



EULOGY: WARRANT OFFICER I TERRY HUGHES

Terry Hughes, the Gunner

My name is Barry Dreyer. My military role is Colonel Commandant of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery. I want to speak on behalf of the Corps about Terry as a soldier and gunner, and on his contribution to the Army and the nation.

Firstly to the family and friends, to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and to Terry sisters, and to his friends, the Royal Regiment passes our deepest sympathy for the loss of Terry. The Royal Regiment is sorry to see him go and at the same time grateful for both the contribution he made to the Gunners in New Zealand, and for the privilege of knowing and serving with him.

Secondly, I want to acknowledge the service and returned service people here, and the serving soldiers from 16 Field Regiment, Terry's regiment, who have come across from Linton camp. The soldiers include the Regimental Sergeant Major, a job Terry held himself nearly 40 years ago.

I do not have Terry's service records available so will go on my recollections.

I first met Terry in Vietnam in early 1966 when Terry was an experienced Non Commissioned Officer on number two gun and I was a young and inexperienced officer.

All those stories you hear of the grizzled NCO teaching the young man who is his boss, how to fight a war, are absolutely correct.

Except Terry was not grizzled – he was a quiet and unassuming man, with a good sense of humour, extremely helpful, and focused on doing his job as absolutely the best he could.



Terry also knew how to take command when he needed to. Terry was typical of these NCOs in 161 Battery who made the Battery work, and made it as good as it was.

Terry did a second tour in Vietnam in 1969.

Terry and I also worked very closely together at the School of Artillery in Waiouru, Terry as a Staff Sergeant and then Warrant Officer Class Two, training the reinforcement officers and Non Commissioned Officers for Vietnam, up until the war ended in 1971.

I am not sure where Terry went then, but he returned to the regiment in 1976 and 1977 in Papakura as the Regimental Sergeant Major, the premier Warrant Officer's job in the Royal Regiment.

After that, I think he had some senior administrative roles before he left the service and returned to new Plymouth

Terry was a good and dedicated soldier, professional at what he did, an experienced combat soldier who enjoyed passing on his knowledge to others. He was steady, in fact steady as a rock when he needed to be. A man with an impish sense of humour and years of loyalty.

Let me read a poem which was written in 1981 by a soldier who served as an NCO in the Regiment when Terry was the Regimental Sergeant Major.

The poem is titled "*A Soldier's Farewell*" and was written by Mike Subritzky.



A SOLDIER'S FAREWELL

*I've saddled up, and dropped me hooch,
I'm going to take the gap,
my Tour of Duty's over mates,
and I won't be coming back.*

*I'm done with diggin' shell scrapes,
and laying out barbed wire,
I'm sick of setting Claymore Mines,
and coming under fire.*

*So, no more Fire Support Base,
and no more foot patrols,
and no more eating ration packs,
and sleepin' in muddy holes.*

*I've fired my last machine gun,
and ambushed my last track,
I'm sick of all the Army brass,
and I sure ain't coming back.*

*I'll hand my bayonet to the clerk,
he ain't seen one before,
and clean my rifle one more time,
and return it to the store.*

*So, no more spit and polish,
and make sure I get paid,
and sign me from the Regiment,
today's my last parade.*



Farewell Terry Hughes, Gunner, soldier, servant of your country, mentor and friend.

Safe journey Terry, you have earned your rest. Rest in peace.

*Barry Dreyer
Colonel Commandant
Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery
New Plymouth, 15th July 2013*