



THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE LIBERATION OF  
LE QUESNOY

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL  
COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

4.11.18

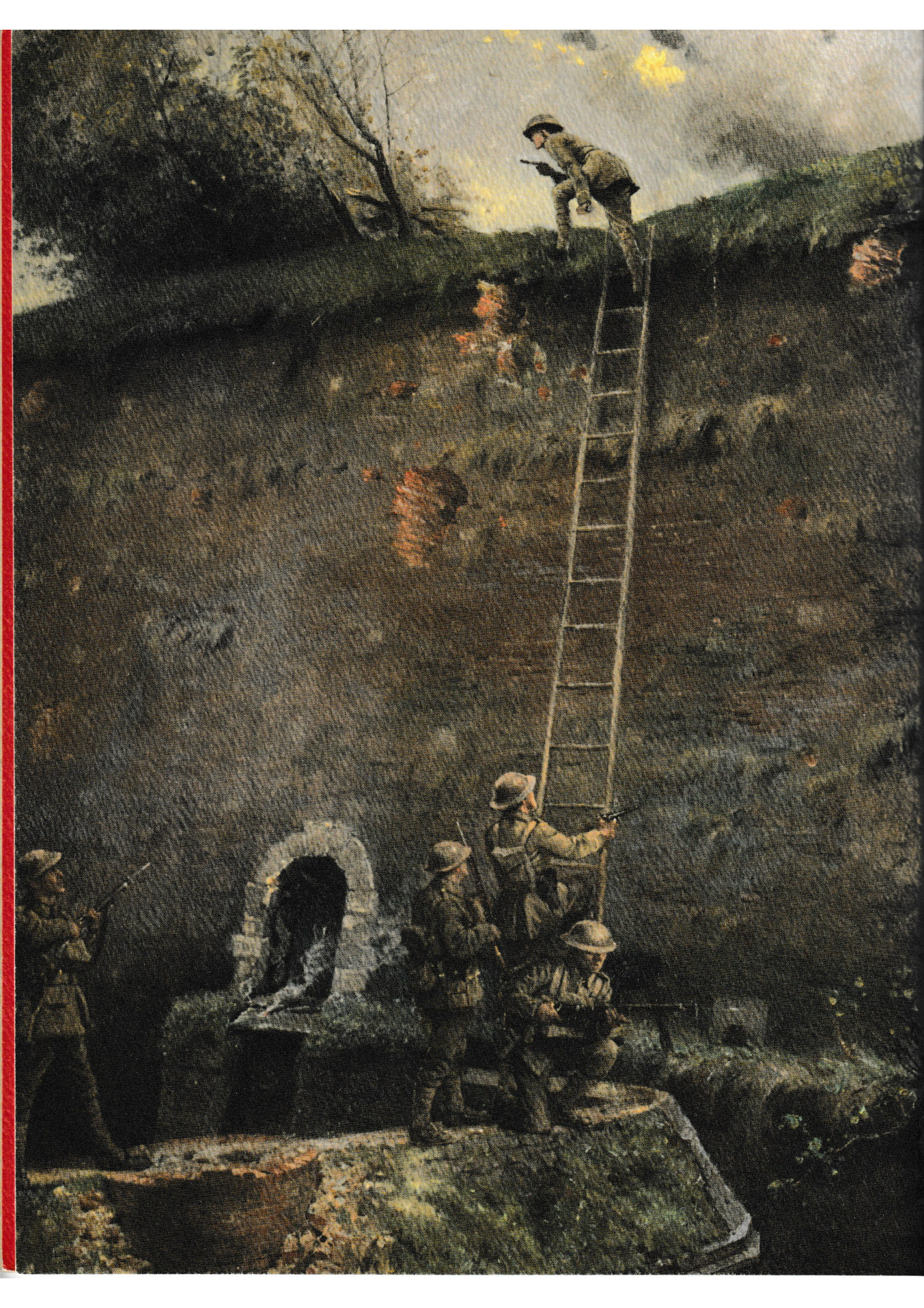


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THEIR LIBERATORS HAD  
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HELP THEM IN THEIR HOUR  
OF NEED IMPRESSED THEM  
VERY GREATLY AND...WAS  
A SACRIFICE WHICH WILL  
NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.”

*New Zealand Soldier, Le Quesnoy*



4 NOVEMBER 2018  
NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL  
LE QUESNOY



**A message from Her Excellency  
The Governor-General of New Zealand**

***Kia ora koutou*** – I am very pleased to join you for the New Zealand National Service commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Le Quesnoy.

**Le Quesnoy holds a special significance for New Zealand. It was here, 100 years ago, that the New Zealand Division fought its last great battle on the Western Front.**

In those final few days of the war our soldiers knew that the battle they were about to fight was no longer just about the defeat of the enemy, but about the future. With the knowledge that there were some 1600 French civilians in Le Quesnoy, it was decided that there should be no bombardment of the town. Instead, our soldiers planned to surround the ramparts and scale them in ancient fashion, using ladders.

Many years later one of the soldiers who took part in these events wrote:

“The delight of the people of Le Quesnoy on being free once again knew no bounds. That their liberators had come from the other side of the world to help them in their hour of need impressed them very greatly and...was a sacrifice which will never be forgotten.”

An enduring bond was created between the people of Le Quesnoy and New Zealand. I am sure that these commemorations will provide the families of those who died here, along with their hosts – the people of Le Quesnoy – with an opportunity to reflect on this experience and the incredible sacrifices that were made.

***Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou***  
**We will remember them.**



**The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO**  
Governor-General of New Zealand

*Capture of the walls of  
Le Quesnoy, 1920 by  
George Edmund Butler.*  
Ref: AAAC 898 NCWA 535,  
Archives New Zealand.

## The Liberation of Le Quesnoy



*Above: Soldiers near the front line, Le Quesnoy. 1918. Alexander Turnbull Library. Ref: 1/2-013798-G*

*Right: Street scene during the arrival of French President Raymond Poincaré at Le Quesnoy, France. 1918. Alexander Turnbull Library. Ref: 1/2-013801-G.*

On 4 November 1918 the New Zealand Division took part in a major offensive involving 17 British divisions across a 48 kilometre front that would later be known as the Battle of the Sambre. The objective was a line of transport centres many kilometres behind the German lines which were vital to the continuation of the faltering German war effort.



**Dominating the New Zealand sector was the town of Le Quesnoy, which was surrounded by massive earth and masonry fortifications dating back to the sixteenth century.**

Under continuous German occupation since 1914, Le Quesnoy was believed to be strongly held, but with 1600 French civilians known to living in the town, there could be no question of subjecting it to heavy bombardment. The New Zealand battle plan was therefore to mask and surround the town using the four battalions of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. When this had been achieved, the other two brigades of the division would bypass the fortress and

attack the main objectives some ten kilometres further east.

At 5.30 am on 4 November 1918 the New Zealand infantry assaulted behind a dense barrage provided by 186 field guns and heavy howitzers, supplemented by trench mortars and heavy machine guns. Aided by thick fog and smoke shells fired by the artillery, the New Zealand Rifle Brigade had completely surrounded Le Quesnoy by 9.30 am. When the German garrison refused to surrender, however, the riflemen decided to try a direct assault. After several failed attempts, C Company of the 4th Battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade succeeded in placing a ladder against the inner

ramparts at 4 pm. With riflemen now starting to flood into the town, the German garrison swiftly surrendered amidst the general rejoicing of the townsfolk.

By the end of the day more than 130 New Zealanders lay dead or dying, but the Division had reached all its objectives and taken 2,000 prisoners and 60 field guns. New Zealand participation in the Battle of the Sambre then continued for several days, with the last members of the division being killed in action on 7 November. The division was in reserve when the news of the end of hostilities, at 11am on 11 November 1918, was received.

Below: 7th Wellington  
(City of Wellington's Own)  
and Hawke's Bay Battalion's  
Regimental Colour, detail.

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## Regimental Colour

The 7th Wellington (City of Wellington's Own) and Hawke's Bay Battalion Regimental Colour bears 21 battle honours including the First World War honour of Sambre (Le Quesnoy).

The Colour Party is comprised of one Colour Ensign, two Colour Escorts and a Colour Warrant Officer. The original purpose of a Colour Party was to protect the Colour from being taken during battle.

Today the Colour Party continues to guard the mana (prestige) of the Regimental Colour.

## Ngā Tapuwae Kahu Huruwuru

The Ngā Tapuwae (meaning 'footsteps') kahu huruwuru is a traditional Māori feathered cloak woven with contemporary materials. It embodies the heritage and values of the New Zealand Defence Force and is a treasure that can be worn by any member regardless of rank or gender, civilian or military.

It honours the fallen, and those who have returned, over one hundred years of New Zealand military service.

It is worn on occasions that recognise the wearer's significant individual achievement which in turn is consistent with the spirit, ethos and values represented by the cloak. Today the cloak is worn by the Contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Mel Childs, the New Zealand Defence Force Person of the Year 2017.



# Order of Service

## Announcements

**Nicole Jamieson**

*The New Zealand Defence Force Band will play as guests arrive at the Garden of Memory*

*Please stand for the arrival of the Official Party*

## The Arrival of the Official Party

*The Official Party will be led to the Garden of Memory by the New Zealand Defence Force Māori Cultural Group*

*Remain standing for the Parading of the Regimental Colour*

## The Regimental Colour is Marched On

*The Regimental Colour of the 7th Wellington (City of Wellington's Own) and Hawke's Bay Battalion carried by the 5th / 7th Battalion Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment marches into position on the ramparts to 'The Wellington Regiment' March*

*Please remain standing for the National Anthems of the French Republic and New Zealand sung by Leading Aircraftman Barbara Graham*

## National Anthems

*Please be seated*

## Welcome Address

**Her Excellency Jane Coombs**  
Ambassador of New Zealand to France

## Commemorative Address

**Her Excellency The Rt Hon  
Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO**  
Governor-General of New Zealand

## Waiata – Whakaaria Mai

*New Zealand Defence Force Māori Cultural Group  
together with*

*Leading Aircraftman Barbara Graham  
and the*

*New Zealand Defence Force Band*

## Address

**Hon. Mme Geneviève Darrieussecq**  
Secretary of State attached to the  
French Minister for the Armed Forces

## I Am My Country

**Sung by Leading Aircraftman Barbara Graham**

## Message from the people of Le Quesnoy

**Mme Marie-Sophie Lesne**  
Mayor of Le Quesnoy

### **Chant de l'Honneur – Song of Honour**

Poem by Guillaume Apollinaire recited by youth representatives from the French Republic and New Zealand

Chant de l'Honneur tells the story of a young soldier who fought in the trenches of the First World War. It is a call for remembrance

*English translation by Sophie Caroline de Margerie*

*O poets O singers of times to come  
I sing of the beauty of our many sorrows  
Fleetingly have I caught it yet far better than I  
Will give you sublime meaning to these acts of glory  
And capture the greatness of death made holy  
A man throws grenades his whole body poised  
Another eager to shoot joins in the shooting  
Another arms dangling bears buckets of wine  
And the priest-soldier shares the secret divine  
For ye all I will tell how sweet the three notes  
The oriole canon sings while you sob  
Who will ever know how often I have wept  
My generation for your sacred gift  
Take my verses O my France and you Multitudes to Come  
Sing what I sing 'tis a pure song a prelude  
To the sacred songs that the beauty of our time  
Will inspire you to sing still more pure and bright  
Than those I strive for tonight  
In honour of Honour the beauty of Duty*

### **Prayer for Peace**

**Chaplain Class 4 David Julian**  
New Zealand Defence Force

### **The Wreath Laying**

*Wreaths are placed on the balustrade*

**Her Excellency The Rt Hon  
Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO**  
Governor-General of New Zealand  
*and*

**His Excellency Sir David Gascoigne,  
KNZM, CBE**

**Hon. Mme Geneviève Darrieussecq**  
Secretary of State attached to the French  
Minister for the Armed Forces on behalf  
of the French Republic

**Mme Marie-Sophie Lesne**  
Mayor of Le Quesnoy  
*together with*

**Mr Grahame Webber**  
Deputy Mayor Waipa District Council

The Representative of the French Armed Forces  
*together with*

**Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies, MNZM**  
The Representative of the New Zealand  
Defence Force

The Representative of the Commonwealth  
War Graves Commission

**Georges Lagny**  
Président des Anciens Combattants  
*together with*

**Colonel Baden Ewart (Rtd)**  
The Representative of the Royal New Zealand  
Returned and Services Association

The Youth Representatives of the French  
Republic and New Zealand

*During the laying of wreaths the New Zealand Defence  
Force Band and the Māori Cultural Group will perform*

## **The Act of Remembrance**

### **The Ode**

#### **In French**

The Representative of the Anciens Combattants

#### **In Māori**

**Warrant Officer Patrick Smith, MNZM**

New Zealand Defence Force

#### **In English**

**Colonel Baden Ewart (Rtd)**

*Please stand*

*At the sounding of the Sonnerie aux Morts and  
The Last Post, personnel in uniform are to salute*

## **Sonnerie aux Morts**

## **The Last Post**

*The flags of the French Republic, New Zealand  
and the Regimental Colour are lowered*

## **Silence is Observed**

## **Rouse**

*The flags of the French Republic, New Zealand  
and the Regimental Colour are raised*

## **Rededication of the New Zealand Memorial**

*A symbolic renewal of the call for future generations  
to remember the human sacrifice here and dedication  
to work for collective peace*

*Chaplain Class 4 David Julian together with  
Lieutenant Colonel Mel Childs and her children  
Hunter and Lily*

## **Hymn – Ode to Joy**

New Zealand Defence Force Band

## **Closing**

**Her Excellency Jane Coombs**

Ambassador of New Zealand to France

*Please stand*

## **The Regimental Colour is Marched Off**

*The Regimental Colour is marched off  
'Fernleaf Headstones'*

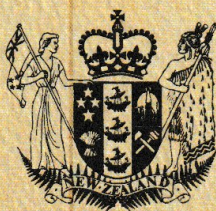
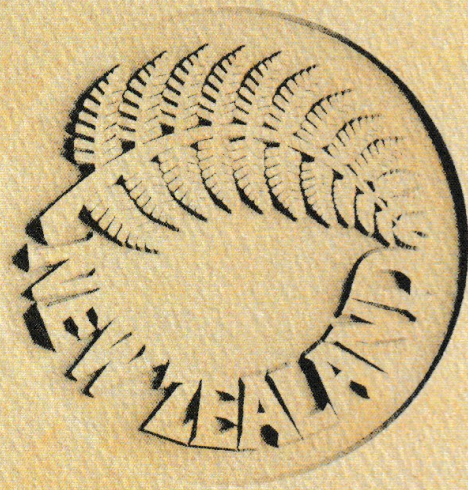
*Please remain standing*

## **The Official Party Departs**

*Please be seated*

*Guests are requested to remain in position  
until invited to lay floral tributes or to depart*

*The New Zealand Defence Force Band and the  
Māori Cultural Group will continue to perform  
during the laying of floral tributes*



**NGĀ TAPUWAE**  
NEW ZEALAND FIRST WORLD WAR TRAILS

