After the riots and unrest

The smoke has long gone; instead there is a poignant reminder of last month’s riots and looting. Defence Minister Phil GoF walked the length of Chinatown to see first hand the destruction caused during the rioting in the Solomons.

The Minister, accompanied by NZ First MP Ron Mark, spent 24 hours in Honiara visiting the New Zealand troops located at Guadalcanal Beach Resort and Rove Prison, and met officials from RAMSI and the Solomon Islands government.

Speaking with journalists on his arrival, the Minister assured the people of Solomon Islands of New Zealand’s ongoing commitment to RAMSI. “It is a difficult period for Solomon Islands but we are here to give assurance to the people of Solomon Islands of New Zealand’s ongoing commitment to RAMSI. “It is a difficult period for Solomon Islands but we are here to give assurance to the people of Solomon Islands that we are committed to RAMSI which we set up three years ago.

“And that is to bring back stability to the Solomon Islands to ensure there is economic development, and the process of good governance is maintained.”

The recent unrest “is a major concern for the regional countries, and a difficult moment”, he said.

Mr GoF ended his visit with a BBQ dinner with the troops at Rove Prison and lunch with the New Zealand contingent at GBR.

New Zealand’s commitment stands at 125 soldiers with a recent platoon deployment on Espirito Santo. In addition to repairing electrical and plumbing fittings, a perimeter fence is being installed, a new corrections facility.

Fifteen New Zealand Defence Force personnel, commanded by New Zealand Army Engineers, are in Vanuatu to help rebuild Luganville Police Barracks into a new corrections facility.

It is providing the NZDF with valuable training opportunities involving deploying and operating in a tropical environment, planning and conducting a small independent construction task. It is also helping skill transfer and interoperability with the Vanuatu Mobile Forces. This project is part of a wider NZDF supported corrections programme in Vanuatu, and it is an important component of New Zealand’s assistance to the Government to maintain security and good public order.

The Army News is published fortnightly for the Regular and Territorial Force and civilian staff of the New Zealand Army.

Editor: Lorraine Brown, phone 04 496-0225 or DSN 349 7225, fax 04 496-0230, email lorraine.brown@nzdf.mil.nz

ASST Editor: Anna Norman, phone 04 496-0234 or DSN 349 7224, email anna.norman@nzdf.mil.nz

Website: www.army.mil.nz

Printing: Hawke’s Bay Newspapers, Hastings.

Layout and Design: Steven Fright and Elisha Bunn, DPRU

Training in Vanuatu

Fifteen New Zealand Defence Force personnel, commanded by New Zealand Army Engineers, are in Vanuatu to help rebuild Luganville Police Barracks into a new corrections facility.

NZAID is funding the project and the contingent is working closely with the Vanuatu Mobile Force in transforming the empty Vanuatu Police Barracks in Luganville, on the island of Espirito Santo. In addition to repairing electrical and plumbing fittings, a perimeter fence is being installed, a control room constructed, and the facility is having its walls and doors reinforced. The task is expected to take five weeks.

It is providing the NZDF with valuable training opportunities involving deploying and operating in a tropical environment, planning and conducting a small independent construction task. It is also helping skill transfer and interoperability with the Vanuatu Mobile Forces. This project is part of a wider NZDF supported corrections programme in Vanuatu, and it is an important component of New Zealand’s assistance to the Government to maintain security and good public order.

NZAID has two of its personnel permanently based in Port Villa, Vanuatu, who work with the Vanuatu Mobile Force.
Learning from Singapore

A NZ Army team visited Singapore recently to learn from the Singapore Armed Forces’ (SAF) Chemical Biological Radiological and Explosive (CBBRE) Defence Group.

Between 2–6 May, Lieutenant Colonel Wayne Boustridge, Major Paul Nealis, and members of 1 NZ EOD SQN, including OC, Major Bob Gillies and SSM, WO2 Bernard Nichol, visited the SAF CBRE DG. The CBRE DG is made up of a training centre, a CBRE data centre, two HQ branches, and two operational units: 36th and 39th Singapore Combat Engineer Battalions.

36 SCE Bn was raised in June 1969 as a bomb disposal unit, to render safe surface and submerged munitions found in Singapore after WWII. It now specialises in improvised explosive devices (IED) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response.

39 SCE Bn was raised in December 1993 to develop a Chemical Defence (CD) capability in response to a chemical warfare threat arising from the 1990 Gulf War. 39 SCE Bn now specialises in CBRE response within Singapore, supports 36 SCE Bns, and conducts SAF-wide CD familiarisation training.

1 NZ EOD SQN, established in August 2005, is responsible for conducting domestic IED, EOD and CBR operations within New Zealand. The aim of their visit to Singapore was to gain an understanding of the SAF CBRE organisation: how they interact with other government agencies; how medical support is provided; and what equipment and procedures they use to determine commonality between the two organisations.

The visit consisted of a meeting with the chief engineer officer (CEO), briefings by respective units, observation of an evaluation exercise, interaction with personnel from respective units and a meeting to discuss future bi-lateral opportunities. It was noted that Singapore (SAF CBRE Defence Group) and New Zealand (1 NZ EOD SQN) are similar in many aspects – there is much we can learn from each other through continued communication, attending each other’s courses, and exercising together.

It was not all work, however. The New Zealand visitors visited the Changi memorial chapel, which was a sobering experience for those that had never been posted to Singapore. The success of the visit was, in part, due to the work done by the NZ Defence Adviser in Singapore, Colonel Martin Dransfield, who liaised with the SAF CBRE DG.

This is the second NZDF visit to SAF CBRE, which reflects the fact that CBRE is an area in which both defence forces are seeking further opportunities to exchange ideas and information, as part of the close defence relationship that has never been posted to Singapore. The success of the visit was, in part, due to the work done by the NZ Defence Adviser in Singapore, Colonel Martin Dransfield, who liaised with the SAF CBRE DG.

The visit consisted of a meeting with the chief engineer officer (CEO), briefings by respective units, observation of an evaluation exercise, interaction with personnel from respective units and a meeting to discuss future bi-lateral opportunities. It was noted that Singapore (SAF CBRE Defence Group) and New Zealand (1 NZ EOD SQN) are similar in many aspects – there is much we can learn from each other through continued communication, attending each other’s courses, and exercising together.

It was not all work, however. The New Zealand visitors visited the Changi memorial chapel, which was a sobering experience for those that had never been posted to Singapore. The success of the visit was, in part, due to the work done by the NZ Defence Adviser in Singapore, Colonel Martin Dransfield, who liaised with the SAF CBRE DG.

This is the second NZDF visit to SAF CBRE, which reflects the fact that CBRE is an area in which both defence forces are seeking further opportunities to exchange ideas and information, as part of the close defence relationship that has never been posted to Singapore.

Contribution by WO2 Bernard Nichol and MAJ Paul Nealis

Have you got what it takes?

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN, AND ARE YOU GOOD AT, WRITING?

ARE YOU GOOD AT TAKING PHOTOS OF PEOPLE, ACTION, AND MOVING VEHICLES?

ARE YOU BASED IN LINTON?

MISSION

VISION

ETHOS

VALUES

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE WORLD CLASS OPERATIONALLY FOCUSED LAND FORCES THAT ARE LED, TRAINED, AND EQUIPPED TO WIN

A WORLD-CLASS ARMY THAT HAS MANA

SERVING NEW ZEALAND LOYALLY AND HONOURABLY

Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity

And a safe return

Twenty-eight soldiers returned to New Zealand last week, after a three month deployment to the Solomon Islands.

They were met by Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Rear Admiral Jack Steer, and the Commanding Officer of 1/1 Battalion LT COL John Boswell.

The soldiers completed a three month deployment as part of the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). They have been replaced by a planned rotation of Fijian military personnel.

During their rotation the New Zealand Defence Force platoon carried out daily patrols in Honiara, and regular patrols to other regions.

They maintained responsibility for perimeter security at Risie Prison.

With the recent deterioration in the security situation, the soldiers continued to conduct security patrols in Honiara, with the aim of creating stability within the region as soon as possible.

I was very honoured to be appointed as the Sergeant Major of the Army, but more importantly I am humbled to serve you, the soldiers of the New Zealand Army, in this appointment. I feel confident that the Commanders, Warrant Officers, Senior and Junior NCOs at all levels, have the military professionalism to be all they need to be, when they have to be, and that if we, the senior leadership, expect this, then we must continually review our training, equipments and leadership packages so that you are equipped with the necessary tools to deliver.

The Army Training Review Board (ATRB) is working hard to ratify corp and trade requirements to support TRADOC, and AATC is currently conducting an analysis on leadership with a view to enhancing our current leadership rank-based regimes.

But if you can help me help you; let me know any time and in any way what you are not comfortable with. Until then practise the Army Vision, Ethos and Values, play or support sport, and enjoy your profession.

SSGT Richard Plas reunited with his wife (Tracey) and children Kelsey 7, and Billy 3, at Christchurch airport, after returning from Honiara.

©THE PRESS
Apprentice of the year

Sapper Brendon McNabb currently deployed with the NZPRT in Bamian, was awarded the James Douglas Medallion for the New Zealand Plumbing Apprentice of the Year 2005 (see story pg 9). Sapper McNabb enlisted in the New Zealand Army in the early 1990s when he commenced his military career as an infanteer. He changed trade in 1996 to Plant Operator with the Royal New Zealand Engineers. A few years later while deployed to East Timor, he worked closely with the plumbers, and when he returned to New Zealand, chanced his luck again and applied for a plumbing apprenticeship. “I’d like to stress that for other soldiers thinking of leaving, look around, there are plenty of opportunities available within our organisation – you just have to seek them out,” says SPR McNabb.

SPR McNabb started his plumbing apprenticeship in 2002 and found that he enjoyed the variation and problem solving aspects of the trade. Now into his first week in Bamian, he has been busy with ongoing maintenance and providing solutions for water distribution around the camp. He is attempting to provide an ongoing water supply from a 70-metre deep well, to the camp fire reservoir, a distance of over 150 metres.

SPR McNabb said, “It’s not too difficult of a task, but like everything, you need to test that it is possible before you go digging up the main access in camp. I’ve proved it is possible, so now we are digging in the line. As we are entering the summer months it is imperative that we have sufficient water stored should a fire occur in camp.”

For the women of Bamian

SGT Kath Spencer, CAPT Kathy McCrory and CHAPCL4 Kirstie McDonald joined the Mayor of Bamian, beauty therapy and hairdressing students from the Women’s Development Centre, and family and friends, to celebrate the opening of the first women’s hairdressing salon in Bamian.

Those attending from the PRT were excited to receive an invitation to celebrate with the women of Bamian, who live in such a harsh environment. Even more interesting was the fact that the celebration was in the home of one of the local women. Unsure of what to expect, it was with a good deal of laughter and nervousness we set off with Rauf, our interpreter, to Sarie Asyab village, Bakeshop St, Najibullah’s House.

When we arrived, we were told that we should have brought a gift with us, so it was a quick trip back to camp to raid the imitation flowers from the Medical Centre.

Waiting for the guests to arrive, we sat on the floor of a room adorned with beautiful rugs. The women and men who gathered treated us as the guests of honour and were keen to make conversation. One gentleman, who works for the Women’s Development Centre, had been a refugee in Australia and spoke exceptional English. He was very supportive of the women becoming independent and being able to contribute to their families, whilst gaining fulfilment from what they were doing.

CAPT McCrory was handed the scissors to officially open the salon, and proceeded to cut the ribbon with great flourish and lots of, “I hereby open this salon for the women of Bamian.” The ribbon was re-tied and the tutor cut it for a second opening.

Moving to afternoon tea, the women went and sat round the corner of a rather large room and we – the guests of honour – actually sat with the men. The men took control of the tea pouring and ensured that our cups were never empty. What a superb afternoon. Not only did we learn about fitting into another culture, but we shared an afternoon with other women, women who were beautifully dressed for the occasion, who were excited with the start of this journey into business, and who felt that they could share with us, as women.

We, the women of the NZPRT, were blessed to share this occasion with the women of Bamian.

Contributed by CHAPCL4 Kirstie McDonald

Thirty-two candles

Warrant Officer Class Two James Moohan had a surprise after being on the range for most of the day on 4 May – his birthday. Not only did he get a huge birthday cake, his wife Vanessa emailed a great photograph of a young James carrying his favourite stuffed toy. WO2 Moohan couldn’t believe it, he said, “Only my mother has this photo, how did you get hold of it?”

After a fine version of “Happy Birthday” the cake was well received by the members of the contingent.

WO2 Moohan is with the NZPRT in Bamian as their CSM.
Less than 24 hours after getting off the Hercules at Kiwi Base in Bamian, it was off to do my first EOD task. NZPRT had stockpiled some old munitions and in addition Capt Paul Garrod, NZPRT EOD team leader, who had arrived with the advance party, had collected some over the previous two weeks.

After collecting a left-hand drive Toyota 4x4 I met up with the rest of the team, comprising SSGT Dennis Wanihi (NZPRT EOD), Capt Paul Garrod, our photographer, two medics, two US Army personnel, two Afghani National Police, and an interpreter. Loading the munitions took 15 minutes and then we set off for the range, located on the outskirts of Bamian.

After moving several donkeys out of the area, we set about building a stack of munitions which included rocket propelled grenades (RPG), mortars, rockets, grenades, small arms ammunition, anti-personnel mines and a large Yugoslav anti-tank mine; a total weight of approximately 500kgs. As part of the preparation we needed to fill sand bags and prepare the C4 explosive charges. This was completed reasonably quickly but safely, due to the nature and age of some of the munitions. Capt Garrod and I connected the detonator to the charges and armed the firing system, then joined the remaining team members back at the safety point 1,300 metres up the valley.

We climbed up a small ridgeline with several stops to catch my breath as I discovered the joy of exercise at high altitude (2600m above sea level), final safety checks were completed and the charges were fired – a perfect detonation.

Less than two hours later Capt Garrod and myself were off again, this time to destroy a 40mm grenade on the range, which had failed to function. After moving a group of locals out of harm’s way, this was quickly disposed of, and we headed back to camp.

April 29 is a national holiday in Afghanistan; a day to celebrate the Independence of the Islamic Afghanistan Revolution – victory over the former communist regime. This year, the day coincided with the NZPRT handover parade. Recognising the significance of this day for the Afghani people, the incoming contingent commander, Capt Ross Smith, decided to send a representative from the New Zealand contingent to attend the formal celebrations.

SQNLDR Robert Cato, along with Aman, a locally employed interpreter, attended the celebration at the Bamian Boys Central High School. A large crowd gathered, and the now empty Buddha niches in the cliffs provided a stunning backdrop. Armed police and military personnel tightly patrolled the surroundings as the crowd awaited the arrival of Governor Sarabi.

With quick translations by Aman, SQNLDR Cato gained an understanding of the proceedings and an appreciation of the speeches made. After a few hours of speeches, it was the school children’s turn to sing songs about the history of the region. The proceedings were concluded with a song by a local band, using traditional instruments.

SQNLDR Cato appreciated the opportunity to hear about the struggles of the Afghani people in their quest to gain their freedom.

 Honouring a promise
Prior to returning to New Zealand at the completion of his deployment as SNO in the Solomon Islands, CAPT Greg Moyle honoured an earlier promise to the women of Baramara Village. Accompanied by his replacement CAPT Nigel Elder, CAPT Moyle visited Baramara village on Mt Austen, to deliver the women a netball. The village is the site of the WWII Japanese stronghold known as the Gifu.

On an earlier visit to the village with MAJ GEN Lou Gardiner (then COMJNZ) and CAPT Regan McMillan, CAPT Moyle had made the promise as he delivered soccer balls to the children. Their mothers asked if they could also have a netball for the women to use.

CAPT Moyle said, “It is important to honour the promise to return to the village prior to my return to New Zealand, in order to continue the excellent relationship built up by New Zealand soldiers with the local villagers, in surrounding Honiara”. Contributed by CPL James Johns RNZAF
Medals at Trentham

Staff of the Trentham Regional Support Centre and Army General Staff Logistics Executive paraded early in May to witness the presentation of medals to 12 staff.

Medals presented included the New Zealand Operational Service Medal, the New Zealand Armed Forces Award, the New Zealand Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the New Zealand General Service Medal for Afghanistan, Sinai and the Solomon Islands.

The Australian Meritorious Unit Citation was also presented to two members of the TRSC Catering Platoon. This citation is awarded to Australian units for sustained outstanding service in warlike operations, and is also awarded to units of the defence forces of other countries supporting Australian operations. The Australian Government awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation to 3 Squadron, Royal New Zealand Air Force, in recognition of the service the unit provided to the Australian lead International Force East Timor (INTERFET).

SSGT “Whisky” Lewis and CPL Nathan Wallace were attached to 3 Squadron as catering staff.

COL Peter Cunningham, AGCS (Log) told those on parade that they should look to the medal recipients as role models. He acknowledged the sacrifice and commitment made by the medal recipients and also the sacrifice of their family members.

At the end of the parade LCPL Nathan Wallace of the TRSC Catering Platoon was promoted to corporal and COL Cunningham presented him with his new rank slides.

Reported by Keith Knox

STEPPING UP

Congratulations to the following personnel on their recent promotion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SERVICE NO</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25-Apr-06</td>
<td>K101779</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>R.M BEHERSING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Apr-06</td>
<td>J101504</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>N.L POMEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Apr-06</td>
<td>G1015456</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>D.P TIPPETT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Apr-06</td>
<td>T1014444</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>C.J WALL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>X1013909</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>J. ANDREWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>H1009040</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>N.D BOBBETTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>T1008521</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>K BRIGHOUSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>S1008937</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>T.M BRYCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>T1011946</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>M.P JENSEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>A1014993</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>N.R LECKIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>L100746</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>K.R LIDARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>U1010983</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>C.J LOWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>B101538</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>I.J MORRISON-MACFARLANE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>L101446</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>N.J ORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>G1014946</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>J.R PIKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>A1008972</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>C.A PANORA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>A1010507</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>T.J RUAHARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>A1009547</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>A.C SHAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>F1010970</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>W.MT SOLOMON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>C101733</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>L.TAKAHARA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>L101250</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>L.J THAGGARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>B1013400</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>A.J WATSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>T1012339</td>
<td>LCPL</td>
<td>S.C WESTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-06</td>
<td>L1015697</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>T.P WIPANI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Apr-06</td>
<td>T1014958</td>
<td>LBDR</td>
<td>M.B BRAWLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Apr-06</td>
<td>K1014951</td>
<td>LBDR</td>
<td>L.B GREEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Apr-06</td>
<td>H102352</td>
<td>LBDR</td>
<td>G.D REES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-May-06</td>
<td>M101952</td>
<td>BRIG</td>
<td>P.J GIBBONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-May-06</td>
<td>C101931</td>
<td>BDR</td>
<td>N.D HIRLETT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-May-06</td>
<td>T101547</td>
<td>LT GEN</td>
<td>I.MATENPAKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-May-06</td>
<td>K101428</td>
<td>LT</td>
<td>F.D STEWART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-May-06</td>
<td>R100960</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>W.N WALLACE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AMMUNITION TECHNICIAN REUNION 3-5 JUNE 2006

A reunion for all current and former ammunition technical officers, ammunition technicians and personnel who served in the Waioou Ammunition Area is being held in Waioou over Queens Birthday weekend, 3-5 June 2006.

A large number of former personnel have indicated that they will be attending, but we are still trying to track down the missing persons.

If you are in contact with other former ammunition technical personnel, please contact them and encourage them to come forward and register. We don't want to miss anyone!

Please register your intentions for the reunion by contacting WO2 Andrew True at andrew.true@nzdf.mil.nz or telephone 06 387 5599 Ext.7881

The love of learning

A senior and junior officer from 6 Hauraki Battalion Group recently graduated from Waikato University.

LT COL John Dick was presented with his Bachelor of Social Sciences degree, majoring in psychology, at a graduation ceremony at the university’s Tauranga campus in late-April.

“It really was the Army that gave me the love of learning; it just never ends. It is never, ever too late to start learning”, said LT COL Dick, who has been in the military for 30 years.

LT COL Dick has been studying part-time for four years, including two years as commanding officer of 6 Hau Bn Gp. He has decided to now complete two years of full-time study towards his honours and masters qualifications.

2LT Kate Watawai graduated with a Bachelor of Science with majors in biological science and earth science. 2LT Watawai is currently the recruit platoon commander for 6 Hau Bnp.
Land Command Sergeant Major  
WO1 Tony Harding

New Brigadier and LCC

BRIG Phil Gibbons takes control of Land Command with a desire to focus on training at platoon and company level. “My focus [will be] on junior leadership, on making sure that the small teams, the platoons and the companies, are given the space and the time to train and to train properly, with a view to improving our overall quality.”

Looking at the big picture, BRIG Gibbons is keen to improve core soldier skills, such as shooting, physical fitness, navigating and field craft, by using the Special Forces as a benchmark. “I think what we need to be doing is improving our core soldier skills so that we can close the gap between those that set the benchmark for us, our Special Forces.”

BRIG Gibbons’ new role as Land Component Commander (LCC) means he is responsible to the Chief of Army for the readiness of the Army, so the Army can deploy successfully.

BRIG Gibbons said he was “very honoured” to receive the promotion for reasons, including beginning his career as a private soldier. After serving 3½ years as a soldier, he was selected for officer training in 1978, and graduated into RNZIR in June 1979.

His career includes a posting to Company Commander in 2/1 RNZIR, 1989; Chief Instructor at the School of Infantry in Waiouru, 1991; CO of RNZIR, 1994; Senior National Officer to UNPROFOR Bosnia, 1995; Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, United Nations Transitional Authority East Timor, 2000, for which he was made an Additional Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit; Commander 2LFG in 2002; and his most recent position, until the end of April 2006, as 35, HQ RNZIR.

After BRIG Phil Gibbons received his promotion to Brigadier on his first day as Land Component Commander, an officer in Army General Staff offered forward to congratulate BRIG Gibbons’ wife.

It was “a very appropriate” gesture, says BRIG Gibbons. “I’m proud to have my wife Donna and daughter Kylie here today, because it’s as much their day as it is mine. We’ve had 26 years in partnership, and in that time we have had 17 house moves, and the children have been to seven or eight schools.”

His wife Donna said she was very proud of him, as he had worked long and hard to earn this appointment. “He loves the Army and he loves the whole lifestyle”, she said. His daughter Kylie said she was also very proud of her father. “It’s fantastic, it really is”, she said.

Reported by Anna Norman

Moving up with a little sadness

Although pleased to be appointed Land Command Sergeant Major (LCSM), WO1 Tony Harding says the appointment comes tainted with sadness.

He is slightly saddened to be leaving his previous role as Army Training Group Formation Sergeant Major, where ATG was accomplishing a lot, he says. “I am glad to have this appointment but I am also mindful of the fact that I was enjoying very much what I was doing in the Army Training Group.”


In 1994 WO1 Harding was awarded the BEM (British Empire Medal) for outstanding work in Somalia, and in 1998 he was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for supporting the operation in Bougainville.

The previous LCSM, Brigadier Warren Whiting, has moved into Defence Headquarters as Assistant Chief Strategic Commitments and Intelligence (AC SCI). The new position is the latest in an NZ Army career spanning 28 years, with postings including flying observation helicopters for the NZ Army Air Corps 1982 to 1985; Chief Instructor and then Commandant at OCS Waiouru in 1989 to 1994; Military Secretary, 1998; Commander 3LFG in 1998 to 2000; Commander 3LFG, 1998 to 2000; Defence Advisor Thailand 2000 to 2002.

WO1 Harding will present TF1 with the challenge of training a new leader in the Territorial Force. “It’s a new role for me, one that is challenging, but I am looking forward to it.”

“WO1 Harding is a very experienced soldier who understands the responsibilities of his role,” says BRIG Howie. “He is a good leader and will bring a lot of experience to the role.”

The previous TFA, Brigadier Fote, has retired after serving for 32 years in the Territorial Force.

Melding and moulding

The challenge for the Territorial Force is ensuring it gains functional accountability, says WO1 Dave Armstrong, the Senior Territorial Force Warrant Officer.

WO1 Armstrong describes the SRFW as the TF equivalent of the Sergeant Major of the Army. During his term, which began eight months ago, WO1 Armstrong will present TF soldiers’ concerns to the Chief of Army and liaise with the TFA, Brigadier Ants Howie. He will focus on developing leaders for the TF and ensure the TF and RF, which are already integrated, are completely melded together.

“When I enlisted into the RNZAMC (Medical Corps) 20-odd years ago, the TF and RF were almost two separate identities – now there’s certainly one identity and neither can function without the other. It’s continuing that melding of the two into one. We’ve done all the groundwork, it’s just getting the guys in there and doing it.”

“The Regular Force side are very accommodating; now it’s the day-to-day running where, when someone is sick or broken, a soldier can step in and assist on a short-term basis.”

In his civilian life, WO1 Armstrong is a life-time rehabilitation patient with ACC, where he works with severe brain injury and spinal clients. He says his soldier and civilian roles complement each other. “Life-time planning is about creating opportunities; looking not at the day-to-day things, [looking at] strategic but hands-on strategic [approach].”

“The STFW role is the same; although it’s keeping an eye on day-to-day activities, it is also moulding where we are going to be in five years. It’s the development of young guys, not for positions today, but for positions five years down the track.”

Senior Territorial Force Warrant Officer  
WO1 Dave Armstrong

New Territorial Force Advisor

BRIG Ants Howie steps into the top Territorial Force spot this month with the view that strong leadership will overcome many of the challenges facing the TF.

“The most important thing I will be emphasising [as the TFA] is the need for strong leadership and good quality training. I am strongly of the view that a number of the challenges for the TF are within the TF’s ability to fix,” says BRIG Howie.

The former Commanding Officer of 4th Battalion, Otago Southland (1994 to 2000), says he is looking forward to meeting the wider Territorial Force on his visits to the units, and “making a good contribution to the Army’s policy development, so that TF matters are well addressed”.

BRIG Howie brings a 22-year career in the Regular Force, followed by 11 years in the Territorial Force, to his new role as Territorial Force Advisor (TFA). He holds a Master of Arts in Defence and Strategic Studies.

“There have been many highlights [in my career], I have enjoyed every day of service I have had with the Army and I still do”, he says. One of his more significant postings was a seven-month deployment to Iraq in 2004, as the Senior National Officer for the second New Zealand contingent, and as the senior staff officer on the British Multinational Division in Southern Iraq. For his leadership of that operation, he was made an Additional Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2005 New Year Honours List.

As the TFA, BRIG Howie will help meet the goal, outlined in Army Transformation Plan, to almost double TF numbers during the next decade – from 1,900 to 3,700. “That will be a significant challenge, because there are many pressures on people’s disposable time today.”

However, the Army has a lot going for it, he says, including the acquisition of a range of new and very modern equipment, and new opportunities for TF to deploy overseas.

The previous TFA, Brigadier Fote, has retired after serving for 32 years in the Territorial Force.

The previous TFA, Brigadier Fote, has retired after serving for 32 years in the Territorial Force.

The previous TFA, Brigadier Fote, has retired after serving for 32 years in the Territorial Force.
New Zealand’s where I want to be

At 6.30pm on Anzac Day 2006, the lights dim at the Sydney Superdome and the 10,000-strong Australian audience hushes to a silence.

From high up to the left, a trumpet calls across the arena – recollecting the time, 90 years ago, when Australia called to New Zealand for help. At the right, New Zealand answers the call. The spotlight falls on two soldiers riding into the arena on horseback; one dressed as a NZ Mounted Horseman and carrying the New Zealand flag, the other dressed as a member of the Light Horse Brigade and carrying the Australian flag. Both are members of the NZ Army Band, but the Light Horse Brigade soldier is New Zealand Army soldier, and “Australian”, Private Colin Clark.

For 26-year-old PTE Clark, this tattoo was special. Performing brilliantly and showing the world just what Kiwi musicians are made of is always a huge buzz for members of the band, but for PTE Clark, stepping out in front of a “hometown” crowd with his parents in the audience was on another level again.

That’s because PTE Clark, despite being a born and bred Australian, now considers himself a Kiwi. He moved to New Zealand in 2002 and has spent most of the years since in NZDF: Three-and-a-half years in the Navy Band, and – for PTE Clark, stepping out in front of a “hometown” crowd with his parents in the audience was on another level again.

That’s because PTE Clark, despite being a born and bred Australian, now considers himself a Kiwi. He moved to New Zealand in 2002 and has spent most of the years since in NZDF: Three-and-a-half years in the Navy Band, and – for PTE Clark, stepping out in front of a “hometown” crowd with his parents in the audience was on another level again.

The NZ Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are pleased PTE Clark decided to make New Zealand his home. The soprano cornet player was the New Zealand Army Band are please...
AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

Joining the New Zealand Army in January 1974, Captain Brent (Bil) Smith had not anticipated his career spanning over 32 years. Every day of his life the military gave him, the friendships and the wide variety of jobs within the Army, kept his passion alive. “Everyone comes to a point of no return in their career and in my 20th year I was given the opportunity to continue”, he said.

CAPT Smith enlisted as a Regular Force Cadet. Graduating at the end of 1974, to become an infantry instructor, he was posted to 2/1 RNZIR in Burnham. He was then sent to Singapore with 1 RNZIR for two years. CAPT Smith continued the cycle of returning to Singapore between New Zealand based postings; as Cadre NCO with the Territorial Force and instructor positions within the Army Schools.

In the late-80’s he was promoted to Warrant Officer, again serving at the Army Schools in Waiouru. His first Regimental Sergeant Major appointment was with the 5, Wanganui West Coast and Taranaki territorial force unit. From there he became the RSM of 1 RNZIR, the RSM of the Officer Cadet School, and finally the Formation Sergeant Major of 2 Land Force Group at Linton Military Camp.

On completion of an operational tour to East Timor he was commissioned and since then, has served at the Operations Branch of HQ, 2 LFG at Linton. He is also the Linton Camp Public Relations Officer.

CAPT Smith has had many highlights during his career but serving as an instructor has given him great rewards. “Seeing how the students develop during the course and then meeting them further into their career is really rewarding”, he said. “I guess that’s an advantage of staying in so long!”

Service people are regularly asked to adapt to daily and career changes, which can be a challenge. This is happening more often with personnel being deployed on a regular basis. “You have to try to make sure the least amount of people are affected by the changes”, he said.

One thing that has really stood out in his career is the high level of training offered by the military and just how well it prepares you to deal with unforeseen situations. “You don’t find out how well you have been trained until you have to react or carry out a diverse or traumatic action”, says CAPT Smith.

CAPT Smith has been operationally deployed with the Multi-National Force and Observers as the MFO Training W/O and New Zealand Contingent W/O in 1996, to East Timor as the Sector West Brigade RSM in 2000, to the Cambodia Mine Action Centre as the Technical Advisor Operations in 2002-2003, and to Afghanistan as a Patrol Commander in 2005.

East Timor had its own highlights and challenges. In East Timor he enjoyed seeing how the soldiers adapted and operated with true Kiwi spirit. “Trying to help maintain our own group cohesion in pretty primitive conditions could prove quite difficult at times.”

“I don’t think anything really prepares you for the reality of the legacy of the Khmer Rouge”, CAPT Smith said of his deployment to Cambodia. “This deployment was a classic example of seeing how well the NZDF prepares you for some pretty traumatic and difficult situations.”

The basic NZDF medical training assisted greatly in dealing with some horrific motor vehicle accidents, and helped in dealing with injuries from mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), an unwanted legacy of the many battles courtesy of theKhmer Rouge and other military forces. Although there were two Kiwi soldiers there, CAPT Smith often worked alone for long periods on the Thai Cambodian border. “There were 70-90 people being killed or injured every month by mines or UXO.”

“In Afghanistan we spent a lot of time interacting with the local population, both peaceful and at times openly hostile. One village we had to deal with would be friendly one day and quite nasty the next”, he said.

“As a Kiwi Muslim I was able to interact more closely on a personal and religious level. We were often given a lot of useful information and our patrol had two large weapons and ammunition caches surrendered to us”, CAPT Smith said.

From his time in the military, CAPT Smith has learnt that no matter how prepared you are, what job you do, or where you work, there will always be challenges, where the individual and team have to look at different ways of overcoming situations. If you can’t do that, then you’re probably in the wrong job, he says!

However, the skills and experience provided to individuals generally assists there is, he says, in military or civilian life. Personnel who leave the NZDF and enter the civilian world, learn that transferable skills, make them extremely valuable to any organisation.

And if he had the chance to do it all again? “Everyone enjoys doing what they joined the Army to do. For me, the Infantry has been my home. If I were to start again doing something different though, I think I would quite like to train as a chief”

Reported by Caroline Williams

The first time Private David Lilley played for a military band, it was either the military or face seven years in jail. Many years later, he joined the NZ Army Band because they made a brand – and they were good.

“When I first joined the military in South Africa we were basically conscripted to go and fight for something we didn’t believe in (during apartheid) – it was either that or basically conscripted to go and fight for something we didn’t believe in during apartheid – it was either that or

PTE Lilley is now a soldier in the NZ Army, playing the trumpet for the NZ Army Band. After two years, still half way around the world, PTE Lilley would sit for ages with his trumpet for the NZ Army Band. But just over two years ago, PTE Lilley is now a soldier in the NZ Army, playing the trumpet for the NZ Army Band. After two years, still half way around the world, PTE Lilley would sit for ages with his trumpet for the NZ Army Band. But just over two years ago, he played in symphony orchestras and jazz bands, New Zealand has a strong tradition of brass bands. “The first time I went to the national brass band championships it was a huge deal for me, because I had never been to anything like that before. When I heard all the A-grade bands I was blown away, whoa, for a country so small to have such a high standard in the brass bands. I joined the Army Band because it’s a very good band; there are a lot of very good players in this band.”

As well as his service in the navy band, he played for the army band in South Africa - so military tattoos, such as the recent Anzac Tattoo, and Julia’s Edinburgh Tattoos, are nothing new. However, the NZ Army Band does things differently. “This band does marching and stuff which we never did in South Africa, like the clever dance moves. That’s been a bit of a learning curve for me, definitely a case of an old dog learning new tricks, but it has been good.”

Although he has only been in New Zealand for two years, he considers himself a New Zealander, “for the very reason that I’m grateful to be in the country”.

Reported by Anna Norman

Strong brass tradition

PTE Lilley (second from left) performs with the NZ Army Band at Channel 9 studios, Sydney
Standby and roll. "Yes, I've found the Army is indeed the place to arm me with skills, with pride... Ahhh!" Cut.

Henry Tulpea, the jovial frontman for the Pacific Beat TV show, was lying on the ground in the pouring rain at Waiouru's Old Class Range while four other TV crewmen clustered around him.

Beside him, MAJ Patrick Hibbs, Chief Instructor at the Officer Cadet School, had been showing him how to fire a C9 light support weapon. The machine gun was unloaded, but Henry, a drama school graduate, had been watching the officer cadets who were live-firing C9s a few metres away, and was able to give an enthusiastic imitation, a performance keyed to catch the attention of the 15 to 30-year-olds who watch Pacific Beat Street.

Earlier in the day TAD instructor CPL Faye Perelini had met Henry at the Army marae and put him through his paces to find out, "Have you got what it takes?"

At the marae, for their overnight cultural experience, were the AARC 337 recruits. They gave the camera crew some good opportunities for out-takes, filming Henry as he joined the casually dressed recruits practicing waiata, making fry-bread and putting down a hangi. The Marae Cultural Adviser, SSGT Tama Andrew, proved to be a television natural, smoothly answering each one of Henry's off-the-cuff questions and... Cut! Then smoothly answering the same question again.

CPL Faye Perelini next put Henry through his paces at the Eru Brown gym. Soldiers from the School of Signals were doing PT, and Henry joined a group of Territorial Force recruits who were on the last day of their RIT2 course.

The TF was being familiarised with the NZLAV, and Henry got to sit in the driver's seat while the TF, all in full battle kit, clambered over the vehicle. They then formed up in the pouring rain, lifted up their packs, and marched off into the murk, providing the cameramen with a wealth of more vivid footage. After all the video snippets are tied together into a smooth storyline, you will be able to see the smooth performances of those Waiouru instructors and trainees in this taxing, stop-start acting format. The Army training story is being screened on TV3 on Saturday 3 June at 11.30 am.

Meanwhile, back at Old Class Range, the officer cadets had finished their C9 practice, and roped in as TV extras. They crowded behind MAJ Hibbs and CPL Perelini, ready to shout "Armyy!!!" as Henry wrapped up the story.

Standby. And roll. "Thank you Faye, the Army is indeed the place to arm me with skills, with pride, and yes – as I've found out today – with passion." "Armyy!!!"

And wrap.

Reported by John Archer

A. Samoan-born CPL Faye Perelini, a recruit instructor at TAD, explains why she joined the Army
B. SSGT Tama Andrew explains how an overnight stay at the multicultural Army Marae assists recruits
C. The Pacific Beat team films MAJ Hibbs at Waiouru
D. Recruits starting the fire to heat stones for hangi
E. CPL Faye Perelini, a recruit instructor at TAD
At the orders “allez allez allez...”, “drop back and take the flank...”, French and Kiwi soldiers leapt eagerly from multiple helicopters, rushing to contain the situation. Their aim: control a disillusioned line of protestors at a local mining company and escort workers stuck inside, to safety.

This was a training scenario during the Exercise Croix du Sud 2006, a bi-annual exercise held in New Caledonia and involving military personnel from New Zealand, New Caledonia, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. This activity in CDS 06 was one of the first opportunities for French and Kiwi soldiers to work alongside one another to achieve a common goal.

In 16 “taps” (inserts of soldiers), just over 150 French and New Zealand soldiers were transported into the “mine” by French Pumas and New Zealand Iroquois helicopters. During the previous day’s integration training, all soldiers were introduced to the disembarkation techniques and safety aspects of the various aircraft.

The platoons quickly secured the area. They formed an opposing line to the protestors, to calm them and contain any potential violence.

Skirmishing through the bushes, and attempting to evade the soldiers’ line, the protestors came up against calm and reasoned resistance. The Commandant of the French forces later praised the soldiers’ initial reactions and calming influence over the potential rioters.

The disgruntled and protesting civilian faction were made up of RIMaP 1st Company, another platoon of French soldiers based at Plum. The protestors – thumping jerry cans, yelling, vandalising cars and cutting down foliage – were a far cry from the familiar faces in the dining room earlier that morning.

With the French responsible for holding the line, the New Zealand platoon assumed responsibility for the flanks. One breakaway protestor with a deft sidestep eluded several soldiers before he was brought back to reality with a flying Kiwi tackle that an All Black would have been proud of. The perpetrator was then secured with Flexicuffs – a useful part of the New Zealand soldiers’ kit – and one you could see the French mentally adding to their requirements for their next operation.

The New Zealand platoon was then tasked as bodyguard for the VIP contingent, to escort trucks from within the mine to safety. At the orders “allez allez allez!!”, French and Kiwi soldiers leapt eagerly from multiple helicopters, rushing to contain the situation. Their aim: control a disillusioned line of protestors at a local mining company and escort workers stuck inside, to safety.

This was a training scenario during the Exercise Croix du Sud 2006, a bi-annual exercise held in New Caledonia and involving military personnel from New Zealand, New Caledonia, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. This activity in CDS 06 was one of the first opportunities for French and Kiwi soldiers to work alongside one another to achieve a common goal.

Once the picket line had been stabilised. Around one-and-a-half hours after their disembarkation from the helos, the situation had stabilised and the picket line was placated. The troops were ready to dismantle the makeshift and take the trucks through to safety. Mission achieved!

After completion, satisfied Kiwis massed together to swap tales from the mission. Because of the after effects of adrenaline-fuelled activity, the soldiers’ tired bodies were forgotten in their elation. “Did you see that guy...?”, “Do you remember...?”, “Did you do...?” The stories jumbled together as they relived their highlights from the afternoon’s successful mission. With big smiles, they recalled their efforts and actions, and, indeed, the reason many joined the Army.

“This afternoon alone makes the whole exercise worth it. It was great”, said one Private, while another acknowledged that the training scenario was very different to those in New Zealand.

In his final debrief, the French Commandant, who was in charge for the exercise, praised the hard work of all people involved. The removal of the trucks was “successful”, and the soldiers’ ability to remain calm and resist being pulled into aggressive action, was commended.

Reported by LT Victoria Rendall, RNZN Assistant PR Manager (Navy)
Thought provoking and informative

A retired British general, Sir Rupert Smith, recently told NZDF personnel that military interventions in Iraq, the Balkans, Chechnya and Afghanistan, failed because the intervening powers used inappropriate military force.

The lecture, based on his book The Utility of Force: the Art of Warfare in the Modern World, was delivered to an audience of over 100 NZDF staff, staff of related government agencies, and strategic studies and defence students.

GEN Smith, who retired from the British Army in 2002 after a 40-year career, argued that the recent military interventions failed to deliver peace, or even political resolution. He said the effective use of force (“the utility of force”) must be based on sound intelligence and an understanding of the changing nature of modern war.

The lecture was organised by the Military Studies Institute. Deputy Chief of Army, BRIG Barry Vryenhoek, praised the lecture as “thought provoking and informative”. “I was also pleased to see a number of people from a variety of military, government and educational organisations attending the lecture”, he said.

GEN Smith’s senior operational appointments included Deputy Supreme Commander Allied Powers Europe 1998-2001, including the Kosovo bombing campaign; Commander of UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, 1995; and General Officer Commanding 1 (UK) Armoured Division during the 1990-91 Gulf War.

Contributed by LT COL Richard Taylor

Wired for height

The recruits of AARC 337 were really wired when they spent a day in the Eru Brown Gym recently. After 10 weeks of PT, they all had the strength and fitness needed for these high wire activities, and the day gave them a chance to gain confidence and get used to heights. A rock wall, chicken run, solo wire, high beam and monkey bars were all tackled with gusto, and with full safety procedures.

The monkey bars were especially challenging, as the recruits had to work in pairs to climb up through the swaying bars and dangling truck tyres. They had to find creative solutions to help each other climb all the way to the roof of the gym. But they all looked pretty happy when they reached the topmost rail.

Contributed by LT COL Richard Taylor

Tribute to “the originals”

In mid March, soldiers from Whiskey Company, based at Linton Military Camp, organised a static display for 1 RNZIR veterans. When the battalion changed its name from the New Zealand Regiment to 1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, these men were serving in the battalion as part of Brigadier Gunn’s Battalion. They are known as “the originals”.

The veterans were given a display of a seven-person infantry section wearing and using service equipment including Molle webbing, night vision and communications equipment, packs and personal kit. They were also shown the capabilities of the NZLAV and had a look around the Army Museum, and lent 1 RNZIR a selection of weapons used in Malaya and Borneo.

Contributed by LT COL Richard Taylor

PLA visit Trentham

High-ranking officers from the largest military in the world, China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA), visited Trentham recently to learn from the New Zealand Defence Force.

The director-general of the Military Training, International Cooperation wing of the PLA of China, Director General Senior Colonel Liu Yang, visited the Defence College last month, accompanied by four other PLA officers, including Senior Colonel Zhou Shihua, deputy director-general of training at the Army Command College, PLA.

During their five-day visit to New Zealand, the PLA officers visited Trentham for briefs from the Military Studies Institute and the NZDF Command and Staff College.

The People’s Liberation “Army” refers to China’s 3.25 million-strong defence force, which has army, navy and air force branches. Although the New Zealand Defence Force is vastly smaller, the Commandant of the Defence College, CAPT Gwyn Rees, says size doesn’t matter.

“The People’s Liberation Army is very keen to modernise and reform the very traditional systems that they have had since the end of the Second World War, and are visiting western countries to gather ideas. They value New Zealand and Australia, in particular, because we’re modern militaries – it doesn’t matter what size [military] we are, we all confront the same sorts of problems, and they’re here to see how we manage our professional military development and education.”

Contributed by CAPT Rees, Commandant Defence Force College with COL Gail Willi

Contributed by Anna Norman

Reported by John Archer
Sgt Joe Murray, spokesperson for Tu-Matakura Roopu, said the group did “exceptionally well”. “The reason we competed was to keep kapa haka alive, and it was also an opportunity for our soldiers and dependants with the Army, and those affiliated – who have got out of the Army and moved on – to return and bring something unique and alive back to Burnham.”

He said the group has been doing well over the last few years. They are now training for the regionals, to be held in Christchurch on 24 June, in the hope of making the nationals.

SSGt Murray thanked the Commander 3 LFG, the FSM, WO1 Malcolm Dean, and others for their support behind the scenes.

“Ma Whero, Ma Pango, Ka oti te mahi” – it is proven that when we work together we can be successful in anything that we do.

Reported by Alison Conrie

Military Career Management (MCM) has recently published a soldier career information brochure – A Guide to Soldier Career Management. The aims of this brochure are to:

• familiarise soldiers with the function of MCM
• inform soldiers of their responsibility towards their own career management
• explain the soldier career management cycle
• direct soldiers to important policies and directives on soldier career management, and
• provide the contact details of the Military Career Managers.

The brochure has been distributed to all RF soldiers, formation/Unit HQ’s and Administration Centres. While intended as a guide, it provides information on the various aspects of soldier career management and it is essential that this forms a part of every soldier’s “toolkit”.

The MCM intranet site has been updated to reflect the contents of the brochure in more detail. The details of the website are found on the back page of the brochure and can also be found on the home page of all formations and camps. The website is an attempt to bridge the gap between the soldier and the organisation, and it is MCM’s intention that the website not only provides information on career management, but also provides information on the availability of soldier appointments and requirements for each appointment.

You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the information, and discuss your career with your career manager or immediate commander.

Best to tell

Avid Hurricanes supporter, Maj Tarsia Tarsau from HR Executive, Army General Staff, made the mistake recently of going off on a day’s leave without telling his workmates about the significance of the day. An intercepted phone call from his daughter, ringing to wish him a happy birthday, let the cat out of the bag.

In retribution, AGS decided to teach him a lesson and give him a surprise on his return. Working in shifts during lunchtime, they managed to inflate approximately 90 balloons in Maj Tarsau’s favourite colours.

“The moral of this story…”

“Fess up” on your birthday
Valour not forgotten

This year, on James Seymour’s 90th birthday, he received possibly the most unexpected birthday gift he’d ever received: a letter from King Constantine of Greece.

Sent on behalf of the Greek Royal Family, the letter wishes Jim a happy birthday and remembers the former platoon commander’s valiant efforts to “recover the possessions of King George” during the royal family’s evacuation from Crete in 1941.

It was the first correspondence from royal family since the German invasion of Crete in 1941 and came “quite out of the blue” says Jim Seymour’s son, Colonel (Retd) Ray Seymour, Director of Strategic Commitments (Army). He says the parcel arrived in March, on the day of his father’s birthday, and the older Seymour is still glowing. “He just can’t believe that the Greek royal family can remember his exploits, which occurred some 65 years ago — that somewhere tucked away in the Greek family records is a man by the name of Sergeant Seymour.”

COL Seymour says that like many men of that generation, his father is very humble and seldom talks about his exploits during World War Two — even though they won him the prestigious Greek Gold Cross with Swords, Greece’s highest honour for valour (the equivalent of the Commonwealth’s Victoria Cross). Awarded to just a select few, Mr Seymour is now the only person in New Zealand decorated with the Greek Gold Cross.

The story of SSgt Seymour’s part in the evacuation begins in a house in the northern coastal town of Khania, Crete, in 1941. The platoon sergeant, SSgt Seymour, and other members of 18th B Company 12 Platoon were guarding the Greek royal family, who were hidden away in the house after fleeing the German invasion of Greece.

The war was not going well for the Allied Forces in the Middle East. They had retreated from Greece to Crete in the face of attack by German Paratroopers, and there were signs Crete would also be taken by the Germans.

It was decided that King George II and his party would be evacuated off the northern coast of Crete, at Skafia, by submarine. However, getting there meant crossing the White Mountains, a rugged, snow-covered mountain range that divides Crete in two. Because Germans were already parachuting into Crete, the platoon wisely decided to take the goat tracks rather than the only road linking Khania and Skafia.

COL Seymour, who has been to the White Mountains, expects it would have been a difficult crossing. “The White Mountains are covered by snow; and I equate the ruggedness of the White Mountains to the type of country in Arthur’s Pass or the Southern Alps: very rugged, with very steep ravines. The ravines drop down many hundreds of feet and there are just sheer cliff faces on the other side.”

Once the royal party reached the top of the steep mountain range, the King realised that he had left a suitcase of important papers back at the house in Khania. So important, in fact, that SSGT Seymour is now the only person in New Zealand decorated with the Greek Gold Cross.

The elusive Greek Gold Cross

When the 18th B Company 12 Platoon was decorated by the King of Greece in 1941, he presented the New Zealand soldiers with the ribbon only – not the medal. Twelve years later, with the Greek royal family ousted from Greece, the recipients were still waiting for their medal.

In 1953, Jim Seymour was a volunteer fireman. During the coronation visit by the Queen and Prince Philip, Mr Seymour was on fire brigade duties in his dress uniform when approached by Prince Philip.

“Prince Philip, who is Greek extraction, enquired as to where the medal was for the Greek Ribbon, my father was wearing”, said Colonel (Retd) Roy Seymour. “Prince Philip was very interested in his story, and my father told him how a number of people from his platoon had been decorated by the King of Greece and none of them had received the medal.”

“Sixty-five years later, obviously their exploits are not forgotten. “The story must be well regarded within the Greek royal family, for them to write the letter”, says COL Seymour. But that is not altogether surprising, as he describes his father’s efforts, and those of the platoon, as “unbelievable”. “It’s just unbelievable how men can be pushed to such limits and in such terrible country, in terms of the geography of the country and the fact that Germans were now fully into their invasion – and all [the distance they travelled] in about three days.”

Reported by Anna Norman

SSgt James Seymour, Egypt 1940, age 24
AQUARIUS
Jan 21 to Feb 19
Listen to what others are saying, but do not be swayed by bullying or unwarranted pressure. Let reason and wisdom be your guide. And cash too, if that’s on offer.

TAURUS
April 21 to May 21
Vicious, you hit me with a flower, you do it every hour, oh baby you’re so vicious … No wait, that’s a Lou Reed line. Oh well, it seems appropriate for what’s happening to you on Friday night. If you see Mr Reed, please don’t mention this slight spot of plagiarism, I’ve got enough on my plate dealing with irate midgets. No, wait, that’s just the mesaline. Damn, I’ve gotta stop licking that cactus.

GEMINI
May 22 to June 21
Don’t worry about your future, you can’t control that, despite what some of your competitors say. It is more important to look after your past. Preferably about 800 years ago. That’s where you can really make some changes for the better.

CANCER
June 22 to July 23
Organise your time and systematically complete one task after another and you will be amazed how much you get done. Yes, I know it seems absurdly simple, but that’s apparently how clever people work.

LEO
July 24 to Aug 23
If you knew now what you knew then, you’d probably know the same stuff.

VIRGO
Aug 24 to Sept 23
You’ve allowed stress to creep up on you through taking on too many responsibilities. It is time you relaxed more. This is best done by piling all the work onto an innocent party. Watching them go slowly mad will illustrate just how ridiculous stress can be.

LIBRA
Sept 24 to Oct 23
Consider the consequences of moving ahead by going backwards first. Then a little bit sideways, back, sideways, back, forward, sideways. It’s either a clever strategy or it’s ballroom dancing.

SCORPIO
Oct 24 to Nov 22
Take a leap of faith and you will find yourself moving in an upward direction. Not that I’m stating the bleeding obvious or anything …

SAGITTARIUS
Nov 23 to Dec 20
Probably the only good thing about the whole sorry mess is that at least you’ll miss the New Zealand winter.

CAPRICORN
Dec 21 to Jan 20
Concentrate on the things you can change. Apply a coat of paint to those which you can’t.

ARIES
Mar 21 to April 20
Not too many people will understand your motives, but everything is clear in your own mind. This could be Very Bad.

PISCES
Feb 20 to Mar 20
There is plenty going on in your life. Some is good, some is a bit tedious, and there is a lot of that stuff which is kind of in between but hasn’t really got a name. There is a Klingon word for it, but it makes you spray food everywhere if you say it when eating.

ARIES
Mar 21 to April 20
Not too many people will understand your motives, but everything is clear in your own mind. This could be Very Bad. Get another opinion, preferably not from one of those voices that never go away any more.

THE SMOKO QUIZ #018

1. What role did Colditz Castle play in WWII?

2. What special attribute did the Germans apply to Colditz?

3. Bury

4. Grumman WWII US fighter plane used in the Pacific

5. Process troops in transit

6. High-speed long-range warship

7. Gas operated, belt fed, tripod mounted, water cooled, machine gun

8. Achilles was a Leander Class light cruiser

9. The red corn poppy blooms in Gallipoli and France and so became the logical emblem to symbolise NZ’s sacrifices in war. In his 1915 poem “Flanders Fields” of remembrance in his 1915 poem “Flanders Fields”.

10. In terms of troop losses, which country suffered the most at Gallipoli?

a) Soldiers of old infiltrating an enemy position ahead of the main attack

b) Collision

c) Tribal division (Maori)

d) Slippery fish

e) Anti-Aircraft Artillery

f) Radio codeword signalling end of conversation

g) 15 miles ———, Leather belt with end of conversation

h) Grumman WWII US fighter plane

i) Bury

j) Leather belt with end of conversation

k) Anti-Aircraft Artillery

l) Radio codeword signalling end of conversation

m) 15 miles ———, Leather belt with end of conversation

n) Bury

o) Leather belt with end of conversation

p) Anti-Aircraft Artillery

q) Radio codeword signalling end of conversation

r) 15 miles ———, Leather belt with end of conversation

s) Bury

1. Web cord to enable a weapon to be carried

2. A information exchange programme

PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. It was a prison camp for Allied officer ‘repeat escapers’. 2. They boasted it was ‘escape proof’, however about 60 Allied officers succeeded in escaping and reaching safety in the 1960s.

3. The Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division

4. Gas operated, belt fed, tripod mounted, water cooled, machine gun

5. General Sir Ian Hamilton until 15 October, 1915, then Sir Charles Monro


7. Soldiers from which countries fought at Gallipoli?

8. What type of warship was Achilles of River Plate fame?

9. The red corn poppy blooms in Gallipoli and France and so became the logical emblem to symbolise NZ’s sacrifices in war. In his 1915 poem “Flanders Fields” of remembrance in his 1915 poem “Flanders Fields”.

10. In terms of troop losses, which country suffered the most at Gallipoli?

11. Anti-Aircraft Artillery

12. Flows like the tide

13. Set tracking system continuously on target (4,2)

14. Grumman WWII US fighter plane

15. Leather belt with end of conversation

16. Anti-Aircraft Artillery

17. Flows like the tide

18. Set tracking system continuously on target (4,2)

19. Leather belt with end of conversation

20. Anti-Aircraft Artillery

21. Flows like the tide

22. Set tracking system continuously on target (4,2)

23. Anti-Aircraft Artillery

24. Leather belt with end of conversation

25. Anti-Aircraft Artillery

DOWN:

1. Web cord to enable a weapon to be carried

2. A information exchange programme

3. It was a prison camp for Allied officer ‘repeat escapers’. 2. They boasted it was ‘escape proof’, however about 60 Allied officers succeeded in escaping and reaching safety in the 1960s.

4. The Hood Battalion of the Royal Naval Division

5. Gas operated, belt fed, tripod mounted, water cooled, machine gun

6. General Sir Ian Hamilton until 15 October, 1915, then Sir Charles Monro

7. Soldiers from which countries fought at Gallipoli?

8. What type of warship was Achilles of River Plate fame?

9. The red corn poppy blooms in Gallipoli and France and so became the logical emblem to symbolise NZ’s sacrifices in war. In his 1915 poem “Flanders Fields”.

10. In terms of troop losses, which country suffered the most at Gallipoli?
DEAR EDITOR

To hoochie or to utchie

Reference to article from the Bulletin, 28 April 2006, pgs 34 and 35, where its author John Kerr, recounts the final days and a futile, as it transpired, battle that took place on the eve of the ceasefire two days prior to the signing of the armistice.

In it he mentions his accommodation as being an utchie. This causes me to wonder if by any chance the utchie of the Korean War is not the derivative and led to the anglicised version of that which we now know (and love) as a hoochie?

Can anyone out there throw any light on the history of the hoochie and from whence came the name came – or is this it!

Grant Aslibie
Former QM
6 Kaurial Regiment, RNZIR (Retired)

Inspirational chaplain

I was delighted to read your piece on CHAPLCL2 Don Parker in April's Army News (page 7). As your heading suggests, he is definitely a "world class chaplain".

Until recently, I was editor of the Royal Signals magazine, The MRE, based in Blandford Camp in the UK. It was here that I had the privilege of meeting Don. He had arrived for a six-month stint on EX LONG LOOK.

As the only Kiwi in Blandford, I gravitated towards him and his wife, Jill, sharing many enjoyable social occasions with them. I vividly remember one particular incident, when I was doing a story on 11 Sig Regt, the training regiment. Don had spent a few days roughing it with a troop of new signallers on Salisbury Plain, and I was to meet them on a Sunday morning at a place where a huge Kiwi is carved out on the chalk hillside.

I spotted the troop wearily tabbing up the hill, glad that the exercise was about to end. But before they were stood down, Don had them assembled around the Kiwi for an impromptu field church service. At first a bit difflent, the young recruits' eyes quickly lit up as, at Don's bidding, they launched into the first hymn. The tiredness of the past few days was soon forgotten. They could quite easily have carried on with a few more days' hardship in the field, such was his inspiration.

The Brits loved him, and didn't want to let him go.

Bernard Redshaw

BOOK REVIEWS

TOGETHER WE STAND
North Africa 1942-1943: Turning the Tide in the West

By James Holland
Well written, Auckland, 2006
$26.99

Reviewed by COL Colin Richardson

As New Zealanders we somewhat happily accept that our military enterprises will be absorbed within a wider effort and that this will probably be as the junior partner to someone else. James Holland has sought to examine how you go about forming a coalition on the go, and to complicate matters doing it when one partner has no experience and the other is losing. At the same time he has added the reminiscences of many of the personalities involved, to convey an idea of their feelings and how they coped with the situations they faced.

Together We Stand is therefore an ambitious undertaking and, consequently, at 722 closely spaced pages, it’s not short. Overall I think the author has done very well. The narrative flow is good and reads like a good story. The characters appear and are placed in the story and they are followed through to the end, even with a little “what happened to section”. There are useful lessons throughout, in strategy, tactics, leadership, logistics, cooperation, the importance of concentration of force, good intelligence, risk taking and many others.

A strength of the book is the coverage of the weaknesses of the early Eighth Army and the comparison to the strengths of the Desert Air Force, under New Zealander Air Marshal Coningham and his logistics wizard Air Commodore Elmhirst. The importance of the integrated effects of the three services’ activities, and of the two coalition groups, is also well covered.

There’s plenty there about the New Zealand Division and 28 Battalion in particular. However, as well as the recollections of the commanders, the views of the soldiers and junior officers of all three services, both Commonwealth and American, are really insightful. They cover the gamut of emotions from excitement and jubilation to dejection, fear and resignation, not always according to how the battle is going. General morale may be better in the winning side, but if you lose a leg in a victory you’re just as upset as if you were on the defeated side. These recollections are well integrated into the narrative and enhance it enormously.

There are a lot of typing and editing errors, but I don’t find that too surprising in such a long book. I therefore decided to get over C Company of 28 Battalion being described as “Ngati Morou”. On balance I’m willing to give the author the benefit of the doubt. Some facts or opinions may be a little askew, but the overall thrust is correct. The maps at the front are useful, the photos are all relevant and the book reads well.

An ambitious effort that is well pulled together and will reward the thinking military reader with valuable lessons for application to current issues.

KILLER ELITE
The inside story of America’s most secret special operations team

By Michael Smith
Allen & Unwin Weidenfeld & Nicholson
$35.00

Reviewed by COL (Rtd) Ray Seymour

CAUTION! Only read this book if you want to get an inside story into what has been going on and continues to go on in the world in relation to secret special operations.

Mike Smith, you have done it again. A superbly researched and written account of the special operations that we know of. Smith has the knack of turning any subject into a “must read” book.

Smith takes us through all the high-profile activities that have made the headlines in our papers these last few years. You will learn all about the hunt for Osama – which started well before 9/11.

For those of you who still have Somalia on your radar screens, Smith will provide you with some great insights into the operations that targeted Aideed and his henchmen. Or if Bosnia was your scene you will learn a lot about the operations that targeted Radovan Karadzic. In fact, there are gripping accounts of what went on behind the scenes in most operational areas that Kiwi soldiers have operated in. Many of you will get angry when Smith discloses the in-fighting that went on, especially amongst US agencies, that prevented quick and deadly outcomes. He praises the British agencies and describes in great detail why they should be praised. There were just too many “FUBAR”!

Well written, supported by a good range of photographs, but – yes, there always has to be a but. This document is just so full of acronyms and codewords that the reader will have some difficulty attempting to work out who is looking for whom and who is paying and who is not. There just has to be a better way of keeping the reader on the edge of intrigue. Alas, I found myself having to flick back pages to work out just who was who. Don’t let this discourage you. A “must” read for many of the readers of Army News.

To get hold of one of his books, entitled Odd Man Out. That’s a book about a Singapore Traitor – he just happened to have been born in New Zealand, or more accurately, at Reefton.

In the name of progress

In the name of progress

parking. Soldiers from 4 O South helped with the move.

The United Service Club Welfare Office, set up to help veterans with their entitlements, has shifted from its Bay View Road offices to the new-look Montecillo Veterans Home & Hospital in South Dunedin. The old villa has been sold and will be removed; the site will be landscaped, and space made for car parking. Soldiers from 4 O South helped with the move.
Awesome summer

After a fantastic finish to his summer, multi-sporter Captain Shannon Stallard will head to the Triathlon World Championships in Switzerland in September, as a member of the New Zealand age-group team.

CAPT Stallard was placed 11th overall at the New Zealand Age Group Triathlon Champs, in February. As a result, he was selected for the team to compete in September’s world championships.

His successful season continued in March with his fourth placing in the ITU Mooloolaba age group triathlon in Australia. In late-April, he took the gold medal in the 25 to 29-year-old age group, and was fifth overall, at the New Zealand Duathlon Championships in Fielding.

"It has been an awesome, awesome summer", says CAPT Stallard, who counts the Tauranga Half Ironman, where he raced the fastest run leg out of all the age groups, as his biggest achievement of the season.

CAPT Stallard also managed to achieve his two goals for the summer, making the New Zealand teams for both the Triathlon and Duathlon World Championships. But he has decided not to go to the Duathlon World Champs in June.

"I've decided to focus on the Triathlon Champs and spend the winter working on my swim, because my swim is my weakness.

"At the triathlon I did in Australia, where I came fourth, I came out of the water with 20 guys ahead of me, and in the run and bike I caught a number of them, and ended up fourth. I did the second fastest cycle and the second fastest run, so, if my swim was up there..."

CAPT Stallard has impressive goals for the next six years: at this year’s World Champs he aims to achieve a top 20 placing in his age group; next year, win a top 10 placing. By 2012, he has his sights set on the Olympic Games in London. He has a strong belief in a God-given "will" and it is this that he seeks to achieve.

The NZ Army is supporting him to achieve these goals. He has recently been posted to a new job in recruiting, which gives him the flexibility to fit his full-time work commitments around his increasingly demanding training schedule. Not that it gives much time for anything else "Generally all my life consists of is get up in the morning, go swimming, go to work, go home, train, have dinner, tired, go to bed and then get up again!"

But when he promotes the benefits of joining the Army, he really means it. "I have a real passion for recruiting and getting out there and promoting the Army, because it's a great job."

Reported by Anna Norman
The NZ Officer Cadet School put up a determined defence against the rugby team from the Royal Military College Sandhurst. With three try-savers of 390 each, the XL Rugby Club was able to field a big, strong forward pack and won the game 25-0.

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.

As for the rugby, there was plenty to savour. “The NZ Officer Cadet School put up a determined defence against the rugby team from the Royal Military College Sandhurst. With three try-savers of 390 each, the XL Rugby Club was able to field a big, strong forward pack and won the game 25-0.”

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.

CPL Boardman and SSGT Dyson walk the Rotorua marathon

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.

In another man’s shoes

CPL Boardman and SSGT Dyson walk the Rotorua marathon

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.

In another man’s shoes

CPL Boardman and SSGT Dyson walk the Rotorua marathon

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.

In another man’s shoes

CPL Boardman and SSGT Dyson walk the Rotorua marathon

But for what OCS lacked in size, they made up in spirit and fitness, with constant hard tackling and heroic body-wall defence at the touch-line. As XL coach Mr Gerry Miller commented afterwards, “The New Zealand side defended well. It was a good game, played in a good sport”.

As befitting a formal Army international match, it was attended by Chief of Army Maj GEN Lou Gardiner, and by former All Blacks Colin Meads and Tiny White. After they were introduced to the players, the XL’s lusty singing of “God Save the Queen” competed with OCS’s haka for fervour, before they launched into 80 minutes of non-stop effort on the field.
A die-hard solid-wall defence of the touch-line

After the game handshakes, exhausted but with an unquenchable spirit