



— NEWSLETTER —

As we approach the end of 1976 it is perhaps appropriate that we start this Newsletter by printing part of one of the many fine speeches given at the National Reunion luncheon in Auckland in June. It was delivered in masterly style by Doug Froggart, well known to a lot of Wanganui members, and who presently is Chief Postmaster in Auckland City.

A TOAST TO THE BATTALION
PROPOSED BY DOUG FROGGART

Today is a very significant day to the world as a whole. 32 years ago this morning, Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy and "D" day had dawned. And this was really the "beginning of the end" of it all.

But for many gathered here today, the beginning of it all was several years before then. It was in fact January and it was 1940 - 36½ years ago. For in that month of that year 22nd Battalion was born. Born of ordinary men from cities, towns, villages and farms; they came together at Trentham and, in the words of Erl Pleasants, "a pretty rough looking lot we were". But they were to become the 22nd Battalion of 2 N.Z.E.F. and soon - and forever - etched into the minds of those men and of the many who were to follow, were new phrases:- Phrases such as - Vrai et Fort; Phrases such as - 2nd to none; Phrases such as - 28 days!! And during the years that followed, the 22nd was to be found in England, Greece, Crete, the Western Desert, Italy and Japan. Several thousand men passed through its ranks; 327 remain forever in areas where the Battalion served; 511 were made prisoners of war; 39 were decorated for bravery; many were mentioned in despatches.

Of all these things - the phrases, the places, the people; fused to make the spirit that is the 22nd. A spirit that has lived on, and that today - 36½ years later - gathers us together here in Auckland for this very wonderful weekend. From all parts of New Zealand we have come and from even further afield. Stan Chong for instance has flown in from New Guinea especially for this gathering. A gathering now - of Grandfathers; of greying heads; short in wind but long in memory. But still members of 22. So I ask you now to be upstanding and as in memory we: go back to distant places; go back to times of joy and times of sorrow; to days of great comradeship with wonderful men. With pride, I give you this toast; A toast, 2nd to none; I give you:- (THE 22ND BATTALION).

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NEWS ITEM

The Reverend Keith Elliot V.C. made a special trip to Wanganui this week to address the Committee on his proposed marathon walk from Cape Reinga to Bluff to raise funds for a new Church and Youth Centre Complex at Makara-Karori West. With typical Keith Elliot efficiency he has the early details well planned and the long walk (to put it mildly) will commence on March 1st 1977. The Committee was caught up with his enthusiasm and it was decided there and then to give him all possible aid.

He intends diverting from his planned State Highway One route, to come down the Parapara Road to Wanganui (familiar territory to him) and it behoves all of the 22nd members to give him our support. You'll be hearing more about this walk later via a well directed publicity campaign on the News Media. Our own Jack Hargreaves will accompany Keith on the tour, following of course, at a discreet distance, under more comfortable circumstances.

ANNUAL DINNER

An unqualified success. About 60 attended. The new venue proved to be a wise choice. The candle-lit tables were tastefully decorated with Mrs Ian Burnett's superb array of home grown roses, an ample 4 course dinner for \$4, pre dinner sherry and wine for the tables per courtesy of the Committee, a pianist who played our type of music for dancing, two uproarious items by Graham Hesp, and you had all the trimmings of a great evening. So much so that members present demanded that Ian Burnett arrange with Mr Brotherston immediately a repeat for 1977. Same time, same place.



PERSONAL ITEMS ...

Our popular Patron, Sid Hanton, is enjoying a well deserved retirement although he seems as busy as ever with his other numerous activities "Snow" Leeks writing from Melbourne, recently visited Hollingbourne in the U.K. where they still remember the 22nd with affection. He plans to launch a fund for the restoration of a plaque in their local church Percy Green is back from a visit to his brother Jack in Melbourne. "Kiwi Jack" as he is more familiarly known (he is a fully paid up member of our Branch) sends his best wishes to all his friends in the association We were saddened to hear of the untimely death of Peter Hockleys wife and we extended our sympathy to the relatives of one of our best known members, the late Mr E. (Ted) Laws, who passed away earlier this year Standing on a corner in Victoria Avenue last week was genial Tom Sullivan from New Plymouth looking for 22nd members (he found quite a few). Tom wishes to be remembered to you all.

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We trust you had a pleasant year with no great problems, so what could be better than to finish 1976 by coming to another popular

XMAS SOCIAL HOUR AND GET-TOGETHER

This Saturday 11th December 1976

AT THE R.S.A. LOUNGE

St Hill Street

4 P.M. TO 6 P.M. (and beyond)

(Come when you like - go when you like)

FOR A CHAT AND A RELAXING COUPLE OF HOURS

SEE YOU THERE THIS SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER



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As 1976 slips quietly away, your committee consisting of

Patron - Sid Hanton
President - Ian Burnett
Committee
members - Jim Spriggins
Jack Hargreaves
Wally Towgood
Jack Wilson
Les Clark
Darby Foley
Ray Gurney



would like to take this opportunity of wishing you one and all -

A VERY HAPPY XMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

(Dick Froggarts Speech reprinted per courtesy and kind permission of the Auckland Branch)