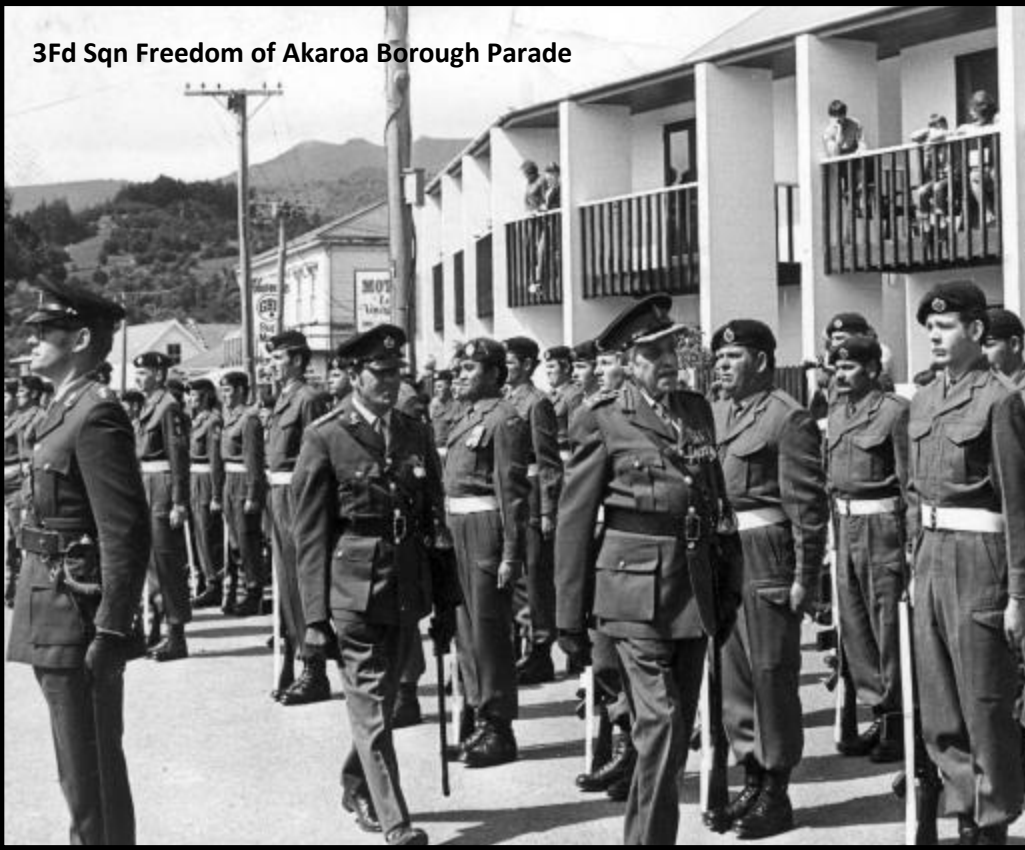


RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 193 Nov 2016



3Fd Sqn Freedom of Akaroa Borough Parade



Pre-press requirements for submitted articles.

Newspaper clippings are suitable for reference only and cannot be used for prepress as the poor quality of newsprint prevents suitable scanning. Similarly, photos must be the original or emailed as a scanned jpeg file at a resolution of no less than **300dpi** preferably 600dpi.

DO NOT IMBED IN A WORD DOCUMENT PLEASE, AS THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO EXTRACT AND TAKE AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF TIME. Any text to be sent can be sent as an email ,text or as a pdf file .

Send any articles & E-mail Addresses to : rnzesapper@gmail.com

It is attended to E-mail the Newsletter to everyone every four months

So we will need a current email address and surname.

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO OTHER SAPPERS YOU MAY KNOW SO THEY CAN GO ON OUR MAILING LIST.

This Issue

Newsletter P.1
Vail Hubner P.2
ERS Section P.3
3 Fd Sqn P.4
3 Branch Ch-Ch P.5
Charitable Trust P.6
ECMC P.7
Nth Branch P.8
Treasurers Report P.9
Sgt Forsyth VC P.10
Blast From the past P.11
Sapper toys P.12
Sapper Barrett P.13
2 Reg Sappers Day P.14
Aussie Branch P.15
Last Post P.16
Editor P.17



The lowering of the flag at

44 Riccarton Road

Before 3Fd Sqn moved to its current
HQ at Burnham MC



A Quick Word from Vail Hubner

Hi Sappers,

At our last Executive meeting we tabled the fact that nobody had put their hands up to run a reunion in Palmerston North. In discussion we acknowledged that the 'tradition' of reunions there had worn the Palmerston North Sappers down over the many decades. In the process of looking for another location, we took into account that the New Zealand Engineers History book launch in March 2018 may involve a ceremony at Parliament Buildings Wellington.

So we are now looking for volunteers to form a National RNZE Reunion committee for a reunion in Wellington. But with a twist....I believe the Treasurer and the Secretary can be anywhere in New Zealand – Kaitia to Bluff! We have been holding committee meetings by Skype successfully for some time now - the Northern Branch for four years, the Executive about two years. We have been operating on internet banking for a similar time. And of course there is email. So if anybody would like to do one of those appointments, please contact me.

I think the Chairperson needs to be in Wellington. That person needs to deal directly with local venues and suppliers and may need to make authoritative decisions on the spot.

Have a very Merry Xmas sappers see you next year

Up and Coming Events

Decade Do,s

7 Dec Decade 1955– 64 Tau-
po RSA 1700hrs

Decade 1975-84 Picton or
Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

March 2018 probably in
Palmerston North

ERS Reunion 2017

6th—8th November 2017 in
Christchurch

3 Branch Christchurch Pa- panui RSA

09 December Xmas Get to-
gether

Sappers Association Skype AGM

26 March 2017 via Skype
1330hrs



**Fire Fighter Basic course march-out today. Top Student LCpl Wright (trade change from 1RNZIR).
Peers Choice and Academic Spr Tapelu (3ERT).
Instructors Choice Spr Dye-Hutchinson (3ERT).
Well done to the award recipients and the rest of the course**





New Zealand Army Engineers have been completing annual training.

3 Field Squadron, which is part of the 2 Engineer Regiment based at Burnham Military Camp, has been training in a number of areas including light urban breaching and

amphibious operations in the past few months. Troop Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Quentin Whanau said during the urban breaching training period the main focus was on

a sapper's primary role as a breacher. Explosive Method of Entry (EMoE) or breaching is an output Combat Engineers can provide, using explosives, when entry into a building is required. The light explosive charges constructed by the sappers

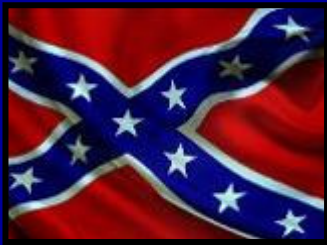
of 3 Field Squadron were designed to breach doors, windows or small structural walls of target buildings on operation. SSGT Whanau said the sappers rehearsed repeatedly



with dummy charges to refine their drills before going live with explosives. Sappers were also trained in the added element of close combat shooting, utilising man marker rounds, to develop their secondary roles as a shooter in an assault group. Continual rehearsals in both roles allowed the sappers to better understand their individual drills and devel-

op reactions to different situations. "The drills have helped 3 Field Squadron create more effective breachers who are able to operate in challenging and unfamiliar situations on operations," he said. Much like light urban breaching, amphibious training allowed the engineers to complete drills that could be used on operations. They completed motor control skills, basic sea survival, navigation by day and night, as well as man overboard and capsizing drills. "The training for these types of operations is focused on safety and procedures, along with refining our navigation skills by day and night, sea survival, and working relationships with other force elements," said SSGT Whanau. The team also spent time being introduced and using possible new equipment which included dive fins, immersion suits, and protection helmets. "The annual training is vital as it gives our soldiers and officers the skills needed to be ready to project forces onto land from a maritime platform, such as the HMNZS CANTERBURY. "This type of training, whether it be urban breaching or amphibious operations, best prepares our engineers to overcome any situation that arises in an operational capacity," he said. Three Field Squadron's next training output will involve urban searching.





The 3rd RNZE BRANCH
SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (Inc) NZ

OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:

Chairman Bernie Rose 03 3131569

Vice-chairman: Eric Elley 03 3107385

Secretary: Colin Walsh 03 3423272

Committee Members: BJ Clark 03 3594522 John Fischer 03 3479305

George Jason Smith 03 3124844 Brian McTurk 03 9818291 Owen Phillips 022 1949900

Norm Smith 03 3481562 Jack Blyth 03 3484871



3 Branch Sappers Day was attended by 72 Serving and Ex Sappers and Partners for a wreath laying parade and Semi Formal Dinner at the Papanui RSA



RNZE Charitable Trust

RNZE History Project – Stage 4

3rd Quarterly Report – July-Sept 2016

Since my last report, I have worked towards the agreed outcomes as follows:

Indexing the 57 oral interview summaries to create an easy reference to which wars or operations the interviewees served in, which peacekeeping or aid deployments they went on, what skills or specialisms they had, and what other experiences they shared.

I visited SME and 2 Engineer Regiment to view current military engineering practices on Thursday 13 October. Maj Chris Wilson, Capt Gareth Collings, Capt Ingrid Gillingham, WO2 Matthew Doyle and Cpl Brendan Clarke were most welcoming and informative.

Reading all matter relating to the corps in recent decades.

A great aid to writing the later decades of RNZE history would be an alphabetical roll or listing of current corps personnel (an expansion of that published in *Kiwi Sappers* dated 15 Oct 2001). I have a copy of that in 2ER HQ dated 15 Oct 2004, but if these exist for periods going back to the 1980s or 90s, they would be extremely useful to have beside. They would allow me to know who was in the corps at certain dates and to distinguish the activities of the corps members from that of other corps. It would also be vital for spelling names correctly, and would not be intended for publication. Even the disparate lists in your 1 Fd Sqn and 2 Fd Sqn folders from isolated years in the 1980s or 90s, would be a start, if entered into a spreadsheet.

I asked John Crawford, NZ Defence Force historian, about access to un-archived material on recent RNZE works, specifically the 10 years with NZPRT in Afghanistan and TG Rake in Iraq. He said we need to make a request through the NZ Defence Force channels to access whatever unclassified archival material they can show me. I am told this request should come down the usual channels from as senior a position as possible ("the colonel").

Additional to my last report, the trip in April 2016 to UK included a look at the former NZE training grounds and depot at Christchurch and Boscombe, on the south coast. This was made possible by Clement Wareham.

All financial aspects of the contractual arrangement have been satisfactory.

Peter Cooke
RNZE Historian
17 Oct 2016

A detailed (catalogue and photographic record) listing of all items of Corps Silver currently housed in the ECMC has been completed, to assist the control of future loans of items as well as supplementing our inventory of the "collection"



Delivery of 3 x C9 LSW weapons is imminent, it is hoped that these will be provided via 2ER for the Afghanistan, Iraq and possibly the Bosnia displays in the ECMC museum. Was discussed that one of the C9 LSW would go to 2ER for display purposes. Still awaiting medal replicas to complete UN and demining operations and deployment displays (1988 onwards), from the NZDF Medals Office, despite numerous reminders and promises to supply. The proposed project for digitising and scanning of books and documents in the ECMC library (by Craig Manning) is progressing slowly. He wants to do a trial run on sample books during Aug-Sep, but we still await a formal proposal so that we can use this for making a “preferred supplier” arrangement and seeking external funding support (ECCT) to enable the project proper to proceed



The updated ECMC “collection” inventory record is for over 4,750 screens, with over 9,320 individual items (of an estimated 60,000 items, which includes well over 2,800 pictures scanned (out of the estimated collection of over 16,000 items), with an overall increased value of \$328,466.

Visitor statistics for 2016 to the ECMC as at 11 Aug 16, are 584 (606 at the same time in 2015 and 510 in 2014) with an annual total of 915 in 2014, 968 in 2015 and an overall total of 3,062 since records commenced in early 2013.



NORTHERN BRANCH OF
THE SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] Inc

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Roger Gummer.

Remembering those past on - includes - Gordon Byron -(Auckland), M T O T Nepia (Palmerston North), - Colin Simpson (Australia). Bernie McKernan (Thames, Otautau)

This year most things that happening this year for our Branch are thanks to Vail Hubner. Vail is our Secretary and Treasurer. He also has taken on the role of President for the over-arching New Zealand Sapper's Association executive. Vail has put out a couple of reunions based on years-groups of sappers that serves in certain decades. These were held a Taupo RSA. The first was for years 1995-2005 was not well attended. The second, 1965-1974 had a modestly successful gathering.

The use of Skype video conferencing increased this year and was used at the executive sapper's meetings, allowing the branches to attend. Vail has also been looking into revamping the Association website.

At the Waihi commemorations of the World War One Tunnelers' Company, sappers from the Branch were present, and, the branch produced an engraved stone, which along with others, was incorporated into the Memorial that was unveiled in a park at Waihi. Thanks to Peter for the work on the stone.

Peter Foster has been raising funds, as usual, with his raffles at the Papakura RSA.

The brick church at Khyber Pass (St David's) is no longer in such a state of prospective destruction, although the future is certain. The Friends of St David's organisation has made a stellar fund-raising achievement of one million dollars. The church was adorned with a brass "quatrefoil" art installation in July 2015 that was significant in this effort.

That concludes the report. Thankyou. - Roger Gummer



Association Treasurer's Report

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] INCORPORATED

	INCOME \$	\$
435	Fees / Subs	180.00
nil	Donations	40.00
nil	Book Royalties	0.00
nil	Advertising	0.00
nil	Association Supplies	20.00
nil	Misc	2.00
13	GST	20.68
4,568	Distressed Investments Repayments	629.54
27,721	BNZ Principal Repayment	18,037.27
851	Interest	17.40
nil	Rapid save	3,327.68
	Interest Retained in Investments	828.69
2,563	Branches	2,732.78
18,741	Reunion	1.25
54,892	Total Income	25,837.29

EXPENDITURE

nil	Newsletters	0.00
10	Post/Stat	149.99
2	Website	1.00
nil	Bursary's	0.00
nil	Prizes	0.00
nil	Welfare	0.00
nil	Book Royalties	0.00
nil	Memorials	75.00
34,828	Investments	21,994.49
172	Misc	42.99
nil	reserved	0.00
1,736	Branches	821.98
19,405	Reunion	951.23
	Distressed Investments written off	\$1,072.65
56,152	Total Expenditure	25,109.33
Jan to Dec		
-1,259	Closing Balance as at 31 December	2016 17,202.45
	Income over Expenditure	Surplus 727.96



Sgt Samuel Forsyth



Sgt Samuel Forsyth RNZE was a non-commissioned officer in the New Zealand Military Forces who served with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the First World War.

He participated in the Gallipoli Campaign and later on the Western Front. He was a posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award of the British Commonwealth for gallant-

UPDATE ON THE LONG SERVICE AWARDS REVIEW

Changes to the eligibility rules for the existing ten New Zealand military long service awards are expected to be announced by mid-2016, once the governing Royal Warrants and accompanying regulations are in place the existing long service awards will remain, but the entitlement criteria will allow all eligible New Zealand military service to be counted. For example, service will be able to be accumulated rather than continuous (as is currently required for some awards). This will deliver a fairer system while maintaining the standing of the long service awards.

The appropriate long service award issued will reflect the majority of each recipient's service. Persons who already have a long service award will continue to wear the award they have. There will be no swapping of awards.

Current serving military personnel will not need to apply for their long service entitlement to be assessed under the new rules. They will be automatically assessed via the data in their SAP HCM records. Please note that given the number of eligible personnel it may take around six to nine months after the announcement to confirm and issue the medal entitlement for every current serving military Service person.



Applications from eligible ex-Service persons are expected to be called for in the second half of 2016

Trip Down Memory Lane



Sappers Toy's

MAN Truck and Rapidly emplaced Bridging System (ReBS)

The Rapidly Emplaced Bridge System (REBS) capability provides a rapid tactical bridging capability to support a NZLAV motorised force. It enhances mobility of NZLAV, by supporting combat crossing operations. It will be employed to cross wet gaps (streams, rivers) and dry gaps (anti-vehicle ditches). It is a capability previously not in service, and enables vehicles to cross unprepared gaps of up to 12 metres. The REBS comprises an aluminium bridge mounted on a flat- rack pallet. Both components are transported on a MAN support vehicle with Enhanced Palletized Load System (EPLS). The bridge itself is an aluminium welded structure consisting of two halves coupled together at the centre. It is lightweight, corrosion resistant, torsionally flexible and strong enough to support MLC (Military Load Class) 40 wheeled and tracked vehicles under normal crossing conditions. It can also support up to MLC 50 wheeled vehicles under a caution crossing.



Joseph Barrett RNZE



Birth: Apr. 22, 1942

Otorohanga

Waikato, New Zealand

Death: Nov. 24, 1969

Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam



209440 Sapper Joseph Tauri Barrett
New Zealand Engineers attached to
6th ANZAC Battalion Royal Australian Regiment
Killed in Action 24th November 1969 Age 27.

On 24 November 1969 one of these New Zealand-South Vietnamese patrols, returning from a night ambush position, walked into a Viet Cong ambush, Sapper Jerry Barrett was killed, and Private Peter Rauhihi was mortally wounded, victims of the enemy's claymore mine.

Burial:

Te Kuiti Marae

Te Kuiti

Waitomo District

Waikato, New Zealand Te Kuiti

Waitomo District

Waikato, New Zealand





In the Manawatu, 12 Sappers attended the dawn parade at the city cenotaph. The rain held off.

Four of the 12 continued on to share breakfast with the serving sappers in the 800 man mess in Linton Camp. The rain came.

Following the parade in the square a lively discussion on the following topics occurred:-

What to do with the rest of the day - we settled on meeting for lunch at the Rose and Crown. 7 attended.

The Executives desire to base a 2018 reunion in the lower North Island. The older lags passed the buck to the younger Sappers.

The two photos attached show approximately 300 sappers at breakfast in the 800 man mess at 0700hrs following their Sappers Day beginning.



It is hard to believe that so many ex Members of our beloved RNZE Unit from 44 Riccarton Road in Christchurch and later at Burnham Camp could all be living in the Brisbane and Gold Coast area and it was a great privilege to catch up and celebrate Sappers Day with these Sappers and their Partners.



Sappers Last Post

WO1(Rtd) Oma Nepia

WO1(Rtd) Gordon Byron

Reginald Walter Chapman

Colin Simpson

Tom Te Uira

Bernie McKernan

The Government has confirmed that it is reconsidering its refusal to repatriate the bodies of soldiers killed on foreign battlefields. Veterans' Affairs Minister Craig Foss said this afternoon that he had asked the Veterans' Advisory Board to review New Zealand's policy on repatriation. The Government's current position is not to repatriate bodies of soldiers who were killed while serving abroad between 1948 and the mid-1970s. As a result, around 100 New Zealand soldiers are still buried overseas, mostly in Malaysia but also in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Samoa, Fiji and Cyprus. "While successive governments have maintained this policy, it has become increasingly clear that the rationale behind it needs further investigation," Foss said.

"I am therefore asking the [board] to consider the current policy on repatriation and provide advice to me."

Foss said he expected to get advice back from the board by March. "I have always said I am the Minister for all veterans," "While many of those advocating for change are focussed on the personnel buried in Malaysia, I expect the board to consider the policy in relation to all veterans and dependents who died while serving overseas between 1948 and mid-1970."

The families of some soldiers have expressed concerns about the conditions and access to war graves, in particular in Malaysia.

Some of the soldiers are buried at sites which are not official Commonwealth war graves.

The RSA was formed in New Zealand in 1916 by returning Anzacs during World War One to provide support and comfort for service men and women and their families.

The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association is made up of over 180 local RSAs around the country, each an entity in their own right, with over 100,000 members. Local RSAs are managed by their own executive committee while being united with the RNZRSA in our strategic pillars, vision, and values. We believe in a nation joined by a heartfelt connection to the Anzac spirit of courage, commitment, comradeship and compassion.



"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

~ General George S. Patton

The last word for this News letter is mine

I hope you enjoyed the last newsletter but I'm still on the lookout for more articles and photos for future issues of the Newsletter.

July-Nov-Feb-May.

Many thanks for those of you that contributed to this issue of the RNZE Sapper Newsletter

If you know of any sapper or someone that should be receiving this Newsletter please send me the information via this email address so I can enter them on the mailing list



rnzesapper@gmail.com

Don't forget you can follow us on facebook @ Sappers of New Zealand

Also remember the Association Web site

www.sappers.org.nz

Old RNZE Reunion Facts

On the 4th to the 5th of July 1959, the first Sapper's Reunion was held in Levin and they lived under service conditions, and as they did during their service as Engineers.

Another Reunion was held in 1958, and in 1959 the Borough of Levin granted the Freedom of the Borough to the Corps of the Royal NZ Engineers, and the Sapper's Association was then formed in 1960.

The Committee of the 6th National Reunion in Levin were, Wally Phillips, Jim Cockburn, Jim Fowler, Pat Boggs, Pat Stewart and Bub Bell.

Christchurch held their first Sappers Reunion in 1963 and thereafter Levin and Christchurch alternated for these reunions.

It was not until 1971, after a Christchurch Reunion, that wives were allowed to attend, and thereafter were included in all National Reunions.

Numbers began to decline due to ill health, age and death, and these reunions lasted until 1984 at the Levin .

The Christchurch Sapper's Reunion was held in 1983 and in 1986.