

RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 196 July 2017



Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald

Commanding Officer, 2 Engineer
Regiment



Message from Vail Hubner President NZ Sappers Association

Since I became President in 2015 I have been looking for a better website than the one we currently have. Our existing website is hard to keep up to date, prone to outages and insecure. In early 2016 I put together a rough draft of what I thought the Association, in conjunction with the RNZE Charitable Trust and 2 Engineer Regiment, would need in a new website. The draft requirements plus additions were:



Each Association member could log in to the website and update his/her contact details.

Each stake holder, Association, Branches, RNZE CT, Regiment, could log in and independently update their part of the website.

Office holders would be able to independently search on post code [local get togethers], year joined [decade do's], overseas deployments [reunions], annual camps [TF reunions], units served [reunions] etc.

Each Association member would be able to select as many other members as they like to be informed of their admission to hospital [send a card] or their funeral [probably attend].

We had a young TF chap willing to put the website together pro bono [professional services for free] last year. Unfortunately, this arrangement fell through due to his company being sold and new owners insisting on auditing procedures. Lately we, together with 2 Engineer Regiment, have been in contact with another IT company. It appears that website by itself will do 1 and 2 above. For 3 and 4 above a program called ALO would be needed. Both these systems cost money, about \$6,000 each. The Association's net worth is \$57,000 at present. I think we can do the website if all stakeholders pitch in with set up costs and monthly hosting [both IT companies were \$80 or \$90 per month]. The ALO part would be of use to only the Association. Having lost \$50,000 odd in the global financial crash circa 2010, we are not able to pay for ALO. So, at this stage I feel it should go on the back burner. Pity though, I think 3 above would be an incentive for the young sappers to join the Association.

The RNZE Reunion looks like being June 2018, subject to the Corps History book launch at Parliament and 2 Engineer Regiment arrangements. This will mean having an AGM in March via Skype. At our last Executive Council meeting we agreed on having postal/email members vote this year to amend the constitution to allow for a full members AGM via Skype.

We are still looking for a Wellington based Chairperson to head the RNZE Reunion held next year. Also, our existing Honorary Treasurer will have completed three and a half years by March next year. We would like someone to step up and replace him, say for three years. And its time for a member to consider replacing me in March 2019. The road to this is to become Vice President in March or June next year in order to get a handle on things for the actual President's job the year after.

Regards, Vail 'Hub' Hubner

Whats on and Where

Decade 1975-84 Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

15th June 2018 In Petone Wellington

ERS Reunion 6-8 October 2017

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

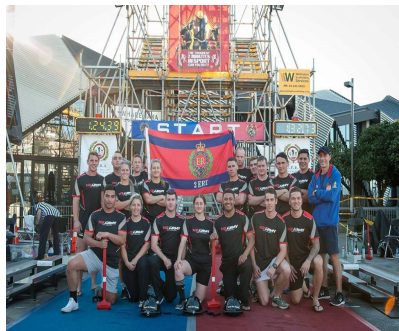
Reunion Cost still to be confirmed

Further information contact:

Bruce McDonald 03318234 or
email do-
tandbruce@clear.net.nz

SSgt Jared Davidson at JARED.DAVIDSON@NZDF.mil.nz





On a brilliantly sunny Wellington waterfront an 18-strong team of Army fire-fighters showed what they were made of today as they took part in the gut-busting United Fire Brigade Association Combat Challenge. The team, made up of fire fighters from Waiouru, Linton and Burnham, including four women, did well and were crowd favourites as they toiled through the strenuous contest. The women, all young sappers, entered the competition for the first time this year and did particularly well, Sappers Molly Lincoln, Petra Dye-Hutchinson, Kelsey McAsey and Jordan Bean proved themselves by matching New Zealand's best women fire fighters with a relay time of 2.15.63. The Army's male fire fighters did well too, with many achieving personal best times for the tasks they were required to complete. Although the sun was shining and the crowd cheering, those tasks were no walk in the park. They consisted of climbing a six-storey tower carrying a length of 70mm 19kg flaked hose; hoisting a 70mm hose coil six storeys; chopping using a 4kg shot hammer to drive a beam 1.5 metres; extending a charged length of 45mm hose to knock down a disc, and dragging a lifesized dummy a distance of 30.5m. The tasks simulated what is involved in everyday fire fighting. While the challenge had an almost carnival atmosphere, there was a sombre side for the Army team too. A large photograph of Sapper James Maaka, 25, was pinned to the tent where the soldiers rested in between competition events. James, the team's friend and colleague, was to have taken part in the challenge alongside them. He died in a paragliding accident in Christchurch's Port Hills last month. As well as observing a minute's silence, the 17 Army fire fighters dedicated their efforts in his honour, in a tribute fittingly called "Mahi for Maaka". Sappers Molly Lincoln, Petra Dye-Hutchinson, Kelsey McAsey and Jordan Bean proved themselves by matching New Zealand's best women fire fighters with a relay time of 2.15.63. The Army's male fire fighters did well too, with many achieving personal best times for the tasks they were required to complete. Although the sun was shining and the crowd cheering, those tasks were no walk in the park. They consisted of climbing a six-storey tower carrying a length of 70mm 19kg flaked hose; hoisting a 70mm hose coil six storeys; chopping using a 4kg shot hammer to drive a beam 1.5 metres; extending a charged length of 45mm hose to knock down a disc, and dragging a lifesized dummy a distance of 30.5m. The tasks simulated what is involved in everyday fire fighting. While the challenge had an almost carnival atmosphere, there was a sombre side for the Army team too. A large photograph of Sapper James Maaka, 25, was pinned to the tent where the soldiers rested in between competition events. James, the team's friend and colleague, was to have taken part in the challenge alongside them. He died in a paragliding accident in Christchurch's Port Hills last month. As well as observing a minute's silence, the 17 Army fire fighters dedicated their efforts in his honour, in a tribute fittingly called "Mahi for Maaka".



Welcome to the 2017 Army Fire Service Reunion.

Attached is the basic outline of the weekend. We hope you can join us and catch up with some old and not so old work mates / colleagues.

Basic programme:

Friday.

1500 to 2200. Registration at the Rolleston Fire Station, Brookside Rd Rolleston. Turn off SH1 at the Rolly Inn.

The station will be open from 1500 for registration and meet and greet, there will be a cash bar from about 1600 with finger food from 1800.

Saturday.

0930 Wigram Air Force Museum.

1145 Lunch at the Woolston Working Mens club.

1245 Ferrymead Heritage Park and Hall of Flame (Fire Museum).

1830 Semi Formal Dinner at the Burnham Camp Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess. Dress code "Planters". Dress pants, shirt and tie, Jacket optional.

Sunday.

0930 Christchurch International Airport Fire Service visit and display.

1200 Lunch / static display Burnham Camp Fire Station.

1500 Finish.

Here is a list of some alternative activities for the partners if they don't wish to attend the formal activities.

Chch tour of the rebuild / quake damaged area, Restart mall visit and city tram ride, Riccarton Sunday market, Antarctic centre and other Christchurch attractions.

<http://.christchurchnz.com/what-to-see-and-do/listings/rebuild-tours> <http://www.restart.org.nz>
www.riccartonmarket.co.nz <http://www.iceberg.co.nz> <http://welcomeaboard.co.nz>

Some transport will be available over the weekend and this will be finalised once we have numbers and accommodation addresses of the people attending. Please advise of flight times if you require transport to and from the airport. If you are unsure of your travel details when submitting your form, please resubmit it once your travel is confirmed.

We are selling a reunion souvenir coin similar to the one available at the 2012 reunion. One side has the NZ Army crest and the other has the current Army Fire Service logo along with the date.

Accommodation is up to individual delegates to arrange. Below is some of the accommodation available in the general area we will be visiting and running transport to and from.

Golden Mile Motel and Tavern, Templeton. www.thegoldenmile.co.nz 03-349 6153.

Racecourse motel and Motor Lodge, Upper Riccarton. www.racecoursehotel.co.nz 03-342 7150.

Rakaia River Holiday Park and Motels www.rakaiariverholidaypark.co.nz 08003027257.

Rolleston Highway Motels www.rhmotel.co.nz 03-347 2326.

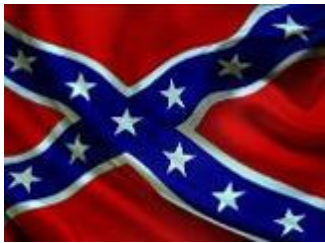
We will E mail out the final details of the weekend once we have final numbers.

If you have any enquiries don't hesitate to contact any of the organising committee.

Bruce McDonald, 0272605079. Cam Kenyon, 0277575641. Glenn Cockburn, 0274444421.

Greg Hughes, 0211936490. Jared Davidson, 0276712789. Rick Coburn, 0277428074.

Or E mail Glenn at stay@rakaiariverholidaypark.co.nz



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 3130305 George Jason Smith 03 3124844
Brian McTurk 03 9818291 Owen Phillips 022 1949900 Norm Smith 03 3481562 Jack Blyth 03 3543199



Members of 3 Branch
RNZE get together at
Papanui RSA

Come and join us 2nd
Friday on the even
months Feb-April-Jun-
Aug-Oct -Dec

1630hrs onwards nib-
bles provided .

11 Aug 2017

8 Dec 2017

9 Feb 2018

13 Apr 2018

8 Jun 2018

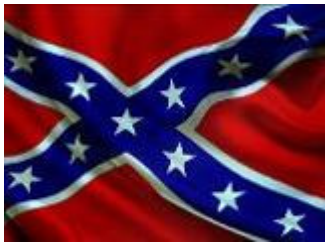


2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List recipients are:

To receive the New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD):

- Staff Sergeant Tina Kathleen Grant, RNZAMC For services to the New Zealand Defence Force
- Brigadier Anthony Bryan (Ants) Howie, ONZM For services to the New Zealand Defence Force
- Squadron Leader Nicholas Michael Pedley, RNZAF For services to the New Zealand Defence Force
- Major Charmaine Maurita Tate, RNZAMC For services to the New Zealand Defence Force
- Major Andrew James Thornton, RNZALR For services to the New Zealand Defence Force

The New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration (DSD) recognises distinguished military service by regular, territorial and reserve members of the New Zealand Defence Force, including command and leadership and service in an operational environment, or in support of operations.



3 Branch Get togethers

These are informal gatherings which are being well supported; we hope to see new faces turning up each time. These are held at the South Island Sappers HQs, the Papanui RSA. Any time after 1700hrs, on the second Friday of the even months of the year, See the dates below, Food is available, as are Drinks. Come along and see who turns up.

On the following months

08 August	Friday Night	Get together
15 October	Sunday Sappers Day, Raising of the Flag & Buffet. Papanui RSA	
08 December	Friday Night	Get together
09 February 18	Friday Night	Get together
13 April	Friday Night	Get together
08 June	Friday Night	Get together
10 August	Friday Night	Get together

Mark these dates on your Calendars as a reminder.

Sappers Day 2017

This year we will celebrate at the Papanui RSA with the Flag Raising at 0930hrs followed by the normal wee spot & then a Buffet at around 1230hrs. We are once again being joined by the serving Sappers from Burnham. Come along & join in. Catch up with what the Sappers are doing today or may be tell some of the tales from past. The Cost will be \$35.00ea

Sappers Wives / Partners Luncheon

It's hard to believe it is over two years ago we started our 2 monthly luncheons. It has been a great success with mainly small numbers of us meeting for a drink, chat and lunch. We welcome anyone who would like to join in. Come along to our next luncheon on Tuesday 04 July at the Papanui RSA at 1200hrs. If you have any enquires please ring me, Joyce Walsh Phone 3423272

Then on the following months

12 September 2017	Luncheon	14 November	Luncheon
09 January 2018	Luncheon	13 March	Luncheon
08 May	Luncheon	10 July	Luncheon

Quarry Operations

By SPR Apirana Hemi-Horne

The quarry provides material for the construction of the Rogers Spur track and other roading tasks throughout the Waiohuru Military Training Area. The material was extracted from Quarries No.01 and No.04, under the command of Sergeant Daniel Fenton. As a plant operator I am involved in a number of tasks, from stockpiling to loading trucks. A power screen was hired for the use in No.04 quarry to separate blast rock, collected from the face of the quarry, into graded rock. An average day in the quarry involves removing blast rock from the face to be screened into different grades of material. Once the material is screened, it is then stockpiled in accordance with the different grades, and from there it is loaded onto trucks for distribution to task sites. Over the construction period we learnt many skills, including risk identification, machine operation, and machine maintenance. The Basic Plant Course the Plant Operators undertake at the School of Military Engineering provided us with the knowledge to complete these tasks, after developing an understanding of the machine and how to operate it effectively. I believe that being in the quarry under the supervision of Sgt Fenton, further increased my experience and knowledge of different plant equipment and the general aspects of how a quarry is managed and functions



Rifles from a new \$59 million weapons package have fired their first shots at Waiouru Military Camp.

The MARS-L rifle, bought to replace the old Steyr rifle, recently arrived in New Zealand and on Thursday a group of soldiers at Waiouru were among the first to train with them.

More than 9000 weapons are set to be rolled out throughout the New Zealand Defence Force as part of a \$59m package, which includes the rifles, advanced optical sights, grenade launchers and support and simulation equipment.

They would be rolled out across all three defence services, but 1st Battalion was on its way to being the first unit to use them in service.

Each weapon could be personalised and adjusted to suit the individual, including becoming ambidextrous.

Looking after their equipment was important and the first thing soldiers were taught was how to pull the rifle apart, put it back together and clean it.

"This weapon system is a leading edge weapon system in the world.

"We have done extensive testing before purchasing."

It was Lance Corporal Byron Baremau's first day firing the MARS-L.

"So far, shooting it, it's nice to shoot, minimal kickback, which is something we look for in a rifle."

Having used the Steyr, Baremau said the training sessions were more about changing their muscle memory from the old rifle to the new.

The detachable grenade launcher was a great feature, as was the ambidextrous controls, he said.

The MARS-L would be rolled out across the country over the next 18 months.



MARS-L features

- 40mm grenade launcher
- Ambidextrous controls
- 600m range
- Every rifle is fitted with a four power day sight, a red-dot zero magnification sight for close quarter battle work.
- Upper receiver is made of one piece of aluminium so the hand guard is not attached to the barrel.
The stock can be adjusted for people who require a different length of pull, or adjusted to fit when wearing body armour.

Maj Colin Moffat Douglas



Served in North Africa and Italy from August 1943, including being wounded in action On 6 June 1944, wounded by a German 88mm shell fragment in an action near Florence, Italy

Returned to NZ on SS Orion, arriving Lyttelton on 09 February 1946.

Served with the UN as a Military Observer initially in Damascus and the Golan heights, later in the UN base in Tiberias and subsequently the UN HQ in Jerusalem. His time there included the Yom Kippur War. A notable mission during this time was the introduction of Russian Officers to the Observer role, his place in these very sensitive negotiations and his signature was on the agreement documents alongside those of the Israeli Prime minister and the Syrian President.

He led a team of Army Engineers to rescue survivors and recover bodies from the Tangiwai railway disaster.

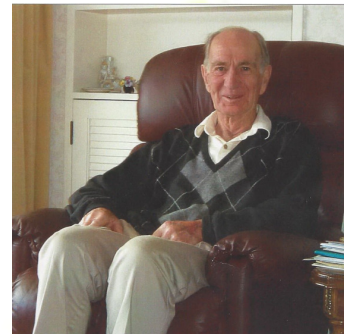
When a visiting RAF Vulcan bomber with damaged undercarriage landed at Ohakea and veered off the runway in the soft earth, Colin originated and undertook the job of lifting the aircraft with airbags to allow steel plates to be placed under the wheels to be towed clear. This was an innovation which received high praise for the RNZE in NZ and the UK.

- 1939-1945 Italy Star
- War Medal 1939-1945
- New Zealand War Service Medal
- New Zealand Operational Service Medal
- Korea Medal (EIIR)
- United Nations Medal for Korea

Colin's Posting included

- CO Southern Army Region
- UN Peacekeeping
- 2 I/C Linton Camp

Colin died Levin, Manawatu-Wanganui, New Zealand 5 August 2011 aged 89 yrs





Sappers from 3 Field Squadron have just returned from Exercise Black Tempest supporting 2/1 RNZIR during a live fire combined arms activity. They provided close support Engineer effects to the infantry, explosive and non explosive method of entry as well as wider demolitions.



Association Treasurer's Report

SAPPERS ASSOCIATION [NZ] INCORPORATE



Income & Expenditure 00 Account 2017 01/03/2017 - 31/05/2017

Opening Balance 4,167.77

INCOME

Fees / Subscriptions	\$	60.00
Donations	\$	-
Association Supplies	\$	-
Goods & Services Tax	\$	-
Miscellaneous	\$	-
Interest	\$	-

CAPITAL MOVEMENT

Into Exe acnt BNZ	\$	-
Into Exe acnt Distressed	\$	-

Total Inwards \$ 60.00

EXPENDITURE

Postage & Stationery	\$	25.00	Courier
Website	\$	207.00	
Memorials	\$	-	
Miscellaneous	\$	300.00	Setup of Eftpos

CAPITAL MOVEMENT

Out of Exe acnt BNZ	\$	379.17
Total Outwards	\$	911.17

Closing Balance \$ 3,316.60

BNZ Investments

Certificate Number	Start	Mature	Months	Interest	Balance
57617561-03010	04-05-17	04-06-17	1.00	0.75%	\$ 3,430.09
57617561-03005	08-12-16	08-12-18	9.00	3.40%	\$ 11,251.48
57617561-03007	08-06-15	08-06-17	24.00	4.43%	\$ 10,500.00
57617561-03008	08-01-16	08-06-18	18.00	3.40%	\$ 7,500.00
57617561-03009	08-06-16	08-06-18	24.00	3.45%	\$ 7,500.00
Total					\$ 40,181.57

Branch Balances

Reunion	165.81
Northern branch	8950.66
Exec	3,316.60
3rd RNZE	1657.25
Dunedin branch	225.35
Wellington branch	487.51
Fire Service branch	2043.41
Eftpos a/c	300.00
Total	\$ - \$ 13,829.99

Totals	\$ -
Exec	\$ 3,316.60
Invest	\$ 40,181.57
Branches	\$ 13,829.99
Total	\$ 57,328.16



Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

Greetings Sapper's,

We have had a very busy quarter we are half way though the year already and it is good to take stock of where we have been, where we are and where we are heading as we step into the collective and combined training period.

The last quarter has seen a subtle shift into April of the normal cyclone season with the Regiment preparing for both TC DONNA and TC ELLA, while a deployment did not eventuate, our team led by LCPL Jobling on OP CASTOR experienced it first hand in NEW CALEDONIA. The annual deployment of personnel on OP CASTOR went well, if not a little prolonged due to weather, and demonstrated again that our relationships in the Pacific with both the FANC and Vanuatu are strong. We also welcomed back the team from OP FARAD SURGE who completed the force protection upgrades in MFO South Camp. The team represented themselves, the Corps and NZDF as a whole really well. While there will always be lessons learnt from these experiences, that our team executed and achieved their mission is excellent.

At home we have finished a sub-unit exercise period, with 2 Fd Sqn completing EX POSEIDON in Kaipara and Tauranga. This exercise was two roles, it was a boating exercise where the team achieved their RYA Bar Crossing qualification which is a requirement for the new Combat Engineer trade model. It was also a demolitions exercise, enabling the team to practice the core Sapper skills. 25 ESS completed EX BULLS CHALLENGE in Waiohuru and Linton. This tested Sections and Troops in the execution of their core Sapper skills, culminating in a 'longest day' event. As you can imagine, the weather in Waiohuru was in itself testing, but it was good to have Sections formed and delivering on tasks. 3 Fd Sqn completed EX BLACK TEMPEST which involved the provision of close Engineer support to 2/1 RNZIR. They conducted Explosive Method of Entry (EMOE) support to the infantry as well as search and a reserve demolition to support their Battle Handling Exercises (BHE). Again, we have been out consolidating our core Sapper skills and supporting the Land Component to ensure we can deliver our tasks on operations.

Looking ahead, for the next few months, the Unit is consolidating in Linton for maintenance periods but also the Corps Conference and Corps Sports. Prior to the Corps Conference we will be conducting Junior Leadership training to follow up on some of the lessons identified during the sub unit training. The RSM and I firmly believe that leadership underpins our Corps strength, to invest in this, in you, is key. The Corps Conference will be a chance to update on changes coming or occurring, but also look to our future and why we have laid the path for the future we have. Corps Sports will follow with a chance to enjoy each other's company as well as compete for bragging rights and trophies. We will then launch into battle preparations for EX UBIQUE, which is being reinvigorated to certify Engineer collective training METL prior to undertaking combined arms METL certification. We will also have teams away embedded with 3 CER during EX TALISMAN SABRE 17 which includes Engr recon, and the Mobility Support Detachment (MSD) with HMEE and GCS.

There have been a few other things going on that you also need to be aware of:

1. **Engineer Trades Review:** I am extremely pleased to advise you all that the Army Management Board has approved the six Trade reviews that were presented to them. This is a milestone that few Corps have achieved, we have set the bar.

2. **REM 17:** As a result of the trades review, RNZE trades had a REM review conducted on them as well. I am pleased to advise that largely the recommendations presented by the REM panel were accepted by CDF. The specifics of the REM and its impact on the various trades will be briefed at both the Junior Leadership training and the Corps Conference.

3. **Army Experimentation:** 25 ESS have been undertaking experimentation using a deployable steel framing machine. This has been demonstrated to Army senior leadership and it is supported in principle. Pending the outcome of the experiment, there will be work going on bidding to win the resources to procure this capability. Any procurement would also include the development of a number of multifunctional designs that can be used both domestically or in support of expeditionary operations (either in support of own forces or a host nation). This would include timber / steel designs with completed QS, ROC, troops to task, construction timeline etc to enable us to better support NZDF and NZ government objectives as a whole.

4. **H&S:** You will see a change in our orders of dress from 01 Jul, that is 2 Engr Regt adopting industry standards for 'long longs' in specific workplaces. It is in essence on sub unit yards, construction sites (whether it is a combat engineer, vertical or horizontal construction area). This change is about keeping everyone safe at work so we remain fit to fight off shore. Leaders will have the ability to make adjustments to the safety ensemble, however this is the exception rather than the rule. It is a change to how we are doing business, however it is being done with our physical safety in mind.

5. **Secondments.** Both 25 ESS and 2 Fd Sqn have been doing some work with both Downer and DoC respectively on secondment. We are working to improve training opportunities, particularly at the junior rank levels, in order to better prepare our team for deployment. While this is in its infancy, it is working well at the moment. There may well be more opportunities in the future.

I would also like to congratulate a few members of the Unit and wider Corps. You are all working to achieve outstanding results (you only need to see the current Army News to know that!), however there are some mentions I would like to make, in no particular order:

1. The myriad of new parents in the Corps and Unit – congratulations!
2. 3 Fd Sqn – the work at the Nelson Memorial was very well received and a good project delivered to a high standard.
3. The team who participated in the Credentials Parade at Government House in April.
4. LCPL Manu, 2 ER QStore - who did extremely well on his Senior Supply course.
5. PTE Mayes, 2 ER QStore - for her selection in the NZRFU Womens 7's Team.
6. CPL Thompson, 2 Fd Sqn – for his Top Student award on the SNCO Course.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of SPR James MAAKA. It was a terrible accident, however the way the Unit and Corps pulled together to ensure one of our Sappers was farewelled is testament to our resilience and professionalism. It truly represented the Corps in the best way possible and I know James' family appreciated it.

We Sappers continue to strive for excellence and the work that is going on right now across the Corps is proof of this. Well done and keep it up.

I Nga Wahi Katoa



Imagine standing metres from a high explosive charge blasting a hole through a wall? SME (NZ) completing Explosive Method of Entry course.

Trip Down Memory Lane

OPERATION CROWN

LOENG NOK THA, MUKDAHAN, NORTH EAST THAILAND

MID 1960's

As a signatory of South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO), Britain had an obligation to assist Allies in the Far East.

In early 1960's, the Americans (also a signatory to SEATO) were becoming increasingly embroiled in preventing the march of Communism in Laos and Vietnam, they requested that Britain assist in their crusade.

In February 1963, it was proposed that Britain construct an Airfield at Loeng Nok Tha, near Mukdahan in Thailand, as part of the American's Special Logistic Aid to Thailand (SLAT). The proposal was accepted and given the code name "Operation Crown".

These Units were involved in the construction of that airfield:

11 Independent Field Squadron RE

34 Field Squadron RE

59 Field Squadron RE

54 Corps Field Park Squadron RE - Detachment

84 Survey Squadron RE - Detachment

302 Postal Unit RE - Detachment

2 Plant Trp, 2 Construction Sqn Royal New Zealand Engineers

2 Troop of 7 Field Sqn, Royal Australian Engineers

5001 RAF Airfield Construction Unit

ACC,

16th Commonwealth Field Ambulance RAMC,

RAOC ,

RASC (RCT) + 6 RA Drivers

REME,

The airfield with its 5,000ft long air strip, control-tower, airfield fencing and lighting was completed in time for an official opening ceremony on 17 June 1965, but work continued on improving the landing strips long after the ceremony.

After the airfield was completed a second project, to build a road north west from Loeng Nok Tha to a village (Ban Khok Klang), was started in December 1966 by 34 Field Squadron RE, who were relieved by 59 Field Squadron RE in August 1967, who in turn were relieved by 11 Field Squadron RE. The road was completed in April 1968 by a composite workforce

Trip Down Memory Lane

Some of RNZE personnel deployed on Operation Crown

Lt R T Bennett RNZE Troop 2 IC

SSgt K A Radford RNZE Foreman

LCpl K Evans RNZE Clerk

Sgt I W Chudleigh RNZE Tech. Storemen

Cpl T T Mihaere RNZE Plant Operator

LCpl F W Cheyne RNZE Plant Operator

LCpl J J Campbell RNZE Plant Operator

Spr J H Hendrick RNZE Plant Operator

Spr A R Marsden RNZE Plant Operator

Spr S G Mills RNZE Plant Operator

LCpl A R Harrison RNZE Plant Operator

Spr S S Meadows RNZE Plant Operator

LCpl R L Buchanan RNZE



Review of the Operation of the Veterans' Support Act

Professor Ron Paterson has been appointed to lead a review of the operation of the Veterans' Support Act 2014.

Professor Paterson is a Professor of Law at Auckland University, and a former Health and Disability Commissioner and Ombudsman. He has law degrees from Auckland and Oxford Universities, and has held Fulbright and Harkness Fellowships.. Professor Paterson was awarded an ONZM for services to health in 2011.

Why is there a review?

The Veterans' Support Act 2014 was very different from the old Act that it replaced (the War Pensions Act 1954), so Parliament built in a provision requiring that the Chief of Defence Force review the new Act after two years to make sure that it's operating as intended.

The review will give veterans and their families an opportunity to have their say about how well the new Act is working in practice.

An independent person has been chosen to do the review, so there is an external and impartial perspective on how the Act is working.

What is the review about?

The review will look at whether the Act is meeting its purpose of providing rehabilitation and support to veterans who have been injured or become ill as a result of being placed in harm's way in the service of New Zealand.

Following an engagement and consultation period, the reviewer will report on how effectively the new Act is working and may make recommendations. Areas likely to be considered are: where more clarity is needed; whether the needs of veterans could be better met; and whether the new Act is flexible enough to manage the provision of fair and reasonable entitlements for eligible veterans and their families.

The review will be overseen by the Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air-Vice Marshal Kevin Short.

[Read the Review's terms of reference](#) [pdf | 2.76 MB | 5 pages]

When is it happening?

The review is starting now. In December, Professor Paterson will report his findings and recommendations to the Chief of Defence Force, who will submit the report to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs, for tabling in Parliament. The Government will consider the report and decide whether any changes need to be made.

How can you take part in the review?

Professor Paterson wants to hear what you think – what works well in the Act, and what could be improved or requires change. You will be able to contribute either by sending a written submission to the Review, or by attending consultation forums which are going to be held in various locations around the country.

Details of the submissions process will be advertised on this website shortly, including details of when and where the forums will be held.

You can email the Review at review.vsa@nzdf.mil.nz



The Regiment will be recognising and celebrating its 24th birthday this year. While the actual date is 01 Jul, due to tempo the celebrations will be held the day prior. More details to follow.



This week 2 Engineer Regiment and the School of Military Engineering have been completing their Combat Fitness Tests. The test is an annual requirement which is a combination of functional fitness, role related tests and a timed 4 km run / walk. Today members of Regiment Headquarters and the School were tested.

SUB UNIT EMBLEMS

2 ENGINEER REGIMENT SUB UNIT EMBLEMS AS AT 01 JULY 2013 (20 YR BIRTHDAY)

Sub Unit emblems as shown below (current WEF 2013) can not be adjusted unless approved by the Regimental Colonel (via the RSM working group) and endorsed by the RNZE Colonel Commandant

ORIGINAL

CURRENT



1 Field Sqn adopted Cpl W E Coyote based off a popular cartoon character (Road Runner) in the early 1970s. Today's Emblem approved by the Col Comdt as at 1 Jul 13



2 Field Sqn adopted the Rooster; although originally blue in colour this emblem has undergone several changes since its introduction. The Rooster was based on the weather vane that flew on top of the 2 FD Sqn Headquarters building.



3 Field Sqn adopted the "Top Cat" cartoon character in 1973 which was based off a popular TV programme at the time. The original Top Cat character held a grenade in its right hand, which was replaced by a jack hammer in the mid 1980's. The Top Cat remained as the Squadron became the Ready Reaction Force in the late 1980's until the early 1990's.



25 Construction Sqn was borne out of 5 Support Squadron in the early 1980's where by they adopted the Bull as their sub unit emblem, representing the power of the bulldozer. This emblem has remained as the sub unit emblem over the years, although in a different form.

DID YOU KNOW

A statue in a park with a soldier on a horse with it's 2 feet in the air means the soldier died in combat.
If the horse has only 1 foot in the air, the soldier died of injuries from combat.
If the horse has all 4 feet on the ground, the soldier died of natural causes.



The sappers ("*sapeurs*") of the French Foreign Legion traditionally sport large beards, wear leather aprons and gloves in their ceremonial dress, and carry axes.



A sapper, also called pioneer or combat engineer, is a combatant or soldier who performs a variety of military engineering duties such as breaching, demolitions, bridge-building, laying or clearing minefields, field defenses as well as building, road and airfield construction and repair. They are also trained to serve as infantry personnel in defensive and offensive operations. A sapper's duties are devoted to tasks involving facilitating movement, defence and survival of allied forces and impeding those of enemies.

The term "sapper" is used in the British Army and Commonwealth nations, Polish Army and the U.S. military. The phrase "sapper" comes from the French *saper* (to undermine, to dig under a wall or building to cause its collapse).



RNZE Corps Training 17/01 graduated today from SME(NZ). Fire-fighters, Combat Engineers, Plant Operators and Trade personnel undergo this common training on core skills fundamental to meeting Army Engineer operational outputs. They will now continue with their respective specialist trade training.



About 100 New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) troops who returned home from Iraq tonight expressed confidence their training mission will have an enduring impact. The Senior National Officer of the fourth rotation of NZDF troops in Camp Taji said it had been rewarding to see first-hand the positive effects they had achieved by imparting skills that had transformed Iraqi forces into more capable fighters. "The Iraqi forces are better prepared, more likely to succeed and have a greater chance of surviving because of the training we have helped deliver," he said.

Many of the Iraqi forces trained by Task Group Taji, the combined New Zealand-Australia training force, were sent to the frontlines in the northern city of Mosul, ISIS' last urban stronghold in Iraq, as soon as they completed the six-week training programmes, he said. "Some are working to ensure that areas retaken from ISIS in east Mosul remain under the control of the Iraqi military, while others are in the heat of battle for the western part of the city."

The fourth rotation of Task Group Taji deployed to Iraq in November 2016 and has trained about 7500 troops in the past six months. In addition to the Iraqi Army the group also trained Federal Police, Border Guards and Special Forces Rangers.

Australian Army Lieutenant Joshua Rousseau, the training team leader of Task Group Taji 4, said the Iraqi Ministry of Defence hoped to raise an entire brigade of these Special Forces to continue the fight against ISIS and maintain security, so the work of Task Group Taji, was having an impact.

Although ISIS has lost a lot of the territory it once held in Iraq and is struggling in the face of the intensified campaign by the Iraqi Security Forces, the NZDF Senior National Officer said there was a good case for the training mission in Iraq.

"There is a real need to train the Iraqi forces in dealing with ISIS' changing tactics," he said. Major General Tim Gall, the Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, said the Iraqi military's ability to keep the peace would be the true measure of the Anzac training mission. "The index of training effectiveness is not how many Iraqi forces we train, but how well the trainees have absorbed the training and put it to good use. Even with the imminent defeat of ISIS, Iraqi forces need to consolidate their foothold in what used to be ISIS heartlands," Major General Gall said.



2 Field Squadron Combat Engineers walk towards their targets, a series of walls and huts erected to practice entering by explosive charge.



Lance Corporal Tutakangahau places a basic charge of AMEX under a wooden hut. 2 Field Squadron combat engineers from troop 2 practice laying explosives in the Kaipara Range.



50kg of AMEX cratering charge explodes a wooden bridge in the Kaipara Range as part of Exercise Poseidon.

Instructor Peter Head explains the next bar crossing to the Combat Engineers. Combat Engineers of the Army's 2 Field squadron complete the NZ Bar Crossing Certificate from Coastguard Boating Education.



A child waits for the Combat Engineers, led by their instructor in the orange boat, to come ashore after a lesson on bar crossing. Combat Engineers of the Army's 2 Field squadron complete the NZ Bar Crossing Certificate from Coastguard Boating Education.



Sappers Last Post

- Courtney Manaia (RNZE carpenter)
- Allan Edward Francis (CJ) (RNZE Fireman)
- David Raymond Futter (WOII Rtd)



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.

May no Soldier
go unloved
May no Soldier
walk alone
May no Soldier
be forgotten
May no soldier
be left behind
when they return
home!

No Duff provides first response support to assist veterans in crisis.

Veterans' Affairs partners with No Duff, which has been operating since the start of the year, to support veterans in critical need. No Duff and its team of service and ex-service volunteers, work with other welfare organization's to support veterans.

[Visit the No Duff website for more information.](#)

[\(external link\)](#)

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

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

Also remember the Association Web site www.sappers.org.nz

Remember you will be able find a copy of the News Letter on

Sappers of New Zealand

Sappers Mates

New Zealand Army Fire Service

Facebook pages.

Ubique

"I hear a lot of crap about what a glorious thing it is to die for your country. It isn't glorious—it's stupid! You don't go into battle to die for your country. You go into battle to make the other bastard die for his country."

—General George S. Patton



REGISTRATION FORM

Early bird registration closes 28th July

Late registration \$20 extra, closes 6th September

Sur-name			First names		
Preferred name					
Army Fire Service history		from		to	
Partners name (if attending)					
Postal address					
Contact phone number		E Mail			
Address where staying in Chch (if Known)					
Do you consent to your name, phone number, E mail and postal address appearing on the contact list					Yes / No
Any special dietary requirements					
Flight details if known.	Airline		Date		ETA
Return trip			Date		ETD
					Transport needed
					Y/N

Registration cost per person		Number attending	subtotal
Fixed admin cost	\$20		
Meet and greet Friday night: Rolleston Fire Station	\$15		
Saturday am visit: RNZAF Wigram museum	Gold coin on the day		
Saturday Lunch: Woolston Working Mens Club	\$16		
Saturday pm visit: Ferrymead. Hall of Flame	Pay on day approx \$20		
Dinner sat night: Burnham SNCOs mess	\$30		
Sunday am visit: CIA Airport Fire Service	No charge		
Sunday lunch: Burnham Camp Fire Station	\$10		
Late registration, after 1 July	\$20		
Reunion souvenir coins	\$20	Number required	
		Total costs	

Payment options

<p>Send completed forms to:</p> <p>Rakaia River Holiday Park</p> <p>85 Rakaia Tce</p> <p>Rakaia</p> <p>7710</p> <p>Or e mail to</p> <p>stay@rakaiaiverrholidaypark.co.nz</p>	<p>Please make cheques payable to:</p> <p>NZ Army Fire Reunion</p> <p>Or pay by direct debit / internet banking</p> <p>Account name : NZ Army Fire Reunion</p> <p>Account number 02 0727 0629870 006</p> <p>Please use your name as the reference</p>
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