

New Zealand Mobile Dental Section in Korea (II) (December 1952 - November 1954)

By Dr. Colin J. Wilson

In September 1952, Lieutenant Colin J. Wilson volunteered to replace Captain Alan H. Cull who had spent two years in Korea and was due for replacement. Lieutenant Wilson travelled to Korea via Japan in December 1952 and took command of the NZ Mobile Dental Unit in January 1953 when Captain Cull returned to New Zealand.



278 Unit when Capt. Cull Left Korea and Capt. Wilson took command. From left to right . Cpl. L. Everitt (Chairside), Driver D Hackford, Sgt. P. Glen, Capt. Cull, S/ Sgt. D. Broadhurst (dental technician), Mr. Lee (Korean translator), and Capt. Wilson.

The dental unit was located at the 10 NZ Transport Coy at the head of the Gloucester Valley, south of Imjin river. Various NZ units were examined in their areas and any treatment required was performed in the mobile clinic, on the back of a 3-ton GMC Lorry, at the 10 Coy location. The units inspected were the 10 Transport Coy, a detachment of Signallers, and the NZ Engineering LAD (LAD: Light Aid Detachment).

The NZ Mobile Dental Unit moved to Pusan and then Seoul and Treated NZ Kay force, HQ Staff and Signallers. Then to NZ Field Artillery Regiment in April 1953 following the completion of all work at NZ 10 Transport Coy. The dental unit moved to NZ Field Artillery Regiment in April 1953 and was attached to Regimental Headquarters where the unit remained till July 1953. All personnel in the Artillery Regiment were examined and treated in this time. The unit then moved to Kure in Japan where the NZ Base Camp was located and treated all personnel in that region.

The unit then returned to Korea and the 10 Transport Coy in August 1953 and treated all personnel at that location (near Tokchon). The unit then moved in October 1953 to the NZ Artillery.



279. N Z. dental jeep and Surgery in the background.

Regiment now located in their truce-time position on the northern bank of Imjin River and near the Pin Trail Bridge. A permanent surgery was built during 1954.



280. N.Z. fixed dental facility.



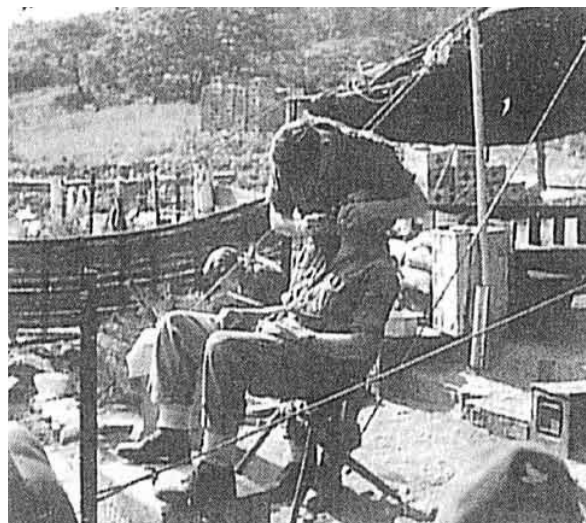
281. Inside of the dental facility.

The unit remained in this position until March 1954 when the unit once again went to Kure and treated Base Camp and NZ Kay Force HQ personnel. The unit returned to Korea and the 16 NZ Field Artillery Regiment in April 1954. All further treatments of NZ personnel were carried out from this location. Finally, the unit returned to New Zealand in November 1954.

During Captain Wilson's tour of duty the following treatments were carried out:

Oral Examinations	2,818
1-surface amalgams	687
Compound amalgams	1,139
Inlays (gold)	29
Plastic (amberion)	378
Extractions	173
Scalings	127
FV/FL dentures	108
PV/PL dentures	156
Repairs	135
Vincent's infection	1

A number of Korean civilians were treated for acute dental conditions. All NZ personnel were given leave for a dental treatment when the dental unit was located in Japan.



282. Examining N.Z. artillery personnel in their unit area. May 1955 (Upper photographs)



283. CPT. Wilson and a Canadian officer before a Canadian ambulance in 1954



284. CPT. Wilson visiting a US Marine Corps dental clinic. Wilson and three US Marine Corps dental officers.