



c/- 272B Ginn Road  
Rotowaro  
RD1

30 November 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 2024-UPDATE**

**Author Matters**

Matthew Wright's work during these past three and a half months has been focussed on researching and writing the main text for 1945-2022. This draft narrative now comprises 65,000 words and is scheduled for delivery to the Chair for Trust checks and comments period 17-20 Dec 21. A completed chapter from this narrative will be polished and available by 5 Jan 22 as an attachment to applications to those potential donors who require it to be provided as a supporting document.

Transcription of interviews from the RNZAC Oral History Collection was also commenced during this period and is progressing well. In a recent Progress Report to the Trust, Matthew stated that *"It has been possible to incorporate considerable detail covering life in the RNZAC, including the experience of families and so forth."*

In addition, Matthew will be interviewing serving members from QAMR and the wider RNZAC. Arrangements for this are being coordinated through Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC), Colonel Hamish Gibbons (Regimental Colonel RNZAC) and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Crow (Commanding Officer QAMR). The Trust is grateful for their assistance with this.

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 within Appendix 4 of the Draft Master Appendices (Version 3) 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 Bolton is being helped by Lt Col Steve Taylor and Chris Cooper by WO 1 Ox White, WO1 Shannon Brears, WO1 Mark Thompson and WO2 Alex Fraser. Further, Simon Marriott and WO1 Ox White are continuing to assist the Chair with ascertaining and clarifying information being considered for other tables in the Draft Master Appendices (Version 3) document. Euan Galloway has very kindly offered to help with identifying the names of key personnel for the early NZ Scottish units. Fred Milligan is providing similar help with identifying key personnel



from the RNZEME Light Aid Detachments that were attached to armoured units in the past. Such ongoing assistance is greatly appreciated by the Trust.

The Trust continues to work on Appendix 3 (Honours and Awards) of the Draft Master Appendices (Version 3) document. The Trust is now finalising the insertion of data from its Version 11 of the Honours and Awards for members of the RNZAC period 1947-2021. Major Mike Duncan is assisting the Chair with ascertaining an RNZAC MSM List for the period 1995 to 2013. The Trust is grateful for his assistance with this.

During August, the Trust considered a request from the Author for an extension of seven months to his original writing and research period. This request was based on the unforeseen extent of the “green fields” referenced research/writing work that he had to devote to the RNZAC and its precursor units in the first 15 months of the project to produce the Draft Master Appendices document (some 207 pages and 51,000 words). Matthew was concerned that the excessive time that this phase had taken would have a detrimental effect on his ability to complete the manuscript to the expected high standard within the timelines that were initially negotiated.

Historical papers on the Corps or elements of it have been written from time to time in the past but very few of them have been properly supported by good quality referenced data. That has been the key underlying problem around tackling this History; not only for the Author but also for the Trust. This has been exacerbated by the inadvertent destruction of all RNZAC Directorate files (Update of 30 July 2021 refers). Our aim is to produce an interesting book that once picked up will be difficult to put down. Nevertheless, it is a History, and must therefore be based on sound references to ensure the credibility of the narrative as well as protecting the Trust and Author from avoidable challenges.

Accordingly, after consultation with the Trust’s Historical Advisor, the Publisher, the Trust’s Legal Advisor, and other mentors from outside the Trust, we approved the request on 27 August 2021. Subsequently, Variations to the Trust/Author Contract and the Oratia Media Limited/Trust Memorandum of Agreement were negotiated then signed off on 20 September 2021 and 30 September 2021, respectively. These Variations set down that the completed manuscript must now be submitted to the publisher on 30 June 2023 and that the History will be published in early April 2024 with an intended official launch date within the third week of April 2024 but before ANZAC Day.

## **Publishing**

### ***General***

The Variation to the Memorandum of Agreement between Oratia Media Limited and the Trust that was signed off on 30 September 2021 includes a revised publishing schedule to allow for the changed manuscript submission and publication dates. We are grateful to Peter Dowling of Oratia Media Limited for maintaining the cost parameters that were within the original Agreement.

### ***Book Launch***



The Chair, after consulting Peter Dowling of Oratia Media Limited, has been (for long term planning purposes), in exploratory discussions and correspondence with Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC) this month regarding a location for the launch of the History and a possible format. Subsequent discussions between the Colonel Commandant and Colonel Hamish Gibbons (Regimental Colonel RNZAC) and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Crow (Commanding Officer QAMR) during the week 15-19 Nov 21 have resulted in approval in principle for support of the launch being given. The Trust will be required to submit a final proposal closer to April 2024 to establish what specific support can be given by the RNZAC and QAMR at that time. This consideration is greatly appreciated by the Trust.

### ***Photographs***

Stephen Ladanyi has been very kindly assisting me with identifying the best organisations to approach regarding sourcing additional images via online or by a physical in-location search. I am grateful to Stephen for the extensive investigative work that he has completed. The tables of data that he has produced together with the steps/links that will lead to each source have been very helpful.

Subject to any Covid-19 restrictions at the time, the Trust plans to meet in April 2022 to select the 250-300 required for the History. These will comprise a mix of colour and black and white images.

### ***Maps***

The Trust has, in consultation with Matthew Wright, selected Andrew Tyrell of South Arrow Maps to produce the maps for the History. Sean Trengrove has very kindly agreed to work (on behalf of the Trust) with Andrew Tyrell on this task in the first half of 2022. The Trust thanks Sean for helping us out in this way.

### ***Final Manuscript***

As we are now required to submit the final complete manuscript (including maps, sketches, and photographs) to the Publisher on 30 June 2023, this has given us a little more time for the Trust and the Author to bring it together. Nevertheless, with the advanced draft of the 1945-2021 narrative due to be with the Trust next month together with the ongoing work that we are doing on the Draft Master Appendices (Version 3) document, the pace of work related to the book will certainly pick up during 2022.

### ***The Main Title of the Book***

At its meeting earlier this month, the Trust considered 137 suggestions for the Main Title of the book. Subsequently, the Trust selected this submitted suggestion for the Main Title:

### ***Those Who Have The Courage***

The Sub-title underneath that Main Title will read:



***(The History of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps and its Precursor Armoured, Mounted Rifles and Volunteer Cavalry Units)***

The Main Title is taken from the Ode to the Mounted Trooper which is engraved on the Statuette of the Mounted Trooper, presented to 4<sup>th</sup> Armoured Regiment (WEC) RNZAC (successor of the 9<sup>th</sup> WECMR) by Maj Gen Sir Andrew Russell in 1958. It has been retained by successor armoured organisations through to this day whereupon QAMR has custody of the statuette. The inscribed Ode reads:

**Take these men for your example**

**Like them remember that prosperity can only**

**Be for the free, and freedom for those who**

**Have the courage to defend it**

The Title has also been endorsed by Matthew Wright, our Author and Peter Dowling, our Publisher. I have advised both Matthew and Peter that it would be a good idea to place a photograph of the Mounted Trooper and the inscriptions, including the Ode, in the front of the History so anyone picking up the book can see the “tie-in” to the Title from the outset. This has been agreed.

The Trust extends its thanks to all those who responded to our requests for ideas.

### **Reference Material**

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.

Please be aware that other than late submissions that are considered to be really outstanding, the cut-off date for personal contributions will be 31 March 2022.

### **Funding**

This is the Trust's third year of operation. The rapid spread of the Covid-19 Delta Virus and the ongoing restrictions that have resulted from it, have continued to have a disruptive effect on our fund raising. In this regard, funding receipts from our “applied for grants” are down by 32% this year when compared to 2020. Further, during 2022, 2023 and 2024 we will incur additional expenditure due to maps, photographs, and publishing costs.



It is therefore anticipated that the next two and a half years will be challenging in the fund raising area. However, these challenges have had to be faced by all Charities, not just ours. Further, most donors will be supporting causes that are directed towards assisting those who are most vulnerable within our communities at this time. That is absolutely understood by the Trust; it means that we will have to increase the pace and extent of our fund raising work. In this regard, 15 new letters of request for funding were released to potential donors over the period 30 September to 5 November 2021. We will be stepping up this momentum again from mid-February 2022 (well clear of Christmas/New Year/School Holidays and Waitangi Day Commemorations).

The above notwithstanding, I am very pleased to advise that on 21 September 2021, 28 October 2021, and 29 October 2021 we received grants from Thales Australia, Veterans Affairs New Zealand, and General Dynamics Land Systems Canada, respectively. The Trust has written to each of these organisations acknowledging their generous support of the project. In addition, over the period 10-26 November 2021, we received generous donations from three members of a family in Christchurch. We are grateful for such support from private donors in the wider community. We therefore presently have sufficient funds to see our project through until 1 September 2022.

I want to extend the Trust's thanks to Ian Bolton, Bob Storey, Bruce Tweedy, and Neville Reilly who have been assisting with personal follow-ups to potential donors that we have written to. Also, to Sean Trengrove who has provided advice to me around contact addresses of potential donors. Also, to Paul Bevin who is presently exploring a fund raising initiative with the help of Hastings District Council. We greatly appreciate such help.

As a result of our recent analysis of our fund raising over the past two years, we have concluded that we generally achieve success with applications to corporates and to individuals when we can identify a "link" when we write to them. This link might be a clearly identifiable direct one or an indirect one (e.g., a person may have had a descendent who served in the military), or it may well be that there is a parallel around facing some adversity/challenge that required similar skill sets to that of the military to overcome and therefore is "relatable." So, I ask all of you to have a think about whether you know someone with such 'link' that we could approach for a grant or a donation and let me know please.

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

As outlined above we are now entering a phase in our fund raising where there will be additional expenses to meet. We will need all the help that we can get to ensure that we are financially able to complete this very important history.

I am confident, as I have always been, that we will get there. However, if you have not yet donated to this very worthy project, now is the time please to consider doing so. Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us to maintain momentum towards publication.



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](mailto: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.

I still have one lonely coffee mug languishing in its box which was left over 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. It is quickly developing a "nobody wants me" complex so needs to find a home. Please let me know, via Geoff Kreegher (Secretary-MTA), and I will advise price, payment, and shipping details.

### **COVID-19**

As I write this Update, the Delta Variant of COVID-19 is again surging through the populations of many countries throughout the world and still poses a serious threat to New Zealand. In recent days, a new B.1.1.529 strain (Omicron) has been discovered in a number of overseas countries. The characteristics and effects of this latest variant will not be definitively known for a few weeks yet. Our Defence Force is continuing to assist with the management of selected aspects of this extraordinary task. Our Serving Members of the Corps and their families have our utmost respect for all that they are going through at this time and they continue to have a special place in our thoughts.

### **Next Update**

My next update will be sent out to you on 31 March 2022.

Take care now and all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graeme Ready'. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Graeme Ready**

**Chair**

**RNZAC HPCT Inc**

**Registered Charity Number CC56897**

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