



THE OFFICERS' CLUB

(INCORPORATED)

19 Princes Street, PO Box 4291, Auckland 1140. NEW ZEALAND

Email: officersclub@xtra.co.nz

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014



From the President

Dear Members,

Last week I had the honour of representing the Officers' Club at the Auckland War Memorial Museum for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of New Zealand's commitment to World War I. It was a very moving occasion on a bitterly cold Tuesday evening. There was a little soiree immediately afterwards held in the foyer of the museum entrance with the usual crowd of MPs, local body politicians and members of the diplomatic corps. I stayed briefly then went to dinner at the Northern Club with a couple of prospective new members and the very charming honorary consul from Belgium (and her husband). Interestingly she picked me

up on my pronunciation of Passchendaele; apparently we all say it incorrectly.

I received a letter today from the Northern Club advising me that our three latest nominees for membership will be introduced to the Northern Club committee the week after next on Tuesday 26 August. As their proposer, I will be attending the introduction with them as usual. I would like as many members as possible to come along to the club on that night so that you all can meet Major Wendy McEwen and Lieutenants Tim Haden and Fraser Ellis. The formalities with the Northern Club usually finish at 7pm; please feel free to join us in the bar and perhaps even stay for dinner.

For those of you that didn't manage to get to the talk by Norman Leaf on the Desert Railway, you missed a fantastic evening. Norm did so well and didn't seem a bit phased talking to the 80+ guests. My thanks to Phil Fry for making all the arrangements and for running the evening as MC. My wife Julie and I stayed on afterwards for a very pleasant dinner in the (very full) Logan Campbell room. The presentation, a 30 minute Powerpoint adaptation of the 2 hour movie, was held in the Members' Dining room and the Wintergarden was being used for another function, hence the move to the Logan Campbell room for dinner.

Coming up, see details later in this newsletter, is our first WW100 event. The numbers are looking very good for the 29th August Formal Dinner to commemorate the taking of German Samoa 100 years ago to the day. My thanks to Captain Lindy Esslemont and the Social sub-committee for all the work to get us this far. Julie and I are really looking forward to it and I hope to see you all there.

Jon Atkinson, ED**
President

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

ALERT ONE!!! Don't forget to book for the Commemorative Dinner on 29 Aug

ALERT TWO!!! Note Visit to RNZN on 16 September. Details to follow

CLUB SOCIAL CALENDAR	
AUGUST	
Friday 29 August	WW100 Commemorations – Dinner - this will be the first of the functions both the NC and OC will be working on together as part of the W100 commemorations and will take the form of a formal dinner, partners included. We are just putting the final touches to the details for the evening. Guest Speaker will be the Minister of Defence.
SEPTEMBER	
Tue 2 September*	Club Night
Tue 16 September	Visit to RNZN Wardroom
OCTOBER	
Tue 7 October*	Club Night
Sunday 12 October	Passchendaele Service and Luncheon
NOVEMBER	
Tue 4 November*	Club Night
Tues 11 November	Services Dinner – Cmdre Dean McDougall Deputy Chief of Navy will be the speaker for the night and we will once again have some of the Navy Band providing music on the evening.

***Note that club nights are now only once a month on the first Tuesday. It is hoped that members can make a special effort to meet this reduced commitment, ensuring a good turnout.**

Future Events and Guest Speakers - Just a reminder that we welcome any suggestions you may have for events/functions and in particular for guest speakers.

Lindy Esslemont / Ken Young
Social Committee

OUR DESERT WAR – NORTH AFRICA

This Winter Lecture presented on Tuesday 29th July by Mr Norman Leaf was a great success, as evidenced by the turnout of around 80 people, more than usually attend these events.

Unfortunately Mr John Johnston was unable to co-present the lecture due to ill health. However Norm presented an absorbing account of the activities of the Desert Railway not only in North Africa, but also in Palestine, assisted by a power point detailing informative maps and photos.

Comments to me reflected how impressed people were with the lucid delivery by Norm. His measured speaking tone and relaxed manner greatly contributed to the presentation. Norm injected humour into his speech which highlighted his personality. Nevertheless, the testing and dangerous conditions in which they operated were portrayed particularly with Norm's analogy with the Australians at Tobruk when he referred to themselves with pride, as "The Railway Desert Rats".

When one considers he is recalling events 70 plus years ago, and still here to present these stories, is really something quite special. A true living warrior legend, and unfortunately time will see those warriors who still remain with us, off to join their mates.

I trust that the DVD which was funded by The Auckland Officers' Club, together with the power point, find their way into the archives of our military history.

A well deserved vote of thanks was proposed by Lt Col Howard Mace.

A special thanks to Phil Fry for the considerable time he spent in arranging the evening and organising the power point.

In excess of 20 Officers' Club members and guests enjoyed a convivial dinner after the Lecture.

Ken Young

Social Committee

WORLD WAR ONE MATTERS

This newsletter sees the continuation of The **World War One Timeline**. You are all invited to contribute to this with your own items, for example, stories of your own family member's experiences or suggestions of poems or other writings that in your mind evoke the period. In particular we would like to record your personal anniversaries such as the death of family members. We will be researching club members who appear on our Roll of Honour and will publish details of their military lives in future newsletters. A list of these members is included in this newsletter. Any knowledge that members have of those who gave their lives will be gratefully received. If you have any contributions please email Boyd Squires boydsq@xtra.co.nz or Telephone 489 9879.

**MEMBERS OF THE AUCKLAND GARRISON OFFICERS CLUB WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
DURING THE WORLD WAR 1914-1919**

Captain J.C. Allen
Major R.H.R. Bayley
*Captain W.A. Bowring**
Lieutenant D.R. Carpenter
Lieutenant W.J. Cox
*Captain G.E. Daniell M.C.**
Brigadier General R.H. Davies C.B.
Major G.B. Devereux M.C.
Lieutenant Colonel H.D. Eccles
*Captain F.J.H. Ellisdon**
Major S.A. Grant
Second Lieutenant E.G. Hudson
*Lieutenant Colonel G.A King D.S.O. and Bar C de G ******
Major D.R. Kirker
Lieutenant P. Logan
Captain J.C. McCarthy
*Major C. McGilp D.S.O.**
Captain A.B. Morton
Captain W.C. Page
Lieutenant W.C. Paine
Captain A.J. Powley M.C.
Captain F.S. Robinson
Lieutenant Colonel E. Sherson (D)
Lieutenant N Steadman
Major F. Stuckey
Lieutenant E.H. Taylor

* Mentioned in Despatches (D) Territorial Decoration

PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL LOCOMOTIVE

Ab 608 rolled out of Addington Workshops on September 15th 1915, the Class Leader of more than 140 of these NZ designed locomotives.

In 1925 the government agreed to name Ab 608 "Passchendaele" "In memory of those members of the NZR who fell in the Great War." Out of a total workforce of 14,000, more than 5000 Railway workers served overseas, and 450 were killed. Large handsome brass memorial nameplates were fitted to the engines flanks, and she became a mobile Great War memorial.

The name Passchendaele was chosen over other Western Front names, in recognition of the greatest number of New Zealanders who fell in a single day, than at any other time in our history.

Retired after 52 years of service, she was saved from the scrapheap. After 47 years, she has been fully and immaculately restored by Steam Incorporated.

At a rededication ceremony at Paekakariki Railway Station on ANZAC Day this year, attended by around 200 people, the Honorary Consul for Belgium, Mr Don Staples unveiled the locomotive's special memorial nameplate. Kiwirail Infrastructure Manager, Mr. Ric van Barneveld and Colonel Nick Gillard representing the New Zealand Army both spoke of the sacrifice made by NZR staff who fought at Passchendaele.

Ab 608 will once again take its place among the ever increasing number of preserved operational steam locomotives, and she is set to take part in a number of WW100 commemorations.

Reference: Archives New Zealand, New Zealand Railfan, June 2014

Ken Young

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE

So that members are familiar with those who have been elected to serve on the committee we will from time to time publish profiles of Committee members. This issue we feature our two of our newest committee members. The Merchant Navy's finest!



EDWARD (TED) EWBANK. I, like my fellow “newbie” Eduardo, have been an active member of the club for many years, and have also previously served on the committee. I began serving an apprenticeship with the British Tanker Company way back in 1949, and subsequently served at sea in each grade of deck officer up to and including captain. I served for several years with the Indo China Steam Navigation Company (Jardines) of Hong Kong, and subsequently commanded various Island Traders in the Pacific, and a breakbulk/container ship in what us British refer to as “far-eastern” waters. My most adrenalin rushing job was the command of an ex military tug named “Rollicker” which I picked up in Portsmouth, along with the frigates “Jupiter” and “Hermione”, for towing in tandem around the Cape to India for breaking up, the tow being a charter by a New Zealand Company to Samsung. I now own a Samsung Galaxy tablet, and hope that perhaps a bit of one of those frigates may be contained therein.

I have also served with Teal and Air New Zealand as Flight Operations Officer (FOO), Flight Navigator and Second Officer (third pilot on long haul sectors). I became a pilot because navigators were made redundant by, initially, inertial navigation systems, and then GPS. While I was very much “at home” navigating, I felt that “they” would find out that there was an imposter in the right hand seat. Fortunately, I managed to carry it off.

I am presently the President of the New Zealand Division of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, of which Institution I am a Fellow, and I am the Warden of the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Company of Master Mariners.

Several years ago, the Auckland Officers Club amended the rules to allow the membership grade of Officer, Civil, for senior police officers, and officers of the Merchant Navy. I am very jealous of that grade of membership, and proud of my Merchant Navy background. At our last formal dining-in at the club, Armistice Day, I was allowed the privilege of proposing a rather lengthy toast to the 33,000 allied merchant seafarers who died in the 3 years of the Battle of the Atlantic.

I am now serving as Club Almoner, and ask that I be notified should any member become aware of another member's need for any assistance or comfort that the club or its members may be able to provide.

I am very happily married to Marie Broom, and we have two daughters and four grandchildren.



EDUARDO LOPEZ. I have been an active member of the club over a number of years and I have served in the committee previously. Originally from Chile, I arrived in New Zealand in 1984 and am a proud New Zealander.

In 1974, I became a Merchant Navy Officer. I served in this profession for about 10 years, serving in different types of Ships, like Cabo Pilar a super tanker, crude carrier. During this time I was trained to operate in LPG Carriers, where I spent most of my sea time. An LPG carrier (pressurised or liquefied) is a gas carrier ship designed for transporting liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in bulk.

Some of these ships were LPG Copernico, a pressurised carrier, LPG Galileo, LPG Sea Petro, Luigi Cassale, liquefied carrier for the transport of butane and propane. These ships took me sailing around the world, in Thailand (2years) and Philippines (2years), our ship LPG Sea Petro

acted as a mother ship for the supply of propane and butane to smaller LPG Carriers based in the Gulf of Thailand and Manila Bay.

What I recall from my years of sailing under different flags, the pleasure serving with different nationalities of officers and crew such as British, Italian, Indian, Chinese (mainland) Filipino, Spanish and of course Chilean. The contact with these different nationalities did enrich my understanding of different cultures, allowed me to enjoy so many delicious dishes and the remarkable stories and experiences told during our long passages at sea. During my beginnings I sailed with senior merchant navy officers that were part of the convoys during the war and the stories of selflessness, dedication and bravery shown during this time, are still very fresh in my mind. Those Merchant Navy officers and crew should always be remembered with the highest respect and regard for what they did during those difficult years.

I am looking forward to meeting many members at the club and share events of our life and enjoy our camaraderie.

Final Quote

TheGuardian (then the Manchester Guardian) said, about the assassination in Sarajevo. *'It is not to be supposed that the death of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand will have any immediate or salient effect on the politics of Europe.'* How wrong can you be!

WORLD WAR ONE TIMELINE

DATE	WORLD EVENT	NEW ZEALAND EVENT	INDIVIDUAL EVENT
29 August		A 1374-strong Advance Party NZEF captures German Samoa	Captains WA Bowring and AJ Powley are named on the Officers Club Roll of Honour . Both were both Lieutenants in 3rd Auckland Regiment when they were part of the Samoan Advance Party which captured German Samoa on 29 August 1914. They went on to serve in Gallipoli and then France. They were killed in action within 4 days of each other in September 1916 during the battle of the Somme.
6 September	Battle of the Marne Started		
16 September		Government announces the formation of a "Maori Contingent" of 200 men for service with the NZEF.This is expanded to 500 men at the suggestion of the British War office	
16 October		The NZEF Main Body consisting of 8454 soldiers and more than 3000 horses departs Wellington in 10 troopships. They arrive in Egypt on 3 December and establish a camp at Zeitoun, near Cairo	
18 October	First Battle of Ypres		
29 October	Turkey entered the war on Germany's side. Trench warfare started to dominate the Western Front		
8 December		The NZEF combines with Australian Imperial Force Units to form the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. "Anzac" is adopted as the label for Australian or New Zealand soldiers following the Gallipoli landings	

Communications Committee:

Trevor Horne horne@ihug.co.nz
 Boyd Squires boydsq@xtra.co.nz

Website www.officersclub.co.nz