

C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — September 2018

E-mail: lhmrsta@gmail.com — Website: www.lowerhuttrsa.co.nz

The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA meets on Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm upstairs in the Anzac Lounge at the Petone Workingmen's Club at 47 Udy Street, Petone

RESIGNATION OF OUR INTERIM PRESIDENT:

Following the resignation of Peter Stitt as Interim President of the LHMRSA on 28 August, Lars Millar was appointed by the Executive Committee under provision of Clause 37(c) of the LHMRSA Rules as Interim President with immediate effect through until our AGM on 23 September, 2018.

The Executive Committee further decided to carry the consequential vacancy of Vice President of the Association through until our AGM.

AGM DETAILS:

- Our AGM is scheduled for 10:00am on Sunday, 23 September.
- Notice of Motion Forms will be at Reception at the PWMC from 3 to 7 September and are to be placed in a sealed envelope. A draft template on our notice board explains how this form is to be used.
- Nominations for the Executive Committee will also be at Reception from 3 to 7 September.
- Notices of Motion and Nominations close at 5:00pm on Friday 7 September. These forms are to be placed in the appropriate locked box at Reception at the PWMC. They will be opened by a Returning Officer.

OUR LOCAL WORLD WAR ONE SOLDIERS REMEMBERED:

As the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day approaches in November this year, Keith Garwood has put together a series of articles for our *Connections* newsletter. These articles are based on the presentation Keith made some years ago in our Anzac Lounge. The genesis for his research in 2015 was the 188 World War One men named on the Petone and Lower Hutt Cenotaphs. They are personal accounts of some of our heroes, sets of brothers and other poignant stories.

Captain Clive Franklin Collett, Military Cross and Bar, Royal Flying Corps

Captain Collett worked his passage to England in early 1915 and joined the Royal Flying Corps. He is remembered by his contemporaries as an aggressive pilot who pushed himself and his aircraft to the limit. For his exploits on the Western Front in 1917 Captain Collett was twice awarded the Military Cross for courage on active service.

In addition to operational flying on the Western Front Captain Collett also carried out test flying and experimental work in the United Kingdom. He is credited with having made the first parachute jump



Captain Clive Collett, MC & Bar

from a Royal Flying Corps aircraft in January 1917. He was killed when a captured German Albatros DV fighter he was flying for evaluative purposes crashed into the Firth of Forth in Scotland in December 1917.

Captain Collett is named on the Petone Cenotaph although his address is not known. Prior to his departure for England in 1915 he had completed a course in electrical engineering at Cable's Foundry, Wellington, and it is assumed that he may have lived in Petone during this period.

For further information on Captain Collett see:

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/people/clive-collett>

<http://www.theaerodrome.com/aces/nzealand/collett.php>

No Known Grave

Fifty-five of our World War 1 dead named on the Petone and Lower Hutt Cenotaphs have no known grave. What does this mean? In short it means that an identifiable body has never been found.

The figure of 55 represents about one-third of the of World War 1 soldiers that we have been able to locate military files for and is low compared to the overall total that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has records for. According to 2009 CWGC figures, of the 1.1 million who were killed in action, died of wounds or died of disease or injury, a bit over half are buried as known soldiers with the rest either buried but not identified by name, or lost. Of those with no known grave 188 thousand were buried but not identifiable by name and the rest – a staggering 339 thousand were not buried at all. This latter figure includes those buried at sea.

The reasons for World War 1 soldiers not having known graves reflect the gruesome and chaotic nature of trench warfare fought at close quarters. In many cases remains could not be found or identified. In other cases, soldiers were buried on the battlefield and could not subsequently be located because of chaos, confusion and the moving front.

Our men include at least two examples of what was presumably the chaos and confusion of the moving front.

- Rifleman Thomas Englet of the 4th Battalion of the 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade was killed in action near the Messines Ridge on the 7th of June 1917. Rifleman Englet's military file records that, "We buried him on the morning of the 8th in one of the old German shell trenches. Put up a notice on the spot".
- Corporal Francis Poole of the 1st Rifles Battalion was killed in action near Ypres on the 2nd of December 1917. It is noted in Corporal Poole's military file that, "We buried him on top of the support trench at Ypres and put up a cross. The burial service was conducted by the chaplain".

These men were buried by their comrades, but the graves could not subsequently be located. This is likely to be for reasons such as the enemy retaking the ground, or the graves being obliterated by artillery fire.

Rifleman Englet's life is commemorated on the Messines Ridge New Zealand Memorial. Corporal Poole's life is commemorated on the Buttes New British Cemetery (New Zealand) Memorial.

We will remember them.

ASSISTANCE FOR ALL VETERANS FROM VANZ:

Veterans did you know that you could get the following assistance to help you in your daily life, and also a possible payment to help you enjoy your leisure times, and help you stay in your own home?

Assistance with, and at no cost to you:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and house washing (external only).
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (ramps)
- Furniture modifications
- Attendant care (short term basis only)
- Adaptive clothing and footwear
- Personal alarms (in case of falls, etc)
- Assistance with applications for funding of mobility scooters
- Travel allowances (certain conditions apply)
- Medical costs
- Hearing loss

The above is available to all who served prior to 1st April, 1974 and includes all operational deployments and routine service deployments.

This also covers those who served after 1st April 1974 and served in many theatres, or had routine service since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, you may contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail veterans@nzdf.mil.nz Alternatively you may make an appointment through PWMC/LHM RSA Reception on 568-8588 for one of our Support Team to discuss your circumstances and complete a short "Needs Assessment" form.
Support Team: Dennis Cheetham, Peter Gooch, Lars Millar, David Weston

NEED SOME HELP? CONTACT OUR SUPPORT SERVICES:

The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA offers support services for all Returned and Service members (or their widow / widower, spouse, children, or dependant) and they can apply for a grant for assistance with:

- Doctors' Visits and Prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Hearing Aids
- Specialist Visits
- Funeral Expenses
- As well as home and hospital visits there are a number of Home Help services available too.

If you need support, financial or otherwise, from the Support Team for any contingencies that Government agencies cannot assist you with, please phone 568-8588 and leave your contact details with the office.

