

Despatches Newsletter

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**NATIONAL
ARMY
MUSEUM**
TE MATA TOA

Issue 4. July 2010

WHAT'S NEW'S AT THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM?

NZSAS Opening

Not long after our doors opened our "Friends of the Museum" and invited guests began to arrive. First on the scene was TV3's Mike McRoberts and his cameraman Michael Lacoste



The programme started with an informal morning tea, where our guests met the Museum Director Col (Rtd) Raymond Seymour.

Our guests included: Chief of Defence Force, LtGen Jerry Mateparae; Chief of Army, MajGen Rhys Jones, Deputy Chief of Army, Brig Tim Keating; Maj Sam Hunter; past and present SAS members, and our "Friends of the Museum". It was an absolute delight to meet those "Friends" who were able to attend the opening.



After morning tea, the Director led the way up the ramp to the "Tears on Greenstone" memorial area, where Major Sam Hunter recited the SAS Ode and a moving service was conducted to commemorate the NZSAS soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for their country.

The Director then led the way past the Malaya and Vietnam displays to the Hasset Gallery, where CDF officially opened the exhibition and invited our guests to be the first to enter the mostly covert world of the SAS.

After visiting the exceptional 'SAS - In the pursuit of excellence' Exhibition, guests were treated to a behind the scenes tour to other areas of the Museum to see some extra special goodies brought out in honour of the event; all under the watchful eyes of their passionately devoted keepers I must say!

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Mission At Gettysburg

Chuck Ikins ex-marine is very serious about his hobbies genealogy and history. Chuck went to visit the grave of his great-great-uncle Simeon Ikins at Gettysburg National Cemetery only to find the stone on the grave that was supposedly the resting place of his uncle, read "J C Kent", **who was JC Kent?** This started Chuck on a relentless mission to find his missing uncle; after all the Marines have a motto "Leave no man Behind!"

After four years of searching and data collection it was established that over a period of time the name Simeon Ikins was misspelt, Silkins became JCKens which finally became J.C.Kent.

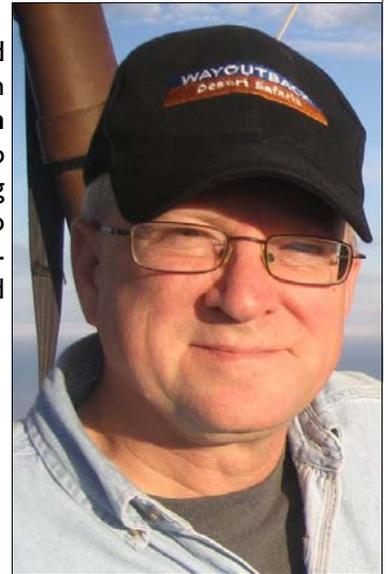
Chuck sent his findings to the presidential Palace in Iraq, an investigation was held and permission was granted to correct the error. It was not long before Chuck was Kneeling down, painting new letters over the name J.C.Kent; to read **Simeon Ikins**. Chuck stood, cited a poem and then asked for a private moment with his long lost uncle.

"**These dead shall not have died in vain**" he whispered, finally an important part of history has been put right!

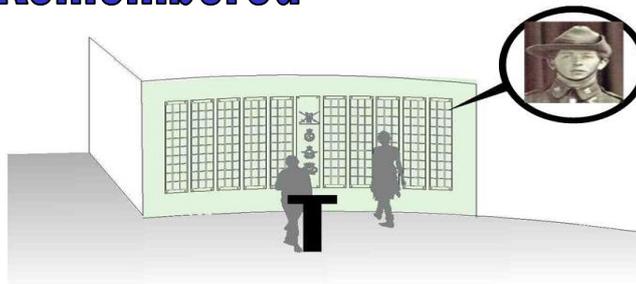
Chuck now visits shops, sales, and antique fairs in hopes of finding memorabilia such as helmets, medals and the like, Chuck researches them and where possible returns them to their rightful families.

How easy it is to forget those who gave their lives in order to give us the freedom we have today! Do we take our freedom for granted and how long will it be until the next time we have to give up our most valued treasures?

Chuck Ikins We need more people like you in this world; **good on you** for not giving up and for respecting your loved one who deserves to be Honoured and Remembered for service to his country.



Honoured and Remembered



Do you have a relative or friend that was killed in the war and is on our Roll of Honour; would you like to remember them?

The National Army Museum has a memorial database called "Tears on Greenstone" which remembers the names of all Armed Services personnel including Merchant Navy who were killed while on active service.

Certificates are available through the Kippenberger Library at a cost of \$10 each, including postage, or you can receive a certificate and place an image of your relative or friend onto the Museum's '**Tears on Greenstone Memorial Wall**' at a cost of \$50 each.

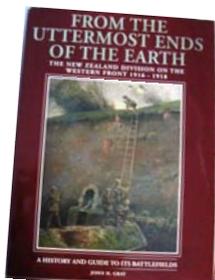
You will need to provide:

- Name
- Photo
- Rank
- Service Number
- Period of Service
- Death and burial details (if known)

Museum Café Under New Management

ESS / Compass Group is delighted to be involved with the National Army Museum Café in Waiouru from 01 July 2010. ESS is dedicated to bringing an improved food and beverage selection and a higher level of customer service to the café. ESS are working closely with the National Army Museum Management team to expand and increase their hospitality services and capabilities to the NZDF, commercial and educational groups and visitors.

ESS is already involved with the NZDF on a number of camps and bases around New Zealand providing top level hospitality services. The National Army Museum café is another area where ESS can work alongside the NZDF to increase the profile of our businesses together. ESS / Compass Group look forward to a long and prosperous partnership in the future with the NZDF and we are excited to have the National Army Museum as part of our team.



Book of the Month:

'FROM THE UTTERMOST ENDS OF THE EARTH'

BY: John H Gray

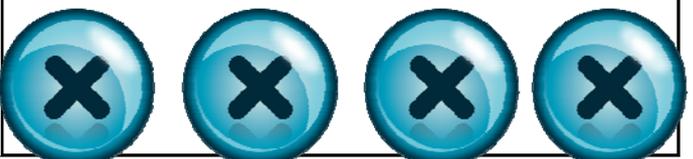
This comprehensive military history can be said to be unique as it also incorporates a detailed logistical guide to the battlefields. This book will be of great value to those planning a visit to where their fore-fathers fought. Great description of the contemporary "Western Front". This book is in the form of a 12-day pilgrimage diary. 135 wartime and contemporary illustrations and 41 maps enhance a moving narrative.

(Book available at our gift shop)

A warm welcome to our new "Friends of the Museum"

Rachel Gillam
Tony Munden
McClellan Family
Zachary Edwards

Liam Puklowski
Suzanne Carter
Lynn McClintock
Daniel Dennes



Moriah College Holocaust Memorial Sculpture

Moriah College need 1,500,000 buttons to build a Holocaust memorial sculpture.

The sculpture will take the form of a maze, symbolizing confusion and panic. The maze walls will be filled with the 1,500,000 buttons, one button for each child murdered during the Holocaust, and the centre of the maze will be lit by a candle surrounded by the words of a Holocaust survivor:

"In a time like the Holocaust its like living in a pitch black room, but every time someone does something for you its like someone coming in and lighting a candle. You need to focus on the light".

The National Army Museum will be supplying a button container in the exhibition . We invite everyone who visits the Museum to bring any spare buttons to put in the button container. These buttons will be forwarded to Moriah College to help them achieve building this fitting memorial to the many children lost in the Holocaust.

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**Check us out
on facebook !**

**We've Been
Blogged....**

Become A “Friend of the Museum”

Support the National Army Museum by becoming a friend.

The National Army Museum was established to show the part played by the NZ Army in the development of the nation and national character.

Your membership with the Friends provides an opportunity to support the National Army Museum. As a registered charitable trust we depend on your generosity, which will provide valuable help towards:

- Conservation, preservation and archiving
- Roll of Honour database and memorial services
- Development of new exhibitions
- Acquisition of artifacts
- Education services
- Other projects

As a friend you will receive:

Membership card
Invitations to selected functions and exhibitions
Updates on what's on and what's coming to the museum
Members newsletters

Please visit our website (www.armymuseum.co.nz) for our prices and enrolment form.



Open daily 9.00am to 4.30pm
(Closed Christmas Day)

State Highway One, Waiouru

www.armymuseum.co.nz

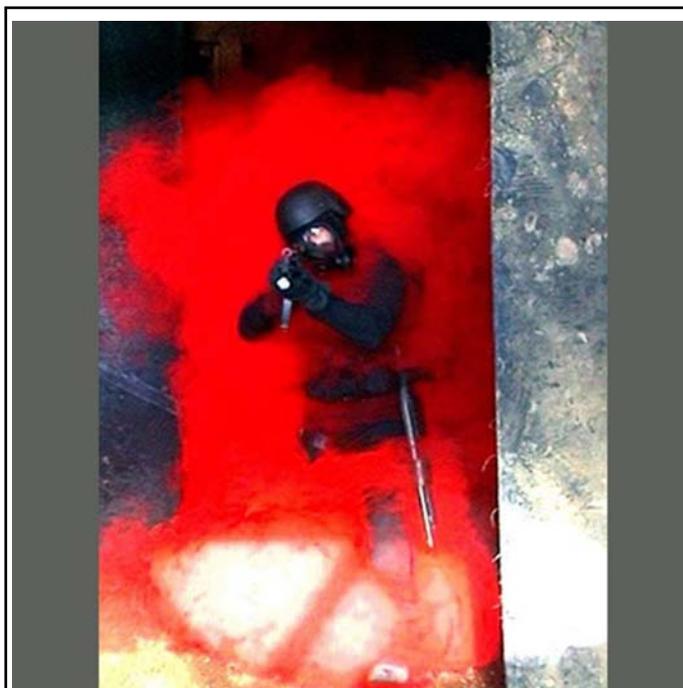
RESEARCH CENTRE, KIDZ HQ, GIFT SHOP, CAFE



Exhibition now open

“ANNE FRANK A HISTORY FOR TODAY”

From 4th August until 3rd November 2010 the “Anne Frank: a History for Today” exhibition runs in the [Freyberg Gallery](#). This touring exhibition from the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam has travelled through 150 cities last year including China, Guatemala, and the Ukraine. The universal appeal of Anne Frank’s story unfolds through her diary. The exhibition provides a chronology of events from the rise of Nazi Germany in 1933 through to the persecution of Jews as part of Hitler’s final solution. It is thought provoking, shocking and will impact on all generations who visit the National Army Museum. An interactive message board means visitors will be encouraged to use their cell phones to leave messages.



The SAS Exhibition Now Open