



RE-ENACTMENT

MANUAL OF

ELEMENTARY TRAINING

2nd N.Z.E.F. 1939-1945

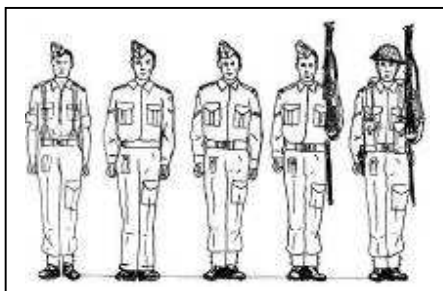


N.Z. SECTION

W.W.2 Historical Re-enactment Society
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CONTENTS

2. INTRODUCTION
3. STANDING ORDERS
4. TRAINING SCHEDULE
6. STANDING ORDERS OF DRESS AND ARMS
7. UNIFORM AND INSIGNIA
8. SECTION UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS
9. SERVICE DRESS AND KHAKI DRILL
10. BATTLE DRESS UNIFORM
11. UNIFORMS AND HEADGEAR
12. UNIFORMS AND HEADGEAR
13. UNIFORMS OF NZ FORCES
14. UNIFORMS OF NZ FORCES (PACIFIC)
15. QUARTERMASTERS STORES
16. INSIGNIA
17. RANK



18. COLOUR INSIGNIA
19. FREYBURG AND THE DIVISION
20. COMMAND ORGANISATION
21. BRIGADE LAYOUT
22. COMMUNICATIONS
23. THE EVOLUTION OF COMMONWEALTH TACTICS
24. THE EVOLUTION OF COMMONWEALTH TACTICS
25. SMALL UNIT TACTICS
26. BATTLE TECHNIQUES
27. CASUALTY EVACUATION
28. CASUALTY EVACUATION
29. MILITARY PROTOCOL
30. FOOT DRILL
31. ARMS DRILL
32. ARMS DRILL (BAYONETS)
33. S.M.L.E. RIFLE
34. BREN GUN, THOMPSON SMG, VICKERS
35. BAYONET, REVOLVERS, STEN GUN, BROWNING MMG
36. ORDNANCE AND SUPPORT WEAPONS
37. ARTILLERY
38. VEHICLES
39. BREN CARRIERS
40. 37 PAT WEBBING
41. 37 PAT WEBBING
42. EXTRA KIT
43. RATIONS AND SMALL PACK
44. NEW ZEALANDS WAR EFFORT- CHARTS AND TABLES
45. GETTING IT RIGHT –SOME COMMON CONFUSIONS
46. CARING FOR KIT
47. GLOSSARY
48. GLOSSARY
49. BIBLIOGRAPHY
50. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



PHOTO BY CLIFF TUCKEY/ KEVIN CARBERRY

WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND TRAINING & REFERENCE MANUAL

AN INTRODUCTION.

At first glance the New Zealand soldier in the Second World War resembled any Commonwealth soldier. From a distance of 20 yards they looked no different from Australian, Canadian, or British troops unless they happened to be wearing their 'lemon squeezers'. Upon coming closer the differences would become more obvious, perhaps at a distance of 5 yards the distinctive 'NZ' Onward badges would be recognisable and no doubt the New Zealand shoulder tabs would be able to be read.

However something else would be obvious too... these men had an easy way about them, they were there to get a job done and they didn't take too kindly to be given the army bull. This was the sign of two things, the first being that for the most part, these men were civilians turned soldiers and they acted as such, dealing with army bureaucracy and structure with respect but also a lot of scepticism. The second factor was that these men came from an egalitarian society, seeing their officers as senior rather than superior. The antipodean background made these men resourceful -as New Zealand was a long way from the rest of the world. If they didn't have the right gear or resources for the job, they improvised and got the job done anyway. This attitude explains how the Kiwis often persevered when the odds were against them.

If you were to talk to these men you would find themselves proud to be New Zealanders but also proud to be from Auckland, or Otago or Wellington, because these men were drawn into regional units and there was a slight suspicion of people from other districts, as with other nationalities. In those days someone from Christchurch was as likely to have been to London as Auckland. New Zealand at the time was a small place with only a million and a half people thinly spread out across a handful of towns and districts; therefore these men serving together would no doubt have to look each other in the eye in civvy street, so there was a strong loyalty not to let their mates down.

This manual has been compiled to give a broad view of the Kiwi troops in WW2, it covers some of the things that they had to learn, they had to use and had to wear. The manual has been tailored for those involved in re-enactment but may be of interest as a general reference for the N.Z.E. F. during WW2.

Deliberately, the manual concerns itself only with the army and also references the British forces, as we were structured and equipped on British army lines. General Freyberg, Commander of the New Zealanders in the 2nd NZEF fought long and hard to keep a degree of autonomy for the New Zealanders fighting as part of the Commonwealth armies and on the whole he managed that pretty well. New Zealand deployed a full strength division, three provisional home defence divisions (which also trained NZEF reinforcements), additionally New Zealand deployed garrison units to the Pacific and a two brigade combat division for a limited campaign in the Solomon Islands, these other formations will only be briefly referenced here.

This manual covers some of the basic history, uniforms, insignia, drill, tactics, weapons and field craft that the average New Zealand soldier knew as second nature. It is my hope that perhaps some of this information will be interesting and helpful to you.

DAVID GUNSON 2012

Photo: Cliff Tuckey



RE-ENACTING THE NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER.

For a person of the 21st century re-enacting a person of the mid 20th century during a specific time and place, we need to go to some effort, to ensure that the portrayal is respectful, authentic, and accurate. All over the world, the hobby of Second World War re-enactment is extremely popular and as New Zealanders we are fortunate to have had wealth of veterans, books and references, this along with a fair abundance of original uniforms and equipment and the high level of firearms ownership makes re-enacting W.W.2 very achievable.

UNIT STRUCTURE.

It is usual for a single section to form for local events which often falls between 6-10 men. When sections come together for national events manpower may be redistributed to operate certain weapons or perform specific tasks (support weapons section -operating Vickers or 2" / 3" mortar/ AT weapon.) The standard breakdown of a full strength W.W.2 section is a rifle squad (7) and an L.M.G. squad (3) but due to 'casualties' a re-enactor section may be less men. When operating with other re-enactment groups, the 'host' group (or larger group) shall have precedence, when the smaller group has an officer of higher rank he shall be deemed the C.O. but the other group shall be routinely organised by their own officers or N.C.O.s. at there discretion.

AUTHENTICITY.

New members are encouraged to get their B.D. uniform and '37 equipment as soon as possible after joining. Until that time, unit members may lend some spare clothing etc., to get the recruit underway. Some custom-made reproduction items are available via overseas mail order. Post war '50's pattern tunics are common and are similar to 40's pattern except for the collar, these tunics need to be converted to 'stand and fall' collars for re-enacting. They are usually sized quite small as most surviving examples are ex cadet forces.

'50's pattern trousers will also need conversion, the relocation of the map pocket being a first step. Most eyelet black ankle boots are allowed as anklets cover most anomalies however proper hobnailed ankle boots should be sought at first opportunity. No modern items are to be brought inside a display area at an event. Members who wear spectacles should seek a set of period frames or contact lenses. Hair should be kept of reasonably short length (off the collar). Surprisingly, records show a broad selection of ages even within combat units. Re-enactors should be careful however to not gain too much weight as it works against authenticity. Only authorised insignia may be worn, unless on a specific collector display uniform.

Those with recent military experience will note that drill commands may differ from their service days. A great deal of effort has gone into researching New Zealand drill from the 1940's period and it is the forerunner of what they maybe familiar with.

CONDUCT.

All members undergo a probationary period upon joining. The society has specific safety rules in effect at all times and any infraction or anti-social behaviour may result in suspension of membership. The society is an organized hobby and not a Para-military organisation, that said, standard military protocol will be observed in any public/formal situation.

WEAPONS.

The standard arm is .303 S.M.L.E. MKIII, and 07 bayonet. All combatant members are expected to attain a firearms licence and S.M.L.E. within 12 months of joining. Other weapons may be used if the owner has the appropriate licence, or is authorised by a theatrical armoured, pyrotechnican or range officer. At all times NZ Police firearms laws and rules are in effect.

TURNOUT.

For parades and other events, a high standard of turnout is required. Boots, brass buckles and badges to be polished. For tactical events or 'battles' members are welcome to 'field modify' their turnout along authentic lines. Steel helmets are required for events using pyrotechnics. To qualify for service stripes, promotions and appointments, a regular attendance of events and training days must be made.



Khaki drill uniforms: Note the tailored short sleeves of the rifleman, the rifle sling used on the Thompson SMG and the hessian sacking and looped cover under the helmet netting.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training falls into three divisions. Additionally N.C.O.s are expected to attain a broader level of ability and knowledge.

PARADE, FOOT and RIFLE DRILL

Fall in and right dress. Open and close ranks. Stand at ease. Attention. Left and Right turn. Marching. Halting. About turn. Mark time. Saluting. Breaking rank. Dismiss. WITH ARMS: Stand at ease. Attention. Slope arms. Marching. Salute with rifle. Order arms, Present Arms, Examine arms, Port arms. Trail arms. Fixing and unfixing Bayonets.

FIELD AND WEAPONS SKILLS

Field tactics. Patrolling formations. Hand signals. Camouflage. Live fire a .303 at a range. Volley fire drill. S.M.L.E. rifle and demonstrate correct loading and stoppage drill and safety. Support weapon operation. Assembly of tents, Field cookery, First aid, Casualty evacuation, Navigation and signals, Vehicle operation. Firearms code.

HERITAGE

Campaign history of New Zealand forces in W.W.2. Uniforms and insignia. Weapons development. Military Protocol. Museum field trips. Lectures and talks. Veterans interaction.

TRAINING DAYS (Dates and Location as arranged)

Monthly society meetings Parade and inspection followed by training scheme.

DRESS REGULATIONS as per W.W. 2

- 1) Shirt sleeve Order: B.D. /K.D. trousers, khaki shirt (sleeves rolled), braces, belt, anklets & cap.
- 2) Walking out Dress: Battle Dress (ironed) without anklets or web belt. Headdress as ordered.*
- 3) Belt Order: As above but with web belt and anklets. Headdress as ordered.*
- 4) Drill Order: As in belt order but with bayonet on belt and with rifle. Headdress as ordered.*
- 5) Battle Order: Battle dress with full web equipment, anklets, steel helmet and rifle.



Left to Right: Walking out dress, Drill order and Battle Order.

(* The usual headdress is the Lemon squeezer. Occasionally the helmet, F.S. cap, G.S. cap, or Beret may be required.)

In Belt Order, Drill Order, all brass (badges, buckles) and boots must be highly polished. When in Battle Order, brass does not need to be polished unless specifically ordered. During summer, K.D. may be worn as an option to battledress. 'Summer' operates during 'during Daylight saving.' K.D. may be specifically ordered on occasion. Consisting of K.D. shorts (or trousers) and shirt, hose tops, and short puttees. Belt, webbing and headdress are as per standing orders. Rain capes, greatcoats and jerkins are at the owner's choice, depending on weather or circumstances. Black armbands should be worn at funeral services where uniforms are specifically requested.

WEAPONS SAFETY

As stated in the H.R.S. rules, weapons safety is a priority for club members. At all times the police firearms rules are in effect. No rifle is to be left unattended. Weapons are to be secure when moving to and from an event. If a rifle is passed to you -check it is unloaded before accepting it. Bayonets will not be unsheathed without direct instruction to do so. Weapons will not be loaded at a display battle until the commander or NCO has given the orders...

'BOMB UP!

Collect ammunition and pre-load magazines.

'CHARGE MAGAZINES!

Attach magazines to weapons or insert ammunition stripper clips.

'LOAD WEAPONS!

Load first round into breech (engage safety catch).

'ENEMY TARGETS (100 YARDS) OPEN FIRE!'

Release safety, identify target and fire.

THREE WHISTLE BLASTS:

Cease-fire immediately! End of battle signal or emergency.

'FORM UP AND CLEAR WEAPONS FOR INSPECTION'

Formal end of battle, weapons safety check.

'EMU AND PICK UP BRASS!'

Methodical battle site check for discarded rounds or cartridges.

GROOMING

When at a public event, authentic grooming is highly encouraged. Hair should be kept off the collar and without conspicuous sideboards, the chin; clean-shaven. Moustaches of moderate length permitted.

AWARDS SYSTEM and INSIGNIA for Re-enactors

Insignia, Rank and Awards reflect those of World War Two. It operates as follows.

Standard Insignia. New Zealand shoulder slides on epaulettes. Brigade patch, one inch from the top of both shoulders. N.Z. 'Onward' badge on cap.

Rank Chevrons. In worsted material worn on the right sleeve, mid-bicep. Parade tunics may have rank on both sleeves. Rank can be obtained through service to unit, knowledge, and leadership skills, the size of the unit will dictate how many officer or N.C.O. positions are available.

Service Chevrons. These are to be awarded singularly on two years continuous service, up to a maximum of five years. These are to be worn an inch above the cuff on the right sleeve. pointing upwards. A North African service medal ribbon is permitted for NCOs over six years of re-enacting. An NZ Service ribbon can be awarded for act(s) of outstanding service to the society and be worn on parade dress.

Wound Stripe Worn above left sleeve cuff and awarded for any injury received at a re-enactor event that requires immediate professional medical attention.

Medals. May be worn only on ANZAC Day or Armistice Day. Ex-service men may wear their own awards. Members wearing medals *on behalf* of a veteran may only do so above their right breast pocket. Ex-Service men may wear own ribbon bars on formal occasions. A poppy is to be worn on ANZAC and Armistice Day attached to the lemon squeezer puggaree.



Service hat -felt (lemon squeezers), General Service, Field Service Cap and MkII Helmets with wide and narrow netting.



Headgear

The standard HRS parade headgear is the lemon squeezer (4 indents) with brass onward badge and infantry (khaki /red /khaki) puggaree. Caps FS. /GS may be worn at all other times. MkII Steel helmets are to be worn in battle specifically where pyrotechnics are used. Solar Topees, balaclavas, tankers berets can also be worn with relevant kit or circumstance.

NZ SECTION UNIFORM INITIAL REQUIREMENTS:

STEEL HELMET MK 2
 CAP F.S. FIELD SERVICE OR G.S. GENERAL SERVICE (W/ NZ ONWARD BADGE)
 BATTLEDRESS BLOUSE 40s PATTERN* (W/ BRIGADE FLASH)
 BATTLEDRESS TROUSERS 40's PATTERN* AND BUTTON UP SUSPENDERS
 ANKLETS (PAIR)
 BLACK LACE UP ANKLE BOOTS
 KHAKI DRILL SHIRT
 37 PATTERN WEBBING including AMMUNITION POUCHES X2
 WATER BOTTLE AND WEBBING HOLDER
 BRACES X2
 SMALL PACK BRACES
 SMALL PACK

07 BAYONET, SCABBARD AND FROG

*Converted 50's pattern battledress acceptable

SECONDARY REQUIREMENT:

37' PATTERN PARADE BELT GREATCOAT -DOUBLE BREASTED DISMOUNTED PATTERN
 KHAKI DRILL SHORTS OR TROUSERS HOSE TOPS AND SHORT PUTTEES (PAIR)
 RAIN CAPE MESS TIN AND CUP K.F.S
 FELT HAT -LEMON SQUEEZER AND INFANTRY PUGGAREE

OPTIONAL:

LEATHER JERKIN	KHAKI WOOL JERSEY	RESPIRATOR AND SACHEL
ENTRENCHING TOOL	LARGE PACK	SOLAR TOPEE
G.S. CAP	SERVICE DRESS	BREN UTILITY POUCHES
KITBAG	BALACLAVA	G.S. SHOVEL



A platoon from the forestry section NZEF based in Britain, visited here by NZ Prime Minister Peter Fraser in 1940. Of interest are the British issue battle dress, respirators in alert position and lemon squeezers (service hat, felt). Note the black wool singlet, an icon of NZ rural life. These men were mostly drawn from experienced lumber workers.

Photo courtesy of Tony Price

KHAKI DRILL AND SERVICE DRESS

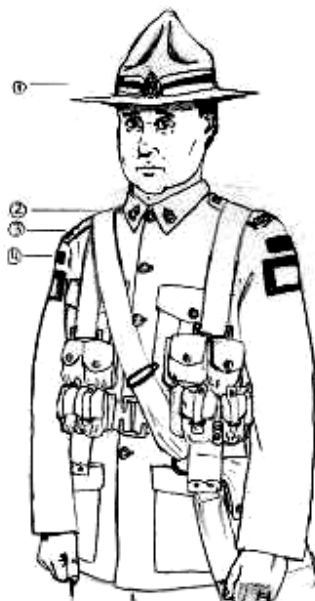
At the outbreak of war, the New Zealand troops wore a tailored version of the W.W. I Service Dress, this was to remain the standard uniform of the troops until the introduction of Battle dress in 1940. It consisted of Lemon squeezer hat, four pocket tunic, trousers, 08 webbing and trousers (without puttees for parades). Until quantities of B.D. became available, Service Dress was also issued to troops on home defence, for Reservists and Home Guard units. Officers S.D. was in baratheia cloth and had an open collar and finer tailoring. These were retained as a full dress uniform during the war.

On their arrival in the Middle East, NZEF men received Khaki Drill cotton shorts and shirt with a solar topee, which supplemented their 'Bombay bloomers' issued during the mid-point stopover in India. The bloomers were developed as a long pair of shorts that reached the calf and could be folded up when protection from insects was not necessary. Over time, most of these giant 'turn ups' were tailored to conventional shorts.

The Lemon squeezer hat was still in common use up until mid 1942, being used in conjunction with the less popular topee. Drivers and non infantry troops would also wear F.S. caps. No specific K. D. forms of headdress existed beside the topee but some Officers acquired Khaki covers for their S.D. caps (which were officially frowned upon). Officers were also issued a K.D. version of the S.D. uniform with brass insignia as a best dress. The K.D. shirts only insignia was rank and N.Z. slides, but duty armbands were worn in the usual manner. Shirts and shorts often faded white after extended use and though comfortable, they provided little protection from the elements especially in the pacific theatre. Khaki drill trousers were later introduced and issued to all troops. Items of K.D. continued to be worn during the hot summers in Italy and later universally by members of J-Force. New Zealand shirts were made in both half button and full button styles. Detachable epaulettes as seen in standard British issue were less common. Kiwis also privately acquired American shirts for leave as these shirts were smart and comfortable (brown in colour). A Khaki Drill four pocket shirt was issued with trousers for the pacific and a local pattern camouflage consisting of green and brown paint was sprayed directly on the uniforms used by combat units. This scheme quickly muted to provide a highly effective camouflage.

This Private wears other ranks S.D., 08 webbing, and slung respirator haversack as he would have looked on arrival in Britain 1940.

1. Lemon Squeezer with NZ Onward badge and Infantry puggaree.
2. Brass Onward collar badges
3. NZ Rifles brass shoulder insignia
4. Battalion patch 1st pattern



Khaki Drill shirt and shorts as worn in the desert. The shorts followed similar construction to B. D. trousers but with the waistband addition of two narrow strap and buckle fastenings.



England 1940. Before the first issue of B.D. these troops display examples of early war service dress worn with the respirators, here seen in 'alert' position. Of note are the early style insignia flashes, Boys .55 anti tank rifle (which was already outclassed) and unscrimed helmets, possibly to assist in mustard gas decontamination.

BATTLE DRESS

Battle dress was first issued to New Zealand troops in the 2nd Echelon who had diverted to Great Britain in 1940. Their S.D. uniforms were exchanged for this new uniform that had been adopted by the British Army three years previous. It consisted of a blouse (jacket) of wool serge which reached to the hip, a pair of trousers that were roomy with a high waist. The first pattern had concealed buttons and hooks or a button-over collar tab (particularly NZ manufactured B.D.). The blouse had two pleated patch pockets and two internal cotton drill pockets. The trousers featured a map pocket on the front left leg and a small pocket for a shell dressing close to the waistband on the right leg with two slit and one flap pockets on the sides and back. The tunic attached to the trousers by 3 buttons at the rear. Early British pattern trousers had a button tab that gathered the trouser leg together. Although this feature was later discontinued, photographic evidence shows the tabs were popular with tank crew.

The entire 2nd division had been issued NZ B.D.s for redeployment to Greece. New Zealand made Battle dress continued to be made in the first pattern style while the British turned to the Economy pattern with exposed buttons and no pocket pleats, these rarely turned up in N.Z. stores. Generally two issues of B.D. were made, one being kept aside for parade dress and known by Kiwis as 'gropie mochas' (see glossary). Out of the eye of the RSM it was not unknown for some men to replace the facing battledress buttons with brass NZ forces buttons and even privately purchased officers S.D. caps for preferential treatment by civilians. During 1945 permission was given for the ironing back of the collar on the best B.D. set allowing the wearing of a tie. Some officers had these permanently tailored.

The head gear worn with this uniform was either the Lemon squeezer/ F.S. cap or from 1943 G.S. cap and in combat, the steel helmet. Although British forces had an issue of B.D. in khaki denim as a work dress there is little evidence to suggest that it was issued to the Kiwis. Although B.D. was unglamorous, it proved itself as a practical wartime dress provided it was sized correctly, by the end of the war both the German and U.S. forces had versions of their own. In the 1950's a new pattern was introduced the differences being the tunics tailored open collar and the modified trousers having buckled waist cinches, a fly with a tab, deleted belt loops and dressing pocket, an additional flap pocket on the seat, and the map pocket relocated to the side of the left leg.



1. General service cap with NZ Onward badge and black cloth diamond
2. New Zealand Shoulder slides (tabs)
3. Brigade flash
4. Rank (Corporal) walking out dress both sleeves.
5. War Service Chevrons
6. Wound Stripe



Troops on inspection. A 2nd Division soldier in standard BD, dressed for combat. The first field dressing pocket is below the waist band and the map pocket (both patch style) is on the front thigh. Some examples have had these pockets removed for dress wear. Suspenders are vital for correct wearing of high waist pants.

UNIFORMS AND HEADGEAR OF THE 2nd NZEF



MK2 Helmet chinstraps were issued in three patterns during the war. The 1st version had webbing buckled to two cotton sleeves which contained springs. The whole arrangement clipped into lugs riveted to the helmet. The springs aided prevention of whiplash from concussion. A second version used narrowed helmet attachments. A third pattern introduced mid 1941 comprised of elasticised cotton with wire loop and simple buckle which attached to the helmet. The chinstrap might be worn over the rim of the helmet or behind the head if vigorous activity was not anticipated.

PHOTO: BRENDAN O'CARROLL



UNIFORMS USED BY THE 2nd N.Z.E.F.

- 1) The beret was introduced for Div Cav and Armoured units in black from 1942 and in khaki for Officers (Colonels and above) and motorised infantry in 1944. The badge had a shaped cloth backing which was red for the armoured corps and the 22 motorised Btn and green for Div Cav. The khaki beret for the officers (Lt. Colonel and above) who were not in these units wore a black diamond shaped backing as used on the G.S. cap.
- 2) The General Service cap was worn by all troops that did not wear the beret from mid 1944 and superseded the F.S. cap. The cap was shaped like the beret except that its construction of firm cloth panels made it a difficult hat to shape and wear properly, which explains its general unpopularity amongst the troops. Photos show it being worn in all manner of rakish angles and only in parades does any effort seem to have been made for a uniform turnout. 21 battalion somehow retained their F.S. caps for working dress long after G.S. caps had become universal issue elsewhere.
- 3) Solar Topee Pith helmet as worn by forces in the Middle East from 1940-41. It was to be worn for sun protection when F.S. caps or steel helmets were not ordered. The hat is made from cork and cloth and has no ballistic protection whatsoever. New Zealanders wore the 'Onwards' badge on the front.
- 4) Officer wearing Service Dress cap and jersey and K.D. trousers and shirt. Field officers were generally supposed to wear identical uniform to other ranks except for rank insignia. However officers often wore the S.D. cap when not actually parading, or in action with the troops.
- 5) A member of the N.Z.W.A.A.C. -Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, these women performed administrative, canteen, and hospital duties in N.Z. and overseas. They were nicknamed the 'Tuis' like their predecessors of the Women's Service Corps who sent a detachment to Egypt in 1941. By 1944, the W.A.A.C had 200 women serving overseas. Back in N.Z. they performed many other duties as staff, drivers, signalers, AA gunners, chefs and decoders. This Tui wears an S.D. tunic and 'akubra' style felt hat. But they also wore KD's and BDs depending on their function, posting and season.
- 6) The official full dress uniform for officers remained the Service Dress in either K.D. material for use in the middle east or the standard S.D. for temperate conditions. The lemon squeezer was considered impractical and was gradually phased out as general headdress in the 2nd N.Z.E.F. except on parade and embarkation. It was, however, retained by home forces and some units in the pacific.
- 7) A Private who has stripped down to the bare necessities to go night patrolling. He has dispensed with helmet, webbing and boots. Instead, replacing them with a rolled cap comforter, cotton bandolier and army issue plimsols to enable him to move quickly and quietly. He also wears a leather jerkin over his B.D. as protection against the elements. He wears no insignia and has camouflaged exposed skin with a burnt cork. He has removed the sling from his rifle to eliminate its sometimes tell-tale pale reflective quality.
- 8) A private in Khaki drill shirt and shorts, equipped with rifle, small pack, webbing and a MkII helmet with netting. This soldier carries a shell dressing under the netting an increasingly common practice after 1942. He wears hose tops over his socks and short puttees to cover the boot tops. Troops carried the G.S. shovel and pick between the pack and back, the most convenient but least uncomfortable place.



A selection of Kiwi soldiers in a leather jerkin, khaki drill and battledress. The 'battle bowler' was a distinctive shape for the Commonwealth soldier but judging by contemporary photographs surprisingly rarely camouflaged with anything other than netting or hessian cloth. New Zealand made 60,000 rimless MKII helmets in the war and they are now quite collectable. Stamped (NPZ II/1941) New Zealand Pressings Mark II 1941

UNIFORMS OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES

New Zealand troops serving in a variety of climates and seasons. The standard British Battle dress uniform was fine for temperate conditions but as the weather became inclement the soldier would put on a jersey, gloves greatcoat, wool lined leather jerkin, rain cape or even snow smock. Although most armies grappled with finding uniforms for modern war in primitive conditions, The Battle Dress idea was for a single universal outfit that could be enhanced by other protective or insulating clothing for infantry, tankers, motorised troops, dispatch riders, aircrew, ski troops, paratroops, commandoes, staff officers and women.



1. Armoured vehicle crewmen in Italy wore no specialised tank suit like their counterparts in North-Western Europe. They generally wore the standard uniform of the 2nd Div, which was B.D., or K.D. as season dictated. Sometimes tank crew wore a khaki drill set of driver's overalls for comfort when working in the tank. Headdress was the black beret with a red backing behind the 'Onward' badge. This particular crewman wears K.D. shirt with B.D. trousers and a 'tankers' holster on a belt. He also has goggles for eye protection against dust. Some crew wore tankers helmets or the 'scrum cap', which carried headphones. Photographic evidence shows that an unofficial fashion existed for 'acquired' tankers helmets for a short time late in the Italian campaign by some members of the Maori battalion.
2. The MK VII rain cape/groundsheet of this soldier provided the rudiments of protection against wet weather but it was prone to tearing, leaks and was difficult to wear. The rain cape /groundsheet was first issued in brown and later in green, and as one character commented, "often had the appearance and smell of boiled spinach". In the last months of fighting in Italy, German 'Italian camouflage' zelt covers were converted in small numbers into sleeveless smocks for a short time by Kiwis and some other Commonwealth units.
3. In Greece, Crete, Tunisia, and Italy soldiers wore Battle Dress uniform, as the most common fighting attire its weave and construction allowed dissipation of body heat, which was useful during activity but was a disadvantage when temperatures cooled. This Lance-Corporal carries a Thompson S.M.G. and a Bren gun tool wallet. He wears brigade / rank insignia and wound stripe on the left forearm.
4. This New Zealand soldier wears kit issued at the 9th Army ski school in Syria, where New Zealanders were posted for a short time in 1941. This was a precaution in case of the Germans advancing south from the Soviet Union. He wears peaked cap, ski goggles, angora shirt, white hooded oversmoke and trousers, and he carries an early pattern white Bergen pack, '37 webbing (white washed) and wooden skis.
5. The dismounted 1940 pattern greatcoat as worn by 'Other Ranks' here being worn over Battle dress and with Lemon squeezer. The coat was double breasted and long enough for it to reach to the knees, the collar could be worn open or closed. Early patterns were single breasted.
6. The officer's greatcoat was generally shorter and open collared only. The left side had an opening for enabling the wearing of a sword when on parade. The great coat retained (as did officers Service Dress) brass or metal insignia and rank.

2nd N.Z.E.F. (I.P.) UNIFORMS

The advance of the Japanese in Asia meant that New Zealand troops would be sent to station some Pacific islands. This force was called the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force (In the Pacific). Initially a garrison force centred on Fiji, it later acquired two infantry brigades with support units which became the 3rd Division. This unit trained in New Caledonia and fought in the Guadalcanal campaign in the Solomon Island group at Vella Lavella, Treasury and Nissan Islands where they were tasked with mopping up isolated Japanese garrisons from September 1943 to February 1944, before being disbanded to provide replacements for the 2nd Division fighting in the Italian campaign and essential industry manpower at home.



1. This man is stripped to the waist, as many photos document, troops in the Solomons regularly wore no shirts in the tropical conditions, no doubt he has liberally dosed himself in insect repellent. It was official policy that no shorts were to be worn any further north than New Caledonia for the prevention of insect borne tropical diseases.
2. This Lance-Corporal wears the US first pattern fatigue hat (Daisy Mae) which resembled the post-war bush hat except for lack of camouflage loops. He wears the standard K.D. shirt and trousers.
3. K.D. uniforms were spray painted camouflage for the front line units of the 3rd Division and were a mixture of green and brown, which quickly faded to produce a muted blend of camouflage. He wears a herringbone twill fatigue cap of American design that resembles a train driver's cap. He carries his steel helmet and '37 pat webbing. The four-pocket K.D. jacket issued in the Pacific theatre has replaced his K.D. shirt.
4. This officer wears K.D. shirt and trousers of the 1941 period. At this time units based in Fiji and Norfolk Island were just as likely to wear K.D. shirts and shorts as their counterparts in North Africa. Lemon squeezers were still worn commonly in the Pacific and New Zealand long after they had been returned to stores elsewhere. NZEFIP troops who were attached to the 3rd Division wore N.Z. shoulder slides with letters in black on khaki from December 1943 onwards. The rest of the NZEFIP wore red letters on khaki.

INSIGNIA AND RANK

The New Zealand Army's badge system was similar to that of the British army. All troops wore the 'Onward' (Universal) badge on headdress on overseas service, and retaining their regimental brass insignia for home service.

Cloth national titles 'New Zealand' stitched in white capitals on a black loop strip, which were introduced with Battledress, replaced the brass formation insignia worn on the Service dress. These slip on epaulette loops or tabs were either embroidered in cotton or in late war examples printed. Examples of silver bullion cord have been recorded and were most likely to be used on 'Groppie Mocas'. These nationality slides were worn on overseas service and troops on furlough. White letters on black for service in the 2nd NZEF, red letters stitched/printed on tan khaki for the 2nd NZEF (IP), whilst 3rd Div units of the NZEF (IP) wore black printed on tan khaki. Some photos (especially 2nd echelon in Britain) show examples sown directly to the shoulder of the sleeve; this was prohibited on army battledress by 1942.

Formation badges developed from brass titles of WW1 vintage in 1939, through a complex unit badge of overlaid multi shaped cloth. (1940) and finally a simpler second pattern, a patch of coloured felt denoting the arm of service and it's shape identified formation.

The lower sleeves carried warrant officer insignia if required and service stripes issued red on Khaki denoting each year of war service to be worn on the right sleeve. These were not issued until 1944.

A 'gold braid' wound stripe was awarded for a combat injury. This was worn on the lower left sleeve. NCO Rank insignia was worn on right sleeves for combat dress and both sleeves permitted for other dress. Brass insignia for officers was limited to Service dress and greatcoats. Officer's battledress had cloth khaki general service 'pips' in worsted thread. These pips sometimes attached to rank slides to sit over the epaulette to facilitate laundering. When units were embarked, or redeployed all identifying unit insignia was to be removed or covered, often these badges were not replaced on arrival especially in frontline service.

RIGHT: A Captain's Khaki drill rank slide. NZ shoulder tabs for 3rd and 2nd Divisions. Onward badge for Officers Service Dress lapel. LRDG tab. Service chevron for one year's active service. K.D. sergeants stripes for use on the K.D. shirt.

BELOW: Captain 5th brigade 2nd Div, 2nd NZEF.



ABOVE: Warrant Officer 2nd class wristband for wear with rolled shirtsleeves.

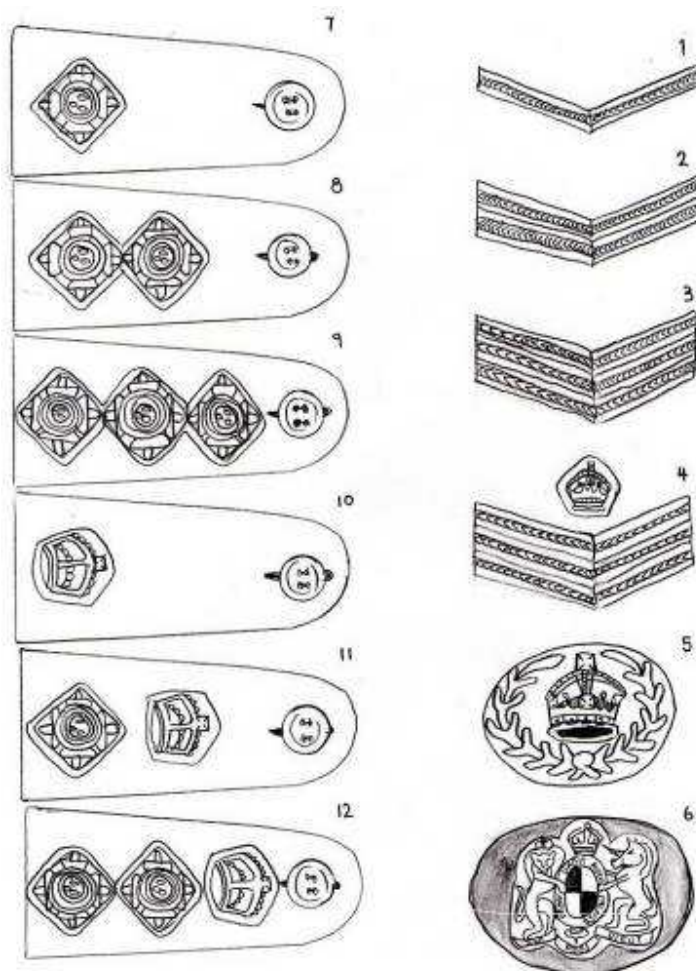
BELOW: Corporal's B.D. rank chevrons.



RANK AND INSIGNIA

The New Zealand Expeditionary Force though only a small formation used a wealth of insignia to distinguish units, roles and positions. Apart from rank and unit there existed entitlements of which there were many forms including Armbands and brassards for M.P.s, Dispatch Riders and for the early part of the war for Duty and Staff Officers. Chaplains wore additional distinguishing cloth bands of purple around the shoulder. LRDG troops had a black loop with red initials. War correspondents wore white lettering on a green band. The many welfare services also wore cloth epaulette titles.

Although not technically insignia, every lemon squeezer hat had a puggaree hatband in arm of service colours. Some arm of service flashes were used during early deployments on the side of the solar topee and on the Lemon squeezer in the Pacific.



Brass badges. Clockwise:
NZ 'Onward' badge. Hauraki
Regt cap badge. Button from
greatcoat/ Service Dress.
Auckland Regt. Major's rank
crown. Of note is the W.W.2
period 'Kings Crown' which
are distinct from postwar
'Queens Crown' post 1953.

RANK

1. Lance corporal
2. Corporal
3. Sergeant
4. Staff Sgt. C.Q.M.S.
5. W.O.2 C.S.M. R.Q.M.S
6. W.O.1 R.S.M..
7. 2nd Lieutenant
8. Lieutenant
9. Captain
10. Major
11. Lt. Colonel
12. Colonel

In active service units, colonels were graded up to Brigadiers. Direct control of battalions was by Lt. Colonels. Brigades were run by Brigadiers, Divisions by a Major General, Corps by Lt. Generals. A General commanded an Army. While a Field-Marshal ran an Army Group.



Two men of 5th brigade, the wireless operator carries a No 48 set with helmet and slung rifle. The officer also carries a GS spade and groundsheet. His bottle cover is the later pattern while the operators is the early pattern.



Below: A Bren gunner wearing KD shirt and Lemon squeezer with infantry puggaree.



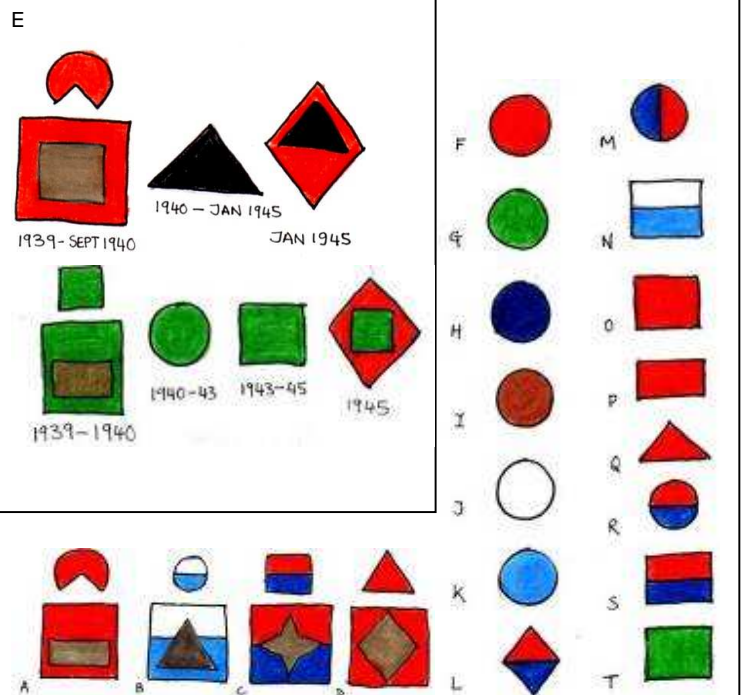
DIVISIONAL MARKINGS

These symbols were used on vehicles, stationery and signage. **A-** 2nd NZEF HQ **B-** 2nd NZ division, non divisional vehicles for a short time carried the fern leaf in reversed colours. **C-** 3rd NZ division (Pacific theatre) **D-** 2nd NZEF (IP) **E-G** Home service 1st, 4th and 5th Divisions. Each infantry brigade within these divisions each used their symbol in a different colour panel. **H-** 1st NZ tank brigade (NZ- Pacific)

FORMATION INSIGNIA

These badges under went three stages of change the first pattern predated the war, and was modified in 1940, to a simpler pattern of basic shapes and finally diamond shapes were introduced for restructured formations in 1945 -similar to unit patches used in the pacific. Unit Patches were worn on tunic sleeves, and for a brief time on the side of Pith Helmets in Egypt and on the Lemon squeezer hats in the Pacific.

A-D 1st pattern: 28th Maori battalion, 3rd Signals Coy, HQ 4th Artillery Regt, 6th AT Coy. **E-** The evolution of both 27th MG Btn and the Div Cav. 2nd Pattern badges: **F-** 2nd Div HQ, **G-** Div Cav, **H-** Engineers, Medical, **J-** Service Corps, **K-** Provost, **L-** 6th AT Regt, **M-** Ordnance, **N-** Signals, **O-** 4th Brigade, **P-** 5th Brigade, **Q-** 6th Brigade, **R-** Artillery HQ, **S-** 5th Artillery Regt, **T-** Div Cav- 4th Armoured Brigade. This very technical subject is well covered in 'NZ Army Distinguishing Patches'. (see Bibliography)



NEW ZEALAND'S WAR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

GENERAL BERNARD FREYBERG

The commander of the 2nd NZEF and the 2nd Division during WW2 was a highly decorated WW1 officer and later Brigadier-General, even winning the Victoria Cross on the Western Front. Freyberg was medically downgraded between the wars but successfully petitioned the medical board for a return to active service status on the outbreak of war.

The NZ Government entrusted Freyberg with command of the New Zealand Division in W.W. 2. and Freyberg was given the control of all Allied troops in Crete by British High Command. Given the difficulties of terrain, communications, lack of heavy weapons, morale, multiple nationalities and no airpower, it must have seemed something of a poisoned chalice. Post war criticism centered on Freyberg's use of ULTRA decrypts and his lack of control over his field commanders in the subsequent defeat.

Freyberg went about rebuilding moral and strength within the division by intensive training, sports and reorganization in Maadi camp before returning (with something to prove) to the desert war as it moved back and forth across North Africa.

Freyberg drove the New Zealand forces hard, ensuring they were often in the critical position at the right time, which inevitably meant a hard fight for his troops. Prime Minister Fraser was unflagging in his support for Freyberg even though he gave strict instructions to limit casualties. Freyberg in turn cared for the men and followed his governments request even to the point of vetoing orders from senior corps and army commanders.

The New Zealand troops were pivotal in the El Alamein breakout, the pursuit of the Afrika Korps across the desert and the encirclement of the Mareth Line in Tunisia. The campaign in Italy brought the critics down on Freyberg again when he wanted bombing missions run on the monastery of Monte Cassino. The original plan called for tactical pinpoint bombing of the defenses surrounding it but the mission grew and objectives shifted and ultimately USAAF strategic bombers flattened the monastery.

As the Italian campaign stagnated, moral plummeted. Freyberg installed a programme of reorganization within the division and pressed for the facilities and means for the troops to let off steam. The revitalised division led the Allies to Trieste while Freyberg negotiated the lines of occupation with Tito's troops during the first standoff of the cold war. His men knew Freyberg as 'Tiny' and the division was nicknamed 'Freyberg's forty thousand thieves' due to their unique method of acquiring equipment and supplies. Freyberg was to become a celebrated hero and New Zealand's post war Governor-General.



THE NEW ZEALAND 2ND DIVISION

The 2nd New Zealand division was New Zealand's army response to Britain's stand against Germany. The concept behind the division was to duplicate the success of the 1st Div involved in W.W.1 although this time with more control by the NZ Government over how it would be used.

The division formed the bulk of the NZEF and included 3 infantry brigades, artillery, motorised divisional cavalry, engineers, and support units. The first echelon left New Zealand 5th Jan 1940, followed later by the 2nd and 3rd echelons. The 2nd echelon was diverted to Britain briefly for invasion defence before it was reunited with the rest of the division. The combat units played no part in the first desert campaign against the Italians however; the 2nd Div now fully equipped was dispatched to Greece and took up defensive positions alongside an outnumbered force of British, Australian and Greek units. German airpower, panzers and experience soon overwhelmed the Allied defences however stiff resistance was offered, the 5th brigade managed to delay an entire panzer division through the passes.

The force was withdrawn to the island of Crete. But the troops were without most of their equipment, support weapons or vehicles. German paratroops received heavy casualties when they landed but eventually the New Zealand command and communication links broke down delaying vital counterattacks. The force was evacuated back to Egypt.

So far, the Divisions conduct could be viewed as spirited but amateur, what followed, was a period of restructuring and hard training. In November 1941, the 2nd Div was part of the push that forced the Afrika Korps back to El Aghelia. Between Feb and June 1942, the Division was posted to Syria to protect against a possible German advance from the north.

The 2nd Division was rushed back to the desert when Rommel's troops made another attack toward Tobruk. At one point, the division was cut off but managed to perform a fighting withdrawal back to Allied lines. The Division became a spearhead formation during the El Alamein battle in October 1942. The New Zealand troops remained in hot pursuit of the D.A.K. across North Africa and executed an excellent outflanking manoeuvre at the Mareth line in Tunisia.

About this time, the division had been restructured converting 4th Brigade into an Armoured Brigade. The Division after a brief rest went into combat in Italy and then discovered that the campaign would have little maneuver, instead, it would be a case of river crossings, storming strong points and attrition. The country favoured defence and soon the NZ forces were one of the few veteran units left on that front. At various battles like Sangro, Monte Cassino, and the assault on the Gothic line the New Zealanders showed great tenacity in the face of rising casualties.

The Division was now short of infantry, so a third infantry brigade was raised to supplement the single armoured and two infantry brigades of the division.

The race to Trieste was the final act for the 2nd division, which, now as one of the most powerful divisions on the Italian front was given the task of capturing the most eastern port in Italy fighting their way through the scattered German defences holding the plains.

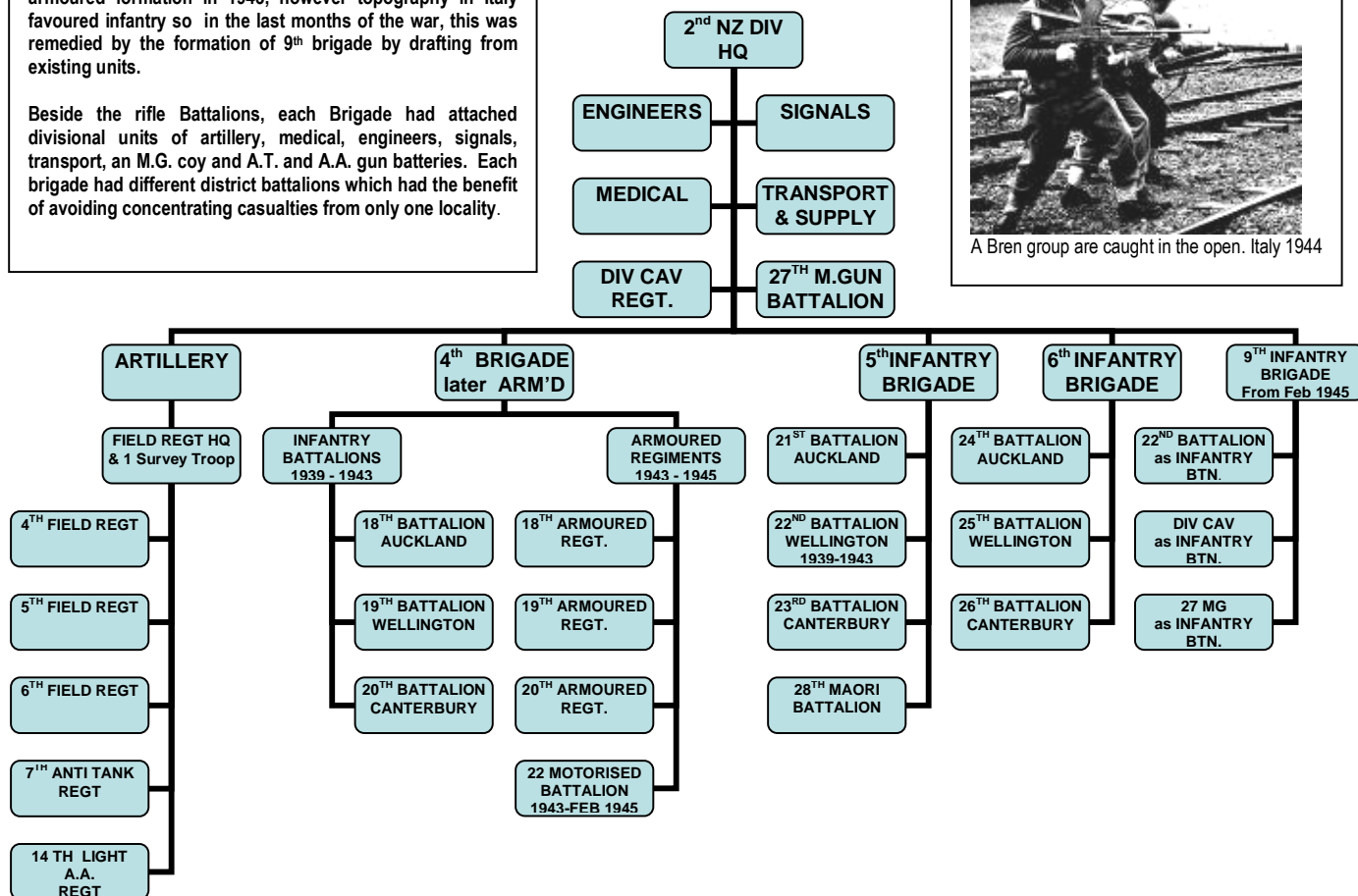
The division was highly regarded by both Allies and enemies alike. General Montgomery had even unsuccessfully requested that the New Zealand Division be used for the D-Day landings in Normandy.

The 2nd Div was initially infantry and artillery but the need for tanks was so great that 4th brigade was reorganised as an armoured formation in 1943, however topography in Italy favoured infantry so in the last months of the war, this was remedied by the formation of 9th brigade by drafting from existing units.

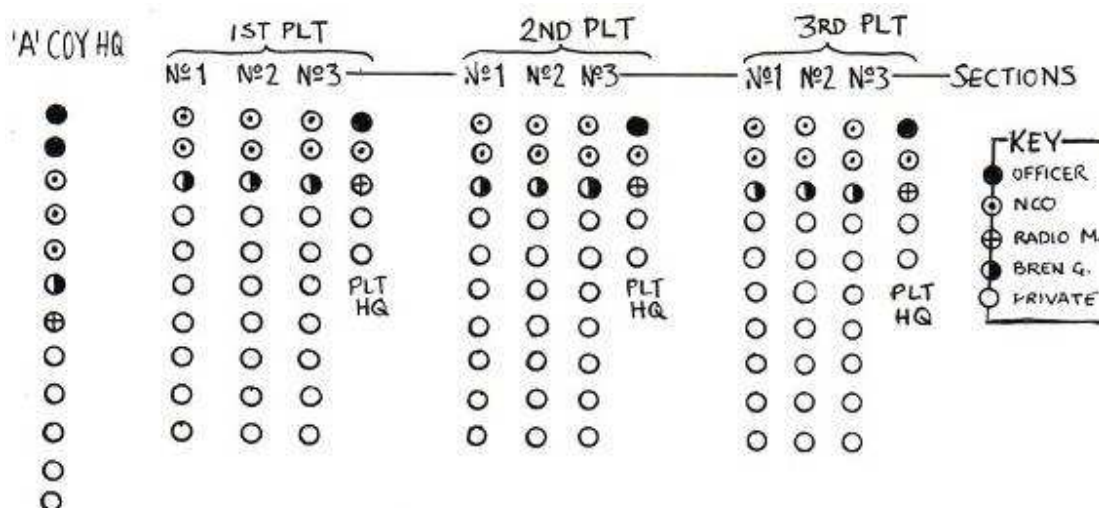
Beside the rifle Battalions, each Brigade had attached divisional units of artillery, medical, engineers, signals, transport, an M.G. coy and A.T. and A.A. gun batteries. Each brigade had different district battalions which had the benefit of avoiding concentrating casualties from only one locality.



A Bren group are caught in the open. Italy 1944



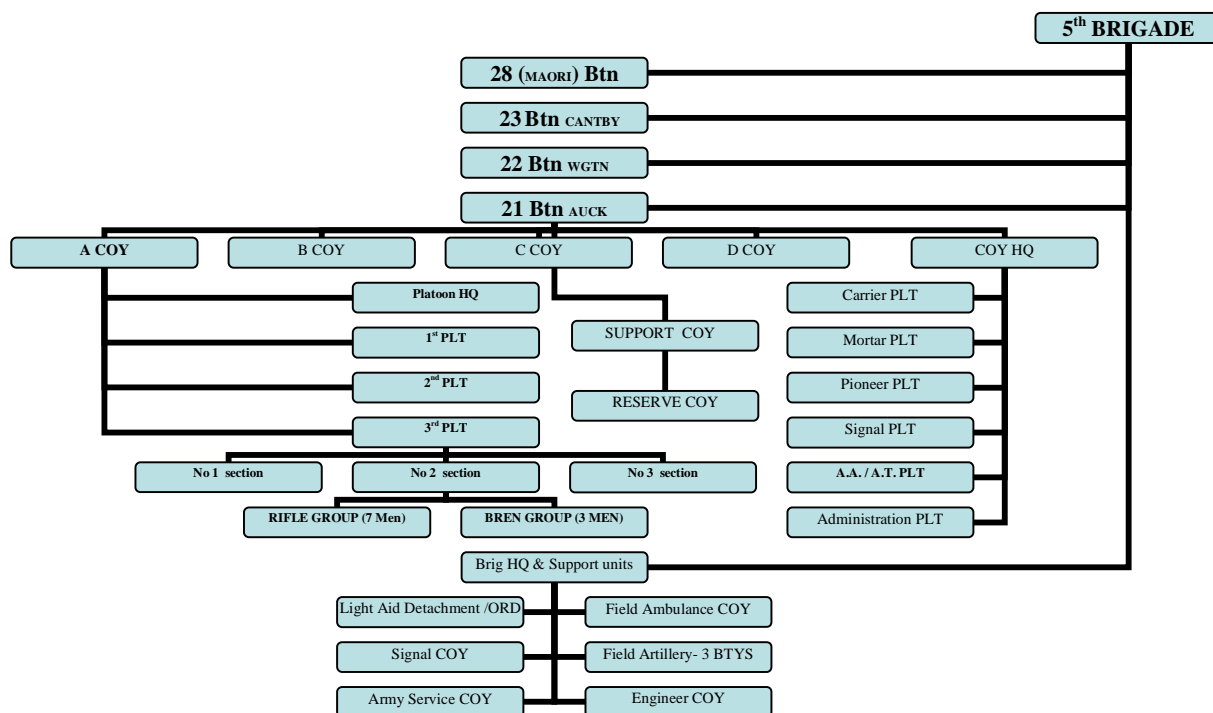
'A' COMPANY INFANTRY



An infantry company comprised of platoons numbered across the battalion. Each Platoon divided into sections of ten men with an additional five men as the platoon HQ. This comprised a Lieutenant, Sergeant, Wireless operator, A.T. gunner, and two-inch mortar man.

The company HQ additionally had twelve men officered by a Lieutenant and Captain, and additional support weapons. Additionally in battle, specialist sections and platoons were added from the Battalion structure to assist the Company depending on the task allocated.

Battalion and Brigade layout



Within a Company sized formation was found most of the weaponry available to the average soldier. Rifles Thompsons, Bren guns, the 2" or 3" mortar, & PIAT. Support weapons such as AT guns, Vickers, Brownings or flamethrowers would be allocated from a higher level along with their own crews.

The battalion would deploy the specialist platoons to the front line and also control transport, supplies and equipment for the man in the field. As each battalion was to a certain extent self contained, beside their mates of their own platoon, it was the place a soldier called 'home'.

Photo: Jansen Cardy



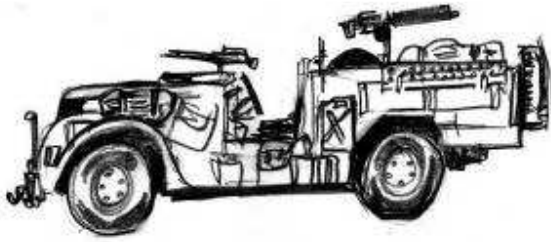
The New Zealand 2nd Div followed the basic structure of all British formations, as the war developed this structure altered to reflect operational needs. For example, the division was primarily infantry based, until the reorganization of 4th brigade into armour. The armoured brigade then needed integral infantry, which meant that the 22nd were 'motorized' and became linked to that force.

By 1945, with the need for tanks diminishing and the need for infantry increasing, an additional infantry brigade was raised comprising the Div Cav, 22nd and 27th Btns. In addition, the new reserves released from the disbanded 3rd Div in the Pacific meant that by the end of the war the 2nd NZ Div was one of the best equipped, well-resourced formations on the Italian frontline.

Numbering extended across the formation and each brigade had a battalion from each region -either Auckland, Wellington or South Island. Each battalion's company was lettered A, B, C, or D. and its platoons numbered 1 to 12 with HQ and support platoons commonly referred to by name.

Operation 'CASCADE' (1942-44) was a scheme to mislead German Intelligence that an additional NZ Division was training at Camp Maadi. This phoney formation was called 6th NZ Division. The reality was that non-combat NZEF support units had adopted new call signs, letterheads and insignia that were wholly successful in fooling German High Command.

LEFT: A scene at battalion HQ by D. Gunson (after Cecil Beaton)



The LRDG trucks could carry a large amount of supplies as well as a variety of weapons including Vickers, Lewis, Browning and Vickers -K machine guns. The troopers would also carry Enfield rifles, Thompson SMG, pistols, and numerous explosives. Each truck had a crew of 3 and each reconnaissance patrol operated with 5-6 vehicles.

LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP

The desert campaigns of 1940-1943 were mainly fought within reach of the roads running parallel to the North African coastline. The interior desert was unmapped and impassable for a mechanised army, but not for a small self-contained reconnaissance force. A British pre war explorer Major Ralph Bagnold brought this idea to the attention of General Wavell when the Italian army in Libya advanced over the Egyptian border toward Cairo in 1940.

Bagnold was given permission to assemble an experimental force and the first volunteers were men from the NZ Division, which in 1940 still awaited the return of the 2nd echelon from Britain. The men were drawn from the Div Cav and Motor Transport section. As with later volunteers, they arrived with their parent unit uniforms and equipment, add in the intense heat and the cool temperatures of the desert night, encouraged practicality over uniformity. With their converted 30cwt, Chevy trucks overloaded with weapons, fuel and enough supplies for weeks on end, these unconventional soldiers resembled bands of pirates, especially when with no water to spare for shaving; these men had permission to grow beards while on patrol.

The Long Range Desert Group adopted the scorpion as its badge. This creature was a good symbol because the groups key methods were to creep up on the axis forces and only fight if disturbed. The intelligence gathered by the LRDG was useful in mapmaking, plotting the strength and position of enemy airfields and counting enemy reserves.

Based on early successes the LRDG was expanded to form more patrols of Kiwis, and later Rhodesians, British Guards and Yeomanry. These patrols set up several depots at desert Oasis's and under took longer journeys and more aggressive attacks on isolated Italian and German supply units, along with the SAS commandoes. The SAS who were originally transported into action by the LRDG now acquired their own battle jeeps and took the idea of a self contained hit and run tactics to its zenith. The LRDG also operated as a pathfinder force during the last stages of the desert campaign and their observations enabled the successful left hook at the Mareth line by the NZ Division.

The LRDG issued an Arab headdress (keffiyeh) which was practical for desert driving but less so for mechanical tasks and later a black beret was introduced. The troopers still enjoyed the most individuality of any desert war unit which was typified in the field by an assortment of balaclavas, cap comforters, topees, SD caps, indented lemon squeezers and facial hair.



This cast of characters answered the call for...
"Men who do not mind a hard life, scanty food, little water, lots of discomfort and possess stamina and initiative."

The Kiwis and the desert conditions set the tone for the formation which built upon quiet and informal professionalism, which in turn influenced the SAS and future Special Forces units.

COMMUNICATIONS



Photos by Peter Harrison



The Wireless Set 48 (top and above left) was a standard man pack radio for Infantry Coys and Artillery. It was a U.S. design which supplemented the No.18 then in use. It had a range of 8 miles for voice and 16 for Morse messages whilst operating on a frequency of 6-9 MHz. The No. 38 set (above right) was the size of a large shoebox, worn on the chest with a battery in a separate haversack and weighed 29lbs altogether. The 38 set was made from 1942 but took time to be issued to infantry units. This assault type radio had a good range of 4 miles.

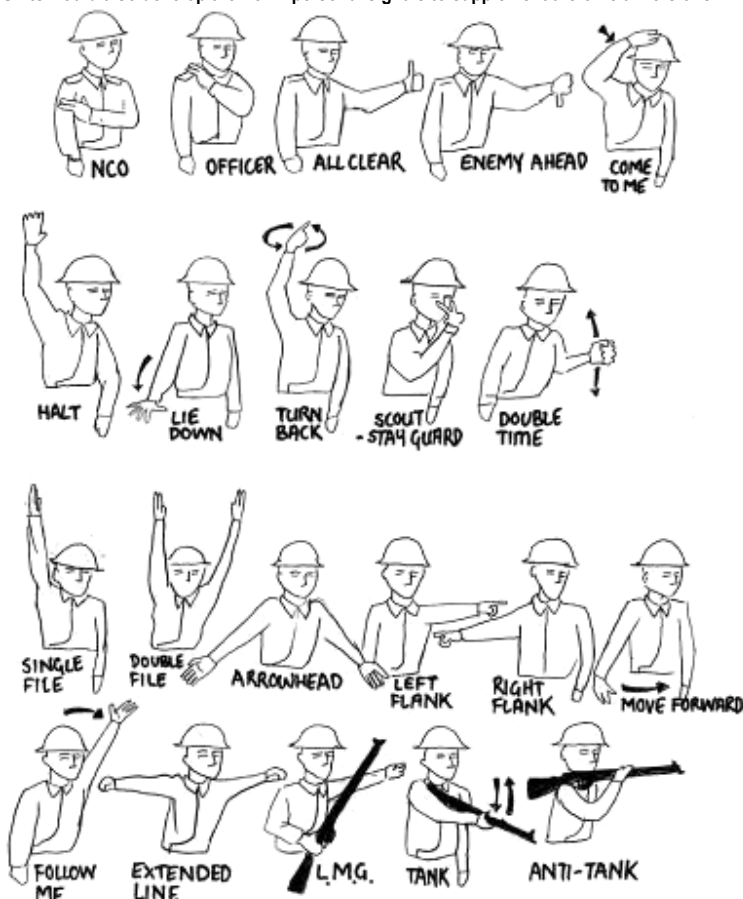
The 'Box of tricks' was usually carried by the Platoon batman or orderly, who would relay messages to and from the Coy HQ and fire support units. As with all military radio traffic messages were brief and prefixed to limit crucial information out on the air. There are many stories of complaints to various HQ's of Kiwis using profanities and the radio nets for chit-chat and other unmilitary like radio traffic.

The ZC-1 was a New Zealand developed radio used in the Pacific and in home defence. The ZC-1 was an excellent design having many improvements on other models. It had a range of up to 34 miles. Each foot of antennae giving an extra mile of range. It operated between 2-8 MHz and was used in vehicle and command liaison. A MkII batch was sent to 2nd Div but were held in store at Base Camp Maadi and later sold. 1200 ZC-1's were made in New Zealand.



HAND SIGNALS

Hand signals became a means of communicating visually either when the battlefield was too noisy to be heard or when stealth was important. Signals could be used with one another to form rough sentences or instructions; additionally numbers could be indicated by fingers. Units would also develop their own personal signals to supplement the official versions.



Phonetic /Radio Alphabet

1939-1943

Ack	Robert
Beer	Sugar
Charlie	Toc
Don	Uncle
Edward	Victor
Freddie	William
George	X-Ray
Harry	Yorker
Ink	Zebra
Johnnie	
King	
London	
Monkey	
Nuts	
Orange	
Pip	
Queen	

1943-1950

Able	Roger
Baker	Sugar
Charlie	Tear
Dog	Uncle
Easy	Victor
Fox	Whiskey
George	X-Ray
How	Yoke
Item	Zebra
Jig	
King	
Love	
Mike	
Nan	
Oboe	
Peter	
Queen	

(NATO) 1956-

Alpha	Romeo
Bravo	Sierra
Charlie	Tango
Delta	Uniform
Echo	Victor
Foxtrot	Whiskey
Golf	X-Ray
Hotel	Yankee
India	Zulu
Juliet	
Kilo	
Lima	
Mike	
November	
Oscar	
Papa	
Quebec	

The evolution of Commonwealth infantry tactics.

At the beginning of the 20th century, infantry units were still tactically seen as a collection of rifles aimed and directed by its commander, by its end tactics would fall heavily on the initiative of the individual soldier.

During the 1900 Boer war, troops offensively manoeuvred in half companies (at the time 100 men). Thus, a company would divide into two groups' one going to ground and the other in advance. Upon close engagement, controlled volleys would be fired before attacking hand to hand. The Boers taught the value of marksmanship which the British copied. Just before WW1, several new theories gained ground. The British Army, a small volunteer force, realised that they would now be fighting against massed conscript armies of the kind found in continental Europe and so switched to training programme that enabled rapid firing from the rifle that almost imitated the effect of machine gun fire.

As the war dragged on, the manpower had to be increased, so new conscript armies formed the bulk of the British army. These new formations had little time for advanced training and the new officers had to learn on the job. The frontline however needed urgent replacements to feed the meat grinder of trench warfare. These overburdened troops were shepherded across no mans land under cover of massed artillery, which it was hoped would crush the German troops entrenched in their positions. These defences were in depth and it became be a matter of taking one German strongpoint at a time. These large formations were broken up as they encountered enemy entrenchments, initiative then fell to company commanders. Individual stalking tactics and the zeal of junior officers became paramount to overcome the intricate German defences.

Communication between the different arms was never that good. Training, technology or bias prevented harmonious inter-branch co-operation. Each unit considered that its action alone was of greatest importance. By the end of the Great War, this process had reversed itself. Section strength altered from 25 to 12 men and now led by a corporal, freeing the Sergeants and Subalterns to co-ordinate tactics. Light machine guns went forward with the infantry. Both H.M.G.s and Artillery now had complex firing plans to support infantry down to company level and frontline units were relieved for each subsequent attack. The new weapons of tanks and aircraft provided forward support for difficult objectives.

Many theorists during the interwar years imagined future battles with large mechanized armies sweeping across the landscape manoeuvring much like fleets at sea. The reality was very different. Instead, blitzkrieg tactics emphasised tactical use of air power, infantry and armour to engage the Allied line at a vulnerable point, which was then exploited. The German forces concentrated their strength, avoiding conflict with the bulk of Allied troops whilst disabling them from the fight. The British, whilst in defence, still relied on long entrenched lines; this was later altered to interlinked defensive 'boxes' of battalion or brigade strength in the desert campaigns, however it was discovered that although these 'boxes' broke up a large enemy attack they became isolated and unable to make strong counter attacks with out relief forces breaking through to assist. The best defensive tactic was that of no formal fixed defence but one of a fluid strength able to absorb strikes and then counter attack locally before the enemy had chance to bring up reinforcements. Commonwealth battle schools emphasised the strength of attack, tactics would now be a variation of the fire and manoeuvre with one formation using its firepower to suppress the enemy whilst the other gained ground closer to the objective. This successful tactic was elementary and could be implicated by a section of 10 men or on an even larger scale by a company or even battalion. The key to this method was the application of firepower.

Photo by Rob Kitchen



HQ and Support Section 5th Brigade (re-enacted) after a successful assault on an airfield. Of note are the section's weapons, which show some field variations including a Sten SMG, an 'acquired' M1 Garand, an extra Bren gun, in addition to the usual SMLE rifles and the Light pattern 2" mortar.

Photo by Jim Tannock



The group firing was attempting to not so much to destroy but to subdue enemy fire upon the group who were manoeuvring. This group once within striking range would storm the target. Its advance supported by covering fire of the support group.

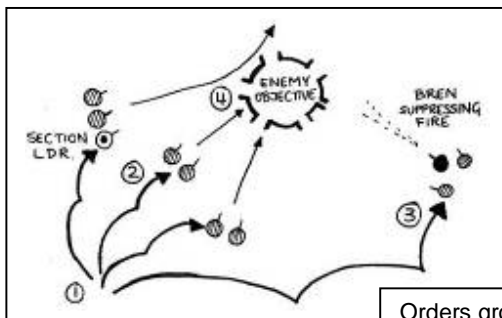
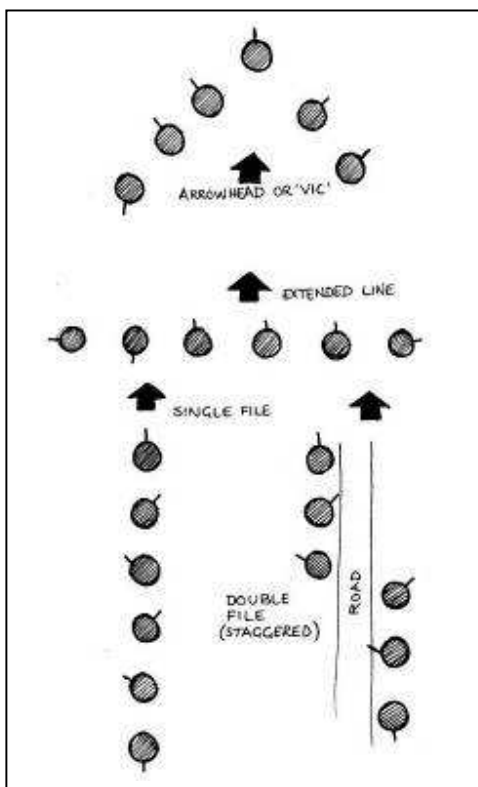
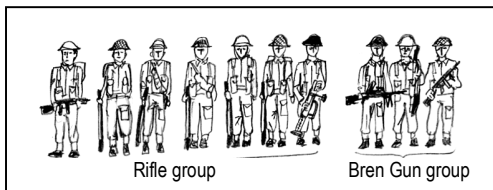
It was usual for each advance to be a short distance so the minimum amount of time was spent in the open. The worst situation was for the two combatants to end up in a static firefight of attrition across open ground. Should this occur, a flanking manoeuvre or support of mortars, artillery or tanks would be needed. Early in W.W.2, too many tank commanders still considered themselves cavalry more interested in bold dashes against the enemy. The often disastrous results confirmed that success is based upon co-ordination of firepower. Tanks needed Infantry to clear anti-tank weapons and the Infantry needed the tanks to break through defensive positions and counter enemy Armour.

The battle schools also taught urban fighting where large formations were quickly reduced down to sections battling for individual buildings. Liberal use of grenades, smoke, SMGs were often required along with techniques and equipment for upstairs entry, mouse-holing through walls, and night fighting. Artillery had now developed into a very structured formation able to redirect accurate fire upon any target within its range. These 'fire missions' developed to an 'on demand' service and even a simple radio message from a platoon wireless man could potentially bring down devastating fire from every available gun of the division on a single target.

German attacks often had tanks to the front with infantry following up immediately behind. Many veteran German infantry units were good at infiltrating themselves into strategic positions. The Commonwealth forces tended to move infantry up first with tanks on hand for immediate support due to German extensive use of concealed anti-tank weapons. German HMG firepower was negated by darkness, so British doctrine emphasised use of stealthy night patrols and attacks.

Tactically, a major revolution during W.W.2 was the huge increase of communications and support weapons ready to back up each platoon in combat. The infantryman became more specialized and yet able to call upon more varied firepower, and the commanders now having more ways to win the battlefield.

SMALL UNIT TACTICS



Each platoon was split into sections of 10 which divided into rifle group (7) under command of a corporal and a Bren gun section (3) led by the lance corporal. Each group supported the other with covering fire in order for the other to advance or manoeuvre. This technique of fire and manoeuvre became a cornerstone of battle school training from 1942 onwards and in principle the same approach could be applied from individual soldiers through rifle groups, sections, platoons, and companies.

Great emphasis was placed on formation commanders to act rapidly to any threat and without delaying for reinforcements. The manuals of the time refer to observation and speed constantly and it would be fair to say that the junior commanders being the first in the chain of command to confront the enemy and would be under great pressure to accurately locate, identify, and ultimately deal with the forces ranged against them.

A unit would advance toward the battle area using dead ground and geography to mask their progress. Formations were best placed to put a scout in the vanguard and the last man to keep an eye on the rear for contact to follow up units and to also keep alert to enemy flanking movements. Each man would be spaced about 5 -10 yards apart. Various formations had inherent advantages in their deployment:

ARROWHEAD: This formation is useful for all round defence and easily controlled by section commanders. The arrowhead can quickly switch direction.

EXTENDED LINE: The best formation for forward fire and movement over broken ground. The men on either end guard the flanks.

SINGLE FILE: For travel along hedgerows or a single barrier and the most natural for steep inclines.

DOUBLE FILE-STAGGERED: Useful for patrolling either side of a road. Fire lines are good in most directions.

FIRE AND MANOUEVRE: A section deploys into rifle and gun group. The Bren team advances in bounds to a flank and begins delivering suppressing fire on the objective. While the rifle group advance in bounds working in loose formation each moving forward in turn.

Once the objective is close the position will be stormed with grenades, rifles and SMGs. Wherever possible the attackers would advance beyond the objective as enemy mortars would soon bombard any position they had evacuated.

Orders group – a meeting to discuss forthcoming plan or operation

- 1: **SITUATION:** Enemy forces holding road intersection and farm houses at grid 20:45:0067 350-yards distant from church ruin Route 4 -North Netloro -
- 2: **INTENTION:** Dislodge enemy forces and occupy for battalion advance.
- 3: **METHOD:** Infantry COY night attack supported by mortars and MGs.
- 4: **TROOPS:** ORDER OF BATTLE: OBJECTIVES:

1 st PLT	Left flank via stream ford	Farmhouses
3 rd PLT	Right flank via north road	Road junction
2 nd PLT	Centre via orchard	Reserve force
- 5: **START LINE:** Synchronise at 18.00 hrs -church ruin. R.A.P: church crypt
- 6: **ZERO HOUR:** 20:30 hrs -this evening- ADVANCE on smoke markers
- 7: **CONSOLIDATION:** 2nd PLT, MG section, + 3x B. carriers. POWs to COY HQ
- 8: **SUPPORT:** Mortar platoon – HE on objectives 20:20hrs Smoke on 20:30hrs MG Section – Suppressing fire 20:25 - 20:35hrs
- 9: **INTEL:** x1 PLT 101st Regt + x2 spandaus? + half track + AT weapons crews
- 10: **PASSWORDS:** "Ranfurly" Vereys: Green on objective.
Yellow: Reserves forward. Red: Resume covering fire.
- 11: **ACK (acknowledge)** 1st, 2nd, 3rd PLT commanders, Mortar SEC Cmdr, MG Cmdr, M.O, Carrier Cmdr, BTN Cmdr, COY HQ.

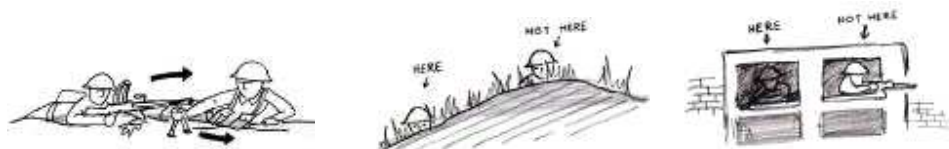
BATTLE FIELDCRAFT

The battlefield, once the realm of drilled formations gradually made way for more individual combat, which lead to the increasing importance of teamwork and personal field craft. Here are some techniques taught in the 'Battle schools'. One method of getting past coiled barb wire was for a man to fall forward on to the wire while wearing a respirator satchel or a haversack on his chest for protection against the wire. His comrades would now be able run over the top, by stepping between his legs and leaping over.



Climbing over an obstacle. In the absence of a scaling ladder, extra height could be gained by using an entrenching tool handle held between two troops and the climbing soldier literally stepped on to it and the two soldiers who boost him to a height where he could climb over. .

The leopard crawl. By grasping the rifle sling, a soldier could slither forward keeping close to the ground. Using his legs alternately for propulsion and his elbows for support a man could actually move quickly, silently and stealthily.



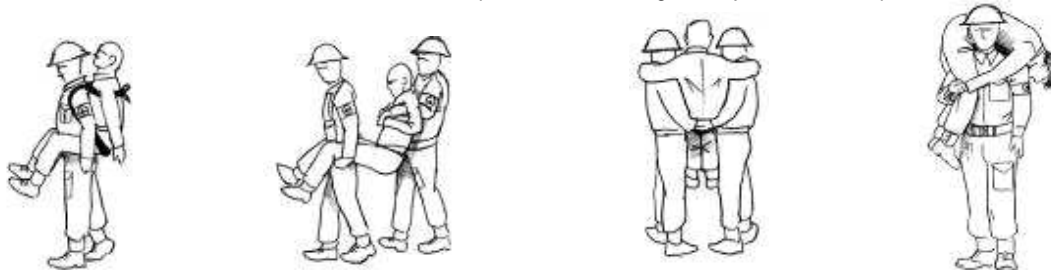
The leopard crawl for the Bren team. The No 2 crawled forward keeping one hand on the bipod, the gunner kept his hand on the trigger group and let his arm extend as the gun moved forward. He then crawled up until the butt tucked into his shoulder and the process was repeated, this enabled the gun to be fired at any point. Sky lining. Silhouetted against the sky on a hilltop or ridge, an obvious target is presented- instead use the side, not the crest. Keeping in shadow. A figure leaning out the window presents an obvious target. Keeping the muzzle inside makes the man harder to detect.



Keep away from isolated cover, as their position will have most likely been calibrated by the enemy and for them to call out your position to snipers or mortars. Aiming around cover. The man on the left presents a smaller target and stays in the shadow. Personal camouflage should suit conditions, too little means you will stand out, but avoid the walking bush effect, -especially in built up areas.

CASUALTY EVACUATION WITHOUT A STRETCHER.

One man carry with a strap. Using 3 rifle slings, rope, or straps, a man can be carried a long distance by making a large loop that passes under the injured mans seat, up and over the arms of the rescuer and under the arms of the injured man and around his back. A twist in the strap so it crosses the chest, will give extra stability. Carrying injured with two men. The front man carries under the knees, the rear man puts his arms through the injured mans armpits and holds his hands.



Fourhanded lift. used for a heavy man who is conscious. The hands are interlinked to provide a seat. The patient puts his arms around their shoulders to support himself. Variations using three or two-handed seats enabled the rescuers hands to be free for extra support or balance. Fireman's lift. The easiest way to carry an unconscious person single-handed. The rescuer would need to bend down and lift the patient's arms and head up on to his shoulders followed by the man's body. After standing, the weight of the patient was across the shoulders with the patient's legs astride; the rescuer could pass his arm through and balance him.

To evacuate a man, who was wounded in the Second World War, was a reasonably complex process. New Zealand inherited the British system which itself had evolved from WW1. The following example illustrates the chain of evacuation.

Corporal West and Private Henson were bringing ammunition forward into the front line when a series of mortar explosions ripped up the road nearby. Corporal West was immediately hit in the legs and back with large amounts of shrapnel. Henson fared better, diving for cover he got away with concussion, broken ribs and arm. After the shelling stopped, Henson crawled over to West and seeing the large amount of blood lost from his leg, Henson did his best to apply a First Field Dressing. Two stretcher bearers arrived, one sprinkling 'sulpha' powder on the wound to combat infection and having applied a larger shell dressing they carried West to a R.A.P. or Regimental Aid Post, which was based in an abandoned house, about 300 yards away. Henson followed along with an improvised sling made from his B.D. tunic.

At the R.A.P., the other injured were being collected and fresh dressings were placed on the wounds and morphine given, the M.O. was busy performing an emergency tracheotomy on another patient. From the R.A.P. teams of medical corps stretcher-bearers ferried the wounded to the A.D.S. Advanced Dressing Station half a mile away, where a tourniquet was placed on West's still heavily bleeding leg, here minor life preserving surgery was done and transfusions and penicillin given but for most it was a quick trip in an ambulance 2-3 miles down the road to the main dressing station or M.D.S.



ABOVE: NZ Field motor ambulance with stated capacity for four stretcher cases. ABOVE RIGHT: The unit's M.O. two N.C.O orderlies and a small team of Stretcher Bearers would staff the Regimental Aid Post. American Medics often had more first aid training however there were fewer of them where as Commonwealth Stretcher Bearers were more numerous, therefore conveying the patient from the battlefield at an earlier point. Stretcher Bearers were provided from the combat unit and wore S.B. armbands. Medical personnel (RAMC) wore Red Cross armbands, which became more widely used as the war continued.

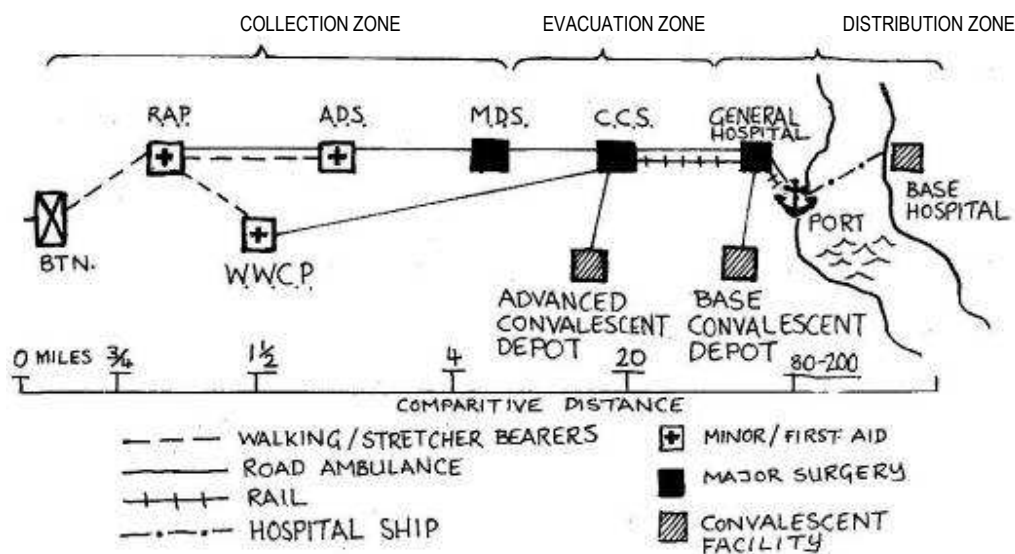
Photos by Brendan O'Carroll

For Henson at the R.A.P. now having a proper splint and being able to walk, was led with other walking wounded, a mile and a half to the W.W.C.P. (Walking Wounded Collecting Post) This station was only in operation when a large battle was imminent and helped relieve the burden from the rest of the stations. Here Henson would have to wait with a cup of hot tea for an ambulance to take him to the C.C.S. or casualty clearing station which would mean he would skip the stage of the M.D.S.

At this point, West was undergoing Surgery at the M.D.S. and the shrapnel was removed by a F.S.U Field Surgical Unit, a mobile surgical team posted to wherever the casualties were greatest. It was at the M.D.S. that the surgeons found a piece of shrapnel had passed through a major vein and it was likely to require further surgery later on. The limb could be ether amputated or he could go to the C.C.S. or Casualty Clearing Station and on to a General Hospital for specialty surgery to save the leg.

By now nearly five hours had passed. Henson and the rest of the walking wounded had reached the C.C.S. in an ambulance. At this point, his splints had been removed and his compound fracture was in a cast. From here, he would pass on to the convalescent depot, before being R.T.U. 7 days later on light duties. West passed through the C.C.S. briefly before being sent on to the General Hospital some 15 miles distant. At the General hospital were between 600 and 1,000 beds and a specialist surgical team to carry out the leg saving surgery. When this was completed, West stayed at the hospital a week before being sent by rail to a port and then by hospital ship to Allied territory and a Base hospital.

SYSTEM OF EVACUATION



UNIT - 10 (Br) Cos Depot		MORNING SICK REPORT MEDICAL INSPECTION REPORT*					Name (Print Name)	
Specimen, history or recovery		Staff	Station and Date					Field
Attn No.	Name and Title (Include Date and Day) (If appropriate if married)	Classification (Type of Age Service)	Station (If for duty)	Where (Location)	Location (Address)	Time (of day)	Illness	Signature Medical Officer, Quartermaster and Surgeon
2027969	Chd. DUBOIS, L.						FE	<div style="text-align: right;"> <i>L. S. ...</i> <i>L. S. ...</i> </div>

A Medical Officer was also responsible for the health and sanitation of his unit. His job also included a morning sick parade where he assessed those he may require attention or medicine. Troops requiring travel permits were also assessed for fitness and were issued an assessment before departure

[illegible]

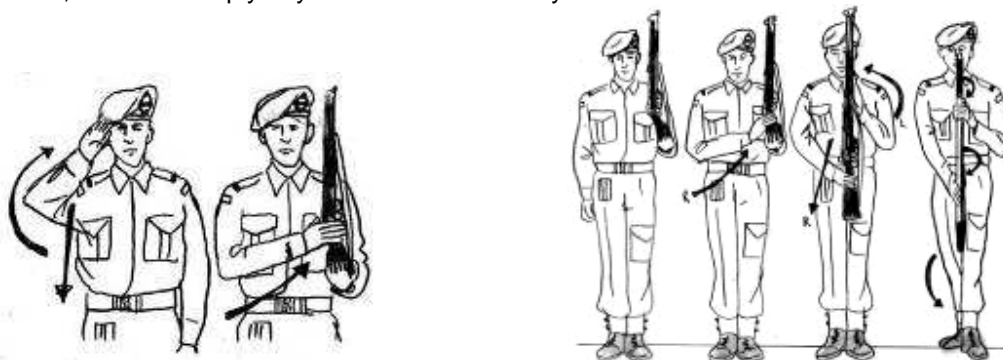
The Identity Book carried by each soldier included details of name, number, next of kin, qualifications and courses, leave details, Will and testament, issue scales and medical details, these included inoculation particulars. Green and orange fibre Identity discs carried details of the owner .NZ identified New Zealand nationality. The army number identified the soldier within base records. The first name initials followed by the surname. Additionally if the soldier was of a religious denomination, an initial was stamped. Blood group was found on the obverse of the circular orange disc. Upon death, the orange disc was cut off and sent to graves registration unit. The green disc remained on the body.

MILITARY PROTOCOL

Army life is one of routine, drills, parades, orders and discipline. The traditions of the armed forces give a sense of longevity and reinforce that the army is the soldier's new family and within that, the regimental traditions reinforce the unit's *Esprit de corps*.

A salute is offered as a mark of respect to an officer and the commission that he holds. It is given by a soldier on addressing or moving past an officer, flag or an armed party on parade. The salute is given with the open hand and raised inline with the eyebrow. Should the soldier be marching, he salutes three paces before passing the officer and cuts his hand down three paces afterwards. He should turn his head in the direction of the officer. A soldier should not salute when without headgear, when in a vehicle or when in sight of enemy troops. In these instances, he should come to attention only. A group of soldiers need not all salute together instead the most senior person present shall salute whilst the others come to attention.

When 'with Arms' the soldier shall salute with rifle. But for a general officer/ statesman, funeral party or flag raising, a *present arms* shall be made. N.C.O.s are addressed by rank. Officers by 'Sir'. Although there was a fair degree of informality that permeated in WW2 amongst Kiwi troops who used given names often. A British general was apparently driving through the NZ base and remarked that very few of the New Zealanders were saluting, his host NZ officer admitted as much, but said in reply "if you wave to them -they'll wave back."



SALUTING: By hand, 'with Arms' and by means of 'Present Arms'.

In a multi force parade, precedence will be in order of Navy, Army then Air Force. An armed party will march at the front, behind flags if any, unarmed groups to the rear. On moving indoors, remove headgear, unless as part of an 'On Duty' party. Hands should be kept out of the pockets, and an upright posture maintained. When proceeding on a military base, the Base Commanders general orders are in effect. Some areas will be out of bounds to civilians or certain ranks, permission should be sought before entering any military mess. March, rather than walk. Double time, rather than run. Sit, rather than slouch.

When on parade, a soldier must see he is correctly turned out, with all equipment for the task at hand. Upon the command *Fall in*, troops will fall in on left of the nominated *marker* in three ranks at *open order* unless numbers insufficient when two will be formed. *Trailed*, *slung* or *port arms* may be best when moving over rough ground, boarding vehicles, or through crowds. Where possible, move as a unit at the *slope*. When an obstruction is encountered, halt, break rank, and then double time around it reform on the other side before marching on.

Blank volley salutes may be fired to mark an occasion or in a commemoration or general salute. Three volleys are usual for a rifle detail. Gun (artillery) salutes fire set numbers depending on the rank or occasion. Black arm bands may be worn when in private mourning or attending funeral in uniform. In the field, it is usual for all troops to *stand to* at dawn. With all equipment and weapons ready for action. As traditionally many attacks happen at first light. Roll call will then be made, 'O' groups and sick parade held and breakfast served.

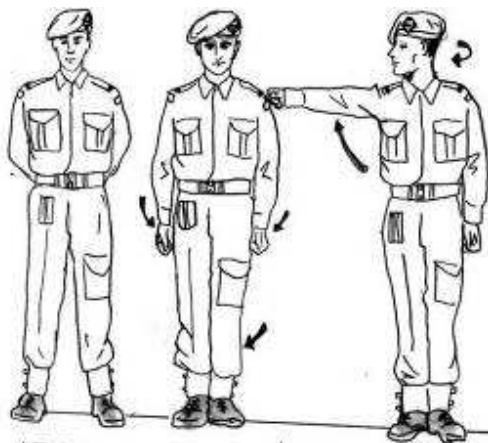
FOOT DRILL

Commands will be given in two parts –a cautionary and executive. The first slowly, the second sharply:

Squad...Halt. Left...Turn. For inspection... Port arms. Sometimes one word will be split to serve this purpose: *Atten...tion. Dis...miss. Fall...out.* Other instructions will be preceded by a declaration...

Platoon will fix bayonets...Fix...Bayonets. Company... General Salute... Present ...Arms.

Formed up troops will be in the *At Ease* position. Arms behind back with left hand hold right. Feet 12 inches apart. On the command *Attention*. The arms drop to the side, forming a loose fist, the thumb in line with the trouser seam. The heels are brought together. Back straight. This position is adopted in readiness for further instruction. The command *Right... dress* will be given and the head and right arm block off to the soldier beside him. When at *ordered arms* the left arm is used. On the command *Eyes... front* return to the position of *Attention*.



CALLING CADENCE

Drill in the 1940s was called out 'by the numbers'

One..two..three..One. Or for the longer movements: *One ..two.. three, one..two.. three.. One.* Once the timings were mastered the cadence was silent. On the march *Left..Right. Left..Right. Left.* And to keep step in route marching an occasional reminder *Left. Left. Left..Right.. Left.* was called.

Open order: The command is used for inspections and stationary drilling with arms. On the order *Open order...March*. The front and rear ranks will take two steps to the front and rear respectively. If only two ranks are paraded, the front rank remains steady. On the instruction *Close order.. March* the process is reversed. A blank space will be made in the inner rank if in three ranks with even numbers. This blank space will be covered off to the rear of any moving column.

Turning: The command will be *Left.. (or right) turn*. Troops will turn in the required direction by pivoting the opposite foot and then bring it up in line with the other foot on completion of the turn. About turns are the same but longer and always turning clockwise. Commands may be given stationary or on the move. Turns are in 90° angles. An *About turn* on the march is made by consecutive steps in marked time before stepping off in the 180° position.

Stepping off: The left foot is always the first foot forward. *By the left...* (referring to dressing)... *Quick march* - the command. Arms should swing naturally -hands level to waist height. Double time is given: *By the left ...Double march*. speed is increased and a larger step taken arms swing to just below shoulder height.

Marking time: The soldier will march on the spot lifting the foot 6 inches from the ground. Arms remain steady in the attention position. Upon the command *For..ward*, the previous pace will be resumed.

Wheeling: The wheel is when the formation moves incrementally into 90° by turning a quarter circle in the required direction: *Left.. Wheel*. Dressing is important: the inner column should step short and the outer column 'steps out' so the columns arrive facing the correct direction at the same time.

Halting: *Squad..Halt* will be called as the right foot, passes left. A pace will be completed with the left foot and the right foot will be brought up in line with it. The hands will adopt the position of attention.

Fallout and Dismiss. The men turn to the right and pause for four seconds before breaking off and moving off the parade ground. If an officer is present the troops will salute (to their front) after the turn.

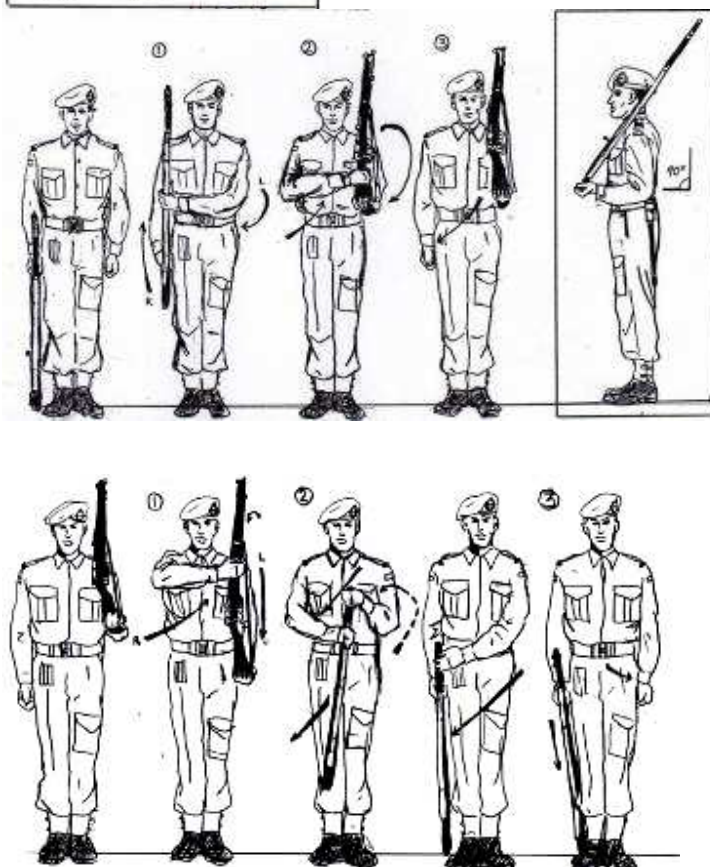
Fall..out means there are other tasks to attend to. *Dis..miss* is the end of duties. *Break rank* instructs that there is an obstacle that prevents a formation of men proceeding past and on that command, the troops will individually double time past, through, or over the obstruction and reform the formation on the other side.

As you were. will be called when the last instruction or command has been rescinded.



ARMS DRILL

A soldier falls in and stands *at ease*. That is, with feet apart, the rifle tipped forward and grasped on the fore end. On the command *Attention* The rifle is drawn back in alongside the leg and the hand slid down the rifle. At the same time the feet are brought together smartly. The neck sits straight the shoulders back and eyes looking forward. The rifle should be clean and the sling tight.



SLOPE ARMS.

The soldier stands at attention. On the command *Slope.. arms.* **1** The rifle is launched by the soldier's right hand up the side of the body. The fore-end is grabbed by the left hand while the right relocates to the small of the butt.

This is done in one swift single movement, making the rifle leap through the air.

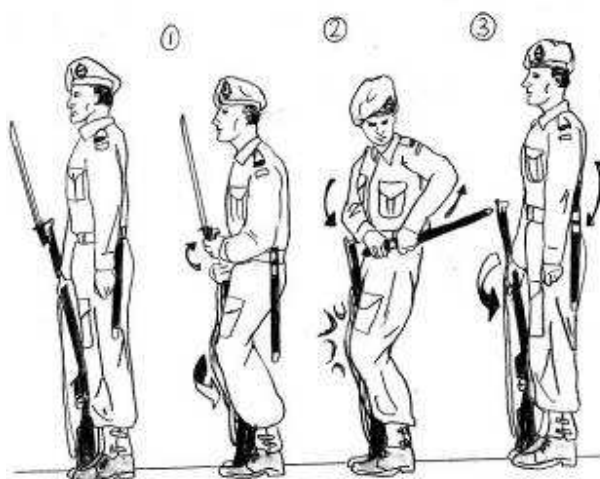
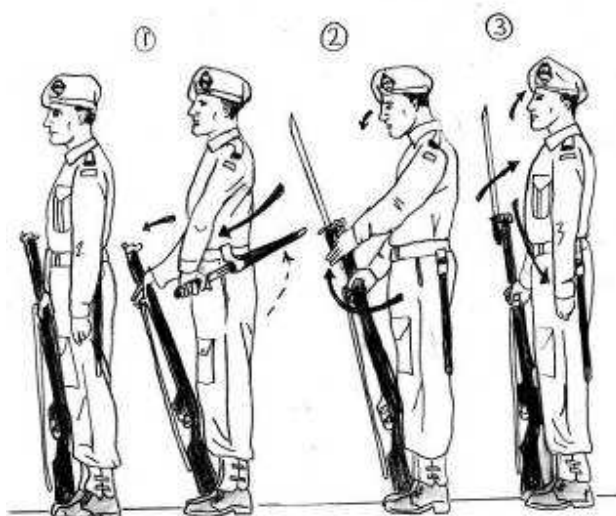
The right hand then carries the weight of the rifle to the left shoulder. **2** While the left relocates to the heel of the butt.

3 The rifle is drawn into the shoulder forming a 90° angle with the arm.

The other arm is dropped away to the side.

ORDER ARMS

From the slope. The command will be *Order... Arms.* The left arm holding the stock extends till straight down. The Right hand moves across the body and grasps at the top of the sling. **1** The left hand relocates to the muzzle while the right hand takes the rifle diagonally across the body. **2** When the right arm is fully extended the rifle should suspend and inch from the ground. **3** The Left arm is cut away while the rifle is quietly lowered by the right.



FIXING BAYONETS

Standing at attention, the command will be *Squad will fix bayonets...*

Fix... Bayonets. On the word *Fix...*

- 1) The rifle is canted forward. The Left hand reaches for the bayonet handle with the knuckles inwards. The bayonet and frog are flipped backwards and the bayonet withdrawn to the full extent of the arm.
- 2) On the command *..bayonets* the bayonet is fully withdrawn and attached to the rifle with a firm sliding action into the boss on the muzzle. Once the bayonet is secure, the fingers on the handle are extended to indicate this. The next command *Attention* the left arm is returned to the side and the rifle brought to the order.

UNFIXING BAYONETS

Standing at the order, the command will be *Squad will unfix bayonets... Unfix... Bayonets.*

- 1) On the word *Unfix..* the rifle will be moved to between the legs and gripped by the knees. The bayonet is detached using both hands and is held steady.
- 2) On the command *Bayonets* both hands return the bayonet to the scabbard. Both hands and eyes are held steady on the bayonet.
- 3) On the command *Attention* the left hand takes the rifle back to the order. The eyes and other hand move to attention.

PORT ARMS

The rifle may be carried at the high port when at double time but this position is also adopted when magazine and working parts are inspected.

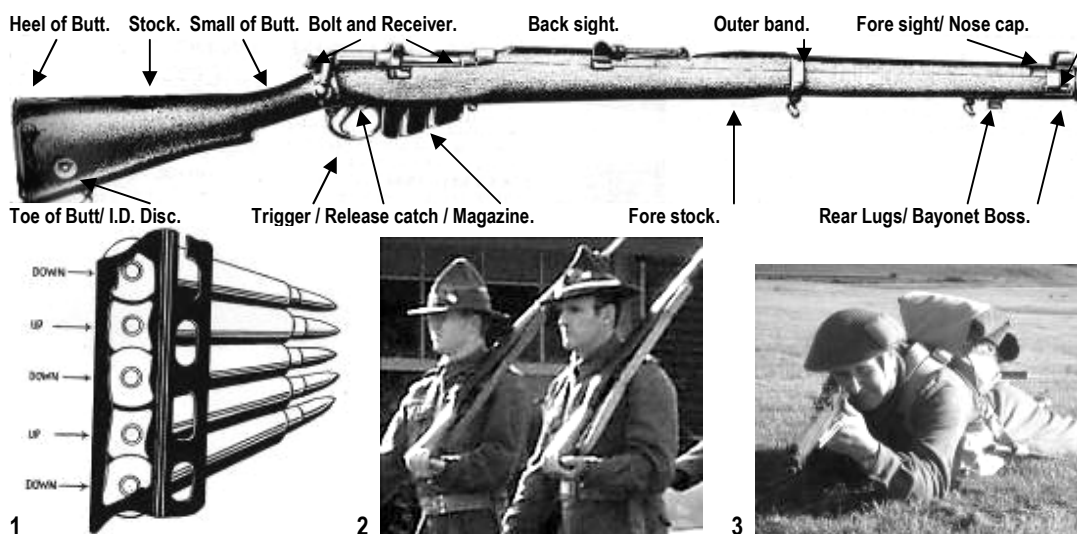
The rifle is canted up -the right hand working the action open while the left hand takes the weight. Once the rifle has been inspected the rifle is discreetly returned to the order.



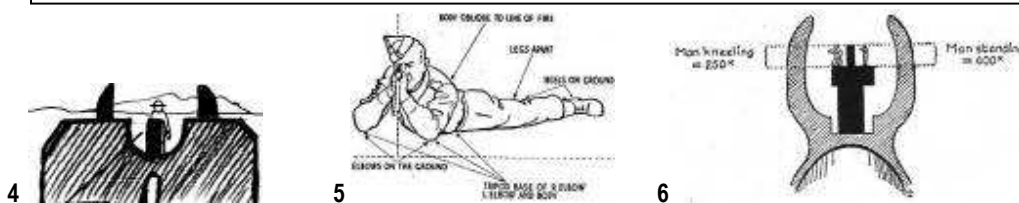
S.M.L.E. MK III*
CALIBRE 0.303
MAGAZINE CAPACITY 10 rounds
RIFLING left hand 5 groove
ACTION Rear locking bolt action
BAYONET 18" 07 Bayonet
WEIGHT 8.2lbs (3.7kg)
LENGTH 44.5" (1,130 mm)

S.M.L.E. .303 Lee Enfield Rifle

The standard rifle for every Commonwealth soldier in the Second World War the Lee Enfield .303 in either one of the marks of S.M.L.E. (Short, Magazine Lee Enfield) or the 'No 4'. The SMLE was a development of the earlier 'Long Tom' Lee Enfield, which was shorter and designed for realistic combat ranges. The Lee Enfield was an excellent weapon, proving to be a durable, accurate rifle with a fast reloading action and a high ammunition capacity of 10 rounds. These factors meant that any replacement weapon would have stiff competition indeed. This battle proved rifle served (with minor changes) in two world wars or over 50 years. During the 1930's several new self-loading rifles were trialed but none proved as efficient as the S.M.L.E. ultimately, due to the vast stocks of .303 ammunition available, a solution came from redesigning the S.M.L.E. for modern massed production. This new 'No 4' rifle was not issued in any numbers until 1942 and then mostly to British and Canadian troops. The SMLE was manufactured in the UK, Canada, Ishapore (India) and Lithgow (Australia) New Zealand troops used them up until the late 1940s and N04s lasted longer. The Lee Enfield was a reliable, simple and deadly battlefield weapon.



1) A clip of 303 rounds correctly loaded in a charger. This method allowed each round to drop clear into the magazine assisted by the steady pressure of the thumb pushing them down. 2) An SMLE held in the 'slope arms' position. 3) Accuracy of all firing is vastly improved by good balance and steady support. 4) The sight picture of the SMLE fore sight looking through the rear sight, here the rifle alignment is correct and should hit the target's chest. (Focus of the aiming eye should be on the target) 5) the correct position during prone firing. 6) Gauging distance of men compared to the foresight.



Pictures 1, 5, 6, From the manual of Elementary Drill. 2,

THOMPSON S.M.G. BREN L.M.G. VICKERS H.M.G.



The *Thompson* sub machine gun was the most commonly used S.M.G. in the New Zealand army, stocks however took some time to reach troops but by the end of the fighting in Italy there were some sections that had a ratio of one Thompson for every two rifle men.

The Thompson retained a Gangster image for a long time especially the earlier models with fore grip and drum mag. The later models had horizontal grip and eventually cocking lever moved to the side. By design, the Tommy gun was not accurate but its .45 bullet had a heavy hit and it was solid and reliable.

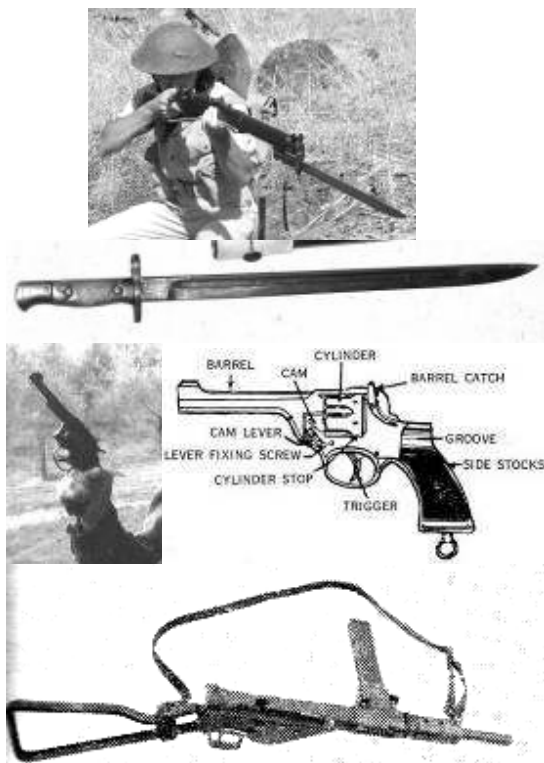
The *Bren* gun was a precisely made LMG it could fire single shot with the accuracy of a rifle or in full auto with change of a switch. The Bren was the best magazine fed LMG of the war with the useful features of a quick change barrel and an adjustable handle. The Bren could be fired from waist height with the strap over the shoulder, using the bipod or on a tripod for sustained fire. The tripod could be up-righted for AA use. The magazine contained up to thirty .303 rounds. Brens were issued one per section and usually operated by a gunner who carried it and his Number 2 who carried extra ammunition and spare barrel.

The *Vickers* was heavy and complex but reliable, belt fed, water cooled HMG. A condenser pipe took steam from the hot barrel jacket which collected in a water can this could then be used to top up the jacket. Firing long range on fixed sights it could operate as 'bullet artillery'. They were operated by mostly by Machine gun Battalion men posted to field units. Like the Bren it could fire standard .303 ammunition but operated best and on maximum range with a supercharged round issued for the weapon.

BELOW : A Bren fired from behind cover, the sights are offset to the left due to the magazine on top. BELOW RIGHT: A Vickers team, of loader, gunner and observer. Steam condenses in the can underneath once the jacket water boils.



07' BAYONET, REVOLVERS, STEN GUN, .30-06 BROWNING,



ABOVE: 08 bayonet, Smith and Wesson, Enfield Mk II, Sten MkII SMG (with frame butt) BELOW: M1919 A4 Browning mounted on tripod and on a vehicle mounting. Courtesy of the A.T.L.



By WW2, the imagery of soldiers charging with bayonets was well established but just how much hand to hand was really expected was indicated by the deletion of the WW1 hooked quillion on the 07' bayonet -designed to catch an opponent's blade.

It could be argued that in WW2 its main effect was one of psychology, for troops who had a reputation for using bayonets also gained an advantage in combat, therefore the longer and more obvious it- was the better: here Commonwealth troops were well served because the standard bayonet for the SMLE rifle was eighteen inches long. The weapon proved useful for the same reason for guarding prisoners and encouraging physical aggression in recruits.

There were several instances of bayonet charges that were that more successful because of its powerful morale effect on the user and enemy alike.

New Zealanders were issued revolvers from British sources-Enfield, and Webleys of .38 calibre and U.S. loan-lease Smith and Wessons issued in both .38 and .45 calibre.

Pistols are very short ranged and really a weapon of last resort. Their chief advantage lies with their immediate portability- (it can be used one handed) making them popular with tank crews or those carrying a support weapon.

Sten guns were a cheap, but effective SMG produced originally in Britain as a stop-gap weapon. By the time that stocks started reaching the armies based in North Africa (1942) and later Italy, the Thompson had already become entrenched as the standard. The Sten furthermore used 9mm ammunition, the only Allied weapon to do so in those campaigns.

New units arriving from Britain would have brought Stens as a matter of course and some examples may have arrived in NZEF hands as unofficial issue. New Zealand also manufactured Stens (10,000) but these remained for home defence.

Browning machine guns came from US stocks and arrived in general use by 1944. The M1919 A4.30-06 belt fed Brownings were used with pistol grip as an infantry medium machine gun or when with spade grips (like the heavy hitting .50 cal) on vehicles.

Photographic evidence shows that Fijian commandoes in the Pacific (who were led by New Zealand officers) used Owen sub machine guns. Fifty Owens and Austens were imported for trial for the NZ army.

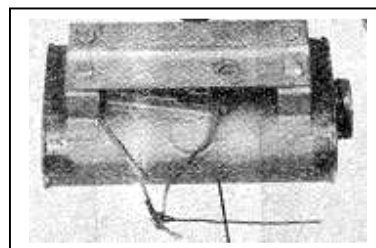
No36 MILLS BOMB

The Mills bomb is the standard H.E. Hand grenade for both world wars. The fuses came in tan (7 seconds) or white (4 seconds). The explosion threw fragments 25 yards and it could also be fired from the E.Y. (extra yield) S.M.L.E. with the addition of base plate and then inserted (with safety pin removed) into a discharging cup attached to the rifle muzzle and launched by firing a blank ballistite cartridge (marked with a purple band).



No77 SMOKE GRENADE

This white phosphorus grenade produced a short thick smoke screen. The cap unscrewed, exposing a weighted length of tape, which when thrown, pulled out the safety pin and arming the grenade to detonate on impact.

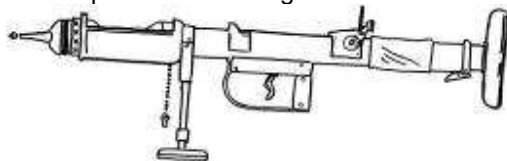


No75 HAWKINS GRENADE

Although it could be thrown, the 75 was often buried. When fused with the striker plate upwards, 200lb pressure would detonate the 750 grams of high explosive. The 75 was a compact device comparable with a paperback book, therefore its primary effect was against unarmoured targets or anti personnel.

Other common place munitions included Plastic Explosive, Gun Cotton and Bangalore 'torpedoes' which were tubes of explosive, connected to form a desired length and detonated to clear barbed wire. Also Ack-Pak man portable flamethrowers were used in limited numbers toward the end of the war.

P.I.A.T Projector Infantry Anti Tank- A unique weapon, firing a 2½ lb spigot charge only up to 120 yards. However, it was very effective against most tanks and handy for destroying buildings or emplacements. The PIAT, unlike the bazooka, had no dangerous back blast allowing good prone firing and was easily used by one man, but it required a steady nerve skill to operate and strength.



BOYS Anti tank rifle. The Boys was an early war weapon firing .55 AP round from a bolt operating mechanism. The rifle could not match the increasing strength of tank armour indeed the infantry were poorly served by anti-tank weapons until the introduction of the PIAT in 1943. The Boys laboured on in a different role as a kind of hard-hitting long-range rifle especially with units like the L.R. D.G.

2inch MORTAR. Issued to each platoon. These rapidly aimed and fired weapons could drop HE, smoke, signal and illuminating 2lb bombs onto targets of up to 450 yards distant. These weapons were issued with or without base plates.



3 inch MORTAR. The standard infantry bombardment weapon issued to each COY to fire a variety of 3lb shells onto targets of up to 1600 yards. This classic base, bipod and barrel arrangement was duplicated in most armies during W.W.2 and weighed 127lbs.



Images: Infantry training Vol 1 & author.

ARTILLERY

The New Zealand 2nd Div had four field regiments of artillery that initially used upgraded First World War 18-pdrs. The arrival of the 25 pdr gun/ howitzer in 1941 marked a new era for the Divisional Artillery, in this gun they had a weapon that could drop shells long range, fire directly, and tackle tanks. The 25pdr was light enough to manoeuvre and able to be brought into action very quickly. These traits coupled with intense training and Royal artillery structure meant that an artillery observer could bring all the Division's 72, 25pdrs to fire on a single target in two minutes.

These artillery calls were made via a radio or telephone and the observer could prefix the coordinates with 'murder' or 'stunk'. 'Murder' referred to all guns firing on just a single co-ordinate. Whereas the 'Stunk' was a blanket fire centred on a co-ordinate but covering an area 600 by 525 yards.

The artillery soon became the most effective arm of the Commonwealth armies by concentrated on rapid and accurate suppressive fire rather than slow and heavy destructive fire. The 25 pdr remained the standard field gun for the New Zealanders while additional supporting fire was often provided by Royal Artillery medium and heavy Regts., using 4.5 or 5.5-inch guns. New Zealand did not receive these larger guns until post war.

ANTI-TANK ARTILLERY

The 2-pdr gun has received harsh criticism when compared with later Anti tank guns but in fact, they were effective on most early war armour.

The key disadvantage for the 2-pdr was that they had low clearance when towed and this lead to many of them being mounted 'portee' style on truck decks. They also lacked a high explosive shell for tackling infantry. However, the 25-pdr guns had the ability to fire armour piercing rounds and until the newer 6pdrs arrived, the 25 pdrs filled the gap.

The 6pdr gun had an effective AP shell able to take on most German tanks in North Africa. Yet the arrival of late war German tank types meant that the new 17pdr would be needed. The 17 pdr was certainly effective but it was heavy to manoeuvre and as the Italian campaign continued, the Germans started using their armour defensively, giving less opportunity to use the 17 pdr. A final experiment in self-propelled artillery saw the NZ artillery convert a troop to use M10 'Wolverine' tank destroyers firing 3" guns.

The 14th light anti aircraft regiment was issued 40mm Bofors guns for local air defence. Once air superiority had been won by the Allies the Bofors crews found themselves called upon to lay suppressive fire much like conventional artillery.

GUN	Date of NZ issue	Standard A.P. 500yd Penetration	Max Effective Range
AT 2 pdr	1940	53 mm	700 yds
AT 6 pdr	1942	75 mm	1,000 yds
AT17pdr	1943	123mm	1,310 yds
25 pdr	1941	62 mm	13,400yds
SP AT M10 3"/15pdr	1944	77 mm	5,366yds



Photo courtesy of Rod Tempero



The 25 pdr (top) was considered one of the best artillery pieces of the war, its two part charge enabled it to fire many different rounds even though it was considered a relatively light artillery piece, a trait that it shared with the two pounder (above) however its range and flexibility enabled it to function well beyond its original design. The 2pdr by comparison was soon out classed by it's targets and from late1941 it's 6 pdr competitor.



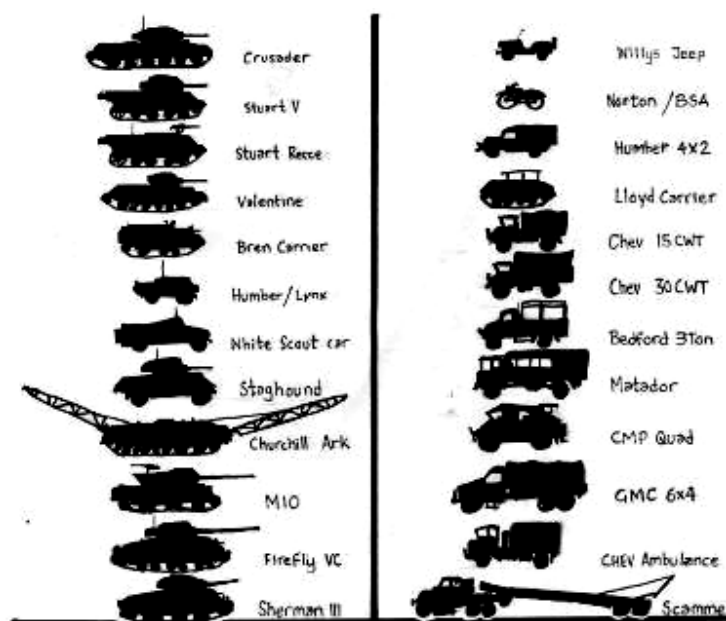
A 25 pdr gun-howitzer and ammunition limber normally crewed by six gunners but here by four, which was considered a minimum. A 6 pdr anti-tank gun is nearby. As neither gun is dug in or camouflaged, it is likely they have been brought into action after a sudden intrusion from the enemy

VEHICLES

Vehicles in use with the 2nd Div followed the general lines of any division in the 8th army. These items were a variety of British made and U.S. lend lease items plus many vehicles that were scrounged or salvaged from the battlefield.

Broadly speaking they divided into two groups- hard skin and soft skin or those with armour and without. Vehicles were painted standard tan or bronze green for Italy. N.Z. tanks initially (1943) had a light grey and black camouflage scheme before also gaining a bronze green base colour. Later, brown disruptive patterns were added to the tanks. Insignia consisted of Air identification (RAF) roundel or from 1943 a U.S. star on the upper surfaces, divisional insignia on the right front and rear mudguard, with unit serial numbers on the left front and rear mudguard and those for the 4th Armoured Brigade under the Div symbol.

The standard bridge classification number on a yellow disc or square that identified the maximum weight of the vehicle for bridge crossings does not seem to have been in common use with the NZ Div. The side of vehicles bore a serial number with a prefix letter indicating the kind of vehicle. Thus T55674 meant tank or A.P.C. 'A' was for ambulance, 'F' for armoured cars, 'M' for jeeps 'L' for trucks over one ton (lorry) 'Z' for trucks under a ton. Tactical markings for armour were based on the British system of a diamond for HQ Squadrons, a triangle for A Sqn a square for B Sqn or circle for C Sqn, all in a colour for each different Regiment. By 1945 some tanks had a telephone intercom in a box on the rear for infantry to communicate to the crew. This was marked with a white 'T' and an arrow indicating its position. New Zealanders pioneered use of turretless Stuart tanks in the hybrid role of armoured car and armoured personnel carrier.



A C.M.P (Canadian Military Pattern)
Chevrolet 8 CWT in use by Artillery.



A Valentine tank transports
infantry during maneuvers.
Photo by Peter Harrison

4th Armoured Brigade

The 2nd Div had no integral tank/armour units apart from the light stuaarts and armoured cars of the Div Cav. On several occasions other armoured forces had been attached alongside the Kiws but increasingly Freyburg desired New Zealand armour for New Zealand units. In 1943 the 4th infantry Brigade having taken heavy losses were retrained and re-equipped as an integral Armoured Brigade. Its tank Regts first seeing action in Italy November 1943.

The 4th Brigade consisted of 18, 19, 20th Regts using a combination of Sherman IIIs, IBs, and with the 17pdr AT gun on the VC. The brigade also used Stuarts, carriers and Humber armoured cars. The tank crews in Shermans were able to get good kill shots on the formidable Tiger tanks only by ganging up on them. The Sherman VCs were distributed 3 per squadron, and these 17pdrs were able to balance the odds providing the range was good. The 22nd batalion was attached as motorised infantry to the 4th Arm'd Brigade until 1945.

7TH ANTI-TANK REGT

This unit was equipped initially with 2pdr guns mounted on lorries. As the war progressed they up gunned to 6 and 17pdrs.

After the cassino battles several M10 tank destroyers were acquired. These were Sherman bodies armed with 76mm guns in an open turret. Though they looked like tanks, they were really armoured artillery. As the war progressed in Italy both anti tank and anti aircraft units found themselves operating increasingly as artillery fire support.

BREN CARRIER

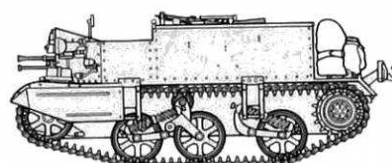


The Bren carrier is the direct descendant of the Carden-Lloyd tankettes of the 1930's. The early wartime models were not much more than scout vehicles, but when the larger 'universal' carrier was introduced, the name had already stuck. The carrier was an open top lightly armoured personnel carrier with a two-man crew and room to carry 3-4 men. They were vulnerable to overhead fire and had nasty repercussions for the crew if overturned. Carriers had a unique steering system, which flexed the track, and while this helped perform rapid turns, it did mean that the track could be thrown if abused. Carriers are fast, maneuverable and have great cross-country ability so they performed and initiated many of the roles that were later adopted by jeep, halftrack and armoured car. This strange machine might have been overshadowed by lend lease vehicles but for some reason it found a niche and despite its drawbacks proved itself reliable and adaptable, indeed, they can be argued as being the signature British armoured vehicle of the war. Carrier platoons were formed in each battalion and often this force would race into action to each deploy a Bren gun team and then withdraw until required. The carriers could be required to transport mortar teams, pull anti tank guns and act as a mobile machine gun post. Carriers also carried munitions and radios forward in fire swept terrain. Later in the war Bren carriers were sometimes fitted with a flamethrower to become a 'wasp' and used in assaulting fixed defences.

The railway workshops in New Zealand also produced (1,300) a Local pattern (LP2) of the carrier using streamlined welding methods, many examples are still operational today.



T12506 is a particularly fine restored riveted Carrier. Visible here is the spare track and the guide wheel on the front. To the left sat the gunner /commander in a static sponson with firing slit for a forward facing Bren, Vickers M.G. or Boyes A.T. rifle . The cramped driver sat low down on the right, his vision was limited to the front. However, he could use a wing mirror or take direction from the higher seated gunner. Note the large steering wheel, which performed more in the fashion of a boat tiller. In the rear compartment was space for passengers, weapons stowage, S.A.A, radio and a centrally mounted V8 engine. The T12506 is also restored with tools/ spares lockers and mounting steps in the rear.



'37 PATTERN WEBBING

This '37 Pattern webbing equipment was also known as the Braithwaite equipment after the board that selected it for trials. And developed from the '08 webbing of WW1 in response to the motorization and new automatic weaponry of the modernizing Commonwealth armies. The equipment was designed as a system suitable for all ranks and arms, yet though out the war the webbing was modified and had additions for carrying even more equipment. Often the web gear sat correctly on the body only after fully loading the pouches, and much adjusting of the straps and belt however the equipment faired better than other designs in being able to accommodate the later war munitions. The close weave canvas was difficult to dry out when wet, even though the webbing could be treated with Blanco- a temporary cleaning and waterproofing paste. Canada, Britain and India manufactured large quantities of the equipment and in smaller quantities in America, Australia, NZ and South Africa. Many additional hold-alls, pouches, straps, bags and items followed the style and construction of the web equipment to house, protect or carry the multitude of military paraphernalia required of the soldier.

View of basic pouch attachment and 'female' brass buckle for the 37 web belt. The Type 2 cartridge carrier was used by non-Infantry units instead of Basic ammo pouches. Staged wartime action photos can be identified by these pouches worn by troops who were often non-Infantry units or reserve units posed by the photographer after the battle had moved on.



Though not part of the webbing, the anklets were made of the same materials, and along with helmet, battledress and webbing defined the profile of Commonwealth soldiers. Anklets came in a pair - left and right, buckles faced the outside and straps trailing to the rear. The contoured lower edge fitted around the boot. Post war Anklets often have black leather straps. They came in several sizes. Size '4' being the most common.



The entrenching tool seen in web carrier here, was designed to be used while lying down but it was often carrier was discarded in favour of the GS shovel or pick.



A view showing basic pouches, small pack and bayonet in scabbard, which when in action is best left unsecured by the frog loop otherwise the bayonet and its scabbard were held rigid alongside the body and could give the wearer a nasty jab in the ribs if the scabbard pushed into the ground.

37 Pattern Webbing

This web equipment designed by the Mills equipment company was the first webbing to introduce a multi use pouch able to carry different ammunition, grenades, magazines and even mortar bombs. Disadvantages lay in being difficult to dry out and decontaminate in the presence of gas. While some items were designed for modern war, others languished in inefficiency. The water bottle retained an ineffective cork and other items were boxy and bulky -often limiting movement.

Brass items were polished for parade but were allowed to tarnish for field service. M.P. units used white Blanco or whitewashed sets for policing. 37 Equipment varied in colour from the issue tan to green or even near white, depending on exposure to sun and colour of Blanco applied. Sets issued to Kiwis often were left unblanched the first issues being to the 2nd echelon on reaching Britain and the 2nd Division shortly after in Egypt. By 1941 stocks were available in New Zealand.



COMBAT ORDER.

Small pack attached with L straps to basic pouches at the front. Under these, brace straps run from the pouches over the shoulder and at the back cross in an X shape to meet buckles at the rear of the belt. The right side trailing ends of the braces connect to the cloth covered enamel water bottle suspended in a webbing frame.

The weight of the water bottle is balanced by the 18" sword bayonet, suspended in a leather scabbard by a webbing frog to the belt. The pouches contain munitions including 2 ammunition bandoliers, Bren gun magazines, and a grenade. The weight of the pouches is balanced by the small pack that contains personal effects, cooking utensils and spare clothing. Fully packed combat order would weigh 32lb. The standard entrenching tool was often discarded in favour of the G.S. pick or shovel, usually slipped behind the haversack.

CONVERTED OFFICER SET.

Example of a 'field adapted' set as used by an officer. Including the standard cross straps attached to the belt via a basic Ammo pouch (for Thompson mags) and on the left by an attaching brace. Along the belt is a pistol ammunition pouch and webbing holster for the .45 revolver. A 2nd pat binocular case. A pouch for flare cartridges (non-standard) felt lined box compass pouch and basic ammo pouch. Suspended below is the 3rd pat web sleeve cover for the water bottle and the officers' haversack, which contained maps notebooks, and other command materials. A multitude of lanyards secured whistle, compass, revolver and binoculars to the owner. Additionally the small '37 haversack containing personal kit was usually carried in action.

PERIOD PARAPHERNALIA FOR THE SOLDIER



TOP TO BOTTOM:

Razor blades and shaving brush. Metal comb. Jack Knife stainless steel for jungle issue. On leather/brass gasmask hook. Jack Knife steel with black plastic grips on brass 'brace attachment' type 2 (converted). Button stick. Tin opener. Prismatic compass MKIII. First Field dressing. Binoculars No2 MkII. Wooden toothbrush. Ronson lighter. Players 10pk cigarettes. Pipe. Tortoiseshell / wire spectacles. Brass kit bag keeper, handle and steel lock. 'Assault rope'. Two versions were available thick and longer for infantry units and short and thinner for the use of commandoes. By joining several lengths together a rough climbing rope could be made. Although it has also been claimed that these ropes were used with mules and horses as picket collars and leads.



LEFT BELOW: A soldier might have a great selection of paperwork on him. Maps, passes, occupation money, guide books, AB64 ID /paybook. Note book. Also here are D.R. gloves, 'snake belt, lemon squeezer, GS cap, stop watch, and wristwatch. A copy of the 'NZE Times' also came in handy for whisking away flies or street peddlers.

BELOW: The standard stamped metal Verrey pistol carried with flares. Used to signal prearranged messages or cues. Its bulk and weight only added to the commanders burdens.





SMALL PACK AND CONTENTS



The small pack carried all the kit a soldier may need in the field and attached to the webbing via brass hooks. Clockwise, the contents here are: Enamel mug with food tin, spoon and fork, mess tins, cigarettes and Ronson lighter, clothes and shoe brushes, puttees, FS cap, holdall with comb, laces, needles, buttons, toothbrush, button stick, clasp knife, leather coin/watch purse, field dressing, spare bandolier, K.D. shorts, wool gloves, shaving kit, mirror razor, blades, brush, soap tin, can opener, equipment cleaning stencil, assault rope, tea container, neck scarf and hand towel.

RATIONS

Food for the fighting man is always cause for complaint, either being too little or lacking in variety or quality. The New Zealand soldiers had rations drawn from either American or British sources depending on their theatre of operations. The closer to the front line the soldier was, the more likely his food would arrive in a tin. Fresh food quickly spoiled on route to combat areas however at every opportunity fresh local supplies were sought to supplement the official ration scale. In the early part of the war subsistence in combat revolved around the standard army biscuit (Hard Tack), bully beef (corned beef), porridge and brewed tea. With hot soup or stew brought up in thermoses whenever possible. Field kitchens were set up behind the lines and these provided fresh bread, made up full meals for reserve troops, hot meals for transport to forward areas and cold rations for troops to take on the march in their ration bags and haversacks. By 1943 the new Compo ration came right to the front line and was consumed wherever field kitchens could not be brought in. The compo ration came in a crate and provided enough tinned food for a section for one day.



The *D* issue compo ration contained: 10 meat and vege cans, 3 of bacon, 3 veges, 8 sardines, 2 condensed soups, 2 chocolate, tea, sugar and powdered milk, biscuits 3 pudding and 100 cigarettes.

Compo rations had a range of different menus for variety and labelled A-G they were calculated at 3,600 calories per man.

RIGHT: A sealed emergency high energy chocolate to be opened only on instruction.

Photo: Vern Ballance

2nd NZEF FIGURES AND TABLES

Please note these tables & figures are based on both primary and secondary sources and as such should be read as a guide only.

NZ ARMoured BRIGADE circa 1944

3 Armoured regiments of 12 squadrons and 1 motorised Infantry battalion of 4 companies

43	Shermans III & IB tanks
12	Sherman Fireflys
9	Stuart tanks
28	Stuart recces (turretless tanks as APCs)
40	Humber/Lynx armoured cars
6	Bridge layer Valentines
6	A'rmd tank recovery Shermans
9	Scammell recovery tractors
44	Bren/ Lloyd carriers
80	15 CWT trucks
25	3 ton lorries

1x ANTI TANK Regt.of:

9	M10 tank destroyers
25	17 Pdr AT guns
6	Sherman AVRES
6	Sherman dozers

Daily rates of pay after embarkation In shillings and pence

Private:	7 & 6
Corporal:	9.
Sergeant:	10.
W.O. II:	12 & 6
2 nd Lieutenant:	16 & 6
Lieutenant:	17.
Captain:	21.
Major:	27 & 6

Everyman had compulsory minimum allotment of payment sent home to a dependent. Depending on circumstances (Approx 40%)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Approximate for comparison

1 INCH	= 16 th inch = 2.54cm
1 FOOT	= 12 inches = 31 cm
1 YARD	= 3 feet = 1.1 metres
100 yards	= 109m
1 MILE	= 1,760 yards = 1.6km
10miles	= 16km

1 POUND	= 1/2 kg	2pds	= 1kg
1 TON	= 2,240pds	1 m. tonne	= 1000kg

RIFLE BATTALION TRANSPORT

Standard W.O. Paper strength 1941

x2	Humber 4x2 8cwt (wireless truck)
x6	Austin 2 seater (later jeeps)
x1	motor car 4 seater ford V8
x27	motor cycles BSA/ NORTON
x14	Bren /Universal carriers
x7	Universal carriers w/ 3" mortar
x1	30 cwt lorry
x13	3ton truck (Bedford, Austin, GMC)
x1	15cwt water tanker
x32	15 cwt cargo trucks (Bedford, Chev)

RIFLE BATTALION WEAPONS

Standard W.O. Paper strength 1941

x47	Pistols
x717	SMLE .303 Rifles
x42	SMG. 45 Thompsons
x58	LMG. 303 Brens
x25	A.T. Rifles
x6	3" Mortars
x16	2" Mortars

WARTIME TOTALS

1939 NZ POPULATION	1,632,000
1939 MEN MILITARY AGE 18-45	355,000
MEN & WOMAN OVERSEAS	135,000
NZ 2 nd DIVISION (Late 1944)	20,000
HOME GUARD PEAK	124,000
ARMY PEAK	127,000
ARMY DEATHS	6,793
ARMY WOUNDED	15,324
ARMY P.O.W.S	7,863
NAVY PEAK	6,000
NAVY DEATHS	573
NAVY WOUNDED	170
NAVY P.O.W.S	57
AIRFORCE PEAK	24,000
AIRFORCE DEATHS	4,149
AIRFORCE WOUNDED	255
AIRFORCE P.O.W.S	575
MERCHANT MARINE DEATHS	110
MERCHANT MARINE P.O.W.S	123
TOTAL DEATHS (INCL MIA)	11,671

**NEW ZEALANDS CASUALTY RATE WAS
24% PER 1000 OF POPULATION.**

TOP 5 NZEF MEDICAL ADMISSIONS 1943-1944

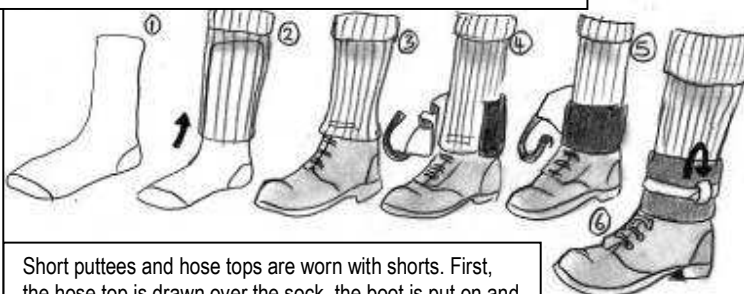
1	BATTLE CASUALTIES	4,833
2	FEVER (GENERAL)	2,039
3	ACCIDENTAL INJURIES	1,933
4	HEPATITIS	1,924
5	VENERAL DISEASE	1,028

Penetration of .303 bullet @ point blank

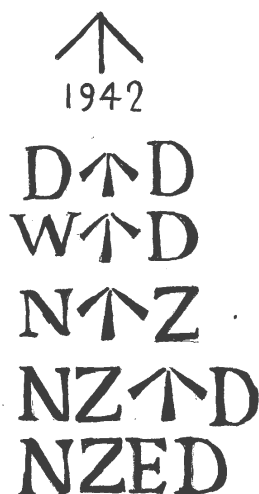
Mild Steel...	2/3 inch
Shingle...	9 inches
Brick wall...	21 inches
Sand in bags...	27 inches
Earth...	60 inches



The military adopted this manner of lacing boots hence being 'straight laced'. Apart from appearing tidy, this enabled a stretcher-bearer to easily run a blade through the laces to get the boot off. There are several methods of lacing the boot 'ladder style'. Here dark laces are to the front, white are underneath.



Short puttees and hose tops are worn with shorts. First, the hose top is drawn over the sock, the boot is put on and the puttee is wrapped around the leg to the front. The tail is finished to the outer leg and folded up and looped over until the end can tuck under the loop.



The Thermette is a type of storm kettle. It very efficiently boils water by heating a tubular water jacket via an internal chimney. These early Thermettes were first designed in New Zealand in 1929 and acquired by the Government copyright free for use with the army.

There is some confusion with the nickname 'Benghazi burner' which is in fact a popular 8th Army adhoc arrangement of a 'flimsy' fuel can cut in half and filled with a mixture of petrol and sand. Some sources refer to the Thermette as a 'Benghazi boiler' if so, it could be a verbal corruption of the 'burner'. As the Thermette was already in familiar use prior to the war it is likely, the soldiers just called it a 'boiler'.

The Thermette left a circular patch of ash on the ground, which was a good indicator of a kiwi campsite as any.

PHOTO BY VERN BALLANCE



Government Issue marks.

The broad arrow stamp was a government acceptance mark and came in many variations.

Above are some of the common ones. Top: The stamp as used on a metal item with date. The *DD* Australian mark. The British War Department mark. The New Zealand mark pre 1923. *NZD* was the New Zealand mark for WW2.

Ex Cadet force items will often have the mark *NZED* for New Zealand Education Department.

These markings would be dated and could be accompanied by serial numbers, manufacturer or inspector's initials.

The **SLIT TRENCH** was a substantial entrenchment being usually dug waist deep and large enough for two men, if opportunity allowed a roof would be put up -usually a ground sheet but on at least one occasion an abandoned double wardrobe impressed and filled with earth.

A **SHELL SCRAPE** was literally scraped from the ground and was dug down to a depth of 10-15 inches and provided cover or camouflage to a man lying prone; it was temporary cover until a slit trench could be dug.

Military Colours

Bronze green Standard mid yellowish green used on vehicles /equipment.

Sand The white-yellow tone applied to vehicles/ equipment in desert.

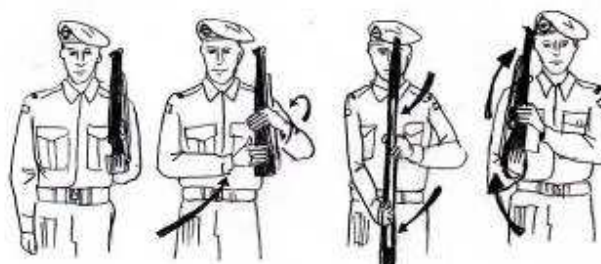
Khaki Similar to sand though with a warmer yellow hue. Seen in webbing and Tropical uniforms

Tan. A russet brown khaki- often used in tents/ canvas articles.

Khaki Brown, Khaki drab, khaki serge, Dark Khaki Colour of woolen serge battledress often also a painted colour on helmets/ articles.

Olive green/ drab- A universal late war American issue colour- grey-green.

Jungle green- a dark-mid tone green as used in Tropics by Commonwealth forces.



Change Arms—bring the rifle down to the full extent of the arm then back up. This rests one side of the body while remaining at the slope. Magazine to the outside. Reverse the procedure to return to the original shoulder.

CARING FOR YOUR KIT.

YOU WILL NEED:

Black/ Brown boot polish
Ballistol Klever
Nitro solvent
Pull through or cleaning rod

Shoe brushes
Cleaning patches
Boiling water 1.5 litres
Old toothbrushes

Brasso
Sewing kit
Knife

THE RIFLE

Pour boiling water down the breach, this removes chunks of unburnt powder and heats the barrel up. Do this within 12 hrs of firing or pitting will occur. Then while the barrel is still hot send a bore brush through to pick up dirt on your pull through or rod. Then oil up a few cleaning patches with nitro solvent and send them through until the bore becomes reasonably clean. Send a dry patch through to soak up excess oil. Repeat, if necessary. Mix a little Ballistol Klever with water and send this through the bore. The Ballistol emulsifies the water it is a rust protectant that is made from coal and has been in use with the German army since 1904. Among its other properties is the ability to soften leather, protect wood and even disinfect scratches!

Clean the exterior of the rifle metal work with the toothbrush, then send a gun oil soaked patch around the working parts and catches. Tighten screws and then clean the sling and set it tight. Keep the sling tight for rifle drill, adjust the lower clasp so the hooks face outwards and are level with the small of the butt, then adjust the top clasp to the length desired.

EQUIPMENT

Scrub dry dirt off with a dry toothbrush then use a rag with Brasso on metal work buff it before it dries completely, use some tin foil or a button stick to keep the Brasso off the webbing because it stains. If Blanco is desired use sparingly, rub gently into the webbing with a damp cloth or scrub with hot soapy water to remove. The scabbard on the bayonet should be given some oil or boot polish /buff treatment and oil the bayonet too. '37 pattern webbing can be adjusted more easily by opening up the attachment pockets on the belt with a clasp knife spike. Make sure the water bottle is emptied before storage and clean the entrenching tool.

BOOTS

If wet, dry them out by filling them with newspaper. Check if hobnails are missing. Put a tiny spot of glue around the holes and hammer the hobnails in. If you have leather soles don't forget to do these when you polish your boots. Liberally apply boot polish and leave them somewhere warm, then buff them as fast as you can, the friction melts the polish into the leather making it waterproof and shiny. Remember to do the tongue. Lastly apply Ballistol to the eyelets, hobnails and cleats to protect them from rust.

UNIFORMS

Brush off dry dirt with a stiff brush. You can hand wash if you like but be careful if you are dealing with 70 year old clothing. Always dry on the line and it's easier to iron if the material is slightly damp.

Alternatively you can get it dry-cleaned -make sure you remove badges first. It's worth asking for them for creases in the pants which makes the uniform look very smart. About now is a good time to stitch up any holes that have appeared and keep the moths away with moth balls. Once you have done it properly, caring for your kit is just a matter of maintenance.

Below: The tightening of the sling, opening of the breech and detail of the anklets in which the buckles face outwards, the straps trailing to the rear. The curved edge fits over the boot. Leave muddy anklets to dry before a vigorous brushing



GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS AS USED BY NEW ZEALANDERS & COMMONWEALTH TROOPS IN WORLD WAR 2

A.A.	Anti-Aircraft refers to a weapon type.
A.D.S.	Advanced Dressing Station, a medical post capable of modest surgery near the front line.
A. F.V.	Armoured fighting vehicle (i.e.) a vehicle with weapons other than a tank (Scout car).
A. P.	Armour-piercing, a type of shell designed to penetrate armour plating.
ARTY	Abbreviation for artillery.
ARM'D	Abbreviation for armoured units (tanks).
A.T.	Anti-tank. A weapon designation for weapons, munitions or guns.
A.V.R.E.	Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers. A type of tank specially converted to lay demolition charges or other engineer jobs under fire.
BALL	Ballistic (i.e.) live ammunition -with bullet, cartridge, etc (see also Blank)
BANGALORE TORPEDO	Narrow explosive tubes, joined with others to blow long gaps through barbed wire.
BATTLE BOWLER	Steel helmet (slang) also 'tin hat'
BATTLE FATIGUE	Official term refers to Shell-shock. (See also Bomb happy)
BATTLE ORDER	Equipment and clothing to be worn in action (i.e.) helmet, webbing, rifle, etc
BASE WALLAH	A soldier/ officer in a unit that stays back behind the lines.
BELT ORDER	Wearing standard uniform with just a belt instead of full equipment.
B.D.	Battle dress uniform of wool serge, also refers to a khaki denim version.
BINT	Girl. (Egyptian) It became commonplace to include foreign words into general use.
BLANK	Ammunition without a warhead, designed to simulate the discharge of a projectile but with no ballistic effect. Used in training or manoeuvres.
BLANKET DRILL	Sleep. (also Maori P.T.) Slang.
BLISTER(S)	Someone who turns up after all the work is finished.
BLUE	Featureless desert. As in 'up the blue' and later 'stuck in a hostile place'.
BLUE ON BLUE	Friendly fire. Allies are shown as blue in colour on maps, enemy positions in red.
BRASS	Brass parts of uniform (i.e.) buttons, buckles, badges. Also empty or used cartridge cases (Inf).
BRASS HAT	High ranking officers (also Top brass) mildly derogatory.
BROWN JOBS	Air force slang for foot soldiers (Insult)
BROAD ARROW STAMP	Official government issue mark, often accompanied by date and or year.
BDE.,	Brigade, usually composing 3 battalions or about 1,500+ men.
BTN.,	Battalion, composed of 3 companies or about 400+ men
BOMB-HAPPY	Shell shock, also refers to a crazed indifference to enemy fire.
C.A.C	Colonial Ammunition Company. New Zealand manufacturer of .303 ammo.
CASA	House (Italian)
C.B.	Confined to Barracks. Minor punishment (with inspections, extra fatigue duties and no free time).
CHAR	Tea (Indian)
C.O.	Commanding officer. Officer officially in command of a unit. (See O.C.)
COY.,	Company, composed of 3-4 platoons or 120+ men
COOK OFF	Ammunition or explosive material that may detonate. (e.g.) A hang fire should be given time to 'cook off' before being ejected from the breech.
CUSHY NUMBER	A job, task, or posting that is easy and requires little or no work.
CUNT CAPS	Slang term for the F.S. cap because of the shape of the top of the cap.
DEMON VINO	Local Italian wine, often of dubious quality.
DEKKO	To take a look at something. (Also Shufti)
DE-MOB	De-Mobilisation. The process of returning soldiers to civilian life.
DISPATCHES	Reports to the H.Q. containing information about the outcome of battle.
DIV CAV	Motorised reconnaissance troops -the NZ term refers to origins of cavalry (mounted troops)
D.R.	Dispatch Rider. Vital messages were carried by special motorbike couriers.
ECHELON	Draft of troops, often brigade sized, as a group to eventually form part of a larger unit.
F.M.O.	Full Marching Order. Full equipment except for kit bag.
FIREFLY	Sherman tank armed with a 17pdr A.T. gun
F. U. B.A.R.	Fucked up beyond all recognition. SNAFU Situation normal, all fucked up. JANFU Joint army navy fuck up. SAMFU Self adjusting military fuck up.
F.S.	Field service, often used to describe a form of clothing or kit.
FURLOUGH	An extended leave or temporary posting back to home.
G.S.	General Service, term replacing F.S. in 1943 as a term describing clothing and equipment.
GROPPIE MOCAS	'Best' set of uniform for parades or leave. (slang) Groppies, being the best restaurant in Cairo. Mocas, being Egyptian for clothes.
HANG FIRE	Ammunition that has failed to fire/detonate- also called a dud or misfire and officially a "Blind".
H.E.	High Explosive, refers to an ammunition type. Explosives- Amatol, Guncotton, TNT, Lyddite, P.Ex
H.Q.	Head quarters. Often referring to the size of the unit it controlled (i.e.) Coy HQ, Btn HQ, Div HQ,
H-HOUR	The time of an operational activity commencing. See also Zero-Hour.
IN THE FIELD	Official term referring to report or position in or near the front line.
INF.,	Infantry.
KAPAI	Good. (Maori)
K.R.	Kings Regulations. A book covering Army laws, regulations and discipline.
K.D.	Khaki Drill. Summer weight cotton uniform.

L.A.D.	Light Aid Detachment. Mobile Engineer unit for front line mechanical repairs.
L.M.G.	Light machine gun, usually referring to a Bren gun.
L.O.B.	Left out of battle, units or individuals on temporary support duties during a battle. Often due to the unit being under strength for that battle or to preserve a cadre for other operations.
LIFEBUOY	Nickname for man portable flamethrower. Also Ack-Pak.
L.R.D.G.	Long Range Desert Group. Covert warfare and reconnaissance unit fighting in North Africa.
MAADI CAMP	The main base for N.Z. troops in Egypt, which was near Cairo.
MILLS BOMB	The standard No36 H.E grenade.
M.O.	Medical officer. Unit Doctor.
MOANING MINNIE	Nickname for German Nebelwerfer rocket launcher.
N.Z. E. F.	New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The organisational force of N.Z.'s overseas army, the troops in the Pacific theatre were the NZEFIP.
NZEF TIMES	The army newspaper of the 2 nd NZEF, Kiwi News served the NZEIP but troops also had The weekly news, (NZ) Eighth army news, Union Jack (UK) Stars and stripes (USA) Egyptian mail.
N.A.A.F.I	Navy Army Air Force Institute, a British organisation that provided for troops creature comforts and goods. The Kiwi version was the N.Z. forces club.
NAILS	Cigarettes -as in nails for a coffin (also Durries, Gaspers)
N.C.O.	Non-commissioned officers. (i.e.) W.O.s Sergeants and Corporals.
O.C.	Officer Commanding. Senior officer of a COY or as temporary commander of a unit or formation.
O.C.T.U.	Officer Cadet Training Unit.
O. GROUP	Orders group. A meeting to discuss or instruct on forthcoming operations.
ONE UP THE SPOUT	A bullet/shell loaded and ready to fire. (Informal instruction)
O.P.	Observation post.
O.R.s	Other Ranks, soldiers without rank.
PIAT	Projector Infantry Anti-Tank. A spring-loaded spigot bomb launcher designed for anti tank use.
PLT	Platoon, comprising 3 sections or approx 30+ men.
POKEY DRILL	Bayonet Practice.
PORTEE	A truck carrying a 2pdr/ 6pdr gun in a firing position.
Q.M.	Quarter master. A person or store in charge of non-warlike munitions.
R.A.M.C.	Royal Army Medical Corps -also N.Z. M.C.
R.A.P.	Regimental Aid Post. A first aid post within a mile of the front line.
R.A.S.C.	Royal Army Service Corps
RATTING (RAT PARTY)	Scrounging for 'souvenirs' or leftover / abandoned military supplies.
REAR ECHELON	Behind the lines military base, facilities or troops. (See also Base Wallah and cushy number)
RED CAPS	Slang for Military Police due to the red covers on their caps.
R.O.s	Routine orders. Commands posted outlining that days/ weeks duties/ procedures.
RUPERT	Junior officer
R.T.U.	Return to unit. Troops on temporary postings or convalescence to return to their original units.
S.A.A.	Small Arms Ammunition (i.e.) .303 .38 .45 or 9mm
SANGAR	An emplacement built out of rocks or debris because the ground is to soft or hard to dig in.
SAPPER	Refers to a military engineer, often used as an actual rank, like 'Private'.
S.B.	Stretcher-bearer.
S.D.	Service Dress, mode of dress pre 1940 and retained by officers afterward as a dress uniform.
SECTION	A squad of 10 men comprising eight rifles, a submachine gun and a Bren.
SICK PARADE	Men who reported illness were medically inspected by the M.O. every morning.
SIGS.	Signals, troops in charge of communications.
SLIT TRENCH	A small hole dug for one or two men to take cover in. (also slitty) Shell scrape, Fox-hole
SCHEME	Military exercise, manoeuvres or an operation in small scale.
S.M.G.	Sub machine gun, ether a Thompson (Tommy gun) or a Sten gun
STONK	Enemy shellfire in sudden volume. (slang) Artillery fire mission term of blanket shellfire.
TEDS	Tedeschi (Italian) a term used for Germans by Allies in Italy.
TUIS	Women working on active service with the Women's War Service Auxiliary
TWO UP	Popular gambling game with bets placed on two tossed coins landing heads up.
U.D.	Unauthorised discharge. Firing of a weapon without permission.
WADI	Egyptian term referring to a gully, often used in Italy as a hang over from service days in North Africa.
WASP	A Bren carrier armed with a flamethrower.
WILBUR	Kiwi term for American.
W.O.	Warrant Officer, Senior N.C.O.s of special rank. (In two classes C1- R.S.M & C2- Sergeant-Majors)
W.P.	White Phosphorus. The chemical used in smoke grenades or shells.
W.T.	Wireless telephone or radio.
ZERO HOUR	Appointed time at the beginning of an operation. Also H-Hour.



Photo by Jim Tannock

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The After Action Report

