



# THE BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2018

**Newsletter of the Wellington  
Returned & Services Association Inc  
Established 1916**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Winter is now behind us and with daylight hours increasing we can look forward to Xmas in two months' time. A great deal has happened since our last newsletter, particularly recognising the service of two of our members.

In January, the long serving President of the Karori RSA Bruce Johnston was awarded his Gold Star during a very successful KRSA Presidents Wall unveiling function. The National RSA President B.J. Clark presented Bruce with his Gold Star in front of dignitaries, family, friends and fellow RSA members.

It was a great celebration and testament to Bruce's selfless contribution to the Karori RSA. For more than 20 years now, he has been the "life and soul" of the club. The President's Wall unveiling was done as a result of research and work of the Bulletin Editor, and Karori RSA member, Carey Clements.

In addition to finding photographs of all 25 Presidents, Carey was able to find descendants of 19 deceased Presidents. Relations from 17 came from throughout New Zealand to attend, including Malcolm Hanna, the 87 year-old son of the first elected President James Hanna. Besides Bruce, the two other living ex-Presidents of the KRSA, Trevor Frederick and Murray Sherlock also attended the unique event.

Following the June Districts Presidents Forum (chaired by B.J. Clark), I was advised that the long serving Wellington RSA Life Member and two time President David Moloney OBE, had also been awarded the RSA Gold Star. On the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, B.J. Clark returned to the Karori clubrooms to attend David with his well-deserved and somewhat overdue recognition.

The photos in this newsletter of both men receiving their Gold Stars is a small token of our appreciation of how much they have done for the RSA at local and national level.

Below I would like to summarise David's service to the community as well as the RSA:

- After leaving the Army in 1983, David embarked upon a highly successful second career, this time in commerce. Beyond that, he was involved in and committed to, a wide range of industry, commercial and community organisations.
- He served as Trade NZ Chairman; as President of the Manufacturer's Federation; as Deputy Chairman of the NZ Qualifications Authority; as Chairman of the NZ College of Management; and as a Board member of Weltec, and the former Industry NZ Organisation; He also served as Chairman of the Marsden Day Care Centre for Dementia Sufferers and the Western Suburbs Rugby Club. David is also a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce; and until 2016 was Chairman of the National Army Museum. In addition he has also been a board member to a number of sporting bodies.
- One of the main tasks as President of the WRSA was to bring management of its financial position back under control. He also commissioned the publication of the book, 'All Formed Up', which detailed the 90 year history of the WRSA to 2006.
- His hands on commercial & community activities within & beyond direct RSA interests equipped him very well to partner former National President, the late Don McIver, in the study of future governance of the RSA movement. Now known as the 'M & M Report', it was first considered by the National Council in 2005. Over the next few years, most of its recommendations were implemented. Meanwhile, as an elected member of the National Executive, then as a National Vice President, David developed a number of strategic planning papers seeking to determine the best way ahead.

- When changes were accepted by the National Council in 2014, David was appointed as a member of the inaugural RNZRSA Board. All in all, the value of David's contribution to the RSA movement at local and at national level as well as to the community in general, has been incalculable.

This year's Poppy Day collection was a great success with \$81,885.85 being collected. After expenses, the final total was \$77,917.54. This was an improvement on last year's total of \$74,730.00. A big thanks to Zenetta for many hours of work required to put together the roster, dealing with the NZDF, banks, businesses, rest homes for ensuring all the money raised was accounted for.

Since the last Bulletin we acknowledge the passing of a number of our members and their names are listed in the next column of this newsletter, including the recent passing of Karori RSA Life Member, Marie Stephens and the longest serving member of the Karori RSA, Thomas Blennerhassett, who first joined the club in 1946, following WWII service with the RNZ Navy.

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Your committee has decided to build a website for both the Wellington and Karori RSA's. This website will help us raise our profile and lead to increased membership. Having a website will enable us to communicate better with all of you. We will post regular content, such as information around our monthly luncheons, contact details of our executive and office staff, membership application forms, office hours, AGM and executive minutes, and ANZAC Day activities. We expect to launch our website before Christmas.

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In the last Bulletin I wrote about the Clifton Terrace Model School in Thorndon, which is constructing a new war memorial (Obelisk) with the assistance of a \$5000 donation from the WRSA. The new column will include 120 individual bronze artworks created by pupils and teachers to represent the 118 old boys and two teachers who died during WWI. On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, the Governor General will unveil the new Obelisk. The WRSA will be represented at the occasion.

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Many of you will have read earlier this year in the media about the loss and possible thefts of medals and memorabilia from several RSA's. Following direction from the national office, we have conducted a full audit of our medal holdings. Because we cannot display our medal sets in a secure manner, your executive has decided to try and locate living relatives of our medal set collections, with a view to return them. Details are on the back page of this Bulletin.

John Mills has kindly agreed to undertake this important work and will be searching both the National Archive database and the NZDF archives at Trentham Camp, in the bid to track down living relatives.

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11am on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November will mark exactly 100 years to the hour, day and month since the cessation of WWI. We expect many ceremonies to mark this occasion. Keep your eyes and ears open for news. The excellent Sir Peter Jackson Great War Exhibition at the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park will close at the end of the year, so I strongly recommend that you visit it before it is too late.

Finally our annual Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday 27 November at the CQ Hotel (213-223 Cuba St). I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

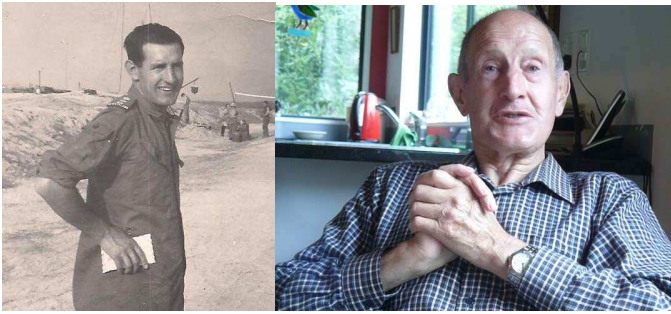
Theo Kuper

## LAST POST

Since the last Bulletin was published, the following Wellington and Karori RSA members have passed on.

- John Gerald O'Brien, Service Member, died 13 December 2017, aged 93
- Robert James Hogg, Returned Member, died 20 December 2017, aged 93
- Wilfred Francis Conroy, Service Member, died 1 February 2018, aged 83
- Imelda Agnes Reeve, Returned Widow, died 21 February 2018, aged 95
- Ian 'Reverend' McCallum, Associate Member, died 1 March 2018, aged 87
- Norman Colin McLeod, Returned Member, died 6 April 2018, aged 96
- Hector Gordon Hopkins, Returned Member, died 23 April 2018, aged 101
- Harry Lavington, Returned Member, died 1 May 2018, aged 91
- Henry 'Harry' Curran Holden, Returned Member, died 11 May 2018, aged 96
- Norma Ellen Mary Michael, Service Member, died 3 June 2018, aged 90
- Kathleen Dawson, Returned Member, died 14 June 2018, aged 95
- John 'Jack' Anthony Calvin, Returned Member, died 17 July 2018, aged 101
- Thomas 'Tom' Frederick Simmons, Returned Member, died 8 August 2018, aged 94
- Alison Mary Fraser, Returned Widow, died 14 August 2018
- Thomas 'Tim' William Blennerhassett, Returned Member, died aged 94
- Marie Joy Stephens, Life Member, died 19 September 2018, aged 89
- Derrick Davies-Payne, Service Member, died 15 October 2018, aged 90

## LOOKING BACK



Although he shares the same name as a well-known former English actor, John Mills 24 years in the Army is less well known, except to his contemporaries. Bulletin Editor Carey Clements spoke to this quietly spoken retired Lieutenant Colonel about his time in Malaya, as an Army pilot, his service in Vietnam and his ongoing work for the Wellington RSA around welfare.

**Q:** Do you think you were identified from a young age as an Officer or did you just put your hand up to indicate that the job was for you?

**A:** I think it comes down to others identifying that. It was not at the forefront of my mind at college. I was not a school prefect, however I was picked for a ROSB and it went from there.

**Q:** Was that straight out of school?

**A:** No I was at college and passed the ROSB in August 1956. I failed my UE in a grand fashion so did not go to Duntroon, but I then spent one year at Whakatane High School and then passed my UE. I then went to Portsea in 1958 for a year and graduated as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. I was posted to 2 NZ Regt Depot in Papakura. In July 1959 2 NZ Regt was formed in Waiouru and I was lucky enough to have a first class experienced Sergeant, who had been ex Scots Guards. After Battalion level training we sailed from Wellington to Malaya on the *Captain Cook* which was the last troop ship to leave New Zealand. We arrived in Penang and by went by troop train to Taiping where we relieved 1NZ Regt, who returned to New Zealand on the *Captain Cook*.

**Q:** For those that do not know, what was New Zealand's involvement in Malaya all about?

**A:** We were part of 28<sup>th</sup> British Commonwealth Brigade, which was part of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve. It was a mixture of British, Australian and New Zealand troops all based in Perak State in North Malaya. The emergency began in 1948 when communist insurgents attempted to take over the country. It started to wind down in 1959 with the only remaining pockets of insurgents being located in North Malaya. We spent most of our two year tour in Malaya carrying out platoon level patrol operations in deep jungle aimed at

keeping the remaining terrorists from linking with the aborigines in the jungle and with Chinese and Malay villages in the rural areas.

**Q:** Did any locals come on your patrols as interpreters?

**A:** Yes. We had JCLO's (Junior Chinese Liaison Officers), who also spoke Chinese and Malay. They were with us to interrogate any terrorists we came across. Many of the aborigines spoke basic Malay and they would converse with them. Many of our troops picked up Malay. The pronunciation and grammar and even some of the vocabulary is similar to Maori.

**Q:** How was a typical deployment conducted?

**A:** As a Platoon of between 25 and 30 soldiers, we entered our designated area by boat, helicopter, or fixed wing aircraft (which operated into the Police Field Force Forts, which had airstrips). We took in seven to ten days' worth of rations and after establishing a fixed platoon base set about our given mission, which could be patrolling, ambushing or winning the hearts and minds of the aborigines. We would clear a Drop Zone where we would accept resupply air drops every seven to ten days.

Physically conditions were challenging. In the dry season it was hot and dry. Progress in the jungle was slow and noisy due to dry leaves. In the wet season it was awful. You were wet all the time from a combination of sweat and rain. We didn't wear any underwear as it trapped moisture against your skin and this caused diseases to happen. As we were in higher altitudes it got cool at night, causing us to wear flannel shirts, dry trousers and boots. In the morning we put our smelly wet clothes back on. When it came to sleeping, we slept in hammocks made from resupply parachutes.

**Q:** Did your radios work well in the jungle?

**A:** Yes, but it depended on the skill of your operator. We used A510 HF sets. Aerial layout was critical. We got comms for about an hour after sunrise and an hour before sunset using morse code. We were on the Battalion net and transmitted to base about 100 miles in distance.

**Q:** How did you find navigation in the jungle?

**A:** We made use of streams and ridges. Some of the maps were excellent with full contour lines while others were rather elementary, made in a hurry from aerial photographs.

**Q:** How many trips back and forth into the jungle would you have made in your two year tour?

**A:** I would have spent over 18 months in the jungle. Because of our strategic reserve role, we spent some time doing major war training and when we did that the Battalion was withdrawn from operations.



**Q:** What happened after your two years in Malaya finished?

**A:** I returned to New Zealand by air in December 1961 and was initially posted to a Battalion depot in Burnham before joining the National Service Training Unit in Waikouaiti. While I was there I was selected to do an Army Pilot's course in Wigram. This came as a surprise, as up until then, only Artillery Officers did pilot training. I was the first Infantry Officer to become a pilot and trained on Harvard and Auster aircraft in 1963. In December 1963 my wife Jenny and I were married and we started married life in Waikouaiti.

**Q:** What happened then?

**A:** The next posting came in 1966 when I went to a joint service unit, No 3 Battlefield Support Squadron, which was situated at the RNZAF Base in Hobsonville. For the next two and a half years I flew Austers in support of Army units throughout the country. It left me with a great feeling of admiration for the professionalism of our RNZAF colleagues.

**Q:** I would like to now hear of your experiences in Vietnam.

**A:** It came about in February 1969 when I was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force (1ATF) in Vietnam, initially as an Operations Watch Keeper and then as a GSO3 (Operations) for the Task Force. I spent the first three months deployed with the Tactical HQ, operating out of APC's in Fire Support Bases. It was busy, dirty, and very tiring. Two of us ran the Operations APC on an 8 hours on and 8 hours off basis. After the first three months we moved back to the main 1ATF base at Nui Dat, where I spent the next three months as one of three Operating Officers in the main 1 ATF Operations HQ before being appointed as GSO3. This was a great job, but still very busy and tiring. As well as running the Ops Centre, I did a lot of liaison work with neighbouring US Army and Marine Units plus South Vietnamese and Thai Army Units. This work saw me going all over our home province of Phuoc Tuy plus neighbouring provinces. We were normally transported around in Australian Army helicopters and, after six months of tiring but interesting work in this role, my year long tour finished.

**Q:** After Vietnam you became the OC of the Regular Force Cadet School in Waikouaiti. Four years later you went off to Canberra as Assistant Defence Liaison Officer. What was your next posting after that?

**A:** I was posted to Support Branch in Defence HQ, Wellington, where I spent the next five years doing a variety of roles as a Lieutenant Colonel. We purchased a home in Karori on arrival in Wellington. I resigned from the Army in 1982 after a career spanning 24 years.

**Q:** After coming back from Malaya in 1961, you joined the RSA, but did not get fully involved until your time in the Army had finished. I would now like to get your thoughts on the RSA these days.

**A:** We are perhaps more relevant now than in past years. We are the only credible organisation that can lobby Government for assistance to veterans. The old emphasis on RSA clubs has gone and we are now primarily a lobby and veterans welfare organisation.

**Q:** Why do you think so many ex-service people don't join the RSA?

**A:** Good question. Initially I guess people feel bullet proof. With the growing incidence of mental trauma and PTSD in veterans, the RSA's role of lobbying Government is increasing.

**Q:** Can you tell me a little about Agent Orange?

**A:** Agent Orange and its active ingredient Dioxin, was sprayed over vast tracts of South Vietnam as a defoliant. Dioxin is a strong and long lived poison which remains in the soil for years. We couldn't avoid breathing in dust in the dry season and many of us have a legacy of various cancers attributable to exposure. Tragically the problems can be inter-generational. I was diagnosed with Lymphoma Cancer in 2015 and underwent chemo treatment. To date it has remained in remission. My brother in law who served in 161 Battery in Vietnam, died from cancer contracted in Vietnam.

**Q:** Finally how would you like your contribution to the New Zealand Army to be remembered?

**A:** Doing the best to look after people you are responsible for. As a Platoon Commander you are totally responsible for your Platoon. I was lucky enough to be in an RF infantry battalion right from the start of my career and you never forget it. I think I was happier as a Regimental Officer than as a Staff Officer. I enjoyed my tour in Malaya, flying, time in Canberra and tour of Vietnam. This is what you trained for and then putting it into practice. It is real.



These days John is an active board member on the Wellington RSA Executive.

From far left (in clockwise order): Chris Nevil (in the red jersey), Michael Millar (Vice President), Theo Kuper (President), Clint Libby (Secretary), Cam McIver, Bruce Johnston, Philip Bolton (Treasurer), Marie Byrne, John Mills.

Absent: Matt Beattie (Deputy President), Robbie Robieson

## GOLD STAR PRESENTATIONS

Bruce Johnston, QSM: 21 January 2018



## DAVID MOLONEY, OBE

23 July 2018



**KARORI RSA PRESIDENT'S WALL UNVEILLING AND SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS who WERE PRESENT. ALL RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE THAT DETAILED THEIR RELATIVE'S, YEAR(S) OF SERVICE AS WELL AS A COPY OF "ALL FORMED UP"**



**David and his fellow Vietnam Veterans including Wellington RSA Patron, AVM (Retired) Robin Klitscher (second left) and Brig (Retired) Ian Duthie (far right)**





## LOOKING BACK



GUNNER meets gunner and they talk. Sgt G. Nevill has been on 25-pounders for almost two years in Korea and finds plenty of interest in the Centurion's 20-pounder. The tank commander of the Kiwi crew (far right) is looking on.



In contrast to the 24 years of service from John Mills, Wellington RSA committee member Chris Nevill had a short Army career consisting of just over two years in the Korean War. During that period he took part in perhaps the fiercest of the battles, during the two-day long Kapyong engagement. Bulletin Editor Carey Clements asked for memories around that defining point in the history of the Korean War

**Q:** How did your call up to Korea begin? Did you know something was stirring over there and quickly volunteer for service?

**A:** I was working on a station and one day announced to my mates that I was going to Korea. Another shepherd told me it was a bloody good idea and the horse breaker also came over.

**Q:** Presumably, before you left you had to undertake a Basic and Corps Training?

**A:** Yes, I went down to Linton in August and, from there, they carted us up to Waiouru, where we learnt about guns, polishing our boots and saying "yes sir, no sir". We also learned to salute and all that sort of nonsense before we then went up to Waiouru.

**Q:** What sort of guns did you train on?

**A:** 25 pounders. They were a wonderful gun but of course time has moved on since then as far as guns are concerned. They were very much more accurate than others. They were also reliable and very simple to use as well as being fairly easy to clean.

**Q:** How long did you train for before you left for Korea?

**A:** Ten weeks. We started in September and left in November. It was a pressure cooker situation as it was not long at all. Some were amazed how short a time it took us to learn and fire the guns off successfully. We did not always follow the instruction manual as we sometimes took shortcuts to speed things up a bit.

**Q:** You were a Sergeant in Korea. When were you first promoted?

**A:** I got my three stripes pretty quickly. I think my first stripe as a LBdr was almost done straight after Basic. Our gun sergeant became a BSM and our bombardier came on to take over his role. This then meant I then stepped in to become bombardier and with it came the second stripe.

**Q:** How far away from the troops were you when it came to firing live?

**A:** Sometimes we were quite close. Maybe about half a mile. But then when we had a situation, like when the division took off and our gun had been placed on one side of a road, after things did not go according to plan. I was even closer, by that I mean even in front of the infantry. We then saw the Chinese coming down towards us and so had no option but to start firing like hell.

**Q:** What sort of numbers were you expecting from the Chinese? Were they in their thousands?

**A:** Our Regiment (16 Fd Regt) numbered around 700 if you include the officers and the staff in regimental headquarters. There were thousands of Chinese advancing towards us. We buggered off initially before we opened fire on them and then we fired two to 300 rounds before getting called back to join up with the rest of the outfit.

**Q:** Are you talking about the Battle of Kapyong?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** How long did the battle last?

**A:** About three days. We must have slaughtered thousands in that period. Our guns were just firing and firing and firing before the Chinese eventually gave up. There must have been around three to 4000 coming towards us. Someone came and told me to lay off because our gun was starting to glow red hot. At the time we were firing, the Canadians were being overrun by the Chinese. They had to take refuge into their foxholes to enable us to fire into their position. It was a real slaughter.

**Q:** How did you cope with that battle? It must have been exhausting and yet I suspect exhilarating at the same time with your adrenaline pumping?

**A:** I think I went 50 odd hours during the battle before I could get any rest. As I was in charge of my gun, I had no option, but to keep going.

**Q:** How did you manage to stay awake during that time?

**A:** We were busy and working. It was non-stop. We were firing and had to keep the gun going. We had a job to do and that's exactly what we did. That's all it was. We fired off so many rounds over this time. Once the Chinese were held up, we began to drive them back, resulting in the end of their advance and that was the end of the Battle of Kapyong. They never made an attempt to go forward ever again. Soldiers don't hate their enemies, but they try to kill each other because, while they try to do that, they understand that their opponents are trying to do the same. It is what it is. You are doing a job and hopefully doing something you believe in.

**Q:** Prior to the battle did you receive any intelligence that the battle was going to happen, or did it just happen?

**A:** We were supporting the Argyles. They were going home and so we had a leaving party for them. Before the party began a bullock strayed into the area and got caught by crossfire. I had my shearer's knife on me and used it to butcher the bullock.

The Maori boys made a hangi and this all went towards the celebration party for the Argyles

Just before we got to sleep, we heard a cry of 'get up, get up and get out'. We had to get our gun across a narrow log bridge, but there was no hint that a battle was about to start.

Q: How did you transport your guns? Was this through Quads?

A: A lot of transport was done through the last war stuff. The Korean War had a wonderful quartermasters store because they got rid of all the used by date stuff and gave it to us. We did not get any rations, we had to steal them! We rarely got new rations, so we had to steal from the Yanks instead.

Q: The Korean War was the first to use helicopters as a means of evacuation transport. Do you recall seeing them used also to drop off supplies such as food?

A: I cannot remember seeing one. The Americans had huge casualties and did not seem to care how many they had. Their trucks were just loaded with bodies. If it happened to us, hell would fire up.

Q: How did you find serving in Korea when it came to the climate, given that the country is known for its extreme temperatures?

A: We had a huge minus degree of frost one night. If you put your mug of tea down when talking to someone, by the time you got back to picking it up, it was usually frozen. So for a bit of fun we used to distract someone from their mugs of tea. Surprisingly we were healthy as it was dry cold and meant we could get on with things. Obviously you could not touch metal without gloves on, but we got by learning to make heaters out of old ammo boxes.

Q: Can you recall if there were any VIP's that may have come over?

A: Field Marshall Slim came over one time as the Chief of the British Army, while our own Minister of Defence also paid us a visit. We had a group of officers come into our dugout and watch us fire off a round before one said to the others, that it was time to leave for dinner. I then promptly told one of them what I thought of them, only to discover that I happened to be talking to the Chief of the British Army.

Q: Aside from speaking bluntly to officers, I want to return to Kapyong and ask you how you found sleeping after being on the go for more than 48 hours.

A: I just lay down under a truck and died for six or seven hours. It was a very deep sleep and while I was asleep the boys were very kind in ensuring I was not disturbed.

Q: How long after Kapyong did you remain in Korea?

A: I stayed on until November 1952, so I was in Korea for just under two years. There was a bit of firing after I left, but by that stage it was pretty much over.

Q: Did Korea change you as a person?

A: I think I grew up while I was over there. However it took me a long time after coming home to get readjusted to certain noises, which caused me to hit the deck.

I can remember an old refrigerator outside my bedroom and one day the belt came off and made a hell of a noise. Everyone laughed when they saw me on the floor.

Q: Was this caused by Post Traumatic Stress?

A: Maybe, but I just got on with it.

Q: Did it take a long time for you to get over this condition?

A: Not really. I had the odd moment, but just learnt to get on with things and eventually it went away. The boss where I worked, along with a couple of his other workers had been in the air force. They would bring out a whiskey and the subject would turn to battles, probably through reactions of what they had experienced as well.

Q: From a veteran's point of view, how do you think the Korean War should be commemorated?

A: Well I think it was pretty much armed forces versus armed forces which I don't think has happened since.

Q: Going back to Kapyong, can you recall if there were hundreds of flares that went up during the night stages of the battle?

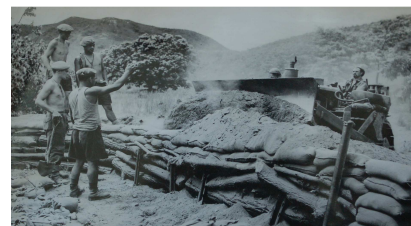
A: There were thousands of tracer rounds going off. I am not sure how many exactly, but it could have been something like 10 to 15,000 from the 24 guns in the Regiment. It caused me to become deaf as a post. I have tried hearing aids since then, but they just do not seem to work for me, which brings to think that I am truly thick between the ears! It is difficult to hear in crowded rooms, but not too bad if it's one on one like we are doing now.

Q: How do you view military conflicts today?

A: They are so sad because there are so many ordinary people who are caught up inside them. There is no excuse for the conflict and today I just find it unbelievable to see what some people can do to others. Strange things happen in war, and in places like Afghanistan, you do not know who your troops are as they could be civilians in disguise.

Q: It would seem the whole rules of war have changed.

A: Most definitely. Bombs are dropped, thousands of innocent civilians are killed, but life for others carries on. You hope messages of not wanting things to happen again have been relayed, and yet it still happens time after time. War is very different now.



Images of Kiwi soldiers at work during the Korea War from Chris Nevil's personal photo album, including a gun doing live firing at night. After collecting a camera from a win in Poker, Chris shot many images during his time in Korea in 1951-52.



## PHOTO TIME TUNNEL:



Mr Don Peat, president of the Wellington RSA, presents life membership badges to Mrs Doris Smith (left) and Mrs Ngaire Davy, in recognition of their long and outstanding service to the Karori branch of the RSA.



AN OUTSTANDING member of East Harbour Branch of Wellington RSA, Mr. H. J. C. Wilkins, was recently honoured with the award of the M Badge and Certificate of Merit. The above photograph, taken when the Dominion Vice-President, Mr. J. C. White, made the presentation, shows left to right: Messrs G. Anderson, White, C. L. Bishop (Mayor of Eastbourne), Wilkins, A. A. Gerrie, O. G. Smith and H. Austin.

**Christmas Lunch will be held at CQ Hotel,  
213 – 223 Cuba Street, Tuesday 27 November**  
If interested in attending please contact  
Zenetta 385 1191 - [zenetta@wrsa.org.nz](mailto:zenetta@wrsa.org.nz) and  
if you need detailed directions

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**WELLINGTON RSA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
DURING THE XMAS/NEW YEAR BREAK BETWEEN  
24 DECEMBER 2018 & 13 JANUARY 2019**

## RSA CONTACT NUMBERS

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## WAR MEDALS HELD BY THE WELLINGTON RSA

**War Medals for Return to Descendants/Families**  
The Wellington Returned & Services Association (Inc) holds a number of named service medals, mainly for service in World War One. These medals were given to the Association by servicemen and/or families for safe keeping and display.

As the WRSA no longer has a clubroom and the medals cannot be displayed to advantage, WRSA would like to return the medals to descendants/families of the original recipients to enable the family link to be preserved.

The following is a list of the medals held:

### British War Medal and Victory Medal:

30159	Pte J. Ayre	NZEF
53144	Pte J. Chambers	NZEF
55310	Pte W.G. Henley	NZEF
40004	Sgt G.F. Holloway	NZEF
71227	Pte R.F. Jackson	NZEF
24/2237	Rfn T. Lane	NZEF
86350	Pte J. Paul	RAMC
4/230	Lieut C.H. Salt	NZEF
59467	Pte W.J. Shotter	NZEF
47648	Pte R. Sutherland	NZEF
55268	Rfn F.V. Westbrook	NZEF

### 1914 – 15 Star and Victory Medal:

17231	Gnr W.T. Ayre	NZEF
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### British War Medal:

19165	Pte H. Sutherland	NZEF
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### 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal:

32041	Gnr E. Coulby	RA and RFA
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### British War Medal and Mercantile Marine War Medal: H. Ross

**Victory Medal:** M.T.E. J Knox MFA

### British War Medal, Victory Medal (WW1) and British Defence Medal (WW2):

51597	Pte G.S. Wilkins	Worcestershire Regt
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### British War Medal, Victory Medal (WW1) and British War Medal (WW2) plus NZ Service Medal (WW2):

39800	Pte N. Griffiths	NZEF
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(President Wellington RSA 1960 – 62)

### 1914 – 15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal (WW1) plus British Defence Medal and British War Medal (WW2):

T4 – 067620	Dvr A. Kennedy	ASC
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Descendants or family of the above listed servicemen who wish to claim the medals should contact the Wellington Returned and Services Association (Inc):  
Tel: 04 385 1191 or via email: [zenetta@wrsa.org.nz](mailto:zenetta@wrsa.org.nz)