



c/- 272B Ginn Road
Rotowaro
RD1

3 December 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

Author Matters

Matthew Wright has just completed his first year as our Author. He developed his Work Plan this year so that research and writing could be done in parallel starting with “green fields” aspects. This approach has allowed time to be available to him for managing challenges as the project proceeds.

This first year has involved Matthew in project planning, preparing the bulk of the appendices (substantial scale, rigour, with prescribed content) and some general research. Matthew will proceed over the next two years to research and write the main text, starting with the 1947-2020 period.

Matthew has good background on the earlier periods, but will need to conduct detailed research on aspects associated with mounted units and the Corps. Having that background makes it possible to achieve the expected scale of text in the time frame, which is equivalent to about three books of ‘ordinary’ length, on top of the appendices.

Within the regime described above, Matthew has completed the Vehicle Appendix which has been checked by Jeffrey Plowman (who is also very kindly providing photos of each vehicle for this Appendix and others for the History for our consideration)

Matthew is also well advanced on producing the Rolls of Honour up to 2012. I have agreed to initially develop the Draft Memorial Roll (1947-2020). Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC) and Ian Bolton (fellow Trustee) have provided valuable assistance in this area. I hope to have this Roll completed this month.

The Honours and Awards Appendix is also well advanced but again I have agreed to initially draft the Table for the period 1947-2020 because of the difficulty of locating reliable data for this era. I am being assisted in this by David Baguley (whom some of you may remember from earlier days of the Corps). David managed the New Zealand Honours System for a number of years and I am grateful for his assistance. Jack Hayes (previously RNZIR and NZSAS) is also helping with this task. Lt Col Glenn King (Regimental Colonel RNZAC) has also offered to assist David Baguley in this as Point of Contact for the Corps. We are also adding a Non-Service Awards Section to this Appendix in recognition of special awards that



have been made by the civil sector to some serving members whilst they were in the RNZAC.

Matthew Wright is presently proceeding with the Unit Lists and Histories Appendix as well as the Regimental Property Appendix. Matthew's aim is to eventually link all these Appendices within a single "Appendices." All these documents will have some gaps but these can be back-filled during the project as more information becomes available during the project.

Matthew has also provided valuable assistance and advice during the publishing appraisal process, as has Christopher Pugsley, our Historical Advisor.

Publishing

A publishing proposal was sent to our preferred publisher on 13 Oct 20. That publisher subsequently accepted the Trust's strict criteria regarding the History and consequently (upon request by the Trust) sent a Formal Proposal for evaluation by the Trust on 4 Nov 20.

At a Trust Board Meeting on 11 Nov 20, Trustees agreed on a list of points that needed to be negotiated with the publisher. These negotiation points were further refined on 25 Nov 20 at a Zoom meeting (attended by Chris Wotton and I from the Trust as well as Matthew Wright and Christopher Pugsley) on 25 November to evaluate and refine these negotiation points.

I am meeting with the publisher on 4 December to discuss these points with a view to achieving a mutually beneficial way ahead.

Assistance to the Trust

Marc Parson's fundraising initiative to support the RNZAC HPCT with the donation of the profits from the sale of badged and logoed brew mugs has resulted thus far in \$250.00 being donated to the Trust. MTA's efforts to sell some of these mugs at Cambrai Commemorations at Waiouru 20-22 Nov 20 contributed to this overall total being realised. The Trust is grateful to Marc and to the MTA for their efforts.

Marc has since advised that he has ordered another small shipment of selected brew mugs. To order your RNZAC mugs, email Mako at: equitesnz@gmail.com stating:

1. Number and type of mug (e.g. Scots - five available; or Veterans - 10 available).
2. Address (to calculate postage)
3. Name

You will then be sent payment details and following 8 Dec 20 when the next mugs arrive, mugs will be dispatched.

In addition, I have just three of these stunning mugs left over from the MTA sale during Cambrai Commemorations 2020. They have a coloured QAMR badge on the front with a black and white image of an NZLAV on the reverse side. Please let me know, via Geoff Kreegher (Secretary-MTA), and I will advise payment and shipping details. First in-first served please.



Reference Material

I continue to go through 24 separate containers of documents, booklets, letters, maps, and photos that QAMR and Combat School very kindly gathered and delivered to me in July this year. So far, 591 pages of documents from the QAMR and Combat School consignment have been sent to the Author. In addition, 130 documents from individual contributors have been sent to the Author.

Please continue to send anecdotes and stories.

We need more “memories” and “humorous pieces” 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

There are many New Zealanders who continue to suffer from the economic and social effects of Covid 19. Understandably, donors are favouring Charities that support humanitarian assistance. The Trust recognizes this and accepts that our fundraising will continue to be a challenge.

We have reduced our overall budget and continue to review the way we do things to keep costs down. All our meetings are conducted via Zoom. This will continue unless it is necessary to do otherwise.

We remain committed to exploring 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, the timing of the launch of any option is critical and we constantly reassess this. In this regard, Chris Wotton and Francie Russell, QSM, JP are conducting another funding review in January/February next year.

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. Our Fundraising 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.



Breaking News

I am very pleased to advise that we have just received a grant from the Lotteries Environmental Heritage Committee (LEH) of the Lotteries Commission. It is the second largest grant that has been made to the project. This great news has been hard won through the efforts of Chris Wotton, Francie Russell and Alan Day over the many weeks that it took to establish required working relationships with appropriate advisors and lodge the application. This grant means that, at this stage, we have sufficient funding for the Author to continue his research and writing through to the first quarter of 2022.

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 grateful for your generosity.

I also want to especially acknowledge the fundraising efforts of the MTA Committee and those individuals who spontaneously made donations to the Project during the Cambrai Commemorations at Waiouru period 20-22 Nov 20. A total of \$1407.70 was raised. A great and generous effort by all concerned. Thank you.

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

So, I ask please, if you have not yet donated 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@extra.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

Matthew Wright has released a new book- "Freyberg-A life's Journey"-This new biography focuses on Freyberg the man to reveal the reality behind a towering 20th Century hero. General Freyberg has a special place in our own Corps history given that he was responsible for the formation of 4th (NZ) Armoured Brigade within the 2nd NZ Division during WWII. Please see the attached photo of the book's jacket which I have asked to be distributed along with this Update. The book is available through all good bookshops and has been well reviewed by the Listener.



COVID-19

As I write this Update, COVID-19 still poses a threat to this country. Our Defence Force is assisting 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.

Strategic Outlook

The last 17 months has been a time of setting and consolidating legal, accountancy, operational and fundraising foundations for the Trust's extensive work. Within that same period, we have been able to work closely with the Author throughout his first year of work as he has researched the subject area and commenced the writing of our History.

We will face considerable challenges again in 2021 but the Trust's collective determination and knowledge accumulated over 17 months now will enable our current momentum to be maintained.

I am confident that we will get the funds required to ensure that we end up with a quality History that once picked up, none of us will want to put down. That is our aim, that is our way forward and all we have to do is remain focussed.

Next Update

My next update will be sent out to you on 31 March 2021 after our Trust Meeting earlier that month. That notwithstanding, I will continue to distribute special updates before then where a significant event or milestone occurs.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Trust, I extend best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Take care everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Ready'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a simple blue line drawing of a chair or stool.

Graeme Ready

Chair

RNZAC HPCT

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