

THE NEW ZEALAND LIBERATION MUSEUM

TE ARAWHATA

LE QUESNOY, FRANCE



A History of the Purchase of the Manoir Property



Livadia Publishers Limited

First published September 2023

by Livadia Publishers Limited, Auckland, New Zealand

Email: pwmacky@gmail.com

Copyright 2023 © Peter Macky

ISBN 978-0-473-69010-6

A catalogue record for this book is available from the National Library of New Zealand.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be performed, reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright holder.

Designed and produced by Sue Wilson of SMW Design.

The New Zealand Memorial Museum Project

THE NEW ZEALAND LIBERATION MUSEUM

TE ARAWHATA

LE QUESNOY, FRANCE

A History of the Purchase of the Manoir Property

(Note: this Building is known locally as the Gendarmerie and the Castle)

By Peter Macky¹

*Je vous félicite tous pour cette
réalisation passionnante.
Bien joué!*

Marguerite Bourbon d'Avignon

Cover image: The Manoir, Le Quesnoy (July 2023).

Photo credit: Peter Macky

I have always been intrigued by how amenities which benefit the public good materialise; whether public art works, museums, community buildings or other facilities. Who inspired them? What was their motivation? How were they designed, financed and realised? What bureaucratic hurdles were there? What was their reception? So when I was asked by Sir Don McKinnon in 2021 to report on a proposal to build a museum dedicated to a distant war in a remote town in Western Europe, I was delighted to assist him. Furthermore, the town happened to be the place where my maternal grandfather was engaged in 1918. For multiple reasons, the Sir Don commission resonated. This study, incorporating my research into the Memorial Museum's origins, is in part to thank Sir Don for the opportunity and to repay a debt to my grandfather, serving with New Zealand's forces for 'King and Country'.

Peter Macky

THE NEW ZEALAND LIBERATION MUSEUM

TE ARAWHATA

LE QUESNOY, FRANCE

BACKGROUND

The Official Opening of New Zealand's Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy in northern France is on 11 October 2023. In the Trust Deed the trustees are charged with "developing, owning, and operating a New Zealand Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy, France"². The same document details the museum's purpose: "to provide information and learning resources to museum visitors, in order to raise awareness of New Zealand's participation in and contribution to World War I."³ Essentially the museum has been established to acknowledge and commemorate the involvement of New Zealand's armed forces on the Western Front during World War I, during which many paid the ultimate price in what was known at the time as the Great War.

It's fitting that this museum be based in Le Quesnoy, the site of the last battle of that war to involve New Zealand's soldiers, from the 1st, 2nd and 4th Battalions, NZ Rifle Brigade, during which they liberated the town on 4 November 1918. The war was to conclude one week later with the armistice of 11 November 1918. The residents of Le Quesnoy have never forgotten the Kiwi's role, during which the battalions lost 142 men; included in the names of the 12,500 killed⁴ and missing in France and Belgium during the war. It's taken more than a century, but with this museum, Aotearoa New Zealand can now join its allies and have its own place to honour the fallen, a hallowed destination in northern France for remembrance, reflection and commemoration.

THREE MEN

Three men played pivotal roles at various stages of this memorial museum project, whether the early beginnings in 2004, the property purchase in 2017 or its restoration from 2021. Without these three men, this remarkable project would not have been conceived, financed or realised.

HERB FARRANT

The prime mover is Herbert Farrant. With a professional career in construction, project management and property development, Herb had the requisite skills to investigate and select a building for a memorial concept and to develop a plan to ensure its commercial viability. With his deep knowledge of World War I history, it was Herb who determined that the memorial be located in Le Quesnoy.



Herb & Ruth Farrant.
Photo credit: NZ Herald, Greg Bowker

For Herb, his involvement from 1997 with the works to upgrade the Auckland War Memorial Museum was an ideal “apprenticeship” for Le Quesnoy. His responsibilities in Auckland included acting as a peer reviewer for a \$25 million galleries refurbishment programme. In 1999 Herb was appointed project director for the museum’s \$60 million redevelopment project, completed in 2006. His personal experience curating and managing a war memorial museum refurbishment was to be invaluable in France.

A personal interest in New Zealand’s military history led Herb to join the New Zealand Military Historical Society in 1973. For over 50 years, he’s served as researcher, journalist, editor and president. By 1995 his specific focus and interest in our military heritage led to his focus on the 1st NZEF’s campaigns on the Western Front, beginning with its first engagement in April 1916 and ending with the armistice in November 1918.

In Herb Farrant’s words, of the museum’s early history:

“In 1995 I spent two weeks on the Western Front, following in the footsteps of the NZEF which for the duration of the war comprised a division of 18,000 men under the command of Major-General Andrew Russell. I was aided by local military historians and introductions facilitated by the French Embassy. I continued my visits to the region over the next 25 years and from 2002 led eleven-day battlefield tours, for groups interested in understanding the Western Front, being primarily for those interested in the service and sacrifice of their forbears.

“In 2004, as a result of those years of exposure to those war time events, I conceived the vision that New Zealand required a place in Europe to commemorate its wartime record for posterity. For me, it was important that those momentous events in our country’s early history be recorded and not forgotten by modern generations. My vision was encouraged by my understanding of the extent of battlefield tourism in Europe. Throughout I was helped by the individuals responsible for the creation of the marvellous Passchendaele 1917 Museum in Zonnebeke, in Flanders.

“My annual visits to Le Quesnoy on ANZAC Day, led to my getting to know local personalities in its civic authorities, including the town’s mayor and councillors. I promoted the concept of a New Zealand Memorial Museum with the mayor at that time, Freddy Dolphin. I quickly received his unqualified support. With the support of the city administration, firstly with Mayor Dolphin (until 2007) and then with Mayor Raoult. With them I looked at potential sites in the town between 2005 to 2010. My enthusiasm was supported by the prospect of potential financial assistance from the European Union.

“In those days we evaluated a few proposals. With architect, Malcolm Brown, we produced three concept designs for different sites, the last of which was on the town square, on a property to be made available by the town. It was time to form a Trust. Sir Don McKinnon, then Acting director of Auckland War Memorial Museum, kindly agreed to act as chair. Greg Moyle and Chris Mullane agreed to act as trustees. After six years: progress!”

In February 2011 the newly formed Trust, now registering as a charity⁵, was launched with a dinner in the Auckland suburb of Grey Lynn, arranged by Jerry Morris⁶. At that time, the trustees were Sir Don McKinnon (chair), Greg Moyle and Christopher Mullane. Invitations included a range of guests and those committed to the project who funded the cost of bringing Paul Raoult, Le Quesnoy’s mayor, to the event. He was mayor from 2007 to 2014⁷.

At the dinner, Stage One of a plan was announced, which was to complete a feasibility study to deliver the Memorial Museum concept. Public/private donations of NZ\$500,000 were sought for this purpose. The Canterbury earthquake struck two days later on 22 February and the project was put on hold for a year.

In August 2012 Herb Farrant and Malcolm Brown formally advised the Trust of their collective wish to progress the museum project, but as the project had stalled⁸, Sir Don McKinnon resigned as chair of the Trust; trustee Greg Moyle took his place. Sir Don continued to be involved as patron.

GREG MOYLE

In Greg Moyle's words, of his first visit to Le Quesnoy in 1999:

"I first became aware of the Le Quesnoy story in 1999 when Merton Fraser, whom I met in 1974 at my NZ Army base training centre in Waiouru, and I did a tour by car of the battlefields of WWI in Flanders and the Somme.

"We drove into the Vauban fortress town of Le Quesnoy, which had been liberated on 4 November 1918 by riflemen of the 4th Battalion of the NZRB, I was amazed to immediately see the connection between this small village in Northeast France and New Zealand: streets and placenames such as Rue Helen Clark and Place des All Blacks, and the commemorative monument near the sluice gate where the NZ officer (Lt. Averill) scaled a ladder onto the ramparts of the town to liberate it from German occupation that November day.

"From my friendships in Auckland, I knew Lt Col Lawrence (Curly) Blyth⁹ who was in Le Quesnoy in 1918, serving with the 1st Auckland Rifle Brigade. At the suggestion of his daughter Margaret Blyth, I met Raymonde Dramez who lives in Beaudignes, a town nearby and to Le Quesnoy's west. It was the 'staging post' for the New Zealand forces for their battle with the German occupiers to liberate Le Quesnoy on 4 November 2018."

MARIE-SOPHIE LESNE

In early 2013 whilst on another annual visit to Le Quesnoy, Herb was approached by mayoral candidate, Marie-Sophie Lesne. She'd heard of the project, and having been given more detail by Herb promised that if elected, she would consider the project as something she'd support. If Marie-Sophie could be persuaded, the prospects would be a lot brighter.

Marie-Sophie's mayoral campaign in 2014 was successful. On Herb's next annual visit that year, the new mayor requested a meeting.

He was given one hour to convince Marie-Sophie's of the merits of the proposal. At the end of that meeting, Le Quesnoy's new mayor confirmed her belief in the concept. It was a game changer. Since then, she's never wavered in her support which began soon after the meeting when she advised she had a better site for the project. It was the state-owned National Police (the Gendarmerie) Headquarters, a sprawling property within the town. It comprised a large area of flat land, a handsome manor (fr. 'manoir') and a number of townhouses at the rear, all surrounded by a high wall, providing privacy and security.

THE MANOIR

After an inspection of the Manoir site and with its availability clarified, Marie-Sophie suggested Herb consult Simon Architects (so meeting Jean Marie Simon & Veronique Coupet who knew the property) and Olivier Tommasini of Tommasini Construction, who proved invaluable in assisting Herb in creating a detailed, viable business plan for the project. Subsequently a letter of intent was signed by both the Trust and the Town Council that they would now work collaboratively and in good faith, towards the Museum concept becoming a reality.

There followed a grace period as the Gendarmerie had given the town three years notice to vacate the property which would not be available for sale with vacant possession until August 2016. With no financial capability and only limited donated funds in the Trust's accounts, Herb and Greg had to convince the French authorities of the trust's ability to purchase and develop the property as a Memorial Museum. Herb met with members of the Regional Directorate of France Domaines in May 2015, and was given five months to prove the case by providing a comprehensive development scheme and business plan for approval. This intensive Design/Management exercise was duly documented and presented, by Herb in October 2015 to the Town Council and Sous-Prefet of Nord, Pas de Calais. The presentation was well received and formal acceptance followed, subject to an acceptable sale price. This was to be provided by the French authorities.

In September 2016 Herb and Greg visited France for the NZ Somme Centennial Commemorations at Flers-Courcelette, and afterwards drove to Le Quesnoy to meet with Marie-Sophie and the Council. They were there to get approval from Batiment's France on heritage acceptability which was a precondition for the sale and purchase agreement for the Gendarmerie property. At that Council meeting Greg was invited to speak about the project, after which a vote was taken. The decision to approve the sale was unanimous (including the four socialist councillors, one of whom was ex-mayor Paul Raoult).



The Manoir, prior to its Restoration (2017).

Photo credit: Supplied

Intensive correspondence continued between Greg and the mayor and Herb with France Domaines, pending the Gendarmerie's departure. In December 2016, this led to an offer from the French Authorities for a sale to the Trust for half its market price, at €600,000. At this price the Trust could secure an ideal property in France of more than one hectare in area with 10 dwellings, one of which was the Manoir.



The Manoir Site Plan, circa 1895

THE SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

In January 2017 Herb and Greg received the French documentation confirming the Trust's opportunity to purchase the gendarmerie property. It was all go. Sort of! Whilst the mayor was right; the property was ideal, the issue was the money. While Herb and the then sole trustee, Greg Moyle, were enthusiastic and had the expertise, where

would the money come from, whether to purchase the property or to fund its restoration and development costs?

In early 2017, the project went from being Herb's dream (aka 'obsession'), to something much more tangible; something to get excited about, an opportunity with the potential to be realised. It was still a puzzle to be solved, but at least the pieces were on the table, ready to be assembled. Now to raise the purchase price of about NZ\$1.1M and plan for the property's development as a memorial museum to represent the country. For Herb and Greg it was a big responsibility and they needed a formal structure and they also knew they needed help.

A WHITE KNIGHT

Their first task was to get charitable trust status and on 10 August 2017, the New Zealand Memorial Museum Trust - Le Quesnoy, was registered on this basis. The founding charitable trust trustees were Greg Moyle (chair), Mark Hall¹⁰, Neil Ingram¹¹ and Peter McKinnon, all trustees who could foster greater awareness for the project and increase its financial support. With the price of the property known, a budget of NZ\$15M¹² was assessed. Six years later, as the project nears completion, this remains the target. Charitable status in New Zealand did not allow tax deductibility for donations on projects outside NZ's jurisdiction. Unfortunately, New Zealand's tax regulations on donations would impact on the fundraising effort. The agreed settlement date of October 2017 was looming. With no money, enter a white knight in the form of chair Greg Moyle who stepped up and lent the trust the full purchase price¹³. It could settle the purchase and not default. Hence Greg is the second of the three men who had pivotal roles with the project.

Greg has had a background in the military, serving for 37 years as a Territorial soldier/officer with the NZ Army; ten years in the Military Police and 27 years with the 3rd (Countess of Ranfurly's Own) Auckland and Northland Battalion, retiring with the rank of Major. He is also a

long-serving Trustee of the Ranfurly Veterans' Trust, and is currently the Deputy Chair of the Waitemata Local Board of the Auckland Council. He has served as the chair of Mt Albert Grammar for many years and is well known for his interest in military art and as an art patron. With a successful career in financial planning, the Trust was lucky to have his support at this crucial time.



Greg Moyle.
Photo credit: Supplied

Herb had conceived the project and with Marie-Sophie's help, found the perfect property. Greg, in a leap of faith, had financed its purchase. Thus, the project was secured without financial support from the Trust, simply because supporters funds were not available until well after critical preparatory costs, the purchase price and other financial commitments had to be met. Consequently, these essential costs were provided by Greg and other committed private individuals to meet specific deadlines to allow the project to progress. The project is indebted to them all, for their time, passion, commitment and, yes, money.

It was nearly time for the third man to step up with the unenviable task of undertaking the restoration and addressing the 'visitor experience' issue, potentially no less fraught. What do you offer visitors which is relevant to the concept of a memorial museum and sufficient to entice them to Le Quesnoy? First some housekeeping.

In 2017 chair Greg Moyle and trustees by Mark Hall, Neil Ingram, were joined by Brett Hewson¹⁴, Michèle Whitecliffe¹⁵ and Britson (Buddy) Mikaere.¹⁶

CHARITABLE TRUST STATUS AND TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

From the all-important fund-raising perspective, it was about tax deductibility. This required an alteration to New Zealand's tax law, no easy task, particularly given the lack of interest in the project by successive NZ governments. This stemmed from 2012, when Herb and Greg outlined the nature of the project to the Department of Culture and Heritage. Their lack of ongoing support was due to concerns around financial viability and a potential drain on the public purse¹⁷ given that Museums are inevitably, loss making enterprises.

With some effort at the highest levels of government, patron Sir Don McKinnon, bringing his many contacts from a lifetime in politics to bear, and with the support of former Prime Minister Helen Clark, then Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters and others, persuaded the government to adopt a specific change in tax law, applicable to this project. Contributions to the trust would benefit from all important tax deductibility, even though the project was outside the jurisdiction.

Changes were made to the Trust's structure. Sir Don resumed the chair, taking over from Greg. Helen Clark became patron and Sir Lockwood Smith joined as a Trustee. The project was fortunate to have Sir Don in the chair. With a long and distinguished career in politics and diplomacy, he was the perfect person to complete the project and is the third person to have had a pivotal role with its completion.

SIR DON MCKINNON

Sir Don's remarkable career¹⁸ included stints as New Zealand's deputy prime minister (1990-1996) and foreign minister (1990-1999) and to Commonwealth Secretary General (2000-2008). He established Asia 2000 - now the Asia Foundation - and the Institute of Strategic Studies, at Victoria University of Wellington, working to rebuild ties with the US. In nine years as Commonwealth Secretary General, he fought for

the trading rights of small states and got them accepted as a special World Bank category. He took on the challenging task of trying to rebuild democracies in Fiji, Pakistan, The Gambia and Zimbabwe, and helped Cameroon, Guyana, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Swaziland reach democratic guidelines.

In 2013, he wrote a book, *“In the Ring: A Commonwealth Memoir”*, about his experiences.



Sir Don McKinnon.

Photo credit: Government House, New Zealand

On a visit to Le Quesnoy in 1995, Sir Don and his wife Lady Clare

McKinnon (Clare de Lore) were touched that the residents still paid tribute to their liberators almost a century on, and they supported Herb’s concern that New Zealand had not embraced this aspect of its military history in France.

With Sir Don now back as chair and the tax deductibility issue resolved, with the benefit of his diplomatic contacts and expertise, the project was officially launched in Le Quesnoy in November 2018.¹⁹

With Herb, trustees Greg, Michèle Whitecliffe, Mark Hall and Buddy Mihaere travelled to Le Quesnoy to attend the centennial of 4 November 2018, marking the liberation of Le Quesnoy by the NZ Divisions 100 years earlier. That day, in a ceremony orchestrated by Lt Col (Rtd) Chris Mullane, they officially launched the New Zealand WWI War Memorial Museum project based at the Manoir property.

Whilst in Le Quesnoy, Greg presented Mayor Marie-Sophie Lesne, with a sculpture by NZ military artist Matt Gaudie of NZ officer Lt Averill scaling a ladder propped against the town’s ramparts during the liberation of the town on 4 November 1918.

In 2019, Jenni Giblin, a professional fundraiser was employed²⁰, and a fund-raising campaign began. This was a game changer, as Jenny has been a fearless fundraiser, resulting in the ability of the Trust to repay the loan to Greg, as well as fund the renovations of the Manoir²¹ and its surrounding grounds.

In late 2019 further changes were made to the Trust, with Greg²², Michelle and Brett Hewson either resigning or not being reappointed as Trustees.



*Marie-Sophie with the
Matt Gauldie sculpture.*

Photo credit: Peter Macky

In October 2021, Rosaria Campbell and Peter Macky (at the invitation of Sir Don) tabled their 92-page report on the project, having interviewed all the major players. Their report incorporated a timetable, methodology and detailed proposals for the restoration of the building and a visitor experience. It included 25 recommendations for the restoration and 14 recommendations for the visitor experience. Work to restore the building began in earnest later that year.

Prior to the Official Opening, further changes were made to the Trust Board. Bruce Bernacchi was appointed as an additional trustee, supporting Sir Don (chair) and Major (Rtd) Mark Hall and Sir Lockwood Smith (trustees).



The Manoir, Le Quesnoy (July 2023).

Photo credit: Peter Macky

IN SUMMARY

Firstly, it took ten years for Herb & Ruth Farrant, with Greg Moyle's support to mount a viable development scheme and business case, to secure the project on favourable terms and conditions that were both acceptable to the French authorities and the Memorial Museum Trust Board.

Secondly, it was Greg Moyle's ongoing efforts as the sole Trustee, his support and his personal financial capability which enabled the purchase price to be paid, long before the Trust Board had received sufficient funds to do so.²³

Thirdly, Sir Don's presence and leadership was vital to official French acceptance of the Museum concept, and was central to obtaining the necessary tax deductibility concession from a reluctant NZ Government for funding contributions and the successful (and ongoing) fundraising campaign, which happened to be seriously impacted by the Covid pandemic. That Sir Don and his board prevailed in a challenging time, is testament to their extraordinary achievement.

CONCLUSION, FOR NOW

What happened next, with the restoration of the Manoir and the installation of the Weta Workshop visitor experience under Sir Don's inspiring leadership is just as interesting. As will be the Official Opening on 11 October 2023, with Celia Caughey as MC, for those many Memorial Museum supporters attending. What this review does not address is the fascinating history of the site. It was a nunnery for many years and was the home of a number of distinguished residents of the town before becoming the Gendarmerie for the region. However I've completed the task I set myself, to honour my forbears and record the Manoir's purchase. For the first time, Aotearoa New Zealand has a museum to the fallen of the Great War in Northern France, a place for remembrance, reflection and commemoration. It's for someone else to compile a more comprehensive history of this marvellous, inspirational project.



NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

Patron

The Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, ONZ, SSI, PC

Vice Patron

Mark Averill

Trustees

Sir Don McKinnon, ONZ, GCVO, PC (Chair)

Bruce Bernacchi

Major (Rtd) Mark Hall

Sir Lockwood Smith

Past Trustees

Jude Dobson

Brett Hewson

Neil Ingram

Peter McKinnon

Britson (Buddy) Mikaere

Major (Rtd) Greg Moyle

Lt Col (Rtd) Chris Mullane

Michele Whitecliffe.

Founder

Herb Farrant FNZIOB



NZ Remembers

The New Zealand Experience, Le Quesnoy

IN APPRECIATION

The men and women who assisted Herb & Ruth Farrant and Greg Moyle with the project at crucial times:

Herb & Ruth note that the Manoir project and its development evolved and came to fruition over nearly two decades. To progress it required the support of and acceptance by individuals who lived half a world away and came from a different culture. That it succeeded can be attributed, not only to the Trust Board, but also to a number of private individuals in Europe. A group who believed in the vision of establishing and supporting a New Zealand presence in France, to commemorate a random act of history, carried out in times of war that were now beyond living memory. Such an association over time also meant that these people became firm believers in the project and Herb & Ruth's personal friends.

These special people are listed below:

Freddy Dolphin: Freddy was the first person Herb met in Le Quesnoy in 1995. As “charge de mission” to the then Mayor, later as Mayor in 2005-2007 and then afterwards Director of Tourisme in Lille, Pas de Calais. He was central as an early supporter in helping to progress the Memorial Museum concept in Le Quesnoy. His input to the 2015 Business Case, with data on battlefield tourism patterns and numbers was essential to the business case being able to reflect economic viability for the project.

Raymonde Dramez: Greg first met Raymonde in 1999. He was aware she was a friend of the late Margaret Blyth, the daughter of Lt Col Laurence Blyth who, on the 4th of November 1918, who was a company commander (“C” Company) in the 1st Battalion of the NZ Rifle Brigade (NZRB). Herb first met Raymonde, during the first tour from Le Quesnoy to New Zealand in 2000, of a delegation to celebrate and confirm the Twin Town arrangement with Cambridge, in the Waikato. As a French woman, teaching English in France, then as Mayor of Beaudignies until 2020, she became, by mutual arrangement their personal contact to advance local project information gathering and especially so over the past decade. Her role as personal assistant, translator at critical meetings with French Authorities and firm believer in our cause, countered Greg & Herb’s personal inability to speak French. If one person can be seen as pivotal to the successful outcome for the Manoir project, it’s Raymonde.

Marie-Sophie Lesne: Her role once she became Mayor of the Le Quesnoy and accepted the proposition to establish a Memorial Museum in the Town, has never wavered in her support. She put her political reputation on the line in supporting this project, against virulent opposition from her socialist opposition in the town, which speaks volumes for her commitment to the project. Aided by Raymonde, she found ways through French officialdom.²⁴

Henri & Christiane de Monteville: Herb had first met Henri and Christiane in 1998, when Margaret Blyth was staying with them during the 80th Anniversary Commemorations of the Liberation of Le Quesnoy. The de Monteville family lived in a large home and property, over four centuries old which adjoined the Gendarmerie property to the west. The families link with New Zealand extended over two generations, as Henri’s father had first meet LC Averill in 1923, commencing their lifelong friendship. In 1968 he arranged the visit to Le Quesnoy of a delegation of the NZ Rifle Brigade to commemorate 50 years since the liberation of the town on 4 November 1918. Thus the greatest personal link to New Zealand with Le Quesnoy was found

between the de Monteville and Averill families up to 2022. Over the years Herb came to know Henri & Christiane and their family very well. When he outlined the intent to strengthen the link between the two countries in 2004, they became two of the greatest local advocates for the project, something which they believed would bring the two countries closer together. With their deaths, Herb lost two friends whose courtesy, hospitality and kindness, became a memorable highlight of his many visits to Le Quesnoy.

Freddy de Clerck: Herb met Freddy in 2007 in Ypres during the 90th Anniversary Commemorations of the Battle for Passchendaele. A retired Commander of the Belgian Navy he was a joint founder of the Passchendaele 1917 Museum at Zonnebeke, but with a special fascination in recording and preserving the exploits of the NZEF in Flanders at a level of commitment, far in excess of any New Zealand Government agency. A service recognised through a New Zealand honour award. Now a long-time friend, his belief in the project and input to Museum ownership and operating costs were an essential element to building a viable Museum business case in 2015.

Jehan Phillippe de Lastic: Now deceased had become a firm friend of Herb's as the son-in-law of Baron Sartell, during his first visit to Chateau Potelle in 2008. A prosperous business man in his own right, he understood the link between New Zealand and Chateau Potelle, allied to the significance of the New Zealand Memorial Museum project to Le Quesnoy and the region. In ill health, his wish to contribute to maintaining the grounds of the Gendarmerie property, was a simple expression of his families wish to see the project succeed.

The above individuals, together with Herb & Ruth Farrant, the current and past trustees collectively contributed to the project becoming a reality in October 2023.



Otto Dix (1891 - 1969)²⁵

'Flanders' The National Gallery, Berlin.

As we celebrate Herb, Greg and Sir Don's towering achievement with the realisation of the New Zealand Liberation Museum, Te Arawhata, in Le Quesnoy, let's not overlook the reality of the catastrophe of World War One and its impact on the combatants and their families from all sides of the conflict. This painting, inspired by the Battle of the Somme in 2016, evokes the horrors of that war.



ENDNOTES

- 1 Peter is the grandson of Lt. Col. Sir Stephen Allen, the commander of the 2nd Auckland Battalion in November 1918. He is a journalist and the author of a number of publications, including 'Wartime Correspondence', about his uncle Lt Peter Allen's role in the Royal Navy during World War II and his loss on the submarine "Upholder" with all hands in the Mediterranean in April 1942. Sir Stephen wrote about his battalion and its role in Le Quesnoy in his book "2/ Auckland, 1918: Being a Partial Record of the War Service in France of the 2/ Auckland Regiment during The Great War" published in 1920. It's available today as an e-Book. Peter's visited Le Quesnoy twice, in October 2021 and July 2023. This history is a tribute to Peter's grandfather, his great uncle Lt. Col. Robert Allen (both of whom saw service in Le Quesnoy in November 1918) and his uncle Peter, who he happens to be named after. Peter's journalistic focus recently has been Mr Putin's war in Ukraine.
- 2 From the Deed of Variation of Trust dated 27 June 2017, signed by Greg Moyle (chair), Mark Hall and Neil Ingram. Clause 4.1 (d).
- 3 From the Deed of Variation of Trust dated 27 June 2017, Clause 4.1 (d).
- 4 The actual number killed and missing is 12,483. The losses during the war for New Zealand in the various theatres totalled 18,166. 100,444 embarked for service of which 59,482 became casualties (killed, wounded or missing).
- 5 Through a Trust Deed, created by the legal firm of Kensington Swan. The document, dated 8 December 2011, was registered as a charitable trust on 10 August 2017.
- 6 Jerry Morris had a background in fund raising in the military heritage area. He'd successfully arranged sponsorship to fund and promote the RNZRSA's nation-wide campaign to commemorate the 90th Anniversary Battle of Passchendaele in 2007. The then President of the RNZRSA, Don McIvor assisted as a consultant.
- 7 Herb: "During the last two years of his mayoralty, whilst publicly supporting the Museum concept, Raoult declined to answer correspondence from the Trust or to request support for the project from his Town Council."
- 8 For two years, Le Quesnoy's mayor failed to acknowledge or respond to the Trust's correspondence seeking support for the project from the Town Council.
- 9 In 1918 he was the commanding officer of the 1st Auckland Rifle Brigade, which took the strategic railway line west of Le Quesnoy. His home was near Greg's in Herne Bay, Auckland, living there until he died, aged 105, in 2001. Having joined NZ's forces in World War I, he was sent to France in 1916 "where we were introduced to trench warfare" (from the NZ Herald Obituary). He celebrated his 20th birthday in the trenches.
- 10 With an Army and Police, where he was a Major and an Inspector. He had a relative at Le Quesnoy on 4 November 1918.
- 11 A stockbroker with Forsyth Barr. He too had a relative at Le Quesnoy on 4 November 1918.
- 12 This had been established by Herb and Greg in January 2017, based on a then exchange rate of NZ\$1.54 to the Euro.
- 13 In Greg's words: "I could see that the Trust would not be able to settle the purchase in September/October 2017, so I started looking for a solution. Initially, I was hoping to secure a bridging loan from AMP, using my financial planning business (Financial Planning New Zealand Ltd) as security. Unfortunately, AMP, whilst initially supportive, put too many hurdles in the way of this being a feasible option. Fortunately, I received assistance via my personal banker, Billy Walsh, at the BNZ. The bank agreed to advance me \$1.3M on the security of my home in Hamilton Road, Herne Bay, Auckland. The loan was on an interest-only basis, to be repaid by the Trust, when sufficient funds were raised for this purpose. The loan by me to the Trust was unsecured. Interest on the loan was to be compounded until the Trust was in a position to service the interest. This eventuated at least six months after the funds were drawn down."

- 14 Ex-BNZ and a former TF NZ Army Officer.
- 15 Founder and principal of Whitecliffe College of Art.
- 16 Ex-TF NZ Army, ex-Waitangi Tribunal, historian and community advocate.
- 17 The Ministry mentioned the Katherine Mansfield property in France as an example.
- 18 This review provides only a very limited synopsis of a distinguished and storied career spanning more than 50 years. In addition, in the 2008 NZ honours, Sir Don was appointed a Member of the Order of New Zealand, the country's highest civilian honour. In 2009, he was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order for services to the Commonwealth.
- 19 Four individuals who had personally committed significant amounts of time and money to fund the project's development could now be reimbursed, a process which began in 2020.
- 20 Jenni had proven success with the Len Lye Centre in New Plymouth and other commissions.
- 21 During this time, a number of schemes were proposed for the site, including the construction of an annex to house the museum, the restoration of the Manoir for administration and hospitality and the renovation of the townhouses at the rear to provide accommodation for visitors. After much discussion, the trustees decided to limit the museum to the Manoir and to preserve the balance of the site as a park. At the time of writing the status of the townhouses (often referred to as maisonettes) was unresolved.
- 22 Greg's enthusiasm for the project has not diminished. He tells me (in September 2023) he continues to promote the museum, speaking to U3A, Rotary and other groups of its merits, using the opportunity to distribute the Trust Board's fundraising information.
- 23 Without this financial support, the Trust would not have been able to settle the purchase, and the opportunity to secure the Manoir (the Gendarmerie) property would have been lost. In addition, the Board's credibility with the French Government and its supporters in Le Quesnoy would have been irreparably damaged.
- 24 With Marie-Sophie's help, an organisation from half a world away, with no apparent financial backing, became the "preferred" purchaser of a property, that in French law, had to be advertised and tendered for disposal.
- 25 "The artist Otto Dix was 23 years old when he volunteered for military service in 1914. He served first in the field artillery and later in a machine-gun unit. In the fall of 1915, he saw combat in Champagne. In 1916, he fought at the Battle of the Somme. One year later, he was sent to the Eastern Front. Among artists, Dix was virtually unmatched in the intensity of his commitment to depicting the horrors of war. Flanders was painted between 1934 and 1936, oil and tempera on canvas." From German History in Documents and Images (GHDl).

