, LET'S REALLY INTEGRATE.

Well everybody, bye bye for now.

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Back to earth with a contribution from New Zealand.

311. From 2 COD Sub Depot - Waiouru

LITTLE RED SCHOOL BOOK -- Now that we have your  
undivided attention, here is what has happened in our unit -

#### TODs

WOII Alex MANN has joined us after a trip to 1 COD, only  
to be shot down to Makomako the following week. How that boy  
gets around.

WOII Buster ALLEN has now moved up to 1 COD and should  
be well settled in and starting to forget us by now.

#### Promotions

Congratulations are in order for Tony THAIN on his  
promotion to Ssgt.

#### Hospital Report

Progress report on Lcpl HUNTER is very good. He is  
back at work though on Light Duties.

A small mishap over Queen's Birthday suffered by Pte  
Merv HARTLEY who fell on Mt. Ruapehu. Merv was admitted to

/Camp

Camp Hospital with a cracked collar bone but is now quite cheerful after it all.

#### Welcomes

A big welcome to Pte Ray MORRISON who has joined the team in Waiouru. Ray is an ex Cadet who has worked with 2 COD before graduating.

Welcome also to Mrs. Pat COOPER who has replaced Mrs. Stephens as our office girl. Old RNZAOC pers will probably remember Mrs. Cooper as ex NZWRAC from Ngaruawahia - Pte Pat PIPER.

#### A Thought for To-day

Let's jump on the bandwagon. There are now Little Red, White, Grey, and Black and White School Books so why not join them by reducing DOS Instructions to 2 1/4" x 3" and renaming it "THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK".

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312. From 2 COD Linton

#### Welcomes

The following are welcomed into the Depot:

WOI McKay has returned from his Fijian tour and has taken up the task of planning for the new building which is due to open later in the year.

Cpl Les Warwood and Cpl Tubby Waugh have joined Ted's force at Waiouru after their tours overseas. It seems that the Waiouru establishment is finally filling up - this may cut out some of those TOD's for the Linton staff. Also welcomed is Pte Brent McGrath who is to be an AT at Waiouru when he completes his present Basic recruit course, and Pte Toheriri will be reporting in to Linton very shortly also. Pte Jane Elliott has joined the EDP staff of PC&A on posting from 1 BOD. Continually being encouraged by the staff to name her first camp in broad Southlandese - BARNHAM.

Mr. Eric Henshaw has also joined the force in PC&A and has taken up the position of Ledger Keeper. Eric is an old identity of Linton having been the catering WO for a number of years in the Camp.

After all these welcomes Unit HQ is still without a Typist.

#### Hospitalisation

Our FicS WOI Ken Wagstaff recently underwent a small operation. Pleased to report he is recuperating fairly well but it will be about a month before we see him back in action.

#### Social Activity

A Games Evening was held on Saturday 17 Jun against the MANAWATU Evening Standard and although it was a cold, wet night a good muster turned to and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Overall a quiet time this month for social activities but I hear that things are really being cooked up for Corps Day -- more news on this later.

#### Promotion

Our congratulations to Lt Verrall promoted Capt on 20 Jun 72.

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/1 Comp Ord Coy



313. Contribution from 1 Comp Ord Coy

Since the last edition the unit has had no postings either in or out. By the look of this, the unit is keeping what it has got and letting nobody else take the elite Comp Ord personnel.

Courses

On the 18th May the unit lost Capt M.F. Newnham to Waiouru where he attended the Adj/Staff Learners course until 21 June.

After his TOD to the Sunny North he sure picked the ideal place to go to.

Another who has just returned from a TOD in the Northern Region was Lcpl Jensen who had been helping the Navy out at HMNZS Philomel. No sooner was he back in the Company's clutches than he decided he wanted to go to Waiouru too. Best of luck old chap on the Basic AA Instructors Course, and don't freeze.

The wisest of the three was Ssgt Snell who left the district to attend the P6 Data Base System Course which was held at Papakura Camp during 12 - 16 June. Just think of all the sunshine up that way.

Exercises

TROPIC DAY 6                    - FIJI -                    8 - 25 JUN 72

Eight personnel from the Company decided they wanted a change from the snow and frosts so they shot through to the Tropics for 17 days. Those lucky enough to be included were:

Sgt Reti  
Cpl Boxall  
Cpl Dewsnap (TF)  
Lcpl Bell (TF)  
Lcpl Prescott  
Pte Seymour  
Pte Norgren  
Pte Williams.

On 7th June the unit arranged a lecture by WOII Treanor of 2 Gen Hospital and the lecture was followed by a film.

WOII Treanor talked about different aspects of tropical hygiene. Before the lecture started there were eight eager soldiers - after the lecture finished there were almost eight vacancies, but alas all packed their kits after lunch and departed for Linton for the shake-down period of the exercise.

Visits

It is always good to see old faces, especially those of soldiers who have served in the Company, and no exception to this was the unexpected visit of Lcpl Steve Shepherd, who called in on us whilst on leave in Wellington. Congratulations go to you and to your wife Shep, from the Company, on the birth of your son.

Mushroom Valley News

As reported in the last edition of PATAKA, the Company has packed up their mushroom picking gumboots. The unit has a new idea and that is to put on their ski's and start skiing across the valley to pastures greener.

This is due to the fact that snow fell in the Mangaroa compound. Most of the Company cannot recall seeing snow falling in the area of the compound before.

Give it a few more months and the boys will be out with the mushrooms again, given a little luck. That is, if the snow melts away and the sun starts to shine again.

314. A Few Lines From the Forgotten Few in the Far North

1 INF WKSP is a unit of the 1 Inf Bde Gp and is to be found alongside a football paddock on the boundary of the Franklin and Manurewa Counties, approximately 18 miles from the 'Queen' City. Here, unknown to a considerable number of the elite Corps which provides the warrior with his 'things', there are some members who do likewise from 0800 - 1630 daily, five days a week, and where 'Playboy', 'Man', and similar publications are seen only in town on late shopping night.

Staffs consist of:

Sharp End Types (Paterson's Playboys)

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| WO2 Ted Paterson | IC and Musical Director  |
| Sgt W. Cross     | The North Shore Commuter |
| Cpl J. Shaw      | Short-Fuse Shaw          |
| Pte G. Leslie    | Flat-Joke Greg           |

and

Blunt End Types (Bruce's Bunnies)

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Ssgt Bruce Powell | IC and Chief Procurer |
| Cpl R Tapuni      | Finance Minister      |
| Cpl J. Harvey     | The Leg-Man           |
| Mr. A. Pitts      | Flash Ash.            |

Departures in the near future for the Far East -

Cpl John Shaw for the land of perks, flash cars and double pay. Would you believe it?? He's taking his 'Trouble and Strife' -!! Like taking snow to the Antarctic.

Departure in not so near future for same destination -

Cpl Jim Harvey. Jim will also be taking his better half and his (very) small daughter.

All members of the staff wish them the best of luck and prosperity in this venture.

At the time of writing Bruce Malcolm is baching and by all accounts is having a quiet time. - (for Bruce, that is). Joy is over on Norfolk Island.

To save money, which is always lacking - we extend our greetings for Corps Day, and to save still more, please accept Yuletide Greetings.

The author of this contribution has customers seven thick (perhaps that should read: 'seven thick customers'??) at the counter, all waiting for their perks, so he will have to get a bucket of water to cool down the typewriter and then attend to them. You never know, they might want something I haven't thought of.

P.S. At last count, there was a total of 258 boobs festooning the walls of my office. They call it art these days.

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315. 3 COD Contribution

1. 'They Have Their Exits and Their Entrances'

a. Sgt Budge Burgess welcomed back to 3 COD on 5 May 72.

/on return

on return from ANZUK Ord Depot. Readers will be very glad to know that since his return, Budge has improved considerably in health and is now back at work in Clothing Gp. This would seem to show that Burnham is not a bad spot to be in, even if inclined to be a little nippy on occasional winter mornings.

2. Pte K.M. THOMPSON welcomed (on paper) as is Pte D. BALLANTYNE. We shall be pleased to see them in person when they have completed respective Recruit Courses.

Pte Greg MEYER reported in for duty at the beginning of June after graduating from the RF Cadet School

#### Congratulations

To Lcpl 'Mike' and Mrs. STEED on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Michele Irma on 15 June.

#### Ssgt Sid TWEDDLE

Sid Tweddle was attached to 1 BOD recently to assist with the S2 Project. He was unfortunately taken ill whilst there and was medevaced to the South. Latest reports from Christchurch Hospital say he is in good spirits and satisfactory. We hope for a quick recovery and return to duty.

#### From the Crystal Ball Section at 3 COD

#### DOS Visit to 3 COD in 1984 CANCELLED!!

The visit of DOS to the South Island in 1984 will have to be called off. This is because the island has been flooded by the Electricity Department and MOW. According to UN information the population is being resettled in Taranaki where it is hoped they could find temporary employment in the repair of gates!

#### Department of Definitions (Continued)

- a. PONS - Bridge of Asses (i.e. the 5th Proposition of Euclid) hence, anything found difficult by beginners.  
Also, a band of nerve fibres in the brain.

Authority: Concise Oxford Dictionary, 4th Edition 1954.

- b. TEAMWORK -

... "This is called teamwork,  
I furnish the brains,  
You furnish the labour  
The aches and the pains!"

Authority: Dr. Seuss "I had trouble getting to  
Solla Sollew".

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316. Some poems we've had from our storemen  
Convince me there may be some more men  
Who could write a cute verse  
And would not be averse  
To its being included for Corps men.  
  
So come on you fellows and write, do  
Of the things which amuse and delight you  
We'll be glad to include them  
And will only exclude them  
If offensive, unfunny, or worse!

/Stranger than Fiction!

317. The following item has nothing whatever to do with Ordnance but is included for its general interest.

Ed.

STRANGER THAN FICTION!

Lincoln was elected President in 1860.  
Kennedy was elected President in 1960.  
Both were concerned with civil rights.  
Both wives lost children whilst at the White House,  
Both were succeeded by men named Johnson - both Southerners.  
Andrew Johnson was born in 1808.  
Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.  
Lincoln and Kennedy were both shot in the head from behind.  
Both were shot in the presence of their wives.  
Both assassins were shot before their trials.

John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839.  
Lee Harvey Oswald was born in 1939.  
Both Presidents had been warned of danger before their deaths.

Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, warned him not to go to the theatre.

Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, warned him not to go to Dallas.

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318. Boy Scout Deed - 2 COD Sub Depot

June 10th saw 2 COD (& Wksp Stores Section) join up with Waiouru Wksp to clean up the Main Road as our effort for anti-litter month.

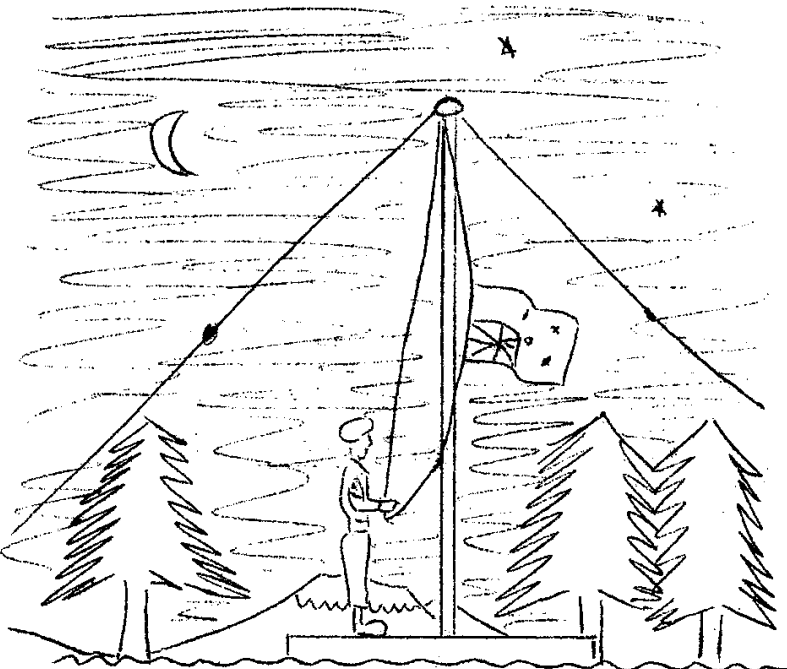
With rubbish collected on our truck, from Pine Tree Motors to half-way to the tip, it was reckoned we could have built up a car - less a body.

Anyone got a spare body?

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Our library, our library  
is a special one  
We find doing Amendments  
is such a lot of fun  
Day in - Day out, we pen  
manuscript  
To be superseded - the old?  
Torn and ripped.

\* \* \* \*



WHO WAS THE STAFF THAT RAISED  
THE FLAG IN THE DARK?

HE COULD JOIN HIS MATE IN TRENTHAM  
WHO LOST HIS PLATOON (SEE  
LAST 'PATAKA')

319. THE FALSE LEGEND OF THE "MARK OF DISGRACE"

Background

An entirely incorrect story has grown up around the Ordnance Badge. Most members already know of this piece of fiction, others do not, and young soldiers of the Corps may be told it, and believe it, not knowing otherwise.

Fiction

It is alleged, that, to mark the failure of the Board of Ordnance in the Crimean War to supply cannon balls to fit the cannons, the Ordnance Badge was drawn to show three cannon balls far larger than the three cannon shown in the lower part of the shield.

Facts

The Board of Ordnance dates from the year 1518. It is known to have used the Ordnance badge unofficially as far back as the mid 17th Century - ie, some 200 years before the Crimean War (mid 19th century)!

The Ordnance badge was also the badge of the British Army Council, which was, until recently abolished, the governing body of the Army, similar to the former NZ Army Board. Is it likely that this Authority would have permitted a "mark of disgrace" as its badge?

The original function of the Board of Ordnance was the care, maintenance and preservation of, as well as fighting with, cannon. It provided the "King's Artillery Trains" which developed into the Royal Artillery, just as the supply or "Wagon Train" grew into the Royal Army Service Corps (now abolished and divided between RAOC and the new Royal Corps of Transport).

In 1806, during the Napoleonic War (and still some 45 years before Crimea) King George III made a Grant of Arms to the Board of Ordnance, thereby confirming the previous unofficial use of the badge.

If heraldry was drawn to scale, like maps, weird and hilarious effects would result. Designs painted on shields and woven into garments, horse cloths, flags, etc, were an early means of quickly identifying the leader and his retainers. Baron 'A' might choose a White Horse on a Red background as his 'device' whilst Earl 'B' might pick on a Red Sword on a Yellow Background. If Earl 'B's' son married Baron 'A's' daughter, the arms of the new family would be drawn to show the White Horse on Red on one side and the Red Sword on yellow on the other side of the shield. If the sword were drawn to scale with the horse - it would look like a pin! Thus, if three cannon balls were drawn to scale with the cannons below, they would resemble microdots!

The cannon of the Ordnance badge are of an older type with very long barrels, re-inforced with hoops welded at intervals. The type of cannon used in the Napoleonic, Crimean and US Civil Wars was smaller and lighter, similar to the Gun in the RA/RNZA hat badge. The significance of this is that it proves that the badge is much older than the Crimean War and the so-called "disgrace".

The British Army in the Crimean War fought splendidly. The Battles of Balaclava, Inkerman and the Charge of The Light Brigade still shine out of the darkness of the past. In addition to the Russians, the troops faced terrible winter conditions, whilst behind them existed an 'A&Q' administration of remarkable inefficiency. The performance off the battlefield was so bad that a public outcry over the neglect and deprivation of the Army led to many reforms. As part of the QMG's department,

/the

the Ordnance Service probably suffered with the rest. Any faults there were however, do not lie with the Board of Ordnance or it's officers and soldiers. - Why??

Almost overnight, after 40 years of peace (and consequently of neglect of the Army), Britain and France were obliged to aid Turkey defend her capital CONSTANTINOPLE and the Straits, against Czar Nicholas I. As recently as World War II, Russia attempted to get territory there as a "southern outlet" into warm waters. In 1854, Nicholas I tried using force and would have succeeded but for allied intervention.

Russia is very difficult to attack from W. Europe and with limited land forces. By sea, the Baltic freezes solid in winter. Only the Crimea, accessible by sea, offered an area of land where fighting could be kept to manageable proportions. An attack there, it was hoped, would draw the Russian forces off Turkey.

The Army went off to war. Recruits were no problem. Time and the Russians were pressing on Turkey. Men, guns, horses, stores and ammunition were hastily loaded onto ships as they arrived at the docks. Little thought went into this vital matter. After so many years of peace, the staff who had so expertly met and handled the requirements of British armies in Spain and elsewhere against Napoleon, were either retired or dead. Off went assorted ships and transports on a voyage of nearly 4,000 miles to the Crimea. Movement by train across France could save time, but this meant double handling of stores at the channel ports and Marseilles and so this was considered more useful for the movement of troops.

Bear in mind that deficiencies in the Crimea would have to be demanded for by ship and train communications to England - (say 4 - 6 weeks), whilst issue and movement of the stores could occupy 6 - 10 weeks more. The Army was therefore dependent upon a supply base 4,000 miles away at the other end of service of sailing ships and paddle steamers.

The stage was now set for a disaster! Against a more vigorous power than Old Russia, this probably would have resulted. The British Commander, Lord Raglan, had never commanded an Army and was over 80 years old! Some commanders were able career officers, others were not. Young society dandies thought a war would be an exciting change, so they bought themselves commissions as Colonels, etc., and sailed off to war, in some cases in their private yachts. When conditions on land got hard they retired on board, leaving the work to their officers and men!

Sebastopol, the only port, was held and fortified by the Russians. The Regiments, their horses, guns, stores, etc., were got ashore on the south coast as and when they arrived. With poor liaison with French and Turkish forces and within the British Army, the war was pursued.

Russian winters are well known. Even the Crimean winter is ferocious once away from the narrow coastal strip. Winter had not been anticipated (a curious failing of others who had invaded Russia expecting a quick victory in the Summer!). The troops suffered the consequences. In the coastal zone, sleet and rain, plus horses hooves and wagon wheels made road movement nearly impossible. Inland, ice, snow drifts and frozen ruts and holes stopped movement and led to broken legs for horses. Stores accumulated ashore whilst a few miles inland the soldiers went hungry and short of clothing and ammunition.

A cartoon from "PUNCH" of that time shows two snowbound soldiers shivering in thin jackets. One reads a newspaper to his mate and says

"'Ere's news Jack! They're giving us a medal for this war!"

/and his

and his mate replies

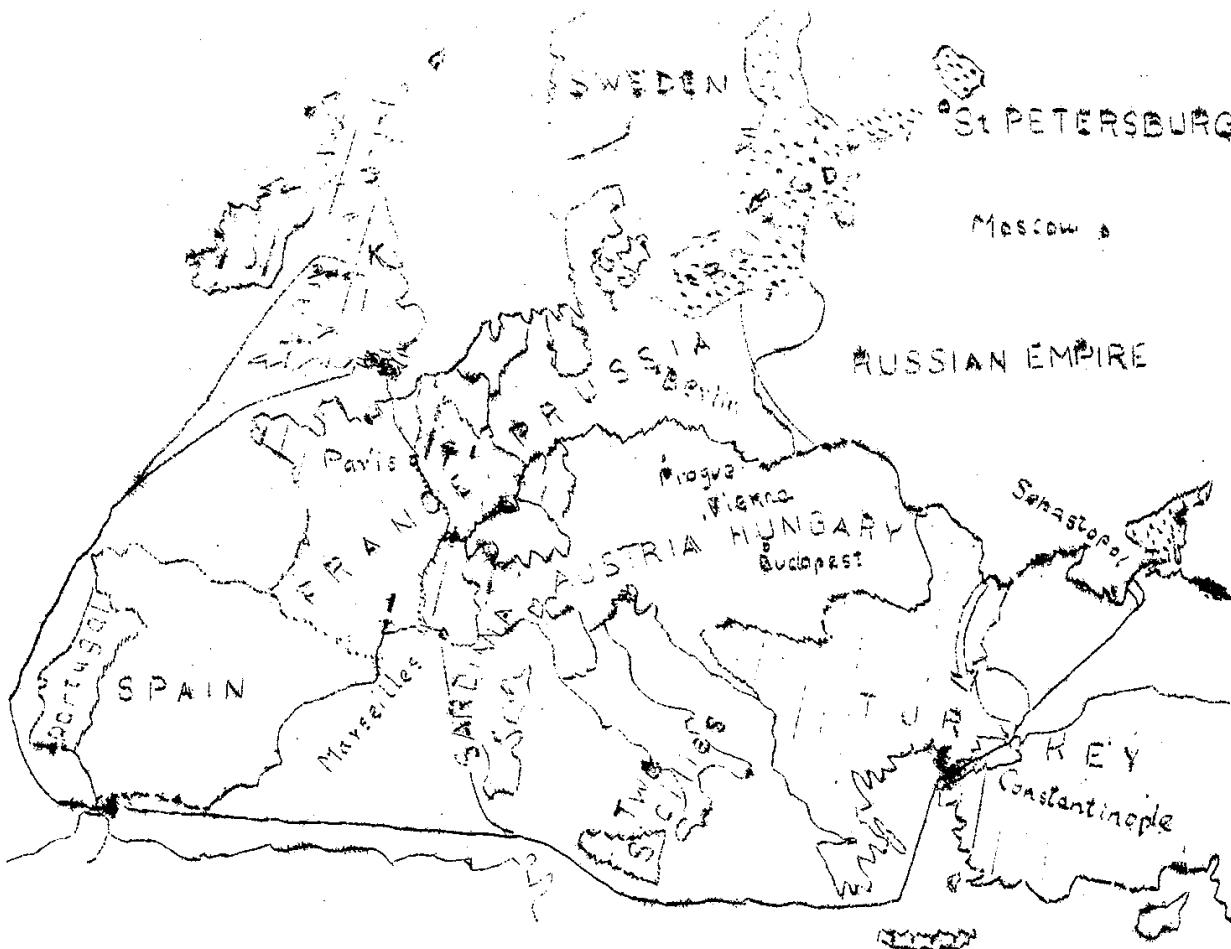
"Huh! Maybe they'll give us a coat to pin it on!"

Unbelievable neglect of sick and wounded in that war, led to the founding of modern nursing practice when Florence Nightingale saw the disgusting and verminous state that wounded soldiers were left to rot in, in so-called hospitals.

It is obvious that the army was in a bad way. The Board of Ordnance was not a separate entity, nor was it solely to blame. When the whole body is seriously ill, even a healthy left foot is of small consequence. Possibly there were cases when wrong sized cannon balls were sent up to the guns. Such cases were due to the following itter-related causes:

- a. Very extended lines of communication from supply base.
- b. Lack of staff work and planning for A&Q requirements.
- c. Neglect of Army administration since 1815.
- d. Haphazard loading of ships.
- e. Poor port facilities in the Crimea and no "all weather" railway until later on.
- f. Winter conditions neither previously experienced nor anticipated.
- g. "Frozen" movement of supplies from the coast to the troops.

THE WAR - 1854-56 : BAD ADMINISTRATION & LONG SUPPLY LINES



So, Ordnance is not to blame after all. If anyone tells you its true, ask them if they really believe it! If they do, your best reply is to repeat what the Duke of Wellington (who was, incidentally, Master General of Ordnance) said to a gentleman who rushed up to him and asked -

"Mr. Brown, I believe?"

"Sir!" said the Duke. "If you believe THAT, you'll believe anything!"

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Our thanks to Mike Nicholson for his bit of history.

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320. 1 BOD Contribution

Postings In

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lt & QM Jim Twist     | ex Singapore           |
| 2Lt Alan Lash         | ex Portsea             |
| Ssgt 'Digger' Highley | ex 2 COD               |
| Lcpl Noel Turvey      | ex Singapore & 1 RNZIR |
| Pte Iain Holsted      | ex 1 COD               |
| Pte Edith Dennis      | ex Civvie St.          |

We welcome all our new arrivals to 1 BOD and hope their stay in Trentham is enjoyable.

Postings Out

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Pte Chris Ellis    | to 1 COD                   |
| Pte Chris Taylor   | to 1 Base Wksp Stores Sect |
| Pte Jane Elliott   | to 2 COD                   |
| Cpl Wayne Myers    | to 2 COD                   |
| Lt Grant Blackburn | to Bandiana, Australia     |

Promotions

2Lt Grant Blackburn - Lt 20 Jun 70  
WOII Jock Gunn - T/WOI  
Lcpl Peter Dellabarca - Cpl

Congratulations to all!

TODs

Capt Don Stewart has now returned after five weeks in the snow and ice at Waiouru, having attended the Adjt/Staff Learner Course.

Ssgt Max Blackburn attending the Ssgt - WOII Course (Another budding "Screaming Skull??")

WOII Dennis Evans on TOD to the Ordnance Directorate - we hear that Dennis enjoys the big city so much he has worn out two prayer mats praying for a permanent posting there!

Lt Mark Stuart after attachment to NSTU Waiouru is now looking after the NSmen at the School.

Social Activities

On Fri 30 Jun many of 1 BOD staff went to a Dine and Dance Evening at "Claridges" and such an enjoyable evening was had that plans are now being made to repeat the performance later in the year.

A Flying AT?

After several attempts to be selected for a Flying Course,

/Lt Grant



Lt Grant Blackburn suddenly had his wish granted - at very short notice. He "Flew" out to Bandiana to study for the BIG A, so proudly worn by the Ammo fraternity.

One thing, Grant, if you keep on flying we know you have made a big error somewhere.

Finally -

We all know about the Official Secrets Act, but it appears that the best kept secret is the fact that there is a residue of WAAF's from war-time days still lurking around Mangaroo! Well, that is the impression one would get when a person, who shall remain nameless, requests that a sign "WAAF's ONLY" be repainted! ---

Perhaps after the re-org we may find a Harvard or two??

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### 321. From 1 Inf Bde Gp Ordnance Field Park

First from the fighting twenty-fourth. Due to the workload we have not had the opportunity to give our contributions to PATAKA however, we are now here to stay.

#### Postings In:

Welcome to Ssgt Byrom from Vietnam, we hope your stay with the OFP will be enjoyable.

Welcome also to Bte Burrell fresh from 2 COD. No shoes now, but Boots GP.

Welcomed back to the unit after a long spell re-organising 1 BOD - Lcpl Tugs POKA.

#### Promotions:

Congratulations to Cpl 'Shep' Shepherd on gaining his second and our best wishes to Shep and his wife on the birth of their first son and heir.

#### Farewells:

Since the last Newsletter Lcpl Johns has taken his release with ambitions to breed hens. All the best, Don.

After a long spell in the winterless North, Cpl Hohepa will be leaving Ngaruawahia for 2 COD Waiouru shortly to receive tents from the OFP instead of pitching them. With Frank 'Black Pearl' go our thanks and best wishes.

#### Appointments:

As PATAKA has not been graced with details from OFP previously we will give you a run down on the present staff:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| ZIC           | Lt Pat Puohotau   |
| CSM           | Somewhere in the bookcase we should find WOII Rex Pennell looking for CML or ???? |
| Ch/Clk A      | Your boat again Sgt Parker  |
| PC&A          | Ssgt Byrom - A good change from looking at cars, eh John?                         |
| PQMS          | Happy hunting Cpl Fowler. Uncle Hec Leydon is due soon. (Auditor)                 |
| Stores        | From books and papers goes Ssgt Miller to keep his eyes on the storemen.          |
| Tpt NCO       | Cpl 'Wheelie' Cannell   |
| We also have: | Cpl Murray Walters, Cpl O'Gram, Lcpls Poka and Knowles and Pte Burrell.           |

Ex FYFAS FIVE

The OFP has just completed a seven-day exercise at Aotea Harbour on the West Coast. The exercise was planned to give all unit personnel training in MT movement, Contact Drills, Deployment, Camouflage and unit functions. If you want to know what 'FYFAS' means, ask any serving or ex member of the OFP.

Phase 1 (RF) was a success and the unit melted into the scrubland and could not be located by DADOS FF when he came to visit. The strange thing was that he was being guided by a member of the unit. Excellent meals were provided by our RF cook - Lcpl 'Kookie' Stephens from Trentham, except when Cpls 'Kumara' Walters and 'Yogi' O'Gram tried to mussel (oops) muscle into the meal preparations.

Phase 2 (TF/RF) was somewhat dampened by the continual rain from Friday to Sunday, however, a reasonable standard of proficiency in camouflage and MT movement/deployment was achieved.

Who said cam nets are too heavy in the rain?

Who said you cannot cam up to stage 3 in heavy rain?

Who said you cannot drive a bin wagon downhill, sideways?

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322. Stop-Press News from 2 COD Sub Depot

Who's Who, Department

A recent consignment from a unit which shall remain nameless, addressed our packages to 2 COD S/S Waiouru.

Other variations from local units returning ammo boxes have been 'Det 2 COD APCA' and '2 COD (Sub Unit)'. SUB UNIT! The Cheek!!

Discharges

Pte Merv Hartley has left us after about 9 months of service. Merv is heading for the warmer climate of Hamilton.

Courses

WOII Alex Mann and Sgt Brian Hickey have been away on the 4\* AT's Seminar.

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323. CORPS DAY 1972

On behalf of our Colonel Commandant, Brigadier A.H. Andrews, Corps Day greetings have been despatched to the Col's Commandant UK and Australia and to all RNZAOC units, also to those personnel serving in New Zealand and overseas in Corps and ERE appointments.

We hope to have news of Corps Day activities from all units for our next issue of PATAKA.

324. OBITUARY

Early in May this year the death occurred suddenly of Captain R.P. Kennedy.

Prior to World War II Captain Kennedy was a TF officer in RNZA. He went overseas with 3 NZ Div but transferred to the RNZAOC whilst in the Pacific. After the War Captain Kennedy joined the Regular Force as an Ordnance Officer serving at the Ammo Depot at Belmont. He was for a time Ordnance Officer Provisions (Gen Stores) in the Chief Provisions Office of the Ordnance Directorate at Army HQ from which position he retired early in 1960.

This edition has taken longer than usual to compile due to various circumstances and for this we apologise if some of the news appears a little out of date.

Next edition will probably contain news of the visit of Major General PHELPS, DOS (UK), which is scheduled to take place during the first week in August.

*A. J. Campbell Maj*

(A. J. CAMPBELL)

Major

for Lieutenant Colonel

Director of Ordnance Services

JULY 1972