

Salute to Service: A History of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport and its Predecessors 1860–1996. By Julia Millen. Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1997. 472 pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN 0-86473-324-0.

THIS COMMISSIONED HISTORY of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport and its predecessors sets a new standard for New Zealand army corps histories. Julia Millen takes an essentially chronological approach to her subject, beginning with two chapters outlining the logistic arrangements of the British army and the local forces in New Zealand up to 1909. The main focus of the book, however, is the period from the establishment of the New Zealand Army Service Corps in 1910 to the disbandment of its successor, the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport, in 1996.

Two chapters describe the establishment of the New Zealand Army Service Corps as part of a complete remodelling of the country's military forces and preparations for a major war between 1910 and 1914. Unfortunately, Millen fails to note the crucial logistical support provided by the Army Service Corps to the large forces of special constables employed during the 1913 Waterfront Strike.

The chapters dealing with World War I provide a good account of the role of the Army Service Corps in the massive task of raising the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and its supporting operations. In this part of the book, and elsewhere, Millen makes effective use of statistics to show the great range and vast quantities of supplies required by the substantial forces fielded by New Zealand. The work of the Army Service Corps was not properly addressed in the semi-official New Zealand war histories; Millen uses a wide range of sources to rectify that omission.

The neglect of the New Zealand military forces during the inter-war period, which reduced them to a skeletal condition by the early 1930s, is covered in one chapter. Millen includes some absorbing material about initiatives to mechanize army transport and about what motivated territorials to continue to serve in the face of government neglect and public apathy.

More than a third of the book is devoted to the Army Service Corps' operations in the Pacific, Middle East and Mediterranean during World War II. Millen effectively uses new material provided by veterans. We learn from one veteran, for example, that Major Selwyn Toogood's radio call sign was Seagull, and that he sometimes liked to begin his radio messages by singing 'I'm a little Seagull'. Most of the matters covered by Millen in this section, though, are documented in the New Zealand official war histories. It is therefore particularly regrettable that *Salute to Service* does not deal in any depth with the work of Army Service Corps units in New Zealand, a subject not addressed by the official histories because of the cancellation of the planned volume on the army in New Zealand. In this regard *Salute to Service* does not compare well with the recently published Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals history.¹

The organizational changes of the post-war period are covered well by Millen. The corps changed in designation to become the Royal New Zealand Army Service Corps in 1947, was re-designated as the Royal New Zealand Corps of Transport in 1979, and finally was absorbed into the new Royal New Zealand Logistic Regiment in 1996. There are also chapters dealing with the role of corps personnel in the conflicts in South-east

¹ Laurie Barber and Cliff Lord, *Swift and Sure: A History of the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and Army Signalling in New Zealand*, Auckland, 1996.

Asia, in peacekeeping and in the Antarctic. The chapter dealing with the development of army catering, 'If You Can't Cook, Wear a Big Hat' is interesting and amusing. Millen also discusses the increasingly important role of women in the corps, although this significant aspect of the corps' history would have benefited from a more analytical approach and statistics about the proportion of women.

Salute to Service is a well-produced book, with useful appendices and many previously unpublished photographs. Throughout, the author strikes a good balance between anecdotal material and technical and organizational matters. She displays a good eye for telling anecdotes which bring to life important figures and interesting personalities in the history of the corps. The book is, however, marred by a number of factual errors; mostly of a minor nature, they occur principally in the sections sketching in the background to the activities of the corps. There are certainly areas of the corps' history which could have been given more attention, but without doubt *Salute to Service* fulfills the needs of its intended audience, and is a useful contribution to the rather sparse historiography of the New Zealand army.

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Jayforce: New Zealand and the Military Occupation of Japan, 1945–1948. By Laurie Brocklebank. Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1997. 262 pp. NZ price: \$39.95. ISBN 019-558362-0.

THE EXPLOITS of New Zealand's Occupation Force in Japan, Jayforce, have long been neglected by military historians. Not surprisingly the battle-rich activities of the Second Division in Greece, Crete and the desert in Italy, and the Third Division in the Pacific, have attracted the spotlight. Few New Zealanders know that 12,000 New Zealand troops served in Japan from 1945 to 1948, as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. The RSA regarded Jayforce as veterans of dubious status and did not allow them membership until 1964. The New Zealand government refused Jayforce veterans the War Veterans' Pension until 1995. Since they fired few shots in anger they were deemed to be 'garrison troops'.

Laurie Brocklebank's well-researched history tells of the confused origins of Jayforce, with Peter Fraser's necessary conscription of Second Division troops from Italy to augment an initial insufficiency of New Zealand volunteers. He describes how Jayforce was deployed, what its duties were, and how its personnel behaved. Boredom, sex and booze make a trinitarian appearance, and with delightful whimsy he tells of Private Apiata's refusal to allow his colonel into camp without a password the colonel did not have, on the ground that the private was obeying the colonel's orders. Brocklebank describes 'Bombay Bloomers' as 'more like tentage than underclothing' and presents a delightful doggerel on womanly disenchantment after a hard night's drinking.

This is scholarship presented in a readable style. Official records, personal diaries and interviews are well used, and photographs ably chosen. What he has done is done well. But where are the 'Brits', 'Aussies' and 'Yanks', with whom Jayforce inter-related? Has