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HUNTLY 3771

30 July 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

On 24 May 2021, Matthew Wright provided an RNZAC Structural Draft Document and separate Notes to the RNZAC Structural Draft Document for the Trust's consideration. The RNZAC Structural Draft Document contained headings and the lead-in paragraphs for every chapter-1860-2021. It also contained three complete chapters covering the period 1946-1955. Trust comments on this substantial piece of work and its supporting notes were forwarded to Matthew on 25 June 2021.

As a result of Trust Comments on Version 2 of the Draft Master Appendices document that were submitted to Matthew on 16 April 2021, Matthew completed his third version of this document on 15 June 2021. This Version 3 is now being retained by the Chair for progressive population of the remaining Honours and Awards and Key Personnel tables for the period 1947-2021. In the meantime, Matthew will be continuing to enhance the general content of this "work in progress" document.

The MTA, The RNZAC Association and Ian Bolton are continuing to assist 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. In addition, Ian is being helped by Lt Col Steve Taylor and Chris by WO 1 Ox White, WO1 Shannon Brears, WO1 Mario Ropitini, WO1 Mark Thompson and WO2 Alex Fraser. Further, Simon Marriott and WO1 Ox White have also been assisting the Chair with ascertaining and clarifying information being considered for other tables in the Draft Master Appendices (Version 3) document. Such assistance is greatly appreciated by the Trust.

Regarding Appendix 3 (Honours and Awards) of the Draft Master Appendices document, the Trust has now completed Draft Version 11 of the Honours and Awards for members of the RNZAC period 1947-2021. This latest version has grown very considerably from the earlier editions. David Baguley, with assistance from Glen Stokes (on behalf of HQNZDF), continues to provide valuable assistance in this area. Jack Hayes has recently provided



definitive guidance around approved foreign awards from the Vietnam War as well as Honours and Awards generally that were earned during that conflict. His work has been instrumental to the completion of Draft Version 11. Maj Mike Duncan has recently provided valuable archival information to assist us with the confirmation of this Honours and Awards List. Whilst there is one entry still awaiting clarification, we are at the stage where we will be able to start transposing the contents of Draft Version 11 into Appendix 3 of the History.

On 22 July 2021, Matthew Wright confirmed that he had received 29 recordings of interviews from the RNZAC Oral History Project (2002-2015) from the Alexander Turnbull Library and that they were working on providing the remaining 31 recordings together with abstracts in the coming weeks. Matthew, with the assistance of Chris Wotton, has arranged for these to be transcribed in due course with the aim of providing selected extracts, for use in the book. This material will add considerable value and worth to the finished history and Matthew believes it will be pivotal to its quality.

In the meantime, Matthew has advised that he is continuing to revise structure and content as he brings the History together. The Trust is impressed with his research and its relevance to key events in the history of the Corps and its Predecessor Units.

Publishing

General

As advised in my Special Update dated 19 April 2021, we formally signed a Memorandum of Agreement with our selected publishing organisation, Oratia Media, on 15 April 2021. Matthew Wright and I (on behalf of the Trust) are looking forward to working with Peter Dowling of Oratia Media on the publishing of our history.

We will be finalizing the selection of photographs for the History and their related copyrights by 30 September 2022. Both Matthew and the Trust have a very wide range of images to choose from and the Trust will be having a special meeting in the second quarter of 2022 to select the 250-300 required for the History. These will comprise a mix of colour and black and white photographs.

The Trust has sought quotes for the production of the maps required for the history. We will be commencing work on bringing these maps together as the manuscript continues to be developed.

We are required to submit the final complete manuscript (including maps, sketches, and photographs) to the Publisher on 22 November 2022. So, the pace of work and its extent related to the book as a whole has now picked up and will be occupying most of my time for the next 16 months.

The Title of the Book (Call for Ideas)

At its recent meeting, The Trust decided to seek ideas from Serving and Ex-members of the Corps and its Predecessor Organisations regarding possible Main Titles for the Book.



Accordingly, I ask that everyone take the opportunity to provide input on this very important aspect of the whole History package please. The Trust will donate a copy of the published history to the submitter of the winning entry or that entry that was closest to the Main Title finally decided on by the RNZAC HPCT according to these parameters:

- a. The Main Title captures the key essence of mounted/armoured operations.
- b. The Main Title “immediately attracts attention” of everyone seeing it.
- c. The Main Title should not contain too many words.
- d. The Main Title must be compatible with the Sub-Title underneath which will read-
“The History of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps and its Predecessor Armoured, Mounted Rifles and Cavalry Units”

Please email your ideas for the Main Title to the person who forwarded this letter to you, and they will get them to me. Please submit your ideas by no later than 30 September 2021. Thank you.

Assistance to the Trust

On 16 Apr 21, 24 boxes, crates, suitcases, and folders (the complete QAMR-Combat School bulk consignment) were uplifted by Lt Col Ed Crow (CO QAMR). I extend my grateful thanks to both CO QAMR and CI Combat School for their willingness to allow me to hold this material from 6 July 2020 to 16 April 2021 so that I could go through it all in balance with my other responsibilities within the Trust. During Lt Col Ed Crow’s visit on 16 April 2021, he mentioned that he had become aware that six boxes of Scots historical material had arrived from Dunedin. Discussions then took place regarding the Chair obtaining access to that important reference material for research purposes and the Chair providing a briefing to the Command Team, QAMR on Corps and Unit History and methodologies for its preservation. This is being arranged separately with the assistance of Colonel (retired) T.J. Mc Comish, Colonel Commandant RNZAC at a time convenient to QAMR.

I have just one coffee mug left from Marc Parson’s much appreciated fund-raising efforts to assist the Trust. It has 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

On 29 May 2021, I was advised that all the RNZAC Directorate files had been inadvertently destroyed at some stage after they had been deposited for safe keeping upon the disestablishment of the RNZAC Directorate. It was confirmed that nothing from these files remained. Whilst this is a disappointing development for both the Trust and Matthew it is important that we do not dwell on this loss but continue to move forward. Accordingly, the Trust advised Matthew Wright to search both online and at Trentham for Army GS Office of the CGS, Planning, Operations and Logistic Branch Files as these may contain copies of key Directorate correspondence on them. Matthew was also



advised that central registry Army files on major projects and AFV Management etc would also be relevant. Matthew has since confirmed that he has found some relevant documents from these other sources.

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). Alternatively, alert me please and I can check with the others for you.
- Stories about the ceremonial horsed troops-1970s onwards.
- Stories about married and family life in the Corps.
- 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



I am very pleased to advise that on 23 April 2021 and 26 May 2021 we received grants from Trust Waikato and the Lion Foundation respectively. We are in the process of completing another thorough financial and funding review and we presently have sufficient funds to see our project through until 1 Jun 2022. However, we still need to raise funds for the remainder (July-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 are in the process of completing 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. This maintenance of momentum in the fund-raising area has always been critical but never more so than now, given the continuing extraordinary and challenging environment that we are presently operating in.

All this notwithstanding, 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 Chris 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.

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, the new Delta Variant of COVID-19 is rampant in many countries throughout the world and poses a serious 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.

Reminder-Main Title Ideas

Please remember to submit your ideas for the Main Title of the History (Please see Page 2 and 3 of this Update) by 30 September 2021. Remember that the Trust will be donating a copy of the published history to the submitter of the winning entry or that entry that was closest to the Main Title finally decided on by the RNZAC HPCT.

Next Update

My next update will be sent out to you on 30 November 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'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Graeme Ready

Chair

RNZAC HPCT Inc

Registered Charity Number CC56897

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