

Telegraphic Address
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Extension



Please quote: NC

Correspondence to be addressed to:
COMMODORE AUCLAND
HMNZ NAVAL BASE
AUCLAND

17 JAN 1989

Borough Manager
Devonport Borough Council
P.O. Box 32 003
Devonport

Dear Sir,

AMMUNITION STORAGE - NORTH HEAD

1. We are of course well aware of the many rumours associated with what may or may not be sealed in tunnels in North Head. These rumours have been extant, to our knowledge, for the last 30 years. The facts of the situation are:

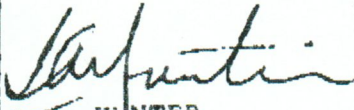
- a. There are sealed tunnels on North Head;
- b. There are no records of anything (ammunition or anything else) stored in North Head tunnels;
- c. All efforts to substantiate rumours have come to nothing, and much must be placed in the category of "bar gossip"; and
- d. The recent endeavours by Mr John EARNSHAW of Mallard Productions who had an agreement with the Ministry of Defence and Department of Conservation to investigate the tunnels in an attempt to locate the BOEING seaplane, allegedly in the tunnels have not yielded positive results.

2. In summary our position is that:

- a. We cannot categorically prove there is nothing in the sealed tunnels;
- b. Because of this we will continue to investigate and act upon any factual information that may become available because it is both in the public and our interest to do so; and

c. We believe that Mr EARNSHAW has now accepted the view that the BOEING seaplanes were all burnt and that he has switched his attention to the ammunition rumours, as a mechanism to further his own interest.

Yours faithfully,



I.A. HUNTER
Commodore RNZN
Commodore Auckland