

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #192 October 2020

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 5 November 2020 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA

Next Happy Hour: Thursday 3 December 2020 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



Events Past and Future

Sunday 22 November 2019: This is all about what Cambrai means to us and getting together and enjoying the company of comrades and friends.



12 noon. Cambrai Church Service, St Paul's Anglican Church, Harewood Road

12.45 pm Papanui RSA: Drinks followed by a buffet lunch then by the RNZAC Association and the Canterbury Branch AGMs. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Len Haynes.

Non RNZAC Assoc members may attend but do not have voting rights.

Cost: Attendees \$10 pp.

Please note: For catering purposes, please contact Len Haynes with numbers attending by **Sunday 15 November**. Phone: 0277 340 006, email: lennardhaynes53@gmail.com

From the Mounted Trooper Association



Greetings everyone,

You are invited to attend the activities which will commemorate the 103rd anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai.

Cambrai has always been a special time of the year for people who have served in the RNZAC. It's a time for us to reflect on 'armour' and how it has evolved and influenced the battlefield since it was first employed in mass 103 years ago at the Battle of Cambrai. It is also a time for us to reconnect with old comrades and friends and to remember our mates and family who are no longer with us. Additionally, it is an invaluable opportunity to meet the soldiers who proudly serve today - they are us, and we are them. Cambrai is special, it is a spirit and a spirit which we will carry with us, and which will bind us together, for the rest of our lives.

There is controlled entry into Waiouru Camp hence the need to assemble at the Marae carpark for an official welcome (powhiri), conduct march-In administration, issue visitor passes, allocate accommodation together with light refreshments, then convoy in mass to the controlled entry into camp.

You are required to wear your visitor pass at all times. Bring your own towel.

The committee has worked to keep costs to a minimum (\$125.00 per person) and includes a free (to attendees) guided tour of the Queen Elizabeth II Army Museum.

We look forward to seeing you in Waiouru. If you are interested, please contact:

Email geoff.kree@gmail.com
Hand Deliver Geoff Kreegher or Chris Cooper

Phone Geoff 021 213 9346 or Chris 021 206 9421 to make arrangements.
Time is short for registration and payment. This was due to confirmation of activities, facilities and cost only just being received. **Registrations and payment close 29 Oct 20**

Kind regards
Geoff Kreegher
Secretary MTA

212 Thomas Road
Rototuna
Hamilton 3210



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



QAMR's month has been a steady one, with the unit coming to grips with the new Covid 19 battle rhythm. Along with the ongoing response we are still trying to put the troops over new ground for training before the years end.

The Training World

The Regiment is gearing up to conduct Exercise CASSINO under the guidance of WO1 Randall Cross and the training cell. This will see troops from Wellington East Coast Squadron up in Waiouru conducting battle runs through zones 20, 5 and 11. The Exercise is designed to increase the current skill level of the troops and Troop Leaders.

Covid 19

QAMR is still task group central (TU 650.7.2) for the Covid response, we currently still have deployed teams in and around Hamilton, Rotorua and Wellington in support of the Government. Our teams are conducting six week rotations which has been forecasted out for the next two years.

Parade for the Fallen

QAMR had the honour of supporting the funeral of SSGT Carl Filmer, RNZAC. WO1 Thompson was the Family LO, Bearing Party IC WO1 Brears and SSGT Crawford was the Firing Party IC which consisted of current serving members of RNZAC and RNZALR soldiers. This saw a contingent of 21 support the send-off of our RNZAC brother, and was a great honour for those present. We shared in refreshments and the telling of tales with family, veterans, friends old and new.

Many thanks to the RNZAC family in and around Nelson who hosted our stay along with the RNZIR Cadre staff for all their assistance during this time.

Sign off

We hope all is well and you are taking the appropriate actions to remain in good health over this time.

Clem Williams

Radio Check.

From David Harrison.

I received this photo just recently and it shows how enthusiasts keep moving important features of our past.



The photo was taken in October 2020 at Timaru by a participant in a "Horsepower Rally" which consists primarily of classic truck owners.

The owner of the M41 is not known apart from the fact that it is part of a private collection. Where the collector obtained the M41 is also unknown.

From Jim Coubrough.

Thanks, and a great tribute to KJ. I watched his funeral online and it was a good send-off. KJ also served as the SQMS at 1 Scots for a couple of years. He was very involved with all the unit activities and he was also the editor of the 1 Scots Newsletter which was awaited with much anticipation by all of the unit personnel.

It was always full of interesting stories and no one was exempt from the editor's wit! Ron Cone often turns up with old copies of the newsletter from those days. KJ was extremely popular with all ranks and nothing was ever a problem to him. He was also particularly good working with the TF members of the unit. If we were ever short of an APC driver in the RF troop, he was always very willing to fill in.



I arrived in March 1975 with the RNZAC reorg which saw the 1 Scots Det in Waiouru moved to Burnham and the RF element of 1 Scots increased significantly. KJ was the SQMS when I arrived and he was still there in Oct 1976 when I left.

Bill Adam was the OC, Bill Grupen the 2IC, Ray Heatley the QM, Hamish McHardy the SSM, John Te Whata the Chief Clerk, Bill Cook the TQMS, Cpl Turnbull the Q storeman and Paddy O'Sullivan the Tech storeman. I was the RF Tp Ldr and Eddie Maurice the Tp Sgt. Chunky Hiko, Jim Naera and Eddie Gray were the APC Sect Comds.

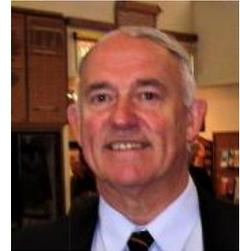
They were all a very experienced group and most of them were Vietnam veterans. They were excellent at passing on a wealth of operational and APC troop knowledge and contributed so much to the development of the unit.

Rest in peace KJ.
Cheers, Jim

From Dave Lester.

Thank you for the link (to KJ Murray's funeral service). Watched with a tear and many memories. Thought of Mike and John also. A bad year for the original APC Troop.

Kind regards
Dave Lester



Hot off the Press

Members may have seen an article in the latest VA News from Veterans' Affairs (Spring 2020). The article covered the 70th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. During the war 45 New Zealanders died and 81 were wounded. More than 6,000 New Zealanders served in Korea at the request of the United Nations. One of those who attended the commemoration at Pukeahu National War Memorial was our very own Les Pye, RNZAC.

Les, along with such well known people as Dick Pepper, Jack Brunton and Bill Grupen also served with RTR units and were just some of the total of 25 RNZAC soldiers who served in Korea.

Les initially spent time as a command post operator with 161 Battery and then was posted to 1 Royal Tank Regiment (RTR) and became a commander of a centurion tank.

In 2002 RNZAC Korean veterans presented a painting of a Centurion Tank in a Korean setting to the Korean section of the Army Museum.



Judging by the photo in the VA News Les was thoroughly enjoying the catch up with other Korean veterans.

Thank you Les.

Regimental Number

Dear Black Hatter



We (The RNZAC Association) have had a number of requests this year from the families of Black Hatters that have passed, for their Regimental Numbers so that the family can better get details of their loved ones service records from NZ Defence. We don't have our current members or past members Regimental Numbers on record.

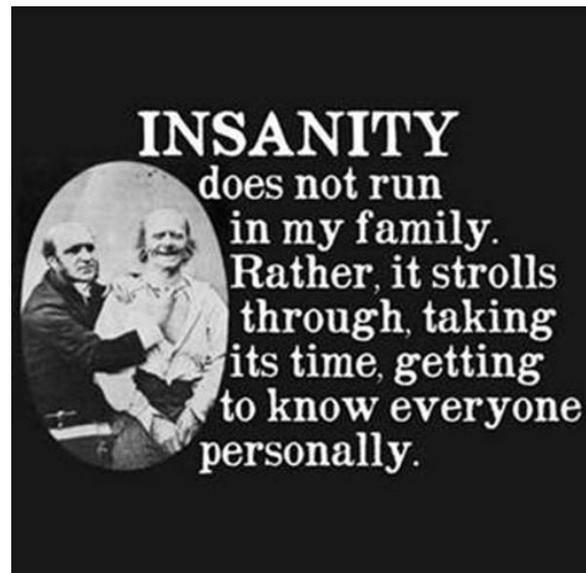
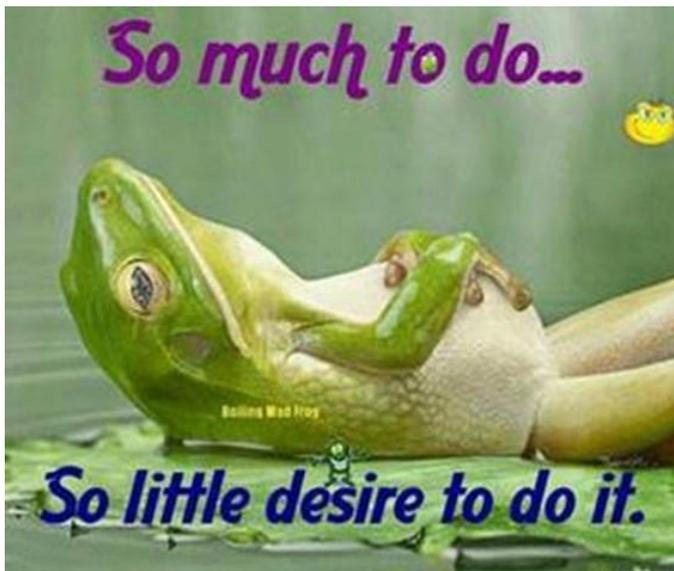
The Committee has decided to make the request of you, that if you wish, we will collect your Regimental Number from you and store it with our RNZAC Association Members list so that a

record exists that is easily accessible should your families need it after you have moved on to that great tank hanger in the sky!

If you do wish us to store your Regimental Number on our Association Membership list, then please provide it by return e-mail. miksan@xtra.co.nz

Many thanks,
Kind regards,
Mike Sheppard,
RNZAC Association

Humour



Answer: Singapore Armed Forces Hunter AFV. The new AFV replaces the Singapore Army's ageing M113 which has been in service since 1970s. The Hunter is the Singapore Army's first digitalised platform. It has a crew of three, driver, commander and gunner and can carry eight fully equipped soldiers. It is equipped with a 30mm automatic cannon, guided missile system and 7.62mm coaxial machine gun. All remotely operated from the hull.

The digitised fire control system is designed to execute fire control functions automatically and provides increased weapon accuracy. The gunner's stabilised sighting system has a day and thermal camera unit with a laser rangefinder. The commander's 360° panoramic sight can operate independently from the turret and provides high aiming accuracy, situational awareness and target acquisition. All fire control information is displayed on the digital displays.

Rear mounted and above the engine camera units provide the driver with an unobstructed 360° view. The Hunter has a maximum speed of 70km/h and an operating range of 500km.

The link below gives a good description of this new AFV.

Please note that first you may see an advertisement page. To remove the ad, click on the black X in the white box to the right.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/new-saf-hunter-armoured-fighting-vehicle-commissioned-as-armour-formation-turns-50>

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**