



Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

February 2020 Issue No 96

Official Newsletter of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

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tauranga.kete.net.nz/ remembering War

To review Hauraki News prior to 2008

http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/remembering_war/topics/show/1287

President's Report

When I send out a message for stories, articles & photos to be placed into the Hauraki News I never know who will reply. I was pleasantly surprised to received an article & photos, I can share with you. Thank you, Corporal Davis Other articles I have to go onto Facebook or other like publications. I have used Tauranga Mayor Temby Powell, Facebook account & the Bay News to round out the article of change over parade of the Honorary Colonels. Photos were supplied by Julia Banks, who has also supplied many photos over the years. Thank you, Julia.

To me the highlight of the Change over Parade was having afternoon tea with the Ladies of the Hauraki Regiment, at the end of the parade. Their smiles were contagious. **They had seen the Hauraki Colours being paraded in Tauranga.**

The article on the ANZAC Quilts, I went to the Mt Maunganui RSA, along with a large contingent of Hauraki Association Members to support the event. It was wonderful to see the recipients receive the ANZAC Quilts and then have an opportunity to talk to them afterwards. Their smiles said it all. Mistakenly I had gone onto goggle and come up with “Quilts of Valour”. You can't trust goggle! Photos were supplied on the Facebook Mt Maunganui RSA.

Hauraki Company, 3/6 Battalion RNZIR has been quite socially active over the year. The 6th Hauraki Association Members joined with them at their EOY BBQ, held in the Garrison plus a number of their events. We are waiting to be invited to a shoot with their new weapon systems?

The Association is having a shoot at Costers farm, with the kind permission of Robin Coster. The Association plans to continue with this traditional shoot.

I have been advised the next President of 3 Auck/North Association is a Hauraki. Well done, Paul Couch.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

3/6 Battalion - Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Infantry Skills Mod 1 Course. February 2020

We had eight students who attended the course. The course focused on developing the students fieldcraft and battlecraft mainly in regards to Observation, Close Country Navigation, Camouflage and Concealment, Patrol procedures, Formations and drills including Break Contact Drills, Observation Post and Ambushing.

The course culminated in Ex Stealth Stalker where the students had to conduct battle prep including orders and rehearsals, navigate to a destination, conduct harbouring and routine, establish an observation post then destroy a high value target via mechanical ambush.

All of the students approached the course with a good attitude and eagerness to learn and displayed a considerable increase in their soldiering abilities by the end of the Course.

Corporal Davis

NEW ZEALAND ARMY













Honorary Colonel of 3/6 BN RNZIR

In the event that I do not make it for the ceremony, may I just add my thanks and gratitude to Honcol Tenby Powell for the work that he has done and his support of the Unit. And I wish Honcol Kenneth Brown all the best in the role for the future. Knowing Honcol Kenneth Brown's long history with the Unit, makes him ideal for the role and I wish him every success.

Whakatangata, Kia Kaha!

Former Honorary Colonel Judge Chris McGuire



















PASSING THE COLOURS

This weekend was my last as Honorary Colonel of 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR. An HONCOL appointment is essentially to provide mentorship to a new Commanding Officer by a past one, while also providing important non-military linkages in support of the Regiment.

Passing the Battle Honours (the Regimental and Queens Colours), to the new HONCOL (LTCOL Ken Brown), was a solemn ceremony given they date back to South Africa 1900–02, and include major engagements in both the First and Second World Wars. Since these Colours were struck, many of our soldiers have also served in recent conflicts around the world in the service of New Zealand.

And on that note - it was my privilege to pin a medal for service in Afghanistan on a Staff Sergeant and Tauranga resident who has recently returned from a ToD.

PASSING THE COLOURS



My very best to my 'Infantry Whanau' - it is a great privilege to wear the uniform of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

New Honorary Colonel reignites military career

Tauranga man Kenneth Brown looks forward to his new appointment as Honorary Colonel for 3/6 Battalion.

A newly appointed Honorary Colonel for 3/6 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, is determined to "preserve and protect" the Battalion's military history.

A handover parade on February 22 saw Kenneth Brown receive the Battalion Battle Honours - the Queens and Regimental Colours - from former Regimental Colonel, Mayor Tenby Powell.

"It was strange putting my uniform on again after 11 years," says Kenneth.

The former 6 Hauraki Battalion Commanding Officer (prior to the amalgamation with 3 Battalion) who works as an accountant in Tauranga says he is reigniting his 34-year territorial military career.

"The appointment is a culmination of a long career I have had. To be given this opportunity when I thought my career was over, is very nice."

Kenneth describes the four-year-appointment as “a nice cap” to his career which has lasted more than three decades.

Tenby took to his public Facebook after the ceremony last weekend, saying the appointment is “essentially to provide mentorship to a new Commanding Officer by a past one, while also providing important non-military linkages in support of the Regiment.”

Kenneth says along with his support duties, he also wants to help keep military history alive in New Zealand.

“Part of my job is to protect and preserve the history of 3/6 Battalion. It is important to keep these things alive - ANZAC Day, Armistice Day for example. We can’t forget that people have died for these things.”

He is also looking forward to mentoring the younger officers, and being a shoulder to lean on for the current Commanding Officer.

At the age of 19, Kenneth joined the army as a private soldier in Rotorua.

He says moving up the ranks gave him the motivation to stick with his career choice, and was posted as Commanding Officer for the 6 Hauraki Battalion in 1999.

Kenneth also spent one year in the Middle East before this posting.

I was with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation and we were there to observe and report on military incidents in South Lebanon and then spent time patrolling the border between Syria and Israel - up on the Golan Heights.

“That was a fascinating, good part of my career.”





**WELCOME
to the Inaugural Presentation of
ANZAC QUILTS
1st March, 2020
at the Mt Maunganui RSA**

Recipients:

Mabel Hoggard (Fuller) Posthumously

Bill Taare

Lincoln Smith

Trevor Sexton

Terry Lynch

Paul Franks

Pamela Terry (Miley)

Gordon Nairn

Geoffrey Kelly

Erik Kristensen

Earle Barbarich

Charles Fong

Kevin Mitchell

A comfort and an honour



Sheryl Farrow works on a new ANZAC quilt. Photos: Daniel Hines.

It's a kind of hug from the nation, a gesture of thanks, a message saying 'we haven't forgotten what you did for us.

And the sentiment is all wrapped up in a home-made quilt.

"We have called them **ANZAC quilts**," says Sheryl Farrow.

A dozen quilts to start with. And they will be presented to 12 ex-service people at a special function at 11am at the Mount RSA tomorrow, Sunday March 1.

It's not just the comfort those quilts will bring.

"It's the honour we are bestowing on them," says Sheryl.

"And I know from talking to the recipients, that's what they're taking from it. They're thrilled to bits."

Sheryl says the ANZAC quilts concept has its roots in the USA where it's called Quilts of Valour.

"A soldier's mother made him a quilt while he was serving in Afghanistan."

And when he returned with post-traumatic stress disorder, she noticed on a low day, he would wrap himself in the quilt and sit outside "on the quiet".

The soldier reminded his mother there were a lot of men in his platoon also suffering PTSD. The mother took an idea to her quilters club and a movement called Quilts of Valour was born. It's now in the USA, Canada, England and Australia.

Then Sheryl, a quilter from Pyes Pa, wondered why not New Zealand?

"I mean our soldiers are just as important to us and I think it's important we say thank you in our way. We, as quilters, are saying thank you for your service."

Sheryl herself has a lot to be thankful for.

"I have a father who served, an uncle who was a POW for four years, another who was a Battle of Britain pilot and my husband had two uncles who died in World War One."

ANZAC quilts is a project gathering momentum.

"I am sure after Sunday's presentation of 12 quilts and it's posted on the RSA website, then it will take off," says Sheryl.

Several other centres and RSA's have already expressed their interest.

"And they're ready to go."

What makes an ANZAC quilt?

"Any quilt can be an ANZAC quilt, so long as there's something New Zealand about it, perhaps a tiny fern or kiwi. Something to do with home."

Sheryl's already got her eye on the next task.

"A man's having a reunion for the Malaya conflict. There were 135 in his squadron but there are only 32 remaining.

"He's organising their last reunion in June and I am hoping to make enough quilts for all of them."

It's a lot of work, but it's also not work.

"It's just something I love doing," says Sheryl.

Her quilters club is already kicking in with material and "stuff".

And there will be a poignant moment on Sunday when a quilt is presented posthumously.

An ex-service woman, aged 99, passed away about two weeks before she was due to receive her quilt.

"It was so sad," says Sheryl.

Sad but proud, because she knew she was to get the quilt. Instead it draped her casket for her funeral.

And on Sunday, the woman's husband will receive it on her behalf.









STORMING OF CASSINO

(Official War Correspondent, N.Z.E.F.)

NEAR CASSINO, March 16,

As great clouds of smoke and dust lifted across the mountains from the rubble of Cassino village after its four-hour bombardment, New Zealand troops yesterday began one of the hardest tasks they have been given in three years of hard campaigning. Their job is attacking key points in deep defences even more formidable than the German winter line they fought through a few weeks ago on the Adriatic front.

It was clear when they were taken from the Eighth Army front that they were chosen for an important role, and today, after the greatest prelude of heavy bombing they have ever seen, their striking force was unleashed. Strong winds and a few days of winter sunshine had hardened the mud sufficiently for the long-planned attack to begin.

If you imagine a battlefield spread out across some of the steeper foothills of the Southern Alps you have roughly a picture of the New Zealanders' front below the Apennines. Jutting out in a snow-topped wall of rock across the path of the advance along the rich Liri Valley is a mountain ridge honeycombed with German dugouts. Its highest peak, Mount Cairo, dominates the whole countryside for at least ten miles on our side of the line and to a greater distance behind the German front. Nestled against its steep foothills and clustered about the Via Vasilina, the oldest highway south of Rome, are the ruins of Cassino. It was against dug-in guns and machine-gun pits in this area that the New Zealanders began to attack on foot and in tanks.

For some weeks they have held a stretch of front along the valley of Cassino, some of it among battered houses only 50 feet from the German outposts, and almost all directly overlooked by Germans in the hills.

Before the first wave of Allied bombers had come over this morning the New Zealanders had been withdrawn several hundred yards, but within an hour after the main bombing ended, they had regained the old line. Knowing that once they give up the ridges behind Cassino they will have lost command of the approaches to the Liri Valley, the Germans have spent months lining hill after hill with their best defences. Their test had begun.

THE SECOND DAY.

At sunset today, the second day of the assault against Cassino, most of the town is in the hands of our troops, including the hotly contested Castle Hill. The most spectacular feat of the battle was the storming and capture by a Wellington battalion of the rocky fortress known as Castle Hill or Point 193, which bars the southward advance from the northern fringe of the town previously occupied by the New Zealanders. As the infantrymen prepared to reoccupy the positions vacated prior to the bombing yesterday, it was reported that the Germans could be seen running over the top of the hill towards Piedmonte, but it was known that many held their ground.

Supported by a terrific barrage and by tanks, our men went in across ground cratered by hundreds of bombs. Even at this early stage the going was difficult because of the blasted terrain, but in less than an hour the New Zealanders were past their previous positions and pressing on towards the formidable bastion. So far there had been no casualties.

As the men came under the hot fire of the defenders, it was found that Castle Hill presented a sheer unscalable face to the north. They worked their way round to the easier south side. By one o'clock they were past the building known as the Nunnery—a particularly strong defensive position—and were climbing steadily towards the summit.

Meanwhile, the barrage thundered, and on the towering Monastery Hill clouds of white smoke were laid down by the artillery. Half an hour later two tanks forced a laborious way through great piles of rubble and craters 30 feet deep and 40 feet wide and engaged the castle. They decreased their range till they were blasting away point-blank. Meanwhile, the steady climb continued in the face of heavy fire, and soon after three o'clock the tankmen saw a small group of infantry gain the

summit and charge across, soon after this the ridge was cleared and in full possession of our troops.

HARD NIGHT'S WORK.

A brisk battle had been going on from house to house at the bottom, and a southern battalion went in in the early evening. These attackers drove south to clear the enemy from the town, but an accumulation of factors was against them. The tank support was denied them because of the utter obliteration of tracks. Darkness closed in. Worst of all, an icy gale sprang up, bringing heavy rain and even snow on the surrounding hills. But there was no failure. The men thrust through and won, and reported before midnight that they were consolidating and waiting for the moon.

At dawn the ruined town was mostly in our hands with two enemy pockets resisting stubbornly. Snipers took their toll as the house-to-house struggle recommenced. Meanwhile, fighter bombers which had been in close support during yesterday renewed their attacks and the artillery reopened. Most important work was accomplished by engineers in bridging the river and craters to enable tanks and vehicles to pass. Today's fighting at the town centred round a church and the post office.

THE GREAT BOMBARDMENT.

"Today we have had a grandstand view of the greatest air and artillery preparation ever made before an attack against an enemy position," said a senior air liaison officer, whose task it is to co-ordinate air and ground effort, yesterday.

"Early in the morning we proceeded to an observation post in a half-demolished house looking down on Cassino from a distance of 4000 yards. White-capped Monte Cairo stood out boldly against the blue sky, but a light haze lay in the valley below the ruined monastery.

"The advance of the heavy bombers was heralded by the massed music of many engines—and then the first wave was outlined over the northern horizon. The unhurried power of those perfect formations sweeping unhindered towards their appointed task shocked the beholders into a full realisation of the meaning of air supremacy. The roar deepened, and then came the swish of falling destruction.

"Great lurid flashes broke into being among the clustered buildings and columns of 'black smoke climbed to the heavens. Then a crescendo of sound beat upon us. Dust, plaster, and pieces of concrete showered down from our quivering vantage-point. The power of the mighty-blast caused walls thousands of yards from the explosion to sway and totter.

MASTERY IN THE AIR.

"In Cassino itself dust and debris, mingled with smoke and flame, momentarily obscured the target. It was just beginning, for now the sky was stippled with Fortresses and Liberators and their protecting Lightnings and Spitfires.

"There was no respite. All through the morning load after load of high explosives swished down upon the dissolving ruins. Mitchells, Bostons, Baltimores, and Marauders from far-flung aerodromes added weight to over 1400 tons which fell on the mile-square target. Eighty per cent, of the total bomb-load landed fairly about the centre of the town, and much of the rest crashed across enemy positions. Very little of that great bulk was wasted.

"After the early waves the flak was sparse and spasmodic. The Luftwaffe's almost complete absence was emphasised by what happened when a couple of German fighters made a half-hearted appearance. A clear sky suddenly spawned Allied fighters, and Jerry found urgent business elsewhere. Little observation planes added an almost comic touch by ambling about at motor-car speed among the smoke clouds.

"At noon the artillery took up the offensive—hundreds of guns - hurling metal at the concentrated target. El Alamein was outclassed. The great number of guns, a proportion of which were heavies, pulverised a much smaller area. Then our troops went in, supported throughout by the guns and low-diving fighter-bombers."

The bombing of Cassino area has made much work for the engineers, who now have the task of bridging or filling, in the great craters on the roads used, or likely to be used by our armour. Some of these craters are forty feet wide and twenty feet deep. The soft nature of the ground adjoining

the roads, much of it under water, makes repairs vitally necessary, but much of the work will have to be done by bridging, owing to lack of suitable material for filling. Working throughout the bitterly cold night, in pouring rain, our sappers on one road, close to Cassino bridged a crater with a 50ft structure and 10ft buttresses.

Handling the chilly steel with numbed-fingers in the darkness was an experience he never wanted again, a sapper said this morning. Another crater almost as large was filled in before daylight. At the same time, American engineers were bridging the Rapido River on Highway 6. They, too, completed the job before daylight—a 90ft bridge with 10ft buttresses.

The best idea of the extent of the bombing can be had from air photographs, which show the whole area churned up by great holes. In Cassino itself the streets are cluttered with debris of demolished buildings. Indian and New Zealand sappers have been working there under great difficulties.

EVENING POST, 20 MARCH 1944

PATRIOTS DFMC

HAURAKI CHAPTER

PATRIOTS DFMC

It has been a busy start for the Hauraki Chapter of the Patriots Defence Force Motorcycle Club with club rides around the Mutu with two local rides to Pukehina and Raglan and two more ormal rides, being the Hudder Run and The Patriots National Muster in Whanganui.



National Gathering

A group of about 20 Hauraki Patriots attended this years 'National Gathering' at Languards Bluff Whanganui. High points being the attendance of the Chief's of Airforce and Navy.

Hudder Memorial Ride

Every year the Hauraki Chapter conduct a memorial ride to commemorate a fallen Hauraki Hero. Sgt Murray Hudson was killed whilst conducting a training exercise while attempting to save a trainee who had difficulties after arming a grenade, both Sgt Hudson and the trainee were killed. Sgt Hudson received the George Cross posthumously for his actions.



Following a short graveside service, we rode to the Te Kaha RSA who hosted us for the evening.

Upcoming Rides

14 March To Thames RSA

21 March Auckland Chapter

Copied from the Facebook 6 Hauraki 2020 ANZAC Reunion

Ok. Here is the updated Itinerary for our Reunion 2020. For those going on the Waiouru leg of the Reunion...Phase 1:

Wed 22 April 2020 1000hrs:

RV at Tauranga Army Hall Garrison Club.

Prep for journey to Waiouru leaving approx. 1200hrs.

Arrive at Waiouru Marae approx. 1630hrs.

Powhiri at 1700hrs then prep for Dinner/Supper.

Will set timings for next day activities. Free time in evening TBC.

Thurs 23 April:

Reveille TBC

Breakfast at Marae.

0900hrs: Waiouru Army Museum visit, Move to Waiouru Camp conducting Barrack Tours, Ranges Tours and WETS activities.

Approx. 1500hrs:

Move back to Marae prep for Dinner.

Freshen up for Tour Group Function...2 cans per man...yeah right.

Back to Marae accommodation in your own time for crash out.

Fri 24 April 2020:

Reveille TBC

Breakfast at Marae.

Approx. 1000hrs: Leave Waiouru Marae.

Approx. 1100hrs: Stopover in Taupo for free time.

Approx. 1230hrs: Call in to Onward Bar Taupo.

1400hrs: Move to Tauranga Army Hall Garrison Club.

Approx. 1700hrs: Arrive back to Tauranga Army Hall, meet and greet in Garrison Club with those who have arrived for the main Anzac Day activity and join in the Hauraki Fellowship.

BBQ Dinner at Tauranga Army Hall TBC.

NB: You will need to sort your own accommodation on the Friday and Sat night, those that are staying in Tauranga.

Sat 25 April 2020:

0430hrs: Move to Anzac Dawn Service TBC.

1000hrs: Attend Tauranga Anzac Day Civic Service (taking up our places as 6th Hauraki Reunion Group) at Memorial Park, opposite Tauranga Army Hall.

At end of Civic Service move back to Tauranga Army Hall Garrison Club.

ENDEX.

The timings will be more accurate once we get final numbers for those attending the Waiouru leg. As we know we do have a cut-off date of early Feb 2020 so we can make confirmed arrangements for rations, accommodation, vehicles, petrol, koha and any other associated costs that may occur in Phase 1.

Just make sure that if you are attending this leg that you confirm by that date so don't be THAT GUY that misses the cut off to avoid potential embarrassment.

Note that the visit to the Onward Bar has been confirmed by Gary "Slash" Brandon. He has said that the Bar is a BYO bar. He is conducting his own Reunion on the Anzac Day 2020 but is welcoming us to the bar on the Friday. This is definitely worth a visit.

On Anzac Day there is an option for those who wish to attend your own Anzac Dawn Services in your locs but we want the Reunion Group to be in full numbers attending the Tauranga Civic Service...which is our main purpose of attending this Reunion 2020. Timings also to be confirmed closer to the date.

Some of us staying in Tauranga will touch base with those attending Tauranga Dawn Services and may attend the Mount Maunganui Service TBC.

A heads up that Des Anderson has informed us that the vehicles will need to be parked at Tauranga Boys College as the streets around the Civic Parade will be closed to the public. That also means us who may think we can park at the Tauranga Army Hall but that is not going to happen...on that day.

Matt Nuku is heading back to Waiouru in the coming days to finalize some loose ends and confirmations at the camp with our Hauraki comrades down those ways.

Well there you have its Hauraki.

A novel and a half but let's get it out there.

Any other things I may have missed here I will update the page in due course.

Hope where ever you are, be safe with your whanau and friends.

ONWARD.

See Updated Version on the Facebook Page. Unable to download as it is on Excel & it would not fit onto this publication. (Editor)

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Linton:	Charlie Harrison
Waiouru:	Mike Halliday

Museum Curator: David Cross

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6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

Application Form

New Membership

Full

Renewal Membership

Associate

Regimental Number

Date of birth

Full Name

Partners name (if applicable)

Full Postal Address

Telephone Number (home)

Business

Mobile

Email

Brief resume of service with 6 Hauraki
(Include dates & appointments)

Highest Rank Held

Service in other Units

(If Associate member - your association to 6 Hauraki Assoc.)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Joined

Receipt Number

Membership Number

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