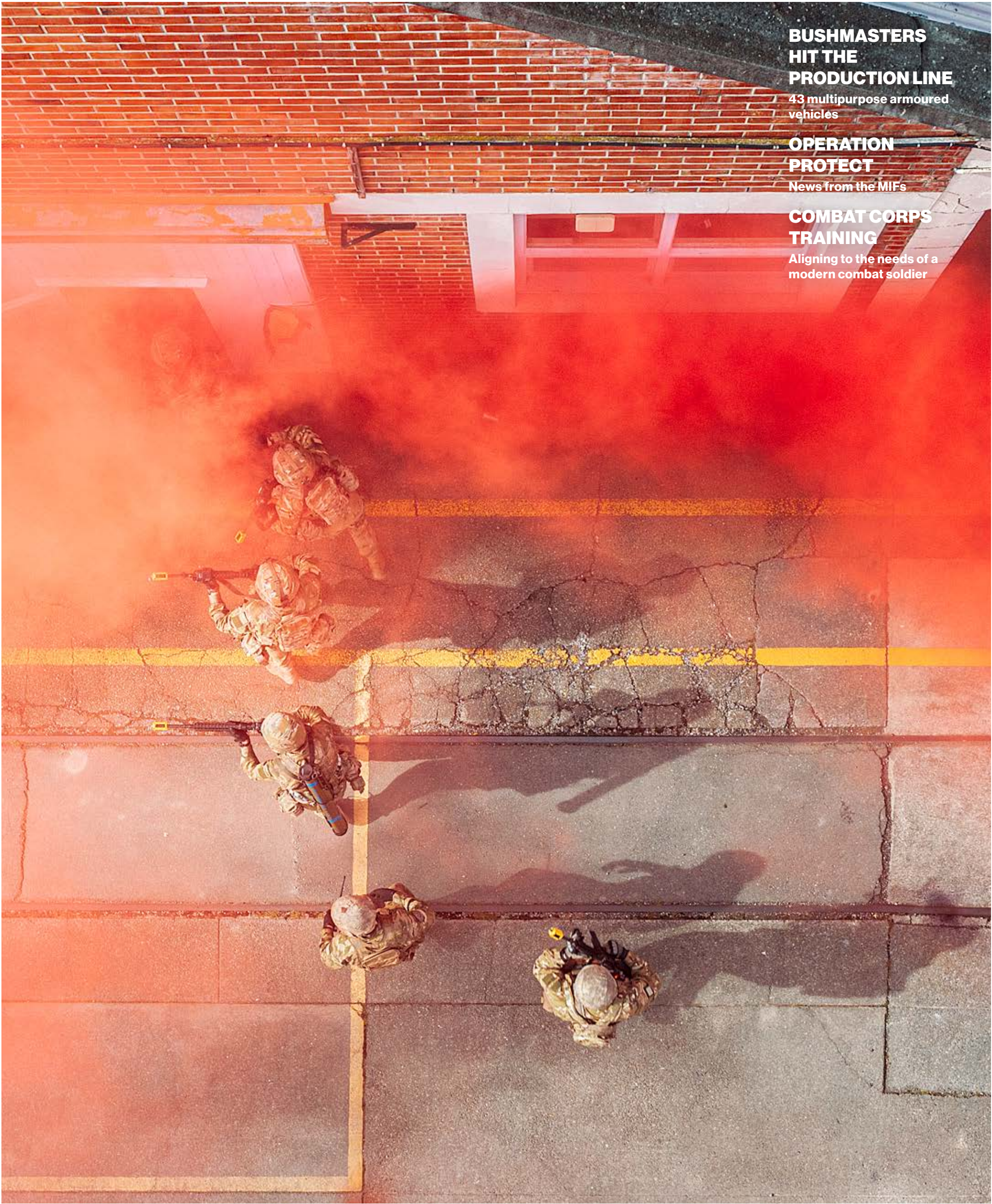


ARMYNEWS

ISSUE 527
OCTOBER 2021



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HIT THE
PRODUCTION LINE**

43 multipurpose armoured
vehicles

**OPERATION
PROTECT**

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Aligning to the needs of a
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Photo: Corporal Sean Spivey



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Adaptation – technical edge in a traditional space

It was a different feeling at the home of Army Training as RRF 403 took to the parade ground.

While 41 of our newest soldiers stood alongside their staff, there were no families, whānau or partners present. Instead, the quiet buzz of a drone and a host of positioned networked cameras provided the window into TAD's innovative march out. While the parade echoed its traditional structure, the injection of technology, clever narratives and digital connection brought the wider Army whānau into our world. Each recruit had a brief moment with the Chief of Army, families got to see a first-person view of what we see walking through and engaging with the ranks. I think

the best innovation was the video connection between families and the AARC Prize recipients – a moment of collective pride (and some embarrassment) as distant loved ones shared the achievement from their homes around Aotearoa. The finale – a stirring rendition of our haka performed into the cameras with immense pride. To me, that was adaptation. Like MS Teams, virtual conferences and working-from-home routines, these are our new norms. Covid has forced us to think differently about our business, and adapt. The trick for us is to discover other areas of the workplace and key military functions where this type of agility 'shift' is needed. Agility denotes an element of speed and dynamism, while adaptation looks to take what was routine and make it better and more effective based on the environment around us. TRADOC and the staff at TAD have done this to great effect – well done.

I challenge the organisation constantly on its ability to adapt. Whether it is in individual training, roles and responsibilities of Non Commissioned Officers, the equipment we issue or the Career and Talent Management processes – each has a gap, blind-spot or challenge that requires an innovative solution. Examples like the recent RRF marchout demonstrate a clear example of traditional roots executed with contemporary enhancement. I urge and encourage you to do the same in your area of ops.

Get after it.
WO1 Wiremu Moffitt
16th Sergeant Major of the Army

P.S. Take a look at the 'Tradition Corner' to understand more about your Army.



LOOKING BACK

Hard lessons learnt: New Zealand troops taste victory at last as their tanks enter the Italian city of Trieste at the heels of the retreating Germans, May 1945.

Photo: The late George Kaye

On page 12 of this issue of Army News we introduce the 'Tradition Corner'. This space is designed to inform you of time-honoured traditions in the NZ Army. Some are formal, others straight from the P77. Why? Over the next 12 months we will promote and re-discover why we do things in Army. It will be a time for our units, corps and trades to provide articles as we spotlight dress embellishments, appointments, ceremony and military history. If you have a story, please feel free to send it through to the editor. Enjoy.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LAND COMPONENT COMMANDER



The Land Component Staff are now a good way through the concept for Army's regeneration of our warfighting functions and combined arms capabilities.

We are developing a number of options for the Chief of Army on our approach to what will be one of the most critical periods, and opportunities, over the past 30 years.

Regeneration will be deliberate. It will require a period for reorganisation as we transition from the Protect mission before entering an initial phase where we will focus on our basic soldier skills to assess our individual trained state. This phase will also provide the opportunity to reset our training policy and procedures that are currently being updated as part of the Army Safety and Training Review, particularly in the areas of night live field firing, urban operations, and working from heights.

Training safely and effectively through the application of appropriate risk management policies and procedures will be critical throughout the regeneration period. It will require planners, commanders and soldiers to understand and implement new policies and procedures and thoroughly appreciate risk, while also ensuring we provide our people with realistic training that builds confidence and competence. It will also provide the Army's leadership with understanding and assurance of individual trained states to inform the design and time allocation to subsequent phasing.

This phase will be followed by a focus on individual trade skills training and leadership. While we are yet to determine the time that will be allocated to this phase, I'm acutely aware that our trade skills across our warfighting functions have degraded significantly over the past 18 months. Rebuilding our domain expertise through skilled and competent individuals will be fundamental to the success of our small team, and eventually, our delivery of combined arms effects in joint land combat. I anticipate it will take us around 36 months to completely regenerate while also integrating new capabilities such as NEA and Bushmaster along the way.

We are continuing to maintain key individual training requirements through TRADOC to preserve a basic level of capability and the critical introduction of new soldiers and officers to our Army. While often the focus is on the current mission and Army's contribution to the national Covid response, we should not overlook the significant contribution our individual training environment provides to sustaining, maintaining and developing a professional force. TRADOC have also successfully adapted to the new paradigm, demonstrating the application of sound risk management and good planning and execution to maintain their mission.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and efforts of our soldiers and their whānau who have continued to deliver the Protect mission to support the securing of our borders and keeping Kiwis safe. We are entering a new stage of the pandemic whereby the virus is currently among the community in some parts of the country, and New Zealand is likely to have to learn to live with Covid. For Army, and in particular our 1 (NZ) Brigade soldiers and their whānau, we have employed and adapted our force protection protocols continually over the past year to protect our soldiers and family while constantly exposed to the virus at MIQ facilities. It is testament to our professionalism and procedures that we have had very few cases among the force, reflecting excellent levels of self-discipline delivering a task that is not our core business.

The new paradigm in the community will not be new for Army. However, we will continue to retain our vigilance, and protect our soldiers and whānau through self discipline and sense of community as we work through an eventual transition from this mission and into regeneration.

Good soldiering.

Brigadier Hugh McAslan
Land Component Commander

Special visit makes William's day



A terminally ill Auckland boy who loves all things Army was ecstatic when personnel from 3/6 Battalion, RNZIR made a special trip to his home recently.

William Stuart, aged seven, has been ill since he was two, and is not expected to live much longer. A family member who knows how keen he is on the Army asked the battalion if there was any chance a couple of soldiers could pay William a visit.

"We were very happy to oblige," says 3/6 Battalion Executive Officer Major John Liddell. "We took some kit around and explained how it worked, and answered all his questions. He really enjoyed himself, as did his little brother and a few of the neighbours who were watching from a distance."

William's family said they were very grateful for the visit. "He talked about it for hours afterwards. It really made his day."



A soldier who speaks fluent Mandarin has been commended for his interpretation work at a Managed Isolation Facility.

Private Yiwen "Tony" Dong, RNZALR was assigned to The Rydges, Rotorua as a Managed Isolation Facility Assistant. Just as he began working there almost 100 guests arrived who could only speak and understand Mandarin. The language barrier not only posed a health risk with returnees not able to understand the infection prevention and control guidelines, but also placed a huge amount of stress on the returnees who were already in an uncertain situation.

PTE Dong, who was born in China and has lived in New Zealand since 2008,

was quickly identified to be a huge asset to Rotorua's operations. He also worked in the Ibis MIF, and helped with translating for returnees there. He completed his MIF duties at the same time. His translation skills allowed guests to properly understand all infection and control measures in place, and gave them an opportunity to ask any questions they may have had.

A reservist on a short-term contract, PTE Dong says he enjoyed translating and being able to help people, especially the elderly who couldn't understand English.



PTE Dong

NEW BUSHMASTER ARMoured VEHICLES HIT THE PRODUCTION LINE

Steel, not ribbon, is cut as the New Zealand Army’s new fleet of 43 multi-purpose armoured Bushmaster vehicles hit the production line, in Australia.

Production is underway for the first of New Zealand's Bushmaster NZ 5.5 vehicles by Thales Australia in Bendigo, Victoria.

The Bushmaster vehicles will provide New Zealand Army personnel with high levels of blast and ballistic protection. They are designed with a V hull, which redirects blasts out from under the vehicle, saving lives.

The Ministry is responsible for advising the government on defence policy and the acquisition of major defence equipment, such as the Bushmaster vehicle fleet.

Project teams are made up of experts of both Ministry of Defence staff and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel, but the Ministry has particular responsibility for the selection of suppliers, contract negotiations and project management. NZDF personnel are responsible for the introduction into service, in-service and disposal phases, which for some capability is up to 30 years.

Ministry of Defence project team leader Gillian Rodger says a close working relationship, from the start of the process, has proven vital to the success of the project.

“The Bushmasters are scheduled for delivery in late 2022 and will replace New Zealand’s current New Zealand Army Pinzgauer fleet. They are not a combat vehicle but will provide our personnel with greater protection while deployed on operations, and they’re used by many of our partners overseas.”

Lieutenant Colonel Sara Harrison is the project team's Capability Integration Lead. She says the 11 tonne vehicles will have an operational life of 30 years and come in five different variants.

“They’ve been designed to provide high-level protection for our people against a range of threats found in the contemporary environment, including peace and security operations and humanitarian and disaster responses. This will in turn enable our people to better protect others.”

Due to the project's scale, cost, risk, and complexity, the project is being run by the Protected Mobility Capability Project team, which is made up of both Ministry of Defence staff and NZDF personnel.

“The team has worked with Thales Australia to adapt previous Bushmaster vehicle designs, so the Bushmaster NZ 5.5 will be unique to New Zealand and best suit our needs. They’ll be able to undertake a range of tasks, from transporting troops, through to acting as mobile communications and command hubs,” said Gillian Rodger.

The Bushmasters are able to function as protected ambulances, when needed. They also introduce improved networking and communications technologies between the vehicles themselves, and other assets deployed in the field, allowing for more efficient communication over greater distances. The new communications capability has been developed in partnership with the Network Enabled Army project team.

Covid-19 restrictions on travel have presented some challenges to the project team, but the fleet's delivery remains on track. Gillian Rodger says she's really proud of this, and the team's ability to adapt.

The Bushmaster vehicles project follows the team's success introducing the Polaris MRZR-D vehicles into service earlier this year.



.....	
Bushmaster 5.5 Facts and Figures:	
Name:	Bushmaster NZ 5.5
Arrival date:	2023
Manufacturer:	Thales Australia, Victoria
Fleet number:	43
Weight:	11 tonnes, with a 5 tonne payload
Height:	2,650 mm
Length:	7,180 mm
Width:	2,480 mm
Fuel Capacity:	319 litres
Max speed:	100 km/h
Steering system:	4x4 power assisted
Passengers:	10 personnel
Project cost:	\$102.9 million



Chief Dental Officer Lyndie Foster Page



“NEVER STOP LEARNING”

CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER LYNDIE FOSTER PAGE

By Judith Martin

When Chief Dental Officer Lyndie Foster Page fronted up for her recent Officer Selection Board she was asked if she had brought one of her children there to take part in the selection process.

“No, it’s me,” she replied. And then she got on with it.

Now, aged 54, she is a newly minted Reservist Officer, and loving every minute she can don her uniform and do her job.

It’s much more than just a uniform though to Dr Foster Page who has been the Chief Dental Officer for three and a half years. She came to the job following a stint as an Associate Professor at the University of Otago.

“When I started with Defence I often pondered on becoming a Reservist. My father had been in the Air Force as a pilot, so I knew about Defence.”

She knew she had something to contribute to Defence after practising for 10 years as a hospital dental specialist, dealing with all types of dentistry, including trauma. She has always kept up her clinical skills, working in camps and bases, and joined Operation Wisdom Tooth to provide dental care in outlying communities.

“I like the military values, and being part of the team, so I decided to give becoming a Reservist a go.”

It wasn’t easy, but not for reasons that immediately spring to mind.

The long-distance runner who has completed many off-road marathons is fit, and increased

her fitness even more just prior to selection.

“But I didn’t know if I’d make it all the way. The maths, all the abstract and verbal reasoning... I haven’t studied or done maths for over 10 years. And the medical is comprehensive – I’ve had a few broken bones over the years and wondered if that would hold me back.

“The OSB was the hardest part, pretty much like a five day job interview involving physical and mental challenges. My syndicate was great. They didn’t treat me any differently, but were supportive, and we developed a strong bond over the five days.

“I never took it for granted that I would pass. In fact it wasn’t until the Board chairman told me I had passed that I really believed I had got there. I felt so proud of myself I was almost in shock.”

She believes the OSB was the most difficult thing she has done in her life.

“There was a lot of self-imposed pressure, like, what if I fail? Do I do it and risk failing, or do I do it because it’s something I want to do?”

Dr Foster Page was asked a few times why she was putting herself through the pressure when she already had a good job.

“If you don’t keep challenging yourself you don’t keep learning. I didn’t want that.”

She is still a civilian as the Chief Dental Officer, and is a Reservist Major Dental Officer.

“I have gained a new appreciation of what our military goes through to get where they are.”

OPERATION PROTECT ROTO 10

A young soldier’s experience

The NZ Army’s contribution to Operation Protect has seen my unit and I conduct many postings to isolation facilities around the country over the past year.

They have at times been difficult, but have also presented us all with many learning opportunities. Each hotel requires us to adapt to new tasks, encouraging development in soft skills that we may not have received in our regular training. The constant evolution that these facilities go through ensures that our adaptability never goes untested. Frequent absences from home and exhausting shift work aside, one day we will all look back on this and laugh. Like you do with your initial basic military training.

The average day in a MIQF will involve anything from watching an entry point until it’s time to go home, to running around during arrivals and departures, assisting whoever needs you at the time. Sometimes there are moments that stand out from the blur; seeing a hug between family members who haven’t seen each other in months, a non-English speaking returnee

lighting up when they realise you speak their language or a thank-you card from a child written in crayon pinned to a wall in the break room. It is these small things that can turn just another day at work into a meaningful difference that we as soldiers have made to someone’s day.

**Private,
2nd 1st Royal New Zealand
Infantry Battalion**



A big thank-you from some happy returnees.

A senior soldier’s experience

My deployment to Operation Protect started at 5am on Tuesday 3 August. After saying goodbye to our families, we all had a quick breakfast in Burnham Camp before boarding a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft and on to Auckland.

The first week or so in Auckland saw us settle into a steady daily routine which normally consisted of doing an eight hour shift on duty in a Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facility (MIQF), going to the gym for some fitness, then getting some sleep. The braver individuals among us also adventured into Auckland to discover all it has to offer. For the majority of us though, we had been here many times on previous rotations over the past 12 months and had seen it all before.

This new normal wasn’t shaping up to be too bad, however, little did we know that just two weeks later the country would be plunged into an Alert Level 4 lockdown and the freedoms we were enjoying were quickly taken away. Our comfortable routine quickly received a considerable shake up! There was now no gym to blow off steam which saw a sharp increase in running around the local area for many of our soldiers. A simpler life consisting of a shift at work, a quick run and then staying safe and sound in our rooms became our new normal. It wasn’t all bad as we all had access to Wi-Fi so the younger soldiers could play games,

the academic ones could study and learn, and the rest of us could watch plenty of Netflix.

Inside the MIQF things are very fluid with daily changes to procedures keeping us on our toes. This ever-changing situation for the most part was welcome as it broke up what can be very repetitive tasks. Aside from duties such as checking ID and vaccination cards at the gate or monitoring Closed Circuit TV cameras, we were able to hold distanced conversations with Kiwis resting in the hotels as they undertook their daily routine such as walking around the exercise area. A consistent reminder of the difference we are making in Kiwis’ lives was hearing stories of just how grateful people were for the opportunity to come home and just how difficult it was for people overseas. One of the highlights I enjoyed while working in the hotel was seeing families reconnect and the huge smiles on parents’ faces as they were reunited with their children, sometimes after years apart. It really made me look forward to getting back to my children.

A lot of people ask us if the NZDF should be doing this role and I have

asked myself this on occasion. From my time in Auckland, it is hearing a family’s story and seeing the joy and relief on people’s faces who have returned to New Zealand that made the role meaningful and professionally fulfilling.

**Sergeant,
2nd 1st Royal New Zealand Infantry
Battalion**





MIF mahi

By LTCOL Cory Neale,
Commanding Officer 2/1 Battalion

In early August, 233 personnel from 2/1 RNZIR with support from FHO, deployed to Auckland as Auckland Security Group, Land (ASG-L).

This deployment however, was not like any other and within two weeks of arrival, on 17 August, New Zealand entered a nationwide lockdown under Alert Level 4. This change was not just unexpected, but it was challenging for all individuals and their families left to adjust to life without their significant other.

Level 4 drastically changed life for ROTO 10 personnel, but to understand this, you need to look back to October 2020. In the nearly 12 months that the ASG has been running, many from 2/1 RNZIR have conducted multiple rotations to Auckland, with some up to their eighth stint away from home. The dramatic change in mid-August, and resulting reduction in freedoms clashed with the normal expectations of life on Operation Protect. The routine simplified and every day began to look like eight hours on shift followed by 16 hours in your bedroom. Days and weeks slowed down and time seemed to stand still. Like everyone around the country, connection to the outside world narrowed to essential travel and fitness only, but unlike everyone else, connection to other members of the rotation was also severed.

Force protection measures inside the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Baggush, demanded that each MIQF became its own bubble and each bubble keep to itself. With the more transmissible delta strain in play, these internal controls were set at the highest standards, with every action, including the normal operations processes becoming contactless. The 22 floors of FOB Baggush became ships in the night, with shifts efficiently and silently slipping in and out of their level never disturbing another. Dispersed operations were the norm, the lobby and welfare spaces became the modern day no-man's land, but instead of snipers and artillery, the RSM, nursing officer and Ops SNCO dealt sharply to any movement. As level 4 persisted, new ways to maintain connection needed to be found. To counter the isolation and to arrest the impact level 4 was having, or perceived to be having on morale, two noteworthy events occurred. The first was the ASG Dinner Wars run by the padre and the second was an unexpected thank-you from College Street Normal School, a primary school in Palmerston North.

At the end of their deployment all personnel conducted a further 14 days of observing lockdown protocols. This took the total time that ROTO 10 had spent in level 4, to 6 and a half weeks, by far the longest of any rotation before and hopefully after. Thankfully the end of any deployment means reintegration and reconnection with family, friends and unit life. To say ROTO 10 are looking forward to a new normal, in Level 2 or less, would be an understatement. The only thing that could stop us now would be a positive Covid test result or an act of God. While we will work to deny the former by protecting our bubbles for a little bit longer, we have asked the padre to do his best with the latter. All jokes aside, ROTO 10 has put in the work under adverse conditions to ensure mission success, something 2/1 RNZIR as a unit, continues to pride itself on. It is definitely time to go home, back to work and to get ready to do it all again for ROTO 13 in December.

Kura Takahi Puni – We are ready.

A padre's perspective – dinner wars!

By CHAPCL4 Neal Cater

A few years ago, the Chief of Army challenged the army chaplains on how we could be enablers as part of the vision to be a small, agile and highly adaptive combat force, capable of operating in diverse environments. He posed this question 'how would we look after a number of small sections spread over a 20 km area?' Not one person in the room, and not for one second, would have considered that the diverse environment the CA was hypothesising about, would be our own national borders, and that the enemy we are operating against would be the delta variant of Covid-19.

As the unit padre for 2/1 RNZIR, it is always a privilege to see how the soldiers and officers work together to achieve the mission. ROTO 10 and the adverse conditions we have faced have been particularly difficult for all on both the personal and professional fronts. Deployments away from family and friends are always difficult, but this one has been particularly hard with the rapid change to Alert Level 4 and the pressure this placed on partners and children back at home. The unit has really stepped up to the challenge and I can't help but feel a sense of pride in them and feel honoured to be their Padre. For the entire ROTO, the best laid plans to see the sights and decompress were no longer an option, and the simple pleasures such as going to the gym for a work out, grab a coffee with a mate, to hit the town or walk up Rangitoto were replaced by a much simpler routine and a version of confinement to barracks. The effect of this isolation was managed differently by all, but one thing was clear, an alternate way of maintaining a sense of connection was needed.

It is a truism that adversity also brings opportunity and one ROTO 10 latched on to an idea that became the ASG (Awesome Soldiers Grub or Auckland Security Group for the unimaginative) Dinner Wars. The challenge was set; to produce the ultimate lockdown dining experience and it was jumped at. Fine dining became the aim with Michelin accredited restaurants across Auckland put on notice.

As photos of world-class dining delights flooded in an expert judging panel was assembled. Due to a scheduling conflict, unfortunately Gordon Ramsay wasn't available which just left one celebrity foodie; the man the MIF the legend, the one and only RSM of 2/1 RNZIR, WO1 John Cantwell. Due to the strict IP&C protocols within the FOB, the RSM set about judging these creations through the medium of the photograph. To give you a sense of the quality of dish the RSM deliberated over, one entry in particular stood out. This was a four course experience consisting of a starter being a mussel salad with hummus sauce, and entrée, of veggie soup with pumpkin seeds and cashews, a main of stir-fry with lettuce, capsicum, chilli flakes and thyme followed by a citrus ice cream with sauce.

In conclusion, I am reminded of a quote from the book of Esther. Mordechai reminded Esther that she had been put in her position for "such a time as this". Esther was challenged to do what she needed to do to protect her people. I believe that this directly relates to the NZDF and Operation Protect. The challenge of Covid-19 continues to define our time and as it always does, the NZDF has risen to the occasion. Everyone who contributes to OP Protect including ROTO 10, have worked hard every day to protect our nation and our communities with the ultimate goal to save lives.



Army News asked personnel in the Operation Protect Auckland Security Group how they spend their days.

“This is my first ASG rotation, however I was part of the team working at MBIE and MoH through the first lockdown in March and April 2020. Like most of 2CSSB, I’ll be back on ASG duty for New Year. I am filling the Officer Commanding ASG-L based here at FOB BAGGUSH. The ASG-L Operations Team here do the day to day management of security personnel and shift rotations. My role provides

daily oversight to the security function but I do get involved in the significant activities. Most of my time is spent on the health and well-being of the ASG-L personnel; the relationship and interactions with TU North, CJTF, and Bde; and continuing my normal CO duties (fortunately there is a HQ element back in Linton that is overseeing 2CSSB’s normal base operations and tasks).

We have had a positive Covid-19 case in our FOB, which has proven to me the value of our infection, prevention, and control (IPC) measures. Masks are mandatory when outside of your accommodation room, as is regular hand washing and sanitising and daily hot washing of clothes straight after shift. With Auckland still being at Alert Level 3 we have been keeping to tight, small bubbles. We only had two days at Alert Level 2 before heading up here and back into Alert Level 3, so I’ve been hanging out to access some weight lifting equipment. My spare time is filled with PT. There have been lots of visits up Mangawhau (Mt Eden) and the odd visit to One Tree Hill.”

Lieutenant Colonel Sheree Alexander



“This is my second rotation as part of the ASG up here in Auckland. I am part of the security team at Jet Park. I do the usual jobs expected of me while on this rotation, patrolling the grounds, monitoring the CCTV, being a static guard on the floors where we have challenging guests. We get to see all the gems of society here with this community outbreak happening at the moment. There was one escape attempt at the facility we are working at – a man in his 30s just wanting to go home to his family. The facility has also seen one successful escape of a positive case, fortunately he

was caught 30 minutes later by Police. Probably the most challenging thing about this rotation would be the alert levels. Being stuck at our accommodation except for PT and shopping, is not a best case scenario but it is what it is. Although I do have my PS4 up here which is a great way to keep in contact with my friends and family who are always keen for a yarn, and my partner Chrissy is always keeping me company through messaging and calls to help make my time here in Auckland feel a little more homely.”

Private Luke Walsh

“Since the pandemic began I have been deployed on six MIF rotations, three in Auckland and three in Rotorua. My main role at these facilities has been a member of the security team. Every facility has different requirements for the staff, based on the size of the facility, the amount of guests staying at any one time, and the type of facility. At my most recent hotel, we cover three stations during our shift. The three stations are the front desk where we ensure workers sign into the facility on ‘Who’s on Location’, check their identification and confirm that they are vaccinated. The second station we cover is CCTV where we watch the cameras to see that guests aren’t doing anything they shouldn’t be and are keeping within their respective bubbles. Observing the cameras can be quite useful

for when situations arise and provide proof of any breaches or inappropriate interactions between guests. The last station is a walking patrol around the facility. During this we conduct checks of the perimeter, noting down possible weak points where guests could get out and also to check for suspicious behaviour on both sides of the fences. This can be as simple as making sure that objects that leave the facility are properly disposed of so that people can’t contract the virus by picking up objects from the ground. During our walking patrols we also check the floors to ensure guests are not going between rooms (outside of their bubbles) and that their doors stay closed to mitigate the spread of the virus especially if a positive case were to arise.



It is quite a big operation not just because of the sheer number of people the NZDF provides but also as a whole. Most of the time not a lot happens. This leads to the biggest challenge, boredom.”

Private Jessica Nell



“I have been on six Op Protect security rotations throughout Hamilton and Auckland. As a team member of the security group, I partake in shift work that involves rotating through multiple security stations at an assigned hotel. These include roving patrols through the hotel corridors and boundaries, and covering the front and back entry points to ensure only permitted personnel enter and the correct sign in protocols are adhered to. I also enforce safe practices in the exercise and smoking yards. We work closely with other security organisations such as First Security, MBIE and Aviation Security. Amongst the returnees, you always meet lots of interesting guests. Some guests had returned from the Tokyo Olympics, some were refugees from Somalia and Afghanistan, and then there is always one guest that likes to push the boundaries and test our patience!

The most challenging ordeal about Rotation 11 is being stuck in lockdown. We arrived in level 4 and thankfully moved to level 3 soon after. My family and home are in Auckland, a 10 min drive away from the apartments but I have not been able to see them due to level 3 bubble restrictions. My children are 3, 6 and 7 years old and my wife is pregnant with our fourth child due in December. As well as not seeing my family, there is also heavy bubble restrictions at the apartments we live at, therefore I can only do personal PT, grocery shopping and go in the elevators with the other three pers from my shift. There is no socialising with the rest of my unit. I understand that being a MIQ worker comes with extra caution so I look forward to some respite and normality outside of Op Protect tasks. In my spare time I enjoy going for lots of runs around the area, I Facetime my family a lot and I also enjoy cooking with my roommate.”

Private Phong Tran

“This is my second rotation through ASG this year. This rotation has been very different for several reasons. I don’t have the same freedoms as my first rotation due to being in Alert Level 3, my partner is deployed for 6 months, my mum is on the same rotation and my 6-year-old son is counting down the days until he can have a sleepover at his nan’s house. I am part of a security section, and our role involves providing security to the Grand Millennium MIQF. This ranges from manning entry/exit points, supervising the guests during their outdoor exercises and working alongside other security agencies. It has been interesting trying to keep myself occupied during these lockdown restrictions and get some outside time when I’m not on shift. I’ve been lucky enough to be sharing a room with one of the section members who is a personal trainer (Peachboss) and getting in daily home workouts, which keeps us in as much of a routine as possible. I’ve been spending time doing my study assignment, going on Level 3 coffee dates with my roommate and keeping in touch with my small family in their various locations. I’m looking forward to heading home, mowing six weeks of lawn growth and spending quality time with my family.”

Corporal Te Aroha Moore





TRAINING FOR EXCELLENCE

By Lucy Handford

A former meatworks near Ashburton was the scene of a simulated urban attack last month, when 94 soldiers from 2nd/1st Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment's Depot Company took over the site during a four-day training exercise.

Photos: CPL Sean Spivey

Exercise Urban Warrior is part of Combat Corps Training (CCT), a 15-week course that aims to prepare soldiers to operate as effective members of a rifle section. Fresh from recruit training, and away from camp, the soldiers develop new skills, while also experiencing and practising operations in an unfamiliar and complex setting.

Officer Commanding Depot Company, Major Matthew Blake says urban environments are one of the most difficult to operate in. “Urban terrain demands adaptability, initiative and problem solving, not only at the individual soldier level, but at every level of command. Because of this, soldiers are taught both the hard skills required for urban operations, and the mind-set required to win. As no two urban environments are the same, soldiers need to problem solve and search for work in order to adapt, overcome and be successful,” he said.

On day one, two NH90 helicopters and crew from No. 3 Squadron transferred the soldiers from Burnham Military Camp to the site to begin the exercise. Their mission sounds simple: isolate, break-in, clear and defend. It was anything but.

Working in teams, the soldiers rotated through the four stages of the attack, using tactics they’ve learnt over the last few months, such as external movement and break-in, room clearance, corridor and stairwell drills, and a range of method of entry techniques. The final day culminated with a testing component in the form of a tactical phase where they were graded based on their competency.

The exercise is as realistic as it can be to prepare soldiers for a real-life operation and Depot Company’s instructors play a major role in this, training, coaching and mentoring at every step to achieve soldier excellence.

Section Commander for Depot Company, Corporal Nori Lee, joined the Army in 2012, becoming an instructor last year and receiving the top instructor award in May. In describing the role, CPL Lee is quick to point out that there are an array of people who find themselves on CCT, each with their own backgrounds and experiences. “No one person is the same and it can be challenging to find a teaching method that can cater to all. But with time and experience, a good instructor will find innovative ways to teach our future leaders,” he said.

CPL Lee is one of 26 instructors at Depot Company and for each exercise they undergo a preparation phase that can last anything between one to four days. From inspecting the soldiers’ weapons and equipment for serviceability and cleanliness, issuing stores and rations, and monitoring health and wellbeing, CPL Lee says it all comes back to one thing: instructor excellence.

“We as instructors need to set the example in order for our young men and women to follow. Instructor excellence achieves soldier excellence, and I love that I can see the students develop their skills to be not just a proficient soldier, but also a good person,” he said.

Over the last two years, a new syllabus was created to align training to the needs of a modern combat soldier. It was a time consuming process which required all staff to review lessons to ensure they were up to date and relevant. Recent lockdowns and alert level changes presented further challenges, but the instructors adapted the programme and the date of the exercise to ensure that training continued. They also employed a variety of online programmes including Kahoot, a quizzing app that tested students’ retention of information delivered through lessons, and Microsoft Teams which allowed students and instructors to continue ‘face to face’ lessons and discuss certain scenarios as a group. CPL Lee says there are some obvious advantages to online learning.

“Many of the soldiers said that they were able to learn more because they had the freedom to continuously read over lesson material. We’ve found that online learning can really benefit individuals who are auditory and visual learners,” he said.

MAJ Blake says that Depot Company’s ability to review and flex its learning techniques when required ensures it meets soldiers’ needs.

“With remote learning and other modern training techniques that TRADOC is developing, the scope and potential of future training is very exciting. As we continue to develop these techniques, we can ensure we train soldiers on their level, to provide combat soldiers ready for the future fight,” he said.

.....

“We as instructors need to set the example in order for our young men and women to follow. Instructor excellence achieves soldier excellence, and I love that I can see the students develop their skills to be not just a proficient soldier, but also a good person.”

Corporal Nori Lee





TRADITION CORNER

Master Gunner

The title of Master Gunner has been in use from at least the fourteenth century, during the time of Henry VIII. It was the term given to a person who had responsibility for commanding a team of gunners and one or more artillery guns.

Master Gunners initially had executive command of their guns in battle, however this responsibility ceased when commissioned artillery officers were appointed to coastal forts and garrisons. The term Master Gunner remained in use right through to 1956 when Britain's coastal artillery were disbanded. The Royal Artillery reinstated the Master Gunner appointment in 1963. Master Gunners are experts in all technical aspects of gunnery and should not be confused with that of Master Gunner, St James's Park who is the Ceremonial Head of the Royal Artillery. There has always been a connection between the Monarch and the Regiment, a link that remains today. The Queen is the Captain General of the Royal Artillery who also approves the Master Gunner appointment.



RNZA Master Gunner, WO1 J.L Wells

The RNZA is historically linked to the Royal Regiment, and as such also has a Master Gunner. Their duties are no different – they are the technical ‘watershed’ of all matters artillery.

Although there is an RSM, the Master Gunner is considered the senior Warrant Officer Class One in the RNZA, and holds ceremonial precedence (not command) just behind the Sergeant Major of the Army, as follows:

Sergeant Major of the Army

Master Gunner

Component Sergeant Major (Land)

Training and Brigade Formation Sergeant Major

Camp (Garrison) Sergeant Major

Regimental Sergeants Major

All other WOs (WO1)

The Master Gunner appointment is distinguished by wearing the “9 Pounder MLR Gun” below the rank insignia, and is the only RNZA Warrant Officer Class 1 authorised to wear this rank.



RNZA Master Gunner Rank Slide



All other RNZA WO1 Rank Slide

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www.defencecareers.mil.nz/navy/careers/browse-roles/diver/

What will I need in retirement?

By Mark Williamson,
NZDF Benefits Manager

You may be in your 20s or 30s, in which case retirement is probably the last thing on your mind.



Or, like me you may be in your early 60s and starting to contemplate what retirement may look like and how much you will be spending each week once retired. And just as importantly, how much will be required in investments to provide a comfortable retirement.

Just how much we spend in retirement is determined by a variety of factors, such as where we retire, whether we are still paying a mortgage or rent, the makeup of the household (e.g a couple or a single retiree), whether there are grandchildren, hobbies and the likelihood of travel. Some of us may also like dining out or other treats, in which case retirement may be more expensive.

The key thing is that we are all different and so projected retirement expenditure will vary from household to household.

What we do know is that we don't stop spending money as we get older, we just spend money differently.

There are no hard and fast ways for working out how much we will spend in retirement. Massey University helpfully interview a cross section of NZ retirees each year to work out what the average retirees are spending in retirement. The latest figures published in May 2021 show that a two person household living in the three largest cities spend an average of \$1,423 per week. By contrast, living in a smaller city or town is cheaper by approx. \$300 p/w.¹

An alternative option is to take your current household budget and multiply by 75% or $\frac{3}{4}$. This model assumes that in retirement you will spend approx. 75% of your current budget.

1 Source – Massey University NZ Fin Ed Centre – Expenditure Guidelines May 2021

Another and more precise option is to develop a retirement household budget using Excel or one of the great budgeting tools available on the Sorted website (NZ Retirement Commission).

National superannuation payments are currently \$437 p/w for a single person and \$672 p/w for a couple (Tax code M). These are actually generous payments; however for most of us, is still insufficient to provide a comfortable retirement. So we then need to look at what else we will have to provide sufficient income to make up the gap between national superannuation payments and what we spend.

The source of that additional income may be KiwiSaver, DFSS or SSRSS (or another managed fund), a shares portfolio or investment property, or a combination of some or all of them. In doing our planning we should assume that we will be retired for an average of 25 years and that the supplementary income will need to last for that period. It is not a good plan to have your investments run out ten years before you die.

How much is actually required in investments will be determined by your projected retirement spending. Massey University and the Retirement Commission provide updated lump sum retirement projections each year, in the following table²:

2 Source – Massey University NZ Fin Ed Centre – Expenditure Guidelines May 2021

		No Frills Retirement	Choices Retirement
One person household	Metro	\$275,000	\$558,000
	Provincial	\$159,000	\$630,000
Two person household	Metro	\$179,000	\$756,000
	Provincial	\$71,000	\$476,000

An alternative option is to calculate annual retirement expenses and multiply by 25, an example set out below:

Annual projected retirement expenditure ³	Lump sum required
\$10,000	\$250,000
\$20,000	\$500,000
\$30,000	\$750,000
\$40,000	\$1.0m
\$50,000	\$1.25m

Source: The Motley Tool 18 Aug 2021

The sites for the NZDF Savings Schemes, Sorted, MSN Money and many of the banks have powerful tools to help us calculate lump sum investments required to provide a comfortable retirement. And just as helpfully, many of these tools also now tell us how long our investments will last. So, if your projections show that your investments are likely to run out at age 75, and you are likely to live until 85 or 90, then it is good to have a plan to either reduce expenditure or raise additional income.

Whatever your age, it is worthwhile having a think about what you want your retirement to look like. I know from personal experience how fast the years rush by; you blink and all of a sudden retirement is around the corner.

To find out more, there is a raft of useful information available on the Force Financial Hub or SORTED sites. We welcome queries or comments. These may be sent to benefits@nzdf.mil.nz.

3 On top of national superannuation payments

CHIEF OF ARMY WRITING COMPETITION 21.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chief of Army Writing Competition 21.2 is open and accepting submissions until midnight on 3 November 2021. The writing competition is open to all NZDF personnel, military and civilian, regardless of rank. It provides an opportunity for personal and professional development, to share thoughts, opinions, and professional perspectives so that all may benefit and the organisation may grow.

The Chief of Army Writing Competition has four submission categories: Officer, Warrant Officer/NCO, Private Soldier, and Civilian. The winners of the competition in each category are selected by the Chief of Army and announced at the beginning of December. The winning submissions are published on KEA and receive special recognition. All submissions will get individually published on KEA in the future after the competition closes and the winners are announced.

The Chief of Army Writing Competition 21.2 has four questions for participants to choose from. Participants must

choose **ONE** question. The questions focus specifically on the Chief of Army Seminar 2021 (CASEM21) that ran on KEA throughout the month of September 2021. The CASEM21 webpage is still available for viewing on KEA by clicking on the Events tab at the top of the page. The intent of having multiple questions associated with CASEM21 is to allow submissions to further explore specific topics and present thoughts, discussions, and opinions about where the NZ Army is headed in the future. The Chief of Army's Writing Competition and KEA allow for a positive and open exchange of

ideas and further explores the future of the NZ Army.

Written entries must be submitted by midnight on 3 November 2021 to be eligible. They must follow the submissions guidelines for KEA, be 2,000 words or less, and answer **ONE** of the competition questions listed below. Answering the competition question in 2,000 words or less will require authors to be selective in their topics and to precisely argue a perspective in their written work. You can submit an article on KEA by clicking on the Submissions tab at the top of the page.

Competition Questions (Select ONE Question Only)

Question 1.
What balance of effort/resources should the NZ Army adopt between operating regionally and being able to contribute to multinational operations globally?

Question 2.
What Information Warfare capabilities does the NZ Army require in the future?

Question 3.
What capabilities should the NZ Army invest in for the next generation of manoeuvre?

Question 4.
What capabilities should the NZ Army invest in for the next generation of offensive support?

CPL Aidan Cornwall



STUDY BRINGS NEW BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE FOR NZDF DOG HANDLER

Corporal Aidan Cornwall can now add a Bachelor of Business degree to his list of accomplishments after completing a comprehensive course of study at Massey University.

Since joining the NZ Army, CPL Cornwall has been an Explosive Detection Dog Handler at 2nd Engineer Regiment in Linton and a Recruit Training Instructor in Waiouru, among other roles. He’s juggled Army life with study and graduated with his Bachelor of Business, majoring in finance, earlier this year.

“Massey had the only comprehensive degree programme that I wanted to do. It wasn’t as specialised, so I could do papers in different subjects and they gave me a lot of breadth in that way. Also, you can complete everything by distance, which worked well for me because I was based in Waiouru for two years.”

Studying part-time while working full time, the 30-year-old found time management challenging, but says his lecturers were very understanding and supportive.

“There were a couple of occasions where I completed two or even three papers in a semester and worked full time. You have to really have your wits about you, and make sure you have your time management sorted. Thankfully, the lecturers were forgiving as sometimes aspects of military life didn’t align with assessment due dates – they were generally understanding, and happy to help me out.”

Corporal Cornwall says the knowledge and skills gained from his degree have given him a broader perspective and equipped him with more tools to help develop the planning and communication processes in his role.

“This degree has given me a lot more tools to use when I’m looking at new projects – mostly around planning phases and professional communication. I now have a

proper process for what I’m trying to achieve instead of just doing something and hoping it works.

“You get a bit of business sense for what is actually happening in the wider organisation. We do a lot of courses and training internally within the Army, but that’s all done from certain (organisational) perspective. Studying really opens your eyes up to the ways that other people think and why they do what they do.”

In 2020, Massey University and the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) signed a Relationship Agreement enabling NZDF personnel, to access opportunities and benefits such as special tuition rates when enrolling in any qualification with Massey.

The NZDF/Massey partnership also offers these opportunities and benefits to immediate family members of NZDF personnel, ex-serving personnel and veterans.

For more information see <https://force4families.mil.nz/massey-university>

CAREER MANAGEMENT CORNER

2022 Army Career Management Boards

The Warning Order for the 2022 Army Career Boards was issued to all Army Formations and Units on 20 Sep. The key change for the 2022 boards will be the inclusion of the Army ResF into the RF Board processes. This has required the ResF to align their PDR reporting completion dates to that of the RF. This change has been signalled to ResF leadership and is part of the continuous improvement process of standardising the Career Boards’ process and improving transparency. The Career Boards General Instruction will be issued NLT 1 Nov 21.

PDRs

The year-end will soon be upon us. It is requested that managers and individuals alike take a minute to think about where their PDR is in the process. Remember that you can easily attach EOTRs to the PDR in order to help build the picture and provide context to your comments. PDRs are arguably more important than ever as our people serve on Op Protect away from their units. We need to ensure our people still receive accurate reporting so they can continue to grow and develop professionally.

Key Dates

1 Nov 2021
PDRs move to End of Year Review

19 Nov 2021
Last day for LPF44, LPF44A and MD853s to be submitted to DACM to enable admin action before Xmas stand-down

29 Nov 2021
1 UP completed End of Year Review

6 Dec 2021
Posting Date

13 Dec 2021
2 UP completed End of Year Review

20 Dec 2021
Last day for Member to close PDR

25 Jan 2021–04 Feb 2022
Wellington Soldier Interview period

08–25 Feb 2022
Manawatu / Waiouru Interview period (Soldiers / Officers)

23–25 Feb 22
SCMB

For more 2022 Board dates:

Army Career Management Intranet Site:
<http://orgs/sites/armint/I-0001/>

Contact us at:
DACMRegistry@nzdf.mil.nz

We remember

David Kinnaird

The last remaining medic who served in ‘K Force’, (Korea) was laid to rest on September 16th. WO1 (Rtd) David Kinnaird died peacefully aged 88 with his wife Yvonne at his side, in his home in Ashhurst six days earlier.

WO1 Kinnaird will be remembered as a man who dedicated his life to serving others and was honoured with many operational medals for Korea and Vietnam, the NZ Defence Force General Service Medal, and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. He also served in Malaya.

In 2016 in recognition of WO1 Kinnaird’s service to the Medical Corps, a new classroom called the ‘Kinnaird Room’ at the 2nd Health Support Battalion in Linton Camp was created. This room is currently being converted into a Medical Unit History Room and David was looking forward to its re-dedication on November 11th.

WO1 Kinnaird was also one of the first Patrons of the new NZ Defence Force Medic Training syllabus with the creation of the ‘Kinnaird Class’ in 2018. His daughter-in-law Joanne

said he thrived on telling tales of his days in the Defence Force at every formal occasion he was invited to by the class.

David Kinnaird, Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps began his career with Compulsory Military training in 1951.

He served in the Royal NZ Army Service Corps for three years before being posted to Korea as a medic with the 120th Transport Company. He served there from September 1954 to April 1956 when his unit was disbanded, and they were told to ‘go home and get on with life’.

He left the Army in June 1956 for an adventure and to see the world. In 1960, he found out that if he re-enlisted with the NZ Army in London, he would receive his passage home.

In 1967 WO1 Kinnaird and his family were posted overseas to Malaya where he spent two years before deploying to Vietnam in 1968 where he was the Medic Sergeant for the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) attached to 161 Battery, Royal NZ Artillery Regiment.

Upon his return to New Zealand, he and his family were posted to many medical units around the country. “This provided his young family with some of the



best playgrounds in New Zealand especially at Waiouru where one of the best holidays was up the Argo in the training area,” said Joanne.

After serving his country for a total of 33 years, WO1 Kinnaird retired.

He was an active member of the RSA and a lifetime membership award was given to him in 2017.

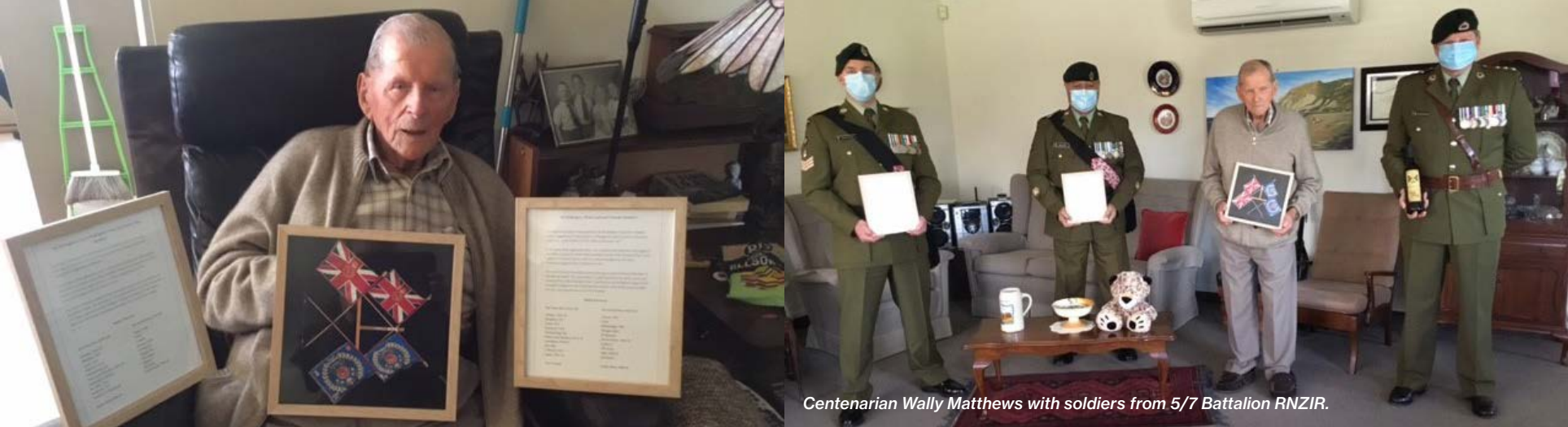
He was immensely proud of his family and was survived by his wife Yvonne and his three children – Stuart, Fiona and Robert. He was a loving grandad to his five grandsons



A dedicated man: the late WO1 Kinnaird.

and more recently four great-grandchildren.

“Over the last few years, David’s health failed, and he found himself in a care home in Palmerston North for a short period of time. One of the nurses was Korean, and on finding out that David had fought for the freedom of his country, the nurse was so grateful, calling him Sir and showering him with gratitude. This touched David immensely,” said Joanne.



Centenarian Wally Matthews with soldiers from 5/7 Battalion RNZIR.

WALLY MALCOLM TURNS 100

Old soldiers are seldom forgotten by their own, and none more so than Wally Malcolm, a veteran of 25th Battalion, who celebrated his 100th birthday recently.

Due to lockdown restrictions personnel from 5/7 Battalion RNZIR were unable to celebrate with him on his birthday, but surprised him with a visit to his home a few days later when alert levels allowed.

They presented Wally with a bottle of 5/7 Port and framed prints of 5th WWCT and 7th WnHB Battalion Colours and Battle Honours which are now proudly displayed in his home in Waipukurau.

Wally grew up on his family farm of 150 acres in Ruataniwha, Waipawa, comprising of an orchard of 1,200 fruit trees, 38 dairy cows and lamb fattening. It was from this farm that he deployed to fight in the Second World War.

He served in 25th Battalion which was formed on 15th May 1940 at Trentham Military Camp with personnel drawn largely from Wellington, Hawke’s Bay and the Taranaki region.

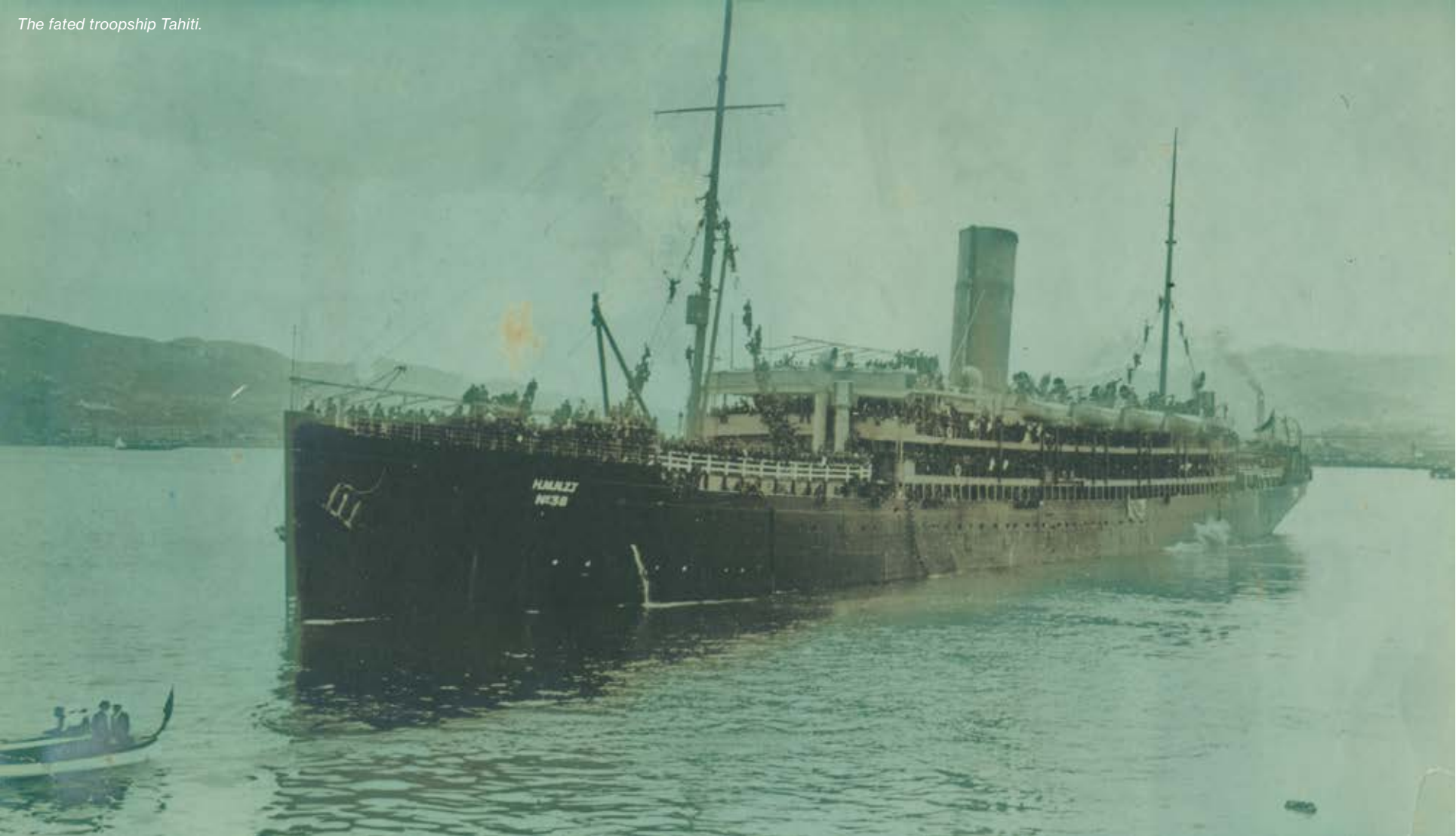
The 25th Battalion fought in the North Africa and Italy campaigns

and he can recall many of the skirmishes that he was involved in, especially Orsogna in Italy where he was captured, along with 52 others. As a POW he travelled by train from Italy, through the Brenner Pass to Germany – four days crammed in cattle wagons with no food and little water. He was in a small POW Camp (3,500 POWs) outside of Munich and it consisted of seven barracks, each housing 350 men. He recalls the camp being bombed by an Allied air raid which took out five of the seven barracks. Luckily, Wally was housed in one of the two left standing.

The battle honours awarded to the 25th Battalion for its work as an infantry battalion were entrusted to the Wellington Regiment, Wellington West Coast and Taranaki Regiment, and Hawke’s Bay Regiment and later formed 5th WWCT RNZIR and 7th WnHB RNZIR Bn(s) which amalgamated and now form 5th/7th Battalion RNZIR.



A memory board of his military service a family member made for him.



The fated troopship Tahiti.

THE DEATH SHIP

Covid is not our troops’ first experience of dealing with an epidemic. In July 103 years ago a New Zealand troopship sailed unknowingly into the global influenza pandemic.



The fateful voyage of the *Tahiti* that would see it transition from a troopship to a death ship began as any other embarkation from New Zealand. The crowds waved on 10 July 1918, before the ship headed to Albany, Western Australia, Cape Town in South Africa and then to Freetown, Sierra Leone before the final leg to Plymouth, England.

HMNZT *Tahiti* carried 1,117 military personnel and 100 support staff on its journey from Wellington – nearly double the maximum capacity of the roughly 650 people the ship was originally designed to hold. While exceeding carrying capacity was not uncommon for similar troopships at the time, the crowded conditions aboard the *Tahiti* would lead to devastating consequences before it reached its destination.

Apart from sea sickness, especially on the leg to Albany, the trip was uneventful until docking in Freetown. The influenza pandemic had gripped the city and although shore leave was not permitted, the ship had to refuel with coal (men physically loading), rations brought aboard and there was a meeting of some officers aboard HMS *Mantua* which unbeknown to the men on board, was carrying the virus.

It was also mentioned in one of the men’s diaries (RSM Percy McIntosh) that two sick Royal Marines joined the *Tahiti* for the voyage to Plymouth. Whether these men had the flu, it is unknown, but possible. Another comment by Percy McIntosh was how many ships were in the Freetown port which, as we know today; shipping caused the influenza to spread globally a lot quicker ... *“I have never seen so many large steamers before ... they are in this river waiting till Monday to leave for England.”*

The ship left Sierra Leone as part of a larger convoy on 26 August and within a few days influenza broke out

and affected many on board with the first death on 1 September. Further deaths followed as a very fatal broncho-pneumonia complicated the more serious cases.

Many on board thought it was a fever brought on by the hot and ‘heavy’ weather, with one soldier, 78686 Lance Corporal Leonard ‘Jack’ Forsey, stating in a letter to his sister Lill *“...It takes all the strength and goodness out of you. It then develops into a fever and as far as we know it is what is called the African fever. I had my share of it and it has left me as weak as a kitten and have got very thin ... I would not like any of you to see one when he is down with this.”*

The New Zealand Army Nursing Service (NZANS) nurses, initially traveling as passengers, worked with three Medical Officers (MOs) to try and provide the care required however the MOs became sick and the work fell to the nurses who worked tirelessly. It is ironic that before the outbreak, the captain of the *Tahiti*, Captain F P Evans had complained that the presence of nurses was *“subversive of discipline, owing to their too often undignified familiarity with the men and younger officers.”*

The ship’s hospital held 40 beds but this proved to be inadequate as within seven days of the outbreak, the situation escalated, more men began to die and patients were nursed in cots on unlit decks and only the seriously ill were admitted to the hospital.

Nursing the men was difficult as they did not respond to treatment and suddenly died. A letter published in the January 1919 *Kai Tiaki* (NZANS Journal) stated *“To see the poor boys die in our hands, one after another, was terrible, but I must say that all that could be done for them was done. It was hard for us to see them go, but harder, I think for their mates ... Having no lights on*

the decks made it 20 times harder for us, and one night almost every way we turned we found men, who a few minutes before had seemed fairly well lying in a collapsed condition, dying about an hour later ... We have over eighty mothers and wives of our boys to send a few lines to, and I don’t know how we will get them all away.”

All the nurses aboard the *Tahiti* were Mentioned in Despatches for the work they had done. A Parliamentary Committee report into the ship’s pandemic outbreak praised the nurses but was critical of the medical orderlies who appeared ‘ill trained’ and not overly keen to get involved. In fact, it was the troops themselves who volunteered as orderlies and carried out excellent work in support of the nurses. The Officer Commanding (OC) the 40th Reinforcements, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Candlish Allen DSO also received praise for his organisation in virtually a hopeless situation.

By the time the *Tahiti* reached Plymouth on 10 September 1918, 78 men had died. Those that were still sick were transferred to Devonport Hospital in Plymouth and the No. 3 New Zealand General Hospital in Codford where unfortunately nine others would die including Staff Nurse Esther Tubman.

Of the 1,117 members of the 40th Reinforcements on board, 90% were sick from the pandemic influenza strain and with the 78 deaths, this caused one of the highest mortality rates from any cause among the New Zealand military units, and an outbreak so severe that the *Tahiti* became known as the “death ship.”



Soldiers lounge on the deck during the journey.
Photos: National Army Museum



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**22/449 Staff Nurse
Isobel McLennan MiD
New Zealand Army
Nursing Corps**

**Isobel McLennan qualified
as a nurse in 1916 at
Wellington Hospital prior
to joining up with the
New Zealand Army Nursing
Corps (NZANSC).**



She enlisted on 25 September 1917 and served on two voyages of the Hospital Ship *Maheno* before sailing on the *Tahiti* with the 40th Reinforcements on 10 July 1918, bound for Plymouth, England. Isobel was one of 10 nurses of the NZANS travelling as passengers with Staff Nurse Bessie Maxfield in charge.

After leaving Freetown, Sierra Leone on 22 August, the *Tahiti* became a floating hospital as the influenza spread. Isobel McLennan, the other nurses and three Medical Officers (MOs) worked to the point of exhaustion to contain the epidemic. This was made worse when the three MOs were struck down as well as two nurses, one being 22/517 Staff Nurse Esther Tubman who died after arriving in England.

The work carried out by the nurses including Isobel McLennan was acknowledged in General Order No. 40 of 1919 for “*especially good work in attending the sick of the 40th Reinforcements on board His Majesty’s New Zealand Transport (HMNZT) No 107 “Tahiti”, which sailed on 10 Jul 1918 and became a floating hospital when an influenza epidemic raged throughout the ship.*”

Once in England, Isobel worked at the New Zealand General Hospital in Codford, a Convalescent Home in Brighton and the No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital in Walton-on-Thames where she continued to tend to those caught up in the pandemic.

.....
**52104 Sergeant
Norman Saunders
A Company,
New Zealand Infantry**

**Norman George Saunders
enlisted on 17 March 1917
and was involved in training
the new recruits.**

As an older man, he had been asked to stay behind, take a commission and continue to train the new recruits at Trentham and Featherston Camps however he was keen to stick with the men he had recently trained. Due to a series of minor injuries he received during training, he did not embark with earlier reinforcements, eventually sailing on the *Tahiti* with the 40th Reinforcements on 10 July 1918.

The trip from New Zealand to Albany, Western Australia was rough, with heavy seas, cramped conditions and average food and when they arrived in Albany, the Australians would not grant them shore leave so they weren’t too happy. The trip from Australia to Cape Town, South Africa was better, with improved weather conditions and as they got closer to the Cape, they encountered whales and other ships (cargo steamers, troopships and war ships).

Norman contracted the ‘Epidemic Influenza’ (flu) after Freetown, Sierra Leone and died on 6 September 1918, age 40. He was buried at sea. At this stage, there had been 63 deaths on board.

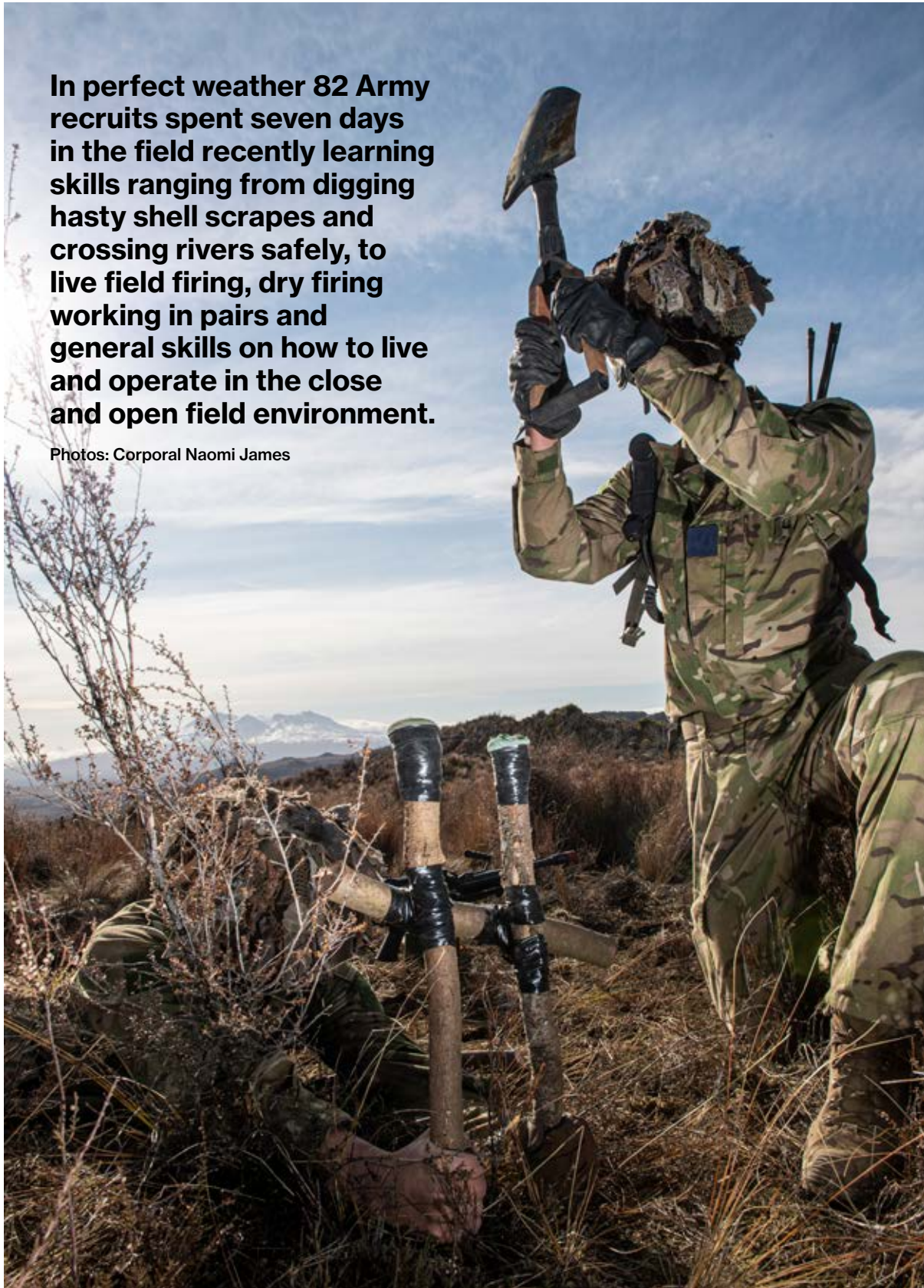
Norman Saunders is commemorated on the Shannon Memorial as well as a family memorial gravestone at Waikaraka (Park) Cemetery, Onehunga.



Information courtesy of Windsor Jones, Collections and Exhibitions Manager, National Army Museum

In perfect weather 82 Army recruits spent seven days in the field recently learning skills ranging from digging hasty shell scrapes and crossing rivers safely, to live field firing, dry firing working in pairs and general skills on how to live and operate in the close and open field environment.

Photos: Corporal Naomi James







PTE Jayde Ashford slides a sublime through-ball, much to Massey's dismay.

SAME SPORT: NEW STRUGGLES, PLAYERS, TEAMS, AND TITLES

In another Covid-19 disrupted year, Linton Football Club (Linton FC) was looking to take their momentum from last year into the 2021 season, with one exception: for the first time in almost a decade, a women’s team would be back representing the Club, and, to a degree, the Army. The off-season was spent recruiting new players, both military and civilian, and training hard to re-establish the club with three teams before the start of the season.

While the Reserves took a few weeks to find their stride, finishing their season in the middle of the table, the 1st XI took full advantage of their 2020 promotion into the ‘360 Logistic Championship’, to win their league for the second year in a row, and earning promotion to return to the ‘YORB Horizons Premiership’ in 2022, after a three-season absence.

The national Covid-19 lockdown put a halt to all game play and training for the best part of six weeks towards the end of the season. Unlike other clubs, Linton FC had to additionally deal with Op Protect claiming key players at inconvenient times; this resulted in some players from the reserves being asked to step up and fill some considerable boots (pun intended) on the first team, with multiple players playing out of position or putting in double shifts, playing back-to-back games for the firsts and reserves. Special mention must be made of Linton FC’s civilian contingent, who provided a consistent backbone for the club during Op Protect deployments. Despite these struggles, Linton FC exceeded expectations with quality wins against experienced

opposition, and in the valued breaks between Op Protect deployments, proved that sport is a significant source of morale.

First team goal keeper, SPR Dave Emmens, earned the moniker, “The safest hands in Linton”, after making a considerable contribution to the Linton FC first team finishing the season with the best goal difference in the league, alongside brothers CPL Jobie Breuer and CPL Ramone Breuer, who alternately provided consistently solid defence and initiated devastating attacks, occasionally getting in on the goal-scoring action themselves.

LBDR Tane Harris provided similar defensive capabilities for the Reserves, his efforts being rewarded with a call-up to the first team, along with GNR Reuben King and PTEs Bronesh Neupane and Hano Vorster, among others. CAPT Joel Cox, SGT Jay Margison, CPL David Spencer, and PTE Jayde Ashford thrived in the environment of the 360 Logistic Championship, and were serious attacking threats, capable of initiating scything attacks into the attacking third from anywhere on the pitch; the application of quality football at the right time and place meant these

attacks frequently terminated with the ball in the opposition’s net: not to be outdone, 2LT Anthony Jones found the back of the net 16 times throughout the season, taking home the Golden Boot for his efforts.

Coaching duties among the three teams were shared by retired Sergeant Simon Fenton and CPL David Spencer, ably aided by team managers Ms Tracy Breuer and Mr James Pilcher, all of whom can be proud of their respective teams’ efforts. Thanks is also due to Mags Media NZ, for providing photographic coverage of Linton FC over the 2021 season.

“The commitment and comradeship shown by both the military and civilian members of Linton Football Club throughout two interrupted seasons is a blessing to the club and to Army Football,” said spokesman Major Steve Lodge.

“To have the senior members of our wider playing group continue to take the pitch in lower leagues, in an effort to grow junior players and advance Army Football in Linton is great to see.

“JNCOs are the back bone of our Army and over the years civilians who join the Football Club provide a similar function

supporting consistency each week in the playing group(s). Our JNCO’s have stepped up to take over the mantle regarding coaching and managing which is something Army Football has been trying to achieve for a number of years. This level of commitment to the code and fellow players is critical to ensure the future of Army and Camp sports and raising morale in these unprecedented times. As we move into the future and hopefully travel restrictions allow, international games may be on the table in the future Alongside Linton FC doing well across three teams, the Burnham Bobcats are also maintaining a number of quality players and retain their position in a competitive league,” said MAJ Lodge.

“MAJ Jono Steele has recently taken the mantle of Code Chair for Army Football and the club loses Army coach and long-time servant of the game SSGT Steve Parry. On behalf of Army Football, we wish Jono all the best in the new role as he builds a support team to further the code’s aspirations and we all thank SSGT Parry for his multiple decades in the code as a player, administrator, selector

and coach across all the regions of Army Football. Going to be very hard to find a replacement to fill that gap. All the best in your future endeavours and we hope to farewell you appropriately at the earliest chance we can as a code”.

Playing enquires for next season can be directed to CPL David Spencer (men’s) or CPL Abi Gordon (women). Images courtesy of Mags Media NZ.



2LT Anthony Jones celebrates after finding the back of the net.



LCPL Stacey Cottle maintains control under pressure.



CPL Ramone Breuer snuffs out a Marist attack as quickly as it began.



LCPL Lara Dessoulavy looks for a worthy challenger.

LINTON WOMEN'S FOOTBALL 2021

In addition to the two men's teams this year, Linton FC started a Women's team for the first time since 2006 for the 2021 season. If the men thought they struggled with player unavailability, the women had it twice as bad, with not having the luxury of a having a second squad to pull players from, and regularly taking to the field with only nine or ten players.

With Op Protect taking top priority NZDF wide, it was definitely a struggle to consistently get the team to trainings and games but they managed to get through with committed and keen players!

The season came to a grinding halt when the nationwide lockdown came into play, with many of the players questioning whether the season would go ahead or not. Fortunately nearing the end of the season anyway, Central Football decided to ride it out until the end, with teams finishing the season slightly later in the year than normal.

SGT Erica Clementson and LCPL Charlotte Hunt provided a solid platform for the less experienced players to help them find their feet. For some, it was their first season having changed sport codes and for others it was their first season playing football at all. Jemima Daniels was feared by opposing teams for her "take-no-

prisoners" playing style. They had midfielder LCPL Lara Dessoulavy and keeper CAPT Sandy Mitchell leave mid-season for a 7 week period to deploy to Sinai. This in turn left a huge hole in the goalbox, with players having to take turns in filling Sandy's 'gloves'. LCPL's Stacey Cottle and Caitlan Satherley dominated up front for the Women's team, as well as having the tactical wisdom and sage experience from playing Army and Defence. Captain for the Women's side, CPL Caitlin McFelin, was always out there and committed to showing the team that they were capable, providing sound advice on and off the field. The women's efforts throughout the season did not go unrewarded, with them winning all their Cup games and taking home the Tingey Plate for 2021 in their inaugural season.

Overall, they were so proud to have started up this Women's team, not having one within the Linton

Football Club in over a decade. Coaching duties among the three teams were shared by Simon Fenton, CPL David Spencer and James Pilcher, competently assisted by team managers Tracy Breuer and CPL Abi Gordon, all of whom can be proud of their respective teams' efforts.

As a club, they welcome anyone, whether you're a civilian, Army or within Defence with open arms. Whether you are just beginning, know someone who would be interested to start playing or have played in the past and would like to get back into it again, we will be more than happy to accommodate you all!

Playing enquires can be directed to CPL David Spencer (men's) or CPL Abi Gordon (women).



The Women's team.

Members of the New Zealand contingent at the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission in the Sinai recently took part in a 45km march around camp in memory of the fallen. They joined members of USBATT, an American infantry battalion, who do the walk annually in the US. The Kiwi personnel created a memory board of fallen NZDF comrades KIA on contemporary missions. The NZDF has deployed personnel to the MFO since it was established in 1982, and New Zealand personnel fill a number of roles there including as drivers and instructors. The current MFO Force Commander is NZ Army officer, Major General Evan Williams.





From left, Flight Sergeant Andrea McNabb, Major Kiely Pepper, Paulette Doctor and Tiny Graham.

INVICTUS ATHLETES UNITE AGAINST CANCER

By Lucy Handford

The Invictus Games may have been delayed due to Covid-19, but that hasn't stopped four NZDF athletes from joining forces in support of a cause that carries personal significance for each of them. While the athletes come from different ranks and services, they have something in common: cancer.

When Paulette "Doc" Doctor (Navy), Major Kiely Pepper (Army) and Robert "Tiny" Graham (Army), learnt that their Invictus team-mate Flight Sergeant Andrea McNabb (Air Force), was going to lose her hair due to the aggressive chemotherapy treatment she is undergoing, the trio decided to shave their heads in an act of solidarity and support, while also raising funds for the Missing Wingman's Trust.

In 2016, F/S McNabb was diagnosed with a rare 'one in a million' adrenal cancer. She underwent surgery to remove a 10cm tumour and was given the all clear until June 2018 when she found out that the cancer had returned. At the end of last year, F/S McNabb was given a new prognosis: the cancer was terminal. She is currently undergoing aggressive chemotherapy treatment to prolong her life so she can spend as much time as possible with her husband Rob, their six children and their two grandsons.

F/S McNabb, who joined the Air Force twenty years ago, said she was quite taken aback when she heard about MAJ Pepper, Tiny and Doc's plans to shave their hair off.

"I didn't expect it from them, or anyone to cut their hair. I appreciate how they eased me into the idea that I was going to lose my hair and what I could potentially look like. It really is a very selfless act on their behalf which tells me I must mean something to them," F/S McNabb said.

The genesis of the idea came from Tiny, who has spent 27 years in uniform and almost nine years as a civilian in Operational Logistics Support. With a history of bowel cancer in his family, Tiny decided to get his head shaved when he learnt that Andrea was about to lose her hair.

Tiny said that shaving his head and moustache was the easy part, it was more about the gesture and letting "Nabbs" as he affectionately calls her, know she is never alone in her journey.

"Despite her condition and ongoing treatment, Nabbs continues to be a beacon of strength for our whole Invictus whānau. Internally she could be battling, but this seems to encourage her more to make the most of all opportunities and situations and see the best in everything, especially her iwi whānau," he said.

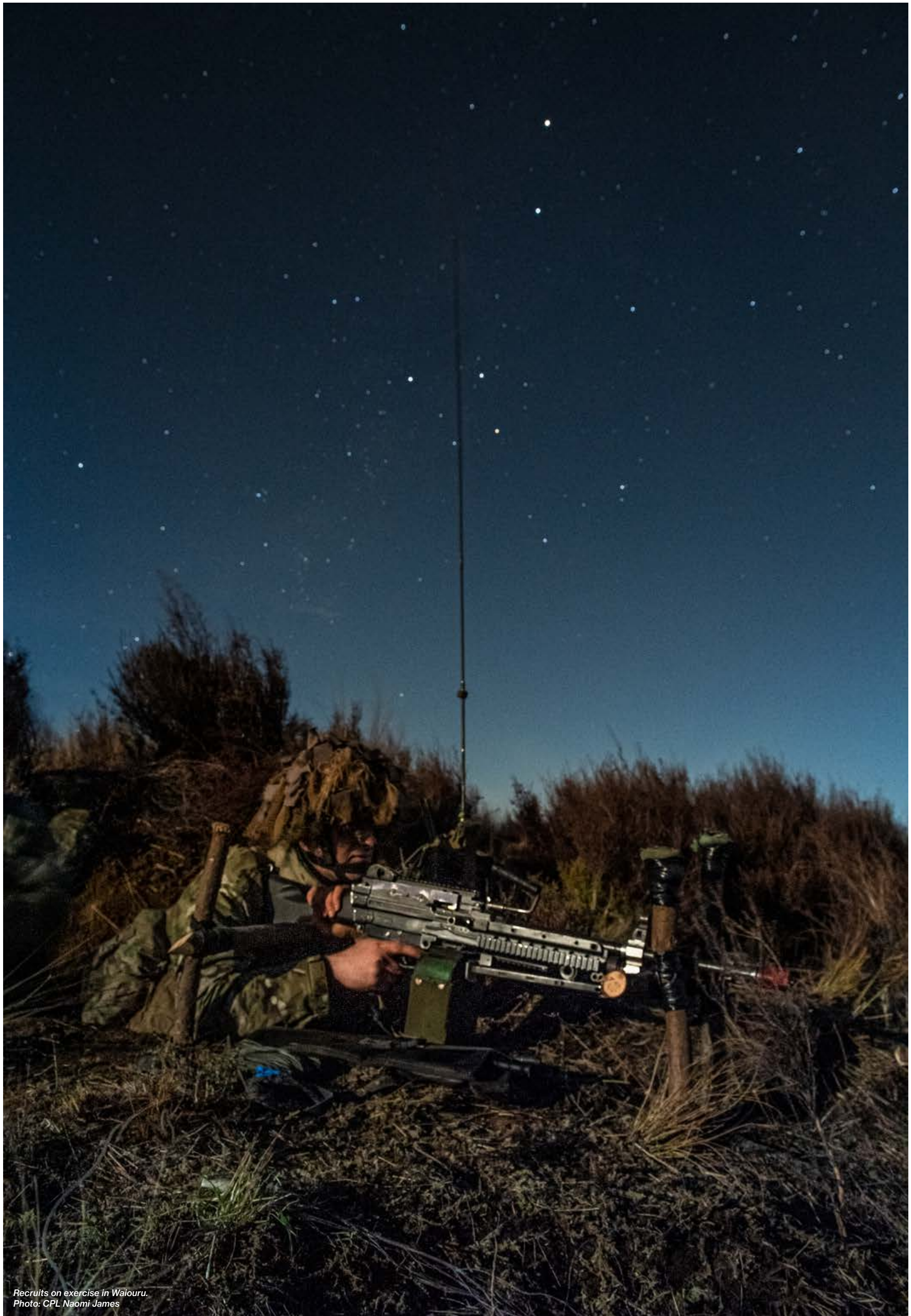
MAJ Pepper and Doc soon followed suit. MAJ Pepper, who joined the Army in 1996 as an Education Officer, and is now a Logistics Officer, says it's possible that Invictus Games members share a similar dark sense of humour when it comes to facing challenges and adversity. She also experienced losing her hair when she underwent chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer in 2015. But this time, MAJ Pepper explains, she had a choice.

"Losing your hair can make you feel and look quite different and it's uncomfortable when people, whether you know them or not, do a double-take when they notice your lack of hair. Now, when I look in the mirror I am reminded of Andrea's health. My appearance has also sparked discussion, and that's good, it means we're raising awareness about the mental and physical health of people who are fighting cancer," she said.

Able Communications Warfare Specialist, Doc, who has served in the Navy for over 22 years, had her own fight with cancer in 2008 and 2013. She said the decision to stand in solidarity with F/S McNabb was an easy decision to make.

"We all need strength when we reach a point we struggle to overcome. Having those around us to be able to show their support in such a visual way can be hugely empowering for the fighter. I'm a firm believer in giving when I can for the greater reason and if that can enable just one other person to become that empowering force that is worth it on any given day," she said.

So far, the group have raised \$1,307.50 for the Missing Wingman's Trust. But the story doesn't end there, F/S McNabb's longtime friend and colleague in the Air Force, F/S Sandi Cooper is shaving her hair too. The money she raises on her Givealittle fundraising page, will go directly to F/S McNabb so she can spend time in Rarotonga with her family. To find out more, search for: "McNabb's Memory Making Mission" on the Givealittle website.



Recruits on exercise in Waiouru.
Photo: CPL Naomi James