

# RNZAC ASSOCIATION CANTERBURY BRANCH NEWSLETTER #183 December 2019

## Meetings

**Happy Hour: Thursday 13 February 2020 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA with a committee meeting at 1815 hrs. Please note that the reason for the change of date is that the first Thursday falls on Waitangi Day.**

**Next Happy Hour: Thursday 5 March 2020 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.**



## Events Past and Future



**SITREP from CPL Clem Williams, QAMR,  
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MOUNTED RIFLES, RNZAC  
CLEM.WILLIAMS@nzdf.mil.nz**



QAMR has had a busy month as the ceremonial duty unit for November. Along with parades the individual squadrons have been hosting pers from Australian armoured units, Army shooting competition, squadron training. Cambrai day and unit Christmas function. We have deployment criteria to uphold and even a bit of resilience training to keep the team on their toes. The unit also showed it's appreciation by promoting deserving individuals.

### **The Parade world**

QAMR was lucky enough to represent the Army side of Defence in a hundred person Royal Guard of Honour for His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. This ceremony was held at Government House in Epsom, Auckland along with members of the Navy and Air Force. Now as a bit of a surprise to the Royal Guard, the Prince is a social gentleman and stopped to speak to pers while inspecting the Guard.

As well as the main ceremony there was also a wreath laying ceremony held in Mt Roskill. The other significant parade that QAMR conducted were Guard of Honour (GOH) for General Li and General Lui of Peoples Liberation Army, China. General's Li GOH was a tri service and General Lui's was entirely filled by members of the Regiment; both GOHs were held in Wellington at Pukeahu National War Memorial.

## The Training world

NZ Scots Sqn conducted resilience training in and around the Ruahine Ranges for two days which ended up with a 26km pack march back to the bus. QAMR's shooting team, under CPL Caleb Amner, conducted some good build up training before the Army shooting competition as they took out the Hardham Rifle match, Gun match, Section match and the overall Hardham trophy. Overall they placed third out of all the army RF and TF units.

WEC Sqn were the host for our two Australian counterparts, who participated in some of the major exercise the regiment was involved in. This included going on parade and it did not go unnoticed by the Prince himself.

## Cambrai Day

This started off with an oldie but a goodie... Rum and Coffee, after the Regiment parade around the M41 Walker Bulldog monument to pay our respects (Lest we forget). Then off to the mess for a bit of breakfast. Now the highlight of the day was the brief on the battle of Cambrai day itself, put together by CPL Joshua Hermansen and presented by WO1 Shannon Brears. At the end of the day it was all finished off with a quiet beer and a few promotions

## Promotion time

Promotions demonstrate that pers have excelled in their current position and have shown they are ready for the next step in rank. So QAMR would like to congratulate the following;

<b>PR1PTE to LCPL.</b>	Holmes, Butler, Bishop and Cooper		
<b>LCPL to CPL.</b>	Breuer, Van Amsterdam, Cantwell and Rawleigh		
<b>CPL to SGT</b>	Formston, Hatcher, Jagnan		
<b>SGT to SSGT.</b>	Duncan	<b>SSGT to WO2.</b>	Hadley
<b>WO2 to WO1.</b>	Brears	<b>2LT to LT.</b>	Henderson, Ryan
<b>LT to CAPT.</b>	Brown	<b>CAPT to MAJ.</b>	Purcell

Sign off time team. There have been a few ups and downs this month but nothing the regiment couldn't handle. So with that, one month to go and then a good break for Christmas. Time for family, friends and relaxation.

*[Congratulations to all these people who have been promoted. Editor]*

**Our final Happy Hour** for the year on the 5 of November turned out to just about be a continuation of Cambrai weekend as we had a good turnout and an evening enjoyed by all. The number that stayed and enjoyed the RSA meal together was also large so all in all a great evening. Good to see Ron Cone along, after he time in hospital after a fall.

## Radio Check

**From Bruce Keddie** - Here are a few photos from this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. I didn't take part this year. I let my daughter Tania take my place. The drums (centre) are brand new and only arrived a few weeks before departure. Thankfully the band had time enough to get this incredibly good looking badge attached before departing for Edinburgh.



*[Note the RTR drum (left) and what looks like the NZ Scottish Regt Badge? (Centre) Editor]*



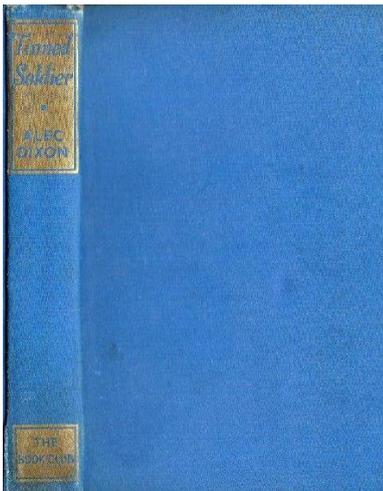
If you look hard you can see them in the foreground during a break in "Prep Time" before the start of an evening's performance. Maybe the drums of the Pipes and Drums of Christchurch City don't look quite as grand as some others but I still think they look very fine to me.

*[Tania was the piper who played at the Cambrai Church service in Christchurch. Editor]*

**From KJ Murray** - Gunday, Thank heavens for enthusiastic researchers and detail militaria perfectionists. We are both well and 'surviving' thru a series of hot days - 35 - 42 degrees!! Ouch. Got a very surprise call from John Te Whata. Long, long, chats, sounds in fine shape and lives out in Templeton with one of his sons.

Cheers n beers to all, ex Black hatters et al, Ken & Linda.

**From David Harrison** – I recently had the privilege of reading a book called “Tinned Soldier” by Alec Dixon published in 1938. This is a book about his service with the Royal Tank Corps 1919 – 1926. It covers his experiences as a recruit, what he learnt about how the Corps was formed, learning to drive and maintain the Mk5 tank, his time at Bovington camp, life in the Corps, promotion and his eventual release from service.



It is an interesting read as it covers very well what it was like in the RTC in those days and his day to day life experiences. Some not much different to my very early days with the RNZAC although I will admit we did not have to contend with monotony of parade ground drill that he did. He talks about the expressions, humour, camaraderie, the ways of the NCOs and officers, some good and some not so good.

This was a man who made friends with a Private Shaw RTC: he was much taken by this man's intelligence and his ability to ride a motor cycle. This man was a bit of an enigma, very intelligent and worldly wise. As it turned out this man was better known as T.E. Shaw or T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).

All in all a good read as it showed that some things have not changed and where some of our traditions and way of life originated.

**From Mike Sheppard** – “Defence Minister Ron Mark in scuffle over cowboy hat”. This was the Headline in the New Zealand Herald dated 17 Dec 19.



Defence Minister Ron Mark has admitted to getting into a scuffle with a man who took his signature cowboy hat at a concert.

The most interesting thing about this article is the photo that accompanies it with the Minister in said Cowboy hat.

No prizes for guessing where the photo was taken!!

Cheers Mike

## Humour

You never appreciate what you have till it's gone.  
Toilet paper is a good example.

The brain is the most outstanding organ. It works for 24 hours, 365 days, right from your birth until you fall in love.

**I Can't Wait to Retire so I can get up at 6 o'clock in the morning and go drive around really slow and make everybody late for work**

The RNZAC Association wishes all members of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps, QAMR and ex Black Hatters all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

***Have a very Merry Christmas and enjoy the New Year festivities.***

**Reminders;** RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz) Contributions to this newsletter are Gratefully accepted. Email: [jandavid@snap.net.nz](mailto:jandavid@snap.net.nz) Phone 03 359 6861. **David Harrison, Editor**