

RNZAC ASSOCIATION CANTERBURY BRANCH NEWSLETTER #186 April 2020

Meetings

Happy Hour: Thursday 7 May 2020 is not going to happen. However keep in touch, help each other and stay safe.

Next Happy Hour: Thursday 5 June 2020 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.
The good Lord loves an optimist

Whose is it?



Events Past and Future



**From: Len Haynes
President of the RNZAC Association.**

Kia ora koutou

As president of the RNZAC association, I thought it might be good if I put a few words down about the things that are happening around New Zealand.

One of the most important things is, if we know that we have members that are living alone please contact them, even if just for friendly chat and/or offer any assistance if needed like shopping. Even if you're not living alone we are all around for a friendly chat so please do not hesitate to give any of us a call anytime. Hopefully we won't be too far away from our phones other than when we're exercising, gardening or just getting some fresh air – in our local area and social distancing of course!

Well, we never thought we would see a battle like this that involves the whole of the world and as long as we do what Jacinda Arden has told us to do, we will break the chain and are all heroes and saving more lives than most doctors do every year, so stay in your bubble.

Remember social distancing is not required at home. Yes we are really finding out all those lovely things you can enjoy with your wife or partner at home like cleaning the rooms, vacuum cleaning even enjoying the classes of Pilates, even if you can't move the next day!

By the time you get to read this we will be well through our four week lockdown and Dave and Jan Harrison will be out of their two weeks of house arrest.

On a closing note be kind, keep in touch with whanau especially our young ones and friends on their own, be safe.

We will be thinking of all our Tankies overseas.

ANZAC Day - I am sure we will all recognize this in our own way and stand at dawn at home.

Never, never, never give up.

(Winston Churchill)

Be safe, be kind and wash your hands!

Kia kaha

Len and Shirley Haynes



**SITREP from QAMR,
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MOUNTED RIFLES, RNZAC
WO1 Mark Thompson**



Regt Col, sir, Col Comdt, sir, David and Geoff, please note the below directions from Army General Staff (AGS). In short, until the lockdown is over there will be no support for external ceremonies or Tangis.

I wish you all the best for the coming month or so, and I am sure we will all get through these uncertain times.

Kindest regards,

WO1 Mark Thompson

Regimental Sergeant Major,
Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles



Ake Ake Kia Kaha

From: Bernie Grant

Kia ora,

As the country moves to COVID-19 Level 4, please be aware that any request for Army to support a military funeral, will not be supported at this time.

a. For veterans; Army will respond with "no support right now", however when New Zealand moves to a more "business as normal" please contact us with your memorial services plans and we will review our support at that time.

b. For a service person or NZ Army civilian; COMD teams will need to review at the time of death noting that COVID-19 measures take priority.

(1) It will be a whanau decision but a military presence will be minimum at this time.

(2) When New Zealand move to a more "business as normal", then NZ Army would engage with the families for their memorial service.

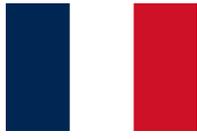
Be safe, be kind,

Bernie Grant

Chief of Staff, Army General Staff

Radio Check.

From Steve Thompson: Hello to you all.

 We live in interesting times! As you know I returned to Versailles a week ago and for the past seven days have been enjoying Gaby's company in our tiny apartment, broken only by a trip to the farmers market (since closed) and two trips to the supermarket. The first of these was business as usual, albeit that the shelves were stripped of many items (all the organic products had gone!). The second (two days ago) saw the introduction of reduced numbers inside the store and the resulting long queue outside with everyone maintaining a 1.5 metre distance. But supplies have been getting through and there was a good selection of most items – even toilet paper!

France has increased its vigilance and tightened the screws on people movement and social contact. But it has done so in a very calm manner and without all the electioneering hype I see coming out of NZ. Macron is on TV maybe once a week and leaves the handling of the anti-virus measures to his ministers. There is little in the way of hysteria and people are generally abiding by the restrictions. There have been no major shortages as yet and people are just waiting out the virus, knowing that it must run its course. This is the second week of lockdown here.

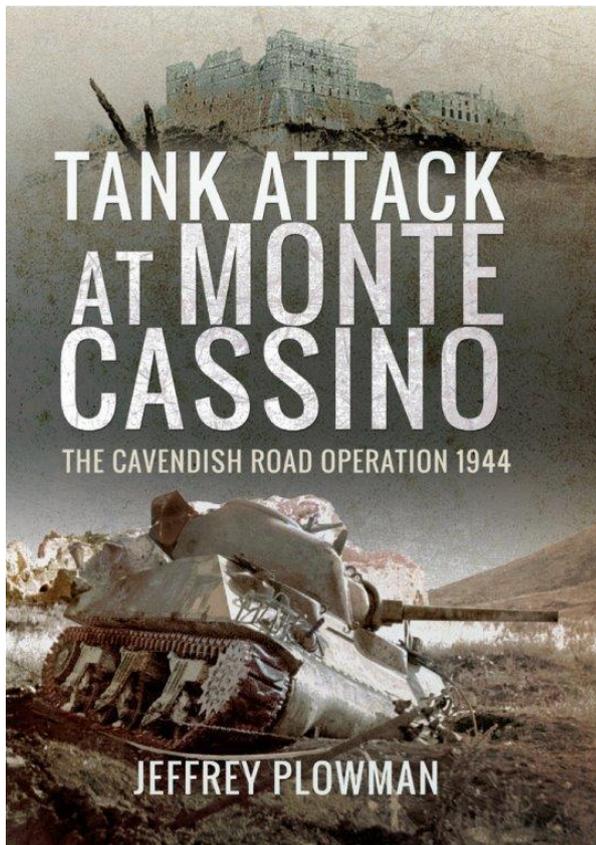
A good time not to be a smoker. Good luck with the lockdown. I trust it won't be as arduous as some are predicting.

It was great to see you all at the barbecue, although a little more time would have been nice.

Very best regards to you all
Steve

From Jeff Plowman:

Thanks for the newsletters. My next book is due for release next month so could you run a short piece on it in your next newsletter?



Early morning, 19 March 1944.

Tanks manned by New Zealanders, Indians and Americans launched a daring attack along a narrow mountain track on German positions north of Monte Cassino. So began one of the most audacious Allied attempts to break through the Gustav Line and advance on Rome – and it almost succeeded. Yet the extraordinary story has seldom been told, and it has never been told before in the vivid detail Jeffrey Plowman brings to this new account. “

Extract taken from the cover of the TANK ATTACK AT MONTE CASSINO

[Jeffery has written many books and one in particular is Rampant Dragons which covers in detail the actions and experiences of the men of the 19th Armoured Regiment RNZAC progress through WW11 and its involvement at Monte Cassino. This new book will shed greater light on this armoured thrust, what happened and why. Editor]



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust

Attached to this newsletter is the latest update letter received from Graeme Ready, Chair of the trust. Please read it as it updates us on how well the project is going and how you can help. :

Humour

Black Covid-19 type humour

**My thoughts going out for all
those poor married men
who've spent months telling
the wife
"I'll do that when I have time"**



September morning 2050:

John opened the last
package of toilet paper
bought by his parents
in 2020.

Message received during the Covis-19 lockdown from a retired NZ policeman.

Spent 43 years in the Police Force, arresting people and now I'm under house arrest.

Answer: Australia - The Australian Army is currently equipped with the M113AS4. This version is an upgrade of the Vietnam-era M113A1 that was issued to the Army in March 1965. The M113AS4 is longer, has an electrically powered turret, day/night weapon sights, a new engine, steering controls, drive train, electrical and fuel systems as well as a newly designed internal layout.

Troop support - The M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) is an all-terrain vehicle designed to protect and transport its crew and up to ten infantry personnel. The M113 incorporates armour resistant to small arms fire, ballistic plating for mine blast protection and spall curtains to maximise passenger survivability. Logistically, the vehicle is capable of rapid deployment by road, rail, sea or air.

Variants - The family of vehicles includes seven variants - the APC, Fitters, Recovery Light, Ambulance, Mortar, Command and Logistic. [*Thanks to Mike Sheppard for providing this article. Editor.*]

Comparison new and old

Weight: **18,000 kilograms**
Length: **6.00 metres**
Width: 2.69 metres
Height: 2.61 metres
Crew: Two - with up to ten passengers
Engine: MTU 6 V 199 TE 20 **350 hp**
Speed: 66 kilometres per hour
Operational range: **550 kilometres**
Torsion bar, **6** road wheels
Armament: 12.7 millimetre Machine Gun

Old Number produced (all variants) 80,000

12.300 kilograms
4.863 metres
2.69 metres
2.5 metres
Two – Up to 11 passengers
Detroit Diesel 6V53T, **275 hp**
67 kilometres per hour
480 kilometres
Torsion bar, **5** road wheels
12.7 mm and .30 MG

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



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

c/- 272B Ginn Road
Rotowaro RD1
HUNTLY 3771

31 March 2020

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

Trust-Author Matters

General

The author of our History, Matthew Wright and I (on behalf of the Trust) met at Wellington on 17 December 2019 to discuss key issues regarding the History. These included, inter alia, content licensing, copyright considerations, book content and format, research methodologies, publishing considerations, the processing of manuscripts and required deadlines for the project. This very worthwhile meeting set the foundation for our future work.

Since that meeting, Matthew has recommended to the Trust that he be permitted to generally concentrate on the period 1947-2020 first as it will require the greater effort and focus to ensure accuracy and completeness. The Trust is mindful of the wealth of historical information that already exists for much of the earlier periods so we have supported Matthew in this. This prioritising will not negate some parallel work being done I on the earlier periods.

Matthew has spent much of his time already assembling Rolls of Honour and identifying content that can be placed into appendices and sidebars. The Trust believes that this also is a sound approach as much of the finished appendices/sidebars will serve as a reference point for his later research and completion of draft manuscripts.

Matthew and I have been in constant contact during this first phase of the project. Further, he produces a written progress/key issue report to me at the end of each month. This relationship allows the Trust to make sound decisions at critical points during the project. Matthew has asked me to read all his draft manuscripts to assist his progressing of the project. I have the Trust's support in this and have therefore advised Matthew accordingly.

Familiarisation Visit to QAMR and the Combat School

On 11 Mar 20, Matthew and I visited QAMR and the Combat School to introduce Matthew to Corps units and to discuss the project and related research matters. It was a very worthwhile activity which enabled Matthew to meet members of both units, see the hangar areas and the Combat School facility as well as be introduced to the NZLAV.

I want to acknowledge the very kind assistance and hospitality provided by Colonel Glenn King (Regimental Colonel RNZAC), Lieutenant Colonel Scott Cordwell (Commanding Officer QAMR) and Major Cory Neale (Chief Instructor Combat School) and their respective Teams in enabling this visit to proceed. I am also most grateful for being provided with the names of research contacts

for both QAMR and the Combat School for future liaison on such matters. This will be an immense help to me as I start to gather relevant material on both unit's histories for Matthew.

Incorporation

As a result of an application that was lodged with the New Zealand Companies Office on 17 Feb 20, the RNZAC HPCT was allocated incorporation status on 24 Feb 20. Incorporation, coupled with the measures (Independent Solicitor and Accountant as well as Charitable Trust Registration) already taken, reinforces the integrity of the Trust's work to those that we approach for financial support.

Further, it broadens our reach into those potential donors that may insist on our incorporation prior to their consideration of an application for funding assistance from us.

Trust Accounts and Charities Services Requirements

Alan Day, our Treasurer, prepared and submitted the Trust's Accounts and associated reports to our independent Chartered Accountant for review on 21 February. Our Chartered Accountant also reviewed the Performance Report and associated documentation that is required to be submitted to Charities Services by 30 Jun 20 to ensure the continuance of our Registered Charitable Trust status.

Both reviews were completed on 6 Mar 20 and all reviewed documents were approved for adoption at a RNZAC HPCT INC meeting on 18 Mar 20.

Assistance to the Trust

I never cease to be impressed by the number of folk outside the Trust who are now assisting us with gathering important and interesting historical detail as well as helping us with fund raising initiatives. It is immensely gratifying to know that the Trust is not alone and is well supported in its various project activities.

In this regard, I want to acknowledge the generosity of a donor who very kindly lent me a number of books for research purposes last year and has recently advised that he is happy for me to hold onto these for the duration of the project then archive them "for the common good" at the end of the project. This is an extraordinary act of kindness as it enables me to access these histories, when required, to assist Matthew when he sends draft manuscripts to me during the project. It also allows others to have access to the books after the project has been completed. Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

3

Reference Material

Thank you all for the many photographs that are continuing to flow in. Also for the anecdotes/stories that have been sent to me. However, I need more; much more; lots more; heaps more stories, notes and anecdotes please!

This History is a great opportunity for these stories to be published but it cannot be done unless we all share our experiences/highlights etc. Given that Matthew is primarily researching and writing up the period 1947-2020 first, there is an urgent need now to get these to me please.

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 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, notes and anecdotes into the Trust. I ask for your support of this please.

Funding

Author's Fees and Expenses

We allocate funds received from Corporate sponsors and Trusts to the Author's research and writing fees and expenses to ensure his continuity in the project. At the moment we have sufficient funding for the Author to continue for some months yet.

We are mindful that the present circumstances affecting the country at the moment may affect our fund raising efforts in relation to Corporates and Trusts. However, we remain absolutely determined to explore every avenue and to think outside the square to ensure that we have sufficient funds to continue with this history project which is so important to the Corps. Accordingly, our Fund raising Team of Christopher Wotton and Francie Russell are conducting a funding review to ascertain additional options that might be useful to us.

The Trust's Expenses

I want to 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 Update. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Such donations are used to maintain the work of the Trust. The Trust is the engine room that drives the many tentacles of the project and your donations are critical to its ongoing 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@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.

Covid 19

As I write this Update, I am mindful that we are now in the first week of a National Emergency and an associated lockdown in an effort to eliminate the virus. The circumstances are unique in terms of recent history and may well extend beyond the initial four weeks announced last week. On behalf of the Trust I extend best wishes to you all and to your families that, despite the challenges that will inevitably arise, you will all come safely through them. In this period of a National Emergency, we know too that it is possible that the Defence Force may be called upon to assist the Police. Accordingly, our Serving Members of the Corps and their families have a special place in our thoughts at this time.

Next Update

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graeme Ready". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right and a vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Graeme Ready
Chair
RNZAC HPCT INC Registered Charity Number CC56897
Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200
NZBN: 9429047957329

Reference Material

Thank you all for the many photographs that are continuing to flow in. Also for the anecdotes/stories that have been sent to me. However, I need more; much more; lots more; heaps more stories, notes and anecdotes please!

This History is a great opportunity for these stories to be published but it cannot be done unless we all share our experiences/highlights etc. Given that Matthew is primarily researching and writing up the period 1947-2020 first, there is an urgent need now to get these to me please.

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 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, notes and anecdotes into the Trust. I ask for your support of this please.

Funding

Author's Fees and Expenses

We allocate funds received from Corporate sponsors and Trusts to the Author's research and writing fees and expenses to ensure his continuity in the project. At the moment we have sufficient funding for the Author to continue for some months yet.

We are mindful that the present circumstances affecting the country at the moment may affect our fund raising efforts in relation to Corporates and Trusts. However, we remain absolutely determined to explore every avenue and to think outside the square to ensure that we have sufficient funds to continue with this history project which is so important to the Corps. Accordingly, our Fund raising Team of Christopher Wotton and Francie Russell are conducting a funding review to ascertain additional options that might be useful to us.

The Trust's Expenses

I want to 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 Update. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Such donations are used to maintain the work of the Trust. The Trust is the engine room that drives the many tentacles of the project and your donations are critical to its ongoing work. Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

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@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.

Covid 19

As I write this Update, I am mindful that we are now in the first week of a National Emergency and an associated lockdown in an effort to eliminate the virus. The circumstances are unique in terms of recent history and may well extend beyond the initial four weeks announced last week.

On behalf of the Trust I extend best wishes to you all and to your families that, despite the challenges that will inevitably arise, you will all come safely through them.

In this period of a National Emergency, we know too that it is possible that the Defence Force may be called upon to assist the Police. Accordingly, our Serving Members of the Corps and their families have a special place in our thoughts at this time.

Next Update

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

Sincerely,

Graeme Ready