

# RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 194 Feb 2017



## 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  
ECMC P.8  
Northern Branch P.9  
Treasurers Report .10  
2 Reg OC P.11  
Trip Down Memory Lane P.12  
Sappers IED Clearing P.13  
JT Bennett P.14  
2 Reg P.15  
Aussie Sappers P.16  
Last Post P.17  
Editor P.18



Real Sappers Receiving their Long Service year unknown

### 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](mailto: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.**

Photo taken about 2000hrs  
Wed 7 December 2016 at  
Taupo RSA.  
The occasion was Sapper  
Decade 1955-64



Left to Right:  
Front row: Dave Broome; Trevor King; Vail 'Hub' Hubner; John 'Dutchy' Visser; Bruce McDonald.  
Back row: John Petry; Peter Foster; Tom Harty; Noel Woodley; Lynn Smith; Manu Vincent



## A Quick Word from Vail Hubner

We seem to be making some progress with Decade Do's. In July, we had 17 youngish sappers attending Decade 1975-74 Do at Taupo RSA. Later in December another 14 older sappers turned up at Taupo for Decade 1955-64 Do. This contrasts with the 2015 and early 2016 Decade Do's where only a few attended. The trick appears to be RSVP. By getting a nucleus of keen sappers to put their hands up to attend, their list of names attracts others who want to meet those old mates. The ones who indicate they are going to be there know they have an 'out clause' in that if we don't reach the minimum 10 needed then the function will be cancelled.

Now for the hard yards, trying to get young sappers to Decade Do's. Most of them do things on Facebook. Some don't have email at all. About 50 guys who served in the early 2000s got themselves to New Plymouth on Sappers Day apparently using Facebook and not much else. Why would these young sappers want to pay a one off \$60 life membership to join the Sappers Association? Well, one thing that can't be organised on Facebook is food and paying for it. The Association has the resources to make finger food at functions free to members. But we would need to ask for a cover charge from non-members to pay for the food they eat.

## Up and Coming Events

### Decade Do,s

Decade 1975-84 Picton or Wellington 2019

### National RNZE Reunion

March 2018 In Wellington

### ERS Reunion 2017

6th—8th November 2017 in Christchurch

### 3 Branch Christchurch Papanui RSA

2nd Friday every even month Get together 1700hrs

### Sappers Association Skype AGM

26 March 2017 via Skype 1330hrs



The Annual General Meeting of the Sappers Association [NZ] Inc will be 1330 hours Sunday 26 March 2017 via Skype. Last year we set up Skype stations at Dunedin, Christchurch, Palmerston North, Tauranga, Auckland, Kerikeri and the Gold Coast. We need to do a similar effort again this year. I would like to improve the meeting discipline from the bit chaotic set up of last time. It is important that only one person is seen in the camera at each station. That person is either an office holder or branch committee member. If someone wishes to speak, he/she needs to stand up, walk to the computer, and sit down in front of the camera. We need to start getting the Skype station training going again each Sunday over the next six weeks. Volunteers are needed who have a laptop computer and cabling to hook up to a big screen at a local RSA or other venue to operate Skype. It is preferable these Skype masters are not on committee and are free to concentrate on making Skype work.

It is intended to have the next RNZE Reunion in Wellington in March 2018. The Engineer History book launch may have a ceremony at Parliament during the Reunion. We already have a Reunion Secretary in Invercargill. We now need a Reunion Treasurer who can come from anywhere in New Zealand providing he/she can operate Skype, email, and internet banking. And most important is finding a Reunion Chairperson who preferably resides in the Wellington area and can operate Skype, email, and internet banking.

Some appointments to think about that need replacements: I've promised the Honorary Treasurer he can stand down in March 2018, having done three and a half years on the job. I intend standing down as President in March 2019 which by then I would have done three and a half years also. It is my policy that those stepping up limit themselves to three years in the appointment. It is not supposed to be a life sentence.

Regards, Vail 'Hub' Hubner

President





## ERS Reunion 6-8 October 2017

### Pre Registration Warning

Friday 6 th Meet and Greet Rolleston Fire Station

Saturday 7th Semi Formal Dinner Wos – Sgt Mess (limited 200 pers )

Sunday 8th Planed activities and BBQ 3 ERS Burnham

Reunion Cost still to be confirmed

Further information contact:

Bruce McDonald 03318234 or email [dotandbruce@clear.net.nz](mailto:dotandbruce@clear.net.nz)

SSgt Jared Davidson at [JARED.DAVIDSON@NZDF.mil.nz](mailto:JARED.DAVIDSON@NZDF.mil.nz)



### Waioruru Military Camp Fire Brigade



NZFBI Council for 2016:  
From left: Jared Davidson, Scott Lanauze, John Klaphake, Quinn LeCheminant, George Verry (Secretary). Absent: Russell Postlewaight



## **ACTIVITY: South Island Earthquake- Engr Route Recon of SH70 (Inland KAIKOURA Route)**

**Task Org:** 3 Fd Sqn - LT Brosnan, SGT Sclater, CPL Charteris & LCPL Hodge.

**Mission / Purpose:** Engr Recon Team is to conduct a route recon of SH70 NLT 18 1300 Nov 16 in order to assess trafficability for NZ Army vehicles to deliver aid stores to KAIKOURA.

**Summary:** The Engr Recon Team were constituted at short notice on 17 Nov 16 to conduct a hasty mounted route recon of SH70 on the morning of 18 Nov 16. This was to provide an assessment on the feasibility of NZ Army vehicles travelling along SH70 to deliver aid stores.

Due to constraints around RNZAF and RNZN assets, the Engr Recon Team were made NZDF main effort in order to prove the route and provide a consistent course of action for Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand (HQJFNZ).

The route recon commenced at 0700, with one Pinzgauer and one MHOV HX-60 being supported by a NZTA rep. Travelling along severally damaged roads, with some areas reduced to one lane due to slips and drop-offs, the task was eventually achieved at 18 1200 Nov 16. The Engr Recon Team became the first elements from any govt agency to travel the complete length of SH70, post the earthquakes.

Due to HQJFNZ pre-empting success and relocating critical stores from the HMNZS CAN, which was berthed at LYTTLETON Harbour, onto Logistic assets destined for CULVERDEN/ KAIKOURA, the Engr Recon Team had one hour to produce a detailed report for follow on convoys to use. The team was able to achieve this with time to spare to provide a detailed and efficient report to be used for the operation. This report became the cornerstone document for the NZDF and NZTA relief efforts along SH70 for the remainder of the operation.

Upon completion of the route recon, the Engr Recon Team and their vehicles became the first military vehicles involved in distributing underslung aid stores throughout KAIKOURA.

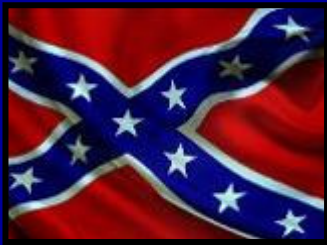


**Results:** Key outcomes achieved:

LT Brosnan discussing the delivery of aid with a logistician off-sider

1. SH70 became a feasible option to move stores into KAIKOURA via a land based option.
2. The NZDF relief efforts were not solely reliant on HMNZS CAN and RNZAF assets.
3. Engr assets provided the first NZ Army vehicles to distribute stores in KAIKOURA. It provided a tangible effect in the eyes of the community.





The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



Well we have had another good year all round. Anzac Day & a great Sappers day having being joined by 3Fd Sqn regular force Troops from Burnham, for the flag raising, (our own Flag) Rum & Coffee, then a Dinner that night with 71 Sappers & wives setting down to a very good meal all at our Sappers South Island home at the Papanui RSA. Also during the Year, we continued our two monthly get together which are well attended & there is always some new face that turn up for a chat/catch up & a few more stories. The Wives are gathering on the opposite month for a chat & lunch. This is also going along nicely. Why not join us if you are in the region or make a point of being there on the day. They are held on the second Friday of the even months of the year. As always there is Food & drinks available.

Bernie.

# RNZE Charitable Trust



**Assistance tasks** – SME has helped with covered several minor electrical tasks being completed during the report period including LED simulation and LED lighting repairs. Installation of hinges on all display cabinet doors has been completed, to provide easier access for refurbishment, etc. Still sorting a means of securing the cabinet doors. Final electrical (rewiring) work in the external container is still awaited. Monthly duty unit assistance requires chasing up on a regular basis, but any help provided is always appreciated;

Delivery of 3 x **C9 LSW weapons** is imminent, it is hoped that these will be provided via 2ER;

Funding (\$3,500) sourced from the Mainland Foundation has been redirected towards updating the **Sappers website** including the development of a new site, which is being “managed” by the Sappers Association Exec (Pres);

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;

Peter Cooke has now submitted seven draft half chapters of the **Corps History project** book and his latest progress report for Q3 has been received and circulated. He has made a further research visits to the ECMC since his last report. More information is provided in the progress report in sub-para bb. below;

A **request for assistance** has been made to CO 2ER for approval of release of Corps information pertaining to nominal rolls of serving RNZE pers and unclassified information relating to recent deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Timor L’este involving RNZE pers, for Peter Cooke to research. This will help with background for chapters in the Corps History manuscript covering contemporary operations in more recent times. CO 2ER advised that there were some early rolls from the 1990’s on “ATLA, possibly up until 2014. He would contact Peter directly with further advice and approval processes.



## 18 YEARS OF RNZE INSTRUCTOR SUPPORT TO US HUMANITARIAN DEMINING TRAINING CENTER COMES TO A CLOSE

In 1996 the infamous picture of Princess Diana walking through a minefield in Angola brought to forefront to the world the humanitarian effects of landmines, 18 months later the United Nations passed through one of the quickest ever resolutions to ban anti-personal landmines. That same year in 1998 NZDF posted its first RNZE Instructor to the United State Humanitarian Demining Training Centre (HDTC) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Ever since then the NZDF has been rotating a RNZE Warrant Officer on a non-operational posting to HDTC on a 2 yearly basis. These RNZE instructors, who with previous prerequisite demining and explosive remnants of war (ERW) experiences from deployments such as Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Bosnia and Lebanon, have been a vast source of knowledge and experience to the US Department of Security and Co-operation (DSCA) Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) program. After several years of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan the US Forces have by far the most operational "combat clearance" knowledge and experience of any nation however due to various laws and policies they are restricted to conducting any "hands on" humanitarian landmine or UXO clearance operations as part of their Security and Co-operation HMA Program.

At the initial beginning of the Training Center the unit consisted of several Multi-National Engineer Instructors including German, Canadian, British and Australian who over the years have slowly extracted from the Training Centre with the RNZE Instructor the only remaining Foreign Visiting Instructor remaining at the unit for the last 8 years including when the unit recently moved to Fort Lee, Virginia in 2014.

The time now however has also come for the RNZE Instructor to be withdrawn at the end of 2016 as the NZDF looks to re-orientate the funding of the position to other priority positions it wishes to participate in the US.

So what does HDTC actually do – well the unit's main role is to conduct Train the Training type courses for all branches of the US Forces and prepare them to go into countries with landmine, UXO and ammunition storage problems and assist those countries in building their own national capacity in these HMA programs. It focuses on humanitarian type operations based upon International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) for landmine and UXO's (ground and underwater) and International Technical Ammunitions Guidelines (ITAGs) for ammunition stockpile storage and destruction. The unit is also the focal point for all the HMA initiatives and programs in which the various US Combatant Commands from around the globe would like to participate. It also liaises with the US State Department on its political HMA Programs and see where it can leverage and/or assist at this level also.



So what did the RNZE Instructor do – as the only remaining military uniformed personnel in the unit, the RNZE Instructor, as the name suggests, provided instructor support mainly in the technical clearance operations side of the program, however given the NZ Army promotional background they are also well placed to provide input into the curriculum development, design processes and instructional techniques, as the majority of training is in the form of “train the trainer” missions. As the US Forces promotional system doesn’t focus on instructional techniques anything as good as the NZDF promotion system includes, this aspect is well received by the unit and the students that pass through the training center benefiting greatly from all that the RNZE Instructor experience brings to the table.

So where to from here – In his own words the director of the HDTC, Mr. Jon Green said, *“well if we haven’t extracted 18 years of demining experience out of the NZDF it’s our own fault”* but he also did say that the experience, technical knowledge and rank level that the RNZE Instructor brought to the training center will never be able to be replicated and that they have been very fortunate to have a RNZE Instructor for this length of time.

What has it meant for the RNZE Instructor – well who wouldn’t want to live in the USA with their family for 2 years (although looking forward to coming home) and have the opportunity for their family to assimilate into US society and everything “American” such as been able to have son travel to school on “yellow bus” and watch the “Trump v’s Clinton” elections battle evolve. RNZE Instructors over the past 18 years have been able to travel to some exotic locations including Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Okinawa, Spain, Laos, Kuwait, Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Colombia (to name but a few) all at US DoD expense. It is also an opportunity to get a different perspective on US training and management practices and network with other US “Sgt Maj” peer group and discuss some differences and some similarities in both our military cultures. It has without a doubt been a career highlight for all RNZE Instructors who have had the honor and privilege to serve in this position and it is regrettable that it couldn’t continue but as they say “all good things must come to an end”.

Submitted by WO2 Evan Windleborn, RNZE



*WO2 Windleborn performing an assessment on US EOD Forces conducting a one man landmine clearance drill during a Train the Trainer HMA “teach back” at Camp Ethan Allen, Vermont, USA*



*Training USMC Combat Engineers on the Vallon VMH3-CS metal detector at USMC Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan prior to their deployment to Thailand in support of US HMA program*



*“Breachers Up” Visit to the USMC Methods of Entry School at USMC Base Quantico, Virginia, USA to observe some live explosive breaching Combat Engineer training.*



## MINUTES OF THE 16<sup>th</sup> AGM OF THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] Inc.

Held at the Point Chevalier RSA at 1156 hrs Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**PRESENT:** Roger Gummer in chair including 8 Members and 3 Observers, 11 Total were present as per Appendix A.

**APOLOGIES:** 7 apologies as listed in Appendix A were accepted.

P Foster / V Hubner CARRIED

**SILENCE:** One minutes silence was observed for Sappers who had passed away during the year.

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> AGM**

The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM held 11 October 2015 were distributed and scrutinized, and then Resolved that they were a true record.

P Foster / R Gummer CARRIED

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Nil.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Roger Gummer presented his Chairman's report, which is reproduced in Appendix B.

Vail Hubner / Eddie Housham ACCEPTED

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Vail Hubner presented his Treasurer's report. The detail is reproduced in Appendix C.  
The 12 months summary is below:

Opening Balance as at 1 October 2015	\$7,880.04
Income 1 Oct 15 to 30 Sep 16	\$2,276.24
Expenditure 1 Oct 15 to 30 Sep 16	\$1,179.88
Closing Balance as at 30 September 2016	\$8,976.40
Surplus	\$1,096.36

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The following were elected onto the committee:

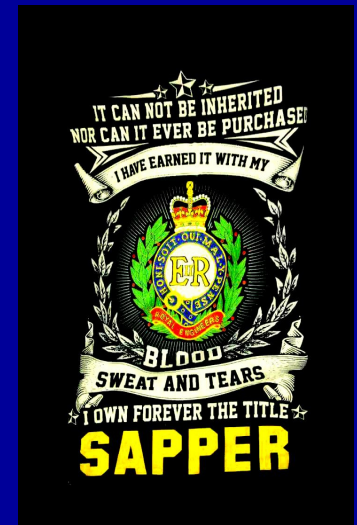
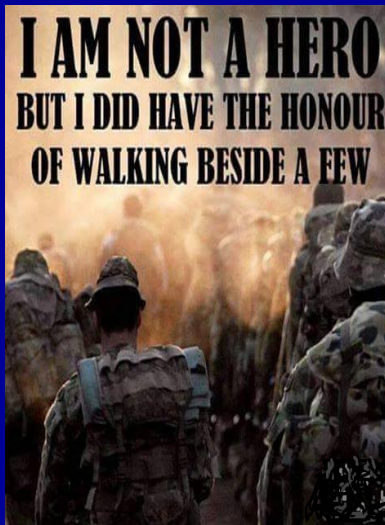
<u>Position</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Nominated / Seconder</u>
Chairman	Roger Gummer	V Hubner / E Housham
Secretary / Treasurer	Vail Hubner	R Gummer / P Foster
Committee	Peter Foster	V Hubner / R Gummer
Committee	Arvind 'Solly' Solomon	V Hubner / P Foster
Committee	David Arnup	P Foster / R Gummer



## Association Treasurer's Report

From a financial point of view there's very little to report as there's been little activity. We are in good shape with another residual payment coming through, we are still sorting out the cost of the new website.

As for us the southern lads there's been the annual shoot we have with the local fire brigade out at Outram (just outside of Dunedin), a regular competition we've had going for a bout 10 years, We lost this year round and afterwards we all enjoyed beers and a BBQ. A most enjoyable time was had by all.







## Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

Sappers,

it is a privilege to be given the opportunity to contribute to the Sappers Newsletter and one that I am keen to continue into the future. Having recently returned to the Regiment and with the recent posting cycle I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank LTCOL Paul Hayward and LTCOL Pete Curran as well as the wider team for their stewardship during their tenures. They have both moved to different pastures, but the Regiment and Corps appreciate their efforts which have ensured that we are positioned extremely well within the wider Army.

From the current Regiment and wider Corps perspective, 2017 has started like many other years, geographically spread across the globe doing a vast array of roles but Sappers continue to represent us well. The currently serving Corps is branching into social media as well, to compliment the Sappers of New Zealand Facebook presence to enable current Sappers and their families to stay connected with what we are doing. I am also on Twitter to pass on my personal observations of our successes and can be found at @CO\_2ER(NZ).

At the end of 2016 I sent a message across the currently serving Corps as we often get so busy in the business we forget to reflect of where we have come from. I would like to share that as a start point and look forward to contributing in future newsletters to tell you about our truly remarkable people.

*Sappers of the RNZE,*

*It has been another busy year for the Corps which has been characterised by multiple deployments, both at home and abroad, training activity and support to the wider NZDF. Sappers are serving right across the NZDF and are representing themselves, the Corps and you extremely well.*

*There have been some major achievements within the wider Corps through the year as well. We have all but completed a Combat Engineer Trade review, the Emergency Responder trade review is ongoing and have almost completed the Seaworthiness requirements for small boating. The Combat Engineer trade review recognises the technical speciality inherent in modern combat engineering and provides technical pathways for the trade members. These are no small achievements and the hard work undertaken by many members on these projects should be congratulated.*

*I would like to congratulate those who have been recently recognised for operational deployments through the awarding of medals, promotions, completing apprenticeships, long service and a myriad of other awards. Well done.*

*This time of year is also a time to reflect on those who are no longer physically with us, but will always remain part of our Corps fabric. The sad passing of Sapper Danny Jordan is a reminder of this and when we think of absent friends, I am sure you will also think of him and his family.*

*As we close 2016, RNZE is leading the way, preparing a composite Troop for an Engineer deployment to the Sinai Peninsular in 2017, we have members currently deployed to the Sinai, Iraq and Antarctica. Members of the Corps continue to represent themselves, the Army and New Zealand proudly. Sappers of the present are truly living up to the benchmark laid by our predecessors.*

*2017 will be another year with a variety of tasks. Whether it is successful deployments, conduct of trade reviews or Exercise Southern Katipo 2017, we will continue to demonstrate our agility and flexibility as well as our Corps motto - Ubique. Our strength remains the sum of our parts, that is each of us performing our roles to the highest professional standards that allow us to achieve.*

*I hope you all have had a good Christmas break and enjoyed some time with your families or loved ones - it is a well deserved. I look forward to serving with you again in the new year.*

*Kind regards*

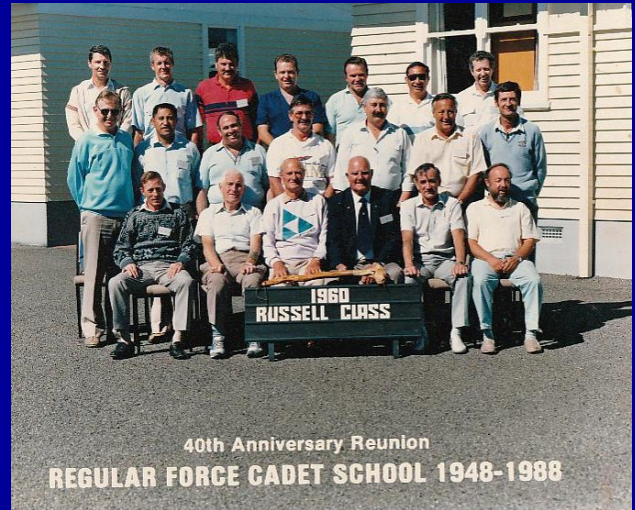
*Terry McDonald*

*CO 2 Engr Regt / RNZE Regt Col*

## Trip Down Memory Lane

### The NZ Regular Force Cadets

During the period of the "Cold War" between 1948 and 1991, an average of over 5000 New Zealand youths vied each year for entry into the Army's elite RF Cadet School or the "Club" as it was colloquially known. Less than 3% of those who applied to join, made the grade. The Army accepted them as young as 15 into its ranks offering continued education, trade training and apprenticeships. Most would go on at age 18 to become the backbone of the New Zealand Army serving with distinction in Korea, Borneo, Malaya, Vietnam, Bosnia, Afghanistan, East Timor, Iraq and other regions of conflict as Senior Non - Commissioned Officers (NCOs). A few would earn commissions as officers. Some went on to serve with the SAS and as key personnel of other Regular Force units.



Today they can be found in leadership roles in all aspects of business, social services, government and politics following their successful careers in the Army and other arms of the services, both at home and abroad. Coinciding with the end of the cold war the School closed its doors in 1991.





# Sappers IED Clearing Afghanistan



An improvised explosive device (IED) is a bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional military action. It may be constructed of conventional military explosives, such as an artillery round, attached to a detonating mechanism. IEDs are commonly used as roadside bombs.



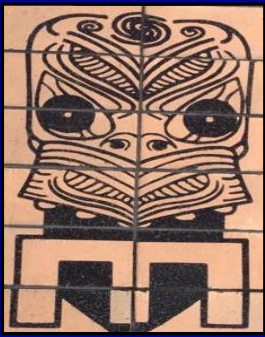


## *John Thomas Bennett*



British Empire Medal (BEM) John Thomas Bennett 36687. Warrant Officer Second Class. Royal NZ Engineers 198 Works Section NZ Gazette Number 37 dated 25 June 1970 (QB Honours June 1970) CITATION Temporary Warrant Officer Bennett served with the Royal New Zealand Air Force from 1942 until 1945. He enlisted in the New Zealand Regular Force on 15 September 1952 with the rank of Sapper and was posted to Southern District Construction Troop as a Carpenter. He progressed through the ranks and as a Sergeant and Staff Sergeant was Foreman on various works projects in Southern Military District. During this period he also carried out training with 2nd Works Section Royal New Zealand Engineers as a Foreman of Works Construction. In November 1967 he was posted to the Logistic Support Element of New Zealand V Force in South Vietnam for three months where as Foreman of Works he was responsible for the construction of base facilities. By his drive, energy and understanding he was responsible for the early and successful completion of a major construction task. Warrant Officer Bennett was again posted to South Vietnam in December 1969 and attached to Detachment 198 Works Section Royal Australian Engineers where as Assistant Clerk of Works he was able to devote his wide experience to the maintenance of Australian and New Zealand base facilities. During his service he has displayed the qualities required of a career soldier. His loyalty, drive and initiative during his period in South Vietnam and latterly as Construction Supervisor have produced an excellent works organisation within Southern District Construction Troop. He has worked long hours to improve his knowledge of construction and to ensure the smooth functioning of projects. Although a married man with children he cheerfully undertook to return to South Vietnam for a second tour of unaccompanied duty, which is typical of his sense of duty and responsibility. Warrant Officer Bennett has served his country well and has brought credit both on himself and the Royal New Zealand Engineers.





**Handover of NZDC WO to-day, fm WO1 Hucker, RNZE to WO1 Waitere, RNZE. WO1 Hucker then commissioned & is now CAPT Hucker! Congrats to you both!**



**Great to promote CAPT Kevin Fee to Acting Major today, currently the OC 3 Fd Sqn which includes combat engineers and emergency responders well deserved and congratulations**

**Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment & wider Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers**







# Sappers Last Post

David Hotop

Craig Steele

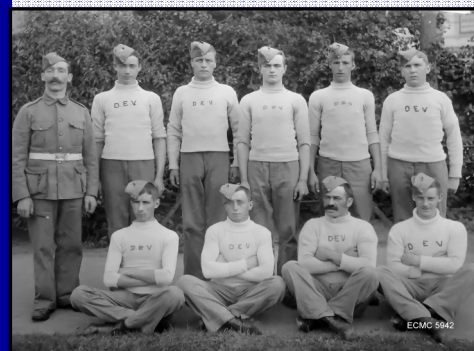
The NZ Defence Force supports a number of major operations around the world. Currently there are personnel deployed on 14 operations and UN missions across ten countries, including:

- **Afghanistan** (8 personnel)
- **Antarctica** (8 personnel)
- **Iraq** (106 personnel)
- **Middle East** (8 personnel)
- **Sinai** (26 personnel)
- **South Korea** (5 personnel)
- **South Sudan** (3 personnel)
- **United Arab Emirates** (11 personnel)

At any time there are many other Defence Force personnel on other overseas activities and exercises.



The RSA in New Zealand was formed 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.



ECMC 5942 DEV bridge building team came to Christchurch to compete against the CEV



ECMC 5924 CEV at Bottle Lake, Sumner, towing a bridge pier, Easter Camp

## The last word for this Newsletter 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](mailto: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](http://www.sappers.org.nz)

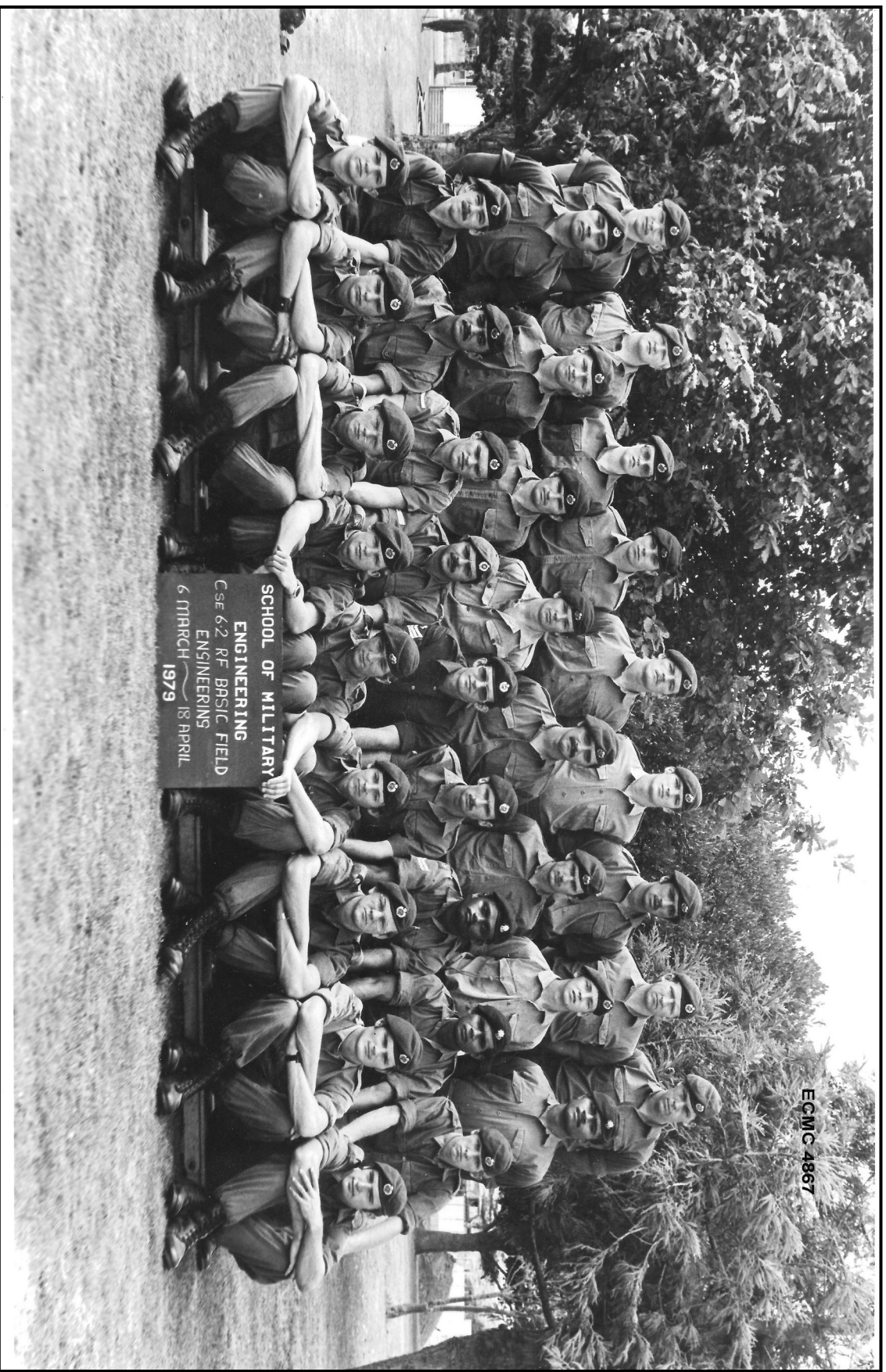
From Iraq to Antarctica, and many countries in between, 220 Christmas parcels from the RSA have been opened by grateful New Zealand Defence Force recipients.

The 76-year-old tradition saw over 40 different food and hygiene items packed by schoolchildren, veterans, and store managers from Countdown Supermarkets,

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Duncan, Armistice Education Officer with the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission monitoring the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea, says opening his package put a big smile on his face.

“When you're so far from home there's just nothing better than a little reminder that people back in New Zealand are thinking about us, and appreciate the challenging work we do. My favourite items in the box were the Christmas Cards from the RSA, Mt Cook School and About Kidz Oscar, and the Marmite. You can't get Marmite here and the cards strongly reminded me of home and the families we will be missing.

ECMC 4867



Can anyone HELP with some names to this photo for the ECMC collection.  
Contact Clas Chamilan @ [Clas.Chamberlain@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Clas.Chamberlain@xtra.co.nz)