

er Bridge

... was officially opened on Saturday 30 May 1959... after many years in the making. The images in this gallery are a small selection from the archives of the Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority. These arch...
The Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority was constituted by law in 1950 to construct, maintain and control a bridge across the Waitemata Harbour from Point Erin, West Haven to Stokes Point, Northcote.
Sir John Allum was the Chairman of the Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority from 1951, and Auckland Mayor from 1941-1953. He was passionate about the building of a bridge, which he promoted for many years before construction.
Contract documents for the construction of the four lane bridge were signed on 29 October 1954 and work on the site began on 1 May 1955. Officials involved in the Bridge's construction included: Richard L. Wilks, General Manager of the Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority; Wilfrid Cardno, Project Manager for the construction companies, Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. Ltd and Dorman Long; H.E. Whitehouse, resident engineer for Bridge designers Freeman, Fox and Partners.

The foundation stone was unveiled by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon C.H. Holland on 27 January 1956.
Public response to the Bridge varied, and the decision to go ahead was not welcomed by everyone. Once construction had started there was great interest in roadworks and progress of the Bridge. People invested in various public issues of the Auckland Harbour Bridge loan, with Sir John Allum reported as saying that "the authority never had the slightest difficulty in getting money".
In April 1959 the Bridge was complete 3 weeks ahead of schedule, and workers qualified for a bonus of around £10 each. The first car to cross the bridge was on Friday 24 April, driven by Mr W. Cardno, project supervisor for the contractors. The Bridge was opened on Saturday 30 May 1959 by the Governor-General, His Excellency Lord Cobham, whose car made the first crossing that day. The ceremony was held on the Toll Plaza, at Sulphur Beach, with about 1000 guests in attendance. The Bridge Superintendent, Mr DO MacPherson made the first entry in the daily log book on opening day: "11.10 Bridge open. Good luck to you and God bless. May it never close". The Bridge opened for traffic at 2.58pm, with Lady Allum collecting the first toll from Mr Frank Perry.
Protests about paying tolls appeared in the paper even before the Bridge opened - the toll for a car was 2/6 (25 cents). However that didn't seem to stop the volume of traffic - over 20,000 vehicles crossed the Bridge on the first day. One million vehicles had crossed the Bridge by mid-August, just eleven weeks after the Bridge's opening.



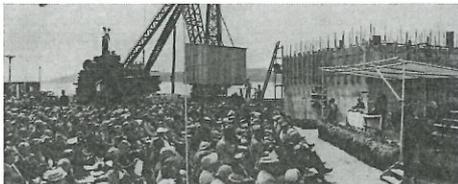
Sir John Allum

Reference: BHW 46221a



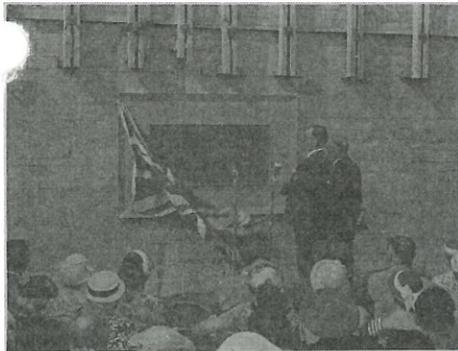
Signing the Bridge contract

Reference: BHW 46221a



Marking the foundation

Reference: BHW 46221a



Unveiling the stone

Reference: BHW 46221a



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Applied for by THE AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE TRUSTEE COMPANY, Limited, Auckland, N.Z. (Incorporated in New Zealand)

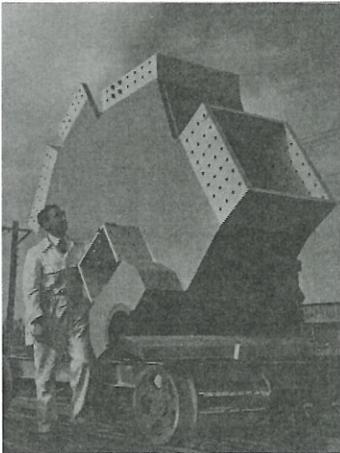
Debenture poster

Reference: BBBW_5821b



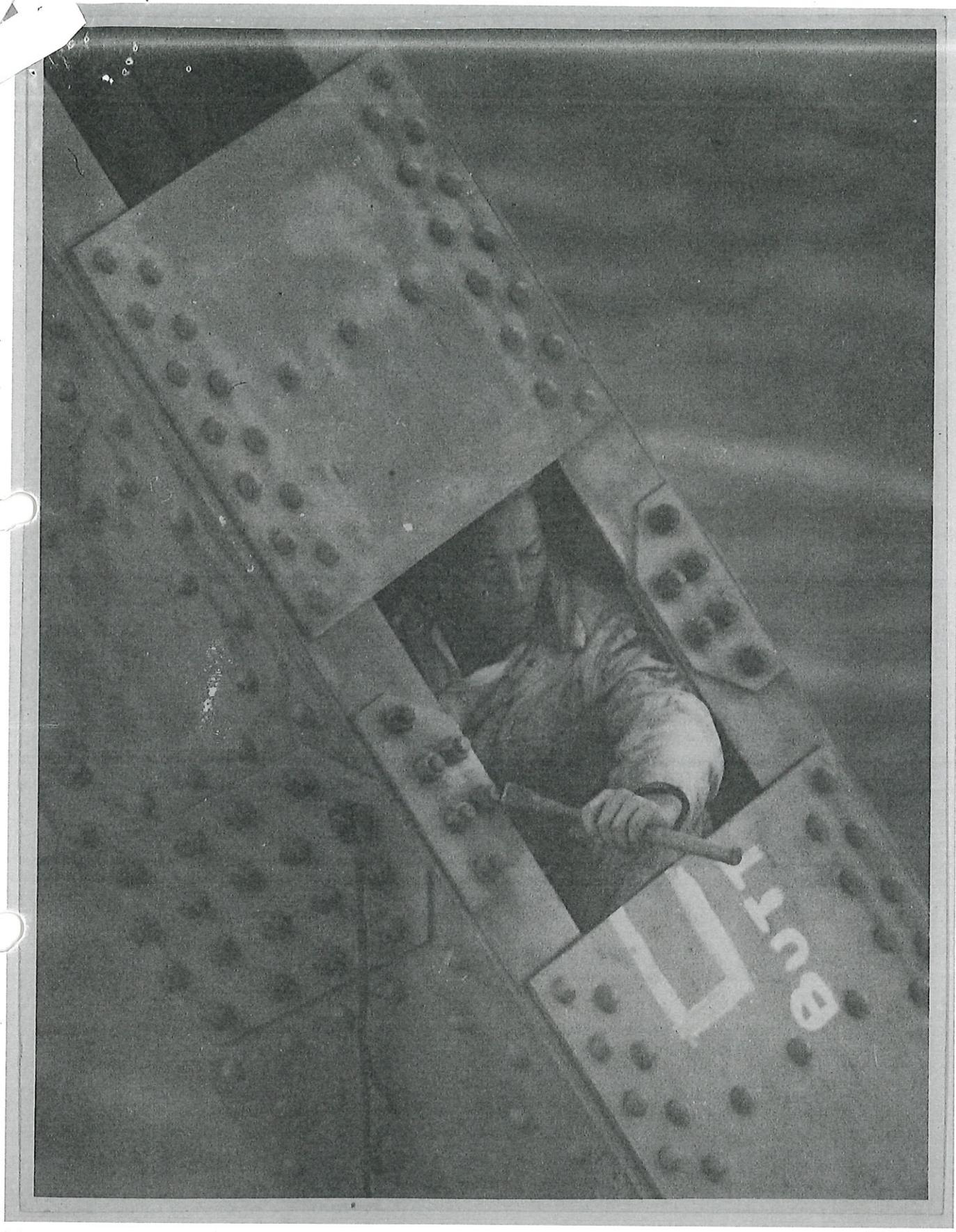
14 February 1957 construction process

Reference: BBBW_46202a

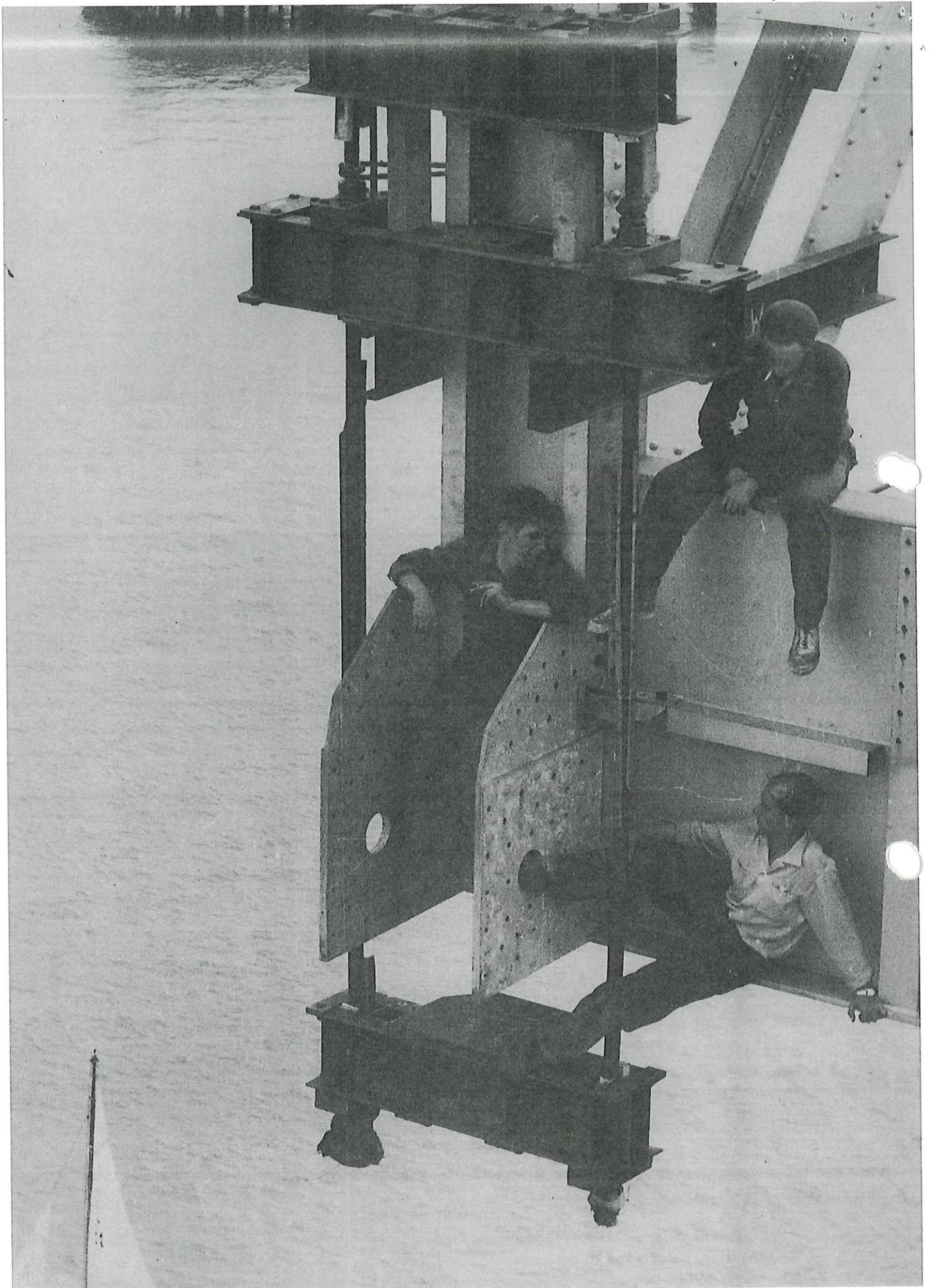


A knuckle

Reference: BBBW_46211a



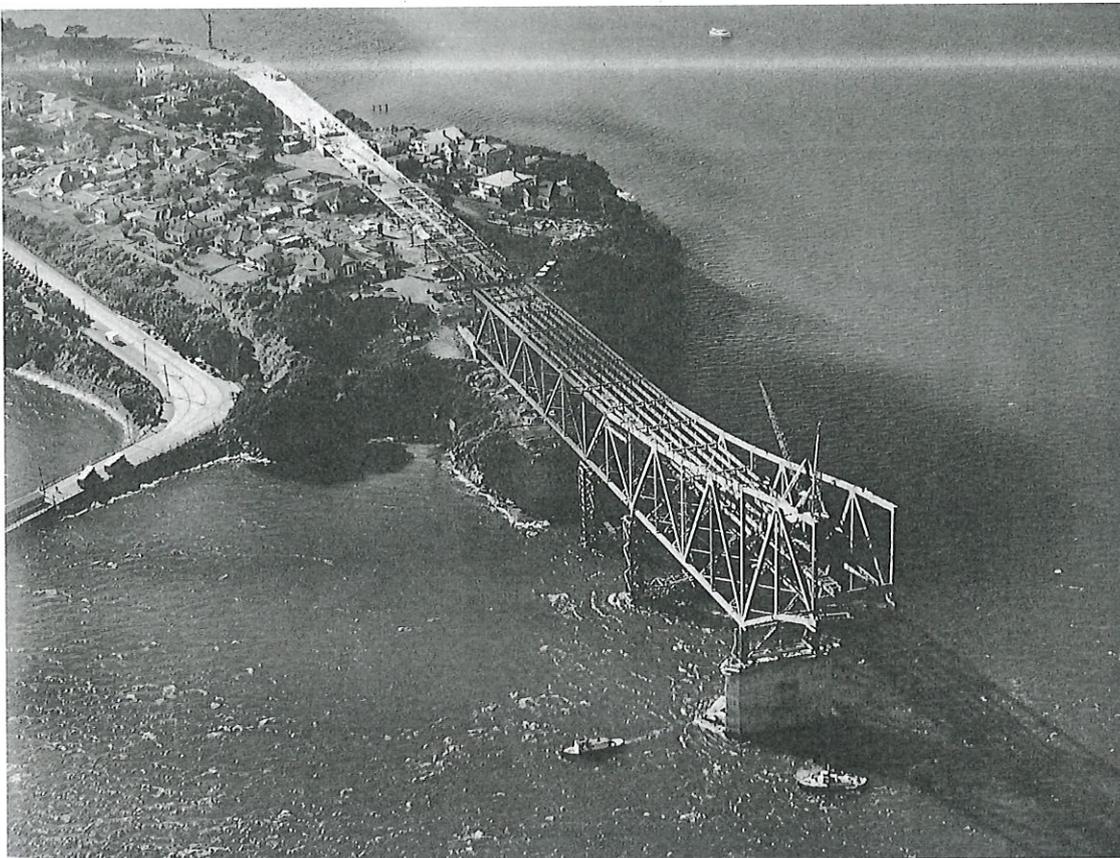
Steel erector
Reference: BBRW-43221



Waiting for work
Reference: BBNW 5/6311

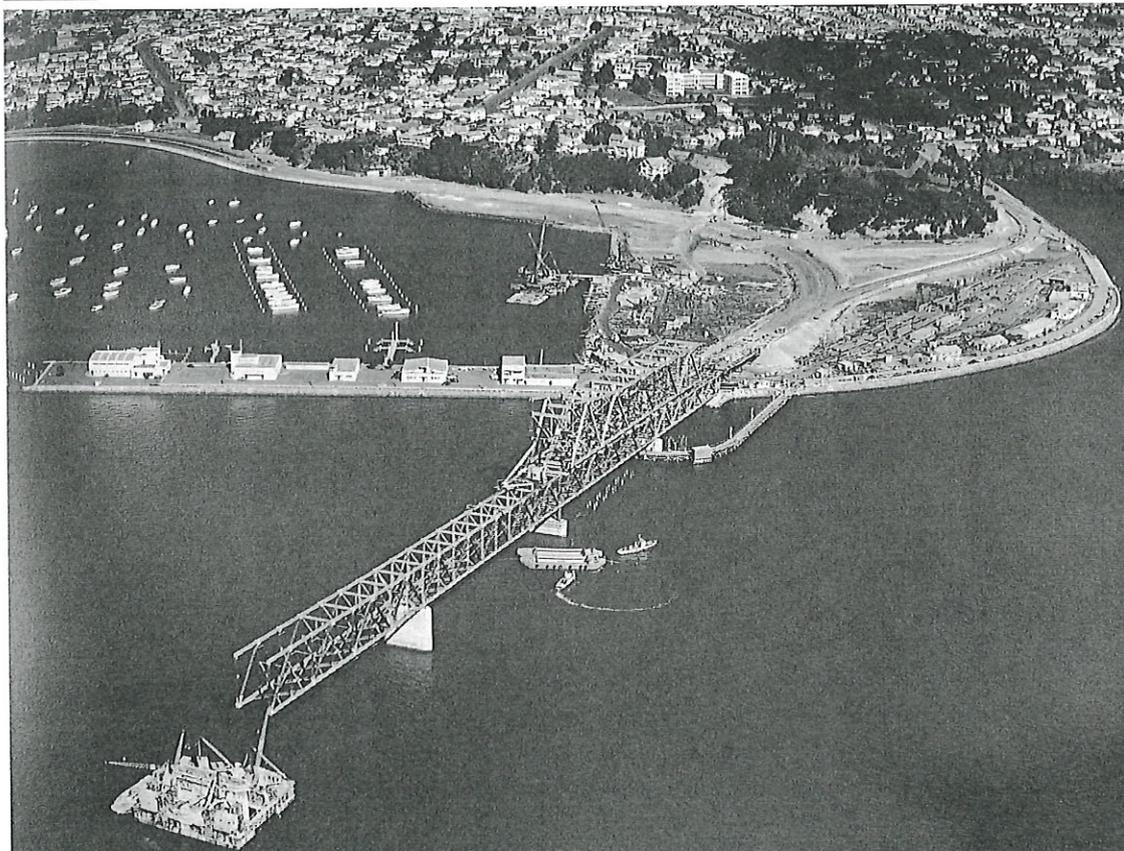


Royal Oak School
cc. BBWV_62213



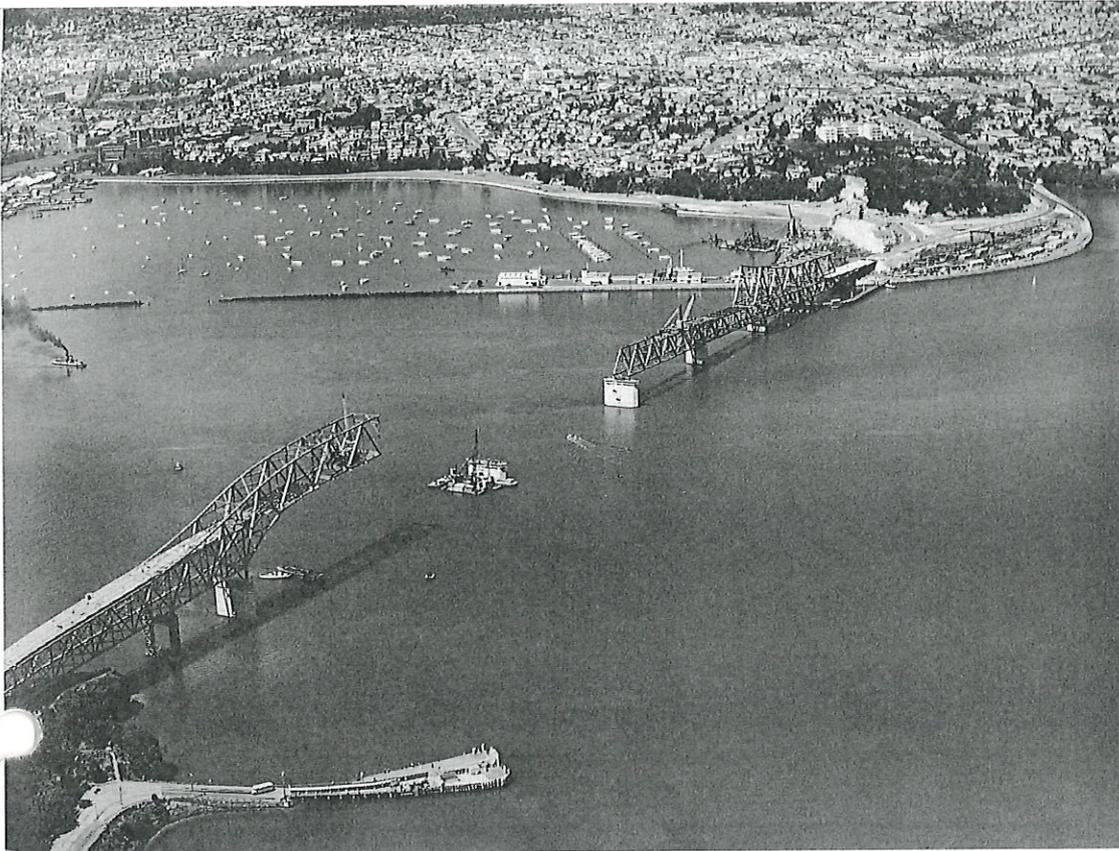
5 August 1958 - construction process

Reference: BBNW 46202a



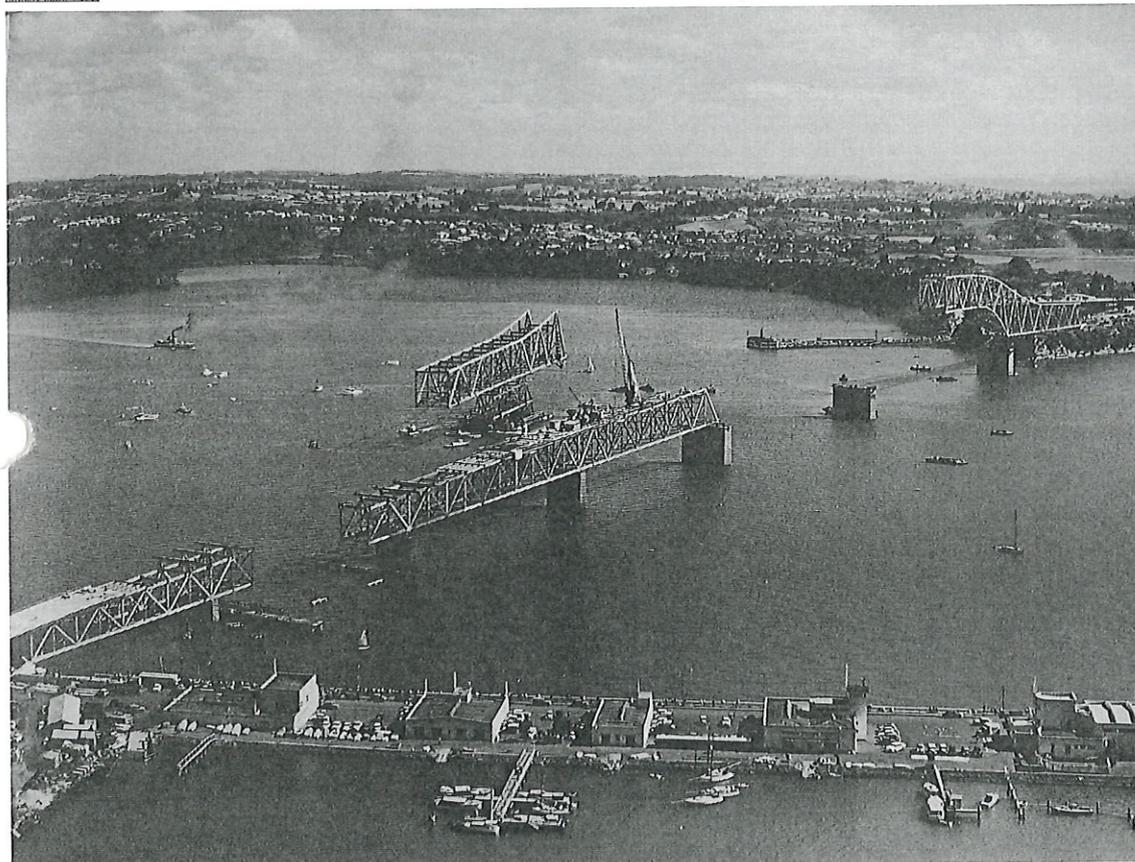
5 August 1958 - construction progress from Point Erlin

Reference: BBNW 46202a



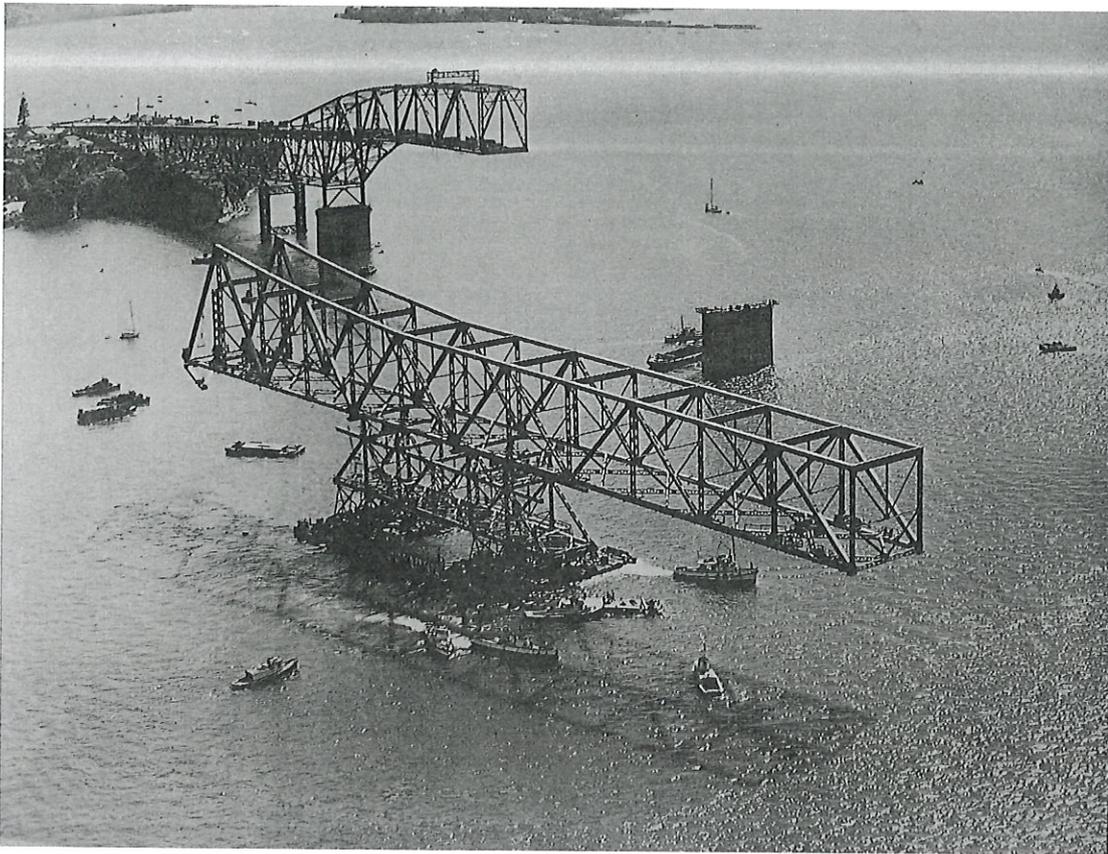
29 October 1958 - construction progress

Reference: BHRW 4523.1



29 November 1958 - construction progress

Reference: BHRW 4523.2



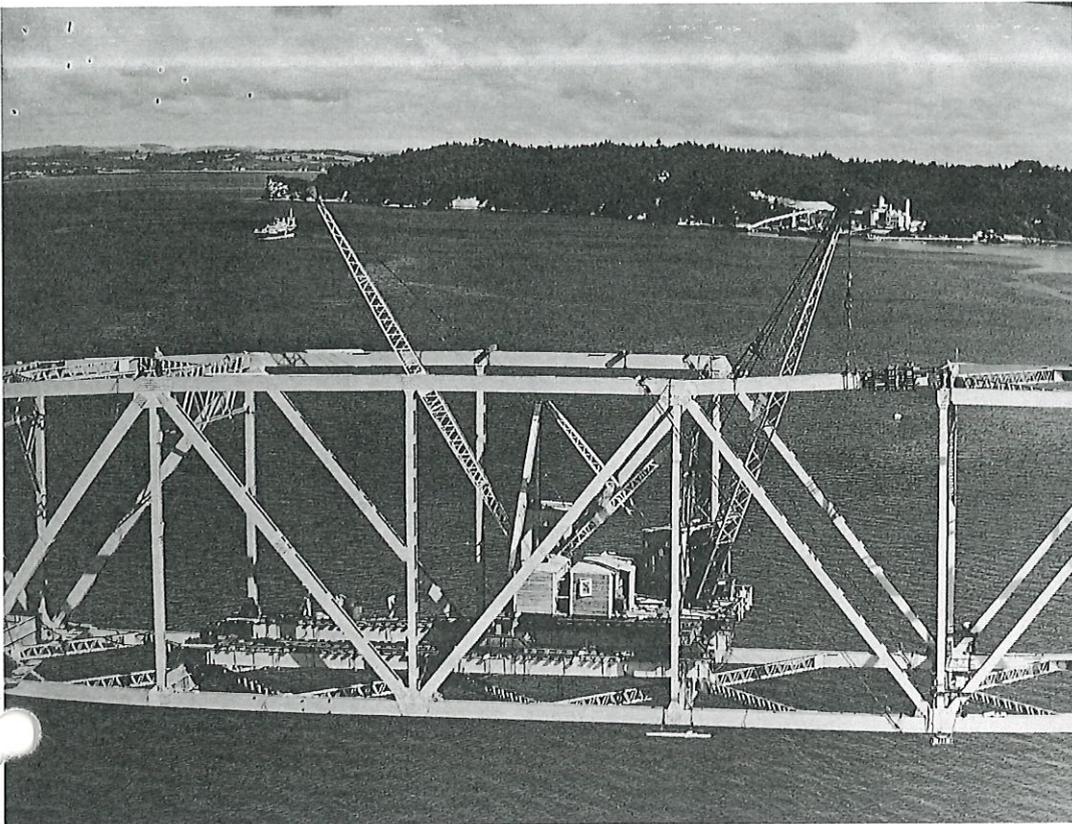
22 November 1958 - construction progress

Reference: RBHW 45023



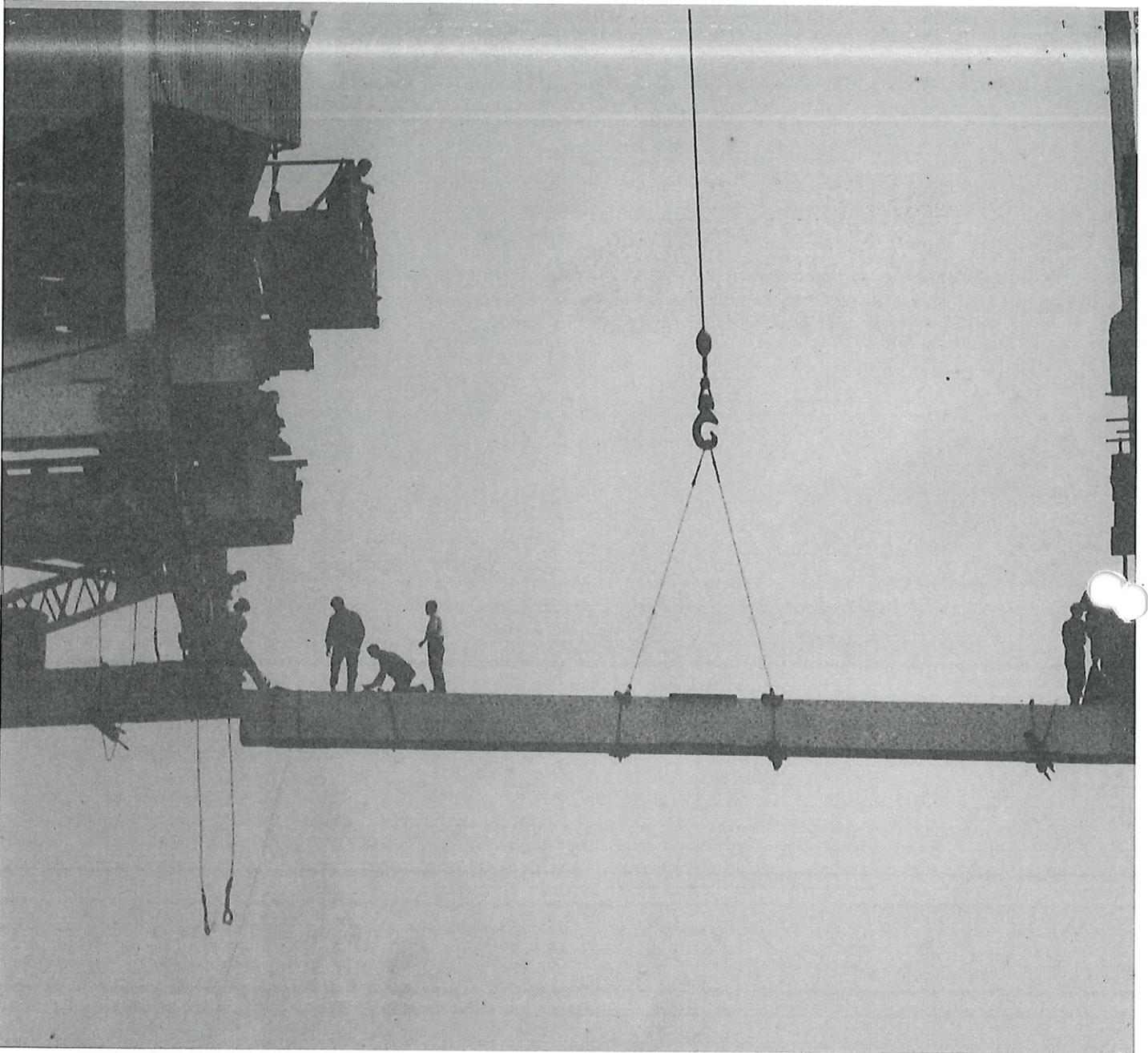
16 January 1959 - construction progress

Reference: RBHW 45023



9 March 1959 - construction progress

Reference: BBNW 4650.24

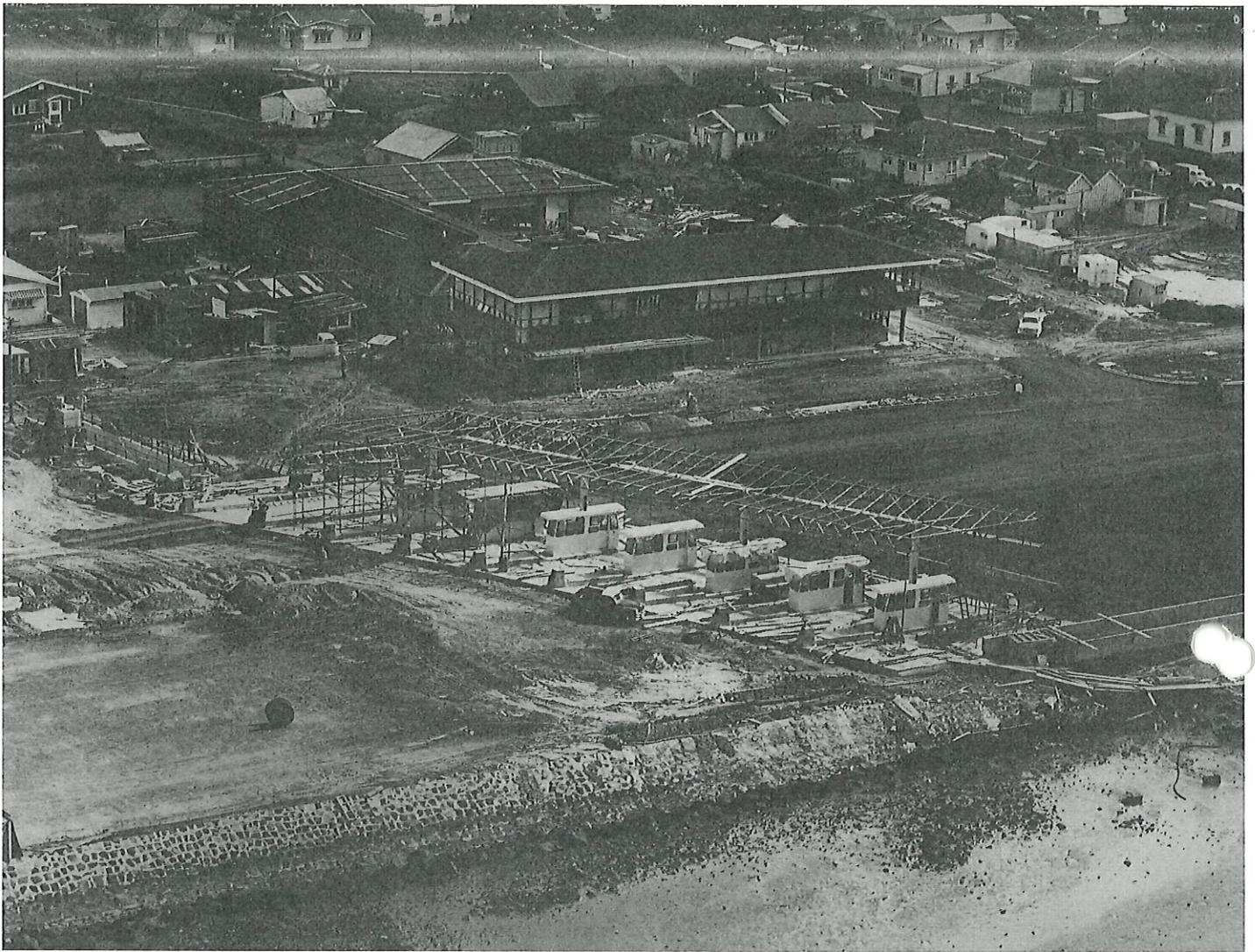


Bridging the gap
Reference: BDNW #5224



Cranedriver

Reference: BBNW 402221



8 April 1959 - construction progress

Reference: HHRW 4520.1

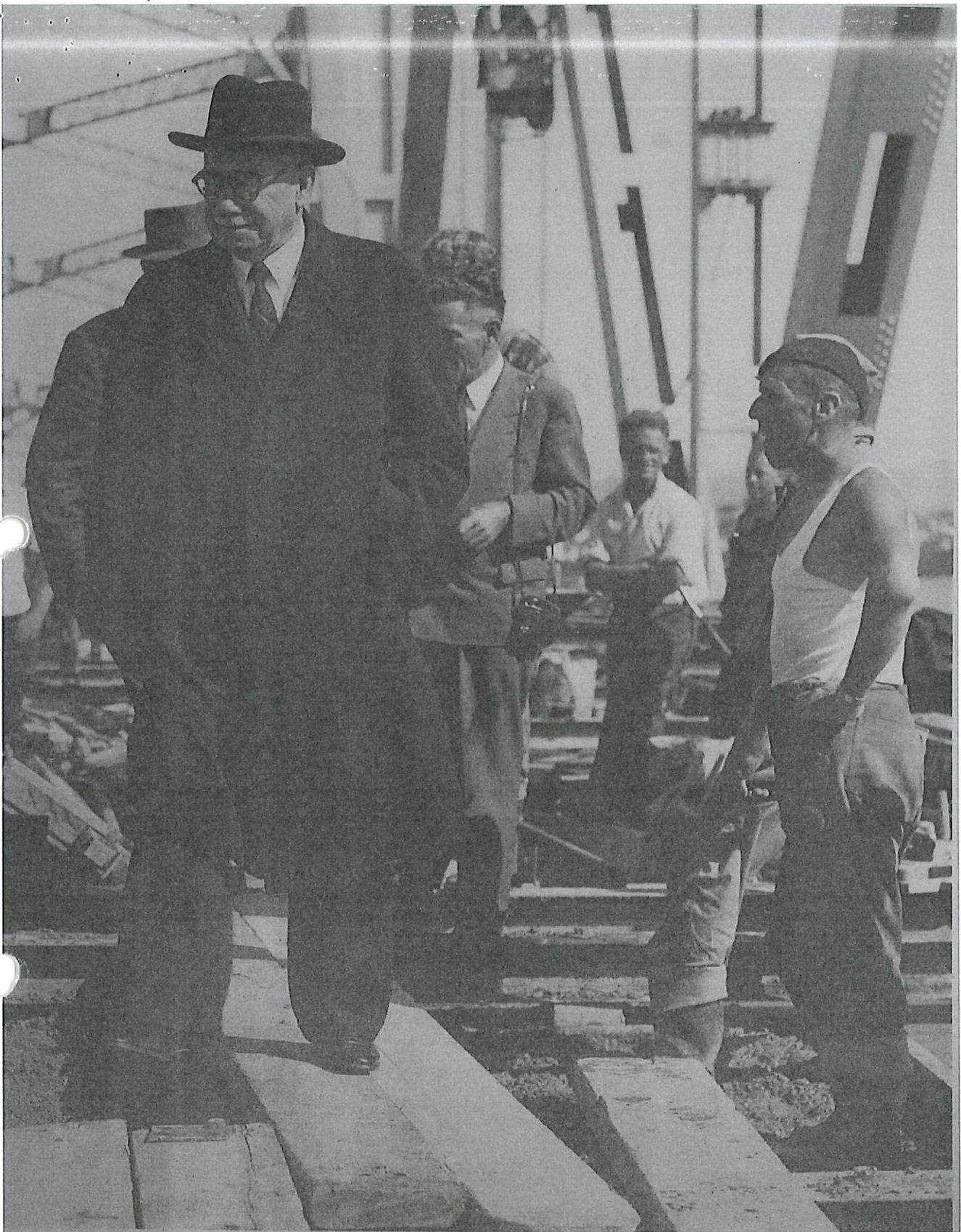


13 April 1989

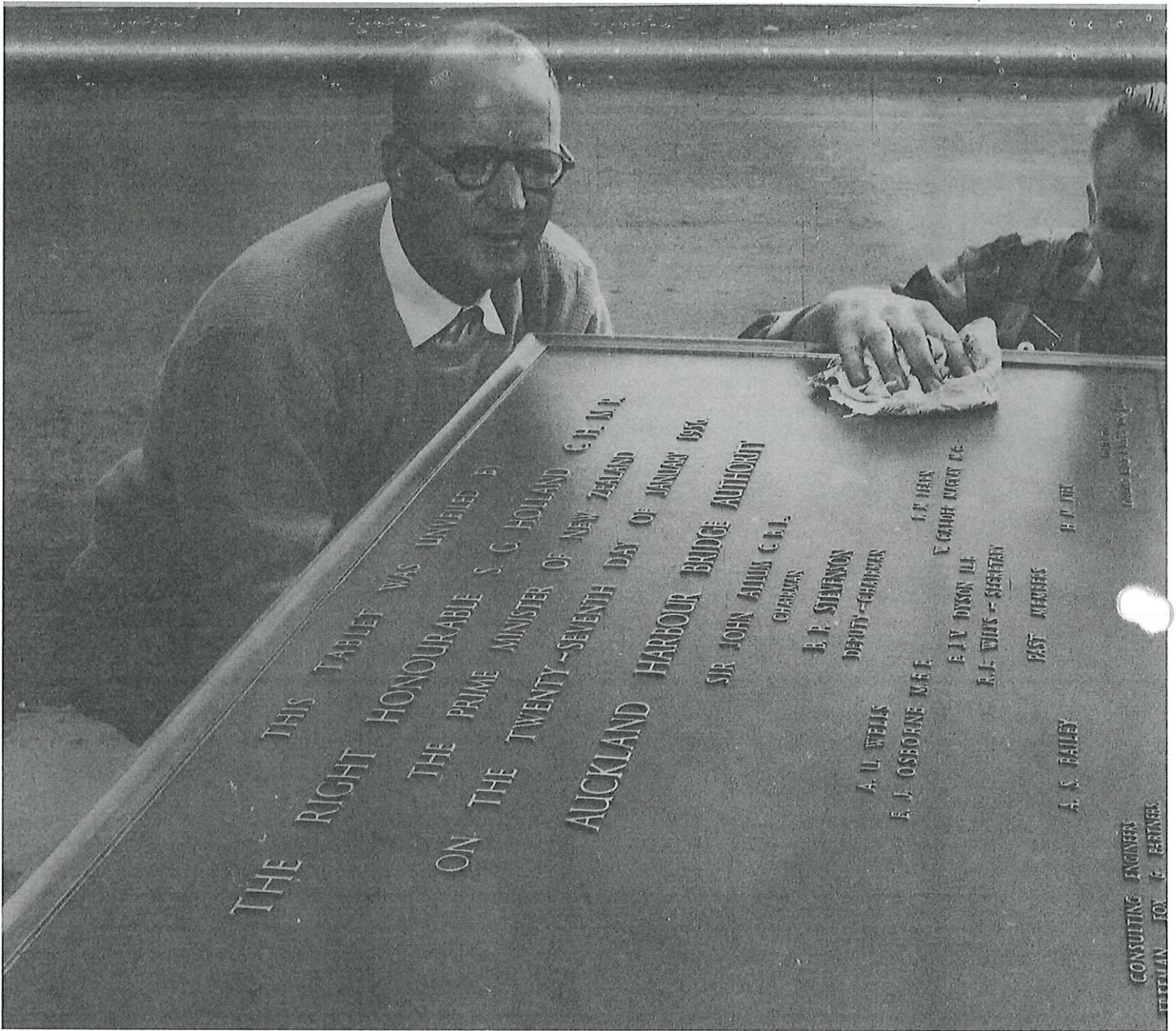
Reference: BBRW_852021



Last skip of concrete
Reference: BHRW 40222



Crossing the bridge
Reference: BBW 462221



THIS TABLET WAS UNVEILED BY
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE S. G. HOLLAND C.B.E. M.P.
ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF JANUARY 1956
AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE AUTHORITY
SIR JOHN AULD C.B.E.
CHAIRMAN
E. P. STEVENSON
DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN
A. U. WELLS
E. J. OSBORNE M.B.E.
F. J. DIXON M.B.E.
E. J. DIXON III.
R. J. WILKS - SECRETARY
P. J. DILL
PAST MEMBERS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
TITILLAN, FOX & HARRIS

Elbow grease
Reference: BHM 40222

0



During the road works

Reference: BBSW_462221



And they walked across

Reference: BBNW_425023



*The Chairman and Members of the
Auckland Harbour Bridge Authority
extend a cordial invitation to*

Mr^{rs} and Mrs. A. U. Wells.

*to be present at the Official Opening
of the*

Auckland Harbour Bridge

by

His Excellency The Viscount Cobham, G.C.M.G., T.D.

Governor General of New Zealand

at

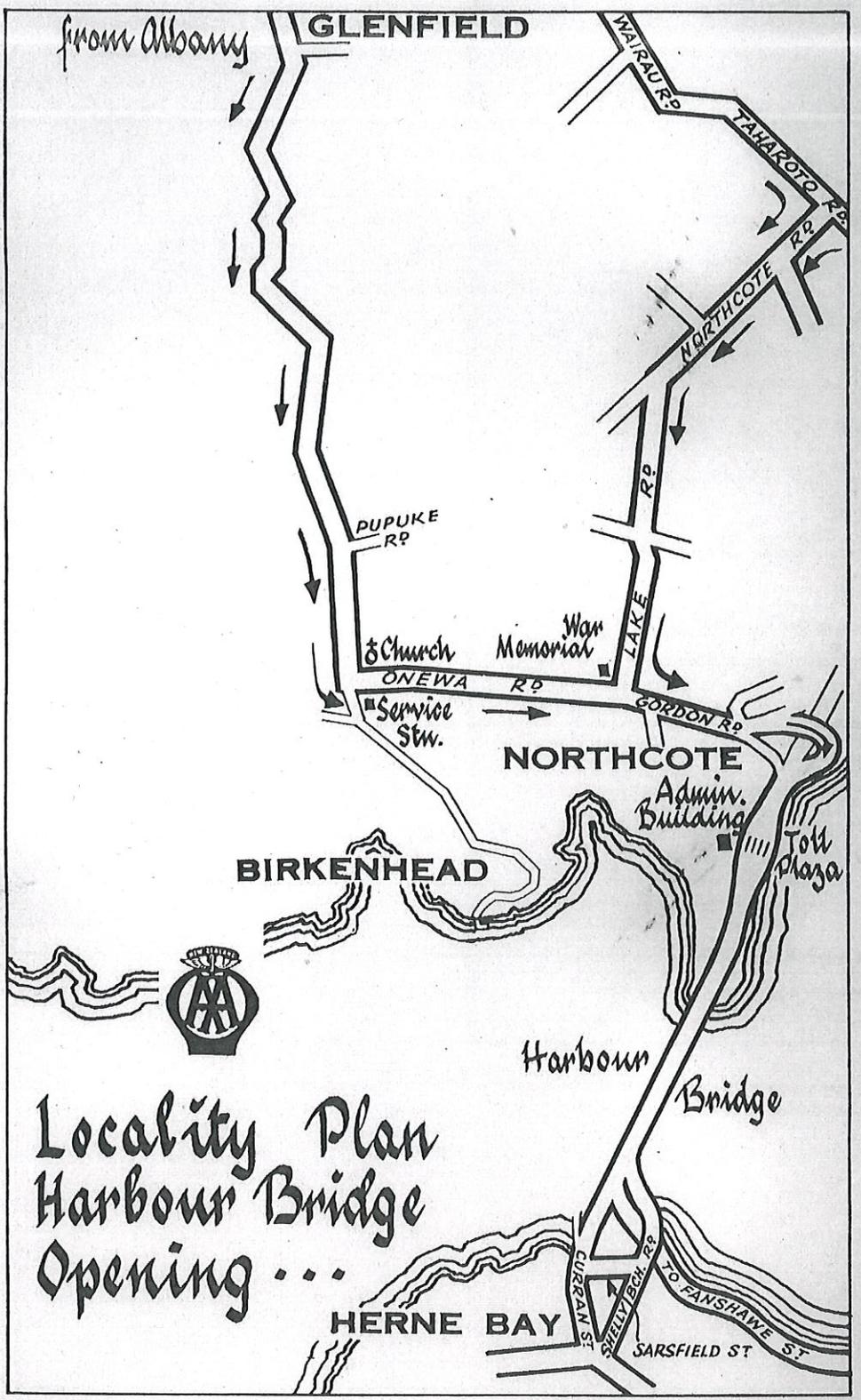
Sulphur Beach, Northcote

on Saturday morning, the thirtieth of May

Nineteen hundred and fifty nine

at ten o'clock

*Please return the enclosed card
by the fifteenth of May*



Locality plan
Reference: BA01514-32

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE

OFFICIAL OPENING

10 A.M., SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1959

ADMIT VEHICLE TO TOLL PLAZA

SULPHUR BEACH
FROM
GORDON ROAD FLYOVER

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE

OFFICIAL OPENING

10 A.M., SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1959

ADMIT VEHICLE TO WESTHAVEN

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE

OFFICIAL OPENING

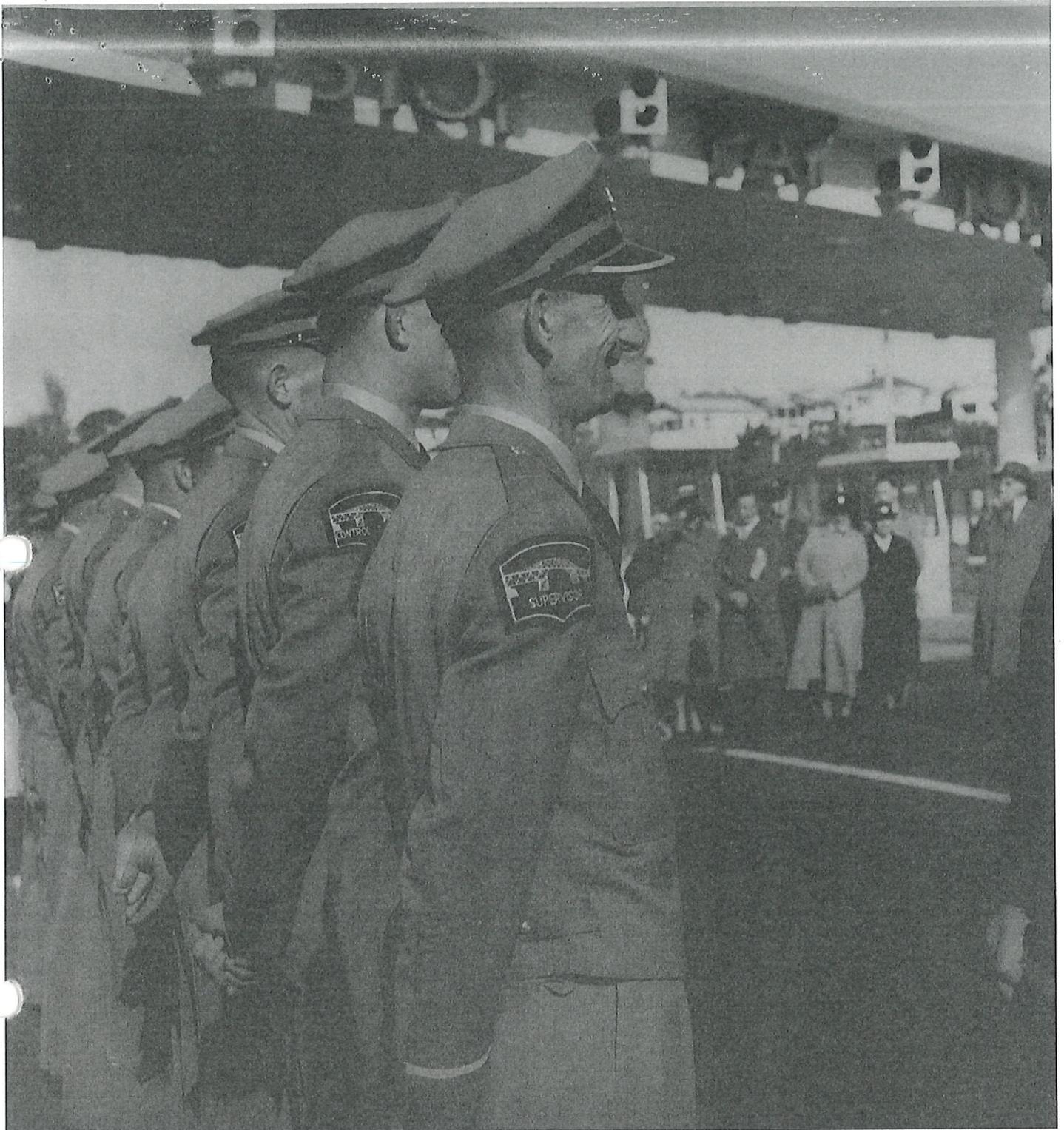
10 A.M., SATURDAY, 30TH MAY, 1959

DUTY VEHICLE



Seated guests

Reference: BBNW_402223



Meeting the staff
Reference: DHRW 50811

LOG SHEET

30 / 5 / 1959

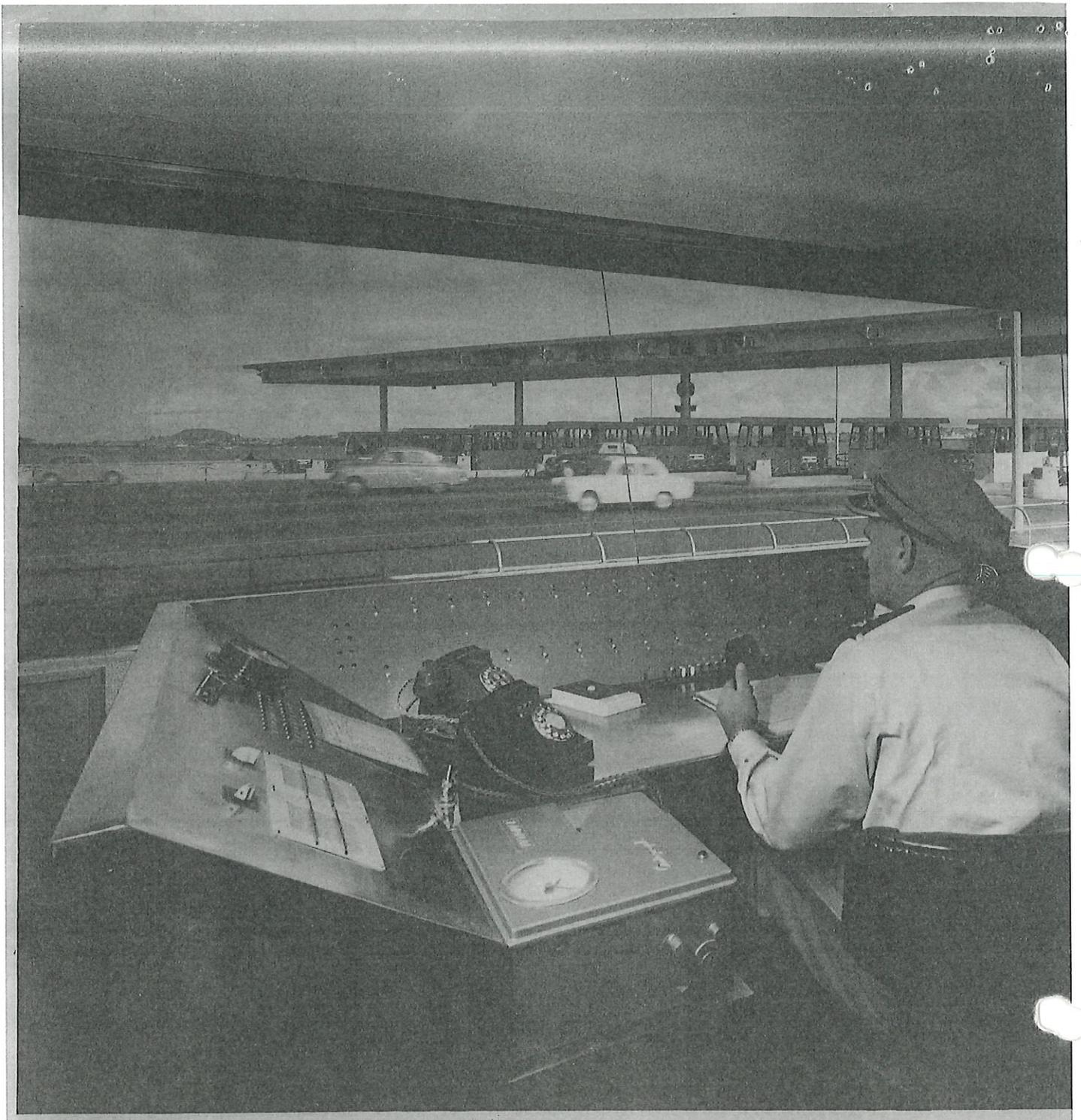
No. 1

No.	TIME	OCCURRENCE	REMARKS	No.	TIME	OCCURRENCE	REMARKS
1	11-10	Brake Oper. - Good luck by all	May 5 NEW - class			Good luck	
2	11-11	H.C. flag blown at Port head, with Royal Cadet, blown from of Royal New Zealand Army, by P.C. H.A. Whitehead	"The gun himself has arrived"			D. MacArthur, Bridge 30/5/59	
3	11-20	The following members of the Staff were presented to H.E. the Commandant by K.P. Delaney	Mr. H.H. Winslow, Mr. McElen, Mr. Carr, Mr. Michael, Mr. Rattenbury, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Cole, Mr. Lovatt			K.P. Delaney	30/5/59
4	1855	H.C. flag hauled down. H.C. flag hauled down at the masthead.				H.A. Whitehead	30/5/59
5	14/1	HANCE - Reference	Form 3				
6	1408	DRIVE OPEN FIRE TARPIC, LADY ALUMIN COLLATERALS FIRST TALK FROM MR. FRANK PERRY LANE 7 S.		28	2141	A.S. ASAMTUNG V.I.R. THROUGH CURRAN ST.	
7	1415	SLIGHT TARPIC DULSE FURNACE ST. CURRAN ST. INTERSECTION AT.		29	1730	HAROLD BRUNNEN FERTIGATION REMOVED FROM FAIRSHAW ST. CURRAN ST. INTERSECTION	
8	1419	INTERSECTION CHANG. KENNETH ROAD.		30	227	HAROLD VIRA ON HANQUAN AT HANQUAN ROAD TO TONG, POLICE. VIKK + RATTENBURY.	
9	1530	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	31	2155	BY H.C. 1. 2225. COMPOSITE WITH A.S. REPORTS H.C. 1. 2226 COBURN. H. CURRAN ST.	
10	1537	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	32	2155	CLOSED LANE IN W 10 S	
11	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	33	2157	CLOSED LANE IN W 10 S	
12	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	34	2158	LIGHTS RESTORED ALL VEH. MR. ROBERT RE-ENTER FROM	FORM 1.
13	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	35	2158	CRUM ST. ROAD ENDED. TALLS.	FORM 1.
14	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	36	2158	CRUM ST. ROAD ENDED. TALLS.	FORM 1.
15	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	37	2220	ON KEY 2 INTERSECTION KEY 1. MR. COLE.	
16	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	38	2225	LOS. S ON W 10 S.	
17	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	39	2230	R.P. FOR FIGURES	
18	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓	40	2235	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1.
19	1538	CALL A 2226 COMMISSION SOUTH CENTRE SPAN MATHIAS/16. FROM INSURANCE INSURANCE H.C. CALLS	FORM 1 ✓				
20	1600	STABLE (SHOCK) ON ONE OF PLATE. H/S BY R.I.	FORM 5 ✓				
21	1600	ALL VEHICLES CONSTANTLY ENGAGED IN REMOVING VEHICLES WITH VARIETY OF FINETS. R.C.B. 1000 STREET W/1000 PARTICULARS NO RETAIL + FLATS + OGDON AXLES.					
22	1600	UNANNOUNCED GLASSES REPORTED LOST WHILE HANDLING MEN					
23	1600	DRUNKEN (HIND) ON	FORM 1				
24	1600	DRIFT CHANGE					
25	1600	DRIFT CHANGE					
26	1600	DRIFT CHANGE					



Bridge worker fatalities

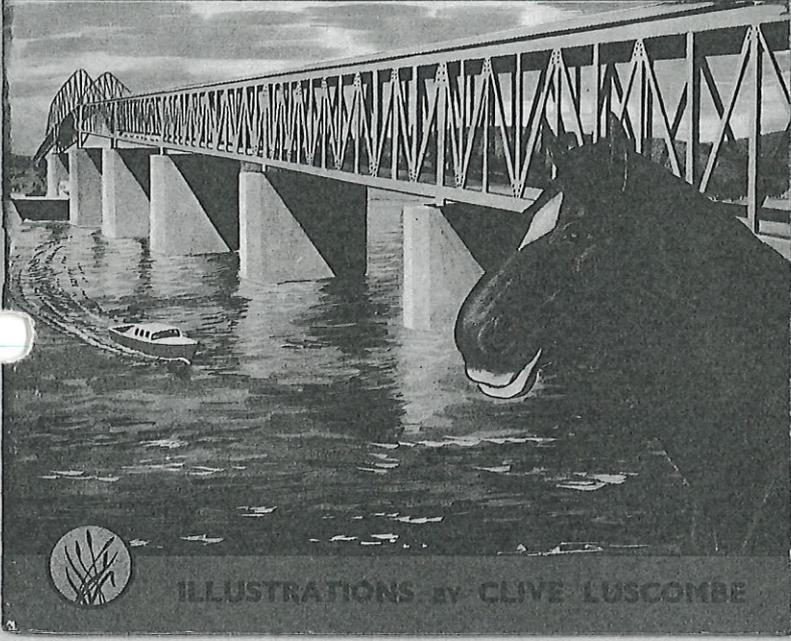
Reference: BBW 5851



Bridge supervisor
Reference: BBW 50311

JIMMY AND THE BRIDGE

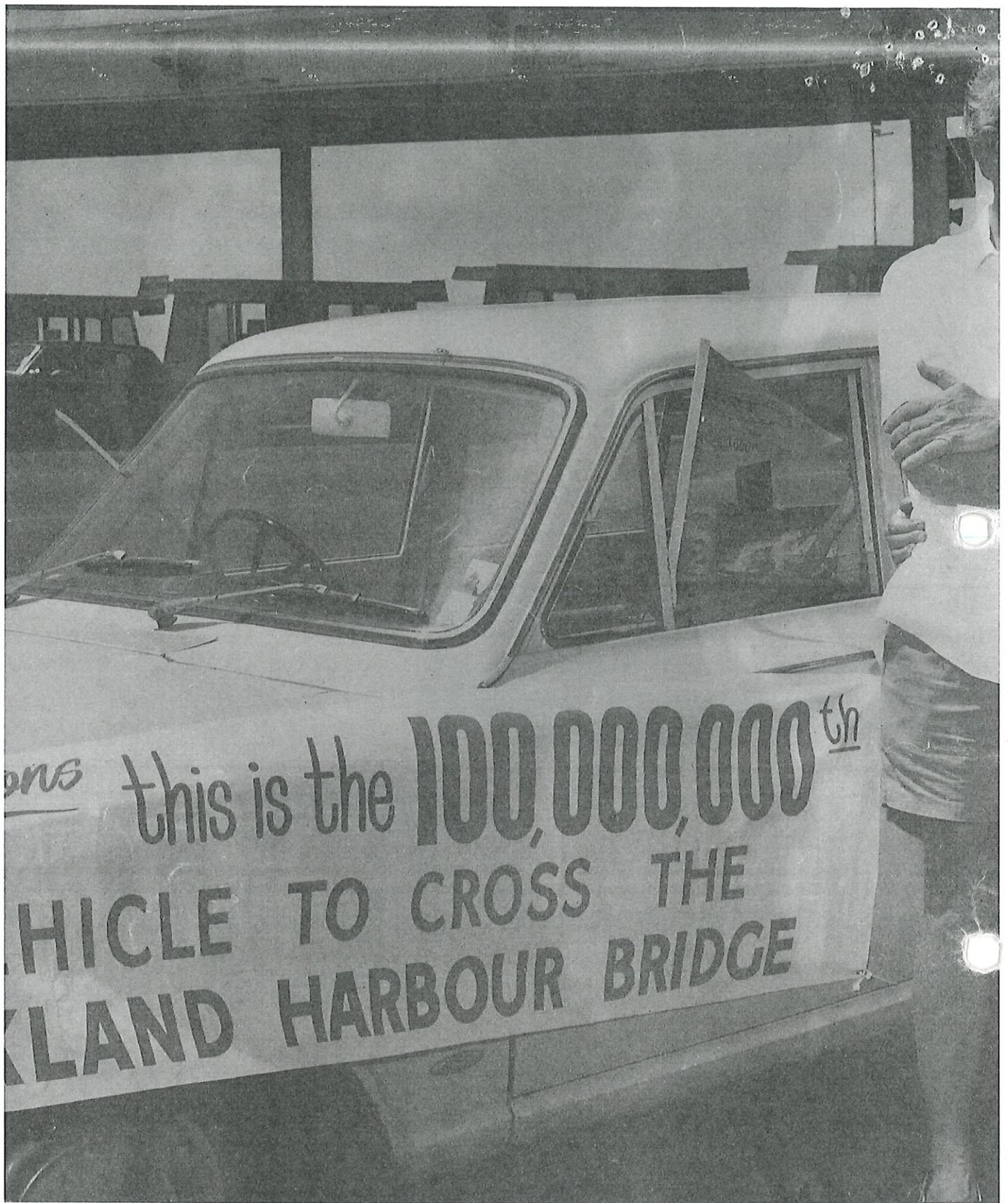
BY KENNETH SAUNDERS



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLIVE LUSCOMBE

Jimmy and the Bridge

Reference: BAME151432



100 millionth car

Reference: B08W 45222

View more

More information

• History of the Bridjean NZTA