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31 March 2021

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 completed his first version of his Draft Master Appendices document on 23 December 2020, in which each individual appendix was included. This comment from a colleague in January- “what an amazing piece of work” describes Matthew’s efforts on this part of our History well.

Since then, the Trust has provided further comment back to Matthew. Consequently, his second draft of this document was received this month and the Trust will be working through this draft with a view to providing further comment to Matthew in due course. This document will continue to be a “work in progress” in parallel with our efforts on other aspects of the History.

The MTA, The RNZAC Association and Ian Bolton are assisting with obtaining information to enable us to complete the key personnel lists for the School of Armour and the Scottish Units to enable completion of Appendix 4 within the Draft Master Appendices document. QAMR is also assisting with providing names of OCs and SSMs for each of its Squadrons over the years that the present Regiment has been operating. Such assistance is greatly appreciated by the Trust.

Regarding Appendix 3 of the Draft Master Appendices document, David Baguley, with assistance from Glen Stokes (on behalf of HQNZDF), has provided an Honours and Awards table of RNZAC recipients for the period 1995 onwards. David is now working with Glen Stokes, on a list of recipients of internal awards, i.e., CDF Commendations, Defence Meritorious Service Medal (DMSM) etc. for the same period (1995-2021). Work in this Honours and Awards area for the period 1947-1992 is also continuing. In this regard, Jack Hayes has recently provided reference material to David Baguley to enable him to extract MSM awards to members of the RNZAC for the period 1947-1993. This earlier period for the Honours and Awards Appendix will continue to pose challenges for us due to a lack of available records. Nevertheless, we are making steady progress.



In the meantime, Matthew has commenced writing the draft narrative for the period 1945-2021 and is working to provide his first draft manuscript from the early part of this period to the Trust during May 2021.

Publishing

On 17 Dec 20, we received a Revised Proposal (based on the selected Publishers and Chair meeting on 4 Dec 20) to the Trust for consideration. This was promulgated separately to Trustees and our Historical Advisor and Author for comment. Subsequently, the Chair was authorized to approach our selected Publisher for a draft publishing contract.

On 23 Feb 21, our selected Publisher forwarded a Draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Trust's consideration. Subsequently, the Trust has been working through this document, in consultation with the Trust's Solicitor, with a view to finalising our response. The Author has also been assisting with this process and has provided valuable input. All going well, our comments on the Draft MOA will be sent to our selected Publisher later this day.

Assistance to the Trust

I have just two coffee mugs left from Marc Parson's much appreciated fund-raising efforts to assist the Trust. 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.

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 last year. Extracts from this consignment as well as documents from individual contributors are sent to the Author, in batches, at regular intervals.

Simon Marriott, President WMR Association, recently sent me a large box of Association and WMR documents which I will be going through in due course as well. Such bulk loans of reference material are greatly appreciated by the Trust. It assists me personally as well in that I can examine it in my own time in balance with my ongoing research and other responsibilities within the Trust.

This is what I still need from you all please:

- Memories and humorous stories about your time in the RNZAC (Please remember if any anecdote or story involves comment regarding other named individuals then it is essential, within the strict publishing environment in which the Trust is operating, that you seek the approval of those individuals for any comments made about them or attributable to them before you send your anecdote or story to me).
- Stories about the ceremonial horsed troops-1970s onwards.
- Stories about married and family life in the Corps.



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

- Names of those who served in UN, Coalition or other peacekeeping and monitoring organisations period 1947-2021 (other than those individuals who have already kindly provided this information to me) Please provide Name, Rank at the time, Peacekeeping organisation, Location and Dates (if possible) but “months and/or years” will do.
- Names of RNZAC New Zealand Instructors and Assistant Instructors at Officer Cadet School (OCS) Portsea, Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon, the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) and any other training or staff college institutions outside the New Zealand Army. Please provide Name, Rank at the time, Name of Institution, Location and Dates (if possible) but “months and/or years” will do.
- Significant individual and team achievements and associated other awards:
 - Sport (Service, Provincial and National Representatives, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games Selection and Participation and Others?)
 - Skill at Arms
 - Others?

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

We have completed a thorough financial and funding review over the last two months and we presently have sufficient funds to see our project through until 1 Feb 2022. However, we still need to raise funds for the remainder (March-December) of 2022 (the last “writing” year of the project) as well as publishing expenses late 2022 through to November 2023.

We are waiting to hear the outcome of a number of applications that have been made to various entities. We have just completed a significant application process involving another potential donor organisation. Other applications are scheduled for completion in the coming weeks. Once one application has gone, another one is raised; almost immediately. In addition, a new fund-raising initiative has been launched. This maintenance of momentum in the fund-raising area has always been critical but never more so than now, given the extraordinary and challenging environment that we are presently operating in.



We remain determined to succeed in raising the funds required to bring this History of the New Zealand Army's second most senior Corps to fruition.

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.

I am aware too that many of you in the wider Corps family have offered ideas and even stepped forward to assist Chris with approaches to potential sponsors. I am most grateful for your generous support of Chris's work and thank you for it.

Our Author, Matthew Wright has also brought the benefit of his expertise and experience to this area.

The Trust's Expenses

The History Project is complex, and it requires consistent attention to detail in all its many areas to ensure that it is effectively managed and progressed. Adequate funding is critical to all this.

I therefore 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. I also want to especially acknowledge those who continue to donate funds more than once to this project. Such generosity is greatly appreciated by the Trust.

If you have not yet donated to this very worthy project, please consider doing so now. 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.

COVID-19

As I write this Update, COVID-19 remains rampant in many countries throughout the world and still poses a threat to New Zealand. Our Defence Force is continuing 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



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

My next update will be sent out to you on 31 July 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, take care everyone.

Sincerely,

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

Graeme Ready

Chair

RNZAC HPCT

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