



# HAURAKI NEWS

*"Whaka tangata kia kaha"*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE 6 BATTALION (HAURAKI) REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 2217, TAURANGA NEWSLETTER NO 9

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**IMPORTANT NEWS! CENTENNIAL DRAFT PROGRAMME !**  
**IMPORTANT NEWS! CENTENNIAL UPDATE, SEE PAGE 3**

COUNTDOWN  
HAS BEGUN  
FOR OUR  
HAURAKI  
CENTENNIAL BALL  
JULY 10-11-12  
THIS YEAR!!!



January 1998

## AN ITALIAN WORKDAY

Viv Lewis was known to us all as Lou. A light-hearted Auckland Art student full of fun and friendly to all. He was my appointed driver in the No 2 Bridging Train (seventeen vehicles) commanded by the 5th Field Park Company Engineers. The no1 Bridging Train (Eighteen vehicles) were with the 7th Field Coy Engineers.

Six bridges or crossings would go over the river Senio in the big attack. An hour behind the infantry, with the enemy only 1000 yards away, bridging sites and assembly areas were likely to come under fire, which they inevitably did.

After bulldozers had carved a passage through the stop banks the first two or three trucks would go forward to the bridge site. Swiftly and without bustle they would be unloaded and the bridge building commenced. The remaining trucks would advance as needed.

On March 3rd 1945 we were part of a demonstration and practice of the methods to be used in the real attack on the Senio which took place on April some seven weeks later.

After the practice Lou and I had to winch the bridge panels back over the stop bank and load them on our truck.

We were last to leave but did not get far as the driver's side front wheel became bogged down in a hidden hole in the old battle ground. There was a bulldozer parked some distance away, so I sent Lou off to see if he could find it's driver. In the meantime, there was nothing else I could do, so I lit up a cigarette and leaned casually against the load enjoying the late afternoon

sunshine and thinking of home. Suddenly, I realised someone was standing in front of me. It was none other than General Freyberg himself who was personally conducting the exercise.

He summed up the situation in a glance and asked me curtly what I was doing about getting the vehicle mobile again. I told him I was waiting for the bulldozer to pull us out. He appeared not fully convinced and firmly told me that he was going into the nearby operations tent for a short meeting with the rest of his officers. If the truck was still there when he came out, he would be having another talk with me which I was sure would not have enhanced my "military career." What could I do?

There was still no sign of Lou, but at the very moment I saw the General enter the tent I felt a tap on my shoulder. It was the bulldozer driver who had by chance walked around the end of the truck. He asked me if he could help. I said yes but there was no time to lose. In a few minutes the truck was again on firm ground.

Just as the bulldozer drove off Lou returned. He threw something into the back of the truck then climbed into the drivers seat as if nothing unusual had happened. I asked him where he had been. He said that when he couldn't locate the driver, he thought I would sort something out any way, so he decided to check out an old German dugout in the stop bank, he had seen earlier in the day. What he had thrown into the truck were "spoils of war not loot" Three dirty blood stained German blankets. That night he washed them in a creek and after they were aired and dried they fetched a pretty good price from some villagers.

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## COMMITTEE 1997/98

**Patron:**

**Lt Col (rt.) G.J. MacLeod ED JP**

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**Vice President:**

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**Bob Burt Kei Merito**

**Allen Coster Gordon Eagleson**

**Peter Agnew**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Centenary year has arrived to commemorate the 100 years of service the Hauraki Regiment has provided to the community and the nation. The Battalion and the Association will celebrate with the community in the following events.

**Paeroa Charter Parade/Tattoo** on the 14th February 1998 at Paeroa. The Hauraki District Council in conjunction with the Paeroa Pipe Band will run a mini tattoo and pipe band contest. The Battalion, who are involved in A.F.E.1998 along with a Rifle Coy from Australia will also participate.

A military tattoo, including the Beating of the Retreat at Rotorua on 6 March 1998 and at Tauranga on 7 March 1998. This is part of the National Highland Games and is planned to incorporate some 12 pipe bands, S.A.S., Artillery, Armour, Log Regt Motor Cycles, NZ Army Band, Cultural Party, Black Powder Association, firing the restored Armstrong gun, NZ Cadet Forces and 6 Hauraki beating the retreat.

In conjunction with the Centennial Ball, the Association is holding a reunion on the Friday night of 10 July 1998 and a Church Service and AGM on 12 July 1998.

With all these events it is essential that the Organising Committee receives information as to who is coming. With our limited budget, advertising is by word of mouth. The Hauraki's have always been good at spreading rumours, so how about spreading some facts and advise as many people as you can of the upcoming events. We need more members or people who wish to attend the Ball but do not necessary intend to become members.

Kia kaha

Des Anderson. Present

## CENTENNIAL UPDATE DRAFT PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 10 JULY 1998

A Reunion will be conducted at the Tauranga Army Hall with Registration from 1600 - 1900 followed by a formal welcome and socialisation. Drinks, supper, merchandise, and a photographer will be available. Approximate cost \$20 per head including 2 drinks.

### SATURDAY 11 JULY 1998

Full day programme with options including the following;

District tours, local RSA visits, lunch with the Unit at camp, Camp visit and view the Charter Parade.

The Centennial Ball will be conducted at the Tauranga Racecourse, commencing with Beating the Retreat at 1800 and pre Ball drinks from 1900.

The Governor General His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Michael Hardie Boys GNZM, GCMG, and Mrs. Hardie Boys have confirmed their attendance.

The cost will be around \$75 per person.

Full details of the Ball will be advised in due course.

### SUNDAY 12 JULY 1998

Church Parade at 0900 location to be confirmed.

Association A.G.M. at 1100 and lunch at the Tauranga RSA at 1230. Final costs will be advised with Registration papers.

## TAURANGA XMAS SOCIAL

On Saturday December 7 a group of Hauraki Association members and families attended and enjoyed the Xmas get together which was held at the residence of Ted Dean. The weather was perfect, in spite of the weatherman promising rain in large proportions, it did not eventuate. Everyone that attended enjoyed a hot summery afternoon. The beer was at the right temperature,,and was so good .

Our host (Brigadier Ted ) proved he was as good on the barbie as he is as an Officer. Honestly I have never seen a gas operated BBQ start so fast. A good meal of salads, meatballs and all the trimmings were on hand. Well done Ted and Christine for letting the Association use your dwelling for the function.

For the members, that for some reason couldn't make it on the day, it was really a great way to wind down and reminisce just a little. Don't forget Xmas 98 is now only 12 months away. We would like to see you at the windup.



## LAST POST

**Kerry Lynn Maloney**, a former Commanding Officer of the Hauraki's passed away on December 25 after a long illness.

His Funeral on 30 December was well attended by former serviceman and members of his previous local Rotary Club.

Kerry was well known as a harrier and also the first Hauraki and C.O. to conduct a parachute jump wearing a kilt.

Amongst the mourners were 3 former 3 Auck North C.O.'s who served with Kerry in that unit, and 3 former 7 Wellington Hawkes Bay C.O.'s who travelled from Wellington and New Plymouth to pay their respects.

The Association was well represented with Alan Coster giving an excellent eulogy.

The Association sends its sincere condolences to Cath and their children Justin and Briget.

\*\*\*\*\*

**J.P.Murphy (Jim ) R.I.P.**

In memory of one of the Ancient Hauraki's of long ago. A few of "The Oldies" attended the passing of Jim and witnessed the quiet courage of his wife Dorothy who has been an inspiration to those who knew these people. The days of horses-- Jim's Norton which shied at a cigarette paper- service yarns of khaki and navy and fishing tall stories.

Just another Kiwi that like the unknown Soldier and a host of Hauraki 's. We will remember them.

Signed Redeye

## MEMBERSHIP

We now have 124 Financial Members.

The good news is that 85% have paid their subs. The not so good news is that the other 15% seem to have forgotten. If you are a member who hasn't paid, please do so ASAP. (Please!!)

## REMINDER

We still require your **stories and or photos** or anything that may be of interest for our publications.

If you don't wish to send your valuable photos etc, we will gladly accept a good photocopy.

Photos sent to us will be sent back if requested. Once again send them to the Secretary as listed above, or if you wish send them to Hauraki Scrapbook,

A (Redeye) Redding  
Welfare NCO  
Outspan 86-b 6th Ave  
Tauranga.

## Subscriptions are still due.

Remember Subs this year are only **\$10** for renewal and **\$20** for **New Members.**

Post cheques or cash to the Secretary  
P.O.Box 2217  
Tauranga

Don't forget **10-11-12 July 1998.**  
If you can't dance Redeye will teach you. ( Army boots will not be worn )

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Assault Pioneers

We are now approaching full strength in men, but lacking in major equipment.

The RQMS is working hard on new kit for us which we hope to have in the near future.

For Annual Camp 1976 all major items of equipment will be provided on loan from other units.

A hearty welcome to the following new recruits.

Pte Wright	Pte Tautari
Pte Pearce	Pte Melgars
Pte Wise	Pte Raynor

Sgt Peter Agnew has a weekend planned for 6-7 December in the Kaimai Range. All Platoon Personnel should by now have sent in their return slips.

One problem we all have, is travelling on the back of an R.L. on the morning after Support Coy Xmas Social.

Looking forward to seeing you all on 5-7 December over a few drinks.

Signed Spider.

( For the uninitiated, an R.L. was a truck coloured green, for the use of, long before the Unimog.)

Signed the Secretary

XXXX

Asked by a teacher to spell "straight" the 3rd grade did so without error. "Now" said the teacher, "what does it mean?" Without water was the reply.

## THERE IS NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTE

Did you hear about the soldier on exercise in the Hunua Ranges? We were all using rat packs. This chap had used his a little different to the extent all he had left for breakfast was curry and porridge, which he cooked with a little chopped up eel he had caught the day before. YUK curried porridge!! He did however eat it all. Those East Coasters will eat anything

## OFFICIAL LAPEL BADGE

The **Official** 6 Hauraki Assoc Lapel Badge and Cuff Links are now available.. Badges can be bought separately or, if required cuff links only. They can also be bought as a set. 1 badge and 1 set of cuff links.

Colouring of the items are a Gold Hauraki badge on a Navy Blue background. The size is 20 mm x 15 mm. as shown below.



The price for this beauty little (everyone will want one ) dress badge for **Financial Members** is only \$10 and the cuff links are \$20 the full set is \$30. Mail orders add \$1.50 for P&P **Non Members** prices are Badges \$15 Cuff Links \$25 and the full set \$40.

If you require any of the above contact the Secretary P.O.Box 2217 Tauranga

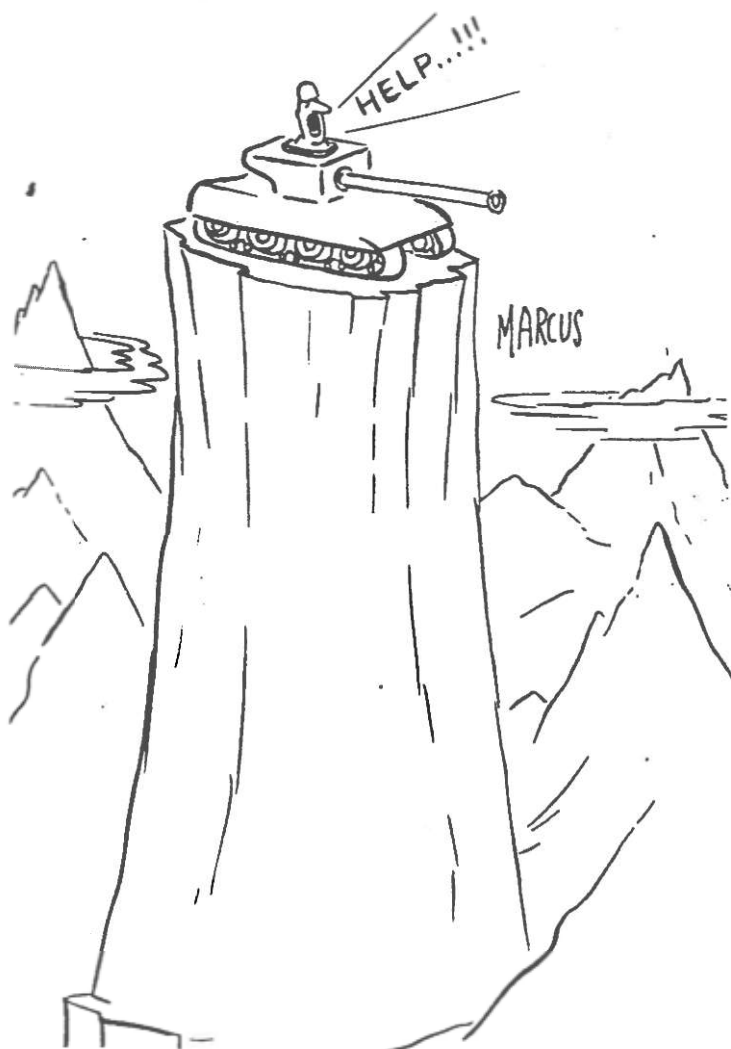
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Lou handed me half of the proceeds which he said was because we were good mates and he was grateful for the way I had appeased the General by getting the truck out in such rapid time without him.

We had many more adventures with the Bridging Train in the next few hectic months, crossing rivers and other such jobs on our journey to Trieste and the war's end.

After coming home to NZ, Lou and I continued our friendship visiting each other at his place or mine, until sadly last year, as a retired schoolteacher he passed away.

Hugh Harrison.



## FAREWELL TO H.R. BURT

The 6 Hauraki Battalion organised an extremely enjoyable farewell from the Hauraki's and the Army 6 December 1997.

The function which was held at the Tauranga Army Hall was conducted in a "This is your life format."

Dave Blanchard acted as M.C. and a range of Officers and Warrant Officers prominent in Bob's career spoke. These included Keith Bowering who joined at the same time, Brigadier Evan Torrance who served as a platoon commander and mentor, David Ogilvie very prominent in the SAS folklore and Kei Merito, Bob's RSM when he was C.O. of 6 Hau.

Brigadier Dean also spoke, and announced, on behalf of the Chief of General Staff, the well earned promotion to the rank of Colonel, an Honorary rank given only for exemplary service. He then presented Bob with his additional "pips."

Prominent amongst those attending, and indicative of the esteem, Bob is held in was the Deputy Prime Minister Winstone Peters and the Mayor of Tauranga Noel Pope and his wife.

Fittingly all of Bob's immediate family were present, much to his surprise and delight.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER IN 1998**

**July 10-11-12.** That is a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **Why ???** It is our **Centennial Ball Weekend**. More on this will follow. **Don't forget**, write it on your wallpaper.

# PHOTOGRAPH

1975 Lt Goldring giving a stern lecture on rifle safety, and I mean stern. The photo was taken somewhere off the Desert Road. I know it was just before it became even colder.



Cpl. Lloyd Harmon trying to dig through the snow and make a bed pit. As you can see it was B... cold



The good boy<sup>s</sup> of the Anti-Tank platoon washing their vehicle whilst waiting for the Auckland boys prior to firing the 106.

