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# ARMOUR

Patron: Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell AC

President: Robert Shoebridge . Editor George Baczocha

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## One Australian's Experience on the UK Tank Technology Course

By LTCOL Bruce Cameron MC

The email arrived a few days ago ... "Could I write a short piece about the Tank Technology course as it existed in 60s and 70s?" This had been a turning point for my time in the Army, something which shaped my career path ... so I agreed.

During an oral history recording at the AWM a few years ago, I was asked why I chose Armoured Corps from OCS. I



Much more knocked-out military equipment would soon line the roads in Sinai.

said that I was attracted to a Corps which catered for both operational and technological interests. (On reflection, I should have said that I was captivated by the élan and dash of our RAAC instructor, Captain 'Jungles' Rutledge.) After graduation I spent three years as a Centurion troop leader; preparing for Vietnam, in Vietnam and retraining for conventional war. Come 1972, I was ready for a change, and, having studied science at school, I applied to sit the bar exam for the Tank Technology course. Geoff Catt (from 2 Cav Regt) and myself were lucky enough to be selected. The following eighteen months were to be as different to Puckapunyal, as anyone could wish. But first I had to get there.

At this time, officers travelled first class, plus the Movements people explained that as long as my flights kept heading toward the UK, I could stop in as many places as I liked. A meeting with the Professor of Military History at Tel Aviv University (arranged by a former CO 4/19 PWLH) and a tour of the Sinai Peninsula were some of many highlights along the way. I had just turned 24 and had just been promoted to captain.

When we arrived at Australia House London for an early morning briefing by the Army Staff, they did not just not know what to say to us ... they were dumbfounded! They had arrived at work a little earlier to find that the office of the Defence Attache had been sealed (by police/ASIO?) during the night. Information was patchy, but the rumour was that he had been accused of selling surplus military equipment from Vietnam.

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# Coming Events



**25 April, 2015**

**ANZAC Day March**

*Refer p13 for details*

## Notes From the President

Dear Fellow RAACA NSW Members,



It is a humbling experience to have been nominated for the position of President, RAACA NSW. To me, it is the opportunity to maintain and establish friendships with serving and former RAAC members and to give something back to the Corps that was an integral part of my life and Army family for 31 years.

Before I say more on my objectives, it would be most remiss not to acknowledge the tremendous service given to RAACA NSW by my long-serving predecessor, Colonel John Haynes, OAM. RAACA NSW in particular, and the Association and the Corps in general, owe a significant debt of gratitude to all that John has done and inspired across a range of areas from recognition of operational service through the Armour Combat Badge, recognition of entitlement to RAAC veterans of the Atomic Tests, initiation and commencement of the Boer War Memorial to growing the NSW Association into the strong group that it is today. A daunting and hard act to follow! I have asked John to remain on the NSW Executive Committee for the next 12 months in the position of Immediate Past President and I look forward to being able to draw on his depth of corporate knowledge and wisdom.

I would also like to thank both our Patron, Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell AC for his continuing support and guidance and the NSW Executive Committee, including immediate past and new members, for their assistance to me in the transition from John. Without a strong and committed Executive Committee, we cannot be a coherent and viable Association representing serving and former members of the RAAC.

The RAACA NSW is your Association and can only be as good and effective as we make it as a team. As to my objectives as your President in 2015, here they are.

### **The Corps**

Decisions of force structure and equipment acquisition are best left to those actively engaged in these matters in the ADF and Defence. However, the maintenance of the traditions and heritage of the RAAC will continue to be a major focus in 2015. I'll be your representative to the RAAC Corporation, supported by Bob Ferrari and Andrew Hine.

### **Welfare**

Not all of us are blessed with good health or relative stability in our lives. To that end, RAACA NSW will work closely to assist serving and former RAAC members who need a hand, whether it is transition from Army to civilian life or in other areas. There is now a member of the Executive charged with that oversight responsibility. The intent is to work in close collaboration with other Defence focused support organizations, not compete with them. Owen Graham and Sonny Kovacs will run this critical liaison task.

### **Membership**

We have a good membership list but we need to reach out to the generation of East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans who live in NSW, often away from their parent Regiments. It was fantastic to see four of them at the 2014

Cambrai Dinner and I hope we will see more join, particularly in time for ANZAC Day 2015. I am very pleased

*(Continued on page 3)*

that, in reaching out to our more recent brethren, including those who served during those times in Australia but not overseas, that Sonny Kovacs has agreed to join the Executive Committee for 2015.

We also need to engage our own RAAC peers and colleagues who may not have yet joined. Mike Butler will continue to have oversight of membership assisted.

I am also keen to foster a closer relationship with 1/15 RNSWL and 12/16 HRL. To that end, the Commanding Officers of both Regiments have accepted an invitation to have an ex officio representative on the RAACA NSW Executive Committee.

It is also a great pleasure to welcome the Reverend Andrew Sempell as RAACA NSW's Honorary Chaplain. Andrew has had a long association with the Corps, through 1/15 RNSWL and 12/16 HRL, and as a Regular Army chaplain in Townsville, Brisbane and RMC Duntroon. His role will evolve with time.

### **ANZAC Day 2015**

The great significance of this centenary year cannot be emphasized enough. RAACA NSW is very keen to have a large and noticeable attendance at the 2015 Sydney ANZAC Day March. We will march behind a new RAACA NSW banner that identifies all theatres of operation since the Corps was granted the Royal title in 1948, up to today, whether the RAAC presence in these theatres was by units, sub-units or individual RAAC personnel. The design of the new banner appears later in this issue of *Armour*.

I am hoping that our Patron, LTGEN O'Donnell, in addition to John Haynes and me, will lead the Association in the march.

Bob Ferrari and Mike Butler will have the lead on our ANZAC Day preparations, including the post march function.

### **'Armour'**

No change! This fine publication will continue under the stewardship of George Baczocha, and I am grateful that George has agreed to continue in this important role. I encourage all of you to contribute to 'Armour'. It is your magazine and should reflect your views and anecdotes.

### **Cambrai and Beersheba**

While our origins as a Corps go back to the Light Horse regiments of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Cambrai continues to hold a special place as the first major tank battle. The annual Cambrai Dinner will again be held in 2015. RAACA NSW has also opened a discussion with the RTR Association in relation to the 2017 Centenary of Cambrai.

2017 also marks the Centenary of Beersheba. We understand that DVA are planning a commemorative event and we will keep an eye on developments while planning our own suitable RAACA NSW commemoration.

### **Conclusion**

Again, it is a privilege to be the President of RAACA NSW and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the months ahead.

If you would like to comment on the objectives, or suggest others, please email me. In addition, please encourage your RAAC peers and colleagues to join.

Moreover, please join us on 25<sup>th</sup> April to march in memory of all those Armoured and Light Horse people who are our predecessors in this fine Corps and those who continue to serve.

Yours aye,  
Rob Shoebridge



(Continued from page 1)

"Oh well, ok what are you guys here for again?" "The Tank Technology course?" "No, that's not on anymore!" (The second surprise of the day!)

It turned out that it had been renamed the Long Armour Infantry Course (LAIC). Expanding mechanization meant that infantry now had an equivalent need to understand the technical aspects of the equipment they were operating, so as to get the best out of it. When our admin briefing finally got under way, our responsibilities while in the UK were made very clear. The DA's office was still sealed when we set off for the Armour School, part of the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington in Dorset (south west England).

The change in name was reflected in the composition of the student body. We numbered 28 at the start: twelve armour, ten infantry, four ordnance, one artillery and one EME. In terms of nationalities, there were 20 Brits, three Americans, two Canadians, and 'us' (including Major Con Ryan, RAAOC). The age spread was also varied. Not everyone was young and 'champing at the bit'. The British Army had designated the course as one which enabled officers who had missed out on Staff College selection, to become 'staff qualified'.

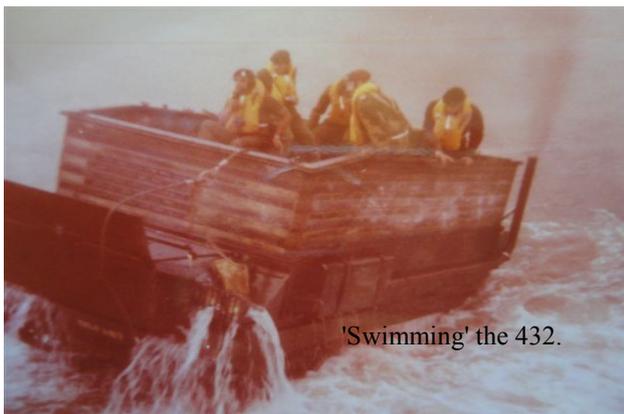
This meant that there was a wide spread of experience (eight lieutenants, seventeen captains and three majors). The Armour School's Commandant was from the Royal Tank Regiment, while his seven

instructors were from armour, Infantry, artillery, engineers, and eme. Although not teaching any classes per se, Colonel Eric Offord, DSO, MBE, gave the staff even greater depth. He had enlisted in 1924, was commissioned into the Royal Tank Corps in 1932, and was CO 46 RTR in Italy in 1943. After

recovering from wounds, he first joined the staff of the Armour School in 1945.



The fact that all this happened over 40 years ago is brought home by subsequent amalgamations within the British Army. In 1973 there were nineteen regiments in the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps (including four from the Royal Tank Regiment). I was so enthralled by the history and traditions of these units that I set out to collect beret badges from each one. This turned out to be easier than I expected. Having got to know the barman in the Mess, my quest came up in conversation. I had a couple of badges and he offered to place these on a board behind the bar. When asked by anyone buying beers, he explained that an Aussie was collecting them. Before long, 'missing'

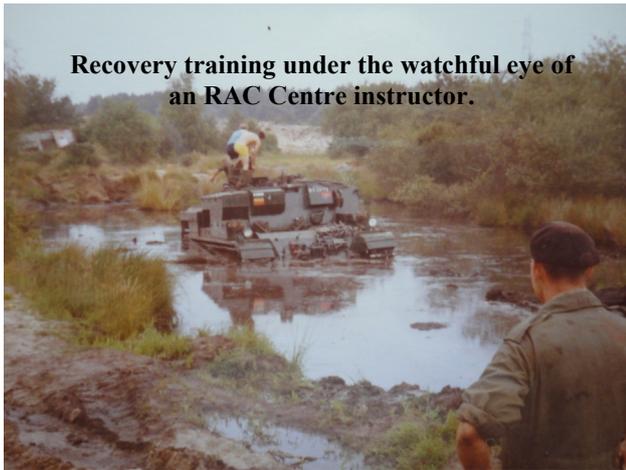


badges became very noticeable and visiting officers from those regiments came under some pressure (largely from the barman) to donate them. As I write this, I look up at the frame on the wall with the eighteen badges (including the Household Cavalry and RAC). Today, such a collection would include just twelve badges, representing ten regiments. But ...back to 1973.

The settling-in period was devoted to revision of maths and science (with tests at the end, 'sans' calculators). Once 'refreshed' we quickly found ourselves in the drivers'/gunners' seats of a range of AFVs. Apart from Chieftain and

(Continued on page 5)

Scorpion, these included FV432 and earlier AFVs such as Saladin. (Extra funding had been provided to enable Geoff and I to fire Swingfire Anti-tank Guided Missiles.)



**Recovery training under the watchful eye of an RAC Centre instructor.**

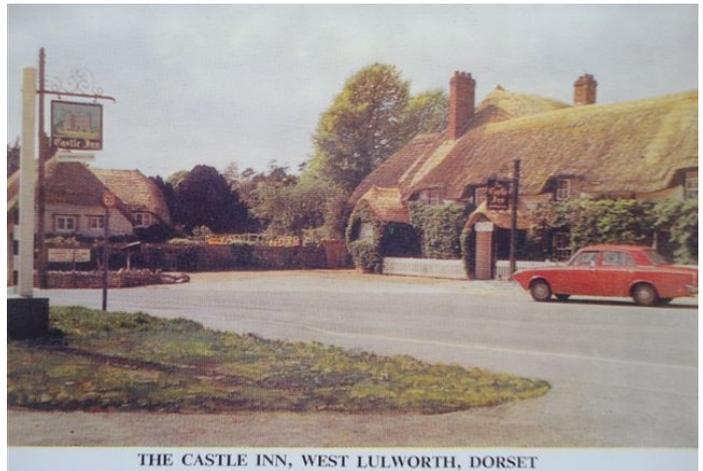
Differing gunnery systems, gearboxes, and steering mechanisms made us all much more aware of the positives and negatives of technological 'advances'. Recovery techniques (involving the 66 tonne Conqueror) saw everyone caked with mud and grime. After this 'hands on' familiarisation, we visited the companies which had made the ammunition, guns, sights, vehicles etc that we had been using.

The next phase of the course involved modules such as ammunition, ballistics, protection, mobility, surveillance, communications, ergonomics, and AFV design. Classroom instruction usually involved practical components. As an example, I was given an inert 88mm round and tasked to report on the fighting arrangements of the Tiger tank in the Museum. All modules were assessed, usually by exams as well as assignments. Also included in the syllabus were classes on

project management tools such as flow charts. The focus throughout was on becoming confident in specifying operational needs and identifying cost-effective equipment solutions.

It was not all work, however. The August break provided an opportunity to tour Europe, while the Christmas holiday was spent skiing in Austria. Did I forget to say? The course went from Jan 73 to Feb 74! In terms of local relaxation, the Castle Inn at nearby Lulworth provided a home away from home. (The safety template for the RAC Centre's Gunnery School at Lulworth extended out over the sea.)

All the individual teaching and practical modules came together in the final phase of the course, the Project. Traditionally this had involved all students in designing an AFV of some sort of other, the results to be presented to an audience of the UK's leading AFV experts in the final week. This was now the Long Armour Infantry Course, however; and while the presentation requirements remained the same, this year there would be three projects. One involved the design of an AFV, while I think the other two were data base related. I was chosen to lead the AFV project, while the US Armor officer was chosen for one of the others. (There the similarity ends, 'Monty' subsequently commanding the US 7<sup>th</sup> Army as a four star general.)



THE CASTLE INN, WEST LULWORTH, DORSET

The task for our team was to design a tank for use by countries outside Europe who do not need or could not afford the sophistication of a NATO style MBT. As per other years, design drawings had to be provided in sufficient detail for a scale model to be made by the Armour School support staff. (The finished model taking its place at the end of the long line of AFVs from previous courses.) Our tank was 'unusual' in a



**Armour School staff trying to make something of our design.**

couple of ways, one of which involved saving weight by using different armour in the manufacture of the turret. Fortunately, the American on our team had a masters degree in aeronautical engineering; furthermore, he was willing to answer the expected question about the strength of the welds, given the different coefficients of expansion. His ten minute explanation took the heat off the rest of us during the presentation. (Working at our US team member's married quarter one evening I quickly learnt that if you wanted to amend engineering drawings in such a family environment, you should ask for an eraser, not a rubber.)

The course was ideal training for junior officers in regimental or staff appointments. My postings included instructor at Armoured Centre, trials officer for the FSV (Scorpion), SO2 Equipment (DRAAC) and Leopard project officer. I was once asked about the value of technical training for Army officers ... I replied that that very morning I had noticed that documentation for the introduction of the Milan ATGW did not include electromagnetic compatibility certification. I was then asked what this was and I think I made my point.

(Continued from page 5)

**Technology has to start somewhere.**



**Project Nemesis, completed.**

Before leaving Bovington, the new Australian Army Attache, Colonel (later Maj Gen) Ron Grey visited Bovington. The three Australians at the Armour School were asked to wait in one of the classrooms. At this time we were gearing up for the Australia Day party which we would host and we decided to use the time to cut out invitations in the shape of kangaroos which opened to provide details about the party. Little did we appreciate why Colonel Grey's RSM (WO1 Reg Bandy) burst out laughing when the door opened. Coming down the corridor, the Commandant had been explaining at great length the high levels of science and technology which Armies had to come to terms with as new military equipments were introduced. We remained quite proud of our paper kangaroo design and production line, 'despite all around us... '.

Postscript. When Geoff Catt and I departed the UK, we headed to Fort Knox, Kentucky. We were to spend three months training on the M60 tank, so as to return to Armoured Centre as instructors. Just as this period was coming to an end, it was announced that the Australian Army was to buy the German Leopard MBT. Not everything goes according to the plan, but the better trained you are, the better you can respond.

## **The Proposed Design of the new RAACA NSW Banner**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS  
ASSOCIATION (NSW)**

**KOREA**  
**MALAYAN  
EMERGENCY**  
**INDONESIAN  
CONFRONTATION**  
**VIETNAM**

**PEACE OPERATIONS**  
**SOMALIA**  
**EAST TIMOR**  
**IRAQ**  
**AFGHANISTAN**

**FORMED IN 1946**

## Technical Notes & News

# Bradley based armoured vehicles to replace M113s in US Army service

The U.S. Army has awarded BAE Systems \$1.2 billion contract develop and produce Armoured Multi-Purpose Vehicles (AMPV) based on Bradley chassis to replace the 50 year old M-113 Armoured Personnel Carriers that have served the army since the Vietnam War. The contract worth \$1.2 billion (with options) will fund the production of 318 vehicles.



## Anders Multirole Combat Vehicle, Poland

Anders is a series of multirole, tracked combat vehicles being developed by the Bumar Group in Poland. It was designed by Osrodek Badawczo-Rozwojowy Urzadzen Mechanicznych (OBRUM), the research and development centre of the Bumar Group. The vehicle is named after the Polish Army general Wladyslaw Anders who served during World War II.

Anders was developed to replace the existing BMP-1 fighting vehicles in the Polish Army. The series production is expected to begin in 2015. The army is expected to replace its BMP fleet with about 700 Anders vehicles.

Design and development of the Anders began in 2008 and the first light tank prototype was completed in 2010. It passed the field tests conducted using RAUG CTG 120mm cannon fire shooting and technical features in October 2010. OBRUM developed the vehicle in collaboration with Wojskowe Zaklady Mechaniczne and the Military University of Technology (WAT).



### Design of the Anders vehicle

The tracked armoured vehicle is designed with a unified chassis that allows it to be configured for different mission variants. It features an all-welded hull and turret. The entrance for infantrymen is provided to the vehicle's rear.

The crew seats are located in the hull. The modular armour of the vehicle provides protection against 7.62mm guns. Add-on armour modules provide protection against 25mm projectiles.

The vehicle can be configured with interchangeable modules to perform different tasks. It can have six or seven load-bearing wheels based on the mission requirements in the tracked platform. The battle field management and intercom systems were provided by WB Electronics. The vehicle is transportable by air.

### Mission variants

Anders serves as a multipurpose modular platform for the development of different mission variants. Planned variants include a reconnaissance vehicle, infantry fighting vehicle (IFV), armoured recovery vehicle (ARV), fire support vehicle (FSV) or light tank, engineering reconnaissance and support vehicle, anti-aircraft artillery vehicle, self-propelled 155mm howitzer, medical evacuation vehicle, rocket launcher and radar carrier.

The first Anders prototype, a fire support vehicle configuration (light tank variant), was unveiled in September 2010 at the MPSO defence industry exhibition in Kielce.

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It can carry three crew members including a driver, commander and gunner, along with four soldiers. It can carry three crew members and eight fully equipped troops.

**Armament on the Anders Multirole Combat Vehicle**

The FSV is equipped with RUAG 120mm smoothbore gun with an autoloader, UKM-2000C 7.62mm NATO standard coaxial machine gun and ZSMU-1276 KOBUZ remotely controlled weapon station.

The KTO Rosomak Hitfist-30P turret of the IFV variant is armed with a 30mm-50mm cannon, SPIKE anti-tank missile launcher, GROM

anti-aircraft missile launcher and a 7.62mm co-axial machine gun.

The ARV is equipped with a 30t winch, 15t crane, dozer blade and KOBUZ remotely controlled weapon station.

In September 2011, the company unveiled the Anders multipurpose tracked vehicle mounted with Belgian CMI Defence CT-CV 105mm calibre cannon. It was earlier tested with 120mm and 30mm calibre canons.



**Self-protection and armour**

The vehicle is designed for protection against mine blasts and kinetic threats of more than STANAG 4569 level III.

It can be increased to level V with add-on armour modules. Anders also features StopFire-SF-01 fire suspension system, SSP-1 Obra 3 laser warning system provided by PCO and 10 81mm grenade launchers.

The vehicle is also protected by an integrated active defence system of Ukrainian Zaslon and Rafael Advanced Defence System. URC Systems supplied its Star Light 3 remote controlled improved explosive device jammer.

**Propulsion of Bumar Group's combat vehicle**

Anders is powered by a MTU 8v 199 turbocharged diesel engine generating 720hp (530kW) of power. A 120kW electric generator, situated between the engine and hydro-mechanical transmission, powers the onboard electronic systems.

The basic platform weight of the vehicle is about 20t and that of the light tank configuration is 33t. The power / weight ratio is 22hp/t. This gives Anders an on road speed of 72km/h. The vehicle can cross gradient of about 60%, trench crossing of 2.6m and vertical obstacles of 1m. It has a range of approximately 600km.

*Army Technology.com*

## Lost Souls

**If anyone knows the where-abouts of the following members would they please contact the RAACA Office**

Members Name	Last Address
Mr A.D. Martin	18 Uplands Crt, Sunrise Hills, COOROY QLD
Mr. R.W. (Blue) Boreland	PO Box 74, NORTHLANDS QLD 4350
Mr. J. (John) Young	8 Caringbah Rd, CRONULLA NSW 2230
Mr. P.R.A. O'Toole	31 Gibson St, Kingscliff, NSW 2487
Mr. B.M. (Bruce) Gregor	1/25 Lloyd St, Tweed Head South, NSW 2486
Mr. P.M. (Peter) Anderson	30 Hamilton Close, MOULOO LAH VALLEY QLD 4553
Mr. A.R. (Albert) Peterson	26 Pinewood St, REDCLIFFE QLD 4020
Mr. R. (Roger) Martlew	PO Box 265, MILLICENT SA 5240
Mr. R.P. Johnston	20 Murson Cres, NORTH HAVEN NSW 2443
Mr. W.T. (William) Richardson	37 Flora St, ARNCLIFFE NSW 2205
Mr. W. Halliday	10 Gynea Av, SANCTUARY POINT NSW 2540
Mr. D. Nicholson	8 Kite St, COROWA NSW 2646
S/SGT R.C. (Rod) Pullinger	54 Miri Cres, HOLSWORTHY NSW 2173

# Message Board

Dear Editor,

Thanks for my Armour and I notice on page 11 an article on the Battle of Bin Bar. I have an article on the same subject on my website. I thought you might like to use it.

As always

Bob Thompson.

## **Battle of Binh Ba: Memories by Cfn Richard Ross Burriss., 1<sup>st</sup>Armd. Regt. LAD**

**Prelude:** This was a battle fought mainly by 'D&B' company 5RAR in conjunction with Centurion tanks and APC's on the village of Binh Ba, 10Clicks to the north of Nui Dat, fought over 2 days on the 6/8 June 69. 1. Australian KIA Pte Wayne Teeling 5RAR who had only been in country for a month, and 18 Aust. WIA.

**Ross's Story:** 1st Armoured Regiment LAD 6 June 1969

An event took place some weeks before 6 June, while it had nothing to do with the battle of Binh Ba, it could have had very serious consequences for me on the day of the battle.

While stationed at FSB Wattle, my SLR was stolen by some Americans. I reported this to our unit OC, CAPT Eddie Sullivan when I returned to Nui Dat the following day.

Because I was due to go home on R&R on 11 June, CAPT Sullivan said if he reported the rifle stolen, the ensuing inquiry would cause my R & R to be cancelled.

He reported it missing when I returned saying it had been lost in the jungle after falling off the back of the ARV. If you walked around Nui Dat without a rifle, you could be questioned about where it was, which could prove embarrassing so I bought a very early model Armalite from one of the tankies for \$40.00 and this solved the problem.

In early June a new ARV arrived at the LAD, call sign 28 Delta. It had no armaments, no radios and no armoured side shield for crew protection.

On the 5th June we were tasked to go to a FSB near the village of Duc Thanh, north of Nui Dat along Route 2, but due to the unready state of 28D, this was postponed for the day. All of the 5th June and well into the night, work was carried out to fit radios a .30 cal MG and side protection shields.

By the morning of 6th June, everything was completed, but we couldn't get the radios working or the IC. The B SQN OC MAJ Alex Smith couldn't wait any longer and ordered us to go.

**Binh Ba Vietnam 1969:** We were to go on our own, but because Route 2 was declared an "ORANGE" road, we were entitled to an escort and CAPT Sullivan insisted on it. I have often thought of what might have happened if we had gone alone. At 0800hrs, we headed out the north gate with 20E as our escort.

As our vehicle was new, tight and not run in, so to speak, we could not keep up with 20E. I was sitting on top of the ARV's winch house reading a stick book, SGT Ted Spargo was standing in the commander's compartment and our driver Kevin "Ratmo" Perry was trying to squeeze every bit of speed out of 28D, while also wondering why he had forgotten to bring his pistol magazine. As we came to the southern outskirts of the village of Binh Ba, a group of about seven ARVN soldiers were heading on foot away from the village and waved down 28D. They were pointing at the village and yelling "[VC.VC!!](#)"

I recall yelling back to them that if the VC were that way, pointing to the village, then they were going the wrong way. One yelled back "VC No 10" and off they went.

As we started off again, I heard shooting-small arms fire-and stood up to see where it was coming from. How dumb was that? It was at this moment that a loud dull thump came from ahead of us. I looked towards 20E and saw a huge black ball of smoke come from the left side of the turret. 20E came to a halt. We also stopped about 100 metres behind.

I stared at the tank just sitting there. I had no idea what had just happened. Seconds later there was another thump and a cloud of dirt erupted in a paddock about 20 metres to our left. Realisation struck like a sledgehammer—we were in contact.

I literally dived for cover—head first onto the rear engine compartment. I grabbed my \$40.00 Armalite, aimed at

*(Continued on page 10)*

a window of the first hut on the left and fired, just one shot before the bloody thing jammed.

The noise from that shot, which was I suspect was very close to Ted's right ear, startled the daylight out of him. I remember the look on his face, "Shit this is real". Ted dropped down, cocked the .30cal and while peering through the small viewing ports, unleashed a belt. I don't recall seeing him hit anything probably because I had taken cover again while trying to unjam the Armalite. 20E still had not moved, no return fire, nothing. She sat there like she was dead in the

water. The VC probably thought that too, and this could be why she didn't cop any more fire. 28 Delta's job was now to move up to 20E, hook up the tow cables and pull her to safety. I knew we would cop it if we tried and was expecting to hear Ted order me to tell Ratmo to move up and get the lines ready. But then, 20E took off and



charged passed the village. As I recall, no small arms fire was aimed at either 20E or us. I turned to Ted and said we should go back to Nui Dat and raise the alarm because we would certainly take fire if we tried to run the gauntlet and follow 20E.

The decision to head back to Nui Dat proved to be the correct one. We didn't know it at the time, but the RPG that hit the tank had taken out their radios. After we raised the alarm at Nui Dat and the OC had scrambled a large contingent of various forces to the village of Binh Ba, we were asked to remain on station at the north gate. While there we heard two mortars whistle overhead and explode inside the base. It was soon after this that one of the most awe-inspiring events I've ever heard took place; the entire radio traffic of the Battle of Binh Ba was played over the camp's loud speaker system. To this day I still marvel at the cool-headed bravery of those tank commanders. They were even imitating the posh British accents of fighter pilots; having a bit of bother with the last hut, Charles pop over and give us a hand there's a good chap.

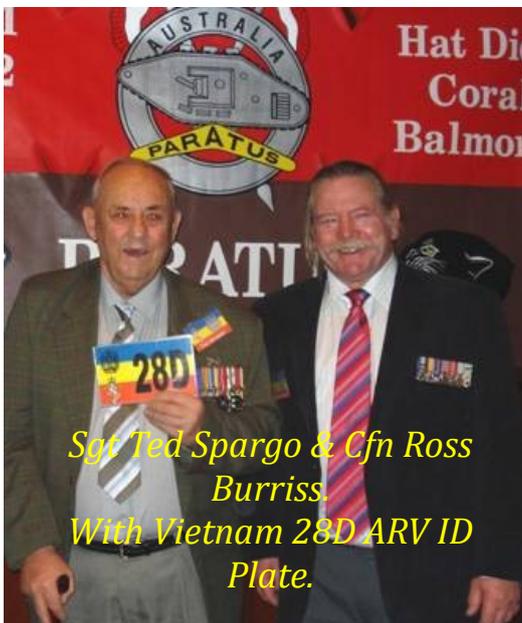
And Brian Sullivan in mid-sentence was forced to duck under an RPG and copped a cut on the back of his neck from one of its fins.

That blew me away. I only fired one shot that day but it *was* the first

shot for our side.

What a day. It changed my life forever, never want to do it again.

Ross Burriss June 2009



*Sgt Ted Spargo & Cfn Ross Burriss  
With Vietnam 28D ARV ID Plate.*

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**From:** David Mercer [mailto:[davidmercer@adam.com.au](mailto:davidmercer@adam.com.au)]

[I like to share the comment from Evan Holt re my last email..David](#)

Hi David,

I remember when the F1 replaced the Owen gun in Vietnam. For many reasons the F1 wasn't popular, and was soon issued to truck drivers etc. Then in 1967 one of the truck drivers jumped down from his 5 tonner and the butt of the F1 hit the ground, resulting in one round being fired quite adjacently to the driver's head. My truck driver then treated his F1 with careful respect until they gave him an M16 and took away the F1. If you bumped the butt on the ground the recoil mechanism would slide back, load one round and then fire it. Good old ADE (Army Design Establishment). Don't start me or I'll tell you about the Claymore firing device that ADE developed in 1967. It needed the battery from a discontinued HF radio and of course that radio wasn't issued in Vietnam! Duh!

Evan Holt

From: Bob Ferrari [mailto:[bob@bellinger.com.au](mailto:bob@bellinger.com.au)]

### ANZAC DAY NSW REPORT 1 AR

Not a great deal happening in NSW as far as 1 AR Association goes but we would like a good roll up for Anzac Day. I would also encourage those who haven't yet registered for the 1 AR Albury Reunion (22-24 May 2015) to do so. The organising committee have put in a great deal of hard work to ensure its' success and I'm sure a good time will be had by all.

It should be a special march this year as 2015 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gallipoli.

The 1 AR Banner (Green Red and Brown featuring the 1 AR Badge) will be at the assembly point somewhere near Bent/O'Connell Streets before 0900.

The actual location will depend on how many Post WW 2 Units are ahead of us, you may need to look out for the Banner which will be between the RAAC Association Banner and 3 Cav's Banner, both of which are Red and Yellow.

With dwindling ranks among the WW 2 veterans we have experienced much earlier step offs than in years gone by. I would strongly recommend that you arrive by 0900 and if there is time to spare you can chew the fat with your mates. Last year we welcomed quite a few new marchers, 1 AR Officers and ORs from post Vietnam, into our growing contingent. It would be fantastic to see the 1 AR group grow even more. Current serving members are more than welcome.

RAACA NSW has again secured a "Black Hat" venue at the Civic Hotel, corner of Goulburn and Pitt Streets for us to get together after the march. We will be upstairs in our own area and all are encouraged to join in. It has been a great place to catch up with all vintages of Armour in pleasant surroundings. Family members and friends are also welcome.

If you can't make it to the March, try to get to the Civic Hotel. I hope to see you there, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours in Armour,

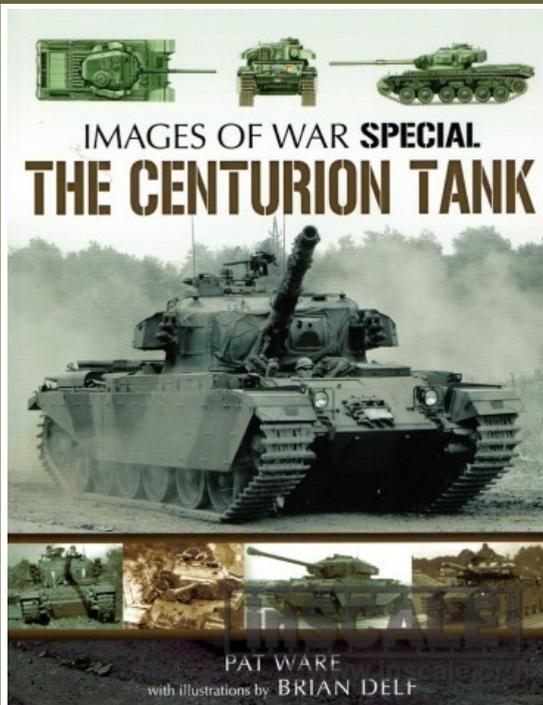
Bob Ferrari OAM  
NSW Representative.

## Land 400 RFT in January 2015



"Government will be making a formal announcement in relation to Land 400 Phase 2 - Mounted Combat Reconnaissance Capability early in January 2015 with the Request For Tender released soon after that. "An Industry Briefing will be conducted shortly thereafter





**Images of War Special**  
**by Pat Ware and Brian Delf**  
**Paperback 128 pages – English text**  
**black and white pictures, drawings and colour profiles**  
**ISBN : 9781781590119**

The Centurion, introduced in 1945, was the primary British main battle tank of the post-World War II period. It was a successful tank design, with upgrades, for many decades. The chassis was also adapted for several other roles.

Development of the tank began in 1943 and manufacture of the Centurion began in January 1945, six prototypes arriving in Belgium less than a month after the war in Europe ended in May 1945. It first entered combat with the British Army in the Korean War in 1950, in support of the UN forces. The Centurion later served in the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, where it fought against US-supplied M47 Patton and M48 Patton tanks and they served with the Royal Australian Armoured Corps in Vietnam.

Israel used Centurions in the 1967 Six Day War, 1973 Yom Kippur War, and during the 1978 and 1982 invasions of Lebanon. Centurions modified as armoured personnel carriers were used in Gaza, the West Bank and the Lebanese border. The Royal Jordanian Land Force used Centurions, first in

1970 to fend off a Syrian incursion within its borders during the Black September events and later in the Golan Heights in 1973. South Africa used its Centurions in Angola.

It became one of the most widely used tank designs, equipping armies around the world, with some still in service until the 1990s. As recently as the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict the Israel Defence Forces employed heavily modified Centurions as armoured personnel carriers and combat engineering vehicles. South Africa still employs over 200 Centurions: The vehicles of the SANDF were modernized in the 1980s, and the resulting model is known as the Oliphant.

Between 1946 and 1962 4,423 Centurions were produced, consisting of thirteen basic marks and numerous variants.

Pen and Sword released this book in their Images of War series. The success of their Images of War series is due to the copious use of collectors' graphic and rare contemporary images, supported by authoritative captions and lively text. This time they cover the story of the development and use of one of the best british tanks during the post war.

The book is divided in eight chapters with one appendix

- Development
- Centurion Production and sales
- The Centurion Crew
- The Centurion in combat
- The Centurion Described
- Improving the Breed
- Centurion Engineers' Tanks
- Centurion Projects and Oddballs
- Appendix

Text is well written and easy to read. Numerous black and white pictures are included in this release. Of interest are the technical drawings in scale 1/48 and the interior drawings which will interest the Centurion modeller. Also included are the 10 colour profiles. The last two chapters – Centurion Engineers' Tanks and Centurion Projects and Oddballs are for me the most interesting chapters, you will see some "odd" versions of this famous tank.

### **Conclusion**

Another great release from Pen and Sword in their Images of War series.



## **SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH**

### **UPDATE No.4**

#### **2015 FORM UP POSITIONS**

The following are the form up positions and times for the major contingents in the 2015 Sydney ANZAC Day March.

<b>CONTINGENT</b>	<b>FORM UP POSITION</b>	<b>TIME*</b>
WWII Navy	Pitt St, North of Martin Pl facing South near Hunter St	8:45am
WWII Army	Cnr of Pitt & Hunter Sts, extending East up Hunter St	8:45am
WWII Air Force	Pitt St, North of Hunter St facing South	8:45am
Post WWII Navy	Cnr Pitt and King Sts extending East on King and south down Castlereagh St	9:00am
Post WWII Army	Extending North from Hunter St and facing South using O'Connell, Bligh and Phillip Sts	10:30am
Post WWII Air Force	Extending south along Elizabeth St from King St facing North	11:00am
Descendants of Aust. Veterans	Extending along Castlereagh St between King and Martin Pl facing South	11:30am
British & Commonwealth	Extending West on Hunter St from Pitt St	11:30am
Allied Veterans	Pitt St Mall extending South from King St facing North	11:45am

\*The time indicated is when participants should be formed up and ready to move off under the direction of the March Marshals, not the time you will start the March.

4 February 2015



The above information should be used in conjunction with the March Map which will be published in the next edition of *Reveille* and is available on the RSL NSW website [www.rslnsw.org.au](http://www.rslnsw.org.au) along with the March Broadsheet which contains detailed form up information.

WWII Army veterans should form up in the following groups extending East from Pitt St up Hunter St:

- Corps Operational Troops
- Service Corps Troops
- 6th Division
- 7th Division
- 8th Division
- 9th Division
- 2nd Australian Corps
- 3rd Division
- 5th Division
- 11th Division

SES volunteers will be in Hunter St holding up signs indicating where each of the above groups are to form up. Sub-unit banner parties should look for these signs and begin forming up as per that groups Order of March.

SES volunteers will also have indicator signs in Castlereagh St to assist the forming up of the Descendants of Australian Veterans contingent.

Reduced Army Land Rover support is available for veterans who are unable to complete the March on foot. SES volunteers will be on hand to assist veterans getting into and out of the vehicles with step ladders. Due to the number of vehicles Land Rovers will be allocated to contingents rather than unit associations as per 2014.

If you require more information about form up positions for the 2015 Sydney ANZAC Day March please contact the March Secretary Mr Bob Batty at ANZAC House on (02) 9264 8188 ext. 707 or email [bbatty@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:bbatty@rslnsw.org.au)

John Haines  
CHAIR  
ANZAC DAY MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
4 February 2015



**Armour's New Home - Laverack BarracksTownsville**

# Waterloo's feared grey horses to ride again

Posted on **June 26, 2014** by **Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh Castle recently hosted the start of a countdown to a very special celebration



On Wednesday 18th June Brigadier Mel Jameson, chairman of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Waterloo 200 committee, started the 12 month countdown to the 200th anniversary of Waterloo and outlined the planned commemoration programme for Scotland.

The Royal Scots Greys – now known as The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards – will lead Scotland's programme of events to mark the 200th anniversary of the battle in 2015.

On June 18, 1815, the Scottish cavalry's 400 grey horses thundered towards the French forces in an act of lionhearted bravery, spearheading the Duke of Wellington's Anglo-Allied army's victory against Emperor Napoleon. He called them "Les terrible chevaux gris" as he witnessed the Royal Scots Greys being unleashed onto the battlefield of Waterloo in one of the most important cavalry charges in history. But the heroic actions of the Scots came at a cost with 200 men and 224 horses from The Greys falling in battle, either killed or wounded.

Now Scotland's cavalry is preparing to commemorate the heroic charge that struck a thunderbolt into the heart of Napoleon's legions and helped halt his bid for dictatorial dominance in Europe. Next year will also mark the return of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards to Scotland and their new base at Leuchars – their first ever home posting to Scotland since they were formed on the amalgamation of The Royal Scots Greys (of Waterloo fame) and the 3rd Carabiniers in 1971. Waterloo is the main Battle Honour of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the regiment marks the victory and honours the human cost on June 18 every year. To that end, The Greys are being mustered to ride again.

It is hoped a troop of grey horses and riders will bring Scotland's history alive as they take the tale of Waterloo on parade behind marching bands and pipes and drums through our major cities.



Monument to the Royal Scots Greys in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, erected in 1906 to commemorate the fallen of the Regiment during the Boer War



**Sergeant Keith Mitchell meets the 'ghost' of Sgt Charles Ewart outside Edinburgh Castle.**

# Vale



## Brian Bourke

Brian Bourke died in Melbourne February 2nd 2015. As Brian wished, he will be cremated privately and there will be a celebration of his life at a later date.

Bert will write a story on Brian for August Departed Comrades. Brian became a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Regiment, as the Regiment then was, in 1941. When we became the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Tank Battalion Brian became the CO's tank driver in RHQ tanks. He served in New Guinea and Borneo and when the ended war transferred to the BCOF and went to Japan in the 65<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion.

Post war Brian joined the regular army and served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Armoured Regiment. From (Bert's) memory, Brian was the senior Major in the armoured corps at Puckapunyal when he retired

sincerely,

**John Howells**

Hon Secretary

Royal New South Wales Lancer Association

## PROPOSED NEW MILITARY COMSUPER SCHEME

Members might note the following extract in part from the Defence Force Welfare Association in regard to ADF superannuation.

The government in 2014 announced that a new superannuation arrangement for ADF members, known as ADF Super, will commence from 1 July 2016.

For the new scheme, the government proposes a standard 'employer' contribution of 15.4%, the same as for the latest public service accumulation scheme (PSSap).

This essentially puts ADF members and public servants in the same category, i.e. without any acknowledgement of the unique nature of military service.

The government recently responded to DFWA queries by advising that:

1. the government's contribution for ADF personnel will be based on a gross salary 'package', i.e. daily rate of pay, plus service allowance, plus specialist allowances, etc, inferring that that the government's contribution for public servants is calculated simply on base salary, and
2. an extra 2.6% contribution will be made to ADF personnel deployed on operations classified as war like.

The DFWA has fundamental difficulties with the government's response.

The DFWA has fundamental difficulties with the government's response.

On the first point, the proposal to give the ADF and the public service the same 'peacetime' rate of 15.4% is clearly wrong as it appears to be based on the assumption/principle that ADF members are, in the eyes of the government, simply government employees doing the same type of work as public servants when "back home". That suggestion is categorically rejected.

DFWA therefore believes that the ADF Super 'employer' contribution rate must recognise the unique nature of military service and must be consistent regardless of where a contributing member serves at any point of time.

We believe that the contribution rate itself should have a nexus with the Notional Employer Contribution Rates (NECR) that presently apply to MSBS and DFRDB because the NECR for these schemes help recognise, in a tangible way, the unique nature of military service.

The DFWA therefore believes that the proposed employer contribution rate of 15.4% for ADF Super (a rate which clearly does not recognise the unique nature of military service) must be increased for all ADF members, regardless of where they are posted. The contribution should be the same for all service, and at least at the level contemplated for warlike service - 18% - based on the member's gross salary. This rate would recognise the higher NECR provided to MSBS and the offsetting fact that ADF Super members would not be compelled to contribute out of their own pocket to their own superannuation - as is now the case - meaning that take-home pay would increase.

Alternatively, the Podger recommendations - whereby 'employer' contributions increase with length of service - could be considered for ADF Super.

Members wishing to see the full position statement can find it at

<http://www.dfw.org.au/publications/update-1/150217DFWAPositiononADFSUPER.pdf/view>



## **Sydney meeting calls for completion of Australia's first national memorial to the forgotten heroes who served in Australia's first war.**

A meeting of supporters of the National Boer War Memorial Fund held in Sydney at the Mitchell Library on Thursday 5 February has called on government authorities and charitable trusts to assist in completion of Australia's first national memorial to the 23,000 Australian men and women who served in the Boer War.

The site for the memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade was allocated in 2006, a design competition was completed in 2013, and work on the four mounted trooper bronze statues to be erected on the site has been in hand since 2014.

Additional funds are now being sought to complete the memorial in time for its dedication on Boer War Day, May 31, 2017. Over \$1.5-million has been donated so far but an additional \$3.4 million is sought to enable completion.

Speakers at the meeting included The Hon David Hurley, previously Patron of the National Boer War Memorial Association, and now Governor of NSW, and The Hon Michael Jeffery, former Governor of WA and Governor General of Australia.

David Hurley reaffirmed his commitment to the Memorial, reminding the meeting that as Chief of the Defence Force he gladly took on the role of Patron of the Association and was privileged to be in that position for the unveiling of the Memorial design.

In calling for action to complete the long-overdue Memorial, the Governor stated: "It is tremendously important that we achieve what we want to achieve here. I think there is plenty of goodwill and recognition of what needs to be done. We just need to get over the final hurdle. Now I am no longer Chief of Defence Force and Patron, but very much a very active supporter of what we are trying to achieve."

Michael Crouch, Fund Chairman, pointed out that Australian volunteers who served in the Boer War tend to be overlooked by historians and educators, as the war commenced in 1899 and ended in 1902, a year after our Federation.

"The Boer War was the first war fought by our nation", he told the meeting, "Of the 23,000 Australian volunteers who served in it, almost 1,000 died. Completing Australia's first national memorial to our brave men and women who volunteered to serve abroad is something that just has to be done."

According to Michael Crouch, the Commonwealth Government has contributed little so far towards the memorial other than allocation of the Canberra site and reimbursement of some costs of the design competition and government approvals.

Less than two years remain to raise the funds needed for completion of the memorial. No donations have been forthcoming from approaches to such entities as State Governments, the Anzac Centenary Fund and Department of Veterans' affairs.

### **Additional information can be obtained from:**

National Boer War Memorial Assn Inc, Victoria Barracks, 75 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021  
Telephone 02 8335 5209.

Michael Crouch AO, Fund Chairman, [michaelcrouch@midgeonholdings.com](mailto:michaelcrouch@midgeonholdings.com)

Tony Larnach-Jones, National Secretary, [secretary@bwm.org.au](mailto:secretary@bwm.org.au)

# Vale



## Russell Townsend

Sadly, so close to Christmas, I have to let you know of the passing of our friend and colleague Russell Townsend. Russ served in the Regiment in the 1980s; mostly in Headquarter Squadron.

Russ passed away in Wagga hospital at 20:30 on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Russ has not kept good health for some time.

Russ was buried at Marrar Lawn Cemetery. To add a little to Russ' service, Len Koles remembers Russ serving with the Regiment in the late 1980s, he does not recall the year Russ enlisted. Russ was an assault trooper, then served in HQ squadron. His hips were crushed when he was over by an APC during vehicle servicing at Kingswood Depot in 1992. Russ was discharged from the Army as medically unfit after the incident.

I had been posted out of the Regiment in 1985; my recollections of relate only to Regimental reunions, and his recent Facebook post concerning the Museum not being able to obtain an M113 as an Alan Hitchell took the photo of Russ at the recent Regimental re-sincerely,

**John Howells**  
Hon Secretary  
Royal New South Wales Lancer Association



Russ (Tiny) Townsend 20141102

run-  
1992.  
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Russ  
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exhibit.  
union.



## Lest we Forget We regret to advise the passing of the following members

SGT Peter (Davy) Crockett (1AR,2CAV,3CAV,4CAV)  
Mr. Kevin Peters  
Mr. J.N. Freudenstein (2/7 AR)  
Mr. W Freudenstein (2/7 AR)

Mr. Russell Townsend (1AR, 1/15 RNSWL)  
Mr. Kenneth Slater (1AA BDE HQ Sqn)  
Mr. H.M. Clark (1 AR)  
Mrs. Norma Russell (Widow of Kevin Russell)

**We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between August 2014 to January 2015**

J. Haynes	Rosemary Leffler	Isabel Anderson	MA Crothere
Bondi Junction Wav RSL S/B	Nora Ashe	Melbourne RSL Sub Br	James Mason
Manly Lota RSL S/B	Margaret Gilfillan	Cecil Smith	Charles Bednarczyk
Mervyn Taggart	Paul Winters	David Neenan	Elizabeth Mawhood
Les Perrett	Patricia Watson	Angus McLellan	Mr Jesse Smith
Peter Wilson	Helen Morse	John Fairfax	Hannah Scott
Jean Bennett	Robert Fry	Sally Jones	Joan Scott
Colin Rewell	Ian Jones	Colin McDonald	Dianne Decker
Joan Ryan	Ainsworth Foundation	Derek McIntosh	Margaret Perdriaux
Steve Thompson	Maureen Holtz	Mr A Castaldini	Bernard Dunn
Richard Amery MP	Lorna McGrath	Patricia Lovegrove	Dorothy Swanson
Barry Vickery	Carole Robson	2/6 Cav Regt Assoc	Dick Crofly
Laura Delahunty	Vivienne Neil	Australia Britain Society	Pamela Sherlock
Henry Stuttard	Kay Mitchell	Army Assoc of Victoria	Mr RG Nott
Sid Lewis	Judith Webb	J Tumbeth	Margaret O'Neale
John Bell	AJ Balsillie	Queenscliffe Probus/ J Johnson	Peter Brand
John Walch	Auburn RSL	Stephen Graham	Kathleen Payne
Flora Noyce	David Neenan	Charles Cornell	Mrs Leonie Stumbaum
Alan Hampson	Richard Crotty	Dawn Lotty	Les Perrett
Heather Bucnoir	Mavis Hamilton	Antony Booth	JA Seibel
Les Perrett	Mervyn Mills	William Fogarty	Matt Scott
Smithfield RSL	Thornleigh Probus Club	NR Palazzi	Joan Limon
Shirley Wicks	Alan Bewley	MJ Crouch	Gary O'Meally
John Fitzpatrick	Jilly Warren	Horace Cross	Tony White
Edward Wailes	Kaye Eaton	Geoffrey Paton	Krawaree Ballalaba Hist Group
Geoffrey Baker	Dame Marie Bashir	Mittagong RSL Sub Br	Les Perrett
Ian Tyrrell	Elise Archer	Dr MS Downey	David Harrison
Harold Beck	Peter Court	Harry Learoyd	Graham Lovegrove
N Park	James Looney	Rosemary Mears	Combined Services Sub-Group
Geoffrey McIntyre	DW Forbes	William Swinbourne	Wayne Hickman
RT Francis	Doyalson-Wyee RSL	Elaine Young	Cabra Vale Servicemen's Club
Moya Cameron	James Lee	Kezia Purick	Def Reserves Assoc, South Aust
Sue Flannery	Kerry Slavin	Isabel Andrews	Crookwell RSL Sub Br
RJ Mercer	Mary Metcalfe	Patricia George	John Reddington
M Oneile	Prunella Merrett	Susan Gillespie	Leila Cassidy
David Howell	Paul Wigney	Roslynn Purnell/Phillip Paton	Les Perrett
Milton Wilson	M Kenneally	Walter McCrossin	Anthony Colbert
Patricia George	Oatley RSL	Col Peter Byrne	Diana Hollway
Charles Bednarczyk	Margaret Snodgrass	Sandra Adamson	Raymond Mercer
Beryce Kerr	Leonard Browning	David Leece	Dee Why RSL
Alice Little	NR Palazzi	NSW Nat Serviceman's Assoc	Ken & Rhonda McKay
Adrian Molloy	Watsonia RSL	MG Mills	

## HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Shoebridge, R (Rob)  
Mr. Slater, B (Bruce)  
Mr. Da Silva, M (Mario)

### Hogue, Oliver (1880-1919)

by [Elyne Mitchell](#)

Oliver Hogue (1880-1919), journalist and soldier, was born on 29 April 1880 in Sydney, second son of native-born parents [James Alexander Hogue](#) and his wife Jessie, née Robards. The family comprised six boys and four girls.

Oliver was educated at Forest Lodge Public School, Sydney. Tall, active and wiry, an all-round athlete and a skilled horseman and rifle-shot, he considered himself a 'bushman'. After leaving school he cycled thousands of miles, exploring most of Australia's eastern and northern coast, and worked as a commercial traveller before joining the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1907.

He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in September 1914 as a trooper with the 6th Light Horse Regiment. Commissioned second lieutenant in November, he sailed for Egypt with the 2nd L.H. Brigade in the *Suevic* in December.

Hogue served on Gallipoli with the Light Horse (dismounted) for five months, then was invalided to England with enteric fever. In May 1915 he was promoted lieutenant and appointed orderly officer to [Colonel \(Sir\) Granville Rylie](#), the brigade commander. [Charles Bean](#) observed: 'Day after day the Brigadier ... tramped round the front line with his enthusiastic and devoted orderly officer, Oliver Hogue'. In letters to his family and to the *Sydney Morning Herald* from Gallipoli, he was always cheerful, enjoying 'a scrap'. Insisting on fair reporting, he denied incorrect reports of mutilations by the Turks. His letters and articles present a well-perceived picture of events and good understanding of the soldiers. In a letter to his father he remarked: 'I might be rather angry with Captain Bean first because he beat me to the post for the big job, and second because he seems to have ignored our Brigade all along, but I find him so absolutely straight and sincere and honest that I like him immensely and always have'.

As 'Trooper Bluegum' he wrote articles for the *Herald* subsequently collected in the books *Love Letters of an Anzac* (London, 1916) and *Trooper Bluegum at the Dardanelles* (London, 1916). Sometimes representing war as almost a sport, he took pride in seeing 'the way our young Australians played the game of war'.

Hogue returned from hospital in England to the 6th L.H. in Sinai and fought in the decisive battle of Romani. Transferred to the Imperial Camel Corps on 1 November 1916, he was promoted captain on 3 July 1917. He fought with the Camel Corps at Magdhaba, Rafa, Gaza, Tel el Khuweilfe, Musallabeh, and was with them in the first trans-Jordan raid to Amman. In 1917 Hogue led the 'Pilgrim's Patrol' of fifty Cameliers and two machine-guns into the Sinai desert to Jebel Mousa, to collect Turkish rifles from the thousands of Bedouins in the desert.

After the summer of 1918, spent in the Jordan Valley, camels were no longer required. The Cameliers were given horses and swords and converted into cavalry. Hogue, promoted major on 1 July 1918, was now in [Brigadier General George Macarthur-Onslow](#)'s 5th L.H. Brigade, commanding a squadron of the 14th L.H. Regiment. At the taking of Damascus by the Desert Mounted Corps in September 1918, the 5th Brigade stopped the Turkish Army escaping through the Barada Gorge. [\(Sir\) Henry Gullett](#) wrote: 'A handful of Australians of the 14th Light Horse Regiment under Major Oliver Hogue occupied a house at the entrance of the gorge, and poured galling fire at a few yards' range into the now distracted Turks'.

Oliver Hogue went through the whole campaign of the Desert Mounted Corps, but died of influenza at the 3rd London General Hospital on 3 March 1919. He was buried in the Australian military section of Brookwood cemetery. He was unmarried. His twin sister Amy had died the previous year.

As well as the articles sent to Australia, and some in English magazines, Hogue wrote a third book, *The Cameliers* (London, 1919), also some verse. His contributions to *Australia in Palestine* (Sydney, 1919), edited by H. S. Gullett and C. Barrett, were two poems and an essay on the Camel Brigade.

Hogue's verse was not, according to [Bertram Stevens](#), poetry 'in the serious sense of that word'. His first two books, Stevens wrote, 'contain the impressions of a buoyant and generous soul—a healthy athlete enjoying life thoroughly, and regarding danger as absolutely necessary to give it zest'. His letters 'conveyed a good deal of the happy-go-lucky spirit of the Australians, their indifference to danger, and laughter when in difficulties or in pain'.

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### Citation details

Mitchell, Elyne, 'Hogue, Oliver (1880–1919)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hogue-oliver-6700/text11561>, accessed 26 February 2012.

This article was first published in hardcopy in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 9, (MUP), 1983

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## Shock Action Helped Save Infantry Lives and Defeat the Enemy, Hat Dich, SVN. 16 Feb 1969., 1 Tp, B Sqn, 1 Armd Regt

Operation GOODWOOD (one of the largest mounted by 1 ATF) commenced early Dec 68 and concluded around 19 Feb 69. It was conducted in the area known as the Hat Dich. The Operation claimed 245 enemy KIA and resulted in 1<sup>st</sup> Armd Regt's second Battle Honour ('Hat Dich') and 3 Cav Regt's fourth. It prevented the enemy attacking Saigon and the US bases at Long Bien and Bien Hoa, thereby influencing the Paris Peace Talks. In terms of 1st Armd Regt aspects, 16 Feb 69 is the most significant day.

During a bunker battle: shock action by the tanks helped save infantry lives and defeat the enemy; enormous acts of gallantry were displayed; the Troop Leader,

2Lt B. Sullivan, was recommended for an MC (but was only awarded an MID and had to wait until the end of war list to receive an MG in lieu\*); and a Centurion was penetrated by an RPG for the first time (three penetrations occurred in total).

\* thereby becoming, with his MC from Binh Ba, the only Australian to be awarded three bravery awards by Australia as a result of actions during a single tour. Ref LTCOL B. Cameron, MC (Retd)

RAAC Related Units Involved: 1 Tp B Sqn 1 Armd Regt, 3 Cav Regt

Other Significants included: 4 RAR/NZ

Reference:

RAAC Battle Chronology      RAAC Bibliography: Defence Diary Ref No 3



## South Korea's Black Panther Battle Tank

When your neighbours are Kim Jung-un, you'd better make sure your defences are bigger and better than anything they can throw at you. Or at least has the capacity for something as exotic as the K2 Black Panther's parachute munitions.

It's called the K2 "Black Panther." This 50-tonne main battle tank (MBT) is the latest to join South Korea's ground forces, and is widely hailed as one of the most advanced (and expensive) MBT's ever produced.

Produced by Korean automotive mega-corporation, the Hyundai Rotem Company, 400 or so Black Panthers are expected to replace the existing fleet of outdated M48 Patton tanks and complement the country's existing force of K1 MBTs by 2017.

Each \$US8.8 million machine is powered by a primary 1500 HP, 12-cylinder diesel engine and supplemented by an auxiliary power pack that runs off a gas turbine and produces 100W of power for running accessories when the main engine is off. It's got room for a crew of three — the commander, gunner and driver — all of whom are protected



by one of the most advanced active and passive armour suites on Earth. Similar to what protects the American M1A2 Abrams MBT, albeit a bit lighter, the K2's deforming active armour is more than capable of enduring a shaped charge round fired from short distances. In fact, the K2 is reportedly able to take a direct shot from a

120mm round fired by the same smooth bore L55 that it uses itself. That is, you could have a pair of Black Panthers shoot each other in the face without knocking either out of the fight.



The K2's main gun, the L55, is equipped with a 16-round auto-loading magazine which allows it to squeeze off up to 15 rounds a minute. With a total supply of 40 various rounds, the Black Panther can rain hellfire on an enemy position for nearly three minutes before needing a resupply. The tank is also equipped with a supplementary 12.7mm heavy machine gun and a 7.62mm machine gun as well as the standard assortment of electro-optical, IR and millimetre wave sensors to enable accu-

rate targeting regardless of the prevailing battlefield conditions. Plus, its targeting system has a Lock-on mode that allows it to not only target moving ground units but low-flying helicopters as well.

The K2's best weapon, however, has got to be its Korean Smart Top-Attack Munition (KSTAM). It's fired from the main gun — not directly at the enemy but on a high parabolic arc instead — like a mortar. Once it has begun its decent, the munition will deploy a small parachute then activate a multi-band sensor suite (millimetre, IR, and radiometer) to identify, acquire, and engage enemy positions and armour, then fire a shaped penetrator round straight down on them. Since the lightest armour on a tank is typically its roof, the penetrator round can easily punch through with maximum effectiveness.

[[Defence Update](#) - [Wiki](#) - [Military Today](#) - [Army Tech](#)]

## Poland's Main Battle Tank PT91

The PT-91 Twardy is a main battle tank designed by Obrum and manufactured by Bumar Labedy, to meet the requirements of the Polish and Malaysian Army.

The development of the PT-91 began in July 1991 as part of the T-72 modernisation programme. The Ministry of Poland decided to upgrade the T-72 battle tank with a new fire control system and engine rather than purchasing extra Russian tanks. The upgraded version of the T-72 was renamed the PT-91 Twardy and entered into service in 1995.

The PT91 differs from the T-72M1 in that it is fitted a dual-axis stabilised fire-control system, explosive reactive armour, a more efficient and powerful engine, and an advanced automatic loader.



Photo courtesy: Wojciech Dzielak

### Armament

The PT-91 Twardy is fitted with a single 125mm main gun, which can fire 42 rounds of ammunitions. It is also equipped with a 7.62mm coaxial machine gun and 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun, and 24 smoke grenade dispensers. The 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine gun and 7.62mm machine gun can fire 300 and 2,000 rounds respectively. It is also incorporated with an autoloader, which reduces the workload of the tank crew. The autoloader can fire ammunitions at the rate of 10-12 rounds a minute. The traverse and elevation range of the battle tank is 360°, and +5.30° to +14° respectively.



Our Polish correspondent, Wojciech Dzielak testing out the PT91

### Fire-control system

A fire control system comprising a gunner station is fitted in the PT-91 MBT. It has been modernised by replacing the soviet stabiliser with the TPKD-1, a stabiliser from Slovakia, which offers night-fighting capability.

The ballistic digital computer processes the information gathered by sensors, laser range finders, and manually inputs what is provided by the gunner or commander to determine the fire solutions.

The hunter-killer feature is obtained in the battle tank by combining both the gunner and commander station, which helps to track and destroy multiple targets quickly.

The integration of a dual-axis stabilised fire control system and electro-hydraulic gun stabilisation system can detect, identify, acquire and track a target efficiently, even in adverse weather conditions.

The crew compartment is equipped with an automatic fire suppression system (AFSS), integrated with infrared detectors that aid in detecting fire. The Halon 1301 suppresses any fire breakout in the compartment.

The engine compartment of the PT-91 is protected by an automated operating system that senses fire based on temperature-sensing Firewire and inhibits the fire with Halon 1211.

### S-12U supercharged diesel engine

The PT-91 Twardy is powered by a single S-12U supercharged diesel engine, which can produce up to 634kW power. The S-12U is an advanced version of the Soviet V-46-6 engine; a modernised fuel and air injection system is responsible for increasing the power of the engine. The latest Twardy variants are fitted with 1000hp S-1,000 turbocharged engines.

From: Regimental Colonel RHQ RTR  
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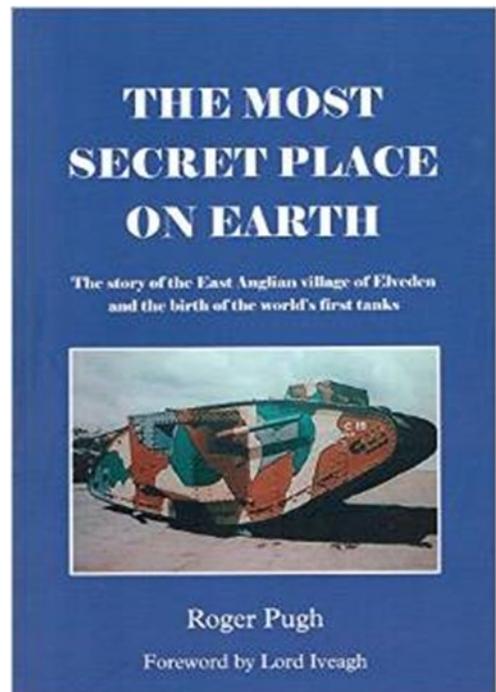
Subject: The Most Secret Place on Earth

To: Regimental Colonel RHQ RTR  
<[regtlcol@royaltankregiment.org](mailto:regtlcol@royaltankregiment.org)>

Gentlemen,

In mid-Dec, I put out a notice about a new book on the Regiment's origins called "The Most Secret Place on Earth" by Roger Pugh. Given the limited initial print run, it sold out very quickly. However, copies are now back in the shops as below. The first edition received much acclaim, including a comment from Richard Pullen, author of "The Landships of Lincoln" and other military books, saying that it 'fills a huge gap in the known record of the history of the early tanks'.

The book details are: ISBN 9781 904006 76 3; published 12 Nov 14 by Larks Press; and on sale at £8.50 from Amazon books UK  
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### A preview of a soon to be published "Behind The Gunshield" by Roger Tingley

One morning in June 1967, I had a savage gastro attack during a Combat Op in Puoc Tuy Province & was ordered onto a medevac chopper. Next morning I felt better and asked to return to the field, but was directed to take my official 5 days 'in country' R & C (Rest & Convalescent Leave) at the Aussie Rest Centre in Vung Tau. After only 7 weeks in Vietnam, I was dead against what I saw as a bludge I hadn't earned. A fellow officer was ordered to see me board the R&C 'taxi' & facing the inevitable, I decided to not waste any opportunity and secretly boarded the RAAF Caribou kitted out for adventure. Webbing/M16/357 Magnum/grenades/rations, the lot. We hit Vung Tau 20 minutes later and seeing a nearby C123 about to leave, I asked the USAF MCO where it was going. His reply was: "Saigon.....I can get you a seat Major (me a 1 pip wonder).....but you'll sure have to run!" Seconds later I was running, sweaty, smelly, puffing & no idea that the daily Saigon 'milk run' was full of briefcase carrying, po faced oak leaves. Heart in mouth lest they ask questions, I was on my way.....somewhere.....anywhere.....!!

A magic 5 days of rides with friendly MPs, gunships, The Delta, chatting with 'company' chaps, seeing burnt out Hueys on the Cambodian wire, battered little camps, overnight mortaring, riding shotgun on a racing jeep, Grand Hotel Des Nations, drinks Cholon, gobsmacking streetscapes & unquestioning "Hey Aussie, wanna ride?"

Back before dusk Day 6, thanks to a friendly USAF 'detour'. Outwardly calm, yet holding my breath.....after all, what's 5 days 5 hours AWOL? But no one asked & no one cared. I had walked where Dad & Grandad rested after hunting panther, leopard & tiger in the 1930s. Where Dad walked in 1945.

No one in the Army knew. The Grand Hotel Des Nations sign was my secret.....until Dad wandered into my den one day & said: "Hey, Son, that might have been the hotel your Granddad & I stayed at when we hunted there in 1936...and I may have had drinks there in 1945.....wow.....more magic.....!!

ROGER TINGLEY, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014.

Highly condensed outline of a single 16-18 page chapter in 'Behind The Gunshield', which will I hope, to be published early in 2014.

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