

RNZASC



Newsletter

RNZASC Newsletter

Issue Number Eight

June 1978

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LETTER FROM THE DST

By now most of you will be aware that the Army and Corps reorganization is now a fact of life. In our case we will hand-over to RNZAOC the supplies function Aug/Sep 78 and change to the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport on 12 May 1979. We intend to ensure that the change of roles is marked in a suitable manner and further details will be promulgated in due course.

We have had some proud Corps moments since our last newsletter among these have been the award of a BEM to WO2 Sheppard, the MSM to Ssgt Lewis and the recent successes by our catering teams at the Wellington Trades Fair. This augers well for the Corps and we hope it is the start of a continuing effort.

I am concerned however at the number of vehicle accidents involving members of our Corps. In the main these have occurred in private cars after a function. We of all people should be aware that drinking and driving is a dangerous mixture and every endeavour should be made to reduce our involvement in such senseless carnage.

We have introduced the RNZASC scroll to be awarded to all ranks RF/TF who on release or retirement have completed 20 years service with the Corps. We have backdated the award to Dec 76 and presentations will be made to those who have retired at a suitable date in the future. The scrolls are serially numbered and the first (001) was presented to Ssgt Lewis at his retirement function at Hobsonville.

On behalf of the Corps I had great pleasure in congratulating our Colonel Commandant on his appointment as Commissioner of Police. Colonel Walton will continue as our Colonel Commandant in his new appointment.

In closing I would emphasise that the next 12 months will see some dramatic changes and challenges for the Corps. The future should bring us a wider range of activities and the opportunity to really get to grips with being professional soldiers. There will be some need to repost personnel but this will be kept to a minimum. Our restructuring is a part of the Corps evolution into the 1980's and as such will do much to enhance the traditions of the Corps and provide the basis for a sound and rewarding future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.A. Davies'.

(S.A. DAVIES)
Lieutenant Colonel
Director of Supplies
and Transport

RNZASC RUGBY

This year, Inter-Corps rugby takes on an added significance with the proposed introduction of Corps rugby in 1979 as a replacement for inter-regional rugby. It therefore behoves us as the RNZASC to put an increased emphasis on our inter-corps rugby matches this season with a view to producing a team of adequate calibre to match up to all the other major Corps next year.

RNZASC rugby for 1978 sees an increase in the number of games to be played by the Corps team. The proposed 'Quadrangular Tournament' between RNZASC, RNZEME, RNZAOC and RNZE has been finalized and the basic details are as follows:

- a. The tournament is to be held at Linton Camp during the week 21 - 25 Aug 78.
- b. Each team plays the other three teams during the week, and a result will be obtained from each game. (ie. No drawn matches) This system should help to produce a clear cut 'Champion'.
- c. The basic programme will be:
 - (1) Sun 20 Aug 78. Teams assemble at Linton.
 - (2) Mon 21 Aug 78. RNZASC vs RNZE; and RNZEME vs RNZAOC.
 - (3) Tues 22 Aug 78. RNZASC vs RNZAOC; and RNZE vs RNZEME.
 - (4) Thur 24 Aug 78. RNZASC vs RNZEME; and RNZE vs RNZAOC.
 - (5) Fri 25 Aug 78 Teams disperse.

As can be seen by the draw, the annual RNZASC vs RNZEME grudge match is last up on the Thursday. Hopefully, this match will also be the decider of the champion team. However, the significance of this match should not be forgotten; it will be the fifth year that RNZASC have met RNZEME and the winner will be able to claim some distinction with the situation currently balanced at two wins each.

The introduction of the other two teams is a much needed boost for our rugby. The opportunity to meet these teams can do nothing but increase our playing strength, and with next years programme in mind, a chance to build a solid nucleus of match fit and intelligent rugby players.

The RNZASC Rugby Squad for 1978 has been chosen from

the four Gray Shield Inter-Regional matches played to date. A squad of 25 has been selected at the earliest opportunity to allow the players at least one chance to run as a team before the tournament. This squad is by no means final as injuries and the occasional non-availability must be taken into consideration. The squad is as follows:

Manager: Maj K.P. Rawlings	ST Directorate
Coach : Ssgt O. Topia	10 Tpt Coy
Coach : Ssgt G. Harris	Waiouru Coy
Ssgt F.T.R. Stevens	North Coy
Cpl D. Nathen	North Coy
Cpl T. Baker	1 AASO
Lcpl S. Ryan	North Coy
Cpl L. Barnes	North Coy
Dvr H.O'Donnell	1 Tpt Coy
Dvr D. Morrisey	North Coy
Lt J. Masson	Waiouru Coy
Ssgt A.G. Stewart	Waiouru Coy
Cpl J. Frew	Waiouru Coy
Cpl M. Ross	RNZASC School
Dvr J. Tapiata	Waiouru Coy
Dvr P. Paranihi	Waiouru Coy
Dvr M. Varasi	21 Supply Coy
2Lt I. Gordon	10 Tpt Coy
Cpl R. Edmonds	Central Coy
Lcpl P. Winterburn	10 Tpt Coy
Dvr K. Rhodes	Central Coy
2Lt W. Clemenger	3 Tpt Coy
Lcpl A. Niha	South Coy
Cpl T. Vaughan	3 Bde
Cpl W. Gruebner	South Coy
Cpl M. Treweek	South Coy
Lcpl W. Rodden	South Coy
Cpl D. Blomfield	South Coy

Subject to Police approval, and the terms of the Gaming Act, there is a possibility that a sweep stake may be organized for the Tournament. Details will be notified later, but the idea is to predict the final scores of all six matches in the tournament. Each entry will cost about a dollar, and the winner will collect about \$500.00. The sweep will have to be open to all four Corps, and proceeds will go to the Corps Funds. This could be your big chance to win some much needed cash.

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CENTRAL COY RNZASC

OC: MAJOR J.S. THORN
CSM: WOII O.T. HADDON

1. As you readers can see by the above heading Central Coy now has a new OC. In fact, since the last newsletter the appointment was filled (let me add only for 1-2 hours) by Major Rawlings. He was taken away to the Directorate, after which Old Faithful (Capt Stubbs) stood in again until our current OC took post.

Attachments and Detachments

2. The Company would like to welcome into its many bands of workers:

Major J.S. Thorn ex Directorate
Capt P.G.W. Morgan (returned) ex 10 Tpt Coy
2Lt S.G. Dewes ex RTD
WOI G. Schofield ex Waiouru Coy
Sgt(W) Y. Tasker ex NZ Force SE Asia

A welcome is also extended to the many new soldiers (too many to name) who have recently completed Basic Training at Waiouru.

3. We would like to farewell from the Company:

Dvr Blackett	to HQ LSG
Dvr Nichols	to NZ Tpt Coy Singapore
Lcpl Guthrie	to 1 Base Wksps Trentham
Cpl Coe	to Southern Coy
Sgt Benson	to 10 Tpt Coy
Ssgt Nichols	to Southern Coy

CSM's Notes

4. The sudden extra parades, kit checks and barrack inspections have somewhat caught most Coy personnel flatfooted, but slowly at last these things are being accepted, and even, in some cases, anticipated.

5. Over the period of the last three months courses have been a priority on my list, and it is pleasing to see the number of personnel wishing to achieve a higher standard within their respective trades. The introduction of pre-course test papers (MT) have no doubt brought most students back to a better frame of mind before going to their courses. Also the Continuation Training WOII Clark is doing with his Catering Section should not go unnoticed.

Until Death Do Us Part

6. At the moment there seems to be a craze at Central Company to get married. Those lucky people are:

Cpl Les Janett to LAC(W) Chris Martin
Dvr(W) Naomi Ripia to Lcpl John Willson
Lcpl Les Harding to Alexia (Lex) Voshezang

More pending throughout the year. To all we give our congratulations.

7. Rumour has it a new section is being looked at in Central Company with a new appointment (Matrimonial Clerk All Arms).

Sarge and His Dog

8. Sgt Jim Hotter, Supply Depot Trentham, decided to do his bit to help the Army Museum, and on Friday 17 March, set out on a Route March, with his dog, from Wanganui to New Plymouth. Trentham Camp personnel sent him on his way with \$300 towards the Museum Fund. Nice one, Sgt Hotter!!

Last Word

9. Finally, a word from our Chief Clerk, Sgt Gibney, who has lately been inundated with female clerks.

H-E-L-P!!!!



HOW TO PLAY GOLF

My wife said, "George, it's time you learned how to play golf. You know, golf, that's the game where you chase a ball all over the country when you are too old to chase a woman."

So I went to Jones, and asked him if he would teach me to play. He said, "Sure, you've got balls haven't you?" I said, "Yes, but sometimes on cold mornings they are kinda hard to find." Well he told me to bring them to the clubhouse tomorrow morning and he would tee off. "What's this tee off?" I queried. "It's a golf term and we will have to tee off in front of the golthouse," he replied.

"Not for me, I'll tee off behind a barn some place."

"No no. A tee is a little thing about the size of your little finger."

"Yeah I've got one of those."

"Well you stick it in the ground."

"What!!!"

"Yes you stick it into the ground and put your ball on it."

"Say, do you play this golf sitting down? I always thought you stood up and walked."

"You do your standing up when you put your ball on the tee."

Well folks, I thought this was stretching it a bit too far and I said so. He said:-

"Well, you have a bag don't you?"

"Sure."

"Your balls are in a bag aren't they?"

"Of course."

"Well can't you open the bag and take one out?"

I said "I suppose so," but damned if I was going to.

He said, "Don't you use a zipper on your bag?"

I said, "No I'm the old fashioned type."

He said, "Do you know how to hold your club?"

"Well, after fifty years I should have some idea."

"Well, take your club in both hands." — Folks, I knew right there and then that he didn't know what he was talking about.

"Then swing it over your shoulder."

"Nope, that's not for me, that's my brother you're talking about."

"How do you hold your club?"

Well, before I thought I nearly said, "In two fingers." Then I said, "None of your damned business." He said that wasn't right, and got behind me, put both arms around me, and told me to bend over and he would show me. He couldn't catch me there folks. I didn't put in four years in the Navy for nothing.

He said, "You hit the ball with the club and it will soar and soar."

I said, "I can quite imagine."

Then he said "You're on the green."

"What's the green?"

"That's where the hole is."

"Sure you're not colour blind?"

"No."

"Then take your putter?"

"That's the smallest club made."

"That's what I've got. It's a putter."

"With it you can put the ball in the hole."

"You mean the putter?"

"No, the ball. The hole is too small for the ball and the putter too."

"Hell, I've seen holes big enough for a horse and waggon."

"Then after you've made the first hole you go on to the next seventeen."

"Oh no, not for me, after two holes I'm all shot to hell."

"You mean you can't make eighteen holes in one day?"

"Hell, it takes me eighteen days to make one hole, and besides how do I know when I'm at the eighteenth hole?"

"The flag will be up."

Folks, that's just my luck.

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NZ TRANSPORT COMPANY

OC: MAJOR R.W. THOMSON

CSM: WOII P.C. SHEPPARD BEM

New Zealand Transport Company here in Singapore continues to meet the tasking demand. We often wonder how, but in true ASC fashion the vehicles and supplies are there at the right place and at the right time.

Over the past six months, the Company has conducted two Exercises, an annual shoot, and has had various coy personnel taking part in Infantry Exercises. Currently E Pl is deployed in support for Ex TAIAHA TONBAK, a joint NZ/Malaysian exercise.

The two unit Exercises were both of five days duration. The first exercise involved a convoy drive of approximately 800 miles over West Malaysian roads, carrying out the usual ASC deployment and convoy drills. In the second exercise, the Company, less the LEC pls, deployed into the Jungle in the Kota Tinggi Dry Training Area, approximately 40 miles from Singapore, and operated from a firm base practising ASC operational procedures.

The Supply Pl has continued to quietly and efficiently provide the rations and PCL required to support all of New Zealand Force both in static and field locations. In addition they have continued to provide a victualling facility for all RNZN, RAN, RN and RFA vessels.

The support given to naval vessels is no mean task. The most noteworthy achievement being the victualling of an RN task group of ten ships with sufficient rations to sustain their 2000 personnel from here to the United Kingdom. All this during the support of Exercise TAIAHA TONBAK. The effort required to achieve both these tasks simultaneously literally had the Supply chaps tails dragging in the dust. However all was achieved with only one noteworthy foul up i.e. the loss of one carton of pork chops meant for the RFA Tarbatness which somehow turned up at HQ 4 Bde, and as HQ 4 Bde was also rationing the Malaysians, the presence of a carton of pork chops was not particularly welcome.

Within the next few months, it is anticipated that cross country training is practised using the Singapore Armed Forces Cross Country Circuits, an individual eight hours night map reading exercise around Singapore, followed by a similar type through West Malaysia and a five day jungle survival exercise will take place.

The unit now has a Social Room. Construction was started September last year and has now been completed after many hard hours of work. As it was not safe to let the Army drivers build or paint it, much of the work was carried out by unit LEC personnel led by Ahmad the MT foreman. Material was begged and borrowed from most of the other NZ Force Support Units, and structural changes were made in the usual Kiwi fashion.

For those who have been to Singapore, the social room is now in what was the E Platoon Store. The Air despatch stores have been returned to the CQMS and the E Platoon stores shifted into that store. The social room is well furnished, with tables and chairs and many posters etc on the wall, and most of all a large bar and fridge.

The official opening was held on 24 February 1978 and all Force Units were represented.

During the function, a copper beating in the shape of the RNZASC Corps badge was presented to the unit and placed on the wall of the social room by Ssgt and Mrs Pike Terewi. Pike is the Transport NCO in the 1 RNZIR Transport Section.

The Company has also acquired a 17 ft Water Ski boat. It was purchased with generous donations by company members. Dvr McKay has allowed his 135 hp Chrysler outboard to be used to power the boat. Hopefully, a motor will be purchased for the Company at a later stage. Consequently, water skiing has become the 'big thing' and already several personnel have advanced to the single ski stage.

SO YOU THINK OUR CATERING IS LOUSY?

By Capt D.A. Armstrong

A recent article in the "Army Logistian", the official magazine of United States Army logistics, compared the Soviet Army catering services and attitudes to the US Army. Several interesting points were made which indicate some marked differences between Soviet and Allied thinking on the subject of feeding their respective armies. If you are thinking of defecting, but enjoy your "nosh", perhaps you had better read on.

The first interesting point is that, despite the so-called classless attitudes of the USSR, better food is a privilege of rank in the Soviet military, with the conscripted rifleman being the lowest in the pecking order. (No prizes for guessing who gets the best food!) NCOs receive more meat than enlisted men, while officers have a greater variety of meat, eggs, dairy foods, fruit and vegetables. Some soldiers need to receive food or money from home to supplement their military diets. Many enlisted men suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiencies because of the lack of a variety of foods, especially vegetables, in their diets. A typical daily menu for enlisted men is shown below.

Compare that to our rationing system where generals and private soldiers receive exactly the same monetary allowance per day for the purchase of rations. Because of the different feeding patterns in officers and junior ranks messes, our soldiers often receive better food than the officers, although standards of service may differ between the two messes.

In combat, food supplies take the lowest priorities of all items supplied through the logistic channels. Ammunition and fuel supply priorities are not relaxed even if the troops have to forage for their rations. It must be very difficult to fire weapons or operate vehicles in the middle of a Russian winter when your stomach thinks your throat has been cut, and your navel keeps knocking on your back bone.

Within garrisons and camps, Soviet forces supplement their ration supplies by running farms for livestock, rabbits, vegetables and poultry. Soldiers are detailed to work in the unit's gardens and to care for the animals. Where camps do not run their own farms, a unit commander may make an agreement with a neighbouring collective farm to provide soldiers on Sundays to assist with labour in exchange for foodstuffs. (And we complain about the odd maintenance days in camps.)

The quantity and quality of food received by the Soviet soldier depend on a number of factors. The most important is the regimental or garrison commander's concern for and understanding of the nutritional needs of the troops. Supplies of rations is the responsibility of the regimental mess officer. He procures the foodstuffs from division or area headquarters, and the local market.

SOVIET ARMY DAILY MENU FOR OTHER RANKS

Breakfast:

White bread	2 Slices
Black bread	1 Slice
Butter/Margarine	20g
Sugar	3 Cubes
Tea	Unlimited
Kasha*/Potatoes	300g
Fish/Meat	50g

Midday:

Soup	400g
Kasha with Meat	400g
White bread	1 Slice
Black bread	2 Slices
Fruit Compote	200g

Dinner:

Fish	100g
Potatoes/Kasha	300g
White bread	2 Slices
Black bread	1 Slice
Sugar	3 Cubes
Tea	Unlimited
Butter	20g

* Kasha is rice, buck wheat, wheat or oat porridge with salt, pepper, onions and fat.

Soviet military nutrition norms are similar to most Allied countries with a weight ratio of 1:1:5 for protein, fat and carbohydrates respectively. It is significant that no other nutrients are tabulated to ensure that all the nutrient requirements are met. By comparison, the New Zealand weight ratio of protein, fat and carbohydrate is roughly 2:0.5:4.5. (We have a far greater ratio of meat and dairy products.)

In normal feeding, the Soviets provide about 25 percent of the calorie requirement at breakfast, 45 percent at midday and 30 percent for the evening meal. Usually, our messes reverse the midday and evening meal calorie contents.

As far as cooking in the field goes, the Russians are streets ahead of us in terms of equipment. The concept is that the field kitchens and bakeries must keep pace with the troops they support, and still provide meals on schedule. Since 1965, the Soviets have introduced four field kitchens and a field bakery which can cook on the move. With the exception of a West German kitchen truck, the Soviet Union is the only country with field kitchens mounted on trucks and tracked vehicles. These kitchens are better able to keep up with fast moving combat forces and can cover a greater variety of rough ground than even the new US Army trailer mounted kitchen. (Mind you, they haven't seen the kitchens we mounted on the M818 semi trailers for Ex Truppenamt. Perhaps we are also unique?)

Two of the kitchens are known to provide physical protection in chemical, biological and radiological environments. The tracked vehicle mounted kitchen (similar to an M113 Command Post vehicle), is hermetically sealed and is probably outfitted with a filtering ventilation system.

Makes the old sheet of canvas off the side of an RL Bedford seem pretty archaic, doesn't it?

The conclusions to be reached from reading this article are:

- a. All RNZASC cooks should defect to the Soviets. They could no doubt use our knowledge, skills and comradeship, and we could certainly use their field cooking equipment.
- b. Any soldier who enjoys even basic food should not even consider defecting to the Soviets. Officers, on the other hand, may be more persuaded. although the promotion and security of employment prospects are not as bright.

NOTES FROM DADST (SUPPLIES)

1. The Establishment of a Ration Pack Production Unit. As a result of a report by Management Services Branch Defence HQ the establishment of a separate unit is being proposed. A paper has been written and is waiting approval.

2. Equipment for the Ration Pack Production Unit. Investigations are proceeding into purchasing pallet racking to store components for ration packs. If you do some quick calculations you can work out how many components have to be stored:

50,000	24 hr Cnd Rat packs	x	28 components	= 1,400,000
88,000	24 hr Lt Wt Rat packs	x	29 components	= 2,552,000
10,000	10 man Compo packs	x	46 components	= 460,000
				<u>Total = 4,412,000</u>

3. Add to this the requirement to store one year's stock of completed packs, ie 148,000 ration packs, and you can see the extent of the problem. Additional equipment being investigated for the RPPU are shrink wrapping for pallet loads of completed packs and Heatseal banding machines for securing cartons of ration packs.

4. Operation Deep Freeze. A paper has been prepared for Army GS on the NZ Army's assistance to Operation Deep Freeze. Basically stricter selection criteria have been set, an improved training programme has been approved and the length of tour for the Command Team has been lengthened. The Command Team personnel and NCO IC Harewood Cargo Yard will be appointed whilst personnel will be able to make application for the remaining appointments. In addition the changeover of personnel this season will be on the trickle system not complete team changeovers.

Inspections, Visits and Conferences

5. Both DADST(S), Maj K.L. Philip and Inspector Sups, WO1 R.S. Haami have paid many visits to camps to either visit Supply Depots or carry out an inspection on behalf of the DST.

6. A successful Supply Depot Commanders Conference was held in Linton prior to Xmas. All Depot Commanders participated with many and varied ideas as a result. The WO Tech and DADST(S) have now sufficient background and work to keep them busy for the next six months. So Butchers don't give up hope on some improved equipment and clothing.

Welcomes

7. A big welcome is extended to those new recruits who have joined the elite in Supply Depots throughout New Zealand. We sincerely hope that your chosen career will be interesting and rewarding. A special welcome to those Suppliers who are about to descend on our shores once again from the Supply Depot Singapore.

1ST TRANSPORT COMPANY RNZASC

Xmas has been and gone (long gone at time of writing) and as usual was followed by a period of hectic activity leading up to Annual Camp 1978.

Once again 1 Tpt Coy headed off to Annual Camp with a good strength. A total of 44 RF and 90 TF took part in the camp which as you probably are aware was a Column Camp at Taupo Airfield. The different concept to the normal support role for 1 Bde made a pleasant change and allowed for much more, and a greater range of training than has been possible for many years. We RF enjoyed the change and so did our TF who gained a good deal of experience. The field exercise in particular allowed some of the TF their first real taste of "grunt" type training - patrolling, defence, stand-to etc. Enjoyment was such that a please was made for a weekend training during the coming year involving this type of activity. This is being allowed for in pre-planning.

The inter-unit competitions, though not bringing us a great deal of success, were thoroughly enjoyed. We also had a good deal of fun running the vehicle rally - which incidentally showed that all units could do with more training in basic driver navigation skills as witnessed by the number of vehicles which got lost during the day! (Rumours that one 3-ton vehicle became entangled with the London-Sydney rally are fake).

However, if there had been a competition for high-flying tents, we sure would have won that with our cookhouse 40' x 20' reaching an altitude of approximately 90 feet in a whirlwind. And Lt V.T. Irwin did win the Cup presented by CRASC for the most efficient TF subaltern at camp, for which we congratulate him and add only one word - "naturally"!

One cannot forget to mention our hard-working Workshops staff who kept our vehicle serviceability up during camp. You tend to overlook their contribution - or take it for granted - when things are happening but where would you be without them?

On return to Papakura a group of our RF were immediately away again on another Camp, this time in support of 6 Hauraki at Waihi. They got just one day's break, so when they did get home they were well ready for a rest.

Coming up for the Company are Tropic Weka in Fiji (one platoon required), Exercise Captive Lightning V (20 pers and 15 vehs) and support to the Museum project so things are going to continue to be hectic for some time it seems.

Brings us to the thought that perhaps the envisioned Corps Re-org should give us a few more RF troops to enable us to be other than always thin on the ground!!

Since the last Newsletter we have had comparatively few staff changes, the major one being the arrival of our new 2IC. Contrary to our expectations it was not Capt A.R. Dixon but Capt R.A. Wharton ex Central Coy and the UK. We welcome him to the Company and wish him well. We are looking forward to a more stable RF staff for a while, to enable us to get our troops above the basic and one star level - or with the new pay banding - band one and two.

10TH TRANSPORT COMPANY, RNZASC

OC : MAJ J.M. YOUNG, RNZASC
CSM : WOII P. DILLON, MM, RNZASC

General

1. Since returning to work for 1978 the main event for the unit has been the ST Column Camp held at Taupo - no doubt other Corps were envious of the location.

2. During the remainder of the year, the more interesting training activities scheduled for the unit are:

2. Exercise TRCPIC KIWI. During June, the unit is to mount a deployment to Fiji. By the time this Newsletter is published the CC and CSM will have completed their reconnaissance, and hopefully have confirmed that an exercise on Vanua Levu, rather than Viti Levu, is a feasible proposition.
- b. Exercise THUNDERBALL IV. In view of the success of Thunderball III (a convoy driving and deployment exercise on the east coast) another similar exercise is proposed for later in the year.

Annual Camp

3. The ST Column Camp proved a most unique and enjoyable exercise. Aspects of the Camp of most significance to this unit were:

- a. our largest turnout of Territorials;
- b. the ability of the women to work as well, if not better in some instances, than the men;
- c. the high morale, no doubt largely contributed to by the success of the 'Trade Winds';
- d. obtaining first place in the three day field exercise phase; and
- e. our success in the tug of war competition.

4. The unit was disappointed in not winning the inter-unit skills/sports held during the last two days of Camp. However, we look forward to the next encounter.

Current Activities

5. During the present month (March) the unit is involved in the following main activities:

- a. dump truck support for the Home Valley road construction project;
- b. New Plymouth Boys High School cadet barracks week; and
- c. exercise BLIZZARD II, an advanced driving exercise on the Wairarapa Coast.

Obituaries

It is with deep regret that we record the death of WO2 Phelim Thaddeus KEINZLEY, Supply Depot Commander of Central Company, who died suddenly on Sunday 8 Jan 78 at Palmerston North.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Lcpl Mark Alexander WEST, a chef of Central Company who was killed in a motor cycle accident at Upper Hutt on Saturday 10 Jun 78.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sgt Peter Maurice John SCOTT, a chef of RNZASC School, who was killed in a car accident on Wednesday 14 Jun 78 at Waiouru.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sgt Dennis Paul STEPHENS, a steward of Waiouru Company, who was killed in a car accident on Wednesday 14 Jun 78 at Waiouru.

Editorial from DST

The tragic events of June 10 and 14 highlight the increasing road toll and its immediate effects on our Corps. It is obvious that we should all take positive steps to reduce accidents by prevention. In this regard I earnestly commend to you all the Defensive Driving Course and the re-establishment of the 'Buddy System', whereby we all take an active interest in one another's welfare, especially at functions.

Winter, with its driving hazards, is always a danger for motorists. Most of us go to great expense to ensure our vehicles are in a safe working condition -- is it not worth your life, or the life of your friends or family, to ensure that the driver is also in a safe working condition?

Think about it. We don't want to have to print your obituary.

21 SUPPLY COMPANY

Officer Commanding: Major M.F.J. Bent
Second in Command: WOI P. Wheeler
CSM: Ssgt H. Haitana

We have not always received a place in the Newsletter, which is probably our own fault for not contributing. However, we had better now, because this may well be our last chance. With the Corps reorganization coming up we could well be moving to another Corps. Perhaps one day soon we will find out how true this is.

Postings

Ssgt Lance King is going to 3 Transport Company to put their Q account in order as from May 1st.

Sgt Bob Bruce is proceeding to Singapore, that land of milk and honey across the sea; we wish him well.

Exercises

Six members of this unit under Ssgt Harry Haitana are exercising with 10 Transport Company, which should raise the standard of that unit somewhat. We are also providing twenty persons (RF and TF) to the trip to Fiji in June.

Sub Units

Pet Platoon Annual Camp 78

Annual Camp this year was at Taupo Airfield. Pet Platoon was deployed with the rest of the Supplies and Transport Column.

Pet Platoon provided a daily kerbside refuelling service for MT gas and Dieso, providing a total of 72,110 litres of all fuel commodities.

Supply Platoon

\$18,000 was spent by Supply Platoon on the rations on local purchase over the Annual Camp period. Over \$50,000 was spent by 21 Supply Company at Annual Camp.

We raised a total of \$400 as a contribution towards Exercise Marathon Major, mainly in the Taumarunui area, which is Major Kiwi's original home town.

Hear about the Texas rancher suing for a divorce? He found his dear and an interloper at play.

1 AASO CONTRIBUTION

By PELICAN

1. In a previous appointment I came to know quite well a dear elderly lady who was very old fashioned, (long black dress with lace collars etc). She was a spiritualist too, (not the liquid variety although she was partial to a bit of gin) and used to frequent an Auckland "medium" (not a gunner from Ngaruawahia!). This lady's husband however was an unsavoury character who hadn't worked for nearly seventeen years and was prone to gambling, heavy bouts of drinking and occasionally pawning to support his habits. He didn't physically abuse his wife though, probably because he was only about 4'8" and not more than seven stone; he was really a small old man steptoe in appearance.

2. One day the lady returned home to find (or rather not to find since the husband had sold it) that her precious, all beloved and pampered Persian cat was missing. Pythagoras, the name of this feline creature had been 'hocked' for a half dozen and the quinella at Te Rapa. (No more rooting in the square of the hypotheneuse if you will excuse the pun.) Well this was the end for Mrs R... and she immediately contacted me for advice but ignored that and went to her medium instead. To her relief, her worries were at an end because, according to the medium, her husband was ill fated and he predicted the lady would be remarrying in the early Autumn, three months after her husband's departure presumably having died. The lady herself was radiantly calm after this news but it had the opposite effect on the single elderly bachelors in the headquarters who began to avoid her like the plague. She prepared what I used to call a 'chuffed chart' and day by day marked off the remaining quarter of the year. Dear old Mrs R..., she was so convinced her husband would depart this world. I saw her after lunch in early December taking into her office a small man's suit just back from the drycleaners. Without waiting for a question she said "He wanted a new suit but I told him it would be a waste of money and this old one would be O.K. for his laying out!"

3. I left shortly after Christmas that year but I later heard the husband didn't die. Mrs R... had given him some money to buy the Christmas presents and he had used it to bet on the jackpot with his cronies; they of course won and with his \$23,000 he went to Australia with the barmaid.

4. What has this obviously true story got to do with the Corps Newsletter? Well, I was contemplating how nice it would be to be able to consult someone who could predict the future. Perhaps we could have one on establishment - I expect Directorate would be very happy to have a DADST (Med) on strength particularly at this time. We are all awaiting implementation of the Corps and Army reorganisation and the pay restructuring but I guess these things take time.

5. Recovery from illness takes time too. Dvr Tai Te Riini had a nasty accident with a 955 Caterpillar Tracked Forklift in Antarctica just after Christmas and is still recovering in Whakatane Hospital. Sgt Kevin Smallridge broke a lower leg bone whilst in Canada on Exercise BULLSEYE and he too is recovering at home in Timaru. Sgt Smallridge broke his leg whilst ice skating. On the equipment side we are preparing our proposals for the platforms

replacing the Combat Expendable Platform which is now out. We have successfully dropped a N37 Cooker complete (with cook?), a new Suzuki generator and experimenting free dropping Aki-Aki trees. 40,000 trees about 18" long have to be free dropped (of course without damage) to the small island of Mangere off Pitt Island in the Chathams. All in all a very interesting project, in an attempt to develop the vegetation and prevent the extinction of a species of bird.

6. Talking of becoming extinct and 'old birds' Ssgt Pancha Lewis BEM retires on June 21st. Details of his farewell will be signalled to all units when known.

A CASE FOR WOMEN DRIVERS

Females are one and a-quarter times safer drivers than males. This is one of the findings from the first half of a 12-month survey being undertaken by the Road Traffic Safety Research Council.

The reason for women drivers apparently more impressive safety record has been attributed to the influence of the very poor accident record of males in their teens and early 20's. The safest driving age for either sex was found to be in the 40 to 50 age group.

The Council's survey also revealed the drivers on the road most at risk of accidents. These were found to be 16-year old males, who were about eight times more susceptible to serious crashes than the average driver. These figures were calculated by adjusting the number of accidents drivers had had by the total distance they had driven.

Drivers under 25 years of age were compared with those over 25. The survey revealed (tentatively) that young (under 25) inexperienced drivers create the greatest risk and are most at risk in traffic and the older (over 25 years) experienced drivers are the safest on the road. Older inexperienced drivers however, are still safer than young experienced drivers.

The accident risk of all drivers rises steeply after 6 p.m. Although there appears to be little difference in accident susceptibility between males and females during the day, at night males are significantly more at risk.

Danger for Motorcyclists

Riders of motorcycles were found to be involved in crashes eight and a-half times more frequently than drivers of four-wheeled vehicles. Night riders under 25 have an extremely high chance of having an injury accident.

CORPS FUND ACCOUNTS

The next four pages contain copies of the books of account for the RNZASC Corps Funds, as at 28 February 1978.

From the Trading Account, recording the purchases, sales and profits of each Regimental item it can be seen that we are not doing as well as could be expected. Although we made profits on most lines, the movement of stock is quite low in comparison to the number of "Customers" in the market. (That's you and me.)

The Receipts and Payments Account shows where the fund's money came from, and where it went. Two points of interest are the transfer of the RNZASC Raffle account, which kept our bank balance in the black, and the large number of sundry debtors. These people, and units, have purchased items from the Corps Fund, but as yet have failed to pay for them. Reminder notices will be sent out in the near future.

The only reason we were able to show an excess income over expenditure in the Income and Expenditure Account was because of the transfer of the Raffle account. Otherwise, we would have recorded a loss of some \$1260.00. Whilst some items in the expenditure column were "once only" expenses, things do not look good for the next trading year, unless we receive a far greater income from sales than this year.

The final point to note is that the entire account has now been transferred to the Army Bank, where we will receive a much higher rate of interest on our investment, and hopefully reduce the forecasted trading loss for the next year.

Meanwhile, you can help in three ways:

- a. If you wish to purchase any Regimental items listed on page 24, write, phone or call at the Directorate and place your order.
- b. If you have any suggestions for additional Regimental items which you think we should stock, let the Directorate know, including details of any source of supply you are aware of.
- c. If you have purchased Regimental items, but have failed to pay for them, please do so as soon as possible, so that your money can earn the fund some much needed interest.

Remember, the RNZASC Corps Fund is your fund. Without your support, the fund will gradually be depleted.

TRADING ACCOUNT

CORPS TRANSFERS

Stock as at Apr 77	169.65	Sales	10.35
Purchases	-	Stock on Hand	162.45
Profit	3.15		
	<u>\$172.80</u>		<u>\$172.80</u>

CUMMERBUNDS

Stock as at Apr 77	30.00	Sales	20.00
Purchases	-	Stock on Hand	10.00
Profit	-		
	<u>\$30.00</u>		<u>\$30.00</u>

CORPS TIES

Stock as at Apr 77	14.00	Sales	30.50
Purchases	47.52	Stock on Hand	34.56
Profit	3.54		
	<u>\$65.06</u>		<u>\$65.06</u>

COLLAR AND HAT BADGES

Stock as at Apr 77	317.00	Sales	120.70
Purchases	-	Stock on Hand	180.00
Profit	19.70	Free Issues	36.00
	<u>\$336.70</u>		<u>\$336.70</u>

CORPS PLAQUES

Stock as at Apr 77	-	Sales	114.30
Purchases	401.20	Stock on Hand	163.00
Profit	26.70	Presentations Copper (3) 75.00 Wood (6) 75.00	36.00 150.60
	<u>\$427.90</u>		<u>\$427.90</u>

SHOULDER TITLES

Stock as at Apr 77	193.32	Sales	42.00
Purchases	66.93	Stock on Hand	202.50
Returned Stock	15.00	Free Issues (55)	41.25
Profit	10.50		
	<u>\$285.75</u>		<u>\$285.75</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Balance as at Apr 77
 Sales of Corps Regimental Items
 Interest Reserve Bank
 Corps Functions
 RNZASC Raffle Account
 RNZASC Triennial Conference
 Sundry Debtors

PAYMENTS

2910.69 Purchases of Corps Regimental Items 943.15
 284.46 Purchase Rugby Jerseys & Expenses 4468.28
 55.00 Wreaths 100.85
 110.40 Corps Functions 332.24
 4159.40 Triennial Conference 138.75
 139.77 Presentations 104.67
 397.58 1 ASO Loan 125.00
 1 ASO Loan 135.60
 Printing and Stationery 93.58
 Miscellaneous 55.70
 Petty Cash

Total Payments

Balance as at 28 Feb 78

\$8057.30

2477.80
 5579.50
\$8057.30

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME

Profit on Sales

Transfers	3.15
Ties	3.54
Badges	19.70
Plaques	26.70
Shoulder Titles	<u>10.50</u>

Interest	55.00
Functions	110.40
Triennial Conference	139.77
Raffle Account	4153.10

EXPENDITURE

Presentations and Free Issues

Copper Plaques	(3)	75.00
Wooden Plaques	(6)	75.60
Badges		36.00
Shoulder Titles	(55)	<u>41.25</u>
		227.85
Corps Rugby		468.28
Wreaths		100.65
Functions		332.24
Triennial Conference		138.75
Presentation Prizes		104.67
Printing and Stationery		135.60
Miscellaneous		93.58
Petty Cash		35.70
		1637.50
Total Expenditure		2884.36
Excess Income over Expenditure		<u>\$4521.86</u>

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARMY SERVICE CORPS FUNDS		
BALANCE SHEET		
AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 1978		

LIABILITIES

Accumulated Funds
Excess Income over Expenditure

5845.02
2884.36

-23-

ASSETS

5579.50
2000.00

<u>Stock on Hand</u>	
Transfers	162.45
Cummerbunds	10.00
Ties	34.56
Badges	180.00
Plaques	163.00
Shoulder Titles	202.50
	752.51
<u>Corps Properties</u>	
Rugby Jerseys	441.52
Less 10%	
Depreciation	<u>44.15</u>
	<u>397.37</u>
	<u>\$8729.38</u>

RNZASC REGIMENTAL ITEMS

PRICE LIST

COPPER PLAQUE

\$30.00 each

A hand crafted copper plaque of the Corps badge, measuring 13 x 16 inches. Suitable for presentations, mounting etc. Limited offer only. Be quick.

CORPS PLAQUE

\$13.20 each

Corps badge mounted on wood background. Produced by Badges and Crests Ltd. Also available at higher price from AGI stores

CORPS TRANSFERS

\$0.45 each

Ready stick transfer of the Corps badge. Decrate your car rear window etc.

CORPS TIE

\$5.00 each

Regimental tie in Corps colours. Modern fashionable width. Produced by Parisian in crimplene/terylene mix.

FLAG CENTRE

\$25.00 each

Embroidered Corps badge in full colour on Blue background. Suitable for centre panel of ceremonial Corps flags (two centres required) or for framing and mounting as presentations or decoration. Limited offer only. Centres measure 22 x 16 in

SHOULDER TITLES

\$1.00 per set

Additional shoulder titles to replace your worn, scruffy set.

HAT BADGES

\$4.40 each

Officer pattern gilt metal hat badges. Will become collectors item in near future.

COLLAR BADGE

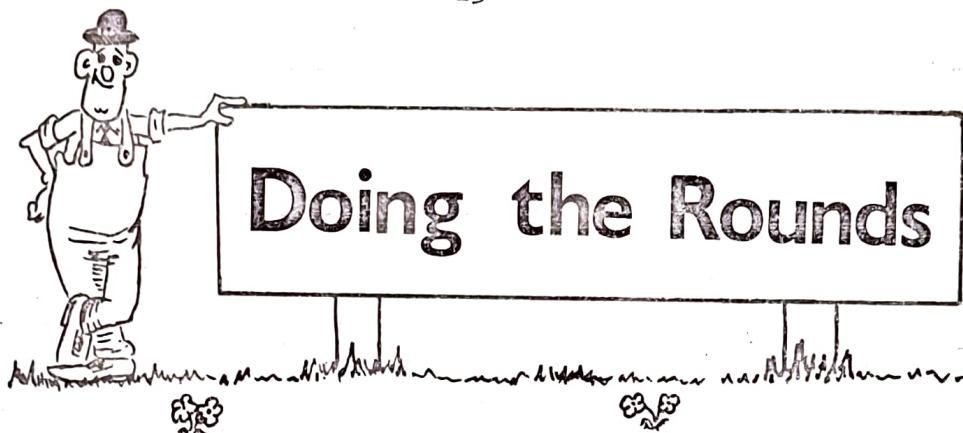
\$5.90 per set

Officer pattern gilt metal Corps collar badge for Service Dress. Another collectors item in near future.

NOTE: Because of inflation, some replacement items may rise in price in the future. Place your orders now to ensure the lowest price.

ORDERS: Write, phone or call to place your orders to;

ST Directorate
(Attn: SCST)
HQ Home Command
Private Bag
WELLINGTON



A CASE FOR BIGGER BACK SEATS

No names, no pack drill, but a certain young officer we know was involved in an embarrassing situation recently. During a night of passion in a small but racy sports car, our dashing young chappie slipped a disc at a most crucial moment, trapping his lady under him. It is not known for certain how long they remained in this awkward entanglement before a passing motorist summoned help. Eventually, firemen had to cut away the back of the sports car to free them. As the distraught fair maid was helped into her clothes she burst into tears. Soothing words about her man's chances of full recovery did not help. "To hell with him", she sobbed, "how do I tell my husband what happened to his car?"

DENIALS, DENIALS

There is no truth in the rumour that Major Walter Fraser MBE, dragged from mothballed retirement to fill the appointment of Chief Catering Adviser, will be donating his body to the Army Museum, on his demise, as the longest serving relic the Corps possesses. When the suggestion was put to him, the good Major was heard to say, "Stop trying to stuff me around".

COULD IT BE?

If all the infantry soldiers left the Army, would we become disgruntled?.

NORTHERN COMPANY RNZASC

OFFICER COMMANDING : MAJOR WRK WILSON, RNZASC

CSM : WO2 D.M. SHORTLAND, RNZASC

Again comes that time to put pen to paper and produce, once again, what must surely be another outstanding contribution from the "MIGHTY NORTHERN".

To those who have joined us, (after passing our rather ruthless selection course), we say welcome. You will find your new employment both varied and rewarding, if you put your mind and body into it, but we in turn require from you, your best effort at all times.

To those who have departed for greener? pastures, we thank you for your contribution, however small, to the making of Northern Company what surely must be, "THE COMPANY" of the RNZASC.

Promotions speak for themselves, therefore a simple "congratulations" will suffice.

On the subject of promotions, it is my sad(Sad??) duty to inform readers, that due to an unforgivable oversight on my part, (name withheld for security/safety reasons), I omitted to record the fact, that one time Pte (W) R.J. Hawkes is now in fact a Lcpl and has been since August 1977.

SO YOU'RE LONELY

Then let me advise you that we have a total of twenty-two eager females presently posted to us. (God help us dominant males, I now hear there is more to come - must be my charm and good looks that attracts them, like soldiers on paydays!!). Please help us out you virile, lonely males. Come North and Go-A-Courting, or whatever you call it nowdays. Let me liken our problem to the disastrous Deer population in NZ in the early 60's, unlike those days, when you could simply obtain a gun and shoot the surplus down, now with Womens Lib, Equal Rights etc, it seems that society in general would frown on our employing such tactics. The choices left to us are therefore somewhat limited. To provide some incentive, and thereby reduce our flock, we are prepared to make an outstanding offer, valid till 30 June 1978. This offer is, if you convince one of our girls to stay with you on a permanent basis, we will provide an additional female to act as an assistant, helper, pet etc. Of necessity, this offer is available to the first eleven suitors only.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

How come, all of "us Units, Company, Schools etc, are required to contribute to our newsletter, but those who are in the ideal position to make some really newsworthy contributions, fail (in general), to do so? Come on S & T Directorate, keep us poor workers informed. How about something in the April 1978 issue.

UNIT HQ TRAINING WEEKEND

Seems that our normally sane OC, in a moment of a totally uncharacteristic lapse, agreed to a deputation of our HQ girls requesting, that they be given official approval to organise, dictate the programme of and have absolute control over a training weekend. Now, on my arrival back at work after a lengthy absence, I find our males muttering darkly about "Bloody Females". On discreet enquiries I find that:

- a. We will be driven to the training location in the back of an RL, over some pretty dubious roads, which will have one Lcpl (W) R.J. Hawkes at the wheel.

NOTE: Coy HQ Officers and Soldiers (M), suggest increased insurance cover would be advantageous to your widows.

- b. The girls are intending to put up the tents and generally set up the camp, which probably means that, on own arrival on Friday night, the gentle coastal breezes will have blown them down, and guess who will be expected to erect them again.
- c. The Latrines, if they bother to site any, will in all probability, be as close as possible to the, then, collapsed tents. The object of course being to prevent rain spoiling those expensive hair-do's in a mad dash across the sand dunes.
- d. Inquiries reveal that the training programme is going to consist mainly of throwing a volley ball around and some other very military function called "empty the bottle".
- e. No doubt because "they" are organising it, "we" will be expected to cook and wash up after, etc etc etc and so on. Oh well! must humour them. Actually its not too bad, as the OC mentioned that he was intending to give us, (males), two days off as Special Sick Leave.

DRIVERS LOG BOOKS

They said that some of Picasso's paintings should have been painted way in the future. Unlike those paintings, Northern Company feels that Drivers Log Books should have been instituted back in the past. To rectify the situation and therefore perhaps induce a few other RNZASC Units, to, as usual, follow our example, we now have Log Books for every Driver posted to us.

The purpose of the books is to record pertinent information which is:

- a. Normally locked away with UPF
- b. Not recorded at all
- c. Readily available for the driver to see

Our books are made up of:

Page one	Identification details, trade, star class etc
Page two	Passenger carrying authorisations
Page three	Commendations drivers have received
Page four	Vehicle Accident Details (where Dvr at fault)
Page five	Course record
Page six	Record of one star pre-course training
Page seven	Record of two star pre-course training
Page eight	Record of three star pre-course training

We believe the requirements for Drivers Log Books does exist, others may have different views, but at least we are doing something specific to prove it one way or the other.

FORT CAUTLEY PLATOON

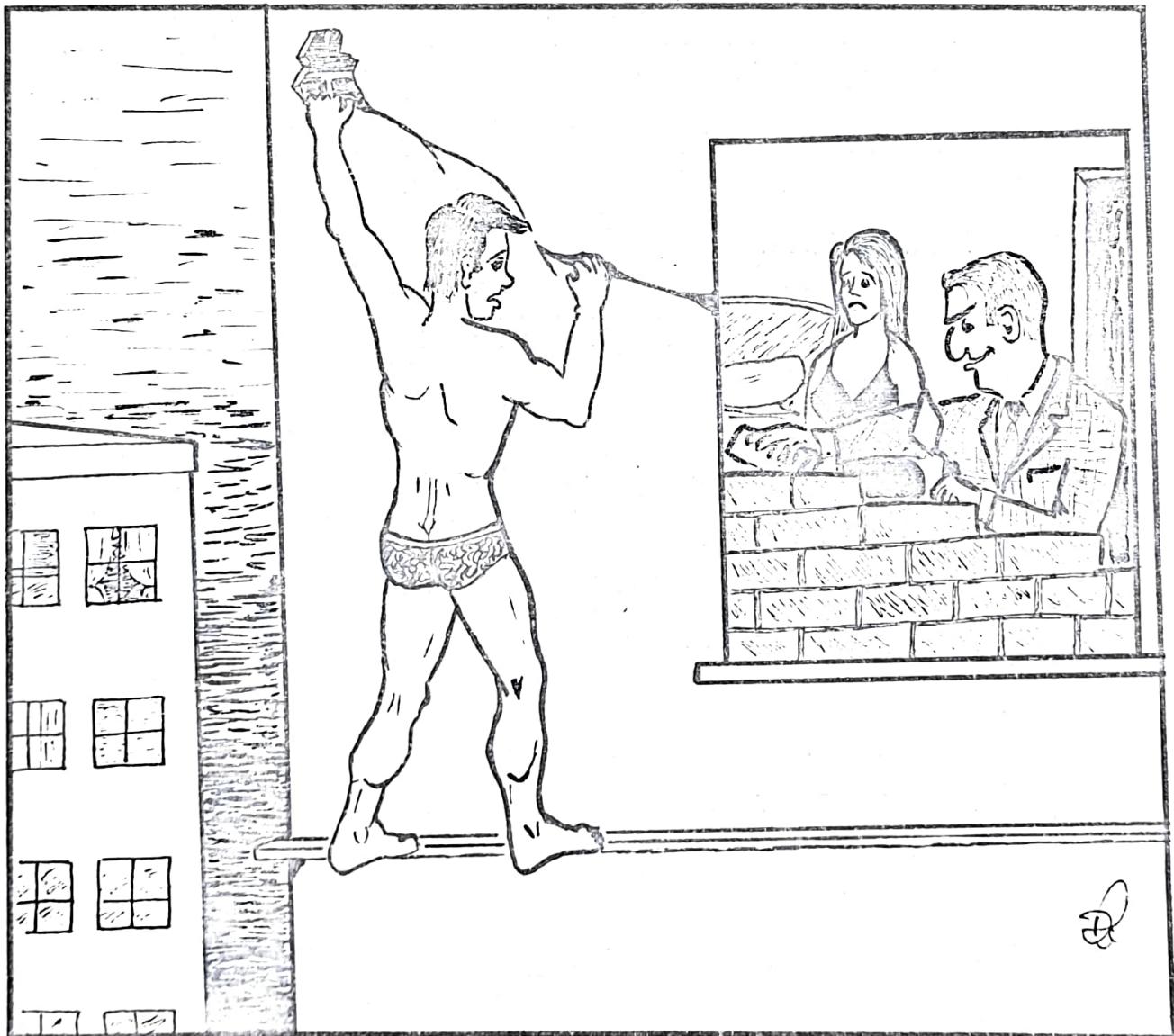
Hello! again, all you poor unfortunate persons who fail to live in Ft Cautley. Do you know that we have a \$10 million view not to mention the great weather, we have more sun in a week than Wellington has in a year. Well never mind I hear that those Wellington bound people will soon be joining us.

Transport is so busy up here, with all those desk bound Field Force persons and visiting VIP's who wish to taste the famous Auckland sun that we have to provide not just one duty driver but at times anything up to six, now that bites into your social activities. The scenery is improving also with the introduction of seven(7) drivers (W), do you know that if you turn W on its side you get a better appreciation of the problem, did I say problem? All fun aside, the drivers in Cautley Platoon both male and female carry out all their duties to a very high degree and they are a credit to the corps.

Catering, now here is a problem area. Imagine, if you can, running a catering establishment of three kitchens when you should only have two, working with four civilian chefs and two navy chefs, talk about management training! Cautley Platoon is the only camp that I know that has the Officers Mess as it's largest kitchen. I am not really sure how they manage to cope with the number of functions we seem to have per month. The worst month so far was March where we had five functions, including a dinner for the CGS and the largest formal dinner for the Sgt's Mess ever (in Cautley), both on the same night. It got so bad that we had stewards/waitresses running from one kitchen to another.

Full credit must go to the catering staff including Army, Navy and civilians for their great efforts both past and for the ones to come.

So for all you people looking for somewhere to retire in, please DON'T come to Cautley go to Wellington, I hear it's quiet down there!



PAPAKURA PLATOON
RNZASC

Platoon Commander	:	2Lt	T.J.	Byrne
Catering Section Comd	:	WO1	F.R.	Brett
Supply Depot Comd	:	WO1	R.W.	Painter
Transport Sect Comd	:	Ssgt	M.J.	Poa
Movt NCO/TIA	:	Sgt	G.D.	Peake

Alas! its time to make yet another contribution to the RNZASC Corps Newsletter.

Since the last Newsletter, Papakura Platoon has seen numerous changes to both its manning and indeed its facilities. In December 1977, the Platoon at last saw its replacement Pl Comd arrive in the chair. Since the departure of Capt Cooper to greener pastures in April 1977, the Platoon has been in the very able and capable hands of WO1 F.R. Brett who, on the arrival of the new Pl Comd re-assumed the appointment of Catering Section Comd. Other significant changes were that of WO1 R.W. Painter to the Supply Depot and Ssgt M.J. Poa to the Transport Section.

Since January 1978, there have been two major changes to our facilities. Firstly, the Transport park has been sealed and the drivers room is being upgraded and secondly the Supply Depot's butchery is being refurbished. Both changes are going to be of enormous benefit to the Platoon and the Camp as a whole.

As with all static units, the period after Christmas has been somewhat hectic. Instead of the normal Annual Camp there has been a series of some six camps, all requiring the support of Papakura Platoon.

The Transport Section has been non-stop providing buses and the freighter to support these camps and the Catering Section has its usual commitments of cooks and stewards. The Supply Depot in the meantime was tasked to provide all the foodstuffs and ration pack requirements.

Present commitments which the Platoon has, include Transport Support for Ex "Flying Chariot" and the provision of rations for Field Hospitals in Tonga.

As always, the Platoon is soon about to lose a number of people. WO2 Graeme Stewart is taking his release on 17 April, 1978 and is embarking on a new life at Hikurangi in the far North. We wish him and his family every success in their new venture. Posings affect two other SNCO's as well. Ssgt Mike Poa is posted to ASC School in May and is replaced by WO2 Shortland and Sgt George Peake is posted 1 RNZIR in Singapore as Movements NCO. Sgt Peake's replacement is Cpl W.H. Cooper.

Finally, we would like to wish all other RNZASC units all the best for 1978 and hope you have a suitability merry Corps Day function.

CATERING COLLATION

It is probably fair to say that the RNZASC dominated the Salon Culinaire 1978 held at the Winter Show buildings in Wellington in May. Under the guidance, tutorship and management of WO1 R.R. Hands, WO2 K.M.F. Anderson and Sgt F.E. Fairey, all of RNZASC Schools, the Army chefs won three events and came second in three events.

For those truckies who may be mystified by the significance of this remarkable achievement, a few words of explanation. The Salon Culinaire is a competition of cooking skills between civilian technical institutions, the Army, Navy and Air Force catering schools. A win in an event means that you are the best chef in the country, services and civilians included, at creating that particular range of dishes. It's the same as an RNZASC truckie winning an Atlantic National Trucking Competition event.

Individual RNZASC winners at Salon Culinaire 78 were:

- a. Waldorf Trophy: Winners; NZ Army Team comprising Lcpl Hammer, Lcpl Spark, and Dvr Russell.
- b. Best Individual Chef
 - (1) Winner: Lcpl Spark.
 - (2) Second: Dvr Russell.
- c. A Grade Open Event for Centrepieces
 - (1) Winner: Cpl Aspinall.
- d. A Grade Meat Dish
 - (1) Second: Cpl Leighton.
- e. Maggi Cup (Inter-Services Competition)
 - (1) Second: NZ Army team comprising Cpl Paul and Cpl Baker.

DST extends his congratulations to all RNZASC chefs who so successfully took part in Salon Culinaire.

HOW TO PLAY CRICKET

You have two sides one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out.

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.

Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs, that's the end of the game.

Howzat!

ROD'S FAIRY TALE OF A LONG LOOK

By Major R.J. McGill

Once upon a time there was a youngish bald headed wizard who sent away a handsome, if rotund, prince in the guise of a soldier to a far distant land.

After being bewitched, bemused and befuddled by the ugly blisters (Field Force) the prince was transported almost immediately, if not sooner, on a magic carpet to a far distant land called Pomland where all at once the most horrible things started to happen. On the way to the Inn where the handsome, if rotund, prince and his entourage were to spend the night, the transporting carriage was involved in a nasty accident which resulted in a young lady Pomlander becoming a good Pomlander and a young man almost becoming a good Pomlander.

After this bad start the handsome prince climbed on another magic carpet and was whisked away to another land called Sourkrauts, where he was met by another Pomlander guide and taken many miles to the north to a magic castle.

The rotund (but ever so handsome) prince saw this castle for the first time at night, and thought he was dreaming. But the Pomlander guide pinched his rotundness and assured him that it was real.

The castle housed a lot of very young Pomlanders who disguised themselves as soldiers. They tried to convince the handsome prince that they were a thing called a Transport Regiment, but the prince was not taken in. He knew that things as big as that did not exist, even in his homeland.

After a short while living in the castle, the prince met the king, his court officials and the pretty princesses, who made him very happy living there.

The king's men were preparing to help another kingdom called Paddyland to keep the peace between the Mickies and the Protties, and he asked the prince if he would help train his men. The prince, although knowing nothing about this type of job, said that he would. Thereafter, for his stay at the castle, he helped train the king's soldiers.

Of course everyone knows that when kings are not preparing for warlike jobs they place a lot of emphasis on sport, especially in a regiment. So the prince, trying to turn into a slim handsome prince, played sport almost every day. Games like squash, four a side soccer, badminton and three mile regimental runs, which even the king went on. Also, because the homeland of the prince played rugby, the prince was considered to be an expert and was asked to play and help coach the team.

As can be imagined, with all this exercise, the rotund prince should soon have become a sylph like prince. However, he was hindered by a local substance of many calories called Amstel which was freely offered round in the castle. This very pleasant substance unfortunately kept the handsome prince rotund.

The prince was able to go to another land for four days to see where a general called Bones Apart got his beans from a Pomland general called Wellington. It was very interesting to see all this and to at last understand what the prince's teachers were talking about back home.

Because the prince thought that the Pomlanders were doing well and operating differently from his own land the prince asked the king to send him to Pomland for a look at the training places. The king arranged a journey for the prince and he saw such wonderous sights as:

The driving school - 340 civilian instructors using an old airfield - fully self contained. Like a sausage machine, raw material one end, drivers the other. 600 vehicles for training.

The home of the RCT both training and Depot Regiment at Aldershot.

The RCT Museum (which hasn't yet got a set of our badges).

Man made cross country driving course - not as good as Waiouru training area.

TAVR Regt RCT fully manned (approx 1300 people).

Military port - saw Marchwood at Southampton.

20 Sqn RCT - the SQN with the Ministry of Defence to serve amongst others - Brigadiers get buses, priority cars only to Lt Generals and above (65 of these) makes you think, doesn't it? (OC only deals with about 45 people doesn't he).

As well as these wonderous sights there were also interesting sights for the prince to see like a place called Soho which seemed to the prince to consist of very few people who spoke Pom language except for the girls who only said 20 quid. The prince did not know an answer to this so was left alone.

The prince found Pomland very lonely so was glad to get back to the castle and the wonderous brown Amstel. He found that the king had arranged trips all round Saukraut to allow him to see and talk about things that did not happen or that were not available in his homeland.

At about this time the prince arranged with two others of his own people that he found in Saukraut to go to a joust in another country where his people were playing rugby at a place called Paris - needless to say he took with him six Pomlanders - 9 crates of that marvellous fluid (Amstel) and one case of barter material (Scotch). To ensure that a balance was reached between the sport and learning these weary and knowledgeable travellers

stayed at an Inn in Paris called Rosie Militaire which roughly translated meant the French Staff College - because the Inn was full the travellers availed themselves of the only remaining room and put down camp beds and sleeping bags on the floor of the toilet block. This took care of the intellectual side of the journey as many interesting conversations were held with visitors. The game was first class and the weekend another story.

After visiting movement regiments, railway squadrons, tank transporter squadrons and taking part in field exercises it was time for the prince to return home.

The prince said goodbye to the people in the regiment and those resident in the castle and came back, alas not the sylph like figure that had been promised but the same rotund prince. (Obviously not kissed by the right frog). His exploits in Hamburg, Bremen and other cities require telling not in this piece but when over a pint in company.

The prince talked with the young looking bald headed wizard and made these comments:

The Pomlanders because they are a bigger force have the same type of problems but bigger ones.

The Saukrauts are very efficient.

The Pomlander soldiers are very young and train well.

The NCOs were very good in most cases.

They have vehicles off the road for no tail light bulbs (similar isn't it?)

They still have old vehicles (like us).

They have more discipline problems in my opinion.

They work extremely hard.

They are extremely hospitable people.

Having made these comments the prince also stated that in view of our problems and some shortfalls we are as good in every way as soldiers, and he would take our people anywhere, where they would find they would measure up.

After a story like that, there can only be one conclusion. And the handsome, if still rotund, prince lived happily ever after.

Just because nobody disagrees with you, it doesn't mean you are brilliant..... You could be the boss!!