



ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (NZ)

MARCH 2009

LOCAL PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ANAND SATYANAND, THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF N.Z.

**AGM SATURDAY 18th APRIL '09 2pm PT CHEVALIER RSA,
1136 GREAT NORTH RD , PT CHEVALIER, AK.**

Be there keep our Association active

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Presidents comments....

Summer has been enjoyable this year with plenty of warm weather. This has offset the daily news of doom and gloom about the world recession and it's many problems. Our Association has had the benefit this year from the sterling efforts of Colleen Ellis our secretary and Philip Ayling our Web Manager, who have been working diligently to link us up with the Australian RMA Web Site. When we recognise the work they have done to achieve this we have to bear in mind the fact that they are not retired and still have a living to earn. The Web Site has given us contact with RMA members worldwide along with the email communications that arrive on the Secretary's desktop that are forwarded, almost daily to the email members.

Members who have not access to a computer will also benefit, as the Newsletter they receive will contain items of interest gleaned from the Web. Recently with the aid of the communications through the Secretary, we were able to welcome the President of the Exeter RMA. Col. Peter Babbington and his wife Kay. They arrived in Auckland on the 27.2.09 to enjoy a campervan tour of the country and meet up with 2 ex marine friends, David Boyd now serving with the NZ Army at Wellington, and one of our RMA members, Bill Trollope a resident of Nelson. Peter kindly presented our Association with a plaque from the Exeter RMA which I will bring to the AGM for viewing. Welcome back Steve Ritson who has been in England for an extended period and now back actively engaged with the Fire Service in Auckland. We look forward to seeing him at the AGM. A pleasant surprise at our last meeting was Bob Battersby who had returned from a holiday in UK with his wife Enid. Mac Hine and wife Shirley enjoyed their American trip visiting friends, although a shock to the system was a 5 hour car trip after getting off the plane from NZ.

Ticker Ayling is off to Queensland on holiday in April and will be there for the Anzac Parade.

Dennis Harvey in Napier has been putting his new boat to good use catching fish. The Harvey's appear to dine well, as when out hunting he bagged a deer, so are assured of plenty of venison. Celia Lashmar says there is little improvement in Charlie's condition. He was pleased to have the visits from Ticker Ayling and his recruit day chum Max Beare. Colleen contacted Ranfurly War Veterans to check on the progress of John Williams and he is apparently in "fine fettle". Peter's wife Gill has recovered well and they were able to enjoy the visit from their UK based family around Christmas time.

The Corp Birthday Celebration has been arranged for **Sunday 1st Nov.2009** at same venue as previous years, The Birkenhead RSA, just over the harbour bridge on the North Shore. and the cost for the luncheon is expected to be the same as last year also, \$20 00 per head.

We expect the function to be as successful as last year. Please make a note in your diary. Anzac Day Parade and Service on Saturday 25th April.09, at the Auckland War Memorial Museum in the Auckland Domain, the service will be at 11 am so we need to Muster at 10.15 am at the rear by Underground Car Park. We are welcomed to meet at the Point Chevalier RSA 1136 Gt North Rd, Pt Chevalier after the service.

The Media reveals that the Corp has been at the fore in the war in Afghanistan and have excelled themselves with many successful operations. Sadly war comes at a cost. Our sympathy goes to the families left to bear the loss.

We have a new member Len Doran and hope to see him at our meetings as he lives in the Auckland area. CV of Period of RM History PO/X 126682
Never being known as a volunteer or joiner, my entry to the R.M. was initiated by N\S conscription on the 1st July 1947.
I reported to the Depot R.M.Deal, completed 4 months basic. DRAFTED to LYMSTONE for F.T. short period CDO SCH BICKLEY.
FIRST seadraft HMS Ceylon. Followed by HMS Cleopatra in the Med fleet. Returned to R.M.B.K.S Chatham for release on 29 Sept 1949, short and sweet, but now realise it did me world of good.
Emigrated to Aussie on 10 pound scheme, joined R.A.N.for 6 years, spent 2 in Korea. On return flew to NZ. Joined R.N.Z.N as a G.D. for 10 years. FINISHED my working life with the Local Council as Purchasing Officer. Retired at 55, and lived happy ever after.
I was born in 1929, not bad though seeing I left school at 12.

This is Sgt Dan Glaze in 42 Commando, the son of our members John & Mandy Glaze. Taken in Afganistan in December at the completion of RED DAGGER.



A veteran is someone who, at one point in his/her life, wrote a blank cheque made payable to their country, for an amount of up to and including his/her life. (contributed by Dennis Harvey)



Operation Red Dagger strikes killer blow in heart of enemy territory

By Robert Kellaway, 04/01/2009

HEROIC Royal Marine Commandos have smashed the Taliban in the BIGGEST offensive since the 2003 invasion of Iraq . . . on a bloody battlefield resembling the sodden trenches of the Somme.

More than 1,500 soldiers fought in Operation Red Dagger—a massive winter assault on insurgent strongholds.

It was fought in hellhole ditches and dugouts in muddy, waterlogged terrain eerily reminiscent of the First World War.

Wave after wave of British troops fought for every inch of battleground in **Afghanistan's notorious Helmand Province, soaked by days of heavy rain.**

Squads carried scaling ladders with their rifles to assault Taliban hiding places scattered across a battlefield the size of Sheffield.

In close-quarters combat—mainly with grenades and rifles rather than hi-tech weapons— five of our boys died valiantly and 80 were wounded.



Almost 100 Taliban fighters, among them a senior commander, were wiped out. One hero, Artillery Capt Dave Glendenning, told us how troops lived and slept in the mud **for THREE WEEKS as they carried out the vital assault in the Taliban's heartland.** His job was calling down artillery, mortars and guided missile attacks to support the frontline soldiers of J Company 42. Commando.

"Almost every day we were involved Almost every day we were involved in intense firefights ranging from small arms shoot and scoots to 4 hour battles with the enemy as close as 30 metres," said Capt Glendenning.

"The ground turned to a quagmire and we were up to our ankles in muddy water." And Signaller L Cpl Steve Gordon added: "Sleeping in the mud was a nightmare. We were constantly exposed and moving ahead of our infantry protection. It was pretty scary."

The 18-day operation by 42 Commando Group Royal Marines culminated over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with the capture of the enemy winter stronghold of Nad-e-Ali.

Named **Red Dagger after 3 Commando Brigade's shoulder patch insignia, the assault** was launched on December 7 to quash Taliban forces who had tried to overrun Helmand capital Lashkar Gah in October.



TARGET TALIBAN: 42 Commando on the move as they drive the insurgents out of strongholds in Operation Red Dagger

The four-pronged mission was to capture and secure four major targets—Nad e Ali and other insurgent bases at Shin Kalay, Zarghun Kalay and Nawa.

Capt Glendenning described how British forces—backed by Estonian troops and Danish tanks—attacked enemy positions with a combination of 81mm mortars and Apache and Cobra attack helicopters. As all hell broke loose 42 Commando troops weighed in with grenades, machine-guns, Javelin missiles and anti-tank **'Bunker Busters' missiles.**

"There was little time to draw breath," said Capt Glendenning.

Squads used scaling ladders to climb enemy compound walls and fire over the top into Taliban hiding places as the insurgents were gradually pushed back.

Cunning

They also had to be driven out of hideouts in waterlogged dugouts and ditches as deep as First World War trenches.

There was always the risk of our boys being outflanked by the cunning Taliban who know every inch of the landscape.

At one point the 'Black Knights' of 42 Commando's Kilo Company were surrounded during a two-day battle to break into the town Zarghun Kalay just before the Christmas offensive.

Top brass praised their "Commando Spirit" as they fought a 360 degree battle for victory against a "canny and determined" enemy.

As the offensive drove deep into Helmand's badlands a major Taliban headquarters was captured near Nad e Ali and weapons including a cache of 107mm Chinese rockets each armed with a 1kg explosive warhead were seized.

OVER THE TOP: Commandos get ready to take a compound. Troops also discovered a TONNE of narcotics including 400kg of opium with a value on Britain's streets of at least £2 million.

A spokesman for Task Force Helmand said: "This assault significantly disrupted the enemy in a strategically key area." But victory came at a heavy price.



The first of our boys to fall were Marines GEORGIE SPARKS, 19, from Epping, Essex and TONY EVANS, 20, from Sunderland, who were killed on an intelligence gathering foot patrol to plan the operation.

The men from Juliet Company 42 Commando were hit by an RPG-7 rocket propelled grenade in the area around Nad e Ali on November 27.

Rifleman STUART NASH of 1 Rifles from Sydney, Australia, died giving covering fire to his comrades from a rooftop during the most intense battle at Zarghun Kalay, north west of Nad-e-Ali on December 17.

Cpl ROBERT DEERING, 33, from Sheldon, Birmingham was killed by a booby trap as he attempted to repair a stricken Viking armoured vehicle that hit a

landmine while supplying frontline troops on December 21.

Lance Cpl BENJAMIN WHATELY, 20, from King's Lynn, Norfolk, died on Christmas Eve in the opening attack of Red Dagger's final offensive.

Worry

He was shot dead leading his men into battle just north of Nad e Ali. His mother Teresa, 52, movingly told how his family had planned to put Christmas on hold until her son returned from his tour.

"There was no way we could have had a proper family Christmas while he was away," she said. "You never stop worrying when your son is on a tour. You are on edge for seven months because you never know if you're going to get a phone call or a visit to say something has happened. "Now we have had that visit we were dreading."

Thank you **Puja Singh- Owner of Cardale's Stationery City, 6 Campbell Road, Royal Oak, Auckland** for their generous sponsorship of all the Royal Marines Association photocopying.

Ph 625-0001

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We ask our members to support them where possible.

Last night Taliban fighters were in full retreat from the Nad e Ali district, heading for remote mountain hideouts in a bid to escape further onslaught. The Afghan National Army was in hot pursuit, harrying them as they sought respite from the punishing assault.

Marines constructed three 'patrol base' fortresses under fire during the battle to dominate the towns and villages around Nad-e-Ali providing 'bubbles' of security for locals.

The bases were packed with troops to ensure Taliban fighters could not return to the district, allowing schools and businesses to open.

Since the end of the successful operation 10 days ago, two more British soldiers have died in Afghanistan—bringing the total killed so far to 138 since October 2001.



OVER THE TOP:
**Soldiers in the
trenches during
WW1.**

Marine Cpl Liam Elms, 26, from Wigan died on New Year's Eve and Territorial Army Sgt Chris Reed, 25, of 6 Rifles from Plymouth was killed on New Year's Day.

Both died in explosions near Garmsir in southern Helmand Province.

Lt Col Charlie Stickland, 42 Commando's commanding officer, said of Operation Red Dagger: "Thankfully all the insertions went very swiftly and we unhinged the insurgents.

"The next step we need to make is to find out who the elders are in this area and start our influence in terms of what we're seeking to do in the whole Nad-e-Ali area over the coming months.

"So this has been a good start but we remain balanced and ready should anything unfold." From News of the World.

***** Have a look at the site www.45commandorma.co.uk

Missing Mates Do you know the whereabouts of Joe Cooke late of 2nd Battalion RM and later of 42 Commando RM in the Far East during WWII. At age 89, in 2007 he emigrated to NZ to join his daughter in Lower Hutt. Secondly, Alan Todd ex RM(Ply/x/5613) served in HMNZS Bellona in Devonport from 1948-52 has contacted me looking for old mates. Any info please contact the Secretary, Colleen please.

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*****I noted in the August 2008 edition of the NSW Bootneck Bugle they asked for urgent attention to history sheets and facts about service, interesting events in their life, as much detail as possible be submitted to the Association as when this is up to date, great eulogies are appreciated by all present when they pass over the bar.

We need to take their lead and attend to our housekeeping in this regard also.

I will email History Sheets sheets to all and ask the non email to complete and return them to me a.s.a.p. Thanks.

There are areas on this planet that should be declared unsuitable for human habitation. My pick for this honour would be an area of Devon England commonly known as Dartmoor, made famous by the notorious prison, which has to be seen for belief, the whole moor covers 300 square miles, 200 square miles national park, the remainder designated "Defence property" used by the R.M. for manoeuvres and field training, a nightmare for your average bootneck. I would love to see the whole area concreted over, (promises, promises.) It gives everybody the creeps even though you always have a squad of men around you. I think the weather contributes most to that feeling, and burial grounds you come upon with large stone crosses with large leans on denoting how strong the winds are.

We were always delighted to meet the truck after spending a number of days in such luxurious surroundings, and to return to the depot at Lymestone for sleep and a good shower. You could never foretell what would happen next on the moor, like the following experience that I can vouch for as I was one of the squad in the story.

We had been out three days, weather terrible, very cold and heavy snow. We decided on the fourth night to get out of the wind, which we found very annoying. We found an open-cast slate mine on our maps. Its location was at the far end of a large valley. We descended to the floor of the valley in single file, then formed threes and headed north for the quarry. It has snowed heavily the previous night leaving eight inches of snow on the valley floor which deadened all sound from moving squads of men. As we got closer to the mine entrance we saw a line of two story houses, as we got closer we noticed all the windows boarded up including the front doors. As we got even closer we spotted two figures standing at their front gates, as soon as we were spotted they both turned and scarpered into their houses. We noticed they were very strangely dressed, black smocks very long, and large two foot white hats shaped like upside down ice cream cornets. I never remarked on the observation to any of the others, I put it down to over tiredness, or even snow blindness.

After a meal the boss called us together, only to discover we had all seen the same performance, but he also had no believable answers. On returning to camp we had to travel through a market town called Tavistock. We stopped behind the local cop station. Before we resumed our journey a long service Police Chief came out and gave us a little talk, which was very enlightening. He told us the mine and quarry had been closed for over twenty years. The miners were all Welsh and the occupants were their wives and families. He said the ladies we viewed were wearing the national dress of Wales.

The most spooky bit about this tale, when the C.O. the evening of the event returned to the flats for answers, they discovered nothing. The inside of the flats were completely gutted, no floors, just the outside walls. They checked for footprints around the gates and path to front doors, the only prints belonged to birds. On return to camp we were given a full day to clean up, then told to fall in the following morning in No 1 uniform. We were marched to the Gymnasium, on entry to the main torture chamber there were three large desks down the middle, with an important looking civvie behind each desk and a Wren stenographer. We all had to give personal accounts of the event, sign a statement, and informed the event was from that day on the secrets list for the next forty odd years.

To wrap this tale up, about four years ago I met a fellow in the club house and decided to have 9 holes together. On the way round an old playing mate called out and came over to give me a message. When we finished we had a coffee together, and he queried why that friend of mine called me "Royal" when I had told him my name was Len, I had to explain we were serving together years before on a warship, he was a stoker and I a marine, and all marines were called Royal.

He told me the following tale. He was a S.A, returning from there after visiting his sister. When he boarded the plane to return to N.Z. he forgot to purchase a book to read on the plane, he searched all the seat pockets, and came across an out of date Readers Digest. Like me he wasn't a fan, but he had no choice, He read the story of the 2 strange ladies, & wanted to relate

the whole story to me. I told him not to bother as I was part of it.

On enquiring about the author, it turned out to be the officer in charge of the squad. I wonder what R.D. paid him for it. But good luck to him for his enterprise, in this world there will always be Leaders and Followers.

This whole story leaves many things unanswered, the two main ones: Where did the 2 Welsh ladies come from and why was the story of interest to the Government and put on the secret list for 50 years?
Len Doran

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This is a brief history of our member Maxie Beare who rejoined late last year....

Bernard S. Maxie Beare, RMB x 2234November 11th 1944, at the tender age of 14, I signed on in Charing X Rd, London where I was put on hold as it were until my marching orders arrived from London informing me to make my way to the Clifton Hotel in Scarborough. It was 26th March 1945 when I encountered my first taste of life in the Royal Marines, I had been given my number, told what instrument I was to learn and fully kitted out. My first move was to the Isle of Man for 3 years to commence training as a Band Boy, but during that time the RNSM was relocated to Burford Nr Oxford, and shortly after, my first draft chit sent me to HMS Triumph in the Med Fleet.

At age 17, returning to the UK in 1948 I was then drafted to Drake in the West Country and in 1951 I served a couple of years at Ganges, then a commission in HMS Terror Singapore.

Back to the UK in 1954, I was then drafted to Plymouth and spent time in the Home Fleet, HMS Tyne. In 1957 I was selected to join the Royal Yacht Band in Portsmouth, for 9 years and was then sent to sea again, to the Carrier Centaur. I rejoined the Royal Yacht in 1966 and stayed there until I retired in 1972, to immigrate to New Zealand as a Pro Musician.
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There is an interesting site to have a look through at www.trainingships.royalnavy.co.uk
This is an interesting site for the Plymouth news.... www.thisisplymouth.co.uk

Our member, Eddie Edwardson would like to receive all used stamps as he sends them to the UK for a fundraising charity. Please send them to him directly, 4 Walton St, Red Beach 0931, Whangaparoa. Ph 09 426 6941

R.I.P Colin White, historian & former director of the Royal Naval Museum, died on 25 December 2008. He was one of the world's leading experts on the life & achievements of Horatio Nelson & such was his reputation and love of the subject that he was called Nelson's "representative on earth." Colin led the Nelson Letters Projects which found more than 1400 unpublished letters around the world. He also spearheaded the Trafalgar Commemorations in 2005, delivering an incredible 300 public lectures during that year. His published books on the great admiral included "The Nelson Companion" and "Nelson's Year of Destiny." One of the accolades of which he was most proud was being appointed an honorary captain in the Royal Navy Reserve.

William Stone, the UK's last surviving veteran from both the First and Second World Wars, passed away on 10 January, age 108. Bill, as he liked to be called, joined the Royal Navy at 18. During the Second World War he took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk, making five trips to pick up troops from the beaches. In retirement he was an active member of many service organisations. Bill had a huge zest for life and loved to regale people with his fund of naval stories and jokes.

Nancy Dawson

Sadly, the hallowed naval tradition of serving rum is no longer. In Kydd's time it was a high point of the day and always done with proper ceremony, including being announced by the playing of the much-loved air "Nancy Dawson" on a fife or fiddle. This was the signal for the mess cooks to repair to the rum tub to draw rations for their messmates.

Nancy Dawson was an actual person. She was born around 1730 and became a very popular dancer in Georgian England. She was said to be "extremely agreeable in her figure" and was admired for her kindness as much as for her performances.

A ballad sheet of the time sang her praises: -

"Of all the girls in our town
The black, the fair, the red, the brown,
That dance and prance it up and down,
There's none like Nancy Dawson.
Her easy mien, her shape so neat,
She foots, she trips, she looks so sweet,
Her every motion's so complete,
I die for Nancy Dawson."

She danced the hornpipe during the performance of "The Beggar's Opera" at Covent Garden theatre and the tune is still familiar to us in its adaptation of "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush."

Nancy Dawson died in May 1767 and was buried in the churchyard of St George's-in-the-Fields in London. A verse from a song about her was cut into her tombstone. The story goes, however that the vicar did not approve and had part of it removed, leaving only the stark phrase "here lies Nancy Dawson."

A sailors' description of Kydd's day about the weather and sea conditions, obviously a pretty important topic when on the bounding main...

mizzle = a kind of drizzle. bruising water = pitching heavily to a head sea.

a cockling sea = tumbling waves with very short and quick motion.

blunk = a sudden squall. slatch of wind = transitory breeze. fret of wind = a squally flaw blowing great guns and muskets = a real blow, together with rain. boldering = cloudy and thundery. fresh breeze = the technical state in the Royal Navy when sails had to be shortened. blashy = dirty, rainy. ground sea = rollers are so big that the ship grounds on the sea bed in the troughs. swash = sudden cross surge in the seas

The ship that straddled 2 hemispheres, 2 seasons, 2 years & 2 centuries at the same moment! Impossible? No, it happened in the mid-Pacific on 30 December 1899 when the Captain & Navigator of SS "Warrimoo" carefully positioned the ship at the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line.

At the stroke of midnight local time -

+ The port side of the ship was in the southern hemisphere in the middle of summer.

+ The starboard side was in the northern hemisphere in the middle of winter.

+ The date in the aft part of the ship was December 30, 1899.

+ The date in the forward part of the ship was 1 January 1900.

So the ship was therefore not only in 2 different days, 2 different months, 2 different seasons & 2 different years but in 2 different centuries - all at the same time!

Editorial Comment – Globe & Laurel Nov/Dec 08.....

3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines have completed the Transfer of Authority from 16 Air Assault Brigade and are now operating as HQ Task Force Helmand for the Op *Herrick 9* deployment in Afghanistan. The Brigade is busy establishing its own unique style of authority within Helmand Province and from the reports that we have received, there is an optimism for success, along with an air of confidence that the pre-deployment training has fully prepared them for the challenges that lie ahead. Nothing could prepare us however, for the tragic deaths so soon into the start of the Operation. A Roll of Honour for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice is on page 447.

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those who have died, and of those who have

been injured in these incidents, especially at this time of year. We report quite extensively on a wide range of fundraising activities in this journal. It is a dilemma for those embarking on such ventures in choosing which charity or special cause to support. Although we report and advertise impartially on all of these events, we have in this issue published a piece on RM charities (page 517) explaining the benefits of Corps Funds and a request from the Corps Trustees asking that we consider raising money for Corps Charities first – ‘charity begins at home’. All charities will no doubt suffer as a result of the current financial difficulties, therefore careful thought needs to be given to which direction the ‘good will’ should be channeled.

Our congratulations go to the Royal Marines Museum on their 50th anniversary. If we ever needed a reminder of what an excellent facility the Museum is, it has just received a tourism award for the South East Small Visitor Attraction of the Year - well done indeed. We also include an appeal in the Museum’s pages by Major General John Chester OBE detailing the benefits of supporting the Museum by becoming a ‘Friend’ of the Royal Marines Museum. The Museum offers an excellent representation of our heritage and would welcome any help to secure its future.

From all the staff at *The Globe & Laurel*, we thank you for your contributions and support over the past year, and wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year. I am sure that the thoughts of the whole readership will be with those who are deployed or on duty over the Christmas period, and with their families. For those who are deployed, we wish you all a safe return.

Globe & Laurel

Our bi-monthly meeting held on the 14th of February was very well attended with 20 in total including 2 guest visitors. Committee Members were in full regalia for photographs for our web site and a group photo was also taken. Two specific dates were agreed for this calendar year. Our AGM will be held at the Point Chevalier Returned Services Association at 1400 on Saturday the 18th of April and our Corps Birthday Church Service and Luncheon will be held at the Birkenhead Returned Services Association commencing at 1030 on Sunday the 1st of November. Our Aus/NZ Web Site is coming along very nicely and can be viewed at http://www.royalmarinesassociation.org/nz/rma_nz_home.html. Any feedback or contributions would be very much appreciated. Many thanks to Philip Ayling and Colleen Ellis for all their hard work in getting this site up and running. Particular thanks also to our member colleagues in the Australian RMA Branches who have given us so much assistance above and beyond our expectations. We are delighted that one of our younger and more enthusiastic members has returned from his sabbatical to the UK. Steve Ritson (PO53595G & P999420F) has got his job back with the NZ Fire Service and we look forward to seeing him at the AGM. The President of the Exeter Branch, Colonel Peter Babbington CBE MC, is currently doing a 6 week camper van tour of New Zealand with his wife Kay. He will be meeting up with former Royals, Bill Trollope and David Boyd. One of our members was able to meet up with Peter & Kay in Auckland and we were delighted to be presented with the Exeter Branch plaque – hand delivered by the President at the request of the Chairman, Jumper Collings!! Well done Jumper, there is nothing wrong with a bit of upwards delegation. Your gesture and gift is very much appreciated by us all.

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These guys are ex UK Marines that are currently serving with the NZ Defence Force....

David Abbott, Captain RM, Pilot, N029468U and now FLTLT, QFI pilot, RNZAF.

David Boyd, CAPT RM, SC, NO23438A and now LT COL, Infantry, NZ Army.

Darren Broadbent, SGT RM, RM Police, PO42875M and now Cpl, MP, NZ Army

Chalky Carr, Capt RM, GD, NO28536J and now LT CDR, Branch List (Admin), RNZN

Martin Kavanagh, Cpl, PTI, PO53793L and now LPTI, PTI, RNZN (* current member)

Lev Leatherland, CPL RM, HW (Milan), PO43744U and now Fit Sgt, Parachute Jump Instructor, RNZAF.