

compulsory military trainees learnt anti-terrorist drills, as in 'Operation Phoenix'. Their officers also attended, at this time, courses in atomic warfare. In 1959 the first full brigade exercise since the Second World War was held; a four-day exercise that began in Rangipo and ended at Waiouru with the Hauraki Regiment playing a full part.

At the close of Lieut.-Col. Smith's appointment in 1959, compulsory military training was abolished and the new commander, Lieut.-Col. A. H. Balzer, who had served in the Maori Battalion in World War Two, found himself with a Regiment that gradually dwindled from 1200 to below 300 all ranks. From 1959 to 1962, when Lieut.-Col. D. P. C. Walls assumed command, officers and N.C.O.s were forced to concentrate their time and enthusiasm on improving their own skills, through courses and tactical exercises without troops. There were no troops to train.

In 1962 National Service was introduced, this time for twenty year old New Zealand males. To meet the obligation imposed by this new system of balloted enlistment the Army reorganised the location of its major units. Following this reorganisation the Haurakis found themselves with a recruiting territory similar to that given in 1898 to the original founding battalion. A company was now centred in Rotorua, C company in Tokoroa and B company in Whakatane. Of course, Paeroa was no longer the home of the battalion headquarters and of the headquarters company, for both remained in Tauranga.

For the new national servicemen there were improved weapons and uniforms. The 1913 pattern Lee Enfield .303 rifle was discarded in favour of the Belgian designed FN 30 self-loading rifle. British-style steel helmets and steel-soled boots were replaced by a lighter American helmet and serviceable rubber-soled boots. A new pattern in webb equipment, more suited to the tropics, was ordered, and battledress was used less and less while denim uniforms were used more and more.

During the command of Lieut.-Col. D. P. C. Walls, the Regiment received its first civic honour, the freedom of the newly created City of Rotorua. At an imposing charter parade, held on 26 January 1963, the Mayor of Rotorua, Mr A. M. Linton, conferred upon the Regiment the right to march annually through the streets of Rotorua, with swords drawn, bands playing and flags unfurled.<sup>4</sup> At the close of the ceremony the Colonel-Commandant, R. F. Smith, OBE, ED, presented the mayor with a large replica of the Regiment's badge, with the motto 'Whakatangata Kia Kaha' — Quit Yourselves Like Men —

Be Strong. During Lieut.-Col. Walls' command the Regiment mourned the death of two of its legendary heroes; Lord Freyberg and Sir Steven Allen. General Freyberg died in London in July 1963 and the Regiment, once his Regiment, deeply mourned the passing of New Zealand's greatest soldier. In late 1964 Sir Steven Allen was killed in a tragic car crash, near Maramarua. The Regiment helped place him at his rest at Morrinsville.

In 1964 the Regiment entered a new phase in New Zealand military reorganisation. On 1 April 1964 the Hauraki Regiment became a fully integrated Regular and Territorial unit, under the title the Sixth Battalion the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment (Hauraki). New Zealand's commitments under the SEATO and ANZUS defence pacts had necessitated the restructuring of the army with the formation of a Combat Brigade Group, of which the Hauraki Battalion formed a part. It is significant that the abolition of New Zealand's Territorial regiments in 1964 did not remove the Hauraki name from the army's tradition. The Regiment's tradition of over fifty years was preserved in the 6th Battalion's title.

In 1966 Lieut.-Col. D. P. C. Walls retired and was replaced by Lieut.-Col. G. J. MacLeod, ED, of Rotorua, a former Royal Marine who had previously served with the first Auckland Regiment; an officer with a most impressive moustache. During his command the new general purpose machinegun was introduced into the battalion training, to supercede the Bren and Vickers machine-guns, and the battalion took part in even larger and more complex training exercises, now with helicopters to use to move troops and equipment. In October 1968 the *Bay of Plenty Times* reported to its readers that Hauraki troops were shattering the quiet of the Kaimai Range with a jungle exercise in an area chosen because of its similarity in terrain and vegetation to South East Asia.<sup>5</sup> In November 1968 an exercise based on Viet Cong tactics was held in the Urewera by B Company, with RNZAF Iroquois helicopters providing rapid access to enemy contact. The *Whakatane Beacon* reporter who accompanied the company obviously enjoyed himself. He reported:

*The attack began at 8.15 a.m., exploding traps and yelling attackers giving an air of realism to the exercise. After the lull, more shouting and explosions near the river revealed that the trap had been sprung. It was all soon over and the only signs of battle were puffs of smoke drifting among the trees at the bottom of the slope as troops emerged from enemy positions with their prisoners.<sup>6</sup>*