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**HUNTLY 3771**

21 August 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**

I am pleased to advise that the final draft of the complete manuscript for our history was forwarded to Peter Dowling, Publisher Oratia Media Limited, by Matthew Wright, on 3 July 2023. Concurrently, copies were sent to the Trust for their first formal proofreading, and this was conducted over the period 3-23 July 2023. The Trust was assisted in this task by Ian Duthie, Trevor McComish, and Paul Koorey; I am grateful to them all for their willingness to help us in this way at this crucial time in the project.

Consolidated proofreading comments were then forwarded by me to Matthew on 6 August 2023 for Matthew's insertion into the Publisher's copy edit version which Oratia were working on simultaneously with our proofreading efforts. This is one of the great advantages with such an approach insomuch that concurrent activity by the Trust, Matthew and the publisher can proceed in a timely and coordinated fashion to ensure that project milestones are met. So, whilst the project has always been full on, the pace has picked up again now that we are in the publishing phase and will continue in this way through to the planned submission of the complete book for printing in December 2023.

The Trust and Matthew have also been assembling photos for the History and the initial selection of these, their insertion into the draft text and the seeking of commensurate copyright and permissions to publish is well advanced. Adjustments will inevitably need to be made as we discard photos (due to quality, copyright, and permission to publish issues) and replace them with others.

The maps too have been developed to final draft stage and have been inserted into the manuscript for copy editing by the publisher. I again wish to acknowledge the assistance that Sean Trengrove provided to the Trust in ensuring the progress of the first five maps. All the work done in that phase became crucial to the completion of the remaining maps in the period June to August 2023.



Organisation charts have also been completed to final draft stage and have been submitted to Carolyn Lagatehau, Editorial Director Oratia, for copy edit work. Carolyn and I continue to liaise on these to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes around their content. I want to thank Mike Smith who provided initial material for the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade chart (Sinai and Palestine-WWI) and to also acknowledge Terry Kinloch for his kind willingness to allow me to use some of his material from his book, "Devils on Horseback," for that same chart. Jeffrey Plowman very kindly agreed to construct the armoured organisation charts (WWII and the post war period). I am grateful to Jeffrey for this major piece of work. Jeffrey is also helping Matthew with the captions to some of the armoured vehicle photos.

### **Publishing and the Launch of the Book**

A zoom meeting with Matthew, Peter Dowling and Carolyn Lagatehau of Oratia Media Limited was held on 22 June 2023. This meeting was used to finalise details around an expanded publishing schedule for the period July 2023 to April 2024 to enable planning and implementation to continue. Consequently, there is ongoing liaison occurring between Carolyn Lagatehau, Matthew, and the Trust to ensure that this crucial publishing process remains on track.

Peter Dowling and I will be liaising again in September regarding the printing process and tentative planning for the launch of our History in April 2024. From those discussions, we will be in a better position to assess the options for a launch in Palmerston North and choose the best one that will meet both Trust and Publisher requirements; mutual benefit being the key. Ian Bolton and Christopher Cooper will be continuing to manage the launch process for the Trust, once the best option is selected. Ian and Christopher have completed initial planning work in this area already which will be beneficial to the final selection process.

### **Funding**

On 15 June 2023, I sent out a special update regarding our funding situation. In that update I stated that we had raised 84% of the required funding to complete the project which left 16% still to be raised.

Since then, that percentage has been reduced down to 13%. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I extend my grateful thanks to the 25 individual donors (most of whom have donated before; many more than once and some more than that again), the Canterbury Branch of the RNZAC Association, the MTA, and the 4<sup>th</sup> WMR Association who all generously contributed to this achievement.

Funding continues to be the Trust's greatest challenge. As we still have a way to go, I ask for your continuing financial support please.

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

Our Account details are:



Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated

**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@extra.co.nz](mailto:alansday@extra.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 30 November 2023.

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Graeme Ready", written over a faint rectangular box.

**Graeme Ready**

**Chair**

**RNZAC HPCT Inc**

**Registered Charity Number CC56897**

**Certificate of Incorporation RNZAC HPCT 50027200**

**NZBN: 9429047957329**