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## Changing magazine format

### From the editor

Tēnā tātou katoa. I would like to thank you all for taking the time to read *Army News* and for your keen interest in the New Zealand Army. I know many of you are serving personnel, former service people, army enthusiasts, whānau of our personnel and young people keen to see what life is like in the Army.

In September we published the last hard copy edition, reverting to digital PDF only. From 2025, *Army News* will no longer be published in PDF form. This will be the final edition of *Army News*.

We will always tell the story of this service, but the way we will be telling it from next year will look a little different. Instead of our stories being told in a magazine format, they will be separate articles posted to our website. This will enable us to produce the information in a different way with more options to include videos within the piece, graphics and showing our photography in a different way.

We are excited to see how this change will enhance our storytelling. Many of you receive the *Army News* via an email from us, but from next year, we will be regularly sending out emails with website links to our latest Army stories that you will be able to click on to view, so you can continue to be kept up-to-date with the latest news.

For any reader who would like to receive these emails, please email [armynews@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:armynews@nzdf.mil.nz).

We understand change can be unsettling, but we sincerely thank you all for your patience and your support over the years.

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA  
**NZ ARMY**

 HEI MANA MŌ AOTEAROA  
A FORCE FOR NEW ZEALAND

 Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

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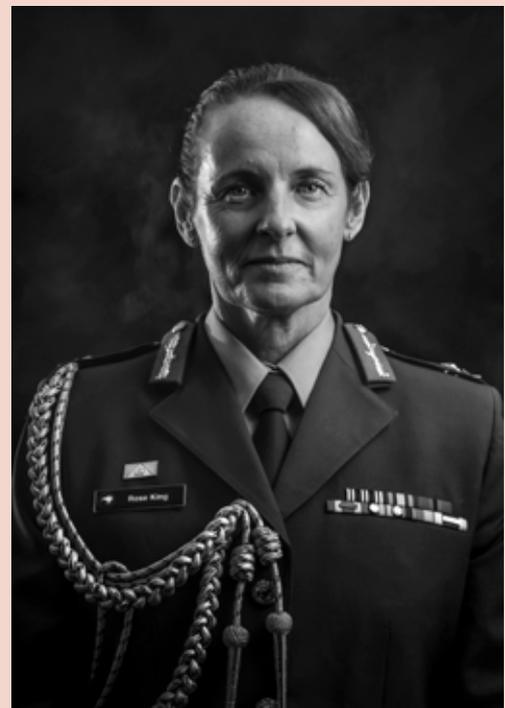
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**Cover Image:** 2nd 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment colours parade. The new Kings colours were unveiled to the battalion with the Governor General, Chief of Defence Force, and the Chief of the Army in attendance.

**Photo:** CPL Sean Spivey

# CHIEF OF ARMY'S MESSAGE

MAJGEN Rose King



## As this year fast approaches Christmas, I wanted to take some time to reflect on what has been a hugely significant year for Ngāti Tūmatauenga, the New Zealand Army.

Before I do so, I would like to acknowledge those who are no longer with us. We have lost a number of talented, well-respected and well-loved members of Ngāti Tūmatauenga in 2024; both those in active service and amongst our veterans. It's during times of loss and pain we often form some of our strongest bonds, and I have been so proud to see how you have supported each other and the wider Army whānau in sharing grief and easing the collective burden. This is one of our fundamental strengths as an Army – our culture and in particular our comraderie.

I would also like to acknowledge the recent passing of Tā Bom Gillies in Rotorua, who was the last surviving member of the 28 (Maori) Battalion. He epitomised the values that we still hold dear today; Courage, Commitment, Comraderie and Integrity. It is now on us to maintain those values, and ensure Tā Bom and his comrades' legacy doesn't disappear with him.

2024 has been a year of uncertainty and one which has presented significant challenges, including balancing delivery of continuing operations, responses to HADR and force generation in an environment of workforce hollowness and a challenging financial landscape. Many of you are already going above and beyond your responsibilities to ensure we continue to deliver military effects, adapting and enhancing our preparedness, and for that I am incredibly grateful and proud.

This year has also seen some remarkable success stories and chapters for which we should rightly celebrate and be proud. We have seen new King's and Regimental Colours presented to 2/1 RNZIR, we've participated in numerous overseas deployments across the Pacific and wider afield, with our ally Australia and other key partners, our ongoing support to Op Tieke has evolved to meet the changing needs of the Ukrainian people and we maintained high levels of domestic training and activity, including the continuing introduction of capabilities into service, such as our Bushmaster.

There's no denying that 2025 will see a continuation of some of the pressures we're currently facing, but I truly believe that Army stands at the precipice of substantial opportunities.

We have the chance to redefine and reshape how Army is best placed to meet our future needs, including how we utilise our strongest asset – our highly-skilled, highly-trained people. Next year will see some significant landmarks in our longer-term journey, including the deploying of a Combat Team to Exercise Talisman Sabre. We will also be working within a new Defence Capability Plan, which is going through the last stages of Cabinet approval, and which will lay the framework for our future structure and success.

I'd also like to recognise that what is in fact my first *Army News* foreword as CA will also prove to be the final one, with this being the magazines' final digital version. I would like to extend Army's thanks to all those who have contributed to the publication over the years, and in particular Judith Martin, who was until recently *Army News*' Editor-in-Chief for the past 17 years. *Army News* has been a staple of breakrooms up and down our camps, but the digital landscape is understandably changing. One thing that isn't, however, is that we will continue to have our stories told as we write the next chapter in the story of Ngāti Tūmatauenga.

To those now set for some downtime over the Christmas and New Year break, I wish you and your whānau well, and hope you make the most of the time switching off and connecting with loved ones. To those who are steadfastly working through – be it at home or deployed overseas – thank you for your ongoing service, and the sacrifices you and your families and friends make, to keep our country safe.

# COLOURS



Photo: CPL Sean Spivey

# HISTORY SEWN INTO THE FABRIC OF NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA

By Charlene Williamson



**In a rare and historic event the consecration and presentation of the first Colours to be presented to a battalion of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) during the reign of King Charles III took place at Burnham Military Camp in late October.**

The new Colours (ceremonial flags) were presented to 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment's (2/1 RNZIR) by Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand, on behalf His Majesty King Charles III.

In his message to the Battalion, His Majesty The King said that while he was unable to be at the parade in person it gave him a great sense of pride that 2/1 RNZIR have received the Colours in his name.

"Your country and your Regiment's history is sewn into the very fabric of these Colours. They recall the courage and selfless commitment on the battlefield of soldiers who, like yourselves, were drawn from every part of New Zealand.

"May these Colours serve as a constant inspiration to you and to those who come after you. I am proud to give them into your safekeeping in the knowledge that you will continue to uphold the standards and spirit of your country and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment."

The new King's and Regimental Colours are the first to be presented to the NZDF during the reign of His Majesty King Charles III, and the first Colours to be presented to any New Zealand Army unit since 1997.

2/1 RNZIR' old Colours, which were presented during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II in 1980, were trooped for the last time and the new King's Colour and Regimental Colour were consecrated at a parade attended by more than 500.

2/1 RNZIR Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Sam Smith, said the consecration of the new Colours is an historic event for the New Zealand Army.

"An infantry battalion is an enduring entity, this is through the reverence of our war memory, but primarily it is through our people.

"The officers and soldiers of 2/1 RNZIR, as descendants of several proud Regiments, accept the responsibility of honouring and holding the legacy of their service and sacrifice," LTCOL Smith said.

*Images: 2nd 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment colours parade. The new Kings colours were unveiled to the battalion with the Governor General, Chief of Defence Force, and the Chief of the Army in attendance.*

*Photos: CPL Sean Spivey*



Eight new battle honours are emblazoned on the new Regimental Colour, of which six have never been emblazoned onto any other Infantry Colour in the New Zealand Army. This recognises former pan-New Zealand infantry battalions that have not previously been recognised in this way.

They are HILL 60 (ANZAC) and DELVILLE WOOD, which are unique to the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion respectively; OLYMPUS PASS and MONASTRY HILL, which are unique to or uniquely chosen for emblazonment by 28 (Maori) Battalion; and VEVE and SILLARO CROSSING, which are unique to or uniquely chosen for emblazonment by 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion. The two remaining battle honours, SARI BAIR and SOMME 1916, 18, are inherited from the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Rifle Brigade respectively.

"We acknowledge all who have served in our predecessor battalions as they take their rightful place in our shared history through the emblazonment of these new battle honours," LTCOL Smith said.

Chief of Army, Major General Rose King said that the addition of these new battle honours is a significant step in recognising the service of former battalions which were drawn from every part of New Zealand.

"I know that 2/1 RNZIR will carry these new battle honours with pride and dignity on behalf of the Royal New Infantry Regiment," MAJGEN King said.

"The new Colours represent the spirit of the Regiment, which is built on our core values: courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity."

The last surviving members of 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion, 102 year-old Doug Reid and 28 (Maori) Battalion, 99 year-old Tā Robert 'Bom' Gillies, KNZM, were unable to attend the parade, but were represented by their whānau.

In a special dedication to both veterans the Regimental Colour was presented to their whānau on parade for inspection. It was the first time they were able to view the Colours and the newly emblazoned battle honours.

"I salute these two incredible veterans who fought to be here with us today to represent their comrades, but who unfortunately couldn't make it down in person. It has been many years since these last surviving warriors and their mates fought in the passes of Greece, the dust of the deserts of North Africa and the mud and rain of Italy," LTCOL Smith said.

Tā Gillies served at the battle of Monastery Hill and while he says the recognition is years late, he is happy it has finally happened.

"I feel that my fellow comrades would be pleased by this recognition," Tā Bom said.

"It was a huge responsibility for Māori to volunteer to go to war, we volunteered for six years, and it was a big thing for a small race.

"Our contribution wasn't huge because we only had a small population, but we went to war because we were good soldiers."

2/1 RNZIR Honorary Colonel Major General (Rtd) Evan Williams, ONZM, said the responsibility bestowed upon the unit is one they should be proud of.

"They have been entrusted with the legacy of those who went before. This is never forgotten and the generations that follow will have a better chance to understand the deeper history of the Army that they serve," MAJGEN Williams said.

"It is extremely important that New Zealand infantry soldiers know their roots, what the heritage and traditions are, and where they come from so they can understand what is expected of them now, and into the future. This is the purpose of the Colours."

Although Colours are no longer carried into battle, they continue to be paraded ceremonially to signify each battalions' unique history, esprit de corps and identity. For Ngāti Tūmataua, the New Zealand Army, these traditions date back to the mid 1800s.

The previous Colours of 2/1 RNZIR after more than 44 years of general wear and tear had reached end their lives and following the consecration of the new Colours have been laid up at Burnham's All Saints Chapel.



“

**Your country and your Regiment's history is sewn into the very fabric of these Colours. They recall the courage and selfless commitment on the battlefield of soldiers who, like yourselves, were drawn from every part of New Zealand.**

– His Majesty King Charles III



# BEHIND THE STITCH

By Charlene Williamson

In a special ceremony in late October the new King's and Regimental Colours of the New Zealand Army's 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) were consecrated at Burnham Military Camp.

*Image: Stitching the battle honours for the Regimental Colour of 2/1 RNZIR.*

They were presented to the Battalion by Her Excellency, The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand, on behalf of His Majesty King Charles III, and marked the culmination of a significant new chapter for 2/1 RNZIR.

The backstory of the Colours (hand-embroidered flags) is also remarkable, and one steeped in history. 2/1 RNZIR's two new Colours were hand stitched by three women from Wyedean Weaving in the United Kingdom.

Aileen Henderson, Wendy Hatton and Susan Jones collectively have close to 120 years' experience in perfecting the intricate embroidery of military history around the world.

The three had previously worked with another British weaving company, Hobsons, to supply military embroidery, but when that company ceased trading in 2022 they joined Wyedean Weaving who had then acquired the contract to replace all British Armed Forces' Colours and Standards.

"We were delighted to accept, bringing our invaluable skills and experience into their fold," Aileen Henderson, pattern maker said.

Part of Wyedean Weaving's contract was to update the King's insignia and Tudor Crown on Colours and Standards, following the King's ascension in May 2023. 2/1 RNZIR's Colours are the first in New Zealand to be updated with the King's insignia.

Ms Henderson said the process of creating the Colours can only begin after the designs have been submitted to the King for approval.

"We can only start production once we receive this approval. I have an exceptional memory for patterns we'd previously created for Hobsons, and can identify if we already have them on file," Ms Henderson said.

"If we don't, new patterns are developed. Following the recent change in the monarchy, new patterns have been required to incorporate the King's crown."

She said the patterns vary in size depending on their intended use and once a design is scaled to the appropriate size, they are printed and transferred onto vellum (a form of translucent paper).



Image: Susan Jones, left, and Wendy Hatton working on the 2/1 RNZIR Colours in Yorkshire before they were collected and brought back to New Zealand.

"The outline of the patterns is pricked with a fine needle to create a stencil, which is then placed on the silk. Depending on the background colour, either black or white ink is used to transpose the design on to the backing material.

"The scrolls are always worked first, followed by the embroidery, starting from the base. The intricate work needed for these particular Colours lasted six months," she said.

The craftsmanship of 2/1 RNZIR's new King's and Regimental Colour took more than 900 hours of meticulous embroidery.

"We utilised three meters of pure silk cloth, 75 grams of gold thread and 150 grams of pure silk embroidery thread," embroiderer Wendy Hatton said.

"The highlight of this project was working with the distinctly different design compared to our usual Colours, particularly the vibrant colours set against the dark blue silk background, which added unique visual appeal."

Working on this project carried additional significance for both Ms Hatton and Ms Jones, who had previously worked on the embroidery of the Royal New Zealand Air Force's King's Colour (although it was called the Queen's Colour back then) presented in 2019.

"We feel an immense sense of pride and honour in contributing to such significant pieces of history for militaries around the globe," Ms Jones said.

All three said the pinnacle of their careers was witnessing the consecration of all the King's Colours for the Coronations of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at Buckingham Palace.

They are all to be awarded Coronation Medals for their precision, passion and professionalism following the hand embroidery of five flags for the King's Coronation in 2022.

The new King's and Regimental Colours are the first to be presented to the New Zealand Defence Force during the reign King Charles III, and the first presentation of Colours to any New Zealand infantry battalion since 1997.

Ms Henderson said that Colours typically have a lifespan of 20-25 years depending on their usage.

"For example, the Foot Guards (regular infantry regiments in the Household Division of the British Army) often replace theirs every 15-20 years due to daily use."

2/1 RNZIR previous King's and Regimental Colours were presented in 1980 and after more than 44 years of general wear and tear they had reached their lives. When Colours are replaced they are laid up, which typically sees them hung in a church or chapel associated with the regiment, although some particularly significant Colours may be displayed in cathedrals, or other public buildings such as museums.

"We take great pride in seeing the old Colours laid up in Westminster and other churches, especially when our families ask which ones we created," Ms Henderson said.

The old 2/1 RNZIR Colours, were laid up at Burnham's All Saints Chapel in mid-November.

A portrait of an elderly man, Mr Doug Reid, wearing a dark suit, a light-colored checkered shirt, and a dark blue tie with a gold emblem. He has several medals and ribbons pinned to his left breast pocket. The background is a bookshelf filled with books.

# CUSTARD, GUNS AND BATTLE HONOURS

It's been nearly 80 years since the end of the Second World War and 102 year-old Doug Reid still wears his 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion tie with pride.

*Image: Portrait of 102 year old Veteran Mr Doug Reid at The Ranfurly Veterans' Trust in Three Kings, Auckland, during his interview.  
Photos: LAC Jalesa Nomani*



“

**We were a custard ship. We ate custard every bloody night on the way to Egypt. I wouldn't eat custard when I got home and I wouldn't let my wife make custard for the children. I couldn't stand it.**

– Doug Reid

27 (Machine Gun) Battalion, 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, was raised in Burnham on October 1939 and consisted of four machine gun companies, totalling around 700 personnel equipped with Vickers machine guns.

The Battalion's last known surviving member, Mr Reid joined the New Zealand Army in 1941 as a 19-year-old.

“At that time the government of the day wanted all boys who were 19 and whose birthdays were in May and June to join the forces in preparation to go to war. I was just put into the Territorial Army and was trained on the guns.

“We were trained on the Vickers machine guns as part of Support Company, along with hundreds of others all over New Zealand doing the same thing, and then we waited for the call up.

“In 1942, when I was 20, I was called up, and sent to Papakura to join the overseas forces. We did some training and then we were shipped off to Egypt in 1943,” he said.

They were sent on the Dutch troop ship the Nieuw Amsterdam, which was used to transport personnel during the Second World War. In just over six years of service, she carried close to 380,000 troops.

After a brief stop in Darwin, Australia, the ship went straight to Egypt and the troops into Maadi Military Camp. Mr Reid turned 21 on the journey.

One memory of his time on the ship that has stayed with him for more than 80 years, is custard.

“We were a custard ship. We ate custard every bloody night on the way to Egypt. I wouldn't eat custard when I got home and I wouldn't let my wife make custard for the children. I couldn't stand it.”

During the Italian campaign the 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion fired nearly nine million rounds of ammunition and they were one of the first units to cross the Sangro River in 1943.

“Going into Italy we fought all the way up the coast, and arrived at Monte Cassino. All I can remember is that we'd never been able to conquer it – the Germans were sitting on the big hill overlooking the whole land.

“The powers that be decided the only way was to bomb the show. So 100 bombers came in. We had a terrible time getting up the hill making sure we didn't encounter Germans, but we knew they were there.”

During their service in the war 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion lost 182 soldiers, 508 were wounded and a further 257 captured.

Mr Reid was one of the wounded at the Battle of Monte Cassino.

“I got wounded just before Rome fell, both my legs had shrapnel in them. I still have some of the shells in my leg today.

“I was only out of the fight for a month. I can remember going back, there was a group of us wounded boys who went back to the city of Bari after we'd been in hospital.

“As soon as you were right, you were sent back to the front line. They patched you up, and sent you on your way, unless you were badly injured of course,” he said.

When the war was officially over on 8 May 1945, the Battalion packed up and returned to New Zealand in January 1946. 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion was officially disbanded in 1948.



“I did find it hard getting back to the civvy (civilian) way of life, a lot of the boys did too, it took a while to settle back in,” he recalled.

Following the war he bought a milkbar (dairy) and was in business until he retired. He remembers fondly the reunions with his fellow comrades after the war.

“The best thing was the reunions, we would have them every two years, for all the boys that could come. I loved it.”

In 2009 the 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion held its 70th and final national reunion.

In the same year, Burnham’s 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR) officially took custodianship of the Battalion’s regimental traditions and legacy.

In late October 2/1 RNZIR received its new King’s Colour and Regimental Colour. The new Regimental Colour has eight new battle honours emblazoned.

Six of those new battle honours have never previously been emblazoned on any New Zealand Infantry colour, including two honours inherited from 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion. They are VEVE (1941), a battle in Greece, and SILLARO CROSSING (1945), a battle in Italy.

While Mr Reid was unable to attend the parade in person due to ill health, his family represented him and his old comrades at the parade and presentation at Burnham Military Camp.

He still can’t quite believe that he is likely the only one left from the Battalion.

“I lost a lot of good mates, we had so many good and bad memories from our time. What can you say about war? I made some really great mates in the Battalion.”

He said the emblazonment of the two 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion battle honours onto the Regimental Colour of 2/1 RNZIR is wonderful.

“The main point is that we are being recognised as a Battalion, a good Battalion, with the machine guns, and we did a lot of good things.

“I think the boys would be really thrilled to be honoured like this.”

His still recalls clearly the Battalion coming under fire for the first time in Italy.

“That was the first time we were under gunfire. We had just got to the Sangro River, the order was given to dig in and all of a sudden shells were coming in. That was our first definite war effort there.

“We gave covering fire overhead when the infantry was going in. If there was a barrage going down with the 25 pounders (artillery shells) we’d be firing into it and lifting every 500 yards,” he said.

Mr Reid still proudly owns a flag that he had made in 1943 when he arrived in Egypt, which remains in perfect condition.

“I had it made in 1943 as a souvenir with the guns on it when we first arrived, I have looked after it with pride.”

Mr Reid now lives in the Ranfurly Veterans Home & Hospital in Auckland where he has been since early 2023.

# GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER HONOURS KORO

By Charlene Williamson

**Seeing two new battle honours awarded to Te Hokowhitu a Tū – the New Zealand Maori Contingent and the New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion – was a special occasion for one Army Corporal in particular.**

Corporal Paddy Whare, from Napier, is the great granddaughter of Private Te Iwi Ngaro Whare who served with New Zealand Maori (Pioneer) Battalion, 15th Reinforcements. New Zealand Army has seen eight additional battle honours emblazoned onto the new Regimental Colour of 2nd/1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (2/1 RNZIR).

Six of the battle honours have never previously been emblazoned onto any New Zealand Army infantry colours, of which two – HILL 60 (ANZAC) and DEVILLE WOOD – are unique to Te Hokowhitu a Tū.

CPL Whare is currently serving in 2/1 RNZIR and said she discovered her koro's service by chance in 2017.

"I looked at the 28 (Maori) Battalion website, typed in the name Whare and it returned with David George Whare, which is my father's name, but he never served," CPL Whare said.

"I knew my father was named after my great grandfather Te Iwi Ngaro Whare, who had been in the Army. I went back through my father's whakapapa documents to read that my koro Te Iwi Ngaro Whare was also known as Dave.

"It was then a process of checking his parent's names and birth details against archive documents."

With a little more research CPL Whare was able to find out more about her koro and his military service.

In November 1916, a 20-year old Te Iwi Ngaro enlisted into the New Zealand Army in Rotoura, and was discharged February 1919. He spent a total of two years 58 days in service, of which more than half (one year 282 days) was spent overseas on the Western Front.

"Koro was part of the German Spring offensive in 1918. Using papers from the New Zealand Archives I could see he was injured on 5 April 1918 on the Somme," CPL Whare said.

"I was given the book *Whitiki! Whitiki! Whitiki! E! Maori in the First World War* by historian Dr Monty Soutar from a good friend, which then allowed me to trace where koro had been and what he and his Battalion were doing.

"On 5 April 1918, Māori Pioneers were wiring near the front line where sadly some were killed or wounded, him being one of them. His medical documents read 'gunshot wound left leg' – he was struck by shell splinter above the left knee.

"I keep thinking of the things he would have seen and done in his time over there."

A defining moment of her research was discovering that at the age of 45 years-old Te Iwi Ngaro reenlisted into the Army for the Second World War.

"The New Zealand Defence Force's (NZDF) Personnel, Archives and Medals team returned two regimental numbers with my koro's name.

"I said that it was only the first number that related to my koro, but I was told that he had two numbers as he reenlisted during World War 2.

"I was completely shocked and just looked at her speechless. I was still getting my head around him having served in the First World War, so to say I was proud of him is an understatement," she said.

While CPL Whare she said she can't speak for her koro she was proud to be standing on parade when Te Hokowhitu a Tū's battle honours were paraded.

"For me, it's was pretty emotional seeing the new battle honours being marched onto the parade ground.

"I would like to think he would be super proud of his three grandchildren who have all served in the Army – myself and my older cousins who have served in the Royal New Zealand Signals Corps and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment."

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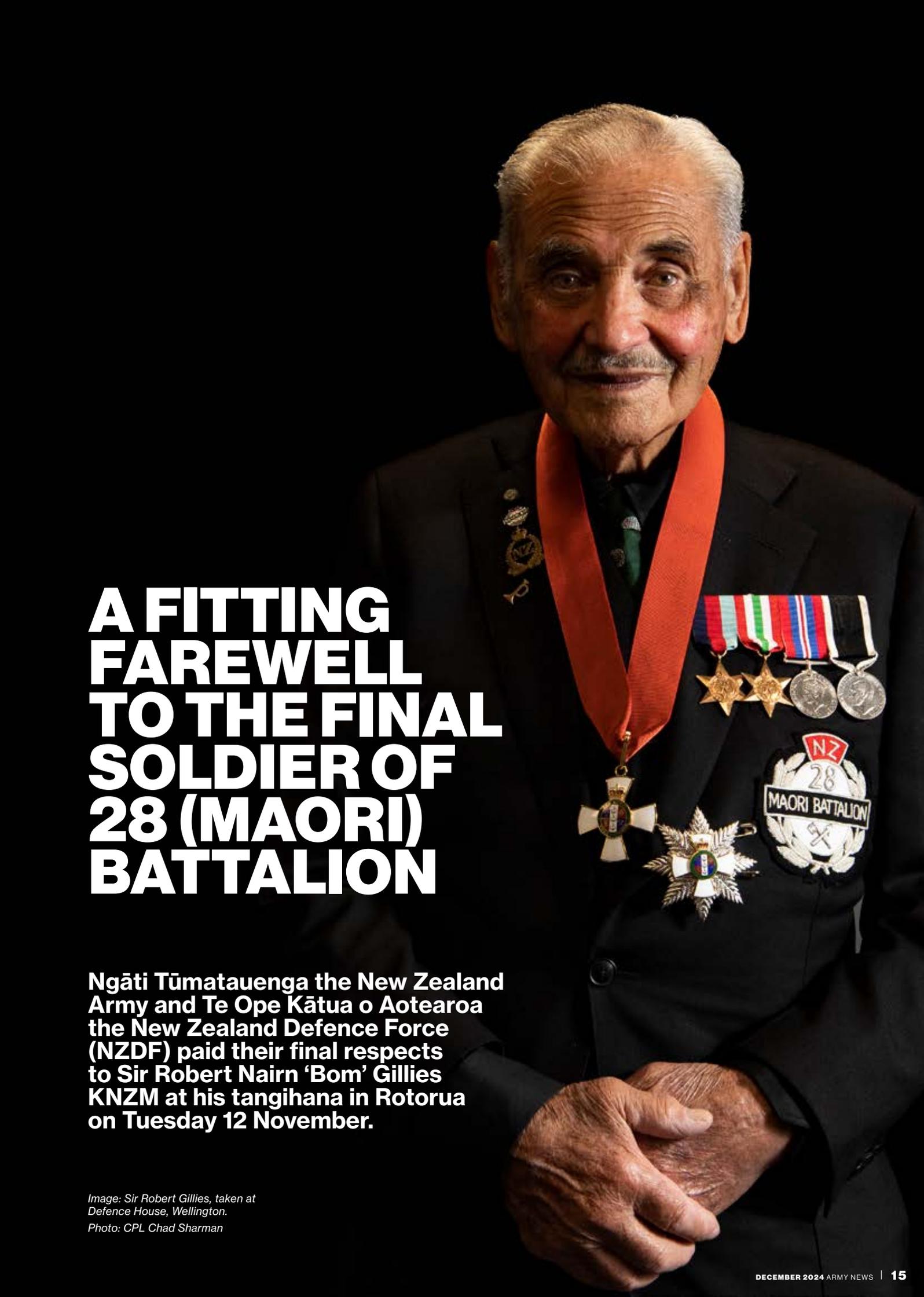
I would like to think he would be super proud of his three grandchildren who have all served in the Army – myself and my older cousins who have served in the Royal New Zealand Signals Corps and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

– CPL Paddy Whare



Image: CPL Paddy Whare's great grand father was part of the Maori Pioneer Battalion in the First World War.

Photo: CPL Sean Spivey



# A FITTING FAREWELL TO THE FINAL SOLDIER OF 28 (MAORI) BATTALION

Ngāti Tūmatauenga the New Zealand Army and Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) paid their final respects to Sir Robert Nairn 'Bom' Gillies KNZM at his tangihana in Rotorua on Tuesday 12 November.

*Image: Sir Robert Gillies, taken at Defence House, Wellington.*

*Photo: CPL Chad Sharman*



Image: Tangi of Sir Robert 'Bom' Gillies at Te Papaïouru Marae, Rotorua.  
Photo: CPL Naomi James

“

**As the last surviving member of the 28 (Maori) Battalion, Tā Bom was a precious link to a chapter of history marked by sacrifice and dedication.**

– MAJGEN Rose King

Sir Robert was the last surviving member of the 28 (Maori) Battalion which fought in gruelling campaigns across North Africa and Italy during the Second World War.

Major General Rose King said the opportunity to attend Tuesday's service and nehu (burial), to pay their respects to a man with such mana was incredibly special and poignant.

“As the last surviving member of the 28 (Maori) Battalion, Tā Bom was a precious link to a chapter of history marked by sacrifice and dedication. As we say goodbye, we remember not only a warrior but a kaitiaki – a protector of memory and tradition, whose life exemplified courage, loyalty, and aroha,” said Major General King.

The NZDF has provided support to Tā Bom's whānau both in the lead-up to his passing, and on the ground at Rotorua's Te Papaïouru Marae since Saturday.

Twenty personnel from the Army's 2nd Combat Service Support Battalion (2CSSB) helped prepare more than 1,500 meals in partnership with staff at the marae, feeding the significant number of guests who'd travelled from around the country to pay their respects.

On Tuesday, the NZDF also provided support to Tā Bom's official tangi service. Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Tony Davies, supported by Chief of Army Major General King and Warrant Officer of the Defence Force, Warrant Officer Class One Wiremu Moffit, presented whānau with the manahi sword for the occasion.

The Te Arawa Sword of Gallantry – which was presented to Lance Sergeant Haane Manahi for his acts of outstanding bravery and courage in the North Africa Campaign in the Second World War – is a symbol of the enduring partnership between the Defence Force and Te Arawa Iwi.

It is also the sword used by Her Excellency Dame Cindy Kiro GNZM QSO, Governor-General, to knight Tā Bom in 2022, to which he said at the time: “There are many soldiers who did more and who have never been recognised. I accept on behalf of all the boys, all my mates who served in the Māori Battalion.”

At the conclusion of Tuesday's service at Te Papaïouru Marae, Tā Bom was placed onto a gun carriage, and received a traditional firing party volley. The three-shot volley symbolised to Tā Bom's 28 (Maori) Battalion comrades that the last of their Battalion was on his way.

“It has been a privilege to be able to play our part in not only honouring Tā Bom, but in providing support in whatever way we could to his whānau. For so many years they have graciously shared him with us, Ngāti Tūmatauenga, his Army whānau,” MAJGEN King said.

“Our thoughts remain with them as they now come to terms with the loss of their koro, father, brother, uncle and treasured friend.”



# SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

**LANCE CORPORAL RENEE BOWEN**

*Image: LCPL Renee Bowen during  
Exercise TEHEX.  
Photo: CPL Chad Sharman*



Image: LCPL Bowen has been announced as the soldier of the year 2024.  
Photo: CPL Sean Spivey

Three years ago, Lance Corporal Renee Bowen joined the NZ Army because she wanted something that challenged her every day. Her drive and passion towards that journey has seen her named Soldier of the Year 2024.

LCPL Bowen, from Christchurch, attended Riccarton High School and followed a fitness career, working as a Physical Training Instructor and manager at a fitness studio. She is now with the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals at Burnham Military Camp.

"I have always been that person that wants to keep progressing," she says. "And the physical side of the NZ Army really appealed to me."

Command noticed early on her high drive to succeed and ability to lead others on the same path. Her citation says LCPL Bowen has stood out to her superiors as a high performer who volunteered for any extracurricular task or activity that was presented to her.

"LCPL Bowen's unwavering adherence to the NZ Army Ethos and Values has earned her the admiration and respect of both her peers and subordinates," says her citation.

"Her dedication to fostering an environment of respect and trust among her detachment and cohort has greatly contributed to the success and drive of those around her."

She's pushed for more on the physical side, recently completing the Assistant Physical Training Instructor course in Linton. It puts her in a position to further develop her leadership skills in the fitness space.

"I love that there's many opportunities in the Army if you are willing to take them. And command are all for you further developing your skills," she says.

She particularly enjoys field exercises with multiple units, seeing how other parts of the Army work together. A particular highlight was a Five Eyes exercise in America at the end of 2023, working operationally with other countries.

Going forward, she says she would love to coach junior soldiers at The Army Depot (TAD) in Waiouru.

Outside of the Army, LCPL Bowen is studying with the Voluntary Education Study Assistance scheme towards a Bachelor's Degree in Business at Massey University.

Her advice to those thinking of joining the Army is to make the most of it.

"Basic training can be tough but you and your mates are all in the same boat, so work hard for them. Remember to stay positive and flexible. You will have a lot more fun if you are able to keep smiling and go with the flow. And you'll have friendships that will last forever."

“

**Her dedication to fostering an environment of respect and trust among her detachment and cohort has greatly contributed to the success and drive of those around her.**

– Command citation

# ARMY AND NZDF SET TO WELCOME NEW WORKHORSE UTILITY VEHICLE

**From 2027 Ngāti Tūmataua, the New Zealand Army, will receive sixty brand new utility vehicles in a significant boost to New Zealand Defence Force capabilities.**

In a signing ceremony at Defence House last month, Secretary of Defence Brook Barrington finalised a contract with Spanish military vehicle manufacturer UROVESA – the first time the NZDF has engaged in a significant procurement from Spain in the Land Domain.

It is the latest stage of the Protected Mobility Capability Project (PMCP), which has already seen the NZ Army acquire new operational vehicles in the form of the Bushmaster and Polaris fleets.

The delivery of the first 60 utility vehicles will bring 40 VAMTAC CK3 medium and 20 VAMTAC ST5 light variants for operational roles.

It follows Government approval of the first tranche of a Ministry of Defence-led project, which received \$100 million in funding as part of Budget 24.

Tranche one covers the purchase of the vehicles, spare parts, computing and communications equipment, support equipment, project costs, and introduction into service costs.

Chief of Army Major General Rose King, who was the official witness to the contract signing, said the new vehicles represent a significant improvement in Army's capabilities, and will provide soldiers with a robust and versatile vehicle for combat, disaster relief, and general training scenarios.

## VAMTAC CK3 – Utility Vehicle Medium, General Variant

- Maximum authorized gross vehicle weight: 9950 kg
- Payload capacity: 4000 kg
- Max speed: 110 kmh
- Ground clearance: >350 mm
- Height: 3.03 metres
- Length: 6.34 metres
- Width: 2.3 metres
- Wading depth: >1.5 metres



## VAMTAC ST5 – Utility Vehicle Light, General Variant

- Maximum authorized gross vehicle weight: 6000 kg
- Payload capacity: 1700 kg
- Max speed: 110 kmh
- Ground clearance: >350 mm
- Height: 2.6 metres
- Length: 5.68 metres
- Width: 2.3 metres
- Wading depth: >750 mm



“

**These new vehicles will make our people safer, their jobs easier and improve our effectiveness across a variety of scenarios, and I can't wait to see them up and running here in Aotearoa.**

– MAJGEN Rose King

“Both the Unimog and Pinzgauer vehicles have served Ngāti Tūmataunga well over the years – they have rightly been described as Army's workhorses – but their retirement from service is overdue. And so, it is with great excitement that we will see the start of the replacement of these essential platforms,” said MAJGEN King.

“These new vehicles will make our people safer, their jobs easier and improve our effectiveness across a variety of scenarios, and I can't wait to see them up and running here in Aotearoa.”

PMCP Army lead Lieutenant Colonel Brendon Jones said this new fleet will not only provide Army with a more reliable and modern alternative to the current vehicles, but it sets the NZDF up well for the future.

“We're incredibly excited that we're one step closer to having these vehicles in our possession and I know our soldiers will be itching to get these out onto our training areas and putting them through their paces.

“These vehicles are well equipped for not only our terrain here in New Zealand, but also the operational environments we deploy to – they have great carrying capacity, have rollover protection and the medium variant can wade through water depths up to 1.5m, which is an upgrade on the current Unimog's 1.2m. They also have an internally operated tyre inflation system, which can adjust tyre pressures depending on the difficult or soft terrain. Those attributes will be invaluable for us for domestic and regional civil emergency responses,” said LTCOL Jones.

The first tranche of vehicles will replace around 25 percent of the Army's current fleet of Pinzgauers and Unimogs that are assigned to specific operational units, and they will all be equipped with Network Enabled Army compliant communications systems and equipment.

The existing operational utility vehicle fleet has provided the NZDF with critical transportation capabilities for close to 40 years. Vehicles were recently deployed to the Solomon Islands to support the regionally-led Solomon Islands Assistance Force, following civil unrest. They were also deployed following Cyclone Gabrielle, to transport supplies to areas that other vehicles could not access.

# NEW COMMANDING OFFICER FOR 16TH FIELD REGIMENT

By Jo Priestley



The incoming Commanding Officer of 16th Field Regiment at Linton Military Camp says one of his priorities is that his team exists in a high state of readiness and able to fight at a moment's notice with the kit and people available.

Lieutenant Colonel Brent Morris is without doubt a man of action. He enlisted in the New Zealand Army in 2004 and in December of that year commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the Royal New Zealand Artillery. This proved to be the start of an illustrious career as a Gunner Officer which has included deployments and postings to Timor Leste, United Kingdom, South Sudan, Australia and Sinai Egypt.

In 2005 LTCOL Morris was posted as a Young Officer to 16th Field Regiment. Between 2005 and 2008 LTCOL Morris fulfilled the roles of Weapons Troop Commander, Command Post Troop Commander, and Reconnaissance Troop Commander within the Regiment. In 2010 LTCOL Morris completed his Joint Fires Team Commander and Grade Three Staff and Tactics Courses. He was promoted to Captain in December of that year.

Between 2010 and 2012 LTCOL Morris was posted on exchange as a Forward Observation Officer to 14th Regiment, Royal Artillery, Larkhill, United Kingdom. During this time he completed his Instructor in Gunnery course at the Royal School of Artillery (UK).

In December 2012 LTCOL Morris was posted to the School of Artillery (NZ) for two years. Here he trained Royal New Zealand Artillery Officers and soldiers on various courses, as well as revamped both the Gun Position Officer's, and Joint Fires Team Commander's Courses.

In 2015 LTCOL Morris completed the Grade Two Staff and Tactics Course and promoted to Major. In September of that year he deployed to South Sudan as a Military Liaison Officer on Operation Sudden.

Between March 2016 and December 2018 LTCOL Morris fulfilled the role of Battery Commander 163rd Battery. During this time he also attained a Bachelors of Applied Management from Otago Polytechnic.

In 2019 LTCOL Morris attended Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra where he attained a Masters in Military and Defence Studies from the Australian National University.

In December 2019 LTCOL Morris posted to Tactical School (NZ) as an instructor. In 2020 he assumed the role of Chief Instructor.

In May 2021 LTCOL Morris was promoted and deployed to Sinai, Egypt as the Senior National Officer for Operation Farad. He was awarded a Force Commander's commendation at the completion of his tour.

LTCOL Morris left the Army in July 2022 and took up a role as a strategic labour market planner for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. He re-enlisted in the NZ Army in July 2023 and posted into Commandant, Mission Command Training Centre prior to his current position as Commanding Officer, 16th Field Regiment.

LTCOL Brent Morris says he is looking forward to leading his second family, the 16th Field Regiment and influencing people to pursue operational success. He says trust is integral to leadership and demonstrating integrity, benevolence, predictability and competence in carrying out your duties. LTCOL Morris is married to Anna, and they have five boys, Harry, Arlo, Max, Everett and Bowen. He says he would love to have hobbies but acknowledges the fact that he must now live his life vicariously through his children.

# WARFIGHTING CULTURE FOCUS FOR RETURNING QAMR SOLDIER

By Jo Priestley

2025 is shaping up to be a significant year for the New Zealand Army's Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles Regiment (QAMR).

*Image: A handover / takeover parade was held at Linton Military Camp to farewell the outgoing Queen Alexandra Mounted Rifles Commanding Officer and to welcome the new incoming Commanding Officer LTCOL Caleb Berry.*

*Photo: CPL Maddy Butcher*





**This is certainly one of the highlights of my career so far, and I'm honoured to be able to lead this amazing group of people during through what will be both challenging and exciting times...**

– LTCOL Caleb Berry

It will not only see the unit bring its latest fleet of armoured Bushmaster vehicles continue their introduction into service, but also see them deploy a Combat Team as part of a sizeable contingent to Australia for Exercise Diamond Strike and Exercise Talisman Sabre in June/ July next year – and it will all happen under the steady hand and watchful eye of its latest Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Caleb Berry's career has now come full circle with the Wairarapa-born soldier's return to QAMR as its most senior officer, 19 years after he signed up for service.

"This is certainly one of the highlights of my career so far, and I'm honoured to be able to lead this amazing group of people during through what will be both challenging and exciting times for the unit and for Ngāti Tūmatauenga in general," LTCOL Berry said.

LTCOL Berry has displayed strong leadership qualities throughout his career in service, including being deployed as a then 25-year-old Patrol Commander to Afghanistan in 2012, leading a training sub-unit in Iraq in 2017/18 and Squadron Command of NZ Scottish Squadron 2018-20.

Reinforcing and maintaining an already strong culture is an important goal for him and QAMR.

"By this I mean a warfighting culture focused on combat effectiveness and being ready for operations," he said.

"As the sole armoured unit in the NZ Army we hold the expertise for mounted combat however it's worth noting that the wider Army is on a journey of towards greater motorisation too. What this means is that infantry soldiers and commanders should be proficient in operating from and working with armoured vehicles; whether that be the armoured Bushmasters, the NZLAV or any other vehicles we may obtain in the future."

The Bushmaster in particular will be an early and key focus area for him as Commanding Officer of QAMR.

"In 2025 we'll be introducing them into active service, and we'll need to do that while maintaining our warfighting culture within the regiment. We're fortunate that we have some great exercises coming up over in Australia in 2025 that will really test us in this space, and allow us to really push our capabilities alongside our partners.

QAMR will be continuing the development of Battle Group Black as the Motorised Infantry Battle Group (MIBG) Headquarters throughout 2025 whilst concurrently committing the Combat Team to the two Australian-led exercises – Diamond Strike in June and Talisman Sabre in July. "The Combat Team will be fully integrated with infantry from 1RNZIR, Gunners from 16Fd Regt and Sappers from 2ER. It will operate as part of 7 AS Brigade conducting both defensive and offensive tasks against a peer-threat.

"Another focus will be cutting away the chaff – everything we do will be linked to enhancing lethality and our combat effectiveness and survivability on the battlefield.

"I will train, mentor and develop combat-focused, and inspiring leaders within my unit. Combat is a brutal experience to go through, the decisions we make as leaders can ultimately result in our soldiers being killed or wounded.

"So the onus is on us to be the best that we can be, to reduce that risk and look after our people as much as possible. And it's more than just the personnel themselves, it's the families and friends at home who also sacrifice so much in support of our people's service. That is the burden of command," LTCOL Berry said.

His most recent posting was as the Capability Integration Lead for the Protected Mobility Capability Project in Capability Branch but has worked in a variety of roles across QAMR, Combat School and positions within Army General Staff.

One bonus to relocating to Linton with his family, is the opportunity to once again don the amber and black jersey of the QAMR rugby team, one of his key passions away from service.

# TARANAKI GUNNER PROUD TO REPRESENT NEW ZEALAND AT PRESTIGIOUS U.S ACADEMY

Like many of his fellow recruits, then 20-year old Richie Bray from Taranaki signed up for New Zealand Army service in 2002 keen to explore the world.



*Image: WO1 Richie Bray is currently the Regimental Sergeant Major for 16th Field Regiment, Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery.*



Image: WO1 Richie Bray out in the field during a recent training exercise.

“I had never left New Zealand,” he said. Now, more than two decades of service later, Warrant Officer Class One Richie Bray has ticked a significant number of countries and experiences off his bucket list, with his latest posting just around the corner.

WO1 Bray has been selected to attend the United States Sergeant Major’s Academy in Texas for a 10-month course, which he says is a huge honour.

“To see my application come to fruition is both exciting, energizing and daunting at the same time as I will truly be standing on the shoulders of giants, both serving and past,” he said.

“I will use the opportunity to sharpen my cognitive edge to help continue Ngāti Tūmatauenga, the New Zealand Army’s journey to maintaining a combat-capable and effective force.”

WO1 Bray has spent the majority of his career with the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery’s 16th Field Regiment, where he’s currently posted as the Regimental Sergeant Major, a key leadership position.

He’s responsible for the regiment’s ceremonial and traditional protocols as well as its history, and is the key person tasked with maintaining discipline amongst soldiers.

He’s served on operations in Bosnia, East Timor and Afghanistan throughout his career and has picked up numerous bits of invaluable advice along the way.

“One of the best pieces of advice I received in my career came from a gunnery sergeant who told me: ‘You will have good days and bad, the Army is not easy nor is it meant to be. However, those that stick it out will find a purpose bigger than one’s self’.”

The Sergeant Major course in Texas is regarded as one of the leading educational programmes for non-commissioned officers, and will provide WO1 Bray the opportunity to not only enhance his leadership skills, but to rub shoulders with colleagues from the US and other partner militaries and bring that wealth of knowledge back to New Zealand.

He said he was most looking forward to making international connections, self-development and “representing the New Zealand brand to a high standard”.

He’s also excited that contrary to many previous deployments, this is one posting where his wife and two daughters will be able to join him.

“They’re super psyched to have the opportunity to live abroad for a year.”

“  
**I will use the opportunity to sharpen my cognitive edge to help continue Ngāti Tūmatauenga, the New Zealand Army’s journey to maintaining a combat-capable and effective force.**

– WO1 Richie Bray

# NEW OFFICERS WALKING THE BEAT

By SGT Rachel Roderick

## The New Zealand Defence Force Joint Military Police Unit has 10 new Military Police personnel. After fourteen weeks at Trentham Military Camp, the Defence Force Investigator's Basic Course 24/01 recently marched out.

Welcoming new recruits into the Joint Military Police Unit (JMPU) allows us to continue to diversify our unit and provide much needed personnel resourcing, which enables us to operate more effectively across the spectrum of MP duties including deployments.

The course entailed instruction on basic service police procedures, the comprehension of military law, the tactical use of force, emergency response driving, and the conduct criminal investigations.

It is designed to teach the recruits how to operate as a Military Police officer competently, legally and fairly within the stations they have now been posted to.

One of the benefits of being a Joint Service Unit is that graduates from the Defence Force Investigators Basic Course can be posted to any camps or bases within New Zealand. For example new Air Force graduates have been posted to Linton Army Camp and Army graduates have been posted to Devonport Naval Base.

The students were asked for some insight into the course and the challenges they faced.

Lance Corporal Nathan Sim said one of the challenges was trying to remember all of the legislation while performing the role, and trying to stay calm and collected during high adrenalin scenarios.

"While challenges can provide rewarding experiences, the course also offered a bit of fun," he said.

"My favourite memory from the course was when we were OC sprayed by the instructors. This was done so we knew what it felt like and how to look after people who were under the effects of the OC spray.

"I remember when I was about to be sprayed I was still talking so I got a mouthful of the spray, which was not pleasant and then afterward holding a hose up to my eyes to relieve the pain with water. We all got to look after and help each other while we rotated through who was under the effects of the spray. We learned that some of the aftercare was more effective than other parts, for me cool running water was the most effective."

Lance Corporal Brooke Harvey enjoyed the urgent duty driving week.

"We got to put our driving skills to the test, which included going out to the skid pad in NZ Police cars and to the Mansfield track to test our driving skills. This involved getting to go under lights and sirens round the track, taking corners quickly but in a safe manner and taught us how to quickly respond to incidents."

Another graduate, Lance Corporal Haydn Robinson said the course exceeded his expectations.

"The variety of training and qualifications we covered meant that we were always learning something new, and no two days were the same."

The graduates are now all performing the role of Military Police in various camps and bases. They will undergo further on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced MPs to further consolidate their learning.

If you are interested in learning new skills and like the idea of supporting the Defence Force in a Military Police role consider looking to join the unit. The next MP Investigators Basic course starts in May next year. Drop in to your local MP station and ask about the opportunity to experience some real time exposure to the MP role as part of the trade change process.



**ARMY NEWS  
EDITOR  
RETIRES AFTER  
31 YEARS**

*Photo: SGT Sam Shepherd*

## Content Editor Andrew Bonallack interviews his *Army News* colleague Judith Martin on her career with the Defence Force.

A magnificent purple clematis on the wall of a neighbouring Karori house clues me to realise I'm probably knocking on the wrong door.

I'm on time (and slightly geographically out) for an interview with Judith Martin, the retiring *Army News* editor. Judith is reputed to have an excellent garden and a clematis that good practically shouts her location. I've been a lucky recipient plants and cuttings, even spare bluebell bulbs, from her, and this is a chance to see the garden that has made Judith the unofficial Defence Public Affairs botanical Queen for plant questions in the daily Stuff quiz.

She cheerfully waves off my compliments with that stock gardeners' phrase – "I really need to weed it" and we move to the living room with cups of tea. Brendan, her retired husband, has a bad cold and has kindly retreated to another room.

It's an interesting situation for both of us, having worked together for eight years at various incarnations of Headquarters Defence Force in Wellington. Being on the other side of an interview is not familiar ground for Judith, having come to the New Zealand Defence Force 31 years ago from journalism work.

She came to Wellington from Taranaki in 1980.

"I was working for the Evening Post for eight years, covering the Kāpiti / Porirua area. There was no lack of stories, especially in Porirua – always something happening."

“

**Going down to the ice was a major story. I remember the weather was so bad, the crew were stood down and we had to be tied to our beds.**

– Judith Martin

Judith would go to the Porirua police station daily to get story leads, which is where she met Brendan, a serving police officer there.

"I then worked for a trade magazine – Plumbers and Gasfitters. I didn't know a thing about that trade – even now – but it was fun."

The couple had their first child, Sophie, while she was at the newspaper. In 1993, when her second child Ryan was 11 months old, she saw an ad offering work on a Defence Force magazine, *Defence Quarterly*.

"It was only 15 hours a week, sub-editing, proofing, arranging the photos. *Defence Quarterly* was a very flash, glossy, expensive magazine which ran for another seven years. It was in shops and sold ads to big outfits like Boeing. And contributors to *Defence Quarterly* were paid good money."

It was a timely job when money was tight, she says.

"It was also nice to be working again. Although I wobbled early on because I was missing Ryan. I nearly rang up and said I couldn't keep doing it."

She says she loved the diversity of the stories, and everyone was really helpful. "There was always something to do. Eventually, my boss gave me more writing jobs."

Deployments came early in Judith's career, including being embarked in frigates HMNZS Wellington to the Arabian Gulf and HMNZS Te Kaha to the Ross Sea.

"Going down to the ice was a major story. I remember the weather was so bad, the crew were stood down and we had to be tied to our beds."

The North Arabian Gulf deployment, which Judith describes as one of her most memorable assignments, involved Wellington as part of a Multinational Interception Force enforcing United Nations sanctions on Iraqi trade in 1995. The previous year, Wellington made history as the first full major surface combatant to have women aboard.

In later years she deployed to Afghanistan, Lebanon, Israel, Bougainville, East Timor, Solomon Islands and Banda Aceh after the Asian Tsunami.



**It was more, much more than work, really. You get to see people literally putting their life on the line and you think, wow.**

– Judith Martin

“I was lucky. Back then there wasn’t a lot of competition for these kind of jobs, and perhaps I just had good bosses. Public Affairs was all done out of Wellington back then. There were few regional communication advisors, no designers (design work was out-sourced), no videographers. We had a few photographers, some in Ohakea, some in Auckland.”

Rarely seen, except when she’s collecting on Poppy Day, are her two medals: the New Zealand Special Service Medal (Asian Tsunami) and the New Zealand Operational Service Medal.

“The Operational Service Medal represents many places, places I felt privileged to go to. New Zealand newspapers couldn’t get their journalists there, so I would do stories for the Evening Post or the Otago Daily Times.

“My boss would tell me, don’t sugar-coat it. Make the stories credible and write about what we did.

“It was more, much more than work, really. You get to see people literally putting their life on the line and you think, wow.”

She’s come through deployments where people have died. “Everyone feels it. One thing we did was making memory books for the families. They were hard cover books with photos of that person throughout their career, and an explanation of what they did. We’d do a small print run and send to the families and the museums. It was really nice to be able to do that.”

She says she’s always found that people want to tell her stories.

“Perhaps it was because I was a middle-aged woman and quiet, people talked to me. A lot of the time, I was probably the age of their mother and when you’re mum, it’s what you do – sort people’s issues out. People just want to offload sometimes, and you’re a safe person to do that with.”

She remembers one time very early in her Defence career she got thoroughly blanked by the troops.

“I went on this really big exercise in Waiouru. One morning, I woke up early in my tent and decided to go for walk and see what was going on. All the soldiers had been ordered to ‘Stand To’, meaning they crouch down on one knee and wait for the enemy to attack.

“I approached one soldier and he glared at me, so I approached another and he glared at me. Finally an officer came up and said, ‘Look ma’am, I don’t know where you’re from or what you’re doing here. But if you keep doing this, you might get shot’. So I slunk back to my tent. I do know what ‘Stand To’ means now.”

In 2007 the *Army News* editor Lorraine Brown left and Judith was asked to take it on as Acting Editor. In those days the editor also had an assistant.

“When Lorraine left the boss was in a bit of a panic. I told him I would give it a go.” Her first magazine as editor was May 2007, issue 376, where she introduced herself as an ‘Army brat’ (her father was in the Army). “I think children of Army personnel often hold that service dear to their hearts,” she says.

While other service magazines have indulged in ‘special editions’ to focus on a concept or capability, Judith has month by month, recorded and championed the evolving work of the New Zealand Army and the people behind it.

Chief of Army Major General Rose King, in a farewell tribute to Judith, says her work has always been more than just her writing.

“You have earned the respect of many of my Army colleagues over the years when you have deployed alongside them, documenting some of our most significant and challenging work in recent decades.

“I know that I speak on behalf of many Army personnel – from those still serving, those who have left or are no longer with us – who took significant value and pride in seeing their work reflected and championed in *Army News*. It also gave personnel the ability to connect with the Army, even after their service had ended.”

She likes the idea of semi-retirement. “I’ve been doing this a long time. Brendan is retired and it will be nice to hang out with him.” The couple are fortunate to have family, including granddaughter Nina, not far away.

But she doesn’t want to chuck it in.

“I’ll have a little break, perhaps pop up to Taranaki, and then I want to look for small editing jobs, subbing and proofing. I’d love to do more stories on our veterans, like a recent one we published on a 103-year-old. Old guys like that won’t be around for much longer.”

# CORPORAL LANDS TOP MEDIC TITLE

Twenty medics from the New Zealand Army, Royal New Zealand Navy, Royal New Zealand Air Force and the Australian Defence Force have fought it out for the title of 'top medic'. The tri-service competition is a biennial activity that tests our medics' abilities to operate independently and provide health effects in a broad spectrum of operational environments.

New Zealand Army's Corporal Patrick Harnett, from Amberley, took out the top spot and was the overall winner of the three-day competition late last month.

"I am very humbled to win this year's Medic Match. There were outstanding medics competing and the ball bounced my way in the end," CPL Harnett said.

He said the most challenging part of the competition was continuing to follow up a good performance each time.

"I took whatever came my way and realised that I couldn't control what was going to be thrown at me. I did find it mentally challenging to keep the standard high and keep the scoreboard pressure on."

He said the confidence course aspect of the competition, along with the fire training centre, was a highlight and a lot of fun.

"Competing in front of your peers and senior leaders puts you in a pretty vulnerable place. It very easily could have gone to more than a dozen other medics.

"Everyone who competed deserves acknowledgement for putting themselves out there regardless of where they placed," CPL Harnett said.

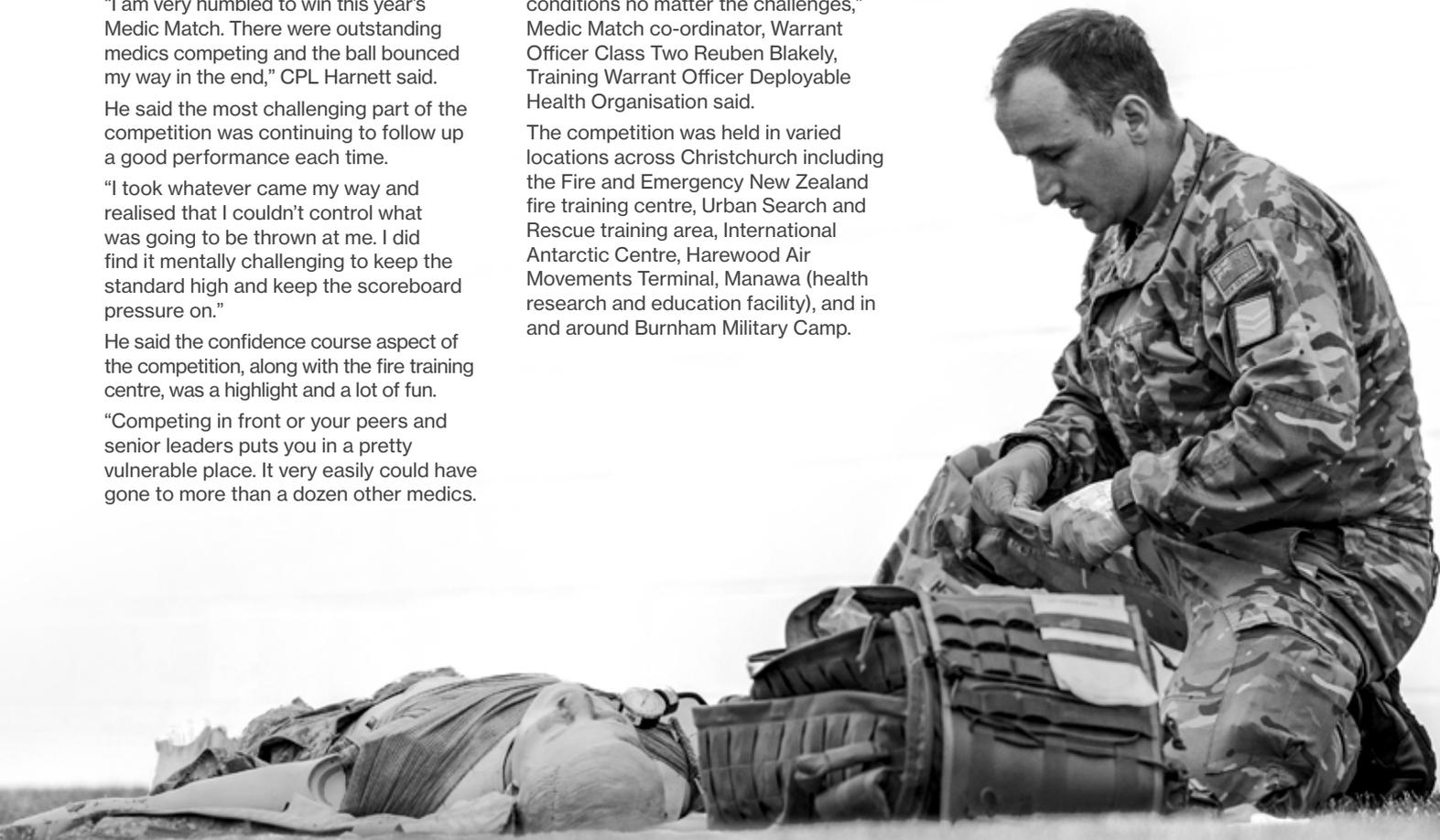
Held in the Christchurch area, the competition set a large number of challenges that required technical excellence as well as mental and physical resilience to overcome.

"Medic Match showcases readiness for operations. Medics are more than just sick parades and field covers and Medic Match provides an opportunity to show we can save lives at any time, in any conditions no matter the challenges," Medic Match co-ordinator, Warrant Officer Class Two Reuben Blakely, Training Warrant Officer Deployable Health Organisation said.

The competition was held in varied locations across Christchurch including the Fire and Emergency New Zealand fire training centre, Urban Search and Rescue training area, International Antarctic Centre, Harewood Air Movements Terminal, Manawa (health research and education facility), and in and around Burnham Military Camp.

"Many of these environments were unfamiliar to competitors and presented challenges across the spectrum of operations. They simulated heat, cold, altitude, air movement, disaster relief, naval operations, and clinical settings as well as live firing, obstacles and darkness," WO2 Blakely said.

Top Navy Medic went to Able Medic John Morris and the Invitational Trophy went to Australian Defence Force Corporal Nathan Bull.



# RESERVIST'S DRIVE TO GIVE BACK

By SGT Daisy Williams



For Lance Corporal Tea Gilbert, serving his community is not a duty, it's a service and a passion. A deployment to Timor Leste in 2007 while in the Regular Force, followed closely by his deployment to Afghanistan, helped provide the clarity to lead him on a journey to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), and later to the NZ Army Reserve Force. Returning to New Zealand, he decided to trade change to the Army Fire Service.

"I'd been volunteering at the Burnham Fire Section prior to deploying with 2/1 Battalion, and really loved it," says Lance Corporal Gilbert.

Now, while working full time at FENZ Dunedin City Station, he credits his time on deployment as wanting to give more. Out of work hours, he's a Crew Leader at Wakari Volunteer Fire Brigade; a volunteer for Coastguard New Zealand; serves in the New Zealand Army Reserve Force; and plays Indoor Netball on a Friday night.

He's also spent time volunteering for the Lyttleton and Portabello Volunteer Fire Brigades too. Spending his high school years in Dunedin, Lance Corporal Gilbert has found he's enjoyed giving back to the community.

"I enjoy the Army lifestyle, it's the whole experience, the opportunities, the people. I've found the fire service is much like the military, there's a rank structure and we share the same sense of dedication, humor and commitment to helping people."

LCPL Gilbert has been in an acting section commander role with the Reserve Force unit, 2/4 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, over the past two months.

"It's been great to have the opportunity to lead the soldiers in my section and to hear about their future plans. When they're after advice it's been cool to be able to pass on my thoughts then let them make their own decisions."

LCPL Gilbert credits his drive, resilience and clarity of thinking to his Army training.

"We deal with a wide variety of situations both in the Fire Service and Coastguard. Emergency Services are trained to triage casualties under stressful situations, and remain calm and focused while doing so. I feel like my Army training has helped a lot with that. It's helped with adaptability, teamwork and mindset too, all which is needed in FENZ and Coastguard."

At FENZ he's the Plant and Equipment Support Officer, and at Wakari Volunteer Fire Brigade he's the Crew Leader which he finds is similar to his section commander role in the Reserve Force.

“**I've found the fire service is much like the military, there's a rank structure and we share the same sense of dedication, humor and commitment to helping people.**”

– LCPL Tea Gilbert

"I enjoy helping people and I really like the type of people who are drawn to the Reserves, FENZ and Coastguard. We have a similar mindset and it gives me a real sense of purpose in what I do."

Any Defence Recruiting enquiries can be directed to 0800 1 FORCE. Each Reserve Force company has its own training programme in line with its unit's training focus. Training typically occurs one weekend a month.

Image: LCPL Tea Gilbert.  
Photo: SGT Daisy Williams

# INFANTRY SUITS SOUTHLAND FENCER

By SGT Daisy Williams

Working as a fencer in Southland helped hammer in the physical and mental endurance Private Joel Parsons has needed while serving as an infantry soldier in the NZ Army Reserve Force.

*Image: 2/4 Battalion, Southern Area, conduct an exercise in Invercargill. The exercise had round robin stands, completing the day with a night exercise followed by an early morning assault.*

*Photo: SGT Daisy Williams*

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**My fitness level is pretty good, and my fencing skills even helped out on recruit training. When we set up the defensive fencing barrier on recruit training, it was fairly easy for me. In fact I was probably too articulate, I went round straightening all the waratahs**

– PTE Joel Parsons

A physically demanding civilian job has meant he can easily focus on his core infantry skills while not worrying about the effects of a demanding weekend of training.

“My fitness level is pretty good, and my fencing skills even helped out on recruit training. When we set up the defensive fencing barrier on recruit training, it was fairly easy for me. In fact I was probably too articulate, I went round straightening all the waratahs,” he chuckles.

Since then, he’s attended a variety of training, and had the opportunity to assist on Operation Protect for six weeks, giving him a slice of military life living at Burnham Military Camp.

“Although I saw some people from our Regiment, I was working with the Regular Force on a daily basis, and living on the camp gave me a sense of life in the Army. It was a great opportunity to get a taster. We worked with the NZ Police too which was really cool,” says the 2/4 Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment soldier

Working for his Dad has given him the flexibility to attend training and pursue his interest in the military.

“It really fits with my lifestyle. The main challenge for me is travel time.” Private Parsons lives in Oamaru and travels to his Dunedin Reserve Force unit for training.

“It would be great to see more people from Oamaru come to training. I didn’t know anyone who served in the Army prior to joining but I did join with one of my mates from school. It was pretty good to share that experience,” he says.

He attended a weekend of training in Invercargill where part of the instruction taught mine clearance skills.

“I’d never done that before and found it really interesting.” The training weekend had round robin stands with different learning outcomes which were later put to the test during both a night and morning exercise.

Officer Commanding Otago Southland Company, Captain Dion Beker, says: “The exercise was designed to help practise our soldiers in tactical operations by both day and night, and working alongside different Corps (groups with different capabilities/skill-sets) within our region was an important factor when planning the exercise too. We had medics, drivers and engineers attend and the intention is to continue doing this with future exercises so we can share and build knowledge of each other’s capabilities”.

Any Defence Recruiting enquiries can be directed to 0800 1 FORCE. Each Reserve Force company has its own training programme in line with its battalion’s training focus. Company level training typically occurs one weekend a month with platoon level training occurring one night a week.



# **BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR RESERVIST SOLDIERS**

**By Jo Priestley**

**Around 50 reservists from the lower North Island came together at Waiouru Military Training Area recently to hone their live firing and combat skills.**



*Images: 5/7 RNZIR conducts Exercise Hindenberg Line in the Waiouru Military Training Area. Exercise Hindenberg Line is an open country live-firing exercise designed as a culmination of skills training conducted by the reservist unit throughout the year.*

*Photos: CPL Rachel Pugh*

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**They are challenged mentally and physically as we build resilience, determination and controlled aggression to close the training gap.**

– LTCOL Shaun O'Connor

Officer responsible for Exercise Hindenburg Lieutenant Colonel Shaun O'Connor said reservists from 5/7 focussed on weapon handling, combat tactics, professional development and teamwork in a field environment.

“It’s about ensuring our reservists have training in the latest weapons, such as the new rifle mounted scopes and night vision equipment so they can integrate more easily with our Regular Force soldiers. Reservists need to be trained to a level so they can be confidently deployed alongside our regular troops when necessary and within the response times.”

He said reservists often get deployed overseas into combat zones with NZ Army Regular Force troops so it’s important the reservist soldiers are confident in their skills and ready to step up.

“In exercises such as this we put the reservists through scenarios attempting to replicate the same stress and strains they would find in combat. They have to be proficient in weapon handling and live firing, understand health and safety and the terms of engagement, individual application of tactics and junior leadership as well as working as a team to achieve your mission. They are challenged mentally and physically as we build resilience, determination and controlled aggression to close the training gap,” said LTCOL O’Connor.

The exercise also provided an opportunity for reservist Officers to put their leadership and command skills into practice through the application of DATE – IP on a tactical exercise without troops (TEWT). This was alongside practical activities including the use of 3D printed models to better visualise the ORBATs, structures and employment of friendly and enemy forces.

# RESERVE FORCE ENGINEERS NETWORK IN AUSTRALIA

**Army Reserve Force engineers are making the most of courses on offer across the Tasman, with two officers attending an Australian Engineer Regimental Officer Basic Course this year for the first time.**

Earlier this year, Lieutenants Dean Burke and Lily Pitman attended the 2024 RAE Army Reserve (ARes) Engineer Regimental Officer Basic Course (RAE ROBC GRES) in Holsworthy, Sydney. Their attendance builds on the opportunities already afforded to Regular Force junior and senior officers for Royal Australian Engineer (RAE) courses.

The course comprised of 10 RAE ARes Officers, with five being Specialised (Spec) Officers. These Officers all possessed some form of Engineer degree and the rank of Captain.

The two-week course provides the first opportunity for RNZE ResF Officers to course with a peer group. The course provided a good grounding in engineer basics, providing each participant with a wide range of resources. Course assessments were via TEWTs (Tactical Exercises Without Troops). In addition to the ROBC qualifications, students received a Reconnaissance Officer qualification, something currently not part of the RNZE trade model.

LT Burke says the intention was to learn from their RAE counterparts and establish peer networks for future joint training.

“Our time at Holsworthy also illustrated that while our training numbers are less than the Australian, both Lily and I have developed a range of training experiences that our RAE have not,” says LT Burke.

“Our time in Australia has shown that we are equal to our Australian Troop Commanders, and as Combat Engineers we have developed a wide range of skills, such as demolitions, boating and search, including the utilisation of Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD), that our RAE counterparts have either never touched, or only had minimal contact. Our RAE counterparts were fantastic hosts, and we were warmly welcomed, fitting into our course syndicates with no issues.”

Major John Aitken RNZE says the pathway for promotion for RNZE ResF Officers has required qualifications on Regular Force courses.

“This meant our ResF personnel would need to take a significant amount of time away from their civilian careers to complete the courses. It really wasn’t a tenable situation for many.



“When Plan Anzac was introduced this gave way for opportunities to align our RNZE ResF promotion requirements with existing RAE ARes Courses. This has now given our RNZE ResF Officers the opportunity to qualify for promotion to Lieutenant and Captain. For promotion to Major, there’s an ARes component of the Combat Officer Advance Course (COAC) run by the Australian School of Armour that our RNZE ResF Officers can attend. Attendance on overseas promotion courses is subject to OTP funding availability. All RNZE coursing remains available for RNZE ResF Officers and course development will continue to incorporate an ARes component where possible.”

In LT Pitman’s civilian role, she is a Category Marketing Manager at a global medical device company, Fisher and Paykel Healthcare. LT Pitman has been employed as a Biomedical Engineer at the University of Auckland, a product development engineer with Fisher and Paykel Healthcare, and has now transferred to the marketing area.

LT Burke is an Integrated Project Team Lead (Project Director) for the Ministry of Defence. In this role LT Burke is responsible for the delivery of major Defence projects, leading an integrated team made up of Ministry, NZDF and contracted personnel. He has worked in the Land Domain on the Network Enabled Army programme, the Information Domain leading the Information Warfare Academy. He now leads the Air Domain project, Future Air Mobility Capability – Strategic, to replace the 40 Squadron Boeing 757’s.

LT Burke started his career as an architect, working in the construction sector for 20 years, before moving in to Project Management.

The next RAE course available to our ResF Officers is the Engineer Operations Officer Course (EOOC). This is attended by both RAE Regular and ARes Officers attended by junior Captains. This course is similar to the RNZE Lieutenant to Captains’ course.

Plan Anzac is expected to provide opportunities for ResF training with our Australian colleagues in the future. An example of this was on Exercise Tauwharenikau in May which included combined RAE ARes and RNZE ResF training with an Australian Army Infantry Platoon and RAE Engineers training in Waiouru.

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**Our time at Holsworthy also illustrated that while our training numbers are less than the Australian, both Lily and I have developed a range of training experiences that our RAE have not.**

– LT Dean Burke



# RESERVE FORCE Q&A

## Territorial Force Attachments Overseas

### GENERAL

Army Reservists travelling overseas may continue their ResF training through an attachment to the British, United States, Canadian, or Australian Army Reserves. This is possible through Army to Army agreements which enables individuals (reservists) to remain efficient for the purpose of military training and experience, whilst dislocated from their parent unit in New Zealand.

All requests for an attachment overseas are to be submitted through the individual's chain of command to Army General Staff, who will liaise with the New Zealand Defence Staff in the country concerned. Attachments may be subject to certain conditions and limitations by the host country and as such there is no guarantee that an attachment will be approved nor whether the required number of training days will be completed.

### PREREQUISITES

Before submitting applications units are to ensure that an applicant:

- will be able to carry out the minimum training required;
- has the ability, motivation, and technical knowledge commensurate with rank, to serve effectively in a unit overseas;
- holds the appropriate security clearance for the period of the attachment (SV for officers and CV for non-commissioned officers);
- has been granted leave of absence and has an engagement that is not likely to expire during the planned absence from New Zealand;
- intends to serve in the Territorial Force on return to New Zealand;
- will be an acceptable representative of the New Zealand Army; and
- will be resident in the country in which the attachment is requested for at least six months and is able to serve for at least six months.

**Please see DFO(A) Vol 3, Chap 6, s21 for further details on the procedures and administrative requirements for attachments of TF personnel to reserve units overseas.**

Reminder – TF (ResF) Reporting: The reporting period for TF is aligned to the Training Year 01 Jul – 30 June.

Guidance on TF reporting:

- Ready Reserve personnel, CPL and above, the offline PDR 3 form is to be used. This form can be found on the DACM Website.
- Units are to have all offline PDR3 sent to DACM Registry NLT 01 Nov 24.
- Note – PDR from 23/24 TY will be presented at the PEB25 for SNCO and above.
- Further TF Reporting Guidance and Offline PDR3 Flowchart is located on the DACM Website.



*Image: Engineers from 3 Field Squadron and 3 Emergency response Squadron conduct the 50th anniversary charter parade through the harbour town of Akaroa, Canterbury.*

*Photo: LAC Andy Jenkins*

# ENGINEERS CELEBRATE 50TH CHARTER YEAR WITH AKAROA

By Charlene Williamson

The strong connection between the New Zealand Army and the Banks Peninsula town of Akaroa has been celebrated with the reaffirming of a charter with the Royal New Zealand Engineers.

Around 70 sappers, or military engineers, from Burnham Military Camp's 3rd Field and Emergency Response Squadron (3 FD & ER SQN), 2nd Engineer Regiment marched through Akaroa on Thursday, marking 50 years since the unit obtained the Charter of Akaroa.

Officer Commanding 3 FD & ER SQN, Major Mike Lawry, says the charter parade signifies the strong connection between the people of Akaroa and the sappers, NZ Army and wider New Zealand Defence Force.

"We are proud to continue to develop the relationship that is now more than 50 years strong, and hope that the connections develop further into the future."

Christchurch Mayor Phil Mauger attended the parade as the reviewing officer and says reaffirming the Charter strengthens the already strong ties that the Army Engineers have with the people of the region.

"The connection between the Army and the people of Christchurch and surrounding districts will always be strong. The relationship that Akaroa has with the Army Engineers from Burnham is one that we certainly take with great pride," Mr Mauger said.

The history of freedom of entry or charter parades dates back to medieval times, where fortress walls afforded cities protection from attacks.

The history of 3 FLD SQN's connection to Akaroa dates back to October 1974 when they were requested to assist the then County of Akaroa with work such as underwater demolitions, bridging, vertical and horizontal construction and tree felling.

The work the sappers did back then, supported the Akaroa and wider Banks Peninsula community and led to the chairman of the county granting the Charter of Akaroa to 3 Field Squadron Royal New Zealand Engineers. Many of the tasks that the sappers of the 1970s completed continue to be trained and executed by sappers today.

MAJ Lawry said freedom of entry at the time was a highly prized privilege and not easily won.

"This ceremonial honour is now bestowed by a city council, in this case the Christchurch City Council, and demonstrates the respect and trust its citizens have in the military to protect their democratic institutions.

"It also demonstrates the trust and respect between the people of the town and the military."

The reaffirming of the charter with 3 FD & ER SQN cements the right and privilege without permission for the squadron to march with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and band playing through the streets of the town of Akaroa.

"The charter with Akaroa is a significant source of pride for the southern sappers, cementing our long standing and proud relationship with the town.

"Previously we maintained key infrastructure in the area, including bridges, piers, roads and our own facilities. Today we utilise the bays and oceans to refine our all arms and small boat operations," MAJ Lawry said.

# NEW COMMANDER TARGETING PREPARATION FOR COMBAT

Having spent more than 25 years in the New Zealand Army, and being deployed to a number of conflict zones and disaster relief efforts, Colonel Mike van Welie understands what underpins the Army's success; its people.



*Images: A change of command parade was held at Linton Military Camp to recognise the outgoing 1 Brigade Commander, COL Ben Bagley and to welcome the new incoming commander, COL Michael van Welie..*

*Photos: CPL Maddy Butcher*



The Alexandra-raised soldier recently took command of 1st (New Zealand) Brigade at a parade at Linton Military Camp. It is a crucial leadership role in the NZ Army. He says his focus will be on the people he leads – soldiers and civilians – and wants to foster a culture where people work together, they are proud of what they do and they feel like they have contributed to something “bigger than themselves”.

“I want to continue the great work the brigade has done, and continues to do,” COL van Welie said.

“I want our people to value and enjoy their service. We have a tough job; one that can be tough on families, tough on relationships and tough on the body. But we are also privileged to be part of an incredible profession and one where we are needed.”

1st (NZ) Brigade’s mission is to provide combat-ready land forces to secure and defend New Zealand’s interests and its people. It contains most of the Army’s deployable units across combat, artillery, engineers, command and combat service support.

COL van Welie said he would prioritise people looking out for one another and their whānau and ensuring units are ready when called upon by continuing to prioritise investment in people and in readiness activities.

Since graduating as an officer in 1998, COL van Welie has held numerous roles across the NZ Army and the wider Defence Force, from leading a platoon as a 20-year-old in East Timor through to his most recent posting as Assistant Chief of Army (Strategy) Army General Staff, where he also served as the acting Deputy Chief of Army earlier this year. All roles had been a huge privilege, he said.

In taking over the mantle at 1st (NZ) Brigade, COL van Welie acknowledged the work carried out by its former Commander Colonel Ben Bagley and Warrant Officer First Class Lyall Mooney, who led them through a tough period of regeneration.

“We are an army confronting some of the most significant strategic challenges we have faced for some time,” COL van Welie said.

“It comes as we complete a period of focused regeneration following Covid-19 which has been enabled by the hard work and commitment of our soldiers, civilians and leaders.

“It hasn’t been easy, and we believe we have arrived at a point where we won’t get where we need to go by repeating the things we’ve always done. Now is a time for us as a brigade and as an army to revisit the way we generate force for operations to ensure we are ready when called upon.”

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**Now is a time for us as a brigade and as an army to revisit the way we generate force for operations to ensure we are ready when called upon.**

– COL Mike van Welie

COL van Welie said the Chief of Army, Major General Rose King, and her leadership team would be issuing a new Army Directive soon which would focus on sustained operational readiness.

“I anticipate that it will imbue the brigade with a renewed sense of purpose and build energy towards making changes necessary to ensure we are prepared for conflict,” he said.

1st (NZ) Brigade will conduct a series of important exercises in 2025, the most significant being Exercise Talisman Sabre in Australia, which is set to be the largest combined exercise for Ngāti Tūmataunga, the New Zealand Army, next year. This will include 1st (NZ) Brigade deploying a motorised infantry combat team to the exercise.

# BOOK REVIEWS

Book reviews by Jeremy Seed



## KRITHIA

**The forgotten Anzac battle of Gallipoli**

By Mat McLachlan

Published by Hachette Australia

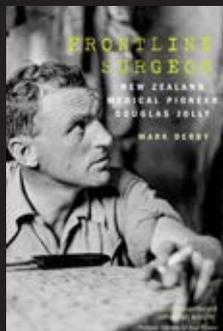
I was particularly interested in this book because my Fathers uncle served in the Hauraki Company of the Auckland Regiment at Gallipoli and was wounded in the fighting at Krithia. As I suspect many people are, I am always a little wary of any book written by an Australian that purports to tell an Anzac story. In many cases our trans-Tasman cousins are more than happy to use the word Anzac like it is going out of fashion but to casually ignore the letters NZ and what they stand for and the part Kiwis played in whatever action or campaign the book is about. On first inspection, I was pleased to see that Mat McLaughlin appeared to be fully conversant with the NZ presence and role at Gallipoli and there was plenty of mention of New Zealand and New Zealanders.

In addition to the landings at Anzac Cove, a second front was opened at the bottom of the Gallipoli Peninsula, the theory being that the allies would attack the Turks who held the peninsula from both the South and West. I had known for many years of my Great-Uncle being wounded at the Daisy Patch and had always been surprised by how little was written about the action and this book's subtitle seems aptly chosen, as Krithia and what happened there is often ignored at the expense of what happened around Anzac Cove.

Like pretty much everything that happened at Gallipoli, this attack up the peninsula seems to have been ill conceived and badly planned resulting in plenty of dead and wounded Anzac and British troops for little to no gain.

McLachlan is described as "One of Australia's leading battlefield historians" and he certainly seems to have researched the action and its participants fully, although to my mind there was a little too much background on the Anzac Cove landings and subsequent battle, to the point where I wondered if he had been a bit low on word-count and put in this extra information to increase the page numbers.

There is however a lot of very interesting information about the Turkish actions once the landings were underway and this Turkish history adds a very interesting perspective to the story being told. There are some photographs and maps, and frankly we could have done with more of the latter, but overall if your reaction to this has been "what forgotten battle"? then grab a copy and educate yourself.



## FRONTLINE SURGEON

**New Zealand Medical Pioneer Douglas Jolly**

By Mark Derby

Published by Massey University Press

When I was a secondary student in the mid-1980s, an old boy of our school came to address the assembly. All we knew about him was that like us, he had gained his secondary education at Wellington College. He was a very good speaker and talked of the phenomenal technological change that had occurred in his life. As a boy in Wellington, he and his friends would run outside if they heard an aeroplane, so rarely seen were they, and by the time he had graduated university and started work, he was in charge of the team designing and building the first rocket to take men to the moon. This was William Pickering, a man of phenomenal intellect and skill who very few New Zealanders had even heard of despite being an absolute world leader in his field. This book reminded me of Pickering because, like him, Jolly was a pioneer who achieved stunning success in his field but is largely unknown.

In the military book reviewing game, books about the medical services are a bit like the anecdotal buses...there is never one when you want and then three come at once. In 2024, I have had three medical books for review, one about a kiwi in Vietnam, one about a kiwi in Yugoslavia in World War 2 and this book, about arguably the greatest New Zealand contributor to military medicine globally.

Doug Jolly was a graduate of Otago Medical School who specialised in surgery. In 1936 when the Spanish Civil War began, there was a flood of volunteers from across the world to fight with the Communist International Brigade against the Nazi and Italian backed Fascists under Franco. The war has been described as history's first total war which enveloped the whole country and everyone in it. The medical challenges were massive and Jolly eagerly joined the International Brigade. Jolly developed a reputation as an excellent field surgeon, but his real claim to military medical immortality came after the fighting was over.

Once he had left Spain, Jolly wrote a manual called "Field Surgery in Total War". Published in 1940 the manual quickly became required reading throughout the US military medical services and informed armies worldwide on how best to establish, structure and operate field surgical facilities. Jolly himself served in the British Army during the war and received an OBE in recognition of his leadership and abilities.

This is a superbly researched and written tale of a great New Zealander who was a global pioneer and who deserves to be known about and acknowledged widely.



# MARAE WORKSHOP

In conjunction with Mahuru Māori and Wellness Week, Rongomaraeroa-o-ngā-hau-e-whā hosted a Rongoā Kawakawa Workshop for Beginners. Travelling from Central Hawke's Bay, instructor Oriana Nepata ran the workshop for the local Waiouru Community.

"We really wanted to bring our hapori (community) together to celebrate the end of Mahuru Māori, and also have the workshop coincide with Wellness Week. Rongomaraeroa-o-ngā-hau-e-whā had various activities run throughout the month of Mahuru and we thought this would be a great way to end. Locals learnt something new, gained an understanding around traditional healing through native plants, and it was great to korero together as a hapori," said Sergeant Ani Heta, Marae Instructor.

Mahuru Maori is a month-long kaupapa (initiative) aimed at normalizing the use of te reo Māori in everyday life. It is an opportunity for anyone to engage with te reo Māori, whether you're a beginner or fluent speaker.

The two workshops included learning how to identify the Kawakawa native plant, traditional processes around Kawakawa harvest, and how to make Kawakawa oil, a healing balm, and a decongestant balm. Students came for a variety of reasons, and were excited to learn the processes. Everyone went home armed with an oil and a balm each that they made on the day.

Oriana's engaging teaching approach made the workshop fun and interesting, and made the processes doable at home.

"I was amazed how easy it was to make, and finding out the best leaves are the ones the insects had been eating was definitely interesting," said SGT Heta.

“**We really wanted to bring our hapori (community) together to celebrate the end of Mahuru Māori, and also have the workshop coincide with Wellness Week.**

– SGT Ani Heta

# NZ ARMY SOFTBALL IS HITTING 75 YEARS



**The Army Softball  
75th Anniversary  
reunion is being held  
in Linton Camp and  
Palmerston North  
CBD over Friday  
4 and Saturday  
5 April 2025.**

All those who were involved with softball in the Army from Cadet School, Inter-District/Regional, Inter-Services and Combined Services are cordially invited to the reunion celebration. The full programme will see a powhiri, reunion games, BBQs, evening functions and plenty of souvenirs.

Wives, partners, caregivers and widows of ex-Army softball members are most welcome to attend. We also extend an invitation to those who were our rivals and friends from the Navy, Air Force, NZ Police and the Australian Defence Force softball fraternities.

For Registration information please contact the committee on email:  
[armysoftballreunion@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:armysoftballreunion@nzdf.mil.nz)

# NEW 1RNZIR MEMORIAL SET FOR DIEPPE BARRACKS IN SINGAPORE

**August this year marked 35 years since the New Zealand Army's 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment's (1RNZIR) withdrawal from Dieppe Barracks in Singapore.**

Dieppe Barracks represents a significant chapter in the story of Ngāti Tūmataunga, the New Zealand Army, as it was where 1RNZIR had been based for nearly two decades from June 1971.

It was from there that a number of South East Asian campaigns and efforts were launched, and over the course of service 23 servicemen lost their lives whilst serving at Dieppe Barracks.

The location holds significant memories and meaning for many of our people, including former Sergeant Major of the Army Warrant Officer Class One (Rtd) Bob Davies, who spent three postings there in various roles, including overseeing the Battalion's withdrawal in August 1989.

"Those years in South East Asia were priceless in maintaining the professionalism and undisputed reputation of the New Zealand Army's small light infantry. Our final parade in July 1989 was attended by many ex-members, Commanding Officers and Regimental Sergeant Majors, who had come from far and wide to farewell their Battalion from Dieppe Barracks.

"As the flag came down against the fading tropical sun for the final time, a comment by one of the many dignitaries in attendance summed up the essence of the occasion, and stays with me today – 'A lot of aroha out there tonight – you could literally feel it'."

Earlier this year, Army held meetings with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Guards Division to receive an update on planned redevelopment at the camp, which would impact Dieppe Barracks.

The construction plans include the removal of all buildings on site, with the exception of the old 1RNZIR Sergeants' Mess and the Old Tasman Club – both of which will be maintained and preserved as heritage buildings.

The old Sergeants' Mess is intended to become a history room for both the SAF Guards Division and Dieppe Barracks, while the Old Tasman Club will be used by the Guards Division's leadership and command teams.

In line with these discussions, the SAF and NZ Army agreed to erect a memorial at Dieppe Barracks which would carry the names of the 23 Army personnel who died there on service and an historical inscription for 1RNZIR. This is intended to be constructed and in place by April 2026.

There will be a significant and poignant event to mark the unveiling of the new memorial, and more information will be circulated closer to the time, as well as ongoing queries about how Army personnel, and other Kiwis may be able to visit, considering it will be inside an active military base.



5/7 RNZIR conducts Exercise Hindenberg Line in the Waiouru Military Training Area. Exercise Hindenberg Line is an open country live-firing exercise designed as a culmination of skills training conducted by the reservist unit throughout the year.

Photo: CPL Rachel Pugh

NGĀTI TŪMATAUENGA  
**NZ ARMY**