

RNZAC ASSOCIATION CANTERBURY BRANCH NEWSLETTER #177 May 2019

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 6 June 2019 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA with Committee Meeting at 1815 hours.

Next Happy Hour: Thursday 3 July 2019 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.

What is this all about?



Social Events

Mid-Winter Dinner: The dinner for members and partners will be held on **Saturday 22 June.**

RSVP to Len Haynes by Saturday **15 June.**

Email lennardhaynes53@gmail.com or phone 027 7340 006.



Venue: The Cashmere Club Inc. 50 Colombo Street, Cashmere. Entry is opposite Nuffield Lane or from Hunter Terrace. A sign will be inside the main entrance welcoming RNZAC members and directing you to take the corridor to the right.

Time 1900 for drinks and 1930 for dinner. **Dress:** Smart casual. Please no jeans

Meal arrangement: Please pay for your meal at the restaurant counter on arrival
Set menu cost of \$27.50 per person
Choice of: 3 Entrées, 3 mains and 3 desserts served with tea/coffee.

Wine and drinks can be purchased from the bar.

Raffles. If you wish to donate prizes for the raffles please advise Alan Baker Phone 339 6288.

Events Past and Future

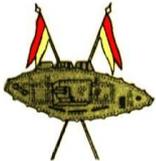
Presentation of Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry.

Congratulations to Ian Duthie who was one of fifteen who were presented the Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry by Major General Gregory Bilton, Forces Commander of the Australian Army, on behalf of Lieutenant General Rick Burr, Chief of the Australian Army, at Linton Military Camp. The background to the citation is as follows:



The Australian Task Force established Fire Support Bases (FSB) Coral and Balmoral and the battles which ensued to defend these FSBs between 12 May and 6 June 1968 were amongst the largest and most protracted fought by 1ATF in the Vietnam War. 161 Battery well as other New Zealand Armed Forces personnel directly involved in one or both battles, received high praise for the accuracy and the volume of fire support provided at critical stages of attacks on the Australian battalion positions.

RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2018/19 are now due.



A big thank you to all those who have heeded the call and got in nice and early and paid your subscription. A reminder for the rest of you out there, that subscriptions for the RNZAC Association are now due for the 2018/19 year and must be paid by the 30th September 2019. The subscription amount remains the same at \$25.00.

It is preferable that subscriptions be paid by internet banking direct to the RNZAC Association:
Account number: **03 0566 0209452 001.**

(Please include your surname and initials in the details field.)

Payment can also be made by cheque made out to the RNZAC Association, posted to the National Treasurer at the following address:

Mike Sheppard, 9 Greenfield Place, Mairehau, Christchurch 8052

A reminder that under the Association rules, if your subscription remains unpaid for more than 12 months, you cease to be a member of the Association.

Many thanks for your continued support of the RNZAC Association.

Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

RNZAC Association Website: www.rnzac.org

The observant among you will already have noticed that the RNZAC Association website has been updated. The contact details are now correct, and the most recent Canterbury Branch Newsletters have been uploaded. We will continue updating the site with our next priority being to get the "Green Fields - In Memoriam" section up to date.

Radio Check.

From Len Haynes: Hi all from Belgium.

My brothers and I have been finding our way round Cambrai, Le Quesnoy and Passchendaele. We first arrived in Cambrai on Thursday 9th April after travelling from Liverpool to Cambrai via the channel tunnel: a great experience.

Our first evening was built around obtaining the correct provisions for our survival for the first evening, bread, cheese, wine and the odd beer: all the main things brothers need. After that we slept well in readiness for our first day exploring the main objective of the exercises.



The first RV was the tourist information office in Le Quesnoy, where we found the New Zealand Memorial. The other picture was in most shop doors in Le Quesnoy. We did Le Quesnoy first as the Cambrai tank memorial is only open Wednesdays, Saturday and Sunday from 1.30 pm at this time of the year.



So, Saturday morning we bugged out of our location in search of the Cambrai tank memorial via many cemeteries, too many to mention right now. On arriving at our objective we found a modern building not unlike a bunker in the hillside. Inside, the battle was well explained; right next door was a large cemetery of soldiers that fell in that battle.

So now we had to advance to our next objective Ypres and by chance we stumbled upon a lovely bar. On further investigation the contents of this were enjoyed by all in the advance party. After this we settled into our bivvy for the night setting up an OP.

At dawn we had breakfast and advanced into the city and had a full day observing the city, normal manoeuvres at the evening to obtain large amounts of local fluids, before settling in for the night. During the night there were some strange sounds like someone drowning and chain-sawing but in the morning everyone was still safe and sound.



On our last day on this exercise we had two objectives: Passchendaele, and Menin Gate Bridge. Both were fantastic and will be explained in more detail later in June.

That evening we went to the Menin Gate service that has been carried out every evening at 8pm for nearly the last hundred years: they play the last post and say the ode. At the end we were satisfied that the exercise was a success.

Regards to all, Len Haynes

From Sean Trengrove.

Hello David, it was great to catch up in person after such a long time!

Can you please add to the 'Radio Check' for the next newsletter that we have a meeting of the Khaki Kopi Klub (old and bold with a range of backgrounds) on the second Monday of each month at the McCashin's Brewery. Alternatively, if anyone is passing through Nelson outside of that time please let me know: most reliable means is sean@busintnz.co.nz.



Please pass on my regards to all.
Cheers, Sean

[Sean, as you will see, hasn't changed much at all and is great company. He is the manager of McCashin's Brewery. Photo includes Helen and John Lane who now live in Stoke. Editor.]

From Kenneth Johnson:

I was just trolling around looking to see about NZ armour as I was a member of the 1st Squadron NZ Scottish out of Burnham in the mid-80's. Shame to see that they disbanded the unit. I have been overseas since the mid 90's, so keeping in touch with anyone in the unit is long gone.

I was told that my roommate got kicked in a Scorpion accident about 6 months after I left, which was a sad day for me for sure. I do not have much memorabilia from my time, but still have my corp belt, and some beret hardware. I still wear my cufflinks whenever I have to go to a dressy affair.

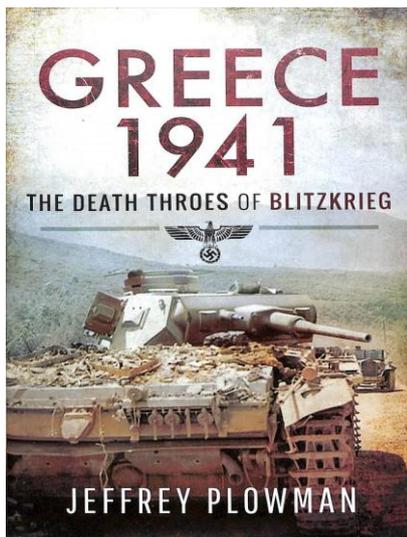


Regards Ken. (Johne)

[More to Follow. Editor]

From Jeffrey Plowman:

Thanks for the newsletter.



Nice to see the photo of the Anzac Day service. I was there with my family before my son and I headed off to Otago to cycle the rail trail. Lyn de Groot is a friend of ours, so it was good to hear her talk about Des, whom I also met and interviewed. Also nice to hear about Chris Murphy as I worked with him at Lincoln University. We all wondered how he was getting on so I can pass on those details to those who were there when he was.

I have also had this book published in the UK and was wondering if you would advertise it in your next newsletter.

One more thought. My Greek campaign book should be available from Piccadilly Books in Avonhead Mall (or dare I say it via Fishpond or Amazon). In Wellington and Auckland it might be possible to get it from Unity Books (hopefully the publisher has contacted them by now). Cheers, Jeff



Cambrai 2019 in Christchurch



Warning Order. For your diary and planning.

Cambrai is going to be held 22 – 24 November. The MTA are looking at sending a contingent down to be part of the Cambrai Weekend so other activities have been added into this year's programme. See below:

- Friday 22: Happy Hour at the Papanui RSA
- Saturday 23: Visit to military vehicle collection followed by BBQ lunch and Saturday night dinner.
- Sunday 24: Church parade followed by lunch, followed by the RNZAC Association AGM.

Full details regarding timings and locations TBA.

Humour. Food for Thought or Lesson for Life.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
 The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
 Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement

Answer: Incredible WW1 military vehicle convey steam through Dorset 11Aug 2018

I will not go into details apart from giving you the link and hoping you enjoy. *My Thanks to Ron Cone.*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GMITokuHN4> Editor

Reminders; RNZAC Association Website: www.rnzac.co.nz Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. Email: jandavid@snap.net.nz Phone 03 359 6861. **David Harrison, Editor**