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19 October 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-CALL FOR CONFIRMED ORDERS PLEASE

The History

I am very pleased to be able to advise, on behalf of the Trust, that we are now in the last eight weeks of the publication phase of our history project which involves a busy cycle of proofreading, amendments, and further adjustments, until we reach the final signoff milestone just prior to the book going overseas for printing in the third week of December 2023.

This very informative and interesting case bound hardback book with cover, and produced to the highest possible quality standard, will consist of 700 pages which includes maps, colour, and black and white sketches and photographs, many of which will be published for the first time, as well as the main text and sidebars.

From the outset, we particularly wanted to honour all those who lost their lives whilst serving. Accordingly, every member of the RNZAC and its predecessor forces who lost their life in combat from 1860 to 2023 is listed in comprehensive Rolls of Honour. Those members of the RNZAC who died as a result of other causes, whilst serving during the period 1947-2023 are also commemorated in Remembrance Rolls.

Honours and awards earned during the period 1863-2023 are also listed. Armoured vehicles used by the RNZAC, and its predecessor armoured units are included with explanatory notes. Selected key personnel period 1947-2023 are also listed. Guidons and Colours feature as do short histories of cavalry, mounted rifles, and armoured units. Selected organisational charts are also included.

In short this very first comprehensive history of the RNZAC and its predecessor forces is a treasure trove of information, stories and anecdotes that will be eagerly sought after by all those who have served in the Corps or its predecessor forces as well as by their families.

However, the real strength of this book emanates from the research and writing skills of the author that we were very fortunate to have secured for this very complex and extensive history. Matthew Wright, an accomplished social and military historian, who was highly



recommended to the Trust takes readers on a journey of enlightened discovery well supported by meticulous research. Some examples:

“Why did discipline break down at Rangiaowhia, resulting in despicable conduct that caused an avoidable tragedy?”

“How many members of the Poverty Bay Mounted Rifles lost their lives at Matawhero?”

“What really happened at Opepe?”

“Was there a cover up at Handley’s Woolshed?”

“How many Mounteds received the New Zealand Cross for gallantry?”

“Which battle in the Anglo-Boer War resulted in the highest number of casualties to New Zealand’s Mounteds and why?”

“In which war, did New Zealanders first interact with armour?”

“How did a Commander of the Mounted Rifles Brigade end up commanding a New Zealand Infantry Division?”

“Why did New Zealand retain some mounted units for home defence in the early part of World War II?”

“What was the significance of 4 (NZ) Armoured Brigades advance in northern Italy to Trieste?”

“Why were there so many reorganisations of armoured units in the period 1947 to 2023?”

“What is the ancient link to the Ode to the Mounted Trooper?”

Find the answers to these and many other facets of our history by placing a confirmed order now for your copy!

The Ordering Process

Consistent with advice that the Trust received from other Corps who have produced a history we have limited the number of books that will be printed for Trust sales. So, all orders will be on a first come, first served basis, and will be registered in the order that we receive them.

We expect the book to be retailed commercially for just under \$100.00. We are offering an early bird discounted price of between \$85.00-\$90.00 (Including handling and posting charges of \$20.00-for all of New Zealand) per book.

We do not require payment at this time. This approach allows the Trust to carefully monitor the retail price after publication and offer a further discounted price, where appropriate, to ensure continued reasonable pricing of the book in relation to the price of commercial sales at time of publication.



What we ask for in return is that you remit payment promptly please when approached to do so in March next year when the books will be in country being readied for distribution in April 2024. Thus, "confirmed orders" from you please are essential to our ongoing management of the project process. Thank you.

These early bird parameters which have been established to benefit members and ex members of the RNZAC, will not be able to be held at that level for ever. So, I would encourage you all please to get your orders in quickly to take advantage of these favourable terms.

Please enter your details under each heading in the table below and include it in your emailed confirmed order to Ian Bolton: - ian.bolton@xtra.co.nz

First name	Surname	Full shipping address including postcode	Contact phone number	Number of books required

In closing this special update, I ask you all to consider please just how proud you would be to hand this book to your grandchildren and be able to tell them that you were once part of this elite Corps.

Sincerely,

Graeme Ready
Chair
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