



c/- 272B Ginn Road
Rotowaro
RD1
HUNTLY 3771

30 November 2022

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's focus, over the past four months has been progressing the research and writing of the complete early era of our history period 1860-1945. This has resulted in unmistakable evidence being discovered regarding New Zealand's involvement with armour in WWI and what happened in the years following that conflict. Some of this had initially become known as a result of kind contributions from Terry Kinloch, Euan Galloway and Simon Marriott as well as from Matthew's own research. Matthew has also discovered potentially relevant additional material around that subject, as well as notes on the history of New Zealand armour 1942-1963 and armour in Vietnam within the Archives of the Tank Museum, Bovington, United Kingdom which he is presently evaluating. What I have seen so far is certainly a really exciting development, and will, if confirmed, add to the already considerable extent and depth of the Mounted Rifles-Armour story.

Matthew has also, with the assistance of Christopher Pugsley (our Historical Advisor), arranged for his drafts on the Mounted Rifles sections to be reviewed by a military historian (an eminent expert in the transition cavalry-mounted rifles-armour) at Woolwich, United Kingdom. This initiative will assist the Author's and Trust's aims to achieve authenticity.

The extensive work necessary to progress the 1860-1945 era of the history means that Matthew's time on that task will extend well into the first quarter of next year. This, in turn, has allowed him to give the Trust more time to focus on providing help and comments on the original Draft Master Appendices and Draft Narrative (1945-2022) Documents. Consequently, the latest version of the Draft Master Appendices document was sent to my fellow Trustees on 28 Nov 22 with a view to receiving their input by 7 Dec 22. This is being followed by the Draft Narrative (1945-2022) Document with a view to obtaining Trustee comment on that by 14 Dec 22. I will then be consolidating and including their comments into the finals of those two Draft Documents for forwarding to Matthew on 23 Dec 22.



The researching and compilation of a list of those Cavalry and Mounted Rifles personnel who were KIA or DOW during the New Zealand Land Wars from 1860-1870 was always going to be considerably challenging due to the paucity of records from the colonial era and the consequential need to access multiple online and book references for that period. I am therefore very grateful for the work (including the discovery of additional references) that has been completed by David Harrison, in consultation with our Deputy Chair, Ian Bolton over the past 10 months. Two tranches of information, with references, have been delivered to me this month providing a sound foundation upon which I can extend and complete the required table in time for submission to the Author for his validation next month.

Final tables for COs of the New Zealand Scottish Regiment and OCs and SSMs of the independent New Zealand Scottish Squadrons have now been completed by Ian Bolton and have been progressively uploaded into the Draft Master Appendices Document. Lieutenant Colonel Steve Taylor is continuing his separate validation of these, and small tweaks will be possible up to 1 Mar 23.

Other tables have also been finalised and loaded into the Draft Master Appendices and Draft Narrative documents [as applicable]. As advised in earlier updates, a number of serving and ex-serving members have provided considerable assistance with the production of staffing, operational deployment and Honours and Awards tables. I am most grateful for all the assistance that has been rendered by so many over the period of this project in these areas and they will be acknowledged again, along with those who have helped us in other areas, in my introduction to the history. That said, I want to acknowledge additional recent work by Warrant Officers 1 Ox White and Randall Cross who have assisted Chris Cooper with the validation of School of Armour/Combat School staffing tables. Warrant Officer 1 Ox White has also recently provided a table of RNZAC personnel (numbers only for sensitivity reasons) who have deployed operationally period 1988-2021. This table includes locations and is a great piece of work.

Our contracted Cartographer has commenced drafting work on the maps required for the history. These maps will all be in colour; this approach enables us to convert some of these to grayscale [should we decide to do so] later in process. Sean Trengrove continues to provide vital coordination work in this area for the Trust for which we are most grateful.

The Trust held photo selection meetings on 15 Jul 22, 20 Jul 22, and 26 Oct 22 during which a large number of donated images were gradually sifted down to within the parameters required by the history. There will be colour sketches, black and white images, and colour images within the history. The Trust is also sourcing additional images from trusted online providers such as Alexander Turnbull Library. Alan Day, our Treasurer has just completed a preliminary search for relevant photos from that Library covering the Boer War, WWI, and WWII and has identified some good images for Trust assessment, particularly from WWI and WWII. My thanks to Alan for providing this additional help. I also want to acknowledge the very kind assistance that has been provided by Emma Marriott in the enhancement of some of the images that have been selected by the Trust for consideration for inclusion in the history. Emma's support and technical expertise have been invaluable.



The Author aims to have what is termed as “The First Draft” [Complete draft manuscript with maps and photos etc] ready in March 2023 with the intention of placing this before the Trust and other required Third Parties for final check and comment from 31 Mar 23. The Trust and all Third Parties will need to get comments back to the Author expeditiously so that the Final Manuscript can be submitted to the Publisher on the due date of 30 Jun 23. Everything that the Trust and Author are now doing is geared towards achieving that contractual deadline.

Publishing

General

Peter Dowling of Oratia Media Limited and I remain in contact as we move closer to the publishing phase of this project which is now just seven months away.

Peter continues to take an active interest in our Trust’s progress with the project. He has provided advice and assistance with the map design process, the intended book distribution process, and ideas regarding the Trust’s ongoing quest for funding.

We greatly appreciate his ongoing support.

Book Launch

As advised in my Updates on 30 Nov 21, 31 Mar 22, and 31 Jul 22, discussions between Colonel (Retired) Trevor McComish (Colonel Commandant RNZAC) and Colonel Hamish Gibbons (Regimental Colonel RNZAC) and Lieutenant Colonel Edward Craw (Commanding Officer QAMR) during the week 15-19 Nov 21 have resulted in approval in principle for support of the launch being given.

A proposal will be prepared by Ian Bolton and Chris Cooper closer to April 2024 to establish what specific support can be given by the RNZAC and QAMR at that time. Ian and Chris have also very kindly agreed to manage the launch once the location and programme is known and has been agreed by all participating agencies. In the meantime, Ian and Chris are quietly researching potential venues and other aspects of the launch.

The above notwithstanding, the Trust is continually evaluating its intentions regarding the launch to ensure its current thinking remains valid. This ongoing analysis is critical to ensuring that we achieve the best possible outcome for the launch of the history.

Reference Material

As indicated earlier in this Update, we will be finalising our existing work on current Draft Documents and sending them to the Author by 23 Dec 22. The implication of this is that we will not be accepting any other reference material for the history after 31 Dec 22. However, if, subsequent to this Update, any of you make an exceptional discovery of really interesting material or photographs, then please get the items to me as soon as possible, according to the guidance in the following paragraph. Thank you.

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 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

Our thanks go to our sponsors who have supported us but also to 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 2019. Many of our Serving and Ex Members of the RNZAC have donated funds more than once to this project. Many of these same donors have personally launched their own initiatives to build funds for the History Project. The Trust is most grateful for such extraordinary and ongoing generosity.

The cost of living, rate of inflation and latest rise in Omicron cases have all contributed to 2022 continuing on from 2020-2021 in terms of being a really challenging environment in which to operate as a charitable trust; all charities have had to face this. Recent commentary has indicated that these challenges will continue through 2023.

In response, the Trust continues to adhere to its present fundraising strategy of positive and energized proactivity in approaching Trusts, Corporates, and individuals whom we or our advisors believe may be able to assist us financially. We do this via personal contact or by completing online and written applications for grants accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

However, ongoing donations are vital to maintaining our momentum towards achieving publication because they cover the inevitable gaps between grants. Every dollar helps the Trust that has been working since March 2019 to bring your history to publication.

So, I would ask please that you continue to support our work. Thank you.

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.

Next Update

My next regular update will be sent on 31 March 2023.



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

In the meantime, all the very best to you all, and to your families for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Ready', written over a horizontal line.

Graeme Ready
Chair
RNZAC HPCT Inc
Registered Charity Number CC56897
Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200
NZBN: 9429047957329