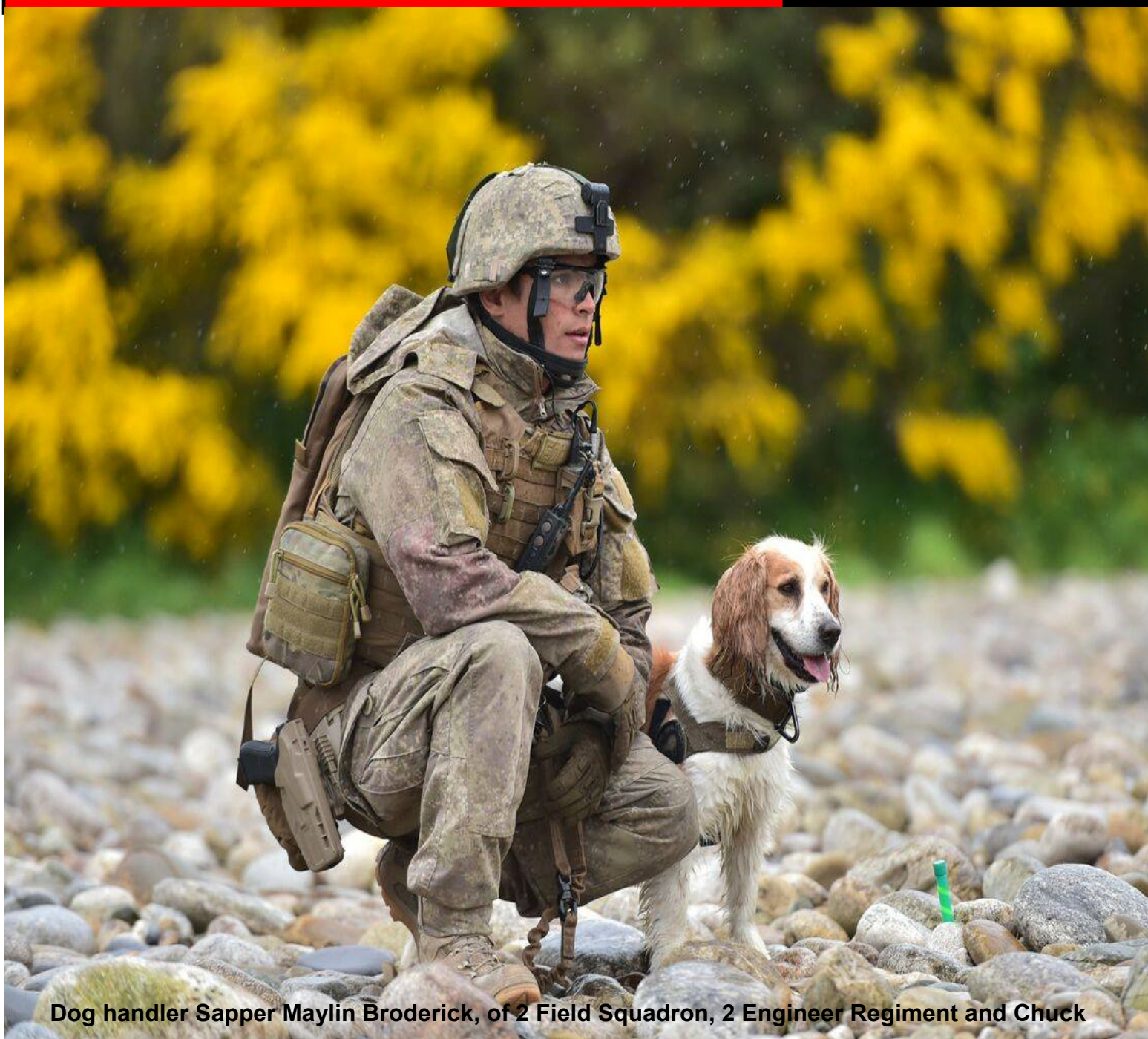


RNZE SAPPERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 198 Feb 2018



Dog handler Sapper Maylin Broderick, of 2 Field Squadron, 2 Engineer Regiment and Chuck

Vail Hubner President NZ Sappers Association.



PRESIDENT

Firstly, the good news! John 'Fish' Fischer [Christchurch] has put his hand up to become Senior Vice President at the 18 March 2018 AGM, with the intention of replacing me as President in 2019. I then take over the position of Immediate Past President from Joe Hollander. This ensures there's continuity of leadership of the Sappers Association. John has always shown an interest in the Association, such as serving on the Christchurch Branch committee, and I am confident the Association's future is in safe hands. Also, Nigel Bentley [Bulls] has volunteered to become the Honorary Treasurer at the same AGM. This will allow Chris Aimers to stand down after three and a half years in that job. I have advocated since becoming President that if we want people to hold office positions in the Association, we need to have a protocol of only doing three years and then someone else takes over. In this fashion those considering of having a go will be less inclined to thinking it's going to be a forever 'prison' sentence. Just do your three years then walk out!

Now the bad news. After asking since late 2016 for someone from Wellington to be the Petone RNZE Reunion Chairperson, we still have nobody. I have put a motion to Executive Council that we postpone the reunion until June or July 2019 due to lack of a Chairperson, and it was passed by email vote recently. This only kicks the can further down the street. We still need a Wellington based member to step up by April this year and chair the reunion. We have been asking since 2016 for someone to be an Honorary Solicitor to help re-write our Constitution with no takers. And with Bruce Page's recent resignation we now need a new Honorary Secretary.

I have been scratching my head as to why the Association continues to stockpile our investment interest income each year with no purpose in mind. Our membership database is now non-existent. We could spend serious money each year for a self-updating membership system. The Association website has been hard to update for years. An outside professional website designer with backup is just affordable with our, albeit limited, income. I don't believe trying to continue with labour intensive cheap home-based systems is the future of this Association. The last few years of unworkable website and deleted member database testifies to that. The membership's continuing apathy towards volunteering indicates that a labour-intensive website and membership database has little to no future.

What's on and Where

Decade 1975-84

Picton or Wellington 2019

National RNZE Reunion

Petone Wellington has been
POSTPONED



**Almighty God,
we pray Thee to bless
the Royal new Zealand
Engineers.**

**May our bridges always
stand,
and our charges never fail.**

**Our members be ever loyal,
and our officers worthy of
their loyalty.**

**May we work diligently in all
our purposes,
and be skilled in our trades,
steadfast for Queen
and country everywhere.**

Amen.

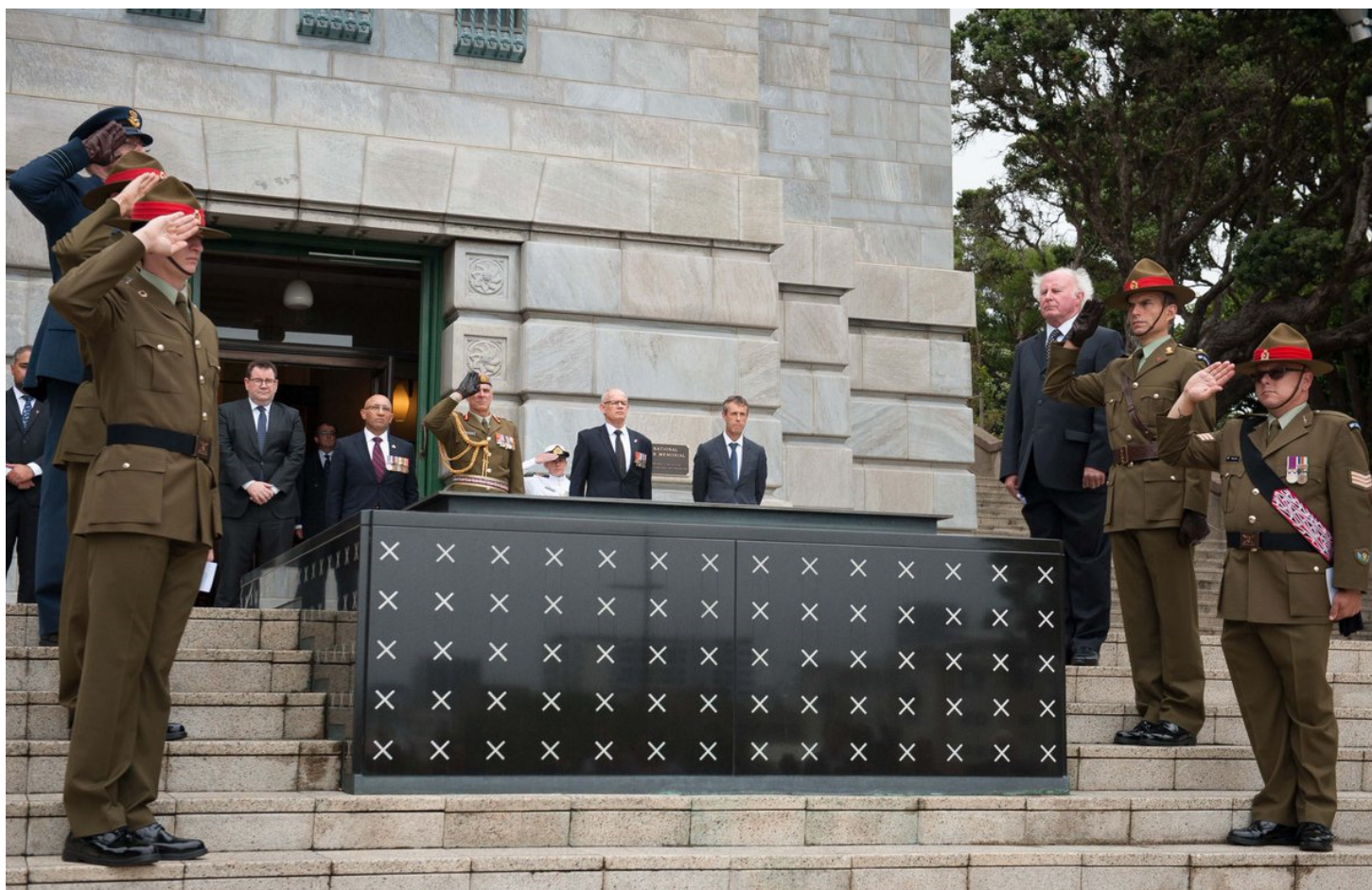
Some may think the income should be spent on welfare only. Two things there. With an updatable web-site cutting across to Facebook, twitter etc and a membership database able to search overseas deployments for reunions, young sappers are more likely to join the Association. Without new young membership, the Association is finished. And there won't be any welfare after that. The second welfare thing is that we need to be people helping people, not chucking money at it. We should be visiting sappers in hospital and in old folks' homes. Money can't do the visiting.

I have thought for some time now that the Association should provide 'Hire a Hubby' type support for families of serving sappers who are overseas on active service. This would need to come from youngish members who can still swing a hammer, probably left the army about ten years ago. A trade account at Bunnings or Mitre 10 perhaps.

Regards, Vail 'Hub' Hubner

President

January 2018



8th Jan 2018 marked the 1000th daily Last Post ceremony at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. and the Minister of Defence Ron Mark recited the Ode of Remembrance to mark the military milestone this evening in #Wellington.



ERS Training School Linton Camp 2017



NZDF Basic Fire Course using the Realistic Fire Training Building (RFTB).

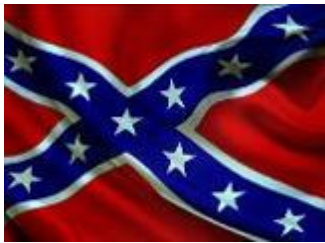




4th Emergency Response Troop 2017



Yesterday 6/12/17 the Basic Fire course marched out from Joint Services Fire School. Well done for the last 13 weeks of training and welcome back, just in time for a busy fire season



**The 3rd RNZE BRANCH
SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (Inc.) NZ**

OFFICE HOLDERS ARE:

Chairman Bernie Rose 03 3131569

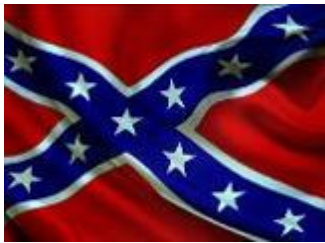
Vice-chairman: Eric Elley 03 3107385

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



3 Branch Xmas Friday night Happy Hour at Papanui RSA



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 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

Exercise Southern Katipo 2017

Grey-Buller-Tasman-Nelson-Marlborough-Kaikoura and Canterbury

2 October – 18 November



A multinational coalition of 2500 troops from 13 countries, backed by amphibious ships, aircraft and armoured vehicles, has deployed to the South Island as the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) mounts its biggest military exercise, Southern Katipo.

Burnham Military Camp

The senior headquarters at the camp has seen many changes. Previously Headquarters 3 Task Force, 3 Task Force Region, HQ Ready Reaction Force, and 3 Land Force Group have been based here. Most recently 3 Land Force Group was disbanded in 2011, and Headquarters Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters - Land (DJTFHQ-L) was formed.

Units at the camp

Units at Burnham:

2nd/1st Battalion [Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment](#) (Light Infantry)

3 Field Troop (2 [Engineer Regiment](#))

3 Emergency Response Troop (2 [Engineer Regiment](#))

[3 Signals Squadron Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals](#)

3 Logistics Battalion ([Royal New Zealand Army Logistic Regiment](#))

3 Military Police Platoon ([Royal New Zealand Military Police](#))

- Medical Treatment Centre (2HSB)
- Army Adventure Training Centre
- 3 Regional Training wing
- Health Services School (2HSB)
- Army Band
- DHS (NZ) (Defence Health School (NZ))
- Youth Development Unit (YDU)
- Services Correctional Establishment (SCE)



Medical training

Medical training for the entire [NZDF](#) is conducted in Burnham at the Defence Health School and all medics enlisted in the Army, Navy or Air Force are sent here for training. Medics initially complete a one year Diploma of Paramedic Science, followed by one and a half years on the Graduate Diploma of Health Science (Paramedicine). Practical training and clinical placements, both in hospital and on civilian ambulance are completed throughout. Medics are then posted to their respective camps or bases.

B J Clark QSM JP

BJ joined the New Zealand Army as a regular force cadet 44 years ago intent on a career as a carpenter/joiner. The cadet school in Waiouru was established to identify the future leaders. At the time it wouldn't have known the future leader of the RSA was in the class of 1970.



Over the years Clark saw service in Singapore, Fiji, the Antarctic and the Sinai Peninsula. One experience that stood out was the six months he spent in Moscow helping to refurbish the New Zealand Embassy.

"We lived in the basement, often covered in dust. Our job was to make the embassy secure," Clark recalls. "It's a memory I'll always have."

Another defining recollection was in seeking out the British War Grave cemeteries in Sinai, the resting place of hundreds of Kiwis who fought there during the First World War.

"There was so much sadness reading the names of the soldiers and not a dry eye anywhere. They were so far from home and unable to be brought back. I thought of the sacrifices they made in the desert."

Clark left the army in 1991 as a Warrant Officer and Senior Trades Instructor. "The army shaped me. It taught me skills, leadership, camaraderie, how to accept differences in people and work with them," he says.

Early in his army life he was attracted to the RSA. He joined in Christchurch in 1973 and, in 1998, became President of Papanui RSA. From there he was appointed

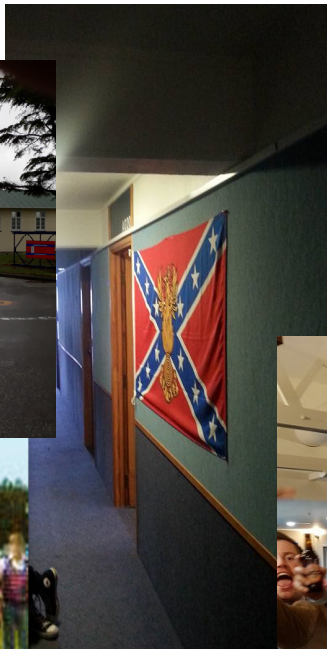
Canterbury District President

National Vice President in 2008.

Current President New Zealand RSA

My goal is to lead a quiet revolution of attitudes - changing the way Kiwis see the RSA, bringing associations together to share their strengths, showing New Zealand that we welcome them into the RSA movement and championing our current service personnel as well as our veterans."





Some photo's of 3 Fd Sqn Sappers
some 40 years apart



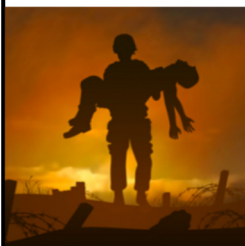
Association Treasurer's Report



Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers

Our online shop now has heavily discounted Corps products on sale. There is an end of product run while new items are being made by our supplier. Click 'Shop Now' to have a look. Stocks are limited, so be quick!

Our Corps shop has also migrated to Trademe, keep an eye out for some new RNZE products through this too.



IF YOU NEED TO TALK OR HELP



If you need to talk to someone here is free helplines operating 24/7: NZDF 24/7 HELPLINE: 0800 NZDF 4U (0800 693 348 or 0800 189 910)

Veterans Affairs NZ: 0800 483 8372 (0800 4 VETERAN)

VITAE (NZDF Civilians): 0508 664 981

NODUFF (Volunteer Veterans NGO): 022 307 1557 (noduff.ngo@gmail.com)

RSA: 027 217 2608

DEPRESSION HELPLINE: 0800 111 757

LIFELINE: 0800 543 354

RNZE Charitable Trust (RNZE CT or "Trust") Annual Report for 2017

This is our sixth annual report, which is provided to recognise our sponsors and supporters as well as an awareness of the activities of the Trust. Whilst it is not a compliance or statutory requirement, it helps to inform our parent bodies (namely the **RNZE Corps Committee** and **Sappers Association (NZ) Inc**) and wider Corps membership of the progress the Trust has made on key projects during the 2017 calendar year. Once again, we have had a busy and positive year, building on the progress made in previous years and since our formation in mid-2011. The adopted "strap/tagline" of **"Preserving RNZE Heritage"**, clearly reflects the principle objects of the Trust and what is has achieved since its original establishment.

Our top priority project has been the **RNZE Corps History project**, which has progressed well throughout the year with the completion of the research and writing phase and preparation of a final manuscript. This has been reviewed by members of the Corps History Project Advisory Group, along with Prof Glyn Harper and Dr Ian McGibbon, and feedback passed directly to the author. Our project author and historian, Peter Cooke, has made further research visits to the ECMC, RNZE units and Exercise "UBIQUE" during the year. He has submitted regular quarterly project reports, which have been circulated widely. Following a RFP process, we have appointed Exisle Publishing (Dunedin) as our preferred contractor and an agreement has been signed. This will see the publishing of the book during 2018, with the end-product being available for a launch and release in early 2019. So far, we have expended \$182,106 of the \$184,117 funds raised for this project, including a significant Lottery Grants Board contribution back in late 2014. As NZDF/Army was unable to provide funding support for this project, further Trust contributions and fund raising will be necessary to cover the shortfall through to completion and book release.

Progress on **rebuilding and refurbishing the museum displays** continues at a slower pace, as we have had to focus on other tasks, without much additional staffing. We have really appreciated the voluntary contributions made by Mike Early and Noel Woodley, who have joined Curator Clas and the writer for our regular Thursday public openings. Progress has been made in the **scanning, digitising and post-processing** of our **photographic collection**, where over 4,500 of our collection of 20,000+ photos, slides, negatives, plates, etc have been scanned and stored digitally. We commenced Stage 1 of a project to **scan and digitise** some of our older (late 1800's/early 1900's) **heritage material and books**, using an external contractor and funded by ECCT. This initial stage was intended as an experimental exercise and now that we have established project performance metrics and process, we hope to embark on Stage 2 during 2018. We also want to raise another project sorting, cataloguing and refurbishing the collection of **model Bailey bridging holdings**, which have now been passed to the ECMC as heritage equipment items. It is still our intention to locate and place older RNZE equipment on the concrete plinths at the entrance to the ECMC, plus more Bailey panels around the entrance pathway and periphery, subject to availability of SME staff and students. We have experienced several electrical and security system faults in the building, which have all been rectified by SME, Spotless and contracting staff, however, they reflect the age and condition of much of the building and its infrastructure and systems. This will need to be addressed in the future, in terms of security and ongoing sustainability of the facility.

We have had over **4,700 visitors through the ECMC** since commencing record taking in late-2013, with 1,178 in 2017 (1,008 in 2016, 968 in 2015 and 915 in 2014). These have included a wide range of local and international, serving and retired members of the NZDF and RNZE, community organisations, members of the public and so on. All Basic Combat Engineer course participants and personnel from other courses run by the SME have also made visits to the ECMC complex as part of their programmes and Corps heritage familiarisation. We remain members of Museums Aotearoa and are shown in their annual directory and website, as a museum worthy of a visit. The ECMC is becoming better known within the Manawatu and wider community and that in turn enables us to publicise the Corps and meet our object of "Preserving RNZE Heritage".

Our **information, communications, research and technology (ICR&T) development** ceased during the year, whilst waiting for the Sappers Association Executive to make a decision on the refurbishment or replacement of the current outdated "Sappers" website. If necessary, the Trust will have to decide on an alternative approach, so that important information belonging to the ECMC and Trust is made available to serving and retired members of the Corps, as well as for the wider community. We want to introduce more interactive and electronic displays into the museum and await advice from our technical advisers at Advantage Computers on both hardware and software requirements and availability. We still need an updated electronic library system, so that we can keep track of the extensive collection of reference material housed in both the library and "technical information section" for RNZE activities and deployments.

We continue with the challenging task of **cataloguing all the "assets of the Trust"**, now with some 12,084 items of the ECMC/RNZE CT "collection" (6,374 screens) inventoried (out of an estimated 60,000 items, including some 4,500 photographic items and with an estimated recorded value of \$363,000. Our **comprehensive insurance cover** is reviewed annually and was increased in value to \$310,000 (plus Trustee liability indemnity insurance), back in 2015. We continue to hold much of our stored items in an external expandable (old field medical operating theatre) container (with heat pump controlled environment) adjacent to the main building and garage. This has enabled us to further review items of equipment, clothing, photographic and document records, to inventory, sort and store them again in more suitable facilities.

Our **financial situation** remains in a stable position, as most of the major projects and procurements in 2017 were covered by external funding sponsors. We sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the support from our sponsors and regular contributors, as well as our other donors. Our **regular contributors** have increased back up to 23 over the year or approx \$311 per month (we used to have over 130 regular contributors a couple of decades ago), the donations total contributed for the year was in the order of \$3,705, plus a further \$2,103 from "casual and miscellaneous" sources. The latter included contributions from the Auckland Sapper Officers' Mess, ECMC donations (visitors and history presentations) box and other miscellaneous donors. Our six-monthly GST rebates also assist in keeping the funds for ECMC operational purposes in balance. Three grants were received this year for **external funding supplementation** to a total value of \$17,894 (excl GST). One was for our insurance premium renewal (\$3,894) from the Mainland Foundation, another (\$4,000) from ECCT for Stage 1 of the scanning, digitising and post-processing of heritage material and \$10,000 from the National Army Museum Trust Literary Fund to support the RNZE Corps History project (publication seeding fund). Other **generous sponsors and supporters** in kind for 2017 included Advantage Computers Ltd (PN), Inspire Net (PN) and Trophy Specialists (PN) and we sincerely thank them all, as well as our other regular donors to the Trust.

We continue to co-host the successful **monthly midday military history presentation series** with the Palmerston North City Library and now running these in the Palmerston North CBD from February to November each year. Venues include the City Library and Te Manawa and sessions are always well attended, with between 20 and 70 participants each month, depending upon the topic and weather on the day. Presentation topics included a wide range of excellent and informative presentations delivered by: Maj Tim Woodman (HQ 1 Bde – "HMS Veronica and Napier 1931 Earthquake"), Selwyn Ponga-Davis (LRSC – "Searching for Family at Gallipoli"), Col (Rtd) Bryan Wells ("The Waikato Land Wars – Battles at Orakau and Rangiriri"), Sqn Ldr (Rtd) Paul Harrison ("80 years of the RNZAF"), Wg Cdr (Rtd) Peter Hurly ("Medical Support in the Battle of the Somme"), RADM (Rtd) David Ledson ("HMS New Zealand, etc"), Dr (Lt Col Rtd) Mesut Uyar (ADFA/Turkish Mil Academy – "Myths and Realities of the ANZAC Landings at Gallipoli on 25 Apr 1915"), Leanne Hickman (Historian, Massey University – "Chronology of PN Military History 1860-1975"), Capt John Aitken, RNZE (25ESS – "Operation Winston – HADR in Fiji"), and Prof Glyn Harper ("Battle of El Alamein – 75th Anniversary"). A similar programme of many different speakers and topics has been arranged for 2018.

Over 60 personnel from all RNZE units in Linton Camp have provided valuable **assistance to the ECMC** for a few hours each Thursday, as part of the RNZE monthly duty unit assistance scheme. This was instituted by the RSM, 2ER in mid-2014 and managed by the SSMs of each of the units of 2nd Engr Regt and the SME, based on a monthly roster and task list. This has enabled a wide range of tasks to be undertaken to assist us in the ongoing maintenance of the ECMC library, museum and Chapel, plus other RNZE CT administrative requirements. It also keeps these young sappers connected with their heritage and spiritual home, in the hope that they will take an interest in its preservation in the future and as their careers progress within the Corps and the Army as a whole.

Once again, several **minor projects were carried out by the SME**, including electrical tasks, hinging and securing display cabinet doors, preparing to repaint display cases and so on. This assistance is vital for the ongoing operation of the ECMC and we are very grateful to the CI, SSM and WO TTW, SME for their support in 2017. Likewise, we have had excellent **support and assistance from 2ER**, in particular from the CO, XO, Adj, RSM and Wks WO, as well as unit commanders and a number of other RHQ staff. Our sincere thanks go to you all for this much needed and appreciated contribution and support. We have also appreciated support from OC LRSC (Maj Mike Pettersen) and his staff, DSS Property (now Defence Estates and Infrastructure) Group (WO2 Tom Donald and Shannon Quirke) and Spotless in the operation and maintenance of the ECMC building. Given that there is only a few of us trying to keep the ECMC open and running on a weekly basis, as well as managing the RNZE CT and various other key projects, we do need ongoing assistance from you all. Our wish is that retired members of the Corps currently living in the Manawatu, take more of an active interest in the ECMC and join our ranks as volunteers.

Finally and to foreshadow our planned activities, objectives and focal points for 2018, here are our aspirations for the coming year, in no particular order, including:

- Continue to progress the RNZE Corps History project through to its completion and release and launch of the history book in early 2019;
- Keep the ECMC open to the public every Thursday and operating satisfactorily;
- Continue to rebuild, refurbish and refresh the ECMC museum displays;
- Explore other means and modes to display RNZE activities, functions and heritage about the ECMC;
- Introduce an electronic system to support inventory and library collection work;
- Continue to scan, digitise, post-process and store heritage material for future access and safekeeping;
- Explore and introduce interactive electronic displays within the ECMC museum area;
- Continue to seek external funding supplementation as required; and
- Manage the RNZE CT in accordance with the Trust Deed and to meet all related compliance requirements.

Joe Hollander

Trustee/Trust Board Chair

RNZE Charitable Trust

Palmerston North

31 December 2017



Lt Col Terry McDonald CO of 2nd Engineer Regiment

Sappers of the RNZE,

It has been another busy year for the Corps with deployments and training activities, both at home and abroad, supporting both Army and the wider NZDF. As you read this Sappers continue to serve around the world and are representing themselves, the Corps and you extremely well.

Some of the Major events for the year for the Corps have been the support to expeditionary operations, OP MANAWA (Iraq), OP TROY (Middle East), OP FARAD (Sinai), OP FARAD SURGE (Sinai), OP ANT LET (Antarctica) as well as domestic deployments such as OP VULCAN (Hawkes Bay and Canterbury). We have continued to support expeditionary exercises and training events such as OP CASTOR (Vanuatu) and EX TALISMAN SABRE 17 (Australia). Last, but definitely not least, there were some big domestic training evolutions supported, EX UBIQUE 17 was conducted, the first in a considerable period of time, EX SOUTHERN KATIPO 17 recently concluded with over 3000 multinational troops deployed into the top of the South Island as well as many other standing exercise support tasks that we perennially meet.

There have been some other major achievements within the wider Corps through the year as well. The REM17 review was completed which saw basic REM increases across RNZE trades, with the exception of the indentured trades, which will be looked at in greater detail in 2018 for specific rank brackets. There continues to be gains made, albeit slowly, with Seaworthiness and the adoption of the Combat Engineer trade model. These achievements are significant and the hard work undertaken by many members on these projects is congratulated.

I would like to also 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. In particular to the nominations from across the Regiment and sub-units for the RSM and CO's awards. There was strong competition from all sub-units across the country which serves to demonstrate the high calibre of personnel who wear the Sappers belt! I would also like to specifically mention those who have been recognised through commendations; WO2 Matt Doyle, SGT Dan Klaassen and A/SGT Richard Hughes received a Chief of Army Commendation and MAJ Chris Wilson was awarded the NZDF Commendation.

This time of year is also a time to reflect on those who are no longer with us in body, but will remain a part of our Corps fabric. The sad passing of Sapper James Maaka 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 2017, we are prepared for what is looking to be a busy tropical storm season in the Pacific as well as fire season here at home. We are preparing early in 2018 to send our next contingent to OP ANT LET and we have members currently deployed to the Sinai, Iraq, Sudan and Antarctica. Members of the Corps continue to represent themselves, the Army and New Zealand proudly. Sappers of the present continue to build on the foundation stones by our predecessors.

2018 will be another year with a variety of tasks. Whether it is successful deployments, the conduct of training activities as part of MILCON or EX TROPIC MAJOR 18 and EX TROPIC TWILIGHT 18, or the delivery of a lot of new capability, 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.

For those Sappers who are deployed or working over the closedown period, be safe, look after yourselves and know that we will be thinking of you and your families. For those Sappers taking the opportunity for a leave period, I hope you all have a good Christmas break and enjoy some time with your families or loved ones - it is well deserved.

I look forward to serving with you again in the new year.

I Nga Wahi Katoa

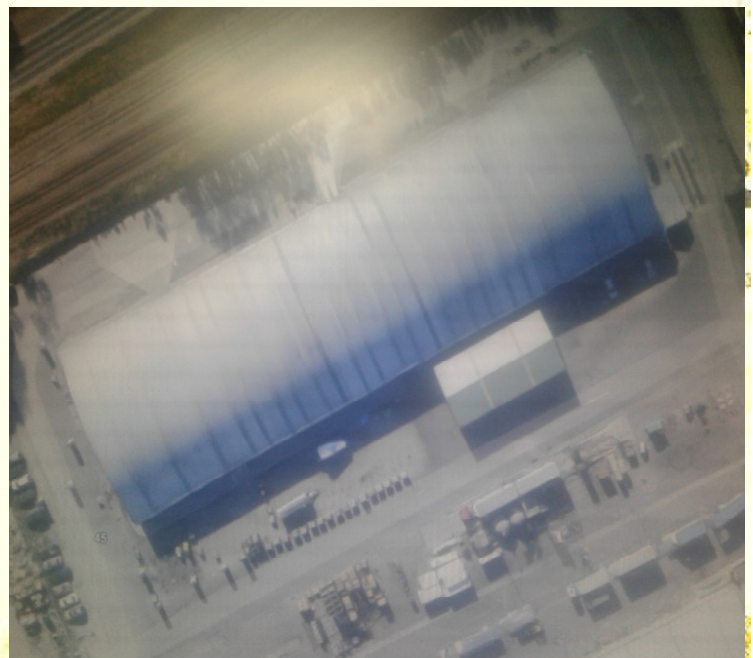
Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald

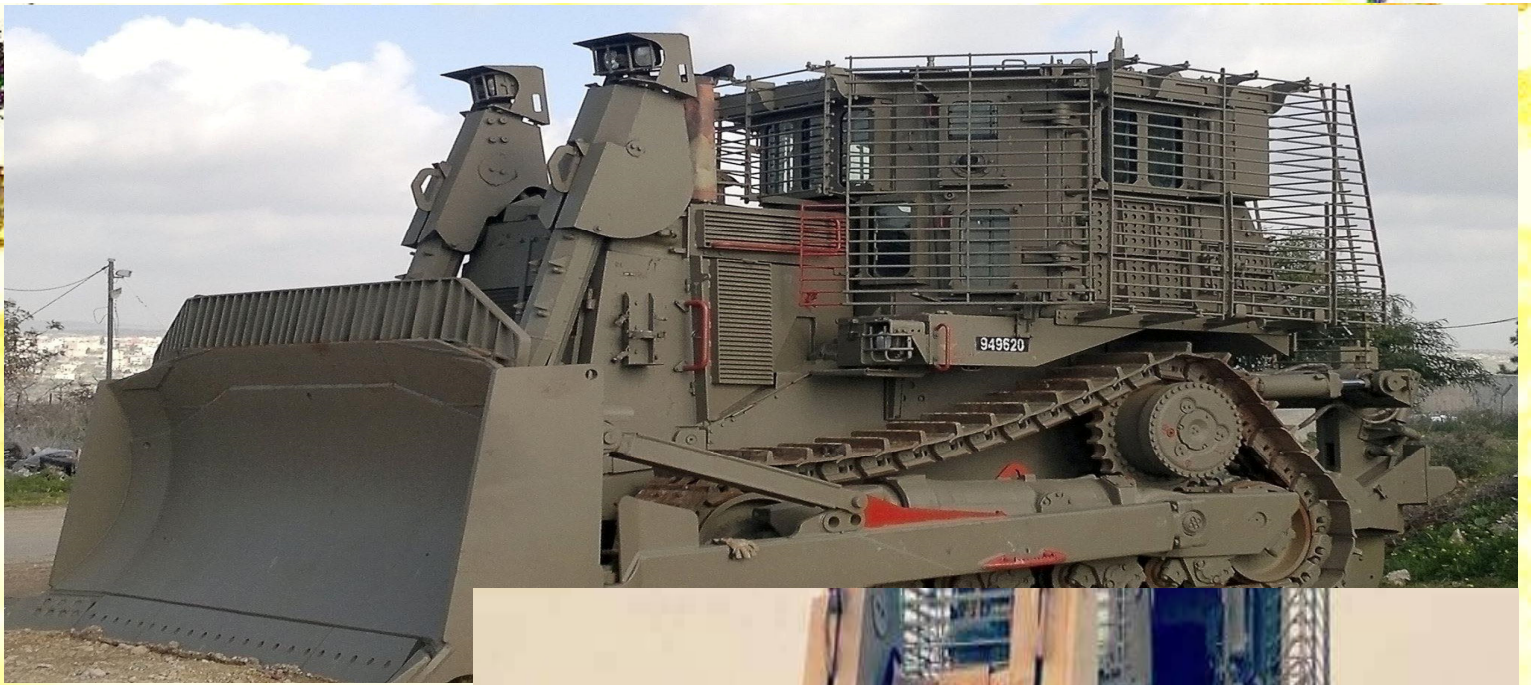


KING EDWARD BARRACKS CHRISTCHURCH (KEB) HQ 3 Land Force Group



photograph shows the army barracks under construction in 1905. Sidney Luttrell (1872-1932), who is pictured in the right foreground with his brother Alfred on the left, designed 21 latticed, curved steel girders to span the 36.5m width as economically as possible and to support the curved, corrugated iron roof. The girders, constructed by Scott Brothers, each weighed six tonnes. Twenty-five working days after it was begun the building was complete and opened on 26 July 1905. consist of a large arched building (of one span with no posts) 120 ft wide, 300 ft long and 40 ft high. Twenty-one iron girders, each six tons, will be used in the construction It was used for drilling soldiers and later for civic functions and social occasions until the army withdrew in 1993 and the site was purchased by Ngai Tahu. The building was transported to Hornby where it was re-erected as a distribution warehouse in 2000





RNZE Plantie Centre Fold

For the old Plantie that finds it
hard to live in a stable relation-
ship



Trip Down Memory Lane

Bamyan

Afghanistan

Well its 1/3 the way through my tour here in Afghanistan and although the time has gone relatively fast, I have completed a huge amount of work in the two months gone by. Winter came for a day and went again. The nights are now cold, minus 8, and the days are comfortable 10 degrees average. No clouds, no wind. The locals are worried. It should be at least a metre of snow on the ground by now. No snow means less water for summer where it reaches 40 – 50 degrees. What is noticeable is the difference between day and night when it comes to temperatures. Behind us is a range of mountains (Part of the extended Himalayan Range). At 3-30 pm it can be 10 degrees. When the sun goes behind the mountains the temp according our nurses who monitor the temp gauges drops to minus 4 degrees in 3 minutes.

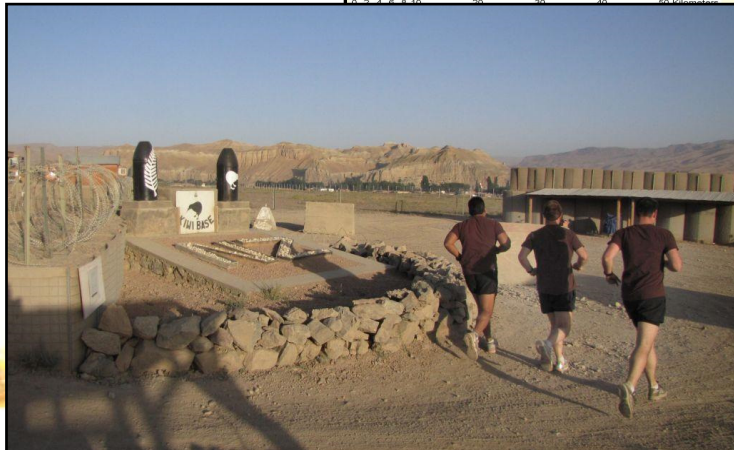
The development of the country that I'm part of is proceeding ever so slowly. It's hard to build a country, city, town, or village from nothing over here. An example is the city of Bamyan. The development plan is to build the city from nothing. A plan has been produced and the city will be built for tourism and economics of agriculture. Not the opium farming that has been growing here since the Russians invaded. Logic would tell you that to build a city from the ground up would start at the infrastructure of services such as sewerage, water reticulation, possibly electricity, telecommunications, maybe the roads and storm water runoff then maybe followed by the buildings themselves. Not too far removed from a new subdivision back home. But how can I organize a two year sewerage development scheme when I have 20 000 people living in caves and abandoned cars watching me spend money and time on a sewerage system that they haven't used for 2000 years. The consequence is they have started constructing buildings. Government office buildings. All toilets are flushed into the ground, similar to "ye old fashion long drop". Each building has a water well. Yep, same piece of ground that the sewerage is soaking into. At the moment Bamyan province has 3000 schools short, based on the kids who need an education in the area. At the moment Bamyan province has 3000 teachers short. Do I spend the money on training teachers, or schools? Two years to train a teacher. Six months to build a school. In two years the number of kids will have doubled. The balance is not so easy. I build a school, yeahhhhyyy. Now who maintains it, supports it? We have a school built 300 kilometers away in a valley. The NGO (Non Government Organization) who funded it also supplied a new generator for lighting and heating. It has never been started because A. there is no fuel for hundreds of miles to start the generator, and B, they have no money for fuel anyway.

Trying to continue with the development of the province is being hampered by the security. The Taliban have moved back into the area again albeit in small numbers. Road side bombs or IEDs as we militarily call them are back in the area. This is where I now put on my other hat and go back to my original trade of counter IED. The patrolling we are now doing is making a difference as the locals are only too happy to support us with information and intelligence. This is where we are hoping for winter to arrive, maybe keeping the insurgents inside for a couple of months. Thanks to Obama (Pres of USA) we are going to be supplemented with an added Task Group of GI's in January. They'll be supporting us from the south. This should curb the enemy for a time here's hoping.

As for normal living the days are long. Work at 6 am home by 8-30pm. B/fast, lunch and dinner are on the go when you can, however, we would have to have the best chefs in the world here. Army and Navy Kiwi chefs of course. I miss: Real bread, real milk, and a soak in a bath. The gym, or the shed with weights, is always a mind clearer. I catch it at 5 am with a mate who is posted here from the NZ Police. He was / is the Sth Auckland District Commander Superintendent Dave Montgomery. We work out as we complain to each other about the cold, about the dust, about the petrol price, about how many M&Ms we **haven't** eaten as we are on an M&M and Ice Cream lockdown and we spy on each other to see who is the weaker. He is here with two other cops training and mentoring the Afghanistan National Police (ANP). Statistics say that 27 ANP's get killed everyday. Canada has just lost their 100th soldier yesterday to an IED.

Christmas will come and go as our programme will not change. Obviously can't afford to. Thanks to the RSA we have the famous "Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Airwomen, Christmas parcels that arrived this week. Of course there are a considerable number short, so we senior heroes, supermen and champions will martyr ourselves for the sake of the junior ranks. But not all is lost as thanks to the Johnsons, I have a packet of Griffins Gingernuts graciously sent earlier this month to keep me going. What more do I need you say?....well, - I'd like Dave to get moved to Kabul so I can break open a packet of M&Ms. By the way, Ice-Cream comes in 5 litre containers, Vanilla, Choc, and Strawberry and is in an open ended freezer 24 / 7. In the fridge next to it, 24 cubic metre fridge, is Mars Bars, Bounty Bars, Twisters, Twix Bars, Coke, Fanta, Sprite, Juices, Milk Shake Cartons, and more than many packets of M&Ms all for the taking.

On a more serious note. The locals of Bamyān are soo glad to have us here. We don't mix with them, visit or make too much small talk. We used to but the situation has changed all that. The Taliban will kill there own to kill a coalition force soldier. Mike McRoberts from TV 3 and 60 Minutes was here for a week. He was supposed to make a 60 Minute programme on us doing our thing. Instead he made several daily video shoots to relay back to NZ at news time and cancelled the 60 Minute Doco. He said that the 60 minutes programme would only be 15 minutes long within the hour long programme. Instead he is going to make an hour long special of the NZ Defence personnel overseas and intends to show it on ANZAC Day. They filmed a lot here but mainly out amongst the patrols. Well that's about all at this time. I'm off to the local orphanage tomorrow to give away a dozen soccer balls to the boys, and new shoes and dresses to the girls.





The current number of Veterans (military personnel who have deployed on operations or active service) in New Zealand is not known. Veterans' Affairs New Zealand estimates 31,000, however that figure is nearly 10 years old. The New Zealand Defence Force does not have an estimate. The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association estimates that there are approximately 41,000 Veterans in New Zealand. Of that number, they estimate that approximately 30,000 of those have served overseas after Vietnam. In addition, these numbers do not include the tens of thousands who have loyally served in the New Zealand Defence Force, but who did not have the opportunity to deploy on operational service.

Many Veterans who have served since Vietnam leave the Defence Force after a relatively short period of service, but may have deployed operationally several times. Internationally, research indicates that after exposure to a single critical incident (for example: contact, improvised explosive device strike, or witnessing atrocities), between 12% - 18% of personnel deployed will suffer from a post-traumatic stress injury. This has been a fairly consistent casualty rate since World War One. There is little research on the impact of multiple critical incidents, although the percentage is likely to be significantly higher. These individuals are at high risk of further difficulties (ie further mental health injuries and / or adjustment disorders) on leaving the support network within Defence and transitioning to civilian life.

Mental health injuries such as post-traumatic / operational stress injuries are not new. However, their recognition as legitimate service injuries is relatively new. Most New Zealanders will be familiar with someone in the family (or at least have heard about other people's experiences with family members) who served in the military. These include those that the public "traditionally" views as a Veteran - World War One and Two, Korea, Malaya, Borneo, or Vietnam veterans who did not want to talk about their experiences. They may have been considered "just an old grump", and possibly had / have substance abuse issues (for example, alcoholism). While this has historically been accepted as being normal, it is now more commonly recognised for what it is – an undiagnosed injury. These same symptoms are also manifesting in Veterans who have served post-Vietnam.

The military mindset of pushing through adversity and not wanting to speak up for fear of being perceived as weak, or letting the team down, exists for a reason. Military units are typically tasked to achieve a difficult mission under what are often arduous conditions. All team members need to be focused, dedicated and push through pain, regardless of a high physical or mental cost to the individuals if necessary. For example, an infantryman who is struggling to carry heavy specialist equipment does not speak out; it is his job to carry the extra load, and he will push through at great physical cost to himself, even if it is slowing down the team. Other team members will have to physically force him to split up the equipment and share the load.

On leaving the military, this mindset remains. Individuals will not speak out when suffering, and will even mask physical or mental injuries due to fear of how it may be perceived by others. This mindset is not de-programmed when leaving the military, and in some cases, can lead an individual to attempt to push through an ever-worsening situation. Help is only sought when things have reached crisis point, and even then, help is not always sought. In addition, the impact is not isolated to the individual, as the effects and stresses are borne by the individual's family also.

What many do not realise, is that they are not alone. Often, there will be many people who have been through, or are going through, the same thing. This applies to Veterans of all generations, and their families.

If any of this sounds familiar, and you (or someone you know) needs support, or even just has questions, the following contacts can help:

No Duff Charitable Trust **Returned and Services Association (RSA)** **Veterans' Affairs New Zealand**

Did you Know

Have you ever seen a gravestone covered in coins? It's not unusual while visiting a cemetery to see the stones covered in various amounts of money. So what's that all about?

According to legend, the coins belong on the gravestones of U.S. military veterans. Visitors who wish to show their respect leave coins on the headstones in different amounts.

Leaving a penny simply means you visited and want to thank the veteran for their service. A nickel means you trained at boot camp with the deceased, while a dime suggests you served with him or her. Finally, a quarter signifies you were with the soldier when they passed away.

The origin of the tradition, like the meaning behind it, is still up for debate. But many people believe it started in America during the Vietnam war. America was having a crisis of conscience. Any discussion of the war usually devolved into a greater discussion about politics. Leaving a coin was a way to say you appreciate the soldier's service while avoiding an inevitable uncomfortable conversation.

Of course, that's the theory. In reality, leaving coins on grave stones in America dates back only to 2009. The money is usually collected and donated to the upkeep of the cemetery.

But humans have left artifacts and tributes at grave sites for thousands of years. During the Roman empire, fellow soldiers would insert a coin into the mouth of a fallen comrade to ensure they could cross the "River Styx" into the afterlife. Egyptians of note would often be entombed with various prize possessions, including coins and money.

However, one verifiable tradition is the leaving of "challenge coins" by fellow veterans. These coins usually contain the emblem of the deceased's military company or unit, and fellow soldiers leave them to pay tribute.





Back row left to right Bevan_Mckeich Dean Christie Rod Boyd Brian Thompson Hucker Shane Vooght
Bruce Murdoch Braden lee
Front row left to right E J Kearns (smurf) Glanville Purvis John Fisher (fish) absent Tita Kaa



WO2 Tom Kerekere, RNZE who received recognition today for his tour with the MFO



Junior Non Commissioned Officers Course well done to LCPL Busby RNZE who received the Leadership Award



**Linton Camp
Family Day 2017**

**Christmas Dinner
2017 Linton MC.**



75th anniversary of the first operational use of the Bailey Bridge



Bailey bridge over the River Arno, Florence

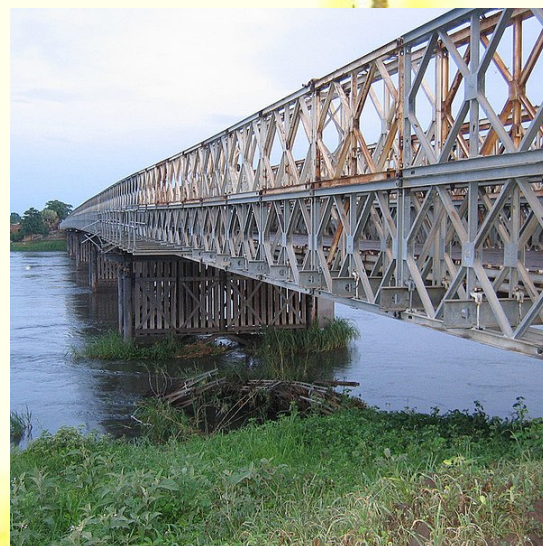
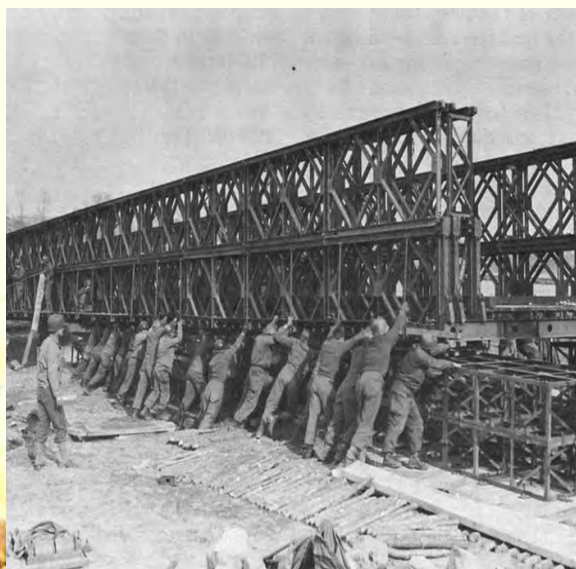
The first operational Bailey Bridge during the Second World War was built by 237 Field Company R.E. over Medjerda River near Medjez el Bab in Tunisia on the night of 26 November 1942. The very first instance of a Bailey being erected under fire was at Leonforte by members of the 3rd Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers. In one instance a bridge was pushed over the Saar River while under artillery and tank fire.

When the enemy was finally cleared out, the panels had holes in them and would not carry the weight of a tank. Replacing the panels would require the bridge to be "broken" in the middle. Instead they simply bolted an entirely new set of panels onto the bridge on top of the original set, a technique that later became a standard feature.

The Bailey provided an excellent solution to the problem of German and Italian armies destroying bridges as they retreated. By the end of the war, the US Fifth Army and British 8th Army had built over 3,000 Bailey bridges in Sicily and Italy alone, totaling over 55 miles (89 km) of bridge, at an average length of 100 feet (30 m). One Bailey, built to replace the Sangro River bridge in Italy, spanned 1,126 feet (343 m).

Another on the Chindwin River in Burma, spanned 1,154 feet (352 m). Such long bridges required support from either piers or pontoons.

A Bailey Bridge constructed over the River Rhine at Rees, Germany, in 1945 by the Royal Canadian Engineers was named "Blackfriars Bridge", and, at 558 m (1814 ft) including the ramps at each end, was then the longest Bailey bridge ever constructed



Performance knows no gender!

75th anniversary of the first operational use of the Bailey Bridge



In full battle-order helmets, webbing and weapons, and showing exemplary teamwork, the 32 sappers finished hefting and securing the bridge sections into position in 1 hour, 25 minutes.

An hour or so later, the soldiers had to help their civvy comrades complete the task so that they too could get to enjoy a cooked field-kitchen lunch.



The Hastings-based Downer crew of eight, equipped with a truck-mounted Hiab crane, took on a 32-strong troop from Linton Camp's 2nd Engineers Regiment in a race to sling a single span across an imaginary river.



The sappers' commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Terry McDonald, said the first Bailey bridge designed during World War II by British civil engineer Sir Donald Bailey, was used at Tobruk, Tunisia, in 1942.

The last time the army had built one of the spans "in anger", McDonald said, was last decade in East Timor.



Performance knows no gender.



Sappers Last Post

**Our ranks grow thin but we
will remember them**

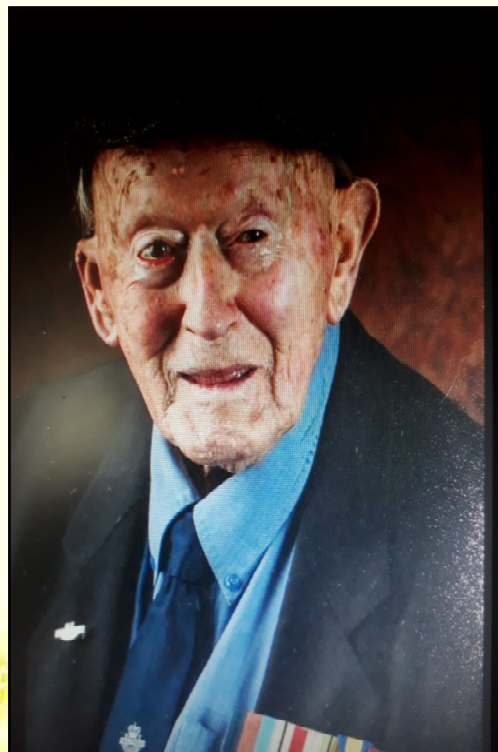
18 Nov 2017- Craven Nobles - Palmerston North

28 Nov 2017- Paul Howard— Lower Hutt

28 Dec 2017– Wiki Kahika - Palmerston North



With heavy heart at news that Kiwi veteran 11252 Sapper Nathaniel Augustus Joseph 'Jack' Martin, 10th NZ Railway Company, NZ Engineers, died at Pahiatua on 19 Dec 2017, aged 102. 'Gentleman Jack', as he was popularly known, was thought to be the oldest surviving NZ soldier.



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.

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.](#)

[\(external link\)](#)



Ex SAPPER – MILITARY FUNERAL SUPPORT

Sappers,

1. This memo is to provide an update, albeit several years late, on the entitlements to military funeral support for Ex Sappers.

Ex Sapper Military Funeral Support: BLUF. There is no entitlement for any support.

Reference: Defence Force Order Vol 3, Part 12, Chap 8, para 12.8.131, states in Part;

Eligibility NZDF will contribute to a funeral and make provision for ceremonial honours where the deceased is a:

Serving member of the Regular Force, or

Member of the Reserve Forces who dies whilst on official paid or unpaid duty approved by the NZDF, or

Members of the Civil Staff deployed on operational service.

2. NZDF legally cannot fund support or be publically shown to fiscally support non-serving members funerals. This includes but not exhaustively; soldiers for - firing parties including firing of weapons, catafalque parties, flag bearers, pall bearers, buglers, padres, gun carriage complete, transport, etc.

3. However, notwithstanding all of the above, UBIQUE - Across the country RNZE uniformed Sappers are everywhere from Regular Force units to Reserve Force subunits. Should a family wish to have representational presence at a funeral, RNZE personnel at the units are there to advise. The advice or any support given will be authorised on a case by case basis.

4. Caveat: Remember, the military does not have a "Set a Precedence" attitude. Because you saw it happen once does not mean it can / will happen again.

Ubique



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP NZ SAPPERS ASSOCIATION



Qualification: Persons who have served, or are still serving, in any sapper unit of His/Her Majesty's Forces in war, or in peace, for any period.

(Please print)

Regimental No. Rank *(current or on discharge)*:

Surname:

First Name(s):

Nickname: *(optional)*

Address:

Phone: (Hm). (Wk). Fax:

E-mail:

Next of Kin: Relationship

Address (if different)

Engineer Units served with:

..... Year joined RE, RAE or RNZE

Honours and Awards *(optional)*:

Signature: Date:

Please forward a Life Membership Fee of \$60.00 which includes Life Membership Card and Lapel Badge.

If paying by Direct Credit: BNZ bank 02 0727 0629870-000. Particulars 'Membership' & Code 'Reg No'.

You may add a donation towards the "Serving Sappers Bursary Awards" if you wish.

Joining & Membership Fee: \$60.00 Donation: \$ Amount enclosed: \$

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

“

The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.”

— Colin Powell

