



Hauraki News

“Whaka tangata kia kaha”

May 2016 Issue No 83

Official Newsletter of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/6th-Hauraki-Association/230175227024470>

tauranga.kete.net.nz/ remembering War

To review Hauraki News prior to 2008

http://tauranga.kete.net.nz/rememering_war/topics/show/1287

President's Report

The Editor has published another newsletter as he tries to catch with the time.

Thanks to all of you who have sent me photos & articles from their area.

Those of you who served at Dieppe Camp in Singapore, flash back some your memories of the place.

The Committee is intending to have small informal get together at such places like the Waihi Beach RSA, for lunch. Under this plan, if you can attend an event, please advice. It is the intention to have events in different areas. If you have a suggestion of a venue, please advice, anything will be considered.

The 3 ANR Association has invited us to join in their events. It is our intention to co ordinate with 3ANR Association when ever we can.

It has been suggested the Hauraki News places a “where are they now” article. If you would like to find some one, drop me a line.

Your Committee has acquired another 50 Challenge Coins which are now on sale at \$35.00 each. Your committee has also found a new source for “Hauraki Port”. So “all is well”.

Until the August edition.

Kia Kaha

Des Anderson

Hauraki Company



Hi Des,

The photo is Hamilton Platoon,

Hauraki Company ANZAC day 2016.

Post our parades at Tokoroa & Putaruru, next door to Hamilton Army Office at Rostervor St.

regards,

Sgt Hawkes

Obituaries

MATTHEWS, Francis Michael (Smiley Mike). Peacefully with family at his side at Tauranga Hospital on April 3rd 2016; aged 77 years

I went to his funeral. Need some background of this "Hauraki", Can you assist. Editor,

Letters to the Editor

Hi Des,

I received your email, I don't know if it was by chance or not, but in my High School years I was a member of the 6th Battalion Regimental Pipe Band which practised in, and operated out of, the Dive Cres Hall in Tauranga.

Kind Regards,

Garry Webber

Hi Des,

Just been reading the newsletter, and noticed reference to the Warwickshire Regiments connection to Hauraki regiment. I don't know if there is a connection but there must be some connection to the Worcestershire Regiment, the old Worcestershire cap badge is identical to Hauraki badge see picture. I visited the drill hall in Tauranga a few years ago, to try and find out if there was any connection after seeing the badge, on another visit we exchanged gifts I gave you a Worcestershire Regiment plaque and received a book about the Hauraki Regiment in exchange. Our son owns the 18th Avenue Thermal Motel so I've passed the drill hall a few times on our many visits to New Zealand.

Hi Des,

I am interested in the article by Russel and Trophies 1963 I took 2x Mounted Swordfish Swords to our sister unit, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Oxford. By the time, I got to Oxford mid-1963, It turned out the unit was in Malaya. A WO2 had been

posted to the Ox and Bucks and was leaving the next week so he took them. On thinking back some Haus were in Malaya when these trophies arrived (Errol Bailey, he was a Cpl, I think,) In 1996 I again didn't have time to hunt around. In 2004 I stayed in Oxford, but the unit was gone, but replacing them were the Royal Green Jackets, the local Army office was very helpful and suggested I visit Warwick, which I did, but that old enemy time caught up with me and the trail of the Swordfish Trophies went cold. 2016 on a visit to Oxford, for 1 day didn't leave any time for army searching. But it is still on my bucket list. Interesting stuff. Would you please pass on to Russel my note? He might be interested in contacting me.

. See ya Sparky.

From Gavin Marriott military music historian of The International Military Music Society.

"Whaka tangata kia kaha, acquit yourselves like men be strong, Whaka tangata kia kaha, the blue and golds Hauraki march"

gees Des, every time I get an email from you (or John Dick) & see the 6ths logo, I sing that catchy chorus... here is an article which hopefully will stir up some thinking...

Currently I am doing some promotion on NZ's commemorations. The International Military Music Society regularly holds concerts or assists in govt or private commemorations. It is a big part of our organization. As a result of that I have learnt about battles that I did not know existed let alone Kiwis fought in. I had always been taught at school and brainwashed in the NZ psyche that Gallipoli (or Anzac as we strangely call it) "was when all NZers died in the (singular) war". I gave a talk to a school last week about this subject and these youngsters really believed (thanks to the teaching) that our 30,000-war dead all died the same day in the same place! Then I recalled an English friend who moved here thinking our April date for Poppies strange. He also could not understand why NZers didn't commemorate October the 12th. (There will be readers here now ringing their mates asking them what that date is!) I have also noticed over the last few years down here in the mainland a growing trend to hold services in some small settlements in November and have noticed some churches having Remembrance inclusion in their service on the 2nd Sunday of November. Now I know why...

So, what happened in NZ to "put us all crook"?

NZ commemorated Armistice up to 1923 when a 'mistake' was made by the RSA. The Poppies arrived here by ship too late for 11-11-1921, so a RSA branch distributed them at the next commemoration date (25-4-22, which happened to be ANZAC Day) and that date stuck as the new Poppy Day in NZ, and "an ANZAC culture" took over. In the minds of Kiwis, there seems some bond (albeit just once a year though) with the Aussies via the term 'ANZAC'. NZers are growing to believe that all NZ troops were part of an "Anzac Regiment". This term actually refers to a combined force which only occurred several times - once briefly during WW2 and in Vietnam. In the vast majority of wars, NZ was with the British or on their own. The term 'ANZAC' got invented after Gallipoli, after the parade through London (of which I have done separate research, showing how our most famous march 'Invercargill' became famous - another story). Sadly today, NZers seem to think the only battle we fought and died in, was in Turkey - and the only force was an ANZAC one. They have no idea that the vast majority of Kiwis fought in Europe, on the seas and in the skies - plus South Africa, Malaya, Korea, the Pacific, Vietnam and Afghanistan. 2,700 died in Turkey - 9% of the total.

So, for over 90% of Kiwis remembering their fallen forebears, some are now wanting THEIR day honoured and are starting to feel “disenfranchised”.

Let me make it perfectly clear (and I wish the RSA would listen to this bit), I am NOT saying get rid of ANZAC Day. What I am saying, is there are other battle dates as well that need acknowledging just as equally - 6 June D Day, 7 June Messines, 25 June Korea, 18 August Vietnam, 3 September Merchant Navy, 15 September Somme and Battle of Britain - and the list goes on. But ironically and tragically, there is one battle date for NZers that is their most important (and sadly 99% know nothing about it). This nation's greatest single loss of all time (845 in a single day at one battleground) occurred at Passchendaele in Flanders in 1917 - but what do we (or the RSA) do on October 12th to commemorate this? (There is a new Passchendaele Society by the way and gaining momentum).

Is there a date that encompasses all battles? Is there an international commemoration date? Yes, there is, it's called Armistice. The word 'Armistice' means “an agreed state between opponents so they can discuss peace terms”. The most popularly mentioned Armistice is the signing between Germany and Britain/USA/France at 11am on the 11th November 1918. This ended WW1. The exuberance with which people greeted the Armistice, quickly succumbed to feelings of exhaustion, relief, sorrow, and a sense of absurdity. It was stated then (by author HG Wells) “that this was the war to end all wars”. That statement, even if it has never eventuated, is still a sound reason to have a day each year of remembrance - and that we unite internationally to do so. That statement by HG Wells has 2 prongs - (1) It promotes the aspiration of peace and (2) It honours our fallen forebears (who sacrificed their lives for that peace hope). And so, each November throughout the world (except NZ), to remember our fallen forebears and hope for peace, we wear the Poppy, which represents the battlefields of Flanders in Belgium.

In addition to Armistice Day, the Church throughout the world uses the nearest Sunday (the 2nd Sunday in November) as 'Remembrance Sunday'.

Armistice Day is now gaining momentum and popularity in NZ as it covers (1) all battles (2) the aspiration to end wars (3) a future peace and (4) honours all losses.

Armistice is not British. In Canada and USA, it is known as 'Veterans' Day', France and Belgium call it 'Day of Peace' - and all have a national holiday. Australia also commemorates Armistice Day as Remembrance Day. In fact, in Australia, single poppies are not usually worn on ANZAC Day, as over there the Poppy belongs to Remembrance Day where their 'Poppy month' is November.

The two readings recited at ANZAC services are not about Turkey. They are about France ('Ode to the Fallen') and Belgium ('In Flanders Fields') - and they were both chosen specifically for Armistice Day. There is a slogan frequently used by the Belgians towards the Kiwis - 'The Belgians have not forgotten'. It is even a web site.

So, I am promoting

1. to all churches to hold a Remembrance (Whakamaharatanga) component in the normal service on Remembrance Sunday.
 2. And I am asking all churches (and garrisons) to publicly open up before 11am on the 11th November for a minute's silence.
 3. I am also asking small rural settlements to (do what is now being done in some places already) have a service at their flag pole.
 4. I would like a national public holiday and yes after the centenary of Gallipoli day I would like us to revert back to Armistice Day as our national overall commemoration day.
- then like the rest of the world, we can truly say “we will remember them ALL”.

So, next time you see me (and the rest of the world) wearing my Poppy in early November, you can now stop looking at me strangely and asking questions.

Gavin



The base of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (1RNZIR) was relocated south from Terendak Camp in Malaysia to Singapore in December 1969. At first, they were stationed at Nee Soon Garrison, but in June 1971 they were moved to Dieppe Barracks. New Zealand maintained its battalion in Singapore until 1989.



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This newsletter is compiled by Des Anderson, President, of the 6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated. It contains many personal views and comments which may not always be the views of the Association or Committee.

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6th Battalion (Hauraki) Regimental Association Incorporated

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(Include dates & appointments)

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