



Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

August 2009 Issue No 56

Official Newsletter of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated
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Registered with the Charities Commission # CC35879

President's Report

It is great to have the committee members all standing again, many having being on the committee for a long time, with the injection of a new member. I guess we all enjoy each others company; but I do tend to get a lot of advice & nobody listens to me!

I believe your committee like you; have a commitment to the **Hauraki Regiment** passed, present & future. To that end your Committee will continue to follow the objects of our Association to the best of our ability.

The promotion and fostering of the interests, the prestige, the mana, the traditions, the honour and the esprit de corps of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group The promotion and fostering of good fellowship and comradeship amongst past and present members of the Hauraki Regiment and the maintenance and encouragement of interest in the activities of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Group The organisation of reunions and social functions from time to time. The maintenance of and the fostering of development of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) history, history room, artefacts and records. The dealing in the manufacture, purchase or sale of articles, momento's and the like considered suitable or desirable for the purpose of raising funds for the 6 Hauraki Association. The communication with and the arrangements for fellowship with kindred associations

I am in the process of upgrading up the web page. I have a manual so I can progress forward. To get on the web page "google" **6haurakiassoc.org.nz** & look for 6 Hauraki Association.

Kia Kaha
Des Anderson



Colonel Allen Coster, Mrs Robin Coster & Honorary Colonel Judge Chris McGuire inside the community room of the Holy Trinity Church.

Church Parade

Prior to the AGM there was a Church Parade at the Holy Trinity Church, Devonport Road Tauranga with the Guest Speaker being Alan COSTER. The theme being the Hauraki Regimental Colours that are currently laid up in the church and the peace keeping role of the NZ Army, in particular the role of the Hauraki Regiment.

The 6 Hauraki Battalion Grope was represented by the Honorary Colonel Judge Chris McGuire. The Commanding Officer Lt Col Warren Banks & the Executive Officer Major Roger Earp

The Association were represented by members of the committee & me.

The following is Allan's address to the assembled

This is the occasion of the 6th Haurakis 111th anniversary and the Rev Paul Williamson has asked me to speak to you about it.

I intend to indicate to you the role of the Army in society, the role the Haurakis have fulfilled in the past and present and to contemplate the role of a particular peacekeeper from almost 2000 years ago.

Some 35 years ago I was Commanding Officer of the 6th Haurakis and on the 2nd of December 1973 was seated along with the Hauraki Honorary Colonel, Colonel Ray Smith, in the front pew on the right hand side of the old Holy Trinity Church with the congregation restricted to the left hand pews. The occasion was the laying up of the old Hauraki Colours. The Church doors were locked.

A Colour Party with guard bearing the Old Colours approached the Church and the Guard Commander Major Colin Brown hammered on the door of the Church with the hilt of his sword and demanded entry. The Reverend Jack Trindal granted entry and the Colours and Guard with swords drawn and bayonets fixed entered the Church.

After due ceremony I handed the Colours, firstly the Queen's Colour and then the Regimental Colour to the Reverend Jack Trindal who draped them on this very altar and took them into the custody of Holy Trinity.

I guess it was rather high handed stuff.

They were subsequently cased and placed in a position of honour in the Old Church. They survived the fire with some smoke and water damage.

They are currently displayed, somewhat inappropriately in the stair well off the foyer along with plaques which commemorate Hauraki Officers killed in the service to this country overseas at Gallipoli and the Somme.

The New Colours which replaced the Old Colours were presented to the Haurakis in March 1973 at Smallbone Park, Rotorua by the then Governor General, Sir Denis Blundell.

They were consecrated by six of the clergy who included Rev Whakahuihui Vercoe when God's blessing on them was asked.

These slides depict the New Colours ; the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour.

The Queen's Colour is a reminder to all ranks of their loyalty and duty to their Sovereign and their Country.

The Regimental Colour is the symbol of Regimental tradition and of the duty owed by each member to the Regiment. Emblazoned on the Regimental Colours are the Hauraki's principal battle honours which record battles in which Hauraki's have fought and died in South Africa, and in the First and Second World Wars. These Colours are highly revered by all those who have served under them.

Since the end of the Second World War Hauraki's have served as part of the New Zealand armed forces in a variety of places like Korea, Malaya, Vietnam, and confrontation in Borneo. At that time the Hauraki's trained for war.

More latterly Hauraki's have been deployed in a peace keeping role , a more benign but still onerous task.

For example for Timor they supplied a full platoon, the Coster Contingent. Cpl Willie Apiata was a member of that Platoon. He later received the Victoria Cross whilst serving in Afganistan , the Hauraki's second VC, the first being that of Lt Gen Lord Freyberg.

The peace keeping role, as I said, can be onerous. There is the need to always be able to defend themselves, to maintain law and order but also to win the hearts and minds of the populace among whom they are deployed.



Let us now back some 2000 years to Jerusalem, a city occupied by the Romans; to the Centurian who was charged with keeping the peace. Rome was the occupying power and the Jews proved to be a fractious lot. As Edward Gibbon observed, ".... The Jews discovered a fierce impatience of the domain of Rome." So the Centurion with his century of some hundred men would have had a difficult task. They would have had to be constantly alert. He would have seen Jesus enter Jerusalem and supervised the crucifixion.

He was not a peace keeper in the modern sense but his role was not too dissimilar.

As for the Haurakis; is the peace keeping role they now perform one that will continue well into the future. Will they revert to the combat role of the past?

Will some future Government require them to be deployed in some other role?

Whatever happens I am confident that their proud history will inspire them into the future and that they will acquit themselves bravely and honourably before the Colours as they have done in the past

Annual General Meeting

12 July 2009

From the meeting, the remit regarding the membership dues, was passed too reflect the Charities Commission right to have donations being tax free. Thus when you pay your membership fees, one third will be tax deductible. This will not be much for those paying annual fees, but for those who chose to become a perpetual member the amount is significant. Also any donation given to the Association or Museum would also be tax deductible, under the IRD guideline.

Life Membership

The membership bestowed Life Membership onto Bob Mankelow, Marion Kareko & Des Anderson.

Bob Mankelow joined the committee in 1997 & is still serving. Bob is the Bar Manager of the Garrison Club & in that role has been the back bone of the bar. Bob along with another Life Member, Gordon Eagleson were the team that set up the bar. Bob also has been looking after the merchandise on behalf of the Association & the UPF. Bob of recent times has taken on the self appointed role of “English Teacher” to the editor of the “Hauraki News”.



Bob at home in the bar. “You will drink what I give you, No fancy stuff here”.

Marion Kareko joined the committee in 2002 as Secretary, and then in 2003 also took on the role of Treasurer, the dual appointment she still continues with. Marion is also helps with running of the bar, sometimes late into the night. Marion by proxy has also taken on the role of defender of woman in the Army & has many a heated debate on a Friday Afternoon. (She normally loses the debate, to a superior male)



Marion being the Treasurer. "You haven't paid yet".

Des Anderson is the inaugural President since 1995 & editor of the "Hauraki News", since 2002.

Committee.

President: Des Anderson. Vice President: Ted Dean. Secretary/Treasurer: Marion Kareko.

Welfare: Penny Burgess

Committee: Bob Mankelow. Eric Kristensen. Tony Fraser. Malcolm Hinton. Bruce Beckett. Kevin Hayden. Robin Moore.

Patron

With the approval of the Honorary Colonel, Judge Chris McGuire & the support of all the members at the AGM the Association's Patron is **Col A. P. Coster, OBE, ED.**

Alan was the Commanding Officer of 6th Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR from 1970 to 1974. Allan was the Honorary Colonel from 1983 to 1989.

Alan was on the original committee of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated formed in 1995 & remained a committee member until 1999.

Alan & Robin are strong supporters of the 6 Hauraki Association & not only do they join with the members on Friday afternoons at the Garrison Club but on many occasions have allowed the members to shoot on their farm. On those occasions & other days, Robin has been the most gracious host to all members, when they have visited her home.

Letters to the Editor

Des,

I have enclosed a couple of photos of Maurice's that you may wish to use in your news letter.

Jill



Maurice standing by German Soldier shot by carbine, other side of house that fell on us
CASSINO – 1944 – May & June.



Carbine being carried on stop bank of Senio River – 1945
Lt Maurice Conder in centre of picture



Maurice firing the carbine for the last time, at Allan Coster's Farm: before donating it to the BOP Officers Club - November 1994

A keen game fisherman, Colonel Conder was a past Patron and President of the Tauranga Game Fishing Club and owned a succession of launches over the years - the best known being the Sea Rover - which he skippered from White Island to North Cape, enjoying considerable success in fishing tournaments. He also took teams from Tauranga to compete in Hawaii several times.

Mr Conder served his community in numerous ways over the years. He was a member of the Matamata Pest Destruction board for 20 years, former vice-president of the Matamata RSA, a past President of the Matamata Club, a former committee member of the Matamata Racing Club, and past President of the Bay of Plenty Officers' Club.

In his retirement he travelled extensively overseas, travelled by camper-van throughout New Zealand, and was a keen golfer, in addition to his fishing activities.

A modest man with a strong sense of humour, he is remembered above all by his wide circle of friends as someone who "enjoyed life".

The carbine is now part of the 6 Hauraki Regimental Museum.





Monte Cassino



A part of Monte Cassino



A display for the Colonel Conder, created by Ray Crafts.
Can be viewed in the Hauraki Regimental Museum,



Thank you, Jill.
Des

7th June 2009

Hi Des,

Just to let you know OJ (Jock) Wikaira, a Cadre NCO with Bravo Coy from 1979 to about 1983 passed away on Sun 31 May 09 and was buried at Whirinaki in the Hokianga on Wed 3 Jun 09. The funeral was attended by Kevin Mitchell, Baz Porter, Gordon Benfell and myself as representing the Hauraki Regiment.

Best regards

Verne Meagher

Thanks Des & Vern,

I cannot express in words the huge shock. The last time I saw Jock was at Jack Te Kani's tangi.

Te Kei Merito

9th June 2009

Hi Des

I hope you have a great luncheon and I wish I could be there with you. Please pass on my apologies to the crowd and have a good time.

Regards
Tim Edwards in Sydney

Hi Des

Good to hear from you i see you are still running the place get that big lazy Wichman to take the load off hehehe. I am currently in London doing Long Look will be back in country on the 27th July I will have to up catch when I get back to the Land of the long white cloud, Kea Kaha Onward
Allen Weeby

24 July 2009.

Des Anderson!! Now there's a name from the past that I recognize! Des, I remember you very well. You did a lot of good work in the old days, and I see you are still doing it! after 15 years TF, I left the Bn in 1994 as a staff sergeant.

Been doing loads of different things since then, in various countries, now I'm teaching in a university in Ireland.

Hope you well. Stay in touch,
Kerry Just.

Hi Des

I am currently a student at NZDF Command and Staff College. I returned from a UN deployment to Sudan in March and I'm told my next posting will be to HQ JFNZ - probably in the J7 Training Branch.

All the best,
Mark Walters





Kiaora
Des,

Just a quick note of thanks for the news,info and Hauraki magazines that you have been sending me whilst I have been on TOD here in WA-OZ.- Ha!! They were most appreciated and a great way of sharing and keeping up with the Hauraki news at home, especially,over a cold tinnie and with ex RF and Hauraki,- Dave Mikaere-Matapihi, the Mount

Well Des, the main reason for this email is to let you know that the wife and I will be returning to our home in Tauranga for good, in couple of weeks No phone number at this stage until we get home and get things organised, but I will contact you and catch up for a beer

Thanks
Regards,

Charles Fong

Hi Des,

Some photos from an Annual Camp at Opotiki sometime around mid to late 70's. The guys in the yellow "T" shirts are from "Chuckles" "C" Coy (Tokoroa) 6 Haus.

Ray Crafts is one of the Guys leading the Battalion out of the Opotiki Camp on the last day - hes playing the bagpipes.

Don't know who the other five guys sitting on the boxes outside the tent but Sgt Chapman on the right (me).

The Chopper in one of the photos was grounded at the Opotiki camp due to a lump of wood being sucked into one of the Rotors and denting it.

Have some more of the guys at Rotoma one year as well but i am afraid my memory is not that good that i can remember their names.

chrs

Paul Chapman







Des,
Did you see the article of my old CSM Ron Burton in the Bay of Plenty Times?
Bruce.



Reflections: WWII veteran, Ron Burton spent three years fighting in Italy & serving as an official photographer

THE GHOSTS of war are captured in black and white and shades of sepia at Ron Burton's Omokoroa home.

Sun streams into the 87-year-old World War II veteran's lounge, as he sits at the table, thumbing through a handful of some of the 6000 photographs he kept from his three years fighting overseas.

Staring back at Ron out of the creased and battered pictures are the eternally-youthful faces of comrades and friends — some who made it back home, some who did not.

Earlier today, Ron was among thousands of people who braved the early morning chill to turn out at dawn Anzac Day commemorations across the country.

But on July 27, 1943, at the age of 21, Ron was one of 6500 soldiers who left Wellington aboard Dutch liner the Nieuw Amsterdam, believed to be the biggest contingent of troops to leave New Zealand.

Even on the first leg of the liner's trip, to Hobart and Fremantle, the

threat of war was ever-present.

"We did a zig-zag course, as there was a submarine scare on at the time," Ron said.

The two destroyers escorting the liner occasionally vanished — in Ron's words, "they were away chasing subs".

But the threats did not come from just submarines — as the Nieuw Amsterdam steamed its way across the Indian Ocean and up the Suez Canal to the Egyptian port of Tufik, the vessel's 6500 souls also battled storms and sea-sickness.

Weather was still playing a part upon the troops' arrival in Cairo — this time it was the stifling heat causing problems.

"It was tremendously hot. I think the day we arrived in Cairo it was 122[F] in the shade, and of course, we'd come out of winter in Wellington."

It was an accident in the Italian capital of Rome which led to Ron taking on his photography role.

He took over the job after another

soldier, who had been taking photographs, stepped out of a third floor window after a few drinks, and fell to his death.

Ron began taking his pictures with a box brownie, before switching to a Kodak model he picked up in Rome, by trading military-issue cigarettes.

Film was sent from the frontlines to be developed, and Ron quickly set up a deal with Kodak in Cairo — for every film he sent them to get developed, they would send him a fresh roll in return.

He sold many of his photographs to his fellow troops, but only to cover the cost of the prints.

Being classed as an "official" photographer, Ron had unhindered access to all areas of the battlefield.

"Sometimes I'd lie down while the guns were firing and take pictures in battle... It was quite exciting really."

For Ron, one of his enduring memories of the war was the battle for Monte Cassino, and the accompanying allied aerial assault.

"I remember the first day the

Flying Fortresses came over and bombed Cassino... It was a bright sky, beautiful morning, and all the Flying Fortresses came over and bombed Cassino, and I think that was the first time the enemy had really been done over... It was an amazing sight.

"I think that was probably the turning point in the war at one stage — I lost quite a lot of good mates there."

From Monte Cassino, Ron's battalion pushed up through Italy, becoming attached to a Polish troop division, stationed near Mount Cairo.

However, while trying to make contact with the Poles, Ron said they inadvertently attracted the attentions of the enemy.

"All of a sudden, the Germans opened up and shelled the hell out of us. We were pretty lucky to get out of that in one piece."

From there it was a move into the Liri Valley, as part of a slow slog to try and push the German forces back.

"It was a bit of give and take. It

was one move at a time."

The troops set up a New Zealand military hospital at the port town of Senigallia, and among the soldiers being cared for in the hospital were several All Blacks, including former second five eight "Brushy" Mitchell.

As well as war wounds, some of the soldiers were struck down with jaundice.

As the soldiers kept moving north, through the towns of Rimini and Forlì, progress was slowed by the Italian weather.

"At that stage, the snow had set in, and we, like the Germans were snowbound until the weather changed."

When conditions improved, the focus switched to the Allies' main assault over the Senio River, described by Ron as "probably the biggest allied move since Cassino".

Ron recalls the attack beginning at 9pm with a 1000-gun barrage, repeated every 10 minutes.



"The whole sky was just lit up like daylight.

"The noise was absolutely phenomenal. It's a wonder anybody has got any hearing left really."

Troops used the covering fire to move forward at 100-yard intervals, although Ron said problems with the artillery calibration leading to some troops being hit by friendly fire.

"It was pretty damn demoralising, when you see your own guys blown up by your own troops."

By the time the soldiers reached Italy's longest river, the Po, the Germans were on the retreat, blowing up bridges as they went.

The Allied forces were delayed and had to wait for engineers to

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construct a "pontoon bridge", made up of pontoons moored in a row across the river's surface, to allow vehicles to cross.

Where the Germans didn't have time to destroy bridges as they crossed them, Ron said they would leave burning motorcycles and sidecars on the structures as they retreated.

"The Germans were doing everything to stall our advance ... at that stage, they were starting to run short of ammunition."

Tanks were taken out using phosphorous grenades thrown into the back of the vehicles' air vents. The intake of phosphorous forced the crew of the tanks into a quick evacuation.

The demoralisation among the German troops was best exemplified by an incident where Ron felt something stab him in the back.

Turning slowly, he saw a German soldier, pointing a Luger pistol at him.

The German soldier's response was unexpected — "Would you like this, because I've finished with it."

As the tide of war continued to turn against the Germans, Ron and his troops captured German gunboats on a canal near the coastal town of Monfalcone.

The boats were loaded up with lira, worth millions of dollars, taken from a German Pay Office.

The war was virtually over by the time the troops reached the north-eastern settlement of Trieste — Ron was among the first to enter the city, having become platoon commander after the

group's previous leader was shot in the head.

He survived through a piece of good luck — the bullet passed through one cheek, missed his teeth and exited through the other cheek.

The soldiers entering Trieste had to run the gauntlet against Italian resistance forces with snipers firing potshots from the tops of buildings.

"They were armed to the teeth, they had all this enemy equipment that they'd captured," Ron said.

The end of hostilities gave the weary soldiers a chance to relax — which in Ron's case meant a trip to see the body of former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, and a fishing excursion — using hand grenades.

Ron's next journey was to Japan as part of J-Force, a trip which found him stationed near Hiroshima, after the atom bomb was dropped on that city by the United States.

"In the whole of Hiroshima,

there wouldn't have been more than six buildings standing ... the rest of the place was absolutely demolished.

"It was unbelievable — you could see a place could be completely demolished with the matter of one bomb."

Despite the massive devastation caused by the attack on Hiroshima, estimated to have killed at least 80,000 people at the time, Ron maintains the move was necessary.

"We were all of the opinion that had it not been for the bomb, the Japanese would not have given in, they'd have fought to the end, rain, hail or snow."

The aftermath of the attack made the Japanese difficult to communicate with, said Ron.

"We never could get through to the Japanese, they were shell-shocked."

Ron landed back in New Zealand exactly three years after he left.

He eventually married



ENEMY UNIT: A German tank in Left: Ron's service medals.



schoolteacher Barbara Pirie, who he was friends with before the war.

Although he suffered from nightmares after his return, Ron brushes off any suggestion of horror of both having to take and seeing friends die at his side.

"We sort of just took everything as it came."

Ron's photographs have appeared in several books about the war, and often get pulled out at reunions with his wartime colleagues.

He's proud of his efforts for country, and aware of the importance of his photographs both for the people that fought alongside him, and for future generations.

"People nowadays are starting to understand and respect what was done during the war and I think the fact that when you look around and see how many young people are going to the dawn parade, I think that's the thing that impresses most people."

"I think that's one of the things that returned servicemen really appreciate."



ROLLING ON: A convoy of trucks from the allied forces approaches the Po River in Italy.



JAPAN FORCE: The members of the 27th Machine Gun Battalion in Japan. Ron Burton is fourth from right, second row.

Piece of history disappears as drill hall is demolished

By DAVE BLANSHARD

ANOTHER piece of Tauranga's history quietly disappeared last week as contractors demolished the former Hauraki Battalion drill hall in Dive Cres.

Nobody could claim the corrugated iron structure, owned by the Tauranga City Council and sandwiched between the Tauranga Foodbank and a marine business, had architectural merit. But if its massive rimu timbers could have talked they undoubtedly had many tales to tell.

The structure's early history is uncertain.

It stands on land reclaimed in 1925 when the East Coast Main Trunk Railway was constructed along the Tauranga waterfront.

It has been suggested to *Bay News* the building may have been used initially as a meeting hall or even a gymnasium, as it was originally attractively lined and contained a massive open fireplace.

Steel tie bars between roof trusses were of a style seen in many public halls and some churches dating from the early part of last century.

In historic photos taken in the early 1940s it still appears to be relatively new.

What is certain is that the building was taken over by the military in 1942 when the headquarters of the Hauraki Regiment was relocated from Paeroa to Tauranga.

It remained the battalion base through the post-war compulsory military training era and up to the late 1970s when the Army acquired the former Kaimai Co-op Dairy Company property on the



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The old drill hall in Dive Cres makes way for parking but parts might be your next dining table. Right: Remains of the massive original open fireplace.

corner of Devonport Rd and 11th Ave.

The now demolished section was the main drill hall in the complex, with administrative offices located in the southern wing occupied by the foodbank.

The northern portion, which is remaining for now, is a more recent addition.

Until a couple of years ago the main hall area was occupied by a panelbeating business. Since then it has mostly been empty — just used occasionally for temporary storage.

The council has had the building demolished because it was derelict and not considered worth retaining.

The site will be used as an open



space car in the short term, but will ultimately be part of redevelopment planned for Dive Cres.

The old building is not entirely done, however. Parts of it are expected to get a new life as items of furniture.

Contractors dismantling the structure said it contained a large quantity of sound rimu timber which was to be made available to furniture and cabinet-makers specialising in items made from recycled native timber.

You must have many reflections, stories & photos of this era. Please send them in for the next Hauraki News.

Merchandise

There are still some items for sale. I.e. 4 sets of cuff links, brought for the 100th Hauraki Ties a limited number have been purchased selling at \$40.00
Hauraki Plaque, This is a special "mothers of pearl" a limited number of 20 has been purchased. Cost Association members \$40.00, and to others \$60.00.
Baseball cap, (a cap with a Hauraki Badge on the front) a limited number have been purchased \$20.00, selling fast.

Hauraki coin has been purchase. There are a limited number of 50. Cost \$15.00 for association members. \$20.00 for non members Plus postage

Garrison Club

With the help of the associate members the people using the bar has increased. Or is because "Bob is back"!

Welfare

The Association's inaugural Secretary/Treasurer, Trevor Archer has been back in hospital. We all wish him speedy recovery. It is his "shout in the bar", but we all know how Trev will go to extraordinary events to avoid a "shout"! Just ask him about his deployment to Fiji and what he did to not have a "shout" at the Sergeants Mess?
Get well old friend.

Social Events

Up coming events

Bob has volunteered to arrange a luncheon at the Forte Liza near Katikati, preceded by a visit to the Morton Wine Estate, for wine tasting.

Bob is looking for SOBER DRIVERS?

Date planned for 20th September 2009. If you are interested contact Bob or me.



Luncheon at Fayh's Family Restaurant, Greerton, Tauranga for all members & friends. Sunday 14th June 2009 at 1200hrs. Gavering in the bar before going into the restaurant



Movies at the Garrison

The second Friday of the month.
Rice & curry available at a small cost

Remember show starts at 7pm sharp. Bring a mate. Gold coin donation goes to the Hauraki Museum.

Hugh has not given the movie schedule but will send it a week or two before viewing.

The movie & curry night donates about \$100.00 a month towards the museum. Thanks to all attend. Not only do you have a hot meal, enjoyed with great company, watch a "great" movie and wash it down with cheap drinks, but help our museum.

News from the Regiment

An "OCDT" (officer cadet) reflects.

Was it a thirst for adventure or a misguided response to midlife crisis? Who cares? As I approached my 40th birthday I decided to join the Territorial's.

I imagined that an older bloke like me might stick out like a sore toe among the fresh faced youths that would be my contemporaries. This didn't bother me too much, as I enjoy playing rugby with guys who still get asked for ID when buying a drink. However, as it happens, the TF have a liberal sprinkling of people who are more familiar with Led Zeppelin than Fall Out Boy. Having served a couple of years in the Navy, upon first leaving school, I already had an idea of what service life was like. My time in the Navy was served in the ranks, so I thought that I would like to experience life in commissioned country.

Initial Officer Training was a great challenge and I enjoyed learning so many skills. I found it interesting to be aware of how I responded to stress. I enjoyed the challenge of having to choose to focus on other people and the broader situation rather than just how things were affecting me directly. After the third night of 'gardening' into the early hours of the morning, the little man sitting on my shoulder had to be threatened with the etool to silence his persistent whinging. I have to say I don't recall digging gun pits while serving at sea. Overall, I felt that while I have passed my best years for physical performance, mental toughness is only limited by my own choices, or as a certain SSgt of the battalion often states; 'Pain is just a sign of weakness leaving the body'.

Since joining the battalion my training has largely been working with Alpha Company and Waikato Mounted Rifles. I have enjoyed mixing with people from so many diverse backgrounds and such a wide range of ages, and have been impressed how quickly the 'old salts' readily pass on their knowledge and skills. I have been fortunate in being able to represent the battalion in two events; the Freyberg Shooting Competition and 2LFG Skill at Arms, enabling me to develop my soldiering skills.

To make the time pass quickly while waiting for my next training weekend I spend my week days as a school teacher, and I have noticed there is a lot of cross pollination of the

people skills acquired in both education and the army. I have always been intrigued by the practise of leadership, and particularly what makes a good one. Much of the philosophy successfully practised by the Army with its volunteers can be adapted to our intermediate school's 'conscripts'. I might suggest at the next staff meeting we should only accept the most earnest volunteers.

For the future I look forward to working with the battalion and the opportunity of being involved in peacekeeping overseas.

Warwick Joblin

Officer Cadet

Where have you been?

A question answered by LT Kate Wawatai, Platoon Commander on Op. Rata.

I have been asked this question many times since I have been home. I tell people that I have been in the Solomon's, and surprisingly not many know of this mountainous double chain of islands and coral atolls that stretch over 1800km west to east. Even more surprisingly many people are unaware that New Zealand soldiers are currently serving on these islands that once were the scene of heavy fighting during WWII.

For me and many other soldiers it was to be our first deployment. Young and old soldiers from 6 Hauraki and 3 ANR joined together to create the 6th Rotation of OP RATA II. I was lucky enough to have Charlie Harrison as the PI Sgt and SSgt Solomon was never far away with guidance and advice for all commanders. Cpl Teejay Samuel, Cpl John Goodwin and Cpl Steve Pene developed their sections comradeship well before we left and kept a tight hold of their soldiers whilst deployed. WMR's Tpr Mackintosh provided a key role as Platoon Signals operator ensuring our most important asset was always up and running – communications!

Months flew by whilst we were deployed however the days were so long. Much of the first month we spent waiting. Waiting for orders, waiting for confirmation, waiting for trouble. This may have been the hardest part for most soldiers and difficult on commanders at all levels. Whilst waiting we worked. Commanders trained sections, soldiers taught the platoon, we pack marched, practiced riot control, cleaned weapons, completed range practice, completed sig training, medic training, read SOP's and we waited. It was during these times of waiting that proved the real test on commanders' control, 2IC's initiative and soldiers' patience.

As the deployment progressed we started to see the real Solomon Islands, sections patrolled dismounted and mounted by day and night into the outskirts of the city with up to 4 or 5 patrols a day. Commanders met chiefs, interacted with the locals, ventured into places that had not been touched for a long time, and then they would return and entire sections would help commanders compile detailed patrol reports. It was during this patrolling phase that we saw commanders really work hard to help develop their sections.

2IC's stepped up to the mark, LCpl Darcy Timu, LCpl Darin Fuimaono and our very own LCpl Joey Faulkner performed outstandingly in their role as section 2IC's. Providing a key link between the soldiers and commanders.

During the 2nd half of the deployment the NZ platoon was lucky enough to see all three sections sent out of Honiara on Provincial tasks that lasted from 7 – 10 days (much to the Aussies dislike.) Although I think our luck had much to do with the patrol commander being from NZ. Cpl Pene, LCpl Fuimaono, Cpl Samuel and LCpl Faulkner moved by boat to Western province where each led brick size dets conducting patrols, village visits and border patrol tasks. Cpl Goodwin and LCpl Darcy Timu with their section flew to Mbanbanakira, a small village on the southern coast of Guadalcanal, where they completed a major bridge building task with limited supplies under the expertise of Spr Justin Roys and Spr Vipal Govind.

Whilst part of this Australian led regional Assistance Mission to The Solomon Islands the NZ platoon also got to work along side different nations, we spent time with the Tongan Marines, The Papua New Guinea army and many Policemen and women from all over the Pacific as well as the Aussies. We were treated well by all nations and we soon got that kiwi reputation of getting in there and just doing the job with whatever resources we had without complaint. The Aussie diggers were a bit shocked to see an infantry female commander as well as female soldiers but they soon came to terms with the fact that we were all equals especially after the Aussies were defeated on the touch field, soccer field and volleyball court at our 'friendly' ANZAC day sports competition.

Although this deployment was indeed an experience, it was first and foremost a job, and like all jobs it came with its ups and downs. There were frustrating times for commanders and soldiers, times of loneliness and of course that question 'what am I doing here?' Eventually the frustrating times were replaced by work, laughter, exhaustion and comradeship, and that nagging question was also answered when helping the locals, when gathering that all important information and when understanding that the small things that each individual soldier does can and will eventually make a difference. If you have the opportunity to be part of this mission I strongly suggest that you take it. It is hard work and a challenge but that's why we joined isn't it? No one ever said it would be easy. Although OP RATA II is a lower level operation compared to many others, it is still an operation that is important to all NZers as it is so close to home.

When people ask me where I have been, I tell them, I tell them about NZ's military involvement, I tell them about the history and the current state of the Solomon Islands. I share with them all that I know and so should you, because it is important to NZ and because we should continue to try and make a difference in a country that desperately needs our help.

To all those soldiers and commanders that were part of OP RATA II (6), you should be proud of your efforts. With the experience and knowledge you have gained from this deployment it is important that you continue to train and share that knowledge and experience with others. I enjoyed working with you all.

Kia Kaha - Lt Kate Wawatai

“Mentioned-in-Dispatches” Presented 50 Years Late

In the late 1950s and during the 1960s a number of personnel serving with 1st NZ Regt

and 1 RNZIR in South East Asia were awarded Mentioned-in-Dispatches commendations. At a recent 1st NZ Regt reunion it was discovered that a number of these awards had never been formally presented to recipients. So 50 years after being commended for their courage the following soldiers surrounded by their families were presented their MIDs by the Chief of Army Major General Lou Gardiner at the **6 Hauraki Bn Group Headquarters** on 20 August.

MID Recipients: (Rank is listed as at the time of the award)

WO2 Ken Carrington (received by his wife Mrs Dorothy Carrington from Opotiki.)

Cpl Noel Sinclair of Tauranga.

Cpl Niwa Kawha of Tauranga.

T/Sgt Windy McGee received by his wife Mrs Mere McGee of Taumaranui.

Brig Ian Thorpe CBE of Rotorua.

Major General Gardiner apologised for the 50 year delay in presentation of these awards. He said that "Operational service is difficult at the best of times but these people have all done something exceptional and we must recognise that. These soldiers exhibited the four values of today's army – courage, commitment, camaraderie and integrity." Some recipients stated they did not even know they were owed any award until they were contacted recently but that it was wonderful to have the recognition now, something for the grandchildren. Brig Thorpe thanked the army for the presentations and shared a few anecdotes about early times serving together in the Hauraki's. *Article by Julia Banks*

The above articles were published in the "Kia Kaha"; the Regimental Newsletter. As most of us do not see this publication I received permission from the editor Capt Russel Skeet to reprint. Des

Hauraki's on Deployment

August 2009

Op Ariki Crib 14

Afghanistan

Capt A.D. Arrowsmith

Op Gyro 7

Timor – Leste

WO2 C. Savage

Op Rata Rot 10

Solomon Islands

Pte Z.H. Burdett

Pte D.R. Morgan

Pte J.G. Goodwin



Officers & SNCO 6 Hauraki Battalion Group on 27 June 2009



TF JNCO CSE
11-25 JULY 2009
Well done to L/CPL Allen who was in the top five students.

Hauraki's:

Rear left to right: L/Cpl G.J Studer, L/Cpl B.McRoy, L/Cpl S.W White
Center / right: L/Cpl M.J.S Allen



Officials at the opening of Tauranga RSA
Maj Earp (left) and WO1 Dawson escort MP Bridges and Mayor Crosby.



The new cenotaph at the Tauranga RSA



Trevor Sexton & Kevin Mitchell



Ray Crafts at the RSA opening

6 Hauraki Battalion Group personnel MAJ R Earp (XO), WO1 J Dawson (RSM) and CAPT R Skeet (PRO6) represented CO 6 Hau at a cenotaph dedication at the recently relocated Tauranga RSA facility in Cameron Road Greerton Tauranga on Sunday 9 August. The cenotaph dedication and official opening of the relocated RSA facility was attended by National (and local) Member of Parliament Simon Bridges, RSA Vice President Kevin Holley and Tauranga Mayor Stuart Crosby, in addition to Tauranga and other RSA members and office holders. The previous RSA location was officially closed on 28 June. Several longer serving ex members of 6 Hau were present at the ceremony also; Maj (rtd) Trevor Sexton and WO1 (rtd) Kevin Mitchell

Today's returning peacekeepers silent majority of veterans

WHO make up the largest body of service personnel to leave New Zealand since World War II, Returned Services Association national president Robin Klitscher likes to ask?

He rarely gets a correct answer.

They are not the veterans of J Force, Korea, Malaya or Vietnam. They are the 30,000

modern peacekeepers who have served in places like the Sinai, Bosnia, East Timor and the Solomon Islands.

"Not many New Zealanders appreciate the numbers

involved," he says. "Sadly many of the personnel concerned don't see themselves as RSA material. Half of them are missing in action from our point of view."

Robin was commenting on the longterm prospects for his organisation at the recent closing ceremony for the Tauranga RSA's old Cameron Rd clubrooms.

From a peak membership of more than 2200 WW2 veterans at one stage the Tauranga organisation has less than 100 survivors today.

"Obviously time is taking its toll," says Robin — himself a Vietnam man. "But that does not mean the end of the RSA."

"The young men and women

coming back from overseas duty today are just as much returned services as the WW2 or Korean veterans. And in their turn they will have welfare needs one day.

"It is unfortunate a barrier has tended to exist between the older generation of members and those who have served overseas in modern peacekeeping roles."

He says old attitudes are

changing now and those more recently qualified people are welcomed into the organisation.

While associates and family members of former soldiers are all well and good,

“The young men and women coming back from overseas duty today are just as much returned services as the WW2 or Korean veterans.”

ROBIN KLITSCHER

it is the returned personnel themselves who truly understand the special bonds formed while serving overseas, and will uphold the organisation's traditions.

"We are working on this whole matter," he says.

"Returning contingents are greeted by RSA representatives and we are in contact with serving members of the Defence Forces."

Robin says the organisation is in the process of reaching out in the community to hopefully attract many of the "missing" services personnel and the RSA will have an important function to perform into the foreseeable future.

Cadets

The Cadet Units in the Hauraki Area attended Hauraki Experience XI in Waiouru from 4th to 11th July 2009. This involves about 120 officers & cadets, with supporting staff from 6 Hauraki Battalion Group.

The Association awarded the Association Sword to the top cadet. Trophies & presented the book "Comrades Brave" to other cadets who have distinguished themselves or their unit.

Other the eleven years of Hauraki Experience, over a thousand cadets have been through Waiouru had their first Army experience. Many have gone on to join & serve with the NZ Army.

AWARDS

MOST IMPROVED CADET

UPHAM:	Cdt S Ngahoro (Taumaranui)
NGARIMU:	Cdt T Hati (Opotiki)
BASSETT:	Cdt J Praskash (Rotorua)
HINTON:	Cdt R Waaka (Tauranga)

MOST IMPROVED JNCO:	Lcpl H Hollinshead (Te Awamutu) & Lcpl King (Hamilton Fraser)
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MOST IMPROVED SNCO:	Ssgt J O'Sullivan (Rotorua)
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TOP PLATOON:	Upham (Taupo / Taumaranui)
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HAURAKI ASSOCIATION SWORD:	Sgt A Kurei (Opotiki)
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TOP SHOT:	Cpl N Foote (Taupo)
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Des Anderson presents the Hauraki Association sword to the overall best cadet. Sgt A Kurei, Opotiki Cadet Unit



Trophies that are presented to the cadets in the Hauraki Area.
On the left is a silver mug presented to SWI WO1 Dave Galvin for the commitment he has given to the cadets over the years.
In the centre is the plaque given to the 6 Hauraki Battalion Group from the Officers & Cadets, in way of saying "Thank you Hauraki's".



Cadets reply with their Haka, to the Commanding Officer 6 Hauraki) Battalion. Lt Col Warren Banks



Presenting the top awards



Mike Neville, Tony Fraser & Aubrey Blazer

The Members at the AGM endorsed the committee decision to admit the Patriots DFMC (Hauraki) as Associate Members. In much the same way we have admitted the Rhodesian Service Association.

The Patriots have a website, Patriots Defence Force Motorcycle Club New Zealand.

Parts of their rules are: Full membership may be granted to persons who have served or are serving in the military (this includes reserve service)

The CO & RSM have approved the use of the Hauraki Regimental Museum & Garrison Club on Saturday 10th October 2009

A memorial ride and service to commemorate Passchendaele to be held on the 10th October 2009.

The proposed agenda would be as follows;

0800hrs- Registration at the Mount RSA

0830hrs - Karakia and ride started by official delegation from the RSA.

0930hrs - Arrive Whakatane RSA, tea and biscuits and presentation to that RSA.

1030hrs - Depart Whakatane RSA

1130 Hrs - Arrive Rotorua RSA, lunch and presentation.

1300hrs - Depart Rotorua RSA

1400hrs - Arrive Hauraki Association

1430hrs - Memorial service commences (approx 40 minutes)

1515hrs - Bar open

Mike Neville

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009

August

7th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Regimental Happy Hour
11th	Tuesday	1900 hrs	Garrison Club	Committee Meeting
13th		Newsletter printed & posted		
14th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
			Hauraki	
14th	Friday	1900 hrs	Museum	MOVIES Curry & Rice
21st	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
28th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Finger Food

September

4th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Regimental Happy Hour
8th	Tuesday	1900 hrs	Garrison Club	Committee Meeting
11th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
			Hauraki	
11th	Friday	1900 hrs	Museum	MOVIES Curry & Rice
18th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
20th	Sunday	1100 hrs	Forta Liza	Luncheon
25th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Finger Food

October

2nd	Friday	1800 hrs	Garrison Club	Regimental Happy Hour
9th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
			Hauraki	
9th	Friday	1900 hrs	Museum	MOVIES Curry & Rice
10th	Saturday	1400 hrs	Garrison Club	Patriots DFMC
13th	Tuesday	1900 hrs	Garrison Club	Committee Meeting
16th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
23rd	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
24th	Saturday	1500 hrs	Garrison Club	Rhodesian Services Association
30th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Finger Food

November

6th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Regimental Happy Hour
10th	Tuesday	1900 hrs	Garrison Club	Committee Meeting
13th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
			Hauraki	
13th	Friday	1900 hrs	Museum	MOVIES Curry & Rice
19th		Newsletter printed & posted		
20th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Nibbles
27th	Friday	1600 hrs	Garrison Club	Finger Food

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This newsletter is compiled by Des Anderson, President, of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

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