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ARMOUR

Patron: Major General Dave Chalmers, AO CSC
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Lessons for Armour from Ukraine

When Russia widened its war on Ukraine two years back, tanks led the attack – and led the defense, too. The Russian army that rolled farther into Ukraine included as many as 2,000 tanks including some of the latest T-72 and T-90 models. Each had three crew and a 125-millimeter stabilized main gun and weighed more than 40 tons.

Ukrainian tanks, around a thousand of them including locally-made T-64s – also with three crew and a stabilized 125-millimeter gun – met the Russian force and first battled it to a standstill before



counterattacking and, over the next nine months, driving the Russians back to the current front line in southern and eastern Ukraine.

The fighting was brutal, and it didn't spare the tanks despite the vehicles' hundreds of millimeters of steel and composite armor. The weapons that killed those tanks were, for the most part, the weapons everyone expected from decades of warfare: mines, artillery, anti-tank missiles and – yes – other tanks. But then, as the

war ground on, something changed. Both sides, began weaponizing small drones. The kind you can buy online for a few hundred dollars. Take a radio-controlled first-person-view drone weighing just two pounds, strap on a pound of explosives, and you've created a simple and versatile weapon that can target vehicles, buildings, infantry and even other drones as far away as two miles.

As it happens, a drone is the perfect anti-tank weapon. Because it can fly over a tank and dive down to attack, it can strike a tank where a tank's armor is almost always thinnest: on its top. In the pre-drone era, when all modern tanks were designed, engineers expected attacks from the front, mostly. So they shifted their tanks' weight to the front – and skimmed on the top.

Take the American-made M-1 Abrams, which with its 120-millimeter gun and powerful turbine engine is widely

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ANZAC Day 2024 - Warning Order

This March commences in Elizabeth Street at Martin Place. Units will assemble to the North of Martin Place. The March move along Elizabeth Street, past Hyde Park North and Hyde Park South, where the Act of Remembrance will take place when passing the ANZAC Memorial. The March will continue to the intersection with Liverpool Street and the March concludes.

Our participation is limited to persons who actually served with the Royal Australian Armoured Corps or affiliated Corps such as RNZAC and RTR.

Forming Up Place (FUP)

Position 19 on the attached map, along from Chifley Square.

We welcome any of our fellows who have mobility problems; but they will need to have a mate to assist them.

Dress

Suit or jacket, slacks, RAAC unit tie, full-size orders, decorations and medals. The Black beret is recommended or a hat for those who need to have sun protection.

Timings

Although the March commences at 09:00 it takes some time until we step off. We are scheduled to step off around 10:00. It is suggested that you arrive at the FUP by 09:45 to ensure we all march off together.

Our Order of March will be RAACA (NSW), 1st Armoured Regiment, 3rd Cavalry Regiment (SVN) and 1/15th RNSWL Association.

The Reunion

Lower ground floor room of the Civic Hotel, corner of Pitt and Goulburn Sts for our exclusive use with our own bar. Bar type finger food is available from the main bar. We welcome partners and family members. However the space is limited but there is always the upstairs ground floor bar to handle any overflow. Just remember it's the Veterans day and seating should be left for them.



RSL
NSW

2024 Sydney ANZAC Day March Map



KEY

- March Path
- Participant Flow
- Cenotaph
- Information
- Band Chute (Eastern side of Chifley Square)
- Limited Pedestrian Access
- Wheelchair Accessible Viewing Area
- Public Toilets
- Accessibility drop off/pick up
- Taxi Rank
- Music Free Zone

CONTINGENT

- Police Motorcycle Riders (V formation)
- Mounted Police
- HE The Governor
- ADF Duty Band
- RSL NSW Contingent
- New Zealand Veterans
- Australian Flags Contingent
- Memorial Horses
- WWI Unit Flags Contingent
- NSW Police Veterans
- Taxis
- Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy led by Australian Fleet Commander
- NSW Fire and Rescue Veterans
- Australian Army led by Commander – Forces Command
- WWII Army
- Australian Korean War Veterans
- Australian Army Training Team Vietnam
- Head Quarters 1 Australian Task Force
- Armour
- Artillery
- Engineers
- Survey
- Signals
- Infantry
- Special Forces
- Army Aviation
- Intelligence
- Chaplains
- Transport
- Medical
- Dental
- Ordnance
- Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
- Educational
- Public Relations Service
- Catering
- Pay



(Continued from page 1)

considered the world's most capable tank. It's got composite armor – a blend of steel and tungsten or uranium plus other materials – that, in the front, offers the same protection provided by a thousand millimeters of steel. But on the top, the protection is equivalent to just 25 millimeters of steel.



That's so little protection that a drone costing a few hundred or thousand dollars can destroy a \$10-million, 70-ton Abrams. Indeed, that's exactly what happened last week in Ukraine, when the Ukrainian army finally deployed the 31 M1s.

A Russian drone struck one of the M-1s, setting it ablaze and either killing the four crew or forcing them to evacuate.

The M-1 isn't alone. In any event, the tiny robots are wreaking havoc on tanks on both sides.

The drone apocalypse the Russian and Ukrainian tank corps are experiencing might seem to argue for an end to the tank's 100-year domination of land-war theory. But that argument misses a key point. That point: it's a fairly straightforward adjustment for engineers to rebalance a tank's design and add armor to the top at the expense of the front. That should offer reasonably good protection against small drones.



Indeed, Swedish engineers did this years ago when they added thick armor to the tops of their Strv 122 tanks, local versions of the German-made Leopard 2, which itself is broadly similar to the M-1.

The Swedes were worried about top-down missile attacks, but their solution to that problem fortuitously addressed a future problem, too. The drone problem.

Sweden donated 10 Strv 122s to Ukraine, and it's worth noting that these tanks have survived multiple attacks by Russian drones.

To survive in this dangerous new era, tanks need to be more like the Strv 122 and less like the T-72, T-90, M-1 or Leopard 2.

With some small tweaks, tanks – with their combination of protection, firepower and speed – can and should continue to play the central role in ground combat that they've played since World War I.

ABC News: Able to read cursive handwriting? The war memorial wants your help transcribing love letters

***Able to read cursive handwriting? The war memorial wants your help transcribing love letters
Within the documents released are letters sharing "heartening" news and even "mundane gossip" from more than a century ago. (Email: info@awm.gov.au)***

Australia's future SPH previewed on TS23

By Mike Hughes, Exercise Talisman Sabre, HIMARS,

South Korean self-propelled howitzers made their Australian debut at Exercise Talisman Sabre, ahead of the planned construction of the Australian-variant AS9 Huntsman in Victoria late next year.

Alongside the US HIMARS, the K9 made an impressive display at the firepower demonstration held at Shoalwater Bay Training Area last July.



Gunners could finally see the future direction of their corps up close.

Gunner Max Hood, of 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, said while it was the first time they'd seen the tracked howitzer, they had already begun practising drills based around self-propelled artillery.

"We're moving away from the traditional gun line towards operating on our own with less camouflage and concealment," Gunner Hood said.

"We drop, shoot and get out of there to avoid counter battery." 30 AS9 Huntsmen and 15 AS10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles will be built in Victoria.

The K9 has an effective range of 40km, a capacity of 48 rounds and fires 6-8 rounds a minute, including three-round bursts. A further 104 rounds can be transported with the K10 resupply vehicle. The Huntsman and AS10 are expected to provide



similar capabilities.

In another first for Australia's largest military exercise, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces also brought the K239 Chunmoo multiple rocket launcher system to Queensland for Talisman Sabre.

South Korean Marine Corps Artillery Commander Major Kim Donju said their involvement demonstrated the strength and capability of Korean Marine Corps equipment and "improved the capability of joint operations of multinational forces".

Ties between the two nations continue to grow after the government announced South Korean company Hanwah, which manufactures the K9 and Chunmoo MLRS, was awarded a contract to build Army's new Redback infantry fighting vehicles. Hanwah is set to deliver 129 IFVs under Land400 Phase 3, which will be constructed in Geelong.

CAPTION: A Republic of Korea Armed Forces K9 Thunder deployed during Exercise Talisman Sabre. Story by Corporal Jacob Joseph. Photos by Leading Aircraftman Adam Abela.

Source: Contact Tuesday, August 15, 2023

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

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|----|----------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. | Phillip | PD | Hogan | 3 Cav |
| WO2 | Desmond | DG | Askin | 1AR, 2CAV |
| Mr. | Charles | CR | Decis | |
| Mr. | Gordon | GK | Strachan | 15NRL |
| Mr. | Neil | NK | Jefferys | 1/15 RNSWL, 12/16 Broken Hill |
| Mr. | Kenneth | K | Wagner | 3 CAV |
| Mr. | | KA | Povey | 2/4 Armd Regt |
| Dr. | | GM | Brodie | |
| Mr. | Max | M | McInerny | |
| Mr. | Geoff | G | Strachan | 3CAV |
| Mr. | Gavan | G | Vigar | 1AR, 3Cav, Armd Cn |



Vale

Scott Terrey

Scott was CO of the RNSW Regiment from 1 January 1996 'till 31 December 1997. He graduated from the NSW Officer Cadet Training Unit in 1973 and was posted to 1/15 RNSWL as a Liaison Officer in A Sqn.

Following a posting as a Troop Leader he travelled to the UK and joined the British Army. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1977 and was posted as a Troop Leader to 1st the Queens Dragoon Guards. Over the next few years he served in various British Army Regimental appointments in Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland and on attachment to 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment and 40 Commando Royal Marines.

Returning to Australia in the early eighties he served with 1st Commando Regiment until 1993 when he returned to 1/15 RNSWL as Regimental 2IC.

In civil life he was employed by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Office and later worked as an independent security consultant.

Noted as a very fit soldier, however, in his latter years he suffered heart problems. He passed away during an operation.

His funeral was held at All Saints Parramatta, 29 Elizabeth St, Parramatta in 1st November 2023

Regards,

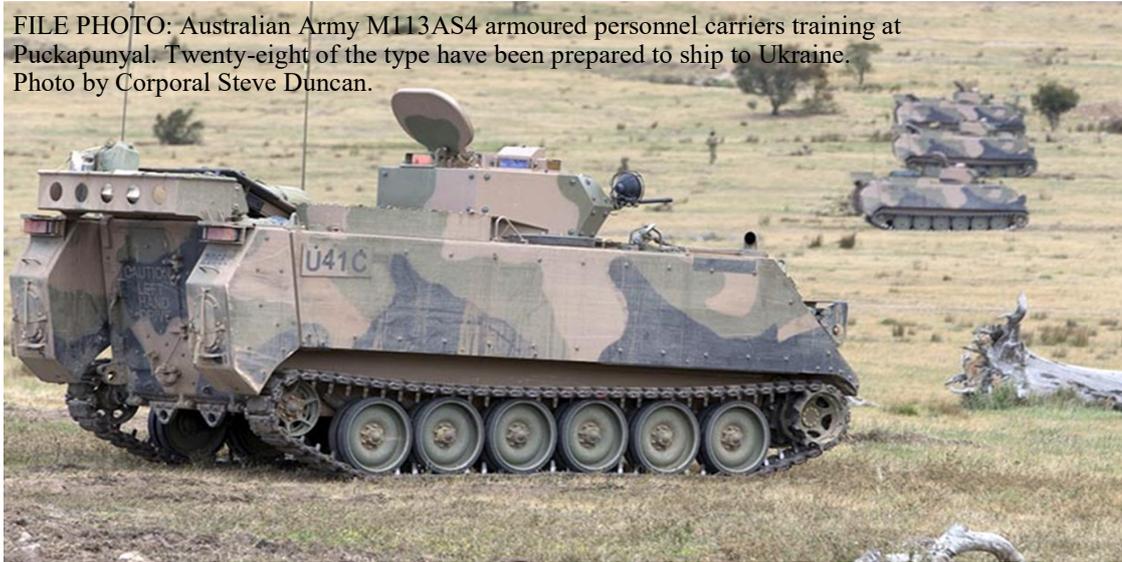
John Howells

Secretary Royal New South Wales Lancers' Association

Australia pledges another \$110million aid package to Ukraine

Australia has pledged a new \$110 million assistance package to Ukraine – including 70 military vehicles, 105mm artillery ammunition and \$10million in humanitarian supplies.

FILE PHOTO: Australian Army M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers training at Puckapunyal. Twenty-eight of the type have been prepared to ship to Ukraine.
Photo by Corporal Steve Duncan.



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said this latest package of support demonstrated that Ukraine could count on Australia.

“We support international efforts to ensure Putin’s aggression fails and that Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity prevails,”

Mr Albanese said. “Australia is unwavering in our

resolve to condemn and oppose Russia’s actions and to help Ukraine achieve victory.

This assistance will help Ukraine defend and support itself against Russia’s illegal, immoral and unprovoked invasion.

“Australia has stood with Ukraine since Russia’s brutal invasion 16 months ago.”

Mr Albanese said his government was continuing to work with the government of Ukraine to provide assistance that addresses Ukraine’s needs and complemented support provided by other partners.

“This package responds to Ukraine’s requests for vehicles and ammunition, and will make a tangible difference on the battlefield,” he said. However, not everyone was impressed by the announced package – with former Major General Mick Ryan calling it an embarrassment and a shemuzzle. “The package announced yesterday diminishes us as a nation,” Mr Ryan said in an ABC interview.

“Frankly, it has the appearance of a package that’s rolled out to keep critics quiet. “Nothing in there will be tremendously helpful, even though Ukraine will always be grateful for every skerrick of assistance that’s provided.

“But, at the end of the day, the [Australian] government has pretty much ignored Ukraine’s real requirements and provided a package that a banana republic might provide.”

The package announced by the government yesterday includes 28 M113 armoured personnel carriers, 14 special-operations vehicles (undisclosed type), and 28 MAN 40M medium trucks with 14 trailers – as well as an undisclosed quantity of 105mm artillery ammunition, plus \$10million to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, who manage the Ukrainian Humanitarian Fund.

In addition, Mr Albanese said Australia would extend duty-free access for goods imported from Ukraine for a further 12 months, to support its recovery and trade opportunities. “These commitments bring Australia’s total contribution in support of Ukraine to \$790million, including \$610million in military assistance.

Defence Minister Richard Marles said Ukraine had highlighted the utility of Australian vehicles on the battlefield and this package would continue to support Ukrainians on the front line.

Mr Ryan, however, blamed an “extraordinarily risk-averse Department of Defence, who are experts in saying no” for an embarrassing package that included nothing of what Ukraine specifically asked for.

Posted by Brian Hartigan

Managing Editor Contact Publishing Pty Ltd PO Box 3091 Minnamurra NSW 2533 AUSTRALIA

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Vale

Lieutenant Colonel John Royden Clarke, RAAC (Retd).

OCS Class June 1958. John died on 1 June 2023 at the age of 86 years.

Service in South Vietnam:

Australian Army Training Team Vietnam: August 1962 – October 1963. (An original AATTV member who served at the Dong Da National Training Centre).

On his return from Vietnam, John served on the staff at OCS in 1964 – 1965.

John is greatly missed by his loving family, friends, old colleagues and classmates.

Rest In Peace

Paul Asbury

OCS Alumni

<https://www.ocsportsea.org/>

Vale

Tony Beechey

It is with great sadness that I advise our friend and colleague Tony Beechey (aged 62) passed away at 2100 last night 5 December 2023. Tony had a long battle with cancer.

Tony was a great character and good soldier, serving with the Regiment in the 1970s and 80s, reaching the rank of sergeant.

Tony is survived by his four children and four grandchildren. His son Damien is a sergeant in the ARA (RAAOC). Tony was very proud of his children and grandchildren.

Tony will be well remembered, a great loss.

Yours Sincerely,

John Howells

Secretary

Royal New South Wales Lancers' Association

Vale

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Thomas (Tom) Finnimore, RNZAC (Retd).

A much-valued member of the OCS Class June 1961. Tom died on 13 October 2023, aged 87 years.

Tom served in the Malayan Emergency as a second lieutenant with 161 Battery RNZA.

Active Service in South Vietnam:

161 Battery RNZA as a lieutenant. (dates not known).

Also attached to US 1st Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment.

Will be greatly missed by family, friends, colleagues and classmates.

Rest In Peace.

Paul Asbury

OCS Alumni <https://www.ocsportsea.org/>

Keith Schollum

Thanks for passing on the sad news,

While I served for a time in the RNZAC as a Troop Leader, I didn't know Tom well. He had a great reputation and by all accounts, was one of the good guys, and an outstanding officer.

Regards,

Keith