



Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

November 2019 Issue No 95

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

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Registered with the Charities Services # CC35879

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/6th-Hauraki-Association/230175227024470>

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

As you will read below the new Honorary Colonel is Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Peter Brown. His first comment to me when I congratulated him was “I am not sure what I have let myself into”. Ken we all know that you have the ability to achieve anything you set your mind to. You can be assured you have the support of all the Hauraki fraternity, plus, I am sure those over the Bombay hill. Well done Sir.

With the passing of Rata Bowman, we have lost a lot of “Hauraki Knowledge”. Rata was at Dive Crescent then moved with us to Eleventh Avenue. Rata knew everyone and everything. If you needed to know anyone or any thing you just had to ask Rata. Sometimes you did not even have to ask. Rata was the “Hauraki Goggle”, well before the internet discovered Goggle. At Rata's farewell, there were people who have “came out of the bush” to pay their respect to her.

Hauraki Company, 3/6 Battalion RNZIR has been quite active over the year. Their trip to Malaysia hopefully is the beginning of the Jalan Ulu type exercises a number of us had the opportunity to attend. In time, as they grow in numbers, they will be able to replicate the Exercise Tasman Exchange, where three Companies were able to join the Australian Army designated unit, annual camp and simultaneously have three Australian Companies attend our Annual Camp in New Zealand.

On the social side the Association joined with the Hauraki Company with a BBQ and a few drinks. The beginning of a more regular occurrence. A number of serving soldiers have joined the Committee and have been instructed on how to run the bar. Thus, the Hauraki Company can now run the Garrison Bar on occasions, without the assistance of other Committee Members.

All is going well with the 6 Hauraki 2020 ANZAC Reunion. For more information join onto their Facebook 6 Hauraki 2020 ANZAC Reunion.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

3/6 Battalion - Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

Private Sandison here, I have been asked to write a bit about my recent experiences in Malaysia on Ex Bersama Lima. Please excuse my writing skills, I will just write it as if I am talking to you and you can re-organise it to suit your newsletter if you need to.



Ex Bersama Lima

The trip started off in an Australian Air Force base in Butterworth Malaysia, we were here for a week and during this time we used it to get supplies sorted, practice working together as a platoon as we were a platoon made of the 3 different infantry units here in NZ. Most of us had not worked together before so the time was used to all get on the same page with drills, hand signals and other things to help us work together as a platoon out in the jungle!

This week was also a time for all 5 countries to get together for sports and cultural nights in order to bring us all together! The five countries were NZ, Australia, England, Singapore and Malaysia.

Once this week was over, we got on the Hercules and made our way to the other side of the country to a place called Kuantan. This next week was a training phase run by the British Royal Marines, it was a 5-day round robin in a Malaysian survival camp. We covered things like patrolling, harbouring, camp attacks, observation posts and also had a day run by the Malaysians where they killed and skinned both a snake and a monkey in front of us and cooked them so we could eat them afterwards!

From here, we then had 2 nights on a Singaporean Navy ship. This was more so for the Navy to complete a phase of their training, so we used this time to rest, practice and mingle with the other nations.

After two nights on the ship, we then entered our jungle phase, this was changed last minute due to the Malaysian hosts finding fresh tiger tracks in our original harbour location.... So, we went to our new location and set up there. New Zealand was the only nation to dig in, our harbour looked great by the time we were done. We spent 2 nights here and daily activities consisted of clearance patrols, observation, platoon assaults and finished off with a massive camp assault with all 5 nations working together to clear enemy from a huge area.

The whole experience for me as a new soldier was amazing. I was teamed up with an experienced section so was able to learn so much! I am excited to hear what will be in store next year, I would highly recommend the experience to other soldiers no matter how long they have been in for. You come home with knowledge and experience that will not only benefit your Army life but also your civilian personal life and work life also. My advice to anyone thinking about putting their names down next year... Jump at the chance and do it!!! I will definitely be putting my name down again and crossing my fingers that I get chosen again.

Thanks
Pte Sandison



Kuantan is the capital city of the state of Pahang on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. In the centre, the modern Sultan Ahmad Shah State Mosque features 5 domes adorned with blue geometric patterns, plus 4 towering minarets. To the east, seafront Taman Teruntum park includes a landscaped garden and the Mini Zoo. Nearby Teluk Cempedak is a surf beach with a raised walkway.



Butterworth, within the North Seberang Perai District, is the largest city in Seberang Perai, the mainland half of the Malaysian state of Penang. It lies approximately 3 km east of George Town, the capital city of Penang, across the Penang Strait. As of 2010, Butterworth contained a total of 71,643 residents.







Honorary Colonel of 3/6 BN RNZIR



V750440 Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Peter Brown ED, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment has been bestowed the appointment of Honorary Colonel of 3/6 BN RNZIR, WEF 10th December 2019.

LTCOL Kenneth Peter Brown was the Commanding Officer of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment from 1 March 1999. Undertook a Corp change from Logistics to Infantry. **Completed term as Commanding Officer on 31 March 2002**

His service prior 9 May 1974 marched in to 6th Territorial Force intake as a Driver, Royal New Zealand Army Service Corp. (RNZASC). Completed basic and Corp training August 1974.

Posted to 5 Transport Company, RNZASC, based at Hopu Hopu.

1977 promoted to Lance Corporal then in 1978 to Corporal. Attended 1979 parade at Papakura Camp for changeover parade from RNZASC to Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport. 5 Transport Company became 5 Platoon of 1 Transport Company. Shortly after that changed to 13 Transport Troop, 1 Transport Squadron, based at Knox Street, Hamilton.

February 1980 Promoted to Transport Sergeant, 13 Transport Troop, 1 Transport Squadron.

February 1982 completed officer selection course and officer training and commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant on 1 March 1982. Appointed Troop Commander of 13 Transport Troop. 1984 posted as

Troop Commander, 12 Transport Troop, based in Whangarei. Promoted to Lieutenant, March 1983.

May 1985 to May 1987 trained with 7 Transport Squadron, Royal Australian Corp of Transport (RACT) following a civilian job posting to Melbourne, Australia. Appointed Troop Commander, C Troop.

1988 following return to New Zealand, rejoined what was then 1 Logistics Company, RNZCT, promoted to Captain and became Quartermaster then Operations Officer, then Second in Charge.

1992 promoted to Major and appointed Officer Commanding (OC), 1 Logistics Company, 1 Logistics Battalion.

December 1996 RNZCT changed to become part of Royal New Zealand Army Logistics Regiment (RNZALR).

Remained OC, 1 Logistics Company until October 1997 when joined Regular Force and posted to the Middle East as a United Nations Military Observer (UNMO) with United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation, serving six months in South Lebanon and six months on the Golan Heights.

Returned to New Zealand in November 1998 and rejoined 1 Logistics Company, then part of 3 Auckland/North Battalion RNZIR.

Since March 2002 posted to Exercise Writing Team, based at Whenuapai. Remained in that role until retirement on 31 December 2008.

LTCOL Kenneth Brown joined The Bay of Plenty Officers' Club in 1998 and held the appointment of President a number of occasions.

LTCOL Kenneth Brown joined the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association in March 2002 and was voted to the appointment of Vice President in July 2002, a position he still holds.

Courses:

TF SNCO Promotion Course, March 1979

Driving Courses, Landrover V8 and Unimog 1.5T/4T, 1983

TF Officer Selection Course and Potential Leadership Course, 1982

Lieutenant to Captain Military Law Coaching Course and Examination, May 1983

Lieutenant to Captain Promotion Course, August 1984

RNZCT Operations Course, September 1991

Captain to Major TF Grade 3 Staff and Tactics Course, December 1991

Military Law Coaching Course and Examination, October 1993

TF Grade 2 Staff and Tactics Course, May 1996

Awards:

Efficiency Decoration and Bar, 1992

New Zealand Operational Service Medal, 1998

UN Service Medal, 1998

New Zealand Defence Service Medal, Territorial clasp, 2011

MOUNT MAUNGANUI REMEMBRANCE DAY

11 NOVEMBER 2019





**Mount Maunganui, Remembrance Day
Monday 11th November 2019
The 101st Anniversary of the Cessation of Hostilities WW1**

Master of Ceremonies: Mt RSA Vice President Arthur King
Parade Marshall: Ex Cpl Rowen McKeany RNZE
Colour Party and Memorial Guard: HMNZS NGAPONA, NZCF

Welcome

Tauranga City Mayor
Colonel Tenby Powell

Guest Speaker

Major (Rtd) Greg Moyle EDJP – NZWMM

Introduction to Remembrance Day

Ella Trillo – Papamoa College

Wreath Laying - Lament

Closing Prayer

The Reverend Marie Gilpin

Opening Prayer

Mount Maunganui RSA Chaplain
The Reverend Marie Gilpin

Bugler

Peter Cranston

NZ National Anthem

Led by Saffron O'Donnell
Mount Maunganui College

Last Post

The Ode

Te Reo - Ella Trillo, Papamoa College
English - Bill Newell, President Mt RSA

Australian National Anthem

French National Anthem

Reveille

Armistice service at Papamoa cenotaph remembers the fallen

"Go forth into the world with peace."

Those were the words of Reverend Marie Gilpin, of the Anglican Parish of Mount Maunganui, in the closing prayer to commemorate Armistice Day held at the Papamoa cenotaph this morning.

Her prayer also spoke of the importance of remembering all those who had died in times of war.

"Soldiers ... innocent people buried beneath the rubble from bomb attacks ... we remember especially all the victims of the two World Wars, including those close to us.

"We pray for those with terrible injuries, both physical and psychological, and those whose loved ones never returned.

"We pray for a world where war is still a grim reality."

About 100 people attended the commemoration which was the first joint service of the Tauranga and Mount Maunganui Returned and Services Associations.

Tauranga Mayor Tenby Powell, Labour list MP Jan Tinetti, and representatives of the Australian Defence Force and the French Embassy in Wellington attended the service.

In his welcoming speech, Tenby Powell, who is an Honorary Colonel in the New Zealand Army, highlighted the high percentage of New Zealand's population of young people who were sent overseas in World War I.

"The Great War ... was one of the most devastating events in human history," he said.

"New Zealand, with a population of only 1.1 million at that time, sent 100,000 men and women, of which 16,700 died ... a higher per capita casualty rate than any other country involved in the war."

Colonel Tenby Powell served in the NZ Army from 1983 to 2011 and was appointed Honorary Colonel of 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR in 2015. He served in the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR, and then 3 Auck North RNZIR, where he served as the Commanding Officer.

Mount Maunganui College student Saffron O'Donnell led the singing of the national anthem, as well as the national anthems of Australia and France, in recognition of the Australian and French representatives.

Major (Rtd) Greg Moyle, who is the chairman of the New Zealand War Memorial Trust in Le Quesnoy and had been invited to speak at the service, applauded O'Donnell's efforts at singing not only in English but te reo and French as well.

"Wasn't that fantastic?" he said. "Congratulations, that was just an amazing feat."

Moyle then spoke about Le Quesnoy, a town in north-eastern France where New Zealand soldiers took part in their final battle of World War I, and the plans to open a museum there.

The New Zealand War Memorial Trust Le Quesnoy plans to renovate the former mayoral residence of the town and turn it into a museum commemorating those New Zealanders who died in both World Wars.



Tauranga City Mayor, Colonel Tenby Powell, lays a wreath at the Papamoa cenotaph during the Armistice Day service. Escorted by Officer Commander, Hauraki Company, Major Thomas McEntyre
Photo / George Novak

"14,400 New Zealand troops, in three brigades ... found themselves outside the ancient walls of the town of Le Quesnoy," he said.

"The town had been occupied by the Germans since 1914 ... the New Zealanders had a choice - they could do what had been done so often across France, destroy the town, neutralise the enemy and move on.

"But a decision was made on that day not to destroy the town, but to liberate the town, without the loss of any civilian lives."

The museum will eventually recognise New Zealanders killed in all wars worldwide, he said.

"But for the moment, the focus is on World War I," Moyle said.

"It is our hope that, like Gallipoli, Le Quesnoy will become a place of pilgrimage for all Kiwis on Anzac and Remembrance Days."

He then pointed out Tauranga's links to Le Quesnoy, through soldiers who fought there.

After Moyle spoke, representatives from the community came forward to the cenotaph to lay wreaths.

Moyle had to pause his speech briefly as a plane flew low over the cenotaph as part of the commemorations.

Bugler Peter Cranston played the Last Post, before Papamoa College student Ella Trillo said the Ode in te reo, and Mount Maunganui RSA president Bill Newell recited it in English

OBITUATIES

Our friend Rata

We lost a dear friend when Rata passed away on 1/11/19. We had both known Rata for over 40 years through our husbands who had been in the army with Rex. In fact, she probably knew Ben and Rick before we ever did.

A big part of our friendship with Rata since our husbands died has been our regular get togethers for lunch at different locations in Tauranga and beyond. These lunches always had to be held somewhere that served fish and chips - Rata's favourite. She would take time perusing the menu but, in the end, always ordered fish and chips! Terry Lynch came to many of these lunches with Maree and became a kind of minder to the 3 of us, frequently keeping possible suitors at bay if required and, along with Leon Hemi in later years, escorting his "old sheilas" to various functions, funerals etc.

We both have fond memories of going on road trips with Rata for various events and visits - Whakatane, Te Kaha, Opotiki, Waipukurau, Auckland and Wellington for Tribute '08. These trips usually involved lots of conversation and a few "smoke stops". There were also trips to tangi and unveilings with Rata as our cultural advisor.

Rata rarely missed an ANZAC Day except for the last couple of years. She would wear Rex's medals proudly as she attended the dawn service at a local marae, followed by the service at the Pyes Pa cemetery and then to the RSA for a few drinks and a catch up.

Rata was very interested in our children and moko, always asking about how they were and what they were up to. At Tribute '08 it was Rata rather than the two of us who lost sleep worrying about our sons who were out on the town very late on the Saturday night!

Rata knew lots of people and had a very good memory for faces/events etc. It was nearly impossible to get away promptly from functions as Rata knew so many people and loved catching up and talking to them.

We all know how good Rata was at talking and how hard it was sometimes to have a short conversation with her. We did know, however, that she loved coronation St so if we wanted to call her but didn't want to talk for too long, we would ring 5-10 minutes before the start of the programme and knew that the call would end at 7.30pm when Coro St came on.

Rata has left a huge gap in our lives, the lives of our two families and the lives of our friends who came to the lunches, dinners, birthdays etc that we attended with Rata. We will miss her. Haere ra e hoa. Moe mai ki nga ringa o te atua.

Margaret Morunga and Shirley Keno



Rata and Friends.

Front Row left to right. Alison Holloway, Shirley Keno

Back Row left to right Margaret Morunga, Terry Lynch, Rata Bowman.

RATA BOWMAN

Her stories very never ever short and it was never easy to get her to the punch line. So, on the trips to Hamilton, Rata and I did there was never was a reason to hurry her along. At Hillcrest we made our usual stop at the bakery and whilst our coffee was being made Rata had her few puffs on her cigarette. We then arrived at the hospital and made our way to the Oncology clinic, with minutes to spare for the appointment. Only once when we left the Registrar office did Rata announce that she did not like that Registrar. This was due to the fact he was the only one to tell her to stop smoking. None of the other Registrar's and even the Oncologist ever asked her to stop smoking.

After the appointment we would the arrange for the next appointment and this could take some time as Rata always made sure that I was available to take her over. We would then stop somewhere for lunch before driving back to Tauranga.

It took most of the day and we both enjoyed the trips across as we chatted with no interruptions and phone calls to interrupt us. This is only one part of the many times that we were together and Rata will be truly missed.

Marion Kareko



Rata and friends on the Ferry in the Tauranga Harbour as it heads to Rangiwaia Island.



Rata receives her Korowai from Harry Harrison & Starbuck on the occasion of her farewell from the 6th Hauraki Battalion Group, 2011.

Rata Bowman

Rata was a great friend since back in the 1970's when we spent many days together chasing a little white golf ball from tee to green!! Rex and John were both posted to Singapore, so Rata was a regular visitor to Sembawang in her bright yellow car, and then again in Waiohuru on our return .

In more recent times, since Rata retired from the army office , have enjoyed lunches out with her and other army friends reminiscing about happy times we had together.

Will certainly miss her kindness, generosity and wonderful sense of humour and interesting chats we had.

Gone but NEVER forgotten my friend

Sandy Bluett

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Des

I came across this photo of WO2 Ray Hurle, the Senior Instructor, NZ Intelligence Corps. 1st Infantry Brigade Group.

Also, one of the “doddles” I did on the course.

Ray Crafts



Intelligence Course, Papakura Military Camp, July 1969

Back row: Students. **Sgt Ray Crafts**. Unknown

Front row: Instructors NZ Intelligence Corps. Unknown, **WO2 Ray Hurle**. Unknown



A “doddle” produced by Sgt Ray Crafts while on the NZ Army Intelligence Course at Papakura Military Camp 1969, in the Sgt Mess.

Des,

My Grandfather served in the Welsh Calvary in the Great European War (WW1) from 1914 – 1918 as a Private Bugler & finishing as a Sgt Drummer in 1918. He served alongside the New Zealand Mounted Rifles in Palestine, where he made many friends.

Sgt Drummer T. Percy Davies was presented a Certificate by the Inhabitants of Cerfn District for their Appreciation for his Gallant Services rendered to King & Country in the GREAT EUROPEAN WAR, 1914 – 1918.

In 1939 with the probability of war happening again in Europe, the citizens of Cefn District, in apperception of my Grandfathers service: arranged for my father and family to immigrate to New Zealand. We arrived in New Zealand two days before War was declared.

I completed three years of CMT; serving with the Hauraki Regiment as a Pte with the role of driver. I am a fully paid up Member of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Inc.

Pte Peter Jones (Rtd)



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:

Revelle 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:

Revelle 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 Waiohuru 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)

INFANTRY DAY

Colonel Ray Seymour. MBE. JP.

- AS A 50 YEAR CAREER SOLDIER, OF WHICH I SPENT TWO EXCITING YEARS IN THE REGULAR FORCE CADET SCHOOL, FOLLOWED BY FOUR REWARDING YEARS IN THE RANKS AS A CORPORAL, AND THEN THE NEXT 44 YEARS AS AN OFFICER, AND THEN 6 YEARS AS AN HONORARY COLONEL OF 1RNZIR AND NOW INTO MY FIRST YEAR OF BEING THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, I CONSIDER MYSELF ENTITLED AND QUALIFIED TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS CELEBRATION OF INFANTRY DAY.
- INFANTRY DAY IS ACTUALLY THE 23RD OCTOBER AND THIS DAY WAS SELECTED AS A RESULT OF THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION'S SUCCESS AT EL ALAMEIN ON THIS DAY IN 1942. SO, IF WE WANT TO BE PEDANTIC, TODAY IS THE 77TH CELEBRATION OF COMMEMORATING OUR INFANTRY DAY. WHY EL ALAMEIN DAY WAS EVER SELECTED, I HAVE NO IDEA, AND NOR COULD ANYONE TELL ME HOW IT CAME ABOUT. BUT I CAN SAY, THAT DURING THE PERIOD 1986-1988, WHEN I WAS THE DIRECTOR OF INFANTRY AND THE SPECIAL AIR SERVICE, I TRIED VERY HARD TO HAVE IT CHANGED. I ALWAYS THOUGH, AND STILL DO, CONSIDER THE BATTLE FOR CHUNUK BAI ON THE 8TH AUGUST 1915, WHEN LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM MALONE AND HIS WELLINGTON BATTALION TOOK THE VITAL GROUND OF CHUNUK BAI. THE WELLINGTON BATTALION COMMENCED THE BATTLE WITH ABOUT 1000 MEN; WHEN THEY WERE RELIEVED LATER THAT NIGHT, ONLY 76 MEN WERE STILL STANDING. THE BATTLE OF GALATOS ON THE 26TH MAY 1941 OR THE MAJOR CONTACT IN SOUTH VIETNAM, INVOLVING A PATROL FROM V3 COMPANY IN JUNE 1968, IN WHICH THE PATROL SECOND-IN-COMMAND, LANCE CORPORAL DAVID RANSFIELD OR ROPATA – WHICHEVER YOU CHOOSE, COMMANDED HIS PATROL TO ONE OF THE GREATEST BATTLES FOUGHT BY ANY NEW ZEALAND RIFLE COMPANY DURING OUR 5 YEARS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. SADLY, I WAS NEVER ABLE TO ACHIEVE MY AMBITION.
- IT WOULD BE REMISS OF ME NOT TO DWELL FOR A FEW MINUTES ON THE BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN. LIKE MOST BATTLES, THE BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN WAS NOT AN INFANTRY ALONE BATTLE. IT COMPRISED THE ALL ARMS TEAM. THAT IS,

ARTILLERY SUPPORTED THE INFANTRY ON TO THE OBJECTIVES. THE ARMOUR PROVIDED FIRE SUPPORT AND WAS USED TO KNOCK OUT ENEMY TANKS. THE ENGINEERS WERE THERE EITHER BLOWING GAPS THROUGH ENEMY MINEFIELDS OR WHATEVER THE ENGINEERS DO. AND OF COURSE, THE SIGNALS WERE THERE MAKING SURE COMMUNICATIONS WERE GETTING THROUGH. IN THE AIR, THE VARIOUS AIR FORCES WERE GIVING ALL THE SUPPORT THEY COULD, TOO. WHAT MADE THIS BATTLE SO SIGNIFICANT WAS THAT IT WAS THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL BATTLE IN WORLD WAR TWO – FOLLOWING ON FROM THE BATTLE OF GREECE AND THE BATTLE OF CRETE. IT WAS SUCH A SUCCESSFUL BATTLE THAT IT SAW THE START OF ROMMEL'S UNPLANNED WITHDRAWAL OUT OF NORTH AFRICA.

- HAVING GIVEN YOU THAT SHORT BRIEF ON THE BATTLE THAT WAS SELECTED TO BE THE "INFANTRY'S DAY, YOU CAN NOW SEE THAT THE PBI WERE JUST A PART OF THE ENTIRE SHOW, AND WITHOUT ALL THE OTHER PLAYERS, SADLY THE INFANTRY WOULD NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING THE VARIOUS ENEMY POSITIONS.
- I NOW WANT TO BRIEFLY DISCUSS EQUIPMENT.
- TODAY'S SOLDIERS HAVE MORE EQUIPMENT THAN THEY CAN CARRY – AND I'M NOT SURE IF OUR EQUIPMENT PLANNERS HAVE WORKED OUT HOW SOLDIERS ARE GOING TO LUG THE VARIOUS SUPPORT WEAPONS AROUND THE ULU – LET ALONE FIND A SOLUTION ON HOW TO GET THE AMMUNITION TO THESE SYSTEMS. I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED THE DOGS. THE CURRENT CROP ARE JUST OUTSTANDING. AND THE DRONES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIALLED ARE GOING TO BE GAME-CHANGERS.
- THE NEW WEAPON SYSTEMS ARE JUST MARVELLOUS. MOST SOLDIERS ARE NOW EQUIPT WITH THE MARS-L – OR MODULAR ASSAULT RIFLE SYSTEM – LIGHT. IT WEIGHS 3.3 KG; IT TAKES A 30 ROUND MAGAZINE OF 5.56 ROUNDS AND IS ACCURATE AS AN INDIVIDUAL WEAPON OUT TO 600M AND OUT TO 800M AS A SECTION WEAPON. THE LSW IS BETWEEN 8.5 KG AND 10.9KG. IT CAN NEUTRALISE TARGETS OUT TO 800M AND PROVIDE ACCURATE SUPPRESSING FIRE OUT TO 1000M.
- TODAY'S SOLDIERS ARE SERVED WITH EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. THEY ARE LIGHT AND ROBUST AND CAN COMMUNICATE WHEREVER ONE WANTS TO COMMUNICATE TO – AND THEY ARE PLENTIFUL. THEY ALL HAVE A RADIO.
- THE FINAL PART OF MY BRIEF TALK TO YOU TODAY IS TO HIGHLIGHT ONE ASPECT OF TODAY'S INFANTRYMAN THAT IS SO DIFFERENT TO WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED IN YOUR TIME. I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE "STRATEGIC CORPORAL".
- THE FIRST THING IS THAT HE IS A "CORPORAL" AND THEREFORE, IS MOST LIKELY TO BE A SECTION COMMANDER. BUT WHY AM I CALLING HIM THE "STRATEGIC CORPORAL?" SIMPLY, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT TODAY'S SECTION COMMANDER HAS TO BE. LET ME DESCRIBE IT THIS WAY. IN ONE GIVEN DAY, OUR SECTION

COMMANDER COULD BE COMMANDING HIS SECTION IN WHAT WE ALL KNOW AS A SECTION ATTACK. THE ATTACK COULD BE IN THE JUNGLE; THE DESERT OR IN SOME BUILT-UP AREA OF WHATEVER TROUBLED NATION THE GOVERNMENT MAY WANT TO DEPLOY US TO. OUR SECTION COMMANDER WILL NEED TO CONTROL HIS SECTION, WITH SUCH RIGOR, THAT HE OR SHE, IN NO WAY, CONTRAVENES THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT. ONCE HE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES HIS SECTION ATTACK, HE WILL NEED TO PREPARE HIMSELF WITH HAVING TO DEAL WITH AN UNRULY CROWD OF VILLAGERS; CAREFULLY PLAN AND PREPARE FOR THE SAFE PASSAGE OUT OF THE VILLAGE OF A LARGE GROUP OF DIS-AFFECTED VILLAGERS; PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO NON-BATTLE CASUALTIES, AND A MYRIAD OF OTHER UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. AND HE HASN'T HAD HIS LUNCH YET. I HOPE YOU CAN SEE HOW DIFFERENT TODAY AND TOMORROW'S SECTION COMMANDER HAS TO BE, COMPARED TO YESTERYEAR. THE SECTION COMMANDER TODAY AND TOMORROW HAS A MOST COMPLEX TASK TO PERFORM – AND HE STILL HAS ONLY SEVEN MEN OR WOMEN IN HIS SECTION TO BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR. HE OR SHE HAS A MOST DIFFICULT JOB TO DO AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO GET EVEN HARDER.

- FINALLY, BACK TO INFANTRY DAY. GENERAL MONTGOMERY, IN HIS ORDER OF THE DAY ON THE 23RD OCTOBER 1942 SAID:

“THE BATTLE WHICH IS NOW TO BEGIN WILL BE A TURNING POINT OF THE WAR. TOGETHER WE WILL HIT THE ENEMY FOR SIX; RIGHT OUT OF NORTH AFRICA”. HE MIGHT HAVE ADDED: “IF ANY OF YOU JOKERS WANT TO BEAT IT, GET A LEAVE PASS, YOUR RAIL WARRANT, YOUR PAY, AND THE UNEXPENDED PORTION OF YOUR BLOODY RATIONS. IF YOU PREFER THE SAFETY BACK AT BASE, TO BEING WITH YOUR COBBERS WHO ARE GOING TO STAY AND FACE IT. TODAY IS THE 23RD OF OCTOBER AND THOSE OF US WHO HIT IT LUCKY AND GET HOME SAFE, WILL KEEP THIS DAY FOR EVER.”

- ONWARD.



Col Ray Seymour with Tauranga Cadets at the RSA Mount Maunganui

Air Cadet wows Officers Club and guests

Air cadet Jese Somerville wowed members and guests at the Bay of Plenty Officers' Club Ladies Dinner with another delivery of his winning speech from the 2019 Les Munro Speech Competition.

The speech competition was initiated by the Officers' Club last year and named after Les Munro. Les was one of its distinguished former members who was a renowned RNZAF pilot who flew Lancaster's with 617 Squadron RAF in WW2.

The competition is competed for by the speech champions from each of the three NZ Cadet Force Units based in Tauranga. The topic for this year's competition was 'Emerging Technologies and how this could be used in the defence of NZ in the next decade'.

The competition was held at the Hauraki Army Hall on September 26, when the speech champions from local Cadet Force Units were asked to deliver the timed speech in seven to 10 minutes.

Contestants included; Ordinary Cadet Harrison Reed from TS Chatham, Sea Cadet. Lance Corporal A. Balneaves from the Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit, and Air Cadet Jese Somerville from 16 Squadron.

The contestants were supported by other members of their respective cadet units.

The competition was convened by the Officers' Club and staged in conjunction with the NZCF Area Support Officer Major Eli Crawshaw. Other guests included representatives from the competition sponsoring organisations.

Having drawn straws to determine the speaking order, more than 50 people heard the contestants deliver their respective speeches.

The convenor introduced the judging panel who were tasked with rating each speech against a set of criteria. After the speeches, the time keeper confirmed all contestants had met the required time limit before the three judges retired to correlate their scores to determine the placings for the competition.

The chief judge announced the placings including, winner – Air Cadet Jese Somerville. Runner up - Lance Corporal Balneaves, and finalist – Ordinary Cadet Harrison Reed.

Peter Spratley, the Officers' Club President, presented each of the contestants with a signed certificate and a monetary prize. As well as a contribution from the Officers' Club, the club is grateful for continued support from the 6th Hauraki Association, Mt Maunganui RSA Club and Tauranga RSA Clubs donating funds which was used as prize money.

Ranging in ages from 13 to 17 years, the contestants met the challenge posed to them with well researched and rehearsed speeches, some using cue cards. The challenging topic had been met with an impressive series of speeches which would have been a credit to any formal debate.

Among the emerging technologies all contestants covered the use of Drones, with many advantages and relatively simple application at various ranges. Two covered the use of Virtual Reality for military training simulation to shorten training times and only the winner included Artificial Intelligence as it could be used with VR to simplify the use of military systems.

Following Cadet Somerville's second delivery of his winning speech at the Tauranga Club, he was presented with a supplementary prize of a flight in a Boeing Steerman biplane donated by Classic Flyers NZ.

Jese is already well known at the Classic Flyers aviation museum where he is a volunteer guide on the Saturday morning shift as well as a staff member at the Avgas café during school holidays

The final part of the 2019 Speech Competition was the presentation of the Les Munro Lancaster Trophy to the winning cadet's Cadet Unit.

Along with a signed certificate, the recently engraved trophy was presented by the Club President to Pilot Officer Pieter de Zwart, Adjutant, 16 Squadron, representing the Unit Commander. 16 Squadron Air Cadet Unit earned the right to retain the trophy for a second year, with an Air Cadet from the unit having won the 2018 competition.



Bay of Plenty Officers Club President, Peter Spratley presents Cadet Somerville with his extra prize
Photo by Marie Murray/Supplied.

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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 the views of the Association or Committee may not always be.

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6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

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

Highest Rank Held

Service in other Units

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