



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust

c/- 272B Ginn Road
Rotowaro
RD1
HUNTLY 3771

31 October 2019

To all Serving Members and Members who have Served in the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps (RNZAC) and its Predecessor Organisations

Greetings,

THE RNZAC HISTORY PROJECT - 2019 TO 2023-UPDATE

The September 2019 Regional Briefings

The Trust has always believed in the importance of gaining the widest possible input from Serving Members and Ex-Serving Members of the RNZAC so that we have the best possible chance of producing a History that contains the most relevant and interesting information. So, thanks to all those who were able to attend the Briefing Sessions that were conducted at Hamilton, Christchurch, Wellington, Papakura, Linton (QAMR), Foxton, Dunedin and Napier during the period 7-22 September 2019. Your enthusiastic interest in and support for the progress that the RNZAC HPCT has made towards getting the History written was greatly appreciated by all those who presented the information to you.

Thank you too for the clear, direct and helpful comments that many of you provided when answering our question "What have we missed?" on the last page of the Outline Book Content Handout that was distributed at those Briefings, We received 120 separate comments altogether; these, along with the comments that were received as a result of my initial letter to you all on 31 May 19, will be of immense help to us as we now proceed to finalise the updated Brief for our selected Author, Matthew Wright, in time for the planned commencement of his work in November 2019.

Assistance to the Trust

Many of you are now assisting the Trust in so many ways. We are receiving help with seeking out relevant historical information, establishing facts, discovering interesting and illuminating stories, research supplementation (once the Author starts), photographs of Colours and Guidons, advice on digitalization; the list goes on.

Our thanks go to each and every one of you. It is very encouraging to all Trustees to have such willing help with this momentous task that we have taken on.



Digitalization

Interest has been expressed (earlier in this project process and more recently) by some of you regarding the possibility of producing a digital version of the History. We have established from your suggestions that potential options for such digitalization could include:

- a. Producing a Kindle-type copy of the Book
- b. Creating a digital representation that allows quick access to key information for those that want to access what they want then move on as well as more detailed information for those that want to explore key elements of the history in more detail.
- c. Creating selected interesting extracts/graphics (photographs, maps, illustrations and text) that can be accessed and quickly manipulated via iPad, mobile or computer and other devices in formats relevant to how the younger generations, in particular, now access and process information in today's environment.
- d. Placing any video recordings of individuals during the research stage within a medium that can be accessed via the internet. Such videos could be grouped around key events or by decades; such categorization will enable quick and targeted access by those seeking specific information.
- e. Producing an audio book; perhaps around the interview material as a first step.
- f. Grouping excess photographs that were not used in the actual history within an electronic medium for access.

Copyright and licensing issues around any material placed in an internet environment which is, by nature, open to access by everyone would have to be very carefully worked through.

I have, on behalf of the RNZAC HPCT, discussed all this with our selected Author, Matthew Wright. Matthew considers that digitalization is certainly possible but that compiling the written history is the fundamental first step as it will be the foundation upon which all possible digitalization options can then be considered and created. The Trust agrees with Matthew's analysis. Consequently from now on, we will keep digitalization very much in our sights so that we maintain awareness of key reference points in the development of the written history that are relevant to eventual digital formats.

There will be an additional cost to all this which I have mentioned to some of you before. The Trust has the responsibility to raise all funds required for this project and our priority of allocation of these has to go towards the written history at this time. However, consistent with giving consideration to a digital option once the written history has been completed, we will endeavour to keep abreast of potential associated costs as we proceed with the project.

Reference Material

Thank you again to all those who have sent photographs, books, notes, magazines and other reference material to both Ian Bolton (in the South Island) and to me for research purposes. Your generosity has helped us to get an understanding of the breadth of our history so that I can, on behalf of the Trust, properly advise Matthew as he begins his own



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research and writing of our History. These loans too have meant that we have been able to identify areas of interest for Matthew's consideration for inclusion in the History.

Thanks too to those of you who have promised me photographs and written material and are in the process of getting them to me.

However, we need more please; particularly photographs, anecdotes, personal stories, recollections, and experiences to ensure that our History has that personal character which is so important to ensuring that it retains the interest of any reader. Please post hard or digital copies (on a USB) of maps, illustrations, good short amusing interesting stories and photographs that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the History to the RNZAC HPCT C/- the address at the top right of this letter. Please clearly mark each item with your name and serially number each item 1 of 3, 2 of 3, 3 of 3 etc. This will enable me to properly document your items and issue a receipt to you. Alternatively, if you have a relatively small electronic folder of material that can be sent electronically, please email it to the person that forwarded this letter to you and they will get it to me; again you will receive a formal receipt from me for all items sent.

The Trust, consistent with comments that have been put to us, wants the History to be about "all of us." This can only be so if "all of us" get our stories anecdotes and photographs into the Trust. I ask for your support of this please.

Integrity of the Trust

All Trustees are volunteers; all have given long service to the Corps. The Trust is working very hard to ensure that we produce a History for you all that is of the highest possible quality.

We also have a duty to ensure that the Trust operates efficiently administratively and that its funds are managed judiciously. To this end, we have engaged independent Solicitors (Grantham Law) and Chartered Accountants (Bay Audit and Accounting Limited) to help us with this.

Our Solicitors have assisted us with the Trust Deed (our legally required governing document) and our Contract (Trust and Author obligations and legal requirements around getting the History written) with our selected Author. Our Chartered Accountant will be reviewing our accounts each year before we send our financial report to Charities Services.

Our potential sponsors and donors can therefore be assured that such independent oversight of our operation guarantees that funds are properly receipted and allocated only to the costs of producing the History and nothing else.

All Trustees therefore stand by their individual and collective integrity with this history project task that we have taken on. Independent legal and accountancy oversight reinforces that integrity.

Funding

Thank you to those Serving Members of the RNZAC and those who have served in the RNZAC in the past who have already donated funds to this Project. We are grateful for your



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generosity which has enabled part of the costs of the history project, which Trustees have been personally carrying since March of this year, to be reduced.

However, our need for funds to ensure completion of this project is ongoing.

As Chair, I have made it very clear to my fellow Trustees that whilst I appreciate that they have generously offered to donate and/or continue to carry expenses around producing this History, I will not allow this to continue forever as it is simply not fair to these individuals who are already contributing so much of their own time to this project. For those with key responsibilities, it is essentially full-time work.

So, I ask please that those of you who have not yet made a donation to this very worthy project, please consider getting behind us now and helping financially. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us to keep moving forward.

Our Account details are:

Bank-Westpac
Account-RNZAC HPCT
Account number-03-0631-0030863-000

Official Trust Receipts will be issued by Alan Day, our Treasurer for all funds received by the Trust. All our receipts are sent electronically so, please email Alan (alansday@extra.co.nz) once you have placed a donation into the Trust Account, so that he knows where to email the receipt to. Thank you.

Next Update

My next update will be sent out to you on 31 March 2020 after our next Trust Meeting earlier that month. That notwithstanding, I will be distributing special updates before then where a significant event or milestone occurs.

We have gained some momentum since March this year. We intend to maintain it now that we have a firm legal and administrative foundation on which to launch the Author's initial research and writing phase of this "Our consolidated History of the second most senior Corps (but second to none!) of the New Zealand Army".

All the very best you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graeme Ready". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a simple blue ink triangle.

Graeme Ready
Chair
RNZAC HPCT
Registered Charity Number CC56897