



## Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

**February 2022 Issue No 102**

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

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

Heritage Platform Pae Korokī at the following location.

<https://paekoroki.tauranga.govt.nz/nodes/view/46751>

### President's Report

Thank you to LTCOL Grant Arrowsmith (outgoing Commanding Officer); LTCOL Nick Jones (incoming Commanding Officer) & HON COL Kenneth Brown for taking the time and effort to write speeches that they had given over the changeover period. Many of our members were unable to hear the speeches in person; due to the restricted numbers allowed at each location and that the speeches were given on “zoom”.

As you were advised from the previous newsletter there was going to be changes to the way the Garrison Bar was to be controlled. As I told the Editor, we only expected to run the bar for three years, that being the time of the Centennial when the brewers DB, gave a considerable amount of funding to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki), Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. The extra twenty years your Association has had was a bonus. The losers, unfortunately are the Cadets, who now have to find new ways of fund raising.

I quickly realised I did not have the expertise to negotiate with field grade officers, thus invited Our Patron, Judge Honorary Colonel Chris McGuire, former Commanding Officers & the then President of the Auckland Association (a Hauraki) to take over the role of negotiation, to gain an extension.

At a meeting held in the meeting room where sixteen members were in attendance, many ideas were brought forward of where to go from here? The one idea that gained the most traction, was to move the Museum to an off-site location. At the same time cataloging who owed what. Placing Association items into special cartons, then storing at Classic Flyers until a new location is acquired. We are still negotiating for a site.

At present the members are meeting on Friday afternoon at the Tauranga RSA. From 1600 hrs to 1900 hrs. YOU are welcome.

Thanks to all the members who assist in sending articles & photos. Without your support the Newsletter would not be able to continue.

I believe the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Inc will continue & hopefully will grow in numbers. To that end I have re-registered with the Charities Services with a expire date of December 2022.

The Association has its meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month. The next meeting is at 1900 hrs 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Bob Mankelow's place, 217 Fraser Street, Tauranga . I have asked everyone who's property we are holding the meeting if they will allow Non-Vaccinated members to attend. They all have agreed to allow them to come onto their property.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

## 3/6 Battalion – Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment

### Change of Command

(Conducted by zoom)

My farewell speech below as requested.

Grant Arrowsmith

Tena Kotau Kotoa,

Welcome Colonel Holley, distinguished guests, friends and family, members of 3/6 both here and via zoom in Tauranga and Whangārei.

On this auspicious day I am both happy and a touch saddened as I leave 3/6 for the final time as I hand over to Lieutenant Colonel Nick Jones. Three years ago, I took over 3/6 and most of you didn't know me nor my whakapapa. As I stated at the time I have skin in the game with my Great Great Uncle, as a Lance Corporal, being awarded a Military Medal at Passchendaele with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Auckland Infantry Regiment. 3/6 wear the battle unit identifier of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Auckland Infantry Regiment to show our whakapapa back to them. Also, uniquely, I have been both the most junior ranking and the most senior ranking member in 3/6 in my more than 30 years' service as well as serving a number of times in between. So, I have a good understanding of the history and the whakapapa of 3/6 when I took over as the Commanding Officer in late 2018.

In 2019, with the changes to the Army we rationalised the Standby Reserves and put it under a Company structure to better utilise and involve our standby reserve troops. We named it Waikato Company in keeping with the 4<sup>th</sup> company in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Auckland Infantry Regiment. And then the March 15<sup>th</sup> shootings occurred. The security state increased. Target hardening our five facilities increased and access to our buildings became more restricted. ANZAC Day 2019 came with increased security planning required especially with the Prime Minister and Prince William attending the Auckland War Memorial Museum ceremonies.

In July 2019 we changed from being command of TRADOC to being under command of 1 (NZ) Brigade and the natural home with our regular force sister units. As more regular force left and changed to reserve forces we saw the opportunity to step up Recon and FSG Platoons to nest the ex-regular force members and give enhanced training to our reserve forces which increased the professionalism of the unit across the board. Also, when I arrived the failure rate was over 50% on some

courses. Consequently, we instituted professional development training and the passing rates have increased dramatically since.

In September Exercise Bersama Lima was held in Malaysia with 13 pers from 3/6 deploying on the exercise. It has now been increased to a company size exercise for the reserve forces with 3/6 tasked to take the lead next year as the mounting unit.

2020 arrived quickly with COVID which centred on Auckland. 3/6 quickly stepped up a company sized group to support it and 3/6 was the first Army unit to deploy troops to what became known as Operation Protect. 3/6 has since then had around 20 pers continuously deployed to Operation Protect duties since March 2020 mostly running our own MIF and lately with it being the Naumi Hotel at Mangere. Members of 3/6 have won accolades in the in the COVID space including Captain Blair Siegel winning the Reservist of the Year for 2021 as the 3/6 MIF manager. Also, Sgt Mills received a Brigade Commander's commendation for setting up an administration system for 3/6's deployed pers as well as taking pastoral care of our deployed troops.

COVID has severely changed the landscape for the NZDF and 3/6. We have had to adapt our training methods to keep going as courses and training activities have been turned off due to alert levels. On line training was stepped up to meet the shortfall in the interim. Unfortunately, COVID will continue to affect our training well into next year. But what it has meant is more money in the budget left over and we bought new targets this year and commenced live field firing for the first time in over 10 years in June and July this year including FSG section live firing. Also, with the security upgrades the rebuild of Arch Hill commenced and you can see the results around you. Also, the Tauranga office will eventually start a refurbishment as well. So, things are well set up for the future for 3/6.

Post Operation Protect the Army is entering a regeneration phase as well as increasing the size of the Ready Reserve to 1500 pers under the Army 2025 plan. What does that mean for 3/6? We are seeking that Waikato Company becomes a permanent and the 4th company in 3/6. We need to get into recruiting more soldiers. We need to continue to support the regular force regeneration where possible. We hold the biggest demographic AO in the Army. We need to leverage into the Pacifica and diversity spaces. We currently have three senior leaders in 3/6 that are Pacifica and we have three female soldiers that have passed OSB this year. Consequently, it will be an interesting time for 3/6 going forward.

Time to thank a few people:

RSM: One year into it. First time in Auckland, first ARes unit, split AO due to COVID, deceased repatriations to Fiji, moving house twice (from RMC Duntroon to Whenuapai and then less than 100 metres within Whenuapai!). However, you have thrived in the role throwing yourself into your first WO1 role and adding value especially in the Army leadership space building our junior leaders. Thank you for your support this year and I know you will help create a great command team with

Nick. Lastly thank you for organising today's parade in these ever changing and trying COVID conditions and rules.

XO: John, the last three years have been a blast dealing with all and sundry with your firefighting hat on to bat away all the issues coming from all directions. Your wise counsel and sage advice has meant that it was seldom that I got a rocket from further up the chain of command to deal with! I enjoyed our catch ups and talks about all and sundry to take my mind off the mundane CO's admin. You will soon be handing over as well, to Mike Beale, and can spend more time on the golf course and away from annoying Wendy! It's been a real pleasure working with you. Thank you.

Adjutant: Ryan, your enthusiasm as Adjutant has been infectious gripping up the officers and their development and their training has been at times like herding cats. But you have got them into line and set the conditions to build a strong officer corps going forward in 3/6. All the while, while having babies, running a business and completing all your promotion courses. You are an example that all the subbies need to look up to and aspire to be. I look forward to seeing you in an OC's posting in due course. Thank you for your support as Adjutant to me.

Command Teams: Thank you to my four company command teams leading uniquely different companies across the 3/6 AO. Your commitment and drive is an inspiration to your troops and I know that you will continue to actively grow and develop your sub units whilst continuously winding each other up! But a couple of you need to finish your promotion and staff papers! 😊

RF Staff: As per yesterday where we had our virtual shared farewell lunch I again thank you for invaluable support over the past three years.

The Troops: 3/6. I'm sorry you all cannot be here today. But we will catch up in the new year for a get together. Thank you for being committed, agile and willing to make things work. You all are a credit to 3/6 and I am sure you will continue to deliver at being the best that you can be. You are the heart and the future of 3/6. Thank you for your support over the past three years.

The Associations: We have reps here today from both the 6 Hau and the ANR Regimental Associations. Without your support and wise counsel, we would not have a bar running here in Auckland nor be able to keep our respective Associations memorabilia and history maintained and looked after. Thank you for your support throughout my command.

Family: Tracey; Thank you for putting up with my time away and getting dragged along to events all over the country side as well as my constant phone conferences and WebEx's etc taking away from family time. I appreciate all you do while I am away and your unending support in my Army role. Thank you. Mum and Dad; Well, I wouldn't be here without you! Thank you for your support over the past 30 plus years in the green machine! Mark and Miya; Thank goodness you haven't been

dragged along to much of my military stuff!!But thanks for coming along today to support me.

LTCOL Nick Jones: Welcome back as the 4<sup>th</sup> CO of 3/6 having spent the last 20 odd years in and out of the unit. You are well familiar and better able to settle into the CO role much more seamlessly than I did. You come from time at Army General Staff and most recently from the Leadership Development Division of the Navy. So, watch out 3/6 with both the CO and RSM both being Military Leadership expert instructors expect some superior development in this area going forward! Nick, I know you will take good care of this proud unit and lead it into the post CCOVID era with zeal growing its capacity and numbers. Lastly, also welcome to your family, Katrine, Asger and your parents. I'm sure you're all very proud of Nick today!

So, in conclusion. It's been an enjoyable three years as CO with plenty of ups and downs as well as both good times and bad. But I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the 3<sup>rd</sup> CO of 3/6 and I leave knowing it is in good hands and will continue to thrive. Ma te wa. Onward. 3<sup>rd</sup> CO 3/6 RNZIR out!

Handover of the CO 3/6's Taonga: Korowai, Hirau, Taiaha and Seward Sword.

**Address to 3/6 RNZIR Bn and Community by LTCOL Nick Jones upon  
Takeover of Command of 3/6 RNZIR Bn, 04 Dec 2021.**

Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Kia orana, Fakalofa Lahi Atu, Bula Vinaka, Tena koutou katoa, Greetings and warm Kia ora to everyone.

I am humbled and honoured to be appointed as the 4<sup>th</sup> Commanding Officer of 3/6 Bn RNZIR. I stand before you, deeply touched and inspired by your generous words of congratulations and encouragement.

Thank you, RSM WO1 Mike Pettersson, for professionally preparing and guiding the parade today, and for your support to me over the last couple of months. I greatly look forward to working with you, with our Executive Officer, Major John Liddell, and

early next year, LTCOL Mike Beale as the incoming Executive Officer, as we steer and enable the Bn towards meeting our Army25 capability objectives.

I want to especially take this opportunity to now convey my respect to LTCOL Grant Arrowsmith, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commanding Officer of the Bn.

Grant, under your stewardship, the Bn has been successfully led through its transition to come under the command of 1 (NZ) Bde. And, since March 2020, with its ongoing epicentre for NZ being squarely situated in the Bn's Area of Operations, you have commanded the Bn through the impacts of the ongoing global pandemic. Grant, against this most exceptional of leadership contexts, I agree with you, the Bn has consistently "punched above its weight".

The Bn has maintained an important operational contribution to the New Zealand Defence Force's Operation Protect requirements, while also sustaining (often under social restrictions) the ongoing Bn growth, training and individual professional development expected of an Infantry Reserve Force Bn in the NZ Army.

Grant, it is a testament to your tenacity, resilience, and command hardiness, that despite the exceptional challenges presented by the pandemic, you now confidently handover the command of a Bn that is in good heart and spirit, its people engaged, and its capability enhanced.

The Bn's debt to your leadership and persistent drive is immeasurable. I resolve to build on your work and provide leadership that enables our people to take the Bn to another level again.

At this point, I want to acknowledge Tracey, Grant's partner, for your sacrifices. I want to acknowledge the sacrifices made by Grant's children, Mark and Miya. I also want to acknowledge Grant's parents, Dan and Gaye Arrowsmith. I trust that you can now all enjoy having a little bit more of Grant back and present in your lives, particularly over the upcoming summer and holiday period.

Before I briefly touch on the future, I want to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on this moment of transition.

Te Tōrino haere whakamua, whakamuri.

"At the same time as the spiral is going forward, it is also returning".

I follow in a line of remarkable leaders. They had also faced this moment, each at a unique and critical juncture in the Bn's and the Army's history. Like myself today, perhaps they have pondered what the years ahead would hold at the helm of our proud institution. Each of those leaders I refer to, and the Bn they commanded, made important and lasting contributions to our common purpose in providing a depth of capability to our Army.

And so now, to our people who currently serve people our Bn and Ngati Tumateuenga.

We must zero our scopes and collectively direct the precious time and energy we have on meeting our Bn's Army 25 Reserve Force capability requirements. And while it is premature to convey my developing command intent, what I am prepared to say is this:

This next period of the Bn's growth presents an exceptional opportunity to **'enhance our contribution and do what is expected of us'** in a deliberate, organisationally aligned, bold, satisfying, enjoyable, balanced and family-orientated manner.

What does this all mean? The Bn and its contribution to the Army 25 milestone? First, over the next three years we need to grow our overall Bn numbers – its Garrison strength. This means that we need to be able to support Reserve Force entry level training courses, trade progression and professional development training and courses to ensure continued growth of the Bn strength and our people materialises.

We also need to make space to deliberately support, enable and energise Defence Recruiting Initiatives for the benefit of the Bn's growth, to increase Army's profile and relationships with our employers, across the outstanding cities and regions within the 3/6 AO, and to engage our diverse, multi-cultural communities.

Put simply, if the Bn doesn't continue to grow in numbers at an increased rate over the next three years, we run the risk of not being in the best placed position to meet our future planned operational requirements.

Second, we must of course continue to train and develop our people. We currently have a high-quality training approach in place, for which I am grateful.

With a fresh set of eyes, I do, however, intend to explore and challenge aspects of our way of doing things. I intend to engage with, facilitate and guide the Bn's leadership and command teams to explore how training can be enhanced by being more personally sustainable and balanced for our people, collaborative with our other Reserve Force Bns, while also aligned to defined training objectives.

I will provide guidance that asks our full-time and part-time command teams and leaders to look at how we can design a 24-month training plan that is focused on developing our people's light infantry combat skills, leadership and resilience, using the field as the environment to shape training experiences, and achieve this. But I will also be asking our leaders to use the 24-month planning frame to design a training approach that ensures our people have balance, do not risk burn out, or forget to enjoy and look forward to the training we choose to do in our spare time as reservists.

When the time comes to step-up, I want us to be professionally ready, highly motivated and committed, but I also want 3/6 Bn people (both full-time and part-time) to pursue fulfilled, sustaining and balanced lives outside of the Army. In this



context, the guidance I provide our leaders will be to explore how our training can be done with a tempo and focus of **quality over quantity**.

Third, as our Regular Force counter-parts posture for a significant rebuild and regeneration, we must continue to pull our weight and contribute to Operation Protect in the manner we have done superbly to date. We also need to be ready to support the rebuild, and at the right time, be ready to integrate with our full-time whanau.

Remember that when all is said and done, we exist to integrate with and add tangible value to our full-time whanau of Ngati Tu.

Haere whakamua – we will go forward. ONWARD.

Manaaki tangata – we will do so in a way that cares for our people – all our people, including our families.

I am excited to now stand here as your Bn commander as we tackle the next three years and this opportunity of Army's rebuild and regeneration together, but most importantly with deliberate focus

As your Bn commander, you will hear me speak of “we”, “us”, “our”, “growth”, “together” and “whanau”. I embrace this approach wholeheartedly over ideas or self-focussed and grandiose expressions of “I”, “my”, “mine” or “me”.

In your interactions with me, you'll come to find that I am more of a listener and questioner. I enjoy robust discussion, and I see my Lead Capability value add of operationalising our organisation's strategy as providing a clear pathway that empowers and unleashes our talented and outstanding leaders to make things happen.

Further, you can be assured that I bring my whole self to this role, authentically and proudly serving alongside you all, all the while supported by my family.

Team, whanau, current serving personnel, our family members, our friends, past serving members, our vital and constant Hauraki and Auckland Regimental Associations.

At the now critical and imminent period of NZ Army's rebuild and regeneration, while driving toward an Army25 planning milestone, I leave you with this:

Au, au, aue hā! It's **now** our time! It's **now** our moment!

Ngā manaakitanga ki a koutou. Blessings to you all.

**Lieutenant Colonel Nick Jones, ED**

**Commanding Officer, 3/6 RNZIR**



LTCOL Nick Jones was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and educated at Saint Peter's College in Auckland where he was Head Boy in his final year in 2008.

Following a period of overseas travel, he enlisted into the New Zealand Army in January 2001. He graduated from the Officer Cadet School of New Zealand in February 2003 into the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment in the rank of Second Lieutenant under the New Zealand Army's Territorial Force Commissioning Course, the Malone Scheme.

Under the Malone Scheme, LTCOL Jones attended the University of Auckland and graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (History) conjoint degree. In March 2005, he was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand.

He has 13 years' experience as a commercial disputes' solicitor at top tier national law firms MinterEllisonRuddWatts and Meredith Connell in Auckland. During a period of four years leave from the New Zealand Army, he lived and worked in Dubai acting on a range of international disputes at Magic Circle law firm, Allen & Overy LLP.

As a Territorial Force infantry officer, LTCOL Jones has served in various command roles with the 3rd/6th Territorial Force Infantry Battalion (and its predecessor units), in Auckland, including as the Officer Commanding the Auckland and Northland Infantry Company. In 2015, LTCOL Jones was awarded an Efficiency Declaration (ED) for 12 years of efficient service as a Territorial Force officer.

LTCOL Jones has deployed on two overseas operations. In 2007, he deployed in the role of Platoon Commander as part of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands. In 2019, he deployed to the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, as Second-in-Command of the New Zealand Contingent while also assuming the role of the CJ35 Principal Staff Officer within the Multinational Force & Observers' Operations Headquarters.

Over 2017 to 2019, LTCOL Jones completed a Regular Force Engagement within Army General Staff, including as the Operations Planning Officer for the 24th Annual International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres held in Auckland, and within strategy delivery for Army Force Management.

Beginning in 2018, he contributed to the New Zealand Defence College's Institute of Leadership Development as a facilitator on leadership development courses.

In March 2020, LTCOL Jones continued within the Regular Force and assumed the role as Leadership Projects Officer and Course Facilitator at the Royal New Zealand Navy's Leadership Development Group. During this period, LTCOL Jones completed two periods of duty on NZDF's Operation Protect as a Managed Isolation Facility Manager in response to the Covid 19 global pandemic.

In July 2021, LTCOL Jones graduated from the 12 month Joint Reserve Command and Staff Programme at Canadian Forces College.

In December 2021, LTCOL Jones was promoted to the rank of LTCOL and appointed to the role of Commanding Officer, 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR.

In 2022, LTCOL Jones commences civilian employment as the People and Culture Director at logistics and freight company, Onsend.

He is married to Katrine, and they are the proud parents of their son; Asger. LTCOL Jones' interests include leadership development and coaching, outdoor adventures and trekking, physical fitness, reading widely, as well as most sports, particularly rugby and cricket.

HON COL Kenneth Brown, ED, 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR



Good afternoon assembled guests, ladies and gentlemen, members of 3/6 Battalion and to the people assembled here in Tauranga.

We have local members of the Battalion along with representatives of the 6 Hauraki Battalion Association and it is good to see you here but we are all disappointed we can't be in Auckland to share this occasion in person.

But the ravages of Covid have affected everything we do and we just have to accept the situation.

Firstly though, I wish to acknowledge the exiting CO, Lt Col Grant Arrowsmith. Grant has done a sterling job as CO and has taken the job very seriously. Unfortunately, in my time as Hon Col, Covid has affected training and I haven't had as many opportunities to be with Grant and the Battalion as I would have liked but the few occasions we have had I have enjoyed. Grant has done a good job; his only mistake was closing the Hauraki bar but that is another story. On another issue, my wife asked me to stress upon you that you find the Hauraki ladies brooch and pass it on to Nick so his wife can wear it at formal functions. Overall, Grant it has been a

pleasure working with you and thank you for your service to the Battalion and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

Welcome to Lt Col Nick Jones and congratulations on your promotion and the new role as CO. You can be proud of the achievement and the rich history of the Battalion for which you are now custodian. The Battalion is in good heart and we expect you to continue that and to seek ways to make it even stronger. On that note I recently read in the paper that we now have 8,000 gang members in this country, so I googled NZ Defence and found we only have 6,712 soldiers. I find that appalling especially at a time when we are getting more and more committed, for example MIQ and now the Solomons. So, I charge you to try and grow the Battalion, I don't expect you to go out and recruit 2,000 soldiers but if each Battalion were to grow a little, the cumulative effect would give us a more realistic army in terms of numbers.

On that note, Nick we wish you the very best. It can be lonely at times and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made because you are aware of a wider picture but nevertheless you have good people around you who can help with those tough decisions. We wish you all the very best and I look forward to spending time with you once Covid allows. Good luck, Kia Kaha.

## **WARRANT OFFICER CLASS ONE, MICHAEL PETTERSSON**

Regimental Sergeant Major 3/6 Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment



Warrant Officer Class One Michael Pettersson was born in Invercargill in February 1979 and educated at Gore High School.

Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson enlisted with the New Zealand Army in 1997. On completion of Infantry Corps Training, he was posted to 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

From 1997 to 2010, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to 2/1 Battalion in Burnham where he held a number of appointments including Rifle Section Commander, Rifle Platoon Sergeant, Command Post Operator and Mortar Fire Controller.

In December 2010, on promotion to Staff Sergeant, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to Combat School in Waiohuru and employed as an Instructor in Dismounted Operations Wing.

In December 2012, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to Army Command School as an Instructor in the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Wing.

In December 2014 on promotion to Warrant Officer Class Two, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to 2/1 Battalion as a Company Sergeant Major of Depot Company and in December 2015 of Bravo Company.

In December 2016, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to Army Command School as the Senior Instructor of the Army Leadership Centre.

In December 2018, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted to the Royal Military College - Duntroon where he was employed as a Small Group Instructor and in December 2019 as the Drill Wing Sergeant Major.

In December 2020, on promotion to Warrant Officer Class One, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was posted as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 3/6 Battalion.

Operationally, Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson has deployed with the New Zealand United Nations Force East Timor, NZBATT2 in 2000 and as a Rifle Section Second in Command on NZBATT5. Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson served in the New Zealand Force, Solomon Islands, OP RATA 4 as a Rifle Section Commander in 2004. In 2005 he deployed to Afghanistan with Task Unit Crib, OP CRIB 7, as a Rifle Section Commander. Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson served on Operation KORU East Timor as Rifle Platoon Sergeant in 2008. Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson was the Rifle Platoon Sergeant for Operation RATA 2, Election Force Solomon Islands in 2010.

Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson is the recipient of a New Zealand Chief of Army Commendation and an Australian Army Silver Commendation.

Warrant Officer Class One Pettersson is married to Angela. He is keen on the outdoors and enjoys mountain biking, fishing and playing golf.



B Coy Reunion Dinner, 22 Jan 2022, Whakatane RSA





**(CO, 3/6 Bn's words for HON Col Ken Brown to read as the reunion's VIP).**

No matter what the community or group, reunions are always special events that serve to maintain social bonds that mean something significant to those in attendance.

Noting the often transitory nature of modern Army Reserve Force service, it is a testament to the esprit de corps that must have existed in B Company, Hauraki Battalion, that you gather here this evening as brothers and whanau.

Your colours are the visible, tangible reminder of the sacrifices made by service personnel of the Hauraki Battalion, since 1898 when it was formed and shortly after received its first battle honour "South Africa".

Since that time soldiers from B Company have played their part whether in peacetime or on operations which have resulted in the granting of further Battle Honours.

In writing these notes for the HON Col to read on my behalf, I turned to the history of the Haurakis, "*Comrades Brave*".

Knowing what I know of the Hauraki soldier, it did not surprise to find several quotes from the Second World War of the way that members of B Company, as part of the 24th Battalion, acquitted themselves in combat.

One reference from Tebaga Gap stands out to me, where the historian described the way the Haurakis "...moved steadily forward - not a man out of place - a magnificent sight, giving one the impression of irresistible force".

As a mark of my and 3/6 Battalion's respect for the contributions made by members of B Company to its Battalion, it is appropriate that the Hauraki colours are present this evening.

Interestingly, another recurring theme captured in 'Comrades Brave' is the challenge of recruiting and retaining part-time soldiers and officers, whether because of legislation, the Army's strategic focus at the time, and/or changes in NZ's society.

Indeed, *Growth*, in terms of the total number of serving part-time soldiers and officers we have within today's 3/6 Battalion remains a challenge.

As CO of 3/6 Bn, my intention is to try to meet this challenge by putting more focus on the time and emphasis that the Bn places on growing its numbers across the entire 3/6 Bn's regions, including the Hauraki areas of the Bay of Plenty and the Waikato.

I raise this point tonight because it is a challenge that cannot be achieved by a few. Embracing the sentiment of the B Company comradery that brought you all here together this evening, and which I referred to earlier, we are all in this together.

I rely on us all, present and past service personnel, to do what we can, when we can, to promote the growth and profile of our Bn in our various communities and areas of influence.

In conclusion, I find wisdom in the following whakatauki (or proverb), which says:

*"Whakapuputia mai o manuka, kia kore ai e whati"*

"Cluster the branches of the manuka, so that they will not break".

With this sentiment in mind, I look forward to the continued support and encouragement of B Company members, to clustering the branches of the 3/6 Bn Manuka and thereby ensuring the growth of Hauraki Company within 3/6 Bn, RNZIR.

I wish you all the best for a successful reunion and I regret that I am not able to attend in person.

Have an outstanding evening.

**LTCOL Nick Jones**

**CO, 3/6 Bn, RNZIR**



## B Coy Reunion Speech 2022

Mr Dining President WO1 Andrew, Committee members, Ladies and Gentlemen, former Bravo Company soldiers.

Thanks for that kind introduction – *give brief account of joining army which was similar to WO1 Andrew*

Thank you also for your invitation to attend this evening, even if I was the second choice after the CO, Lt Col Jones. But never mind it is his loss and my gain!

One of the advantages of being Honorary Colonel is that you get to do all the cool stuff without any of the work! In this case the CO has written an address which he has asked me to read on his behalf - even better I didn't need to write much of a speech!

But before I do that, I would like to say I applaud you for putting together this occasion and it is wonderful to see the esprit de corps still alive and well long after most of you have retired from the army. Civilians, apart from say sporting teams don't always understand the strong bonds that military service cultivates and something that stays with you a long time. Personally, I believe these events are very important and ensure the history of the Company and the Regiment are not forgotten. Like most military units we have had our share of tragic loss, Terry Old and Doug Grant immediately spring to mind along with our hero's, in particular Bernard Freyberg and Willie Apiata.

One of the problems with reunions however is that there are people around you served with who know your faults and where the skeletons are buried which can sometimes be an unpleasant reminder!

I did not serve directly in Bravo Company, having been posted to the Regiment as CO in 1999, from the Logistics Regiment. Pete Tamepo nearly had apoplexy when I turned up on my first day wearing my blue beret. A Corp change was immediately arranged whereupon shortly after I became a proud infantryman and remain so to this day.

Unfortunately, most of you will be aware the Hauraki Association has been shut out of their former premises at the Tauranga Army Centre. The former CO made the decision based on advice from the Property people and the increased security threat. As a result, the bar has closed, and the museum artefacts have been placed in storage pending a new permanent home. The Association continues to meet on Friday nights but at the Tauranga RSA, which isn't a bad thing as every time I have been, someone from the Association has won one or more of the raffles! So, you are all welcome there if you are in Tauranga on a Friday evening.

The good news is the new CO has recognized the value of fellowship and is hoping to instigate a once a month get together of Association and local Regiment members with a BYO session at the old premises.

That is probably enough from me now, so I will now take the opportunity to read the address from the CO, Lt Col Nick Jones, and I quote: "*read his address*"

Once again, on behalf the CO and myself, thank you very much for the invite and congratulations for putting this event together.

WHANGATANGATA KIA KAHA!!

LTCOL Kenneth Brown ED

Well team, we managed to make the reunion happen. Despite all the setbacks and the COVID threats, we pulled it off in true Bravo Company spirit. Thanks to our committee; Vic Hape, his dynamic duo Stu Semmens and Errol "the smurf" Nikora, Juliana Rotu Horopapera , Oscar Hikuroa , and Te Tuhi. Your perseverance and commitment to our kaupapa ensured the success we experienced Saturday night. Last but by no means the least without the participation of those who made the commitment to attend, the night would not have been the success we all experienced. Thank you to all who attended.

A special thanks to those who supported the reunion. 3/6 RNZIR, Honorary Col LTCOL Kenneth Brown ED, CO past and present, LTCOL Grant Arrowsmith and LTCOL Nick Jones. RSM WO1 Mike Petterssen, RQMS SSGT Lani Houkamau, and Cpl Shane Tata.

35 Sqn Whakatane ATC SQN LDR Bronwyn Hanna.

Whakatane RSA Catering, Andrea Cookstern and her team. The RSA Bar staff.

Sponsor Spec Savers Whakatane, Sue Berryman.

Baz Porter RSA member.

Entertainers the Ukelele Brown Brothers plus; The Tokelauan Tiger Keli Lotomau, Samoan Mafia Vai Baker, Tupapa Kid Rere Tamarua, Naval Pirate Paul Polata, The Rose, Rose Andrew, Devine Inspiration Darren and Herita O'Callaghan, and the Secret weapon TK O'Callaghan.

Fantastic support, without whom, the night would have not been successful.

A great night, a great atmosphere and great company.

BRAVO Company, Whakatangata kia Kaha. ONWARD.



The **6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated** has moved its location to the **Tauranga RSA**. In it's first six weeks someone in the group has won a prize; whether it is the membership draw or a raffle. Every week our numbers are growing, now up to sixteen members.

The RSA also serve free of charge, a sausage sizzle, based around how many drinks you purchase? The members & the RSA Committee have been very supportive. They have given us permission to place our 6 Hauraki Regimental plaque up on the wall.


We met on Friday's from 1600hrs to 1900hrs.

You are welcome to join us.



**REMEMBERANCE DAY CEREMONY TGA RSA**

**HELD AT 11AM ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2021**



They shall grow not old,  
as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We will remember them.







Due to COVUS there was restrictions held on the numbers on parade.



Wreath laid on behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Inc.

By President Des Anderson & Eric Kristensen.



## Letters to the Editor

### **World War One and the Hauraki Battalion – a preamble.**

(written by Russell Skeet)

*“It was probably as well that the Regiment was nearing readiness. On the other side of the world, storm clouds were gathering over Europe. When the storm broke, the Haurakis would find themselves embroiled in the greatest orgy of bloodletting ever seen.”*<sup>1</sup>

Full of the confidence, bravado and naivety of youth, the young men comprising the 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki) Company of the Auckland Infantry Battalion, took Thames off to war. And a long war it was to be. Four years of brutal industrial scale killing defined by barbed wire and the machine gun. A new era of horror. Glory days indeed.

In August of 1914, at Alexandra Park in Auckland, the Auckland Infantry Battalion was raised. It was made up of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Auckland), 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki), 15<sup>th</sup> (North Auckland) and 16<sup>th</sup> (Waikato) Companies, each company representing its parent Battalion. The Auckland Infantry Battalion was under the command of a Thames man, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Plugge. Born at Tapu, on the Thames Coast, Plugge was a well-known local Thames identity, but at the time of his enlistment he was living in Epsom in Auckland and was the Headmaster of Dilworth Ulster Institute.<sup>2</sup> Plugge's regimental number was 12/1.

The Officer Commanding (O.C.) of the 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki) Company was Major Frederick Stuckey, a man of unassuming appearance who was a Master from King's College in Auckland with the regimental number 12/2. Stuckey was born in Christchurch, and was to lead the Hauraki's into their first test of war – Gallipoli.<sup>3</sup> He was 36 at his time of trial in 1915.

Stuckey had a Company second-in-command, Captain Wilfred Courtney Sinel. After his O.C.'s death on the ANZAC Cove beach, Sinel quickly assumed an important role with the Hauraki Company and was to emerge from World War One, having survived being wounded and taking part in more actions than any other Hauraki officer. He was a clerk before the war and worked on the Auckland wharves after the war.

Within the 6<sup>th</sup> (Hauraki) Coy were four platoons, units of 50 men, under the command of a Lieutenant. It was these platoon commanders who would lead their men, literally from the front, into the fierce fire and storm of front-line battle, revolver in one hand and perhaps a whistle in the other. Maybe a bible in their tunic pocket; we might speculate seldom a photo of 'their girl' as many would have been scarcely

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<sup>1</sup> “Comrades Brave” by Richard Taylor, page 40

<sup>2</sup> Auckland War Memorial Museum “Cenotaph Database.”

<sup>3</sup> Auckland War Memorial Museum “Cenotaph Database.”

old enough to have 'a girl.' Into battle that would severely test the mettle of combat hardened commanders, let alone these freshly graduated junior officers. The consequences of failure for these young men and their equally young charges was inevitably death. Little glory to be found amongst the detritus of modern war. The four platoon commanders leading the Haurakis were Lieutenants Robert Nicol Morpeth (age 22), Colvin Stewart Algie (age 27), William Evelyn Francise Flower (age 29 years), and Frederick Hugh Dodson (age 23 years). Morpeth was a bank teller on enlistment and Flowers was an inspector with the Department of Agriculture. Both men were from Thames.

Thames, at the outbreak of World War One, was a town of modest aspirations looking for a way to regain economic prosperity and regional significance not seen since goldfield days in the 1870's. That Thames should offer up a good number of men like Morpeth and Flowers for participation in the *death or glory adventure* of the Great War, ought not to surprise, as these were the days of Empire and Mother Country. The ghastly lessons of the Boer War had faded, and when the clarion call for the defence of the realm sounded from the old country, Thames's men were as eager as any others. But the genesis for our men's enthusiasm for the 'call-to-arms' may have another thread – the Volunteer movement.

Thames was established on the back of a gold discovery with the field being proclaimed on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1867. By mid-1868, after some initial doubt, it was pretty much a sure thing that the gold field would prosper, so that capitalists like Graham, Whitaker, Russell, and McCosh Clark were pouring money into the establishment of business, commercial and industrial enterprises in support of the burgeoning mining industry. The town was racing toward a population of 15,000 people, soon to be bigger than Auckland. Men from all walks of life populated the goldfield, and a significant number of them had previous military experience with the Imperial Army or had fought in the New Zealand Land Wars.

It was soon evident that it was just as well that there were plenty of men with military service under their belt on the goldfield. No sooner had the realisation dawned that the Thames was to be no 'fly-by-night' goldfield settlement, but rather a permanent township, worth the investment risk, than a clear and present threat to prosperity and potential wealth emerged. Te Kooti. In June of 1868, the Civil Commissioner, James MacKay, reported<sup>4</sup> to the Native Minister that he was informed by Hauhau messengers that if the Māori King succeeded in marching north of Ngaruawahia, the local tribes, Ngatimaru and Ngatitamatera, would rise up and attack Shortland and Coromandel, this, we might suppose, in support of Te Kooti's operations on the East Coast. It was rumoured that Te Kooti was set to come north. Perhaps to Auckland and so to Thames? The doubt was there. The die was cast. But Te Kooti did not move north and the King did not march. But Titokowaru, further south west, did. The Government called for volunteers for the Armed Constabulary<sup>5</sup>; 100 joined from

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<sup>4</sup> NZ Archives ACFL 8170/3 428/68 ; MacKay (Shortland) to Native Minister, June 1868.

<sup>5</sup> *Daily Southern Cross* 8, October 1868. Required for service in the armed constabulary, three hundred men. Unmarried and not over 30 years of age, unless having previously served in colonial Forces or in a Police Corps, when they will be admitted up to 35. Pay, 5 shillings a day, with a suit of clothing.

Auckland and 70 enrolled from Shortland.<sup>6</sup> Number 6<sup>7</sup> Division; the 'Young Division,' was formed from the Auckland and Thames men, and, by November, was in south Taranaki, near Wairoa. Titokowaru had a pa in the vicinity, called Moturoa and the Thames men participated in an engagement on 7 November. Unsurprisingly, for New Zealand Land Wars engagements, the Government forces were withdrawn, in the face of determined Māori fighting. We might suppose the Thames men did well, as Colonel Whitmore, in command of the Government force, commented:

*'No. 6, retiring skirmishing, was now attacked by the enemy almost all along the line, and nearly hand-to-hand. Throughout the jungle the voice of the gallant commander rang out continually, 'Be steady my men, stick together,' and each time a cheery reply, 'We will sir,' might have been heard in answer from the 'Young Division.'*<sup>8</sup>

With the capitalist's doubts about immediate guerrilla incursions pretty much dealt with, there was still Te Kooti, lurking in the Ureweras. It was time to conjure up a cause for a more permanent defence arrangement. In a bit of fanciful 'spin,' the need to avenge the deaths of the innocents massacred at Turanga, and to vanquish Te Kooti and his cohort from the field of operations, was levied upon the emotional vulnerability of the fragile gold mining settlement.

And so it was that in early 1869 efforts were turned to the formation of both volunteer and militia units; volunteers to defend Thames, and militia units to range further afield.

The rush to the 'colours,' so-to-speak, was rapid; Hauraki Rifle Volunteers, with three companies, Thames Engineer Volunteers, No. 2 Thames Rifle Rangers, Puriri Rifle Volunteers, Thames Naval Volunteers, and the Tapu Rifle Ranger Volunteers. Later, there were the Thames Scottish Rifle Volunteers (1871), and the Thames Native Volunteers (1873). There had also been talk of forming Thames Veterans Volunteers, Cavalry Volunteers, Tararu Rifle Volunteers, Thames Volunteer Artillery Corps and Bagnall's Sawmill Volunteers. By 1879 there were in excess of 770 men<sup>9</sup> signed up in the various corps with another 110 plus in several cadet units, so that the Thames fairly bristled with soldiers, drawn from all parts of the community. A richly experienced, adventurous and reasonably motivated group of men comprised the more seasoned of the Thames military forces, while capable and mature officers such as Murray, Goldsmith, Cooper and Fraser developed those volunteers with less military experience.

But times change.

Communities built upon the discovery of gold can be fickle creatures, the Thames being no less subject to the vagaries of the ebb and flow of gold production, than any other. The fortunes of the volunteer movement reflected the 'life and times' of the township so that with the steady decline in gold production and consequent wane in population, the volunteer numbers diminished. By the late 1890's, the once chaotic, always enthusiastic and earnest, but amateur volunteer arrangements that had existed in Thames since 1868 were represented by a single unit. After the heady days of the Thames Volunteer movement in the late 1860's and early 70's, its

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<sup>6</sup> *Daily Southern Cross* 9 November 1868

<sup>7</sup> Number five division had been disbanded for mutinous conduct in the field, as reported in *The Evening Herald* (Wanganui Herald) 17 October 1868

<sup>8</sup> J Cowan, *The New Zealand Wars*, p254.

<sup>9</sup> "An Early History of Local Volunteer Forces in the Hauraki Plains" by A.M. Isdale

decline had been a drawn out affair, so that with the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Auckland Rifle Volunteers on 8 July 1898, the last vestige of the once proud Thames Volunteer Corps was represented by the Thames Naval Artillery,<sup>10</sup> although it was not a part of the newly established Battalion, being artillery and not infantry. Thames was instead represented by a second, and newly established unit, the Hauraki Rifles (Thames), dated from 11 October 1897. The elements that comprised the Battalion were: <sup>11</sup>

Te Aroha Rifles (Te Aroha)  
No. 1 Company, Ohinemuri Rifles (Paeroa)  
No. 2 Company, Ohinemuri Rifles (Karangahake)  
Hauraki Rifles (Thames)  
No. 3 Company, Ohinemuri Rifles (Waihi)  
Coromandel Rifles (Coromandel)  
Onehunga Rifles (Onehunga).

It was not until 15 November 1900 that the old Thames Navals became a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion when they changed to the No. 1 Company, Thames Rifles. It was reported in the news that:

*“The Thames Rifles (late Navals) were originally formed on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1869, and have in spite of adverse circumstances continued in existence until the present date. It is the senior company of the Battalion.”*<sup>12</sup>

The former Navals also contributed their band, just over a year later, when it became the Battalion band. With the Navals firmly established within the Battalion organisation, it might be claimed that the Battalion could trace its origins to 1869, 29 years earlier than the official date of 1898.

Reorganisations are often timely, and this one no less so than any other, this simply because of the start of the Boer War in South Africa in 1899. Men from the Battalion area were quick to volunteer, so that in October of 1899, ten Thames men from the Hauraki Rifle Volunteers had offered themselves up for service, being Messrs Swindley, Boyle, Murray, Newdick (A), Dudley, Longman, Rosewarne, Murdock, Finlayson and Newdick (P). Of the ten, two were accepted being Privates F. Murray and A. Newdick. At the same time the Paeroa contingent consisted of Sergeant-Major Bradford, Corporal Avery, Sergeant Hubbard, and Privates F. Shaw, J. Tetley, and W. McPherson. Waihi and Coromandel also had volunteers accepted for service. <sup>13</sup> Enthusiasm for the war and victories achieved was very evident. Alistair Isdale gives this brief glimpse;

*“... On May 19, 1900, Thames had a procession at seven in the evening to celebrate the relief of Mafeking. Represented were the Thames Naval Volunteers, Hauraki Rifles (both with their bands), James Jobe in his magnificent uniform of the*

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<sup>10</sup> Previously the Thames Naval Volunteers, formed on 8 October 1869.

<sup>11</sup> *Chronological History of the Hauraki Regiment*

<sup>12</sup> Isdale, A.M.; *Militia in Hauraki*. Also, “*Comrades Brave*” by Richard Taylor.

<sup>13</sup> Isdale, A.M. ; “*An Early history of Local Volunteer Forces in the Hauraki Plains Area.*”

*one-time Scottish Volunteers, the Fire Brigade, and so on. The crowds on the street were estimated at 5,000. The Volunteers also paraded and fired volleys. Paeroa and Waihi also had volunteers out, and Te Aroha, with firing of volleys. At Waihi the miners helped out with plugs of gelignite, and the volunteers went up to fire their volleys from the hill overlooking the town. In all the towns there were flags flying everywhere, and fireworks. ...”*

In 1901, what appeared to be a minor administrative change occurred where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was changed to ‘2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Auckland (Hauraki) Infantry Volunteers.’ This change was significant to the Battalion as it allowed the unit to carry colours – a distinction allowed to Infantry units – the first colour, the King’s Colour being received on 26 September 1907.

On the back of the Boer War excitement, came a resurgent cadet movement. Thames Volunteer Corps had cadets from the earliest days but, like volunteering generally, they had languished and finally disappeared with the decline of Thames. But in 1901 cadets were back, this time administered by the Education Department, so that by 1908, there were 844 of all ranks present at the School Cadet camp at Omahu, these being from the Thames and Ohinemuri Cadet Battalions.<sup>14</sup> This enthusiasm for things military was timely, unfortunately, as the greatest ‘call to arms’ New Zealand has ever seen, was just six years away.

In the run up to World War One there were a number of legislative changes which affected the Battalion, one of which was in 1909, which resulted in 1911 in the renaming of the Battalion as VI Hauraki Regiment,<sup>15</sup> and a change to its structure so that it now looked less ‘Volunteer’ and more Army, with eight companies.<sup>16</sup>

A COMPANY	formerly 1 Thames Rifles, based at Thames.
B COMPANY	formerly 1 Ohinemuri Rifles, based at Paeroa.
C COMPANY	formerly Hauraki Rifles, based at Thames – less one platoon based at Coromandel.
D COMPANY	formerly 3 Ohinemuri Rifles, based at Waihi.
E COMPANY	formerly Waihi Rifles, based at Waihi.
F COMPANY	based at Morrinsville.
G COMPANY	divided between Opotiki and Tauranga.
H COMPANY	divided between Rotorua and Matamata .
THE REGIMENTAL BAND	based at Thames

An important point to note at this stage in the development of the Battalion is the inclusion of units from south of the Hauraki area. This would lead, in due course, to the relocation of the Headquarters from Paeroa to Tauranga, reflecting the large increase in the size of the Battalion area.

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<sup>14</sup> Isdale, A.M.; “*An Early history of Local Volunteer Forces in the Hauraki Plains Area.*”

<sup>15</sup> The sixth most senior Regiment, out of the seventeen.

<sup>16</sup> “*Comrades Brave*” by Richard Taylor.

Yet another, minor, organisational change occurred in 1913 when the Battalion structure was reduced from eight companies to four, so the companies were based in Thames, Paeroa, Morrinsville and Rotorua. The Thames company had three platoons from Thames and one from Coromandel, while the Paeroa company had one platoon from Paeroa, one from Karangahake and two from Waihi. Now the Hauraki's Volunteers were Army.

And so it was that the Hauraki Volunteers came to be at the gates of World War One. On 25 April 1915 Stuckey, Sinel, Morpeth, Algie, Flowers and Dodson, came ashore at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. "Of these six men, four would be dead within two years and a fifth would have been invalided home, his war over. Only Captain Sinel would serve through the war, although he too would be wounded."<sup>17</sup>

In 1868, Thames's men rallied to the flag and volunteered for military duties in defence of their town. In 1914 Thames men volunteered again, in defence of their country, but this time with grave consequences.

**Whakatangata. Kia Kaha  
Lest we forget.**

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* p42



Hi Paul, Peter and Des,

I hope this email finds you all well. It has been a while!

I'm pleased to tell you that TCC have agreed to pay for an interpretation panel for the Tauranga Domain Memorial Gates which will highlight the significance of the gates and include names of the men, who for a variety of reasons, were not included on the role of honour back in 1921.

The plan is to put the panel to one side of the gates outside of the Domain so those walking past will see it - see below. The Tauranga Historical Society would like to organise an event to mark the 100 years of the gate which will be 11 December 2021.

I wanted to let you all know and thought there might be others we should let know about these plans. And perhaps, if you think appropriate, put everyone in touch with the right person/people at the Historical Society – Julie Green (President) and/or Beth Bowden (committee member) to discuss a possible event (possibly an unveiling).

Look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Again, I hope you are all doing well.

Fiona





*Opening ceremony Tauranga Domain Memorial Gates on December 11, 1921. Photos: Tauranga City Council.*

**"What substitute I wondered is a name on a gate and a sprig of rosemary for a father or a brother."**

**This poignant reflection was made by Tauranga resident Phoebe Norris as she attended the official opening of the Memorial Gates at Tauranga Domain on December 11, 1921, honouring the lives of young Tauranga men who were killed in the First World War.**

One hundred years later, Tauranga City Council is commemorating these men again with a new interpretation panel at the Memorial Gates and a collection of posters in the CBD - 'More than a name' - which puts faces to the names of some of the men who lost their lives serving their country.

There is also a 'Together we remember' display in the Ngā Wāhi Rangahau research room at Tauranga Library, which provides more details about the memorial and showcases items connected to the gates and the men.

Commission chair Anne Tolley says the Memorial Gates recognise that not only is the loss of these men's lives meaningful to their loved ones, but also to their community, and they continue to be significant to this day.

"The contributions these men made on behalf of our nation are still important more than 100 years on, and the new interpretation panel will ensure we continue to recognise them long into the future."

The Memorial Gates feature the names of 90 men, and there are another 22 fallen heroes who have since been identified as being either born in Tauranga or had left from the town to go to war.

The stories of 26 local soldiers are currently shared on posters throughout the CBD, including those of Reginald Watkins and Samuel Tanner.

Reginald's poster is in Red Square, the very spot from where he left by horse and cart to travel to Trentham to train to go to war.

The story of Samuel Tanner, a merchant marine whose ship was torpedoed and sunk, is located near the water on The Strand.

For Fiona Kean, Curator of the Tauranga Heritage Collection, the project has been a labour of love.

"I started researching the First World War and its impact on Tauranga in 2008, so it's quite emotional for me to say goodbye to these boys."

Reginald's family have entrusted an archive of his life to the Tauranga Heritage Collection and some of his belongings make up part of the 'Together we remember' display at Tauranga Library.

"We are the kaitiaki for them and the community. It's a very special project to have been a part of," Fiona says.

The Memorial Gates were last restored in 2014 and the display also includes a piece of one of the original pillars that could not be saved.

The Tauranga Historical Society, which has been working with Fiona to identify the names not listed on the Memorial Gates, has welcomed the new interpretation panel.

"The addition of the new interpretation panel serves to honour, in this small way, those who had no idea that their 'big adventure' would mean the end of their lives and years of heartache for their families," says historian and Tauranga Historical Society Committee member Debbie McCauley.

The 'More than a name' posters will remain in the CBD until early January and the 'Together we remember' display in the Tauranga Library until February.



# More than a name

100th YEAR

Sergeant James Keane  
was a young man  
who attended the  
Methodist church  
that stood on this  
site. He was engaged  
to Miss Eileen who  
lived with his family. He  
was killed in action.

He was 18 when he was killed in  
action at Gallipoli, 1915.



GALLIPOLI  
CENTENARY  
WEBSITE







*The new interpretation panel outside the Tauranga Domain Memorial Gates.*



*The 'Together we remember' display will be at Tauranga Library until February.*

*The stories of 26 our fallen heroes are featured in these 'More than a name' posters on display in the Tauranga CBD until early January.*





Eric & Des observing the latest placard, Tauranga Domain Memorial Gates.



Des Anderson, President of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association, and Corporal Erik Kristensen with the new interpretation panel next to the War Memorial Gates in Tauranga as we commemorate their opening 100 years ago today, on 11 December 1921. Photo: Debbie McCauley.

## TAURANGA LIBRARY

I thought I'd let you know that I've gathered the Hauraki Regiment images and publications, including the older newsletters from 1995-2012, together within the library's Heritage Platform Pae Korokī at the following location.

<https://paekoroki.tauranga.govt.nz/nodes/view/46751>

The url should be reliable so you are welcome to refer your association's members to this rather than the old Tauranga Memories site, which is now no longer. You and your members can make suggestion for changes to any of the content on Pae Korokī by looking for the following icon (a pen hovering over a pad).

*Harley*

**Harley Couper**

Heritage Specialist | Tauranga City Libraries | Mob. 0211094667 or 07 5579717  
(Tue-Sat) | [www.library.tauranga.govt.nz](http://www.library.tauranga.govt.nz)



## *The TET Offensive 31<sup>st</sup> January 1968*

*Both Eric & I were involved in the TET Offensive, (as it became known as): in different ways.*

### *Eric's story.*

Arrived into New Zealand from Denmark 1950.  
Naturalized New Zealander on 14th June 1956.

Volunteered CMT (Compulsory Military Training ) serving in the 16th Fd Regiment 1957. While based in Papakura Military Camp. Eric was discharged after completing the required service 1959.

Joined RF (Regular Force) into RNZEME in 1964.

Where he was posted to 16 Fd Regt, Vietnam July 1967 as Armourer.  
He returned to New Zealand 1968  
Posted back to RNZEME, Papakura Military Camp.  
Discharged at own request 1972

Eric joined 6th Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR in 1973. At the rank as a Sgt, TFV (Territorial Force Volunteer) . Appointment - Battalion Armourer.  
He was discharged in 1984 holding the rank SSgt.

Eric joined the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association in 1996 and remains a valuable committee member holding the appointment as the representative of the Hauraki Patriots.

Decorations: Vietnam Medal. Vietnamese Campaign Medal.

### *Deployment to South Vietnam*

Eric left New Zealand on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1967 arriving in Changi, Singapore Airport, (the old airport).  
He then flew to Nui Dat, South Vietnam.  
Where he was transferred to 1 Australian Task Force as an Armourer, in charge of LAD.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February 1968, Eric was sent to join the Australian Artillery who had set up a Fire Support Base, known as FSB Coral.  
This was an Australian Controlled base but sometimes had 161 Bty RNZA in support.

After Eric completed his Tour of Duty he returning to New Zealand.

The Australian Army awarded the **Australian Unit Citation for Gallantry** to selected NZ Army Soldiers who served in Vietnam at the Battle of FSB Coral & FSB Balmoral in 1968. for "extraordinary gallantry" to the Australian units who fought to keep the North Vietnamese forces out of Saigon in a three-month series of battles in 1968.

Those Battles took place in May and June of 1968 following the Tet Offensive of that year. **Eric Kristensen** was one of the selected New Zealand Army soldiers, This is an **individual award**, unlike the Unit Citation the Australian Army awarded to 161 Bty RNZA, which remains with the Unit.

### Des's story

Some of the common experiences is that we both joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR. We both served the NZ Army Regular Force, different corps, Eric being RNZEME (Royal New Zealand Electrical and Mechanical Engineers):

I was first in RNZASC (Royal New Zealand Army Service Corps) then passed selection for the NZSAS (New Zealand Special Air Service).

The common factor was we were both based at Papakura Military Camp, however at slightly different times. Thus, we don't recall meeting each other.

Our time of connection is the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) RNZIR and the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated. Over the years we have both spoken about the TET Offensive and our experiences in that period of time. The catalyst for me to publish this small article was the recent Facebook sent by Bev Smith. In regards to the passing of her husband, Mike Smith.

I came to South Vietnam in 1966 & left in 1975.

I also spent time in Laos & Cambodia.

I was an Operations Manager, Equipment Inc, 1<sup>st</sup> Logistical Command, MACV, (Military Assistance Command Vietnam).

My area of operation expanded around the **Saigon Port** (ARVN controlled), **New Port** (US ARMY Controlled), **Long Bin** (then the largest US Army base), **Bien Hoa** (the original location of 161 Fd Regiment), **Can Tho** ( Mekong Delta), **Vung Tau** (entrance port on the Saigon River) **Nha Trang** to the North: and included the military controlled airports: plus, the joint controlled airport of **Tan Son Nut**.

On the first day of the TET Offensive, everyone was restricted to stay home. As I had an Unrestricted Security Pass, I was able to check on a couple of Supervisors who we had not had contact with. They were OK.

I did make contact with the Vietnamese (MIS) Military Intelligence Service, as they did their duty at the Race course. As I knew the Commander, there was no problem & any issues were sorted out.

For the remaining days of the TET Offensive, we were assigned to drive trucks onto the Airport & Ports to clear items that were required by the US Military at other sites. The US Army Logistical, loaded & unloaded the trucks. They were restricted to their base's. The fighting forces of course were off base conducting their operational duties. We were allowed on & off the bases, plus on the roads around Saigon, Long Bin & out to Bien Hoa.

Once the TET Offensive around Saigon was declared over, we returned the trucks back to the Vietnamese drivers. My opinion was the population had run out food & drink, thus the Government had no choice but to allow everyone out to resupply. For me it was an interesting experience. The fact the roads were empty of traffic made it a luxury to drive, even if they were only trucks.



*Mike Smith as a War Correspondence 1966 in South Vietnam*





Another blast from the past.

A South Vietnamese Army armoured personnel carrier gutted by a rocket in a Saigon street during the Tet Offensive 1968. With me is a Kiwi colleague, [Des Anderson](#), formerly NZ SAS, and on the right, an American Special Forces Green Beret. Des went on to fly a DC-3 dropping supplies for Air America (CIA) in Cambodia and was one of the last -- if not the last -- Europeans to escape Phnom Penh before the Khmer Rouge took over. We were able to renew our friendship quite recently when Bev traced his whereabouts in NZ.

Written by [Mike](#) in 2014


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At dawn 46 years ago today a US Special Forces detachment evacuated us from our villa at Tu Duc outside Saigon to their basecamp. It was the start of the Vietnamese New Year (Tet) in 1968, the Year of The Monkey. Overnight the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army launched their biggest offensive of the war. They captured six cities, 30 provincial capitals, and fought to take Saigon. They attacked many garrisons and airfields, including three a few kilometres from our home. We stayed with the Green Berets for two weeks. Our daughter Lucienné (19 months old) thought the nightly fireworks were laid on for her entertainment, and Bev decided that when in Rome dress as the Romans do. For this picture, anyway.

Commercial Pilot Licence issued by Laos Civil Aviation to me.

The Royal Air Laos DC 3 flown by Capt Fernandez a Filipino pilot & Laos co-pilot crashed while I was on a trip to Saigon. I returned on the day the plane crashed. I was scheduled to fly as co-pilot the coming week.

I never was sure who was in command at the time, but presumed it was the Laos co-pilot.



Signature du Titulaire (VII)

ຊື່ : Nom (IV) ANDERSON

ນາມສະກຸນ Prénoms (IV): DESMOND NORMAN


ວັນ ເດືອນ ປີເກີດ Né le: 30 MARS 1940

ທີ່ຢູ່ ທີ່: WELLINGTON

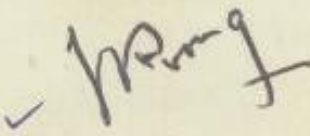
ສັນຊາດ Nationalité (IV): ANGLAISE

ທີ່ຢູ່ປັດຈຸບັນ Domicile (V): C/o TOM DOOLEY  
FOUNDATION, VIENTIANE  
LAOS

Delivrée à Vientiane, le (x) 17 OCT. 69

  
Cachet ou sceau  
du Service  
délivrant la licence  
(VIII et XI)

LE DIRECTEUR  
Signature du fonctionnaire  
délivrant la licence (X)  
Aviation Civile du Laos



Hiao SISOUPHANNOUVONG



# PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

Parachute Certificate  
Class B License No. 6069

This certifies that:

NAME: **Desmond Norman Anderson**  
ADDRESS: **Equipment Inc. c/-1st Log Comd**  
CITY: **San Francisco** STATE: **Calif. 96307**

D. O. B.	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Sex
30 Mar. 40	5-7	150	Blk	Brn	Male



has fulfilled all the requirements of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, the National Aeronautic Association and the Parachute Club of America and is qualified as described below.

*[Signature]*  
Certifying PCA Official  
*[Signature]*  
Signature of Licensee

**NOT VALID:** for competition unless photo bears official PCA Seal and is properly validated annually below.

Return license to PCA for annual registration together with proof of minimum performance requirements (see below).

Year	PCA Validation	Signature of Licensee
VALID PCA 1967	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
VALID USA 1968	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
VALID USA 1969	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

## LICENSE PRIVILEGES AND ANNUAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

### Class B: (PARACHUTIST)

The holder of this certificate has completed 25 or more stable delayed fall sport parachute jumps to include stable delayed falls of up to at least 30 seconds in duration. He is capable of briefing the pilot, selecting his exit point and jumping without supervision in accordance with PCA-SR's. He may make demonstration jumps with ASO or instructor's written approval. He may make relative work jumps. He is eligible for appointment as CSO.

Pilots and all aviation officials are encouraged to assist the licensee (on the basis of his experience), in any manner necessary to promote and encourage safe sport parachuting.

**Annual Registration Requirements:** 4 — 30 second delays in past 12 months.

**NOTE:** This license revocable by PCA in any case of proven infraction of PCA Safety Regulations.

USA Parachute Club of America.

I completed over 200 free fall jumps in Vietnam.



IDENTIFICACION		NACIMIENTO	
		FECHA: 30/3/1940	LUGAR: WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND
		NACIONALIDAD:	
		ESTADO CIVIL: SOLTERO	NUMERO DE HIJOS:
		DOMICILIO: 180 NGATAI ROAD OTUMOAETAI TAURANGA	
SEÑAS PARTICULARES: NIL		NOMBRE Y DIRECCION DE PARIENTES:	
		No. Y FECHA DE PASAPORTE O CEDULA: Nº 21H139	

COLOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 CABELLO PARDOS  
 OJOS CASTANO

FIRMA \_\_\_\_\_

Tug Boat Captain Licence issued by the Panama Embassy in Saigon.  
 I need the licence to move barges on the Saigon River and the Mekong River.



The Hauraki Patriots on there tour of the South Island







All clear over the Larnach Castle. Safe riding.

# Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit



Kia' Ora all,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the year. I hope all have had a safe Christmas break and holiday.

In addition, this year Army Cadets will be parading on Thursday nights once again separate to the Air Cadets.

The NCO's first parade night back will be 27th Jan 2022 (dress DPM's) and Cadets first night back will be the 3rd FEB 2022 (dress SDAR).

**3rd FEB will also be the Parent Support Committee for the year. Further information, please contact Des Anderson.**

For those that assisted with the Unit Fundraising event over the holidays by replacing the stickers on the Ultra Fibre boxes, thank you. It was a big job that involved a substantial amount of hours.

As you are all no doubt aware by now, we are currently being permitted to start parading at the army hall again and this could change at any time due to New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) requirements.

We are now required by Head Quarters (HQ) New Zealand Cadet Forces (NZCF) to record the vaccination status of all NZCF personnel. Further to that, because we parade on a NZDF establishment, all on site are required to have a current and up to date COVID Vaccination Passport

With that in mind, Officers, Cadets and Supplementary Staff need to provide the following information in respect of their COVID 19 vaccination status:-

1. Date of first vaccination
2. Date of second vaccination
3. Copy of your vaccination certificate (as they become available)
4. Booster update along with Vaccination Certificate update as they become available

As things stand at present (and for the foreseeable future) attendance at parade nights will come with restrictions as above and Cadet Forces activities on other NZDF establishments promotion courses etc will only be available to those who are fully vaccinated. Meaning those entering the Unit Facility will be required to show proof of Vaccination Certificate for scanning by an NZCF Officer only.

Ngā mihi nui,

**MAJOR ELISHA (ELI) CRAWSHAW, NZCF**

Area Support Officer Bay of Plenty Area

Unit Commander Western Bay of Plenty Cadet Unit

**New Zealand Cadet Forces**

M: +64 27 634 8891

A: PO Box 15006, Tauranga, New Zealand, 3112

E: [elisha.crawshaw@cadetforces.org.nz](mailto:elisha.crawshaw@cadetforces.org.nz)

W: [www.cadetforces.org.nz](http://www.cadetforces.org.nz)

The Unit is looking for Youth who are interested in joining Cadets.

If you know anybody who would be interested, please ask them to contact the Unit Commander or Des Anderson, Parent Support Committee.





## **COMMITTEE 2020- 2021**

**Patron:** Judge Chris McGuire  
**President:** Des Anderson, tel. 07 571 1951 Home 0274 764 073 Mobile  
[des.anderson@actrix.co.nz](mailto:des.anderson@actrix.co.nz)  
**Vice President:** Kenneth Brown  
**Secretary & Treasurer:** Marion Kareko, tel. 07-576 0277 Home  
[mkareko@hotmail.com](mailto:mkareko@hotmail.com)

### **Committee:**

Bob Mankelow	Erik Kristensen (Patriot Representative)
Kevin Hayden	Christine Dean
Warren Banks	Kim Webster
Karen Cross	David Cross
Rueben Kelly	Paul Couch
Tony Brooke	Mike Halliday
Lee Morgan	Charlie Harrison
Mike Myers-Kay	Steve Davis
Boof Richardson	Debbie Davis
Diane Myers-Kay	Tony Daw
John Harris	John Burge
Joshua Bishop	Doug Ashford
Janet Crafts	Jim Taia
Penny Burgess (Welfare Representative)	

### **Area Representatives:**

Auckland:	Paul Couch, Jim Taia
Coromandel:	Russel Skeet
Tauranga:	See Committee
Whakatane	Bazz Porter
Rotorua:	Te Kei Merito
Hamilton:	Stu Foster
Hamilton:	Barry Ngaheu
Gisborne	Dave Greaves
Linton:	Charlie Harrison
Waiouru:	Mike Halliday

**Museum Curator:** David Cross

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

If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list, please send an email to [des.anderson@actrix.co.nz](mailto:des.anderson@actrix.co.nz) with the word 'remove' in the subject line or body



# 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

## Application Form

New Membership

**Full**

Renewal Membership

**Associate**

Regimental Number

Date of birth

Full Name

Partner's 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

This information is collected for the purpose of the 6 Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated and is strictly Confidential. It will not be supplied to any other person or organisation in compliance with the Privacy Act.

Post Subscription to

**Secretary M Kareko**

**91 Windsor Road  
Tauranga**

Electronic payment to 6th Battalion Hauraki Regimental Assn:

Westpac: Number: 03 0435 0509893

001

Reference: Your name

***Subscription  
Rate***

New Member

\$20.00

Renewal	\$15.00
Perpetual Member	\$150.00