



1902 - 1942



Ian Hamilton McInnes MM was the first Northlander serving in the NZ Army to receive an award in World War II. Sergeant McInnes left NZ with the advanced guard which later was attached to the LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP, which he was serving when awarded the Military Medal. Most reticent about his active service he never informed relatives that he had been recommend for an award. First knowledge came from comrades. Ian was educated at North River School Waipu, and was working at Portland when war was declared. He enlisted on the first day recruiting was opened. Ian Was drum major of the Whangarei County Pipe Band and played senior rugby for Hora Hora.



UNCLE, NEPHEW, BOTH WIN MILITARY MEDAL

The rare distinction of uncle Ian McInnes and his nephew Roy McInnes having both awarded the Military Medal in the North Africa campaign is shared by the McInnes family of Waipu and well known throughout Northland.



19 - 19

Roy Ewen McInnes MM spent much of his boyhood at Waipu and Whangarei. He also enlisted in the early days of World War II serving in NZ 27 (MG) Battalion throughout the Middle East campaign. Like his uncle Ian McInnes, Roy was reticent about details relating to his Military Medal award. His citation graphically tells of great coolness and inspiration evacuating his wounded men under heavy shell fire. With passion, Roy loved his sailing. Also played senior rugby for North Shore and Takapuna clubs.

Roy's original Military Medal and campaign medals held by Tracey Llewelyn and Bryce Edwards.



Compiled for the Waipu Whangarei families of Yvonne (nee McInnes) and Gilbert Sturgess, Lanna (nee McInnes) and Lew, Dawn Innes Vanna Morgan May (nee McInnes) and Harry, Frank "Monty" Iris Tebbut Muriel (nee McInnes) and Keith, Ian Garth Edwards



NEW ZEALAND ARMED FORCES

STATEMENT OF SERVICE

of Ewan Roy McINNES

No. 36678 Rank: Sergeant Force: NZ Army

Served in New Zealand	
From	To
2.10.40	7.11.40
19. 9.44	20.12.44

Served Overseas	
From	To
8.11.40	18.9.44


Date of Discharge: 20 December 1944

Total Service: 4 years 80 days

Medal Entitlement: Military Medal
 1939-45 Star
 Africa Star
 8th Army Clasp
 Italy Star
 Defence Medal
 War Medal, 1939-45
 NZ War Service Medal

DATE: 18 August 1977

Defence Headquarters
 Wellington
 NEW ZEALAND


 (B.E. Jameson)
 Squadron Leader
 for Secretary of Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

All correspondence should be addressed to:
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE,
PRIVATE BAG, WELLINGTON, N.Z.
Telephone 726 499



In reply please quote:
Def 244/2/793/Man (Admin)

DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS
WELLINGTON, N.Z.

AIR MAIL

5 July 1977

Mr I.S. Edwards,
6 Devona Street,
Aspley, Queensland, 4034,
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Sir,

36678 SERGEANT EWAN ROY McINNES, MM
27 (MACHINE GUN) BATTALION

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 1977.

Our records show that Mr McInnes was awarded the Military Medal in 1943.

The following is an extract from the "Official History of New Zealand in World War II, 1939-45 - 27 (Machine Gun) Battalion" by Robin Kay. Page 294:

"Lieutenant Crisp and Private Keyworth of 1 Platoon were wounded late in the morning. Corporal McInnes crossed the exposed ground to get his truck, and disregarding the shellfire and sniping, collected and evacuated both wounded and a German."

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours faithfully,

J. (Y.M. Hall)
Major
for Secretary of Defence



6287. Wt.41216/577. 240M. 12/42. Wy.L.P. Gp. 656. Forms/W.3121/0.

Army Form W.3121

Date recommendation
passed forward

NZ

10

Brigade Division Corps

Schedule No. Unit 27 NZ (MG) BN
(To be left blank)

Rank and Army or Personal No. 36678 L/Upl (t.Cpl)

Name McINNES Ewen Roy
(Christian names must be stated)

Received Passed
Brigade
Division 15 Nov 21 Nov
Corps
Army 24/11/42 27/11/42

Action for which commended
(Date and place of action must be stated)

Recommended
by

Honour
or
Reward

(To be
left blank)

On morning 2 Nov 42 at TEL EL EISA, Cpl McINNES was in command of an MMG sub section, when an enemy infantry attack developed. This gun was in an exposed position and under heavy MG and mortar fire; he coolly directed the fire of his guns, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Later in the day he evacuated two wounded under heavy shelling and sniping having to cover a stretch of exposed ground to reach his truck. He then drove the truck up under heavy shelling and succeeded in evacuating the wounded. He showed great coolness and was an inspiration to his men under heavy shell fire.

Immediate
M.M.

A. W. WHITE
LT. COL.

H. R. ALEXANDER,
General,
M.E.F.

B. C. FREYBERG
LT. GEN

COMD 2 NZ DIV.

Date

B. L. MONTGOMERY,

GEN

G.O.C. EIGHTH ARMY.

Killed in action

Wounded

Died

Missing

Prisoner of War

P.T.O.

Onerahi Boy's Great Gallantry

(Official N.Z.E.F. War Correspondent)
CAIRO, December 24.

The citation in connection with the award of the Military Medal to Corporal de Stigter, of Whangarei, states: Great gallantry was shown by Corporal H. J. de Stigter on the night of October 23-24, at Mityria Ridge, when he was instrumental in getting his platoon to Vog.

Approaching the final objective, he captured a machine-gun post and six prisoners after a stiff fight. Later he took out a patrol and took another machine-gun post with 10 prisoners. His conduct throughout showed excellent leadership and coolness under heavy fire.

Another Hero

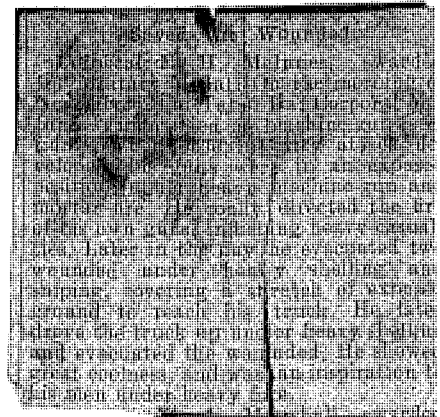
Corporal E. H. McInnes, on the morning of November 2 at Tel el Eisa, commanded a machine-gun section. When an infantry attack developed, his guns were in an exposed position. Under heavy machine-gun and mortar fire he coolly directed the fire of his guns, inflicting heavy casualties. Later in the day he evacuated two wounded under heavy shelling and sniping, covering a stretch of exposed ground to reach his truck. He later drove the truck up under heavy shelling and evacuated the wounded. He showed great coolness, and was an inspiration to his men under heavy fire.

Uncle, Nephew, Both Win Military Medal

The rare distinction of uncle and nephew having won the Military Medal for gallantry in the North African campaign is shared by the McInnes family, well known throughout Northland.

Corporal Ewen Roy McInnes, of Devonport, who has won the decoration for coolness under fire at Tel el Eisa, is a nephew of the late Sergeant T. H. McInnes, who received his medal from the hands of General B. C. G. Freyberg when a patient at the New Zealand base hospital, where he was recovering from wounds sustained when serving with the Long Range Desert Group.

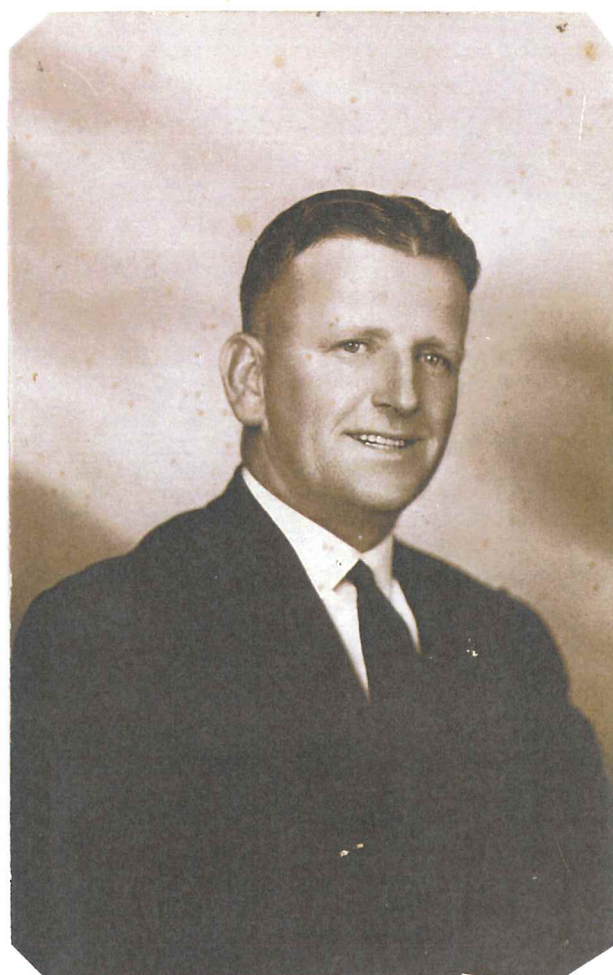
Corporal McInnes is a son of Staff-Sergeant E. M. McInnes, and spent much of his boyhood at Waipu and Whangarei.





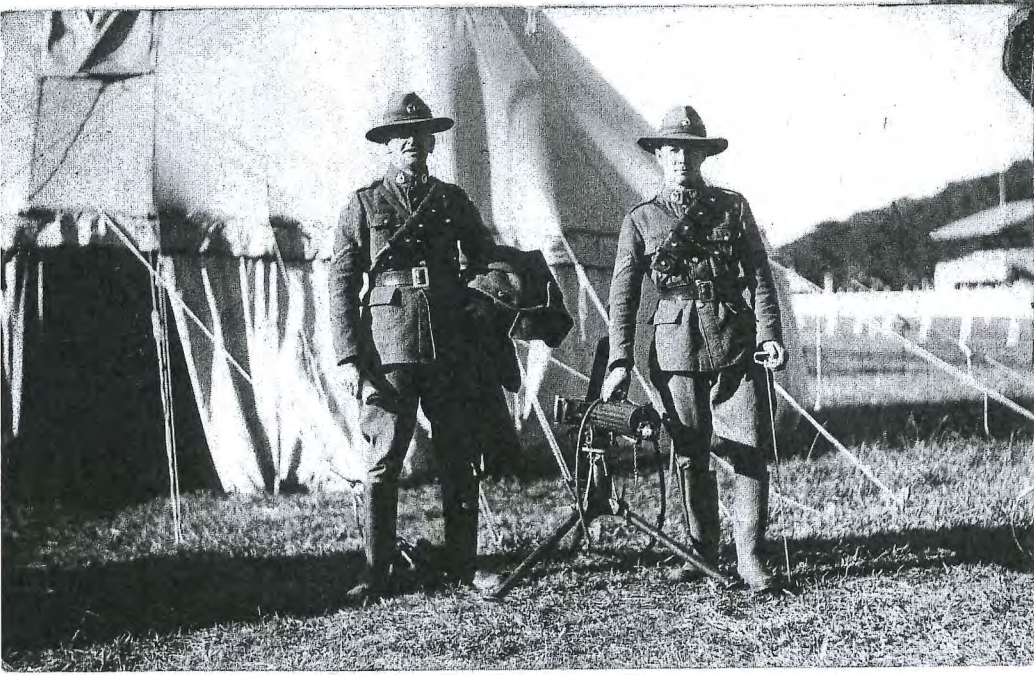
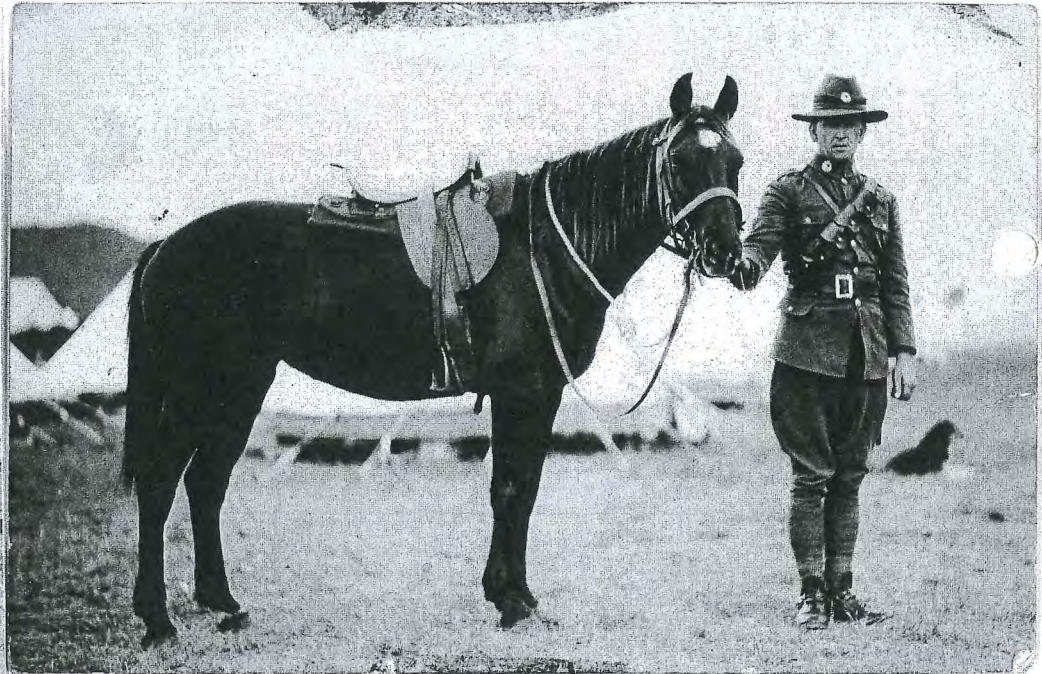
TROOPER IAN MCINNES M.M.

Trooper Ian Hamilton McInnes M.M. was a son of Catherine McInnes, 19 K. Tec, Devonport, and the late Samuel McInnes, a well known identity of Northland. Two of his sisters Mrs. L. Morgan, Elizabeth St. and Mrs. K. Edwards, Maunu Road reside in Whangarei. leaving New Zealand with the advance guard prior to the First Echelon aboard the Strathavon. Trooper McInnes was attached to the Long Range Dessert Group and it was for this service that he won his distinction. Most reticent about his doings overseas Trooper McInnes has never informed his relatives that he had been recommended for an award, the first knowledge of this coming from his comrades. Educated at the North River School Trooper McInnes who was age 39 was working at Portland, enlisting on the first day the lists were opened. He was Drum Major of the Whangrei Pipe Band, he played senior football for Hohora.



Ian Hamilton McInnes

1902 - 1942





Disharmony When Band Meets Band

Discord comparable to the Czechoslovakian situation was heard in Whangarei's musical circles last night when stirring combat between the Municipal Band and the Country Pipe Band took place in the heart of the business area.

With the pibrochs skirling in full blast and drums thudding the peculiar rhythm of the Highlands, the pipers swung in all their glory up Cameron Street, but, with only part of the distance covered, found their right-of-way challenged. Down the street from the opposite direction came the pride of Whangarei's cornetists and trumpeters in the full array of the official bandsmen.

Friday night shoppers, thronging the footpaths, stood breathless in fear and trembling, but the boys of the opposing factions nevered wavered.

Firm Determination.

In the manner of their border ancestors the pipers advanced in grim determination with the light of battle in their eye, while the wail of their instruments rose to a shrill scream and the drums beat a mad tattoo. No less, however, was the good old-British bulldog tenacity of the municipal lads, whose solid phalanx of silver and brass advanced to the fray, prepared to fight to the last ditch.

Neither of the opposing forces would budge an inch but each held their ground in the dead centre of the road, heads erect and eyes fixed rigidly to the fore. The volume of sound grew in intensity and spectators fled from the line of fire as the inevitable clash grew nearer. Sterner spirits on the sideline freely wagered as to the outcome.

Hideous Cacaphony.

At the last moment, when a head-on collision and the resultant frightful holocaust seemed inescapable, each platoon swung to its left, but as they drew abreast competition grew to fever pitch and the hideous cacaphony of sound would have put 2,000 Dervishes to shame. Pipes on the one hand, and the united might of cornets, trombones, trumpets and double basses on the other, vied to drown each other, while the drummers on either side seemed that they would smash the bottoms out of their instruments and dislocate their elbows.

For a moment the betting seemed even, but when the crisis had passed without bloodshed, and each faction continued the even tenor of its way, spectators had to admit that the pipers had won against their opponents' heavier artillery. Their harmony was more penetrating.

