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Rotowaro  
RD1  
**HUNTLY 3771**

31 July 2022

**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 2024-UPDATE**

**Author Matters**

The Trust has continued to progress additional comments on Matthew Wright's draft narrative for the period 1945-2022 since consolidated comments were submitted to Matthew on 30 March 2022. This reflects ongoing analysis and research related to that draft which is a direct and advantageous result of having that section of the draft available for such an extended period. Matthew and the Trust have agreed that the draft, with additional comment and supporting material will be forwarded to Matthew on 31 October 2022. Similarly, the Trust has been able to expand the content of the Master Appendices Document to ensure that it becomes as complete and accurate as possible before it is submitted to Matthew again on 31 October 2022. Throughout this entire project, the Chair and Matthew keep in close contact so that the process remains integrated and consistent with all the other work that is going on within it.

Transcription of interviews from the RNZAC Oral History Collection has continued to be progressed during this reporting period. Matthew has also started to interview QAMR personnel and personnel from the wider RNZAC. As stated in my last update of 31 March 2022, these interviews will be crucial in terms of the completion of the latter part of our history.

Matthew has devoted these last few months to completing his draft of the early era of our history period 1860-1945. In this regard, he plans to have a complete draft for the period 1860-1898 and the Anglo-Boer War era 1899-1902 to me shortly. In parallel with this work, Matthew is well into the period 1903-1939. His ongoing research, whilst writing these sections, has uncovered critical factors in terms of the relevance of our earlier history to later developments in the evolution of the Corps.

Matthew visited the National Army Museum for research purposes period 1-6 May 2022. He came away from there with 6Gb of data and 600Mb of images to assist his and Trust analysis regarding the History. He was accommodated at Waiouru Camp during this visit, and this enabled him to interact with many military personnel regarding the History. I want to



particularly acknowledge the assistance provided by Captain Jonty Hooson in terms of the initial arrangements for Matthew's visit, Warrant Officer 1 Timothy (Johnny) Sincok for looking after Matthew throughout the visit and Major Alan Cunningham who also assisted Matthew during his time at Waiouru; I am grateful to you all.

The effects of Omicron on staffing levels and access to research facilities continue to challenge Matthew. However, he has, in consultation with archival staff, negotiated innovative solutions to ensure that research and writing momentum is maintained.

David Harrison, in consultation with our Deputy Chair, Ian Bolton, continues to research and compile a list of those Cavalry and Mounted Rifles personnel who were KIA or DOW during the New Zealand Land Wars period 1840-1898. I remain most grateful for David's and Ian's assistance with this research task which will fill a very important and critical gap in our ongoing work.

Geoff Kreegher's work with compiling a list of RNZAC Directorate WOs 1 for the period up to when Directorates were disestablished is ongoing; I would ask that if you are able to assist with providing names and dates for that table, that you email Geoff directly please. I am grateful for his help. I have now entered Simon Marriott's (President of the Waikato Mounted Rifles Association) comments concerning a short history of the Waikato Mounted Rifles in the draft Master Appendices document. My thanks to Simon for his assistance in this area.

The RNZAC Association and Ian Bolton are continuing to assist with obtaining information to enable us to complete the key personnel lists for the School of Armour and the Scottish Units to enable completion of Appendix 4 within the draft Master Appendices document. I am aware too that Lt Col Steve Taylor has been assisting Ian with this task, as has Graeme Harvey and Euan Galloway. Euan Galloway's voluntary work to assist the Trust with research tasks has been exemplary. In addition to assisting Ian, he has found and sent to me a large number of NZ Gazettes from the National Library and Archives NZ information to enable me to complete a substantial portion of Commanding Officer data for 1, 2, 3 and 4 Armoured Regiments for the period 1948-1963. Further, he has found documentation supporting the fact that an Armoured Brigade HQ was indeed operating in New Zealand for the period 1953-1959. As if this effort and the time that he has devoted to the Trust's work was not enough, he has very kindly offered to assist Matthew with any additional targeted research that Matthew might require. I am most grateful to Euan for his dedicated support to the Trust.

Chris Cooper has now submitted final draft tables for School of Armour SMs and WSMs Gunnery, Driving and Maintenance and Tactical Wings for Appendix 4 of the draft Master Appendices document. He has been assisted in this by previous staff members of the School of Armour. WO2 Alex Fraser, WO1 Ox White, WO1 Shannon Brears, WO1 Mario Ropitini and WO1 Mark Thompson have also assisted in this area. I am grateful to you all. Work on the WSM Communications Wing table is ongoing. The transition period between the disestablishment of the School of Armour, the establishment of the Mounted Operations Wing of the Combat School and the Transitional Training Team for NZLAV are other areas that Chris is working on. He has been assisted in this by Major Mike Duncan, Alan Hoffman, and Paul Van den Broek. My thanks to you all for helping Chris with this task.



Chris Cooper has also sent the final draft of a table listing Officers Commanding and Principal Workshop Foremen of the Light Aid Detachments that supported the independent armoured squadrons based in Waiouru. He has been assisted in this area by Fred Milligan (Ex RNZEME) and QAMR Support Squadron staff (for the transitional and later years). My thanks to you all.

A table of our Vietnam Veterans for insertion in the narrative period 1945-2022 is now nearing completion. Jack Hayes (who has already provided much advice and assistance to me in other areas of this project) is in the process of validating one aspect of the table for me. My thanks to Jack, to the RNZAC Vietnam Veterans and to Major Mike Duncan (Army General Staff) for all their assistance with this task.

## **Publishing**

### ***General***

Peter Dowling of Oratia Media Limited and I remain in contact as we move closer to the publishing phase of this project which is now less than 12 months away.

Peter continues to take an active interest in our Trust's progress with the project. In this regard he recently provided the name and contact details of a potential source of funding for us together with guidance regarding an approach strategy.

Peter has also provided additional advice regarding specified image detail for our Maps Brief. We greatly appreciate his ongoing support.

### ***Book Launch***

As advised in my Updates on 30 Nov 21 and 31 March 2022, discussions between Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC) and Colonel Hamish Gibbons (Regimental Colonel RNZAC) and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Crow (Commanding Officer QAMR) during the week 15-19 Nov 21 have resulted in approval in principle for support of the launch being given.

A proposal will be prepared by Ian Bolton and Chris Cooper closer to April 2024 to establish what specific support can be given by the RNZAC and QAMR at that time. Ian and Chris have also very kindly agreed to manage the launch once the location and programme is known and has been agreed by all participating agencies. In the meantime, Ian and Chris are involved in quietly researching potential venues and other aspects of the launch.

### ***Photographs***

The Trust met via Zoom on 15 and 20 July to conduct an initial assessment of images which had been provided by Members and Ex-Members of the RNZAC as well as by Matthew Wright (from his visit to Waiouru) for consideration for inclusion. This initial selection, together with additional images that will be necessary for us to source from those organisations that were very kindly identified by Stephen Ladanyi last year should provide a good pool from which to illustrate all eras covered within the History.



## **Maps**

Sean Trengrove, who has very kindly agreed to work (on behalf of the Trust) with Andrew Tyrell of South Arrow Maps on this task has advised that Andrew has provided a firm quote for the work consistent with his original estimate of 12 months ago.

The Trust, in consultation with our Publisher, has forwarded an updated Map Brief to Sean for Andrew Tyrell. The first three draft maps are scheduled for completion by 30 September 2022, with the remaining drafts due by 31 December 2022. There will be time in the first quarter of 2023 to absorb any overflow of map work from 2022, should that be necessary

The Trust greatly appreciates Sean Trengrove's ongoing work in this area.

## **Reference Material**

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 INC 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 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.

Please be aware that as we are now less than 12 months away from the manuscript submission date, it is very important that you get your articles and anecdotes to me as quickly as you can. Thank you.

## **Funding**

As advised in my Special Update of 9 June 2022, we were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Lotteries Environmental Heritage (LEH) Committee of the Lotteries Commission. This latest grant to our project has meant that we are able to meet fee commitments to our contracted Author and Publisher into the third quarter of 2023.

Nevertheless, the ongoing spread of the latest Omicron variant will continue to have a disruptive effect on our fund-raising efforts. Consequently, we are constantly endeavouring to maintain momentum in this vital area. Four new letters of application for funding assistance were released to potential donors over the period 7 April-6 May16. Three written follow-ups to lodged applications were sent out on 11 July 2022. An application enquiry, in consultation with our Publisher, was also initiated on 11 July 2022. An updated application (requested by a potential donor with whom we have been maintaining contact with the help of Bruce Tweedy) was sent on 21 July 2022. Our thanks to Bruce for assisting us in this way. A further application is presently being prepared for launch later this month. Another application is scheduled to be lodged late August/early September 2022. Additional applications are planned for initiation after that, subject to further investigation/analysis.



I thank those Serving Members of the RNZAC and those who have served in the RNZAC in the past who have donated funds to this Project since my last regular update on 31 March 2022. I also want to again acknowledge those who continue to donate funds more than once to this project as well as those who have personally launched their own initiatives to build funds for the History Project. The Trust greatly appreciates such extraordinary and ongoing generosity.

My thanks also go to Paul Bevin who is continuing to work on a fundraising initiative with the help of Hastings District Council and others in the Hawkes Bay area. I am grateful for Paul's ongoing help in that Region and his regular updates to me on progress.

The Trust has worked very hard since its establishment in March 2019 to ensure that this History, which is indeed "your RNZAC History", is brought to publication on time, within budget and to the highest possible quality production standards. Ongoing funding, in what continues to be a very challenging environment, is absolutely critical to achieving all this. So, if you have not yet donated to this project, I ask that you please consider doing so now. Thank you.

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@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alansday@xtra.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 regular update will be sent out to you on 30 November 2022.

All the very best.

**Sincerely**

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 rectangular box.

**Graeme Ready**  
**Chair**  
**RNZAC HPCT Inc**  
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**Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200**  
**NZBN: 9429047957329**