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31 March 2023

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, over the past four months, has continued to progress the research and writing of the complete draft of the early era of our history period 1860-1945. This is a major part of our history; it therefore stands to reason that it has required focussed effort over a considerable period of time to bring it together. However, I am pleased to advise that the Trust will have this draft section this coming weekend and we will be going through it with a view to providing comment to Matthew as soon as we can in the first half of April. During April and May, Matthew will be going through the latest comments on the original draft narrative (1945-2022) and the draft master appendices document which were originally forwarded to Matthew late December 2022. Our final comments on the original draft narrative (1945-2022) and the draft master appendices document will be sent to Matthew on 1 April 2023. These latest comments, in the main, reflect input received by me on the selected key personnel tables that I distributed to various members and ex-members of the RNZAC during the period 22 February to 23 March 2023 for wider validation. I am most grateful to those that responded to those requests with amendments. In early May, Matthew will be providing historical guidance to our contracted Cartographer regarding the last five maps for the history so that they can be completed to final draft form, consistent with earlier work on the first five maps which was completed on 21 March 2023.

In June, Matthew, with the Trust will be finalizing the overall manuscript for submission to the Publisher on 30 June 2023.

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 with the assistance of Lieutenant Colonel Steve Taylor.

As indicated earlier in this update, our contracted Cartographer has completed the first five maps for the history to final draft status. They are coloured and have been developed over several months now by the Cartographer, the Trust and Matthew. These maps in terms of colour and style will be replicated for the remaining five maps, which are scheduled for



completion in the first half of May. I remain grateful to Sean Trengrove for his continuing coordination work in this area for the Trust.

We continue to receive images for consideration by the Trust and selected images have been placed into the mix for subsequent finalization by the Author and the Trust. Due to ongoing fundraising and manuscript work for the history, I have not yet had time to get into Turnbull Library on-line to view the images that Alan Day, our Treasurer identified last year regarding the Boer War, WWI, and WWII but I hope to do this next month.

The Author now aims to have what is termed as “The First Draft” of the complete manuscript ready in April 2023 with the intention of placing this before the Trust and other required Third Parties for final check and comment. 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 three months away. Once the manuscript is with Peter, the Trust and the Author will be in a busy cycle of sample book design, format and jackets, copy-edit, final manuscript and first page proofs, a number of proofreads, final corrections and submission to the Printer.

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 Crow (Commanding Officer QAMR at the time) during the week 15-19 Nov 21 have resulted in approval in principle for support of the launch at Palmerston North 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. They are being assisted in this by a Palmerston North area based retired Warrant Officer 1 of NZALR, Trevor Hennessey who has kindly offered his help. Trevor was PWF, QAMR LAD/Wksp 1996-1997. Chris Cooper, on behalf of the Trust, will be making a confirmatory trip to Palmerston North in November 2023.

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.



Funding

We are always grateful to the many serving and ex-members of the RNZAC and indeed ex-members of other Corps who have donated funds to this project; some more than once, and some very significantly so. As well as donating funds to the project, many of these donors have personally launched their own initiatives to help build funds for the History Project.

We also owe a great debt of thanks to our Sponsors for their support. In this regard, I am very pleased to announce that the Stout Trust (proudly managed by Perpetual Guardian) has provided a grant to our project since my last update to you on 30 November 2022. We are most grateful to the Stout Trust for their very kind contribution to our project.

Your Trust constantly works on fund raising initiatives during these very challenging times. However, your ongoing help now is even more essential to the Trust reaching its financial targets that are so critical to our achieving publication on time.

So, again, I ask that those who have contributed to our work in the past, please consider continuing to do so. Thank you.

I also ask that those of you who have not yet contributed to our work, please consider doing so as our timelines are becoming ever tighter as we approach the end of this project. Thank you.

Every donation, regardless of the amount, helps us to get across the line.

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.

Cyclone Gabrielle

Members of the RNZAC have been involved in providing support to communities in the Hawkes Bay, Wairoa, and Gisborne areas in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. The Trust wishes to acknowledge the fine job that they have been doing with the support of their wider families back home.

Ake Ake Kia Kaha

Next Update

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

In the meantime, all the very best to you all, and to your families for Easter.



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

Sincerely,

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

Graeme Ready
Chair
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