

THE FREE GLANCE

August 1976

The Secretary,
1 NZ SAS Sqn Reunion Committee,
17 Heatley Avenue,
PALMERSTON NORTH

Hello everyone,

Now that the dust has settled and we have avoided going with cap in hand to our bank manager, we can come back to you again with another copy of the Free Glance.

The main purpose of this issue is to record, for the future the activities of the 21st Birthday reunion at Palmerston North on the 5-7 June 76, and to let those who were unable to attend know what we got up to. Also there is an article by Gerry Grieve and other general information including a nominal roll and addresses of members and main points of the meeting held on Sunday 6 June.

Reunion Attendance

A total of 122 attend the reunion made up of 68 males and 54 females. This figure does not include official guests.

Accommodation

Most people opted for Motel accommodation but some stayed privately with friends.

Publicity

Publicity prior to the reunion was done through the Free Glance, R.S.A. Review, Auckland Star, Wellington's Dominion, Palmerston North Evening Standard, Town and Around - the local P.R.O. monthly publication, which everyone received a copy of and Earl Yandall and I did a short radio programme on Friday afternoon.

The biggest coverage was given by the Auckland Star who kindly gave a full page coverage of an article written by Col Rennie, on 29th May. As this was the first main article, the Dominion and Evening Standard scaled theirs down accordingly. The R.S.A. Review advertised our reunion date and location in three consecutive issues, commencing in March 76. From this we received one known registration. Our main source of names came from members who answered our call through the Free Glance. That excellent article in the Town and Around was written by Jim McCulloch.

Photos

Anyone still requiring the group photo or photos taken

/ on Saturday

on Saturday evening or Sunday morning should write direct to:

Peter Cain Studio
Cuba Street
Palmerston North

Donations

Many thanks to those members who so kindly donated their surplus full bottles to us prior to their departure, and also to those who forwarded cash donations since the reunion. The full bottles are still full but we will consume them in due course and the money has been banked.

Plaques

The plaques have been ordered and when received here in bulk will be forwarded individually to the purchasers.

Letters

To all of you who have taken the time to write letters of appreciation to us since the reunion, we send our sincere thanks. It makes us feel rather good at this end to know that the reunion went off satisfactorily.

Debrief

Like most debriefs this may be a little dry for those who attended - remember those post patrol debriefs - awful weren't they? but we learned a lot from them. However, for those who were unable to attend for the record and for anyone who may have missed an event the following could be of interest.

Our first member to arrive was Bill Paul, who by the way still has his wonderful smile, and he came in by train from Auckland at 5.a.m. Bill Mann met him plus his family and put them up for the weekend. For his sin of arriving at such an early hour the committee gainfully employed him all day Saturday.

From about 10 a.m. Friday the 4 June members started to trickle in by plane, bus, train and private car and by evening there was enough on the ground to make the Palmerston R.S.A. clubrooms come alive. The aim of the evening was to give everyone a chance to renew old friendships, introduce their wives around and generally settle in. From the little of it that I can remember it seemed to be highly successful evening. The one thing that I can truly remember was Wally Hunt's flowing locks and beard, a truly magnificent sight for his old friends to see. Second would come Graham Boswell's full length overcoat which rumour has it he picked up from a second hand shop many many years ago. However, he had the last laugh when a cold southerly wind came up on Saturday at Linton Camp. So much for Friday night.

Saturday morning saw the majority of people at the R.S.A. on time to catch transport to Linton Camp where the days programme was based. Some of the more exuberant Friday nighters didn't make it on time, but later caught us up at Linton, a little late for the official group photo but in time for morning tea. After the photograph and morning tea we were welcomed to Linton Camp by the Commander, Lt Col R. Dearing - ex SAS too.

After the welcome we were split into groups and taken on a guided tour of an excellent static display of Logistic Support Group equipment. Each display was manned by personnel from Logistic Support Group who had all given up their long weekend to do this job for us. At the conclusion of the display everyone adjourned to the officer's mess for pre lunch drinks after which they went next door to the Sergeants Mess for the luncheon. This was a magnificent meal but the highlight was the birthday cake made by Sgt G. Williamson. It took one week to prepare and make and was in the form of our badge, even the colours were there. It measured 4' 6" by 1' 10".

The afternoon programme was the event that most people were waiting to see, the display by the 1 Ranger Squadron (SAS). Well, I am sure no one was disappointed with their magnificent effort. Right from the start when their OC Major G. Shattky addressed us on the new role and establishment of the unit, to the conclusion at the range, firing the modern weapons, everyone was caught up in the enthusiasm of these 14 young men. The question was, "were we as good as these fellows"? We'll never know but its hard after such a long time to imagine that we were, but theres one thing for sure, the unit is well manned and in good hands.

At 3 o'clock their demonstration was over and timely too as the All Blacks v Ireland game was on and there was a cup of tea and a snack at the Sgts mess. Some of course opted for something stronger. About 5 pm the transport was ready and it was back to town and prepare for the evening social.

The evening social was attended by the Minister of Defence and the High Commissioner for Malaysia. I think everyone met the Minister of Defence who was escorted in no uncertain manner by Colonel Rennie from table to table. I hope he, the Col got all the names correct?

One would have thought that by this time many of the old boys would have started to wilt a little, but not likely, to a man they were in excellent spirits and gave the appearance of having just returned from an operation - ready to go type of attitude. However, I think most members will remember this night by Stew Tamehana's lovely singing. When he sang the old songs early on and later, before we closed up for the night, lead us in our squadron song, he certainly brought back memories of the good old days - a truly nostalgic moment. Thank you Stew.

On Sunday morning the Cenotaph parade got away to a good start with everyone arriving 10 minutes early. Ranger Squadron led the way to the Cenotaph and music was supplied by the City of Palmerston North Pipe Band.

At the Cenotaph there was a small hitch as we awaited the arrival of Father Duffy, but Col Rennie was equal to the occasion and filled in with appropriate verse.

Steve Watene laid a wreath on behalf of the Squadron and the High Commissioner of Malaysia on behalf of the people of Malaysia. The Last Post and Reveille were played by an officer from the Salvation Army.

After the parade we returned to the R.S.A. clubrooms where the ladies had a cup of tea and watched a film and the men attended a general meeting. The main points of the meeting are listed seperately at the back of this issue.

At the conclusion of the meeting and film - the old Squadron film - the bar was opened for drinks, which apparently was a popular move, judging from the good response by all present.

A meal was served at about 2 pm after which dispersal began. The R.S.A. clubrooms closed at 5 pm and those remaining went off in small groups to Hotels, Motels, Messes and private homes. I believe that most people had a relatively quiet night, but one group, led by 4 Troop Commander, who is still too tough for most of us, did the rounds of what was left of Palmerston North hight life.

McNair Well what was left, about 30 of the gathered at the R.S.A. for final drinks. Surprisingly enough all 30 looked in excellent condition and I'm sure had it not been for wives and air bookings some would have stayed on. However, at about 4 pm the last member to leave, George Harris, boarded a plan for Auckland with his wife and with their departure the 21st Birthday reunion ended.

All Black Tour of UK

I promised about 10 people at the reunion that I would start investigation into a group tour of U.K. and Europe to coincide with the All Black tour there in 1981-82

The investigation has started but I would now like those of you who are interested in going, includes wives, to let me know so that I have some firm basis for organizing the tour.

Obituary

Just before finishing writing this issue Merv West phoned me to say that John Desmond died suddenly in Wellington on Saturday 21 August. Some of the squadron boys based in Wellington attended his funeral which was held in Lower Hutt.

Conclusion

Like the other members of the committee I did enjoy helping to organise the reunion, but I am very mindful that it could not have been a success without the attendance of so many members. Thanks for coming.

The next Free Glance will come out to you from Auckland in about 6 months from now.

Cheerio for now.

Noel O'Dwyer

From Gerry Grieve

Reunion 76/Finance

I don't think it really mattered if we came out winning or losing providing the reunion was a success and without a doubt it was. Had we lost money no doubt we would have had a raffle or two going to make ends meet. With a minor mix-up to do with people staying at the Albert and deposits being paid almost being cleared up, only one bloke from Glenfield still owes us \$7, we have in fact made a small profit. What the actual figure is I don't know as we have yet to pay for plaques and postage when they come to hand.

As far as I'm concerned I got a great deal of "job satisfaction" out of being involved in the running of our 21 Anniversary Reunion - I thank you for coming, its nice to know nice people.

Odds and Ends

Who did replace the photo of the chinese film star in the frame beside John Desmonds bed with that of a gorilla - you can own up now. Len Grieve, Ron Baker and Bill Paul, called in to see Leo Duggan a couple of weeks back - looks good. Had coffee with Bill Gray. Unlike Geordie Grey he has mastered the Kiwi lingo. Received a 'Hello' from Ivan Taylor per Bill Gawn - Ta. I hope your ribs are OK. Sat 21 Jun 56 Rugby SAS vs Fijians who won 57-0. Kiwis drown their sorrows at Galoway Club where a storm cut off the power and left them drinking in the dark.

Main points from the meeting held in the Palmerston North
R.S.A. Clubrooms on Sunday 6 June 1976.

1. That the NZ SAS Assn continue, but in a more active roll.
2. That the Assn be based in Auckland.
3. That reps be co-opted as necessary from Auckland, the Sqn, Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch.
4. That the next reunion be on the 25th Birthday and the place to be nominated by the executive closer to the event.
5. That the Free Glance be published biannually.

Members elected at the meeting.

Palmerston North

Noel O'Dwyer

Wellington

Brian Martin

Christchurch

Ron Pierson

NOMINAL ROLLADDRESSES 1 NZ SAS SQN - 1975

Andy Allen	AJ	
Bruce Amas	BC	85 Easter Crescent, Dunedin
Frank Ayers	IF	1 Ranger Sqn, Papakura Camp
Roe Baker	RM	Flat 3, Whitehouse Road, Titahi Bay
Roy Bindon	RP	
Graham Boswell	GN	63 Onslow Ave Auckland 3.
Des Brady	DL	
John Bridgeman	JA	
Graham Brighthouse	GJ	1 Ranger Sqn, Papakura Camp
Milton Buckleton	ME	7 Rothwall St Pakauranga Auckland
Martin Burke	MD	345 Avondale Road, Christchurch 4
Buz/Ian Burrows	IH	46 Dowse Drive, Lower Hutt
Bob Cairncross	RJ	421b High St Marton
Barry Caldwell	BJ	23 Flavell St Heathcote Christchurch
Ross Cameron	RM	C/- Camp Hospital, Tinton
Barry Carr	BL	20 Balfour Ave, Heathmont, Melbourne Australia
Bubbles Carr	RD	River Rd, Otarahonga
Rusty Cheyne	FW	4 Conniston Ave Christchurch 4
Swan Collins	JR	R.D. 1 Huntly
Bruce Craig	B	5 Harrison Street, Featherston (Box 48)
Colin Craigie	CJ	
Peter Crewther	PJ	
John Crotty	JJP	Trafalgar Street, Onehunga, Auckland
Brian Dalziel	BG	4 Freyberg Rd, Papakura.
John Davy	JH	8 Minerva Street, Jindalee, Brisbane
John Dean	JR	
Ray Delves	RH	HQ ATG Waiouru
Leo Duggan	L	Salvation Army Bridge Home Rex Street, Mirama.

John Dixon	JA	36 Collins Avenue, Linden.
Ernie Dix	E	30 Andrew Drive, Waiouru.
Bill Edwards	W	26 Conniston Avenue, Christchurch.
Mark Flavell	MW	6 Link Avenue, Mt Maunganui.
Cliff Fenwick	CD	12 York Street, Eltham.
Hugh Fraser	JE	
Bill Gown	WK	10 Cornwall Park Avenue, Eson Auckland 3.
George Goldsworthy	GE	9B Russell Avenue, Papakura.
Dave Gordon	KD	30 Grey Street, Marton.
Murray Gouk	MR	R.D.2, Ohaupo, Hamilton.
Bill Gray	WJ	17 Helton Street, Seatoun.
Eddie Grey	E	22a Endeavour Street, Blockhouse Bay Auckland.
Gerry Grieve	GD	P.O. Box 55, Tokomaru.
Len Grieve	LR	12 Mawake Place, Turangi.
George Harris	AG	60 Tiverton Road Avondale, Auckland 7.
Don Heatley	D.	32 Murdoch Crescent, Whangarei.
Rama Hemapo	TWA	Mahia Peninsular Waioroa.
Ron Henderson	RJ	106 Curragundi Road, Jindalee, Brisbane, Australia.
Peter Henriksen	PW	29 Orchard Street Avondale Auckland 7.
John Herman	JR	
Peter Hokianga	PA	24b Kokiri Crescent, Porirua East.
Neville Howse	NW	C/- Moanataire School, Thames.
Dave Hudson	D.	5 Gentry Grove, Waiouru.
Wally Hunt	WR	63 Peace Street, Whakatane
Ray Hurle	RS	40 Fraser Crescent, Upper Hutt.
Mo Hurst	PN.	6 Cornwall Street, Porirua East.
Bill Joines	WS	32 Heberden Ave, Sumner, Christchurch.
Bill Kaa	NP	C/- Haumoana Store, Haumoana, Hawkes Bay.

Peter Kearney	PP	78 Rosehill Drive, Papakura.
Ted Keene	EE	132 Vauxhall Road, Devonport.
Peter Knight	BF	C/- Auckland City Council Traffic Dept Auckland.
Stan King	SN	Huia Rua Station, Tokomaru Bay East Coast.
Chips Rafferty	RG	245 Bucklands Beach Road Auckland.
John Lapwood	J	
Jim McCulloch	JM	42 Kettle Avenue, Palmerston North.
Windy MacGee	W.A.	43 Wallingford Way, Hobsonville.
Ian McKinnon	MI	14 Moana Crescent Te Anau.
Ton McLeod	T	C/- Marlborough House, 21 Kent Terrace, Wellington
Murray MacDonald	MC	20 Peterhead Avenue, Flaxmere Hastings.
John Mace	JA	31 Monroe Street, Seatoun Wellington 3.
Ian MacIntosh	DI	Home Command, Private Bag, Wellington.
Bill Mann	JW	12 Treasury Place, Linton Camp.
Mauri Marfell	ME	P.O. Box 95, Seddon.
Brian Martin	BF	2 Marton Street, Trentham.
Bernie Meachen	BH	21 Toqrak Avenue, Christchurch.
Dave Mitchell	DT	7 Aston Street, Blenheim.
Wally Nash	G	HQ TF Depot ATG Waiouru Camp.
Alan Narby	AR	66 Sherwood Avenue, Te Atatu.
Clive Ngatai	CP	1a Salisbury Rd, Rotorua.
Harry Newman	HF	28 Ripon Crescent, St Johns, Auckland.
Chris O'Conner	C	
Noel O'Dwyer	NP	17 Heatley Avenue, Palmerston North.
Dave Ogilvy	DL	Box 102, Surva Fiji.
Peter O'Neill	PP	C/- P. O'Neil, Cape Foulwind, Westport
Sonny Osborne	S	
Graham Otene	GG	63 Hastie Street, Mangere, Auckland.

Frank Oxenham	FS	
Fred Parkes	FL	Otanui Station, P.B. Havelock North.
Dave Parsons	DM	17 Parkes Place, Auckland 4.
Bill Paul	WP	62 Cliffview Drive, Green Bay, Auckland.
Wes Pearce	WJP	32 Hikutaia Street, Te Aroha
Jim Pemberton	JE	C/- Postal Services, Postal Centre, Wellington.
Pep Pepene	P	P.O. Box 4109, Kamo, Whangarei.
Ron Pierson	RS	81 Vancouver Crescent, Christchurch 6.
Paddy Quested	TA	C/- Home Command, Private Bag, Wellington.
Peter Quilliam	PP	C/- Haywrights, Hamilton.
Ken Readman	K	
Frank Rennie	F	3 Waimea Lane, Remuera, Auckland 5.
Leo Rogatski	LJ	Greymouth Army Office
Joe Rogers	BH	43 Haumoana Street, Rotorua.
Pat Royal	P	20 Rawhiti Road, Onehunga.
Colin Ryan	CE	16 Fd Regt Papakura Camp.
Paul Scanlan	PM	86 Puriri Street, Wanganui.
John Slade	CJ	1013 Miro Street, Hastings
Alex Smith	AFJ	46 Gorton Street, Dannevirke.
Pete Smith	PE	11 Preston Crescent, Dunedin
Pete Smith	PS	6a Kipling Crescent, Stoke.
Alan Shark	AA	12 Tilden Avenue, Birkenhead 10 Auckland.
Charley Stephens	TA	1 Donoven Avenue, Henderson Auckland.
Graham Sun	G	85 Old Waioroa Rd, Papakura.
Ian Swan	IRP	C/- M.O.W. Gisborne.
Stew Tamehana	M	P.O. Moyrea, Rotorua
Glen Taylor	GV	42A Uxbridge Road, Howick.
Ivan Taylor	IA	C/- NZED Twizel
Jock Underwood	RT	Fishers Road, Netherton R.D. Paeroa.
Rusty Vail	AR	Protocol Officer, Ministry of Defence, Pte Bag, Wellington.

Dave Wahlers	D	127 Coronation Road, Papatoetoe.
Neil Walker	NR	C/- Kerepehi Dairy Coy Ngatea.
Steve Watene	SG	14 Colleta Lane, Te Atatu Auckland.
Merv West	MR	7 Zande Terrace, Tawa.
Bill Whitehead	WN	
Lindsay Williams	LG	367 Fergusson Drive, Heretaunga, Upper Hutt.
Peter Wildermouth	PF	78 Geddis Avenue, Napier.
Tug Wilson	JG	P.O. Box 22051, Christchurch.
Bob Withers	RP	C/- Army Office, Dunedin.
Alex Wood	AC	P.O. Box 49, Katikati
Huia Woods	TH	
Earl Yandall	EW	20 Mitchell Street, Auckland 7.
Peter Cooper	P	194 Nile Street, Nelson.