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31 July 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

The author of our History, Matthew Wright has now almost completed his compilation of the Rolls of Honour for the South African War, World War I, World War II and the period following World War II. He has initiated the Roll for the New Zealand Wars period of the History as well and will add to that as he writes the narrative for that era. This is a very complicated part of his work which calls for high levels of data examination and interpretation skills as well as accuracy when writing it all up. The Trust is very pleased that he has managed to produce written work of this scale at this stage of the project.

Matthew's particular brand of meticulous research in this area has been ground-breaking. He has discovered some enlightening facts and supplementary notes around the respective Rolls of Honour that will be of great interest to all that read this History. Further, during this work, Matthew has compiled a range of additional information that he will be able to include in the general narrative.

In parallel with this very important human side of honouring all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice whilst in action over our 160 year history, Matthew is continuing to develop chronological histories of units and vehicle details as well as the sketch-draft of the period 1947-2020 which will become the skeleton for his narrative of that more recent period of our history.

Publishing

I will be preparing, in consultation with our Author and our Historical Advisor, a Brief for our selected Publisher for the Trust's approval by 15 September 2020. This will then be sent to the Publisher for initial assessment.

A meeting (attended by the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Trust as well as our Author and our Historical Advisor) will then be held with the Publisher in October to provide a basis for a draft contract. This contract will then be assessed by the Trust period November 2020-January 2021 for finalisation around 30 April 2021.



Assistance to the Trust

I wish to gratefully acknowledge these Authors for their very kind support of this project:

- Richard Stowers who provided a complete electronic copy of his book “Waikato Troopers,” together with all his photos, notes, documents and interviews related to his research for that book.
- Jeffrey Plowman who has provided records of interviews –CYC, OMR, 1 NZ Army Tank Bde, 2 Div Cav, 18, 19 and 20 Armd Regts, K Force and the RNZAC as well as some Interview Transcripts. Jeffrey Plowman has also kindly offered to provide the Trust with a list of quality photographs from the 1930s through to 1941-42 covering Mounted Rifle Regiments, LAFV Regiments and the advent of tanks in New Zealand together with descriptions. Guidance on copyright(s) will also be included. Jeffrey has also offered to assist with the accurate captioning of photos towards publication date to help ensure that we get them right. In addition, he has offered to check our Final Draft of Armoured Fighting Vehicle details to help us achieve accuracy. Finally, Jeffrey has offered to assist Matthew and I with any other aspect of the History.
- Terry Kinloch who has offered to make himself available as and when necessary where Matthew identifies gaps in his own research.

In addition, QAMR and the Combat School have gathered together and delivered 24 cartons, cases, crates and envelopes of reference material and photos to me for research purposes. Such generosity and trust is gratefully appreciated.

I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Marc Parsons who launched his own fund raising initiative to support the RNZAC HPCT on 22 July 2020. Marc is donating the profits from the sale of badged and logoed brew mugs to the History Project. Marc approached the Trust last year with this idea and we are very grateful for his assistance in this area. The link to Marc’s website for these items is- <https://cavmarc.wixsite.com/laager> .

Reference Material

Please continue to send photographs, anecdotes and stories.

At this particular time, we need more “memories” please. Just a note will do; as these can be used to expand, support or illustrate a particular narrative within the History.

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.

Funding

General

Covid 19 has affected our fundraising for this project. There are many New Zealanders hurting at the moment and donors are favouring Charities that support humanitarian assistance. This is rightly so and the Trust understands this.

We have reduced our overall budget and continue to review the way we do things to keep costs down. Trust meetings are conducted via Zoom. Other meetings will be conducted via this medium where it is practical and effective to do so.

We continue to consider all possible options for gathering funds including personal approaches and applications to Grants Boards, Foundations, Trusts and Corporates.

Given the Covid 19 recovery environment that we are in at the moment, the timing of the launch of any option is critical and we constantly have this under review.

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 through into the beginning of next year.

Our Fund raising Team of Christopher Wotton and Francie Russell continue to work hard to bring more funding in. Our Author, Matthew Wright has also been assisting in this regard.

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. I also extend my thanks to those who have donated in response to the RNZAC History Brochure which was sent out last month. In this regard, we have received a second donation from a previous donor. Further, we have received donations from two members of the same family. This is great support for which the Trust is most grateful.

The Trust manages the project in all its complexities. This management is contingent upon adequate funding.

So, I ask please that if you 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 this project 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.

Item of Interest

Jeffrey Plowman has released a new book-"Tank Attack at Monte Cassino-The Cavendish Road Operation 1944." It features a New Zealand tank squadron. Please see the attached photo of the book's jacket which I have asked to be distributed along with this Update. The book has been published by Pen and Sword who commissioned Jeffrey to write it. Fishpond, Mighty Ape and Amazon are advertising it.

Covid 19

As I write this Update, the country is now in the recovery phase of our response to Covid 19. Our Defence Force has been called upon to assist with the management of selected aspects of this task. Accordingly, our Serving Members of the Corps and their families continue to have a special place in our thoughts at this time.

Next Update

My next update will be sent out to you on 30 November 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.

Take care everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Ready'.

Graeme Ready

Chair

RNZAC HPCT

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