



PARATUS

1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

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ANZAC Day 2020

A New Day Dawns



1st Armoured Regiment Theatres of Operation

Japan

Vietnam

Battle Honours

- Coral - Balmoral
- Hat Dich
- Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands

Afghanistan

Newsletter Contributions

The views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributor and not necessarily endorsed by the current committee.

Whilst every care regarding all information is exercised, it should not necessarily be taken as absolute historical fact.



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- Operation Hammersley – Canberra
- Port Macquarie reunion 2021
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- CO's Anzac Day Message
- Care Package
- Historic pictures
- End of an era
- 1st AR Memorandums
- Name change to 1st Armoured Regiment



Editor's Desk

Peter Lukeis

comms@paratus.org.au

This edition of the Newsletter (No. 85) now named **'Paratus'** will be number 16 for me or (4 years) along with the upkeep of our Website, as well as setting standards for Communications, which includes badging, letter heads, certificates, presentations etc., but it is now time for me to move on and hand over to the new broom, hopefully next generation.

Each Editor or Webmaster brings their own particular slant or view of proceedings to the party and I have been fortunate to date to be given pretty much free reign or personal interpretation to produce the publications as I see them.

There are strengths and weaknesses in this scenario as I don't have a strong Military background – National Service 1966 to 1968, and rely to a great extent on direction from others for this, but am able to offer perhaps a stronger Commercial background experience.

I am satisfied with the outcome of the Newsletter masthead as it is today and would be pleased to see it continue on under the new incumbent if they so wish.

The Communication Manager's role could be kept as is or broken into 3 distinct positions – Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and brand development and standards, as may be directed by the Association Management Committee, enabling any applicants with specific skill sets to come on board.

The Association members are not unlike any other group of employees from any other large organisations welded together by like experience and comradery and I can't help but be constantly impressed by the number of volunteers who give freely of their time to see the organisation grow and prosper for the support and betterment of its members, even as memories fade on the exact timing and happenings of our past history which is important but not critical for our Association's future.

Our current lifestyles are greatly curtailed at present by the virus pandemic we are currently experiencing and when I read about the Spanish flu that beset the world at the end of WW1 killing somewhere near 50 million people I find it hard to imagine the grief and pain our forebears had to endure during their life time.

My wife and I have just finished building a new home in Woodend VIC on a smaller 1 acre block and we will be moving in at the end of May 2020.

From here on in we will develop a fairly robust garden capable of looking after itself during the cold Victorian Winters and we will take the opportunity to travel, initially to the North of Australia catching up with families and friends who moved up there years earlier.

The Association is currently in a good place with the majority of the past disruptions well and truly behind us due to strong management and controls having been put in place.

The Secretary has been working extremely hard on systems, Job descriptions, starting bylaws and developing a blue book for use by his eventual replacement, whenever that may be.

Matters regarding the next Association Reunion to be held in Port Macquarie (2021?) are currently in a state of flux due to the Coronavirus and the Committee will keep all members up to date as more information becomes available.

Please see 'Registration form' and 'Stop Press' on pages 9 and 10. Thanks to the Reunion Committee for their perseverance in currently trying times.

I have a couple of projects on the go at the moment that I would like to see brought to fruition and hope to get more information out in the next 2 months from where I will gradually withdraw from the front line.

Future applicants for these roles are welcome to call me regarding the skills required to carry out some of these positions and I will be pleased to assist if required but sometimes biting the bullet or jumping off at the deep end provide unexpected good results.

I am proud to have been able to hopefully leave a positive footprint on the Association and thank all those who have given me good strong support and would encourage anyone who has thoughts of putting their hands up for future roles in the Management Committee. We moan about it sometimes but at the end of the day it is a pretty good feeling being able to influence, in a positive manner, the ongoing fortunes of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association and its members.



Peter Lukeis

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Webmaster

Communications Manager

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1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2019/2020

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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites

1st ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.
www.paratus.org.au

RAAC CORPORATION
www.raaccorpltd.org.au

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
www.royaltankregiment.com

Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY
www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE
www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

P: Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194

secretary@paratus.org.au

B: Bendigo Bank

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159



Membership Renewals

In the last newsletter I wrote about membership renewals and how important these were to the Association. I am very pleased to report that 148 members, or 91.9% of the 161 members due to renew on 1 Feb, have renewed their membership for periods of one to five years, which is an increase over the 87.1% who renewed their membership in February 2019. Hopefully, we can surmise that we are keeping most members happy. I am always hopeful that a few more will renew and I will be sending our reminder notices by snail mail in the next few days. It is possible of course that the 11 members who have not contacted the Association have changed both their email and snail mail addresses.

Over the last 20 or so months, the current Management Committee has implemented new policies, procedures, processes and standards which we believe have achieved significant improvements in accountability and transparency. Minutes from all Association meetings (AGM, Executive and Management Committee) are distributed electronically, generally within three (3) to four (4) days of the meeting. Minutes have included copies of all new policies and procedures and only one or two comments have been received and these related to typographical errors rather than the content.

The implementation of discipline on our two main face book pages has dramatically improved behaviour in the electronic environment and the angst that prevailed in the past no longer exists. Our members are now more attuned to our basic tenets (as outlined in the Constitution) of having respect for each other.

Current Membership Numbers

As at 12 May, we have a total of 496 active members in the Association; this is an increase of around 120 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the current Management Committee was elected.

The figure of 496 includes 11 members whose membership will lapse on 1 August 2020 unless renewed before that date. Under the Constitution, members who do not renew their membership by the due date are not entitled to vote at either an AGM or other special meetings of the Association. Non-renewing members are not removed from any mail or email distribution lists until the 1 August, and only after written advice has been provided.

At present the Association does not have a Recruitment Management Manager and we are largely dependent on existing members to encourage their friends to join.

Recent Activities - Reunion

Members would be aware that planning for the Port Macquarie 2021 Reunion commenced some time ago. About two months before the 'virus' hit Australia a contract was signed with Rydges in Port Macquarie for the Meet and Greet and Reunion Dinner. The Association recently released a 'Stop Press' notice indicating that planning would proceed, but we should be prepared to defer until 2022 if necessary. Registrations have commenced to trickle in with around 14 members, and their partners, indicating their intention to attend all three (3) activities.

The Treasurer (Werner Golla) and I, have been very busy establishing the various accounts in Xero (the Association's accounting software) as well as Invoices, Statements and email templates to keep members and the Reunion Sub-Committee informed.

Future Event

Management Committee Meetings

The last meeting was held on 27 February 2020 and the next meeting is planned for either 18 or 19 May (probably just before this Newsletter is published).

Major points from the 27 February meeting included:

- a. Further discussion on definitions of 'died of wounds' and actions that may be taken by Associations to add DOW after a veteran has died. The Association was waiting on information from Defence Records at that time, and the waiting continues.
- b. Review of items held by the Association's Q store
- c. Overseas Care Packages sent to three (3) members of the Regiment currently serving overseas
- d. Funding for new batteries for ARN 169 005
- e. Review of existing items sold through the Q Store as well as designs for new items that include the correct Association Badge

The next meeting (18 May) is likely to discuss the Association's financial reports, updates on the Port Macquarie Reunion, the status of Project M, update on discussions with the Regiment as well as normal agenda items such as the Treasurer's Report, Membership Report and major correspondence items.

Where to From Here?

Whilst previously stated in Newsletters, the Management Committee continues to focus on:

- a. Increasing recruitment, especially of the younger generation
- b. Finally commence work on the Association By-Laws
- c. Identify areas for future spending that would encourage members to renew their memberships as well as attracting new members
- d. Continue to recognise those former members of the Regiment who die, regardless of membership of the Association.

Donations since February 2020

Barry Filsell
Patrick Van Rooyen

Deaths

Peter Joseph Moore, MID (23 Apr 2020)
John Haynes AM (15 February 2020)
Kenneth Graham Wilson (27 April 2020)
Daphne Jeffrey (wife of Baden Jeffrey) (24 March 2020)
Raymond William EACOTT (RAEME) (27 February 2020)

New Members

Mark Montague (2 April 2020)
Lindsay Black (30 April 2020)
Graham Henderson (5 May 2020)
Peter Mailes (5 May 2020)

IMPORTANT

Contact Details – as indicated in the last newsletter it is important that our membership contact details are up to date. If in doubt, please advise the Secretary at secretary@paratus.org.au if you have changed your address, your phone numbers or your email address/s in the last couple of years!

Honour Roll



1ST ARMOURD
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Killed In Action

WO2 J.A. Bond
WO2 J. Stone
TPR J. Kerr

Died of Wounds

TPR M. Hannaford
WO2 T. Phillips

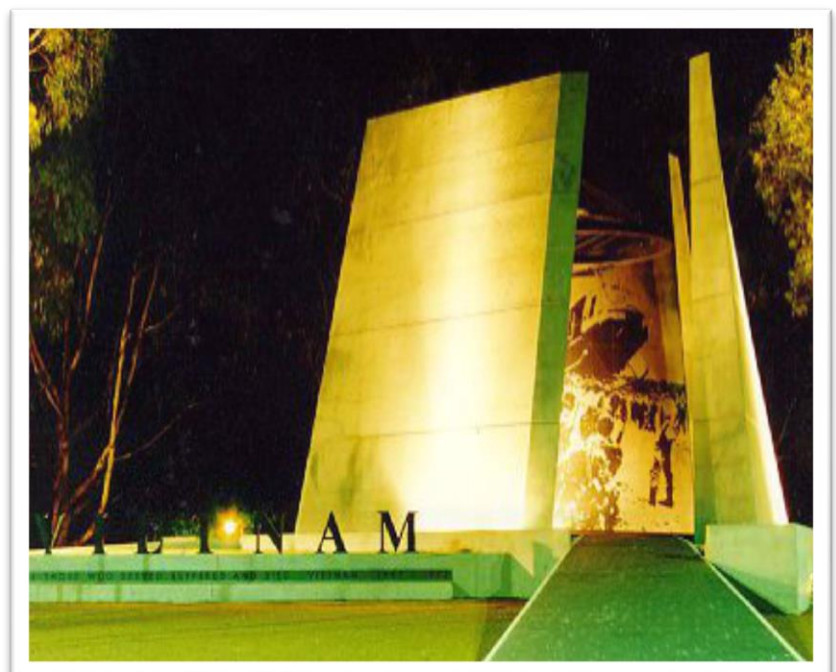
DOW Post-Vietnam

WO1 L. S. Swarbrick
WO2 N. Lowes
TPR P G. Barwick
TPR R. S. Bellott

Killed Accidentally

LT A. J. Massey
SGT R. Morrison
SGT R. G. Murray
TPR A. M. Jordan
TPR A. Patterson
CFN B. Silver (LAD)

Dedicated to those 1st Armoured Regiment Soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice





Kenneth Graham WILSON on 27 April 2020 in Vietnam

The Association regrets to advise the passing of Kenneth Graham WILSON on 27 April 2020 in Vietnam. Ken served with B Squadron in Vietnam from 11 February 1969 to 10 September 1969. May he rest in peace in the greenfields beyond.

Russ James, Secretary 1st Armd Regt Assoc



Peter Joseph MOORE, MID – born on 29 February 1948 and passed away on 23 Apr 2020

Peter was born in Moreland Victoria on 29 February 1948. He was called up under National Service on 2 October 1968 and completed his recruit training at 2 Recruit Training Battalion at Puckapunyal around 11 December 1968.

Peter took the long trip up the road to Armoured Centre where he was trained as a crewman gunner signaller on the Centurion tank. On successful completion of this course he was posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment on 21 Mar 1969.

There is no doubt that he spent the next nine months on extensive squadron training as well as jungle training prior to being posted to B Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment at Nui Dat, South Vietnam on 10 December 1969. Approximately 13 days later, B Squadron was redesignated as A Squadron.

Peter served with distinction in South Vietnam and was awarded a Mentioned in Dispatches, when he performed with valour above and beyond during Operation Hammersley when he and Gary Gott dismounted from their tank on two occasions to rescue wounded by attaching the Centurion tow rope to a mortar track (M125 A1) which had been badly damaged by RPG fire. Despite their best efforts, both Cavalrymen were killed, and Gary Gott was wounded.

It is clear from many comments made on Social Media that Peter was highly respected by those with whom he served. During his service Peter was regarded as an excellent soldier, quiet and reserved, reliable and trustworthy at all times, always pitched in on crew tasks, well respected, a fine soldier, knew his job and did it without prompting.

After the Army Peter was quite active in the RSL and other community activities. He was also involved in the major reunion (1st Armoured Regiment and 3rd Cavalry Regiment) held in Melbourne in 2005.

May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

Russ James, Secretary 1st Armoured Regiment Association – based on information received from Defence Records, a former SSM and fellow crewman.

Thanks to Bruce Scott for the MID Citation as follows:

Lance Corporal Peter Moore enlisted as a National Serviceman on 2 October 1968. He was posted to the 1st Armoured Regiment on 4 March 1969 and joined B Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment in South Vietnam on 9 December 1969. On 18 February 1970, Lance Corporal Moore's troop was part of an all arms group operating with C Company, 8th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment which made contact with enemy in a heavily fortified bunker system in the Long Hai Hills. During the initial fire fight, an armoured personnel carrier was hit by rocket propelled grenades from close range, its crew and passengers wounded, and the vehicle started to burn.

Lance Corporal Moore's tank moved up close to the damaged armoured personnel carrier in an attempt to rescue the wounded crew and recover the carrier. Lance Corporal Moore dismounted with his crew Commander and covered by the gunner of the tank, they moved forward to the armoured personnel carrier which was five yards from two enemy bunkers, carrying a tow rope from their tank and attached it to the armoured personnel carrier. They remounted and began to tow the burning vehicle to a safe area. The tow rope slipped from the armoured personnel carrier and they again dismounted in order to secure the tow rope. During this attempt the carrier exploded as Lance Corporal Moore and his Crew Commander were four feet from it. The explosion totally destroyed the armoured personnel carrier and killed the crew.

By his courageous actions, Lance Corporal Moore displayed courage and determination, in the face of enemy fire and the obvious dangers from the burning vehicle which reflect credit upon himself, his Regiment and the Australian Army.



Raymond William EACOTT (RAEME) passed away on Thursday 27 February 2020 aged 71 years.

Ray was born on 28 November 1948 in Brisbane, QLD. He enlisted in the Australian Army on 15 February 1966 around two and half months after his seventeenth birthday.

After the normal stint of around 10 to 11 weeks of recruit training at 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB – Kapooka NSW), he was posted to the RAEME Training Centre (Bandiana) where he was trained as a vehicle mechanic.

On completion of his trade training, Ray was posted to 6th Task Force Light Aid Detachment. He spent around 12 months here before being posted to Detachment 1 Division Supply and Transport Workshop located at Vung Tau, South Vietnam on 22 April 1968.

On return to Australia on 16 Apr 1969 Ray was posted to North Queensland Area Workshop for 12 months, then to 18 Transport Company Workshop and then to Jungle Training Centre Workshop in August 1970.

Postings to Northern Territory Command Workshop, Northern Territory Workshop Platoon and Darwin Workshop Platoon followed over the next three (3) years. Postings to 2 Field Engineer Regiment Workshop, 1 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Detachment 9 Transport Company Workshop and 1 Division Transport Regiment Workshop followed from April 1974 until a posting to Perth Workshop Company in November 1978,

Just 18 months later Ray was on the move with a posting to Maintenance Engineering Agency (Melbourne) and then back to Canungra Workshop Platoon in December 1981.

At long last in December 1984 Ray was posted as a Technical Warrant Officer to the 1st Armoured Regiment where he remained for just on 12 months. His last two postings prior to discharge were in South Australia: firstly, to Headquarters 4 Military District and then onto Adelaide Workshop.

Ray was discharged as a Warrant Office Class One after 20 years-service. He certainly had the opportunity to see much of Australia as well as working in a variety of Army units, albeit with a workshop outlook.

Ray was active in the ex-service community and one of the initiators of the Roper River Veterans Retreat in the Northern Territory. Ray was also one of first Moderators of the group.

May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

Prepared by Russ James from information provided by Defence Records and RAEME sources.



Norman Leslie GREEN passed away on Wednesday 19 February 2020 aged 73 years.

Norm was born on 2 June 1946 in Katanning (WA). He joined the Australian Army on 5 Apr 1962 approximately 2 months prior to his 18th birthday.

Norm arrived at 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1RTB – Kapooka NSW) on 3 May 1962 and completed the normal stint of recruit training prior to being posted to 1 Forward Delivery Troop (then part of Armoured Centre) on 20 September 1962 to undergo corps training. It is believed that he started in the Corps as a Centurion tank driver.

He was posted to 1st Armoured Regiment on 28 March 1963 and spent three weeks on Exercise Tasman Four in New Zealand in late 1965.

He remained in the Regiment until posted to Detachment 1 Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron on 17 October 1966 as an APC crew commander.

Less than two months later in December 1966, he was posted to 1 Australian Reinforcement Unit (Nui Dat, South Vietnam) for a month before joining A Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment on 20 January 1967.

On return to Australia on 19 Dec 1967, Norm was posted to 10th Light Horse (WA) where he remained until December 1969 when he took up a position as an Gunnery Instructor at Armoured Centre.

Norm returned to the Regiment in November 1971 and spent some time in A Squadron as well as the Troop Sergeant of RHQ Troop. Norm departed the Regiment in August 1974 for a life in 3 Army Recruiting Unit (Melbourne) before a short stint in Headquarters 3 Division Field Force Group.

Norm returned to Western Australia in January 1982 prior to being discharged as a Warrant Officer Class Two on 18 April 1982. He had completed just over 20 years-service.

Norm's peers describe him as an approachable, well respected, and very competent senior NCO and Warrant Officer.

May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

Prepared by Russ James from information provided by Defence Records and friends from 50 years ago.



Alfred James John LEE (Ajj) (RAEME) passed away on 2 March 2020 aged 84 years

Alfred was born at Red Cliffs (Victoria) on 6 September 1935. At the age of 15 he was enlisted as an apprentice and trained as an electrician at the Army Apprentice School (Balcombe) in the 6th Apprentice Intake.

His first posting was to the Eastern Command Workshops (1954) followed by a short period at the Army Guided Weapons Trial Unit before return to Eastern Command Workshops.

In 1956 Ajj was posted to the Newcastle Area Workshop before a posting of just over two (2) years with the 101 Infantry Workshop. In September 1959 he was posted to the RAEME Training Centre for 15 or so months. This was followed by postings to Puckapunyal Area Workshops (1961), Liverpool Area Workshops (1966) and Army Headquarters (Melbourne) also in 1966. During 1964 Alf spent around a month with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment.

In April 1968 Alf was posted as the EME at Headquarters Australian Force Vietnam where his main role was to raise the Light Aid Detachment to support C Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment. Although not officially posted to C Squadron Section 1st Armoured Regiment LAD until October 1968, he was the Officer Commanding (the first) of that Section from its inception much earlier in 1968. He was subsequently posted to B Squadron Section 1st Armoured Regiment LAD in February 1969 and remained there until return to Australia on 30 April 1969.

From April 1969 to his discharge as a Major in March 1978, Alfred served at Army Headquarters (Melbourne), Tasmania Command Workshop, 4 Base Workshop, 31 Supply Battalion and Adelaide Workshop Company.

May he rest in peace in the green fields beyond.

Prepared by Russ James from information provided by Defence Records

52nd Anniversary, Battle of Coral–Balmoral



The **Battle of Coral–Balmoral** (12 May – 6 June 1968) was a series of actions fought during the Vietnam War between the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) and the North Vietnamese 7th Division and Viet Cong Main Force units, 40 kilometres (25 mi) north-east of Saigon. 1 ATF was redeployed on 12 May to obstruct the withdrawal of forces from the capital, with two battalions establishing a fire support base named FSB Coral, just east of Lai Khê in Bình Dương Province, in an area of operations known as AO Surfers. However, poor reconnaissance and inadequate operational planning led to delays and confusion during the fly-in, and the Australians had only partially completed FSB Coral by the evening. The North Vietnamese mounted a number of battalion-sized assaults on the night of 12/13 May, with a heavy bombardment from 03:30 signalling the start. Exploiting the disorganised defence to penetrate the Australian perimeter, the North Vietnamese 141st Regiment temporarily captured a forward gun position during close-quarters fighting, before being repulsed by superior firepower the following morning. Casualties were heavy on both sides but the Australians had won a convincing victory. The following day 1 RAR was deployed to defend FSB Coral, while 3 RAR established FSB Coogee to the west to ambush staging areas and infiltration routes. Coral was again assaulted in the early hours of 16 May, coming under a heavy barrage followed by another regimental-sized attack. Again the base was penetrated but after a six-hour battle the North Vietnamese were forced to withdraw after suffering heavy losses.

Expecting further fighting, the Australians were subsequently reinforced with Centurion tanks and additional artillery. On 22 May, FSB Coral was again attacked overnight, coming under a short but accurate mortar bombardment which was broken up by Australian artillery and mortars.

The Australians then moved against the communist base areas east of Route 16, with 3 RAR redeploying to establish FSB Balmoral on 24 May, 4.5 kilometres (2.8 mi) to the north. Now supported by tanks which had arrived from Coral just hours before, the infantry at Balmoral were subjected to a two-battalion attack by the North Vietnamese 165th Regiment. Following a rocket and mortar barrage at 03:45 on 26 May, the attack fell primarily on D Company before being repelled with heavy casualties by the combined firepower of the tanks and infantry. The next day the Australians at Coral assaulted a number of bunkers that had been located just outside the base, with a troop of Centurions supported by infantry destroying the bunkers and their occupants without loss to themselves. A second major North Vietnamese attack, again of regimental strength, was made against Balmoral at 02:30 on 28 May but was called off after 30 minutes after being soundly defeated by the supporting fire of the tanks, artillery and mortars. Regardless, the battle continued into June as the Australians patrolled their area of operations. However, with contacts decreasing, 1 ATF returned to Nui Dat on 6 June, being relieved by US and South Vietnamese forces. The battle was the first time the Australians had clashed with regular North Vietnamese Army units operating in regimental strength in conventional warfare. During 26 days of fighting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong sustained heavy losses and were forced to postpone a further attack on Saigon, while 1 ATF also suffered significant casualties. The largest unit-level action of the war for the Australians, today the battle is considered one of the most famous actions fought by the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

Operation Hammersley Commemoration 18 February 2020 Canberra.

Forty nine (49) members and partners of A SQN that served in South Vietnam, gathered in Canberra for the commemoration of OP Hammersley 1970.

Most of the 'A' SQN group stayed at the Mercure a short walk from the AWM. Given the schedule for the 18th this was to be a wise move.

The night of the 17th a Meet & Greet was held at the Mercure, members from, 1 AR, 3 Cav and 9 SQN RAAF, gathered as a prelude to the events on the 18th.



Wednesday the 18th was an early start of what was to be a long day for the veterans.

Wreath and Poppy Ceremony AWM Hall of Memory
This ceremony was conducted by the AWM exclusively for RAAC veterans of both Squadrons who took part in Operation Hammersley and the Battle of the Long Hais, to specifically commemorate the loss of L/CPL Barry Whiston and TPR Hugh Carlyle during the battle.

MAJ GEN Roger Powell AM (Ret'd) Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC and Repatriation Commissioner Mr Don Spinks AM, attended this ceremony, Corps RSM Derek Simpson and Eminent Former RAAC Members. The ceremony had to be concluded before the AWM officially opened its doors to the public at 1000hrs.





Once the poppy ceremony was completed, we moved down to ANZAC Avenue for the commemoration service. This was preceded by a video production on the Operation.

After the commemoration ceremony all adjourned to ANZAC hall for the post commemoration morning tea.

The Regiment was represented by the CO, RSM and OC, SSM and a SGT from A SQN. Some attended the Last Post ceremony at the AWM, before gathering at the Mercure for drinks





1st Armoured Regiment Association

Port Macquarie Reunion 2021 - Registration Form

1ST ARMoured
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Separate Registration forms are to be submitted for guests (two guests per form).
Places at the Reunion are to be reserved in the order that Registrations are received.
Registrations fees may be paid after the situation with COVID-19 is clearer.
**Registrations close 1 May 21 and full payment is required by 1 Jun 2021

Personal and Contact Details

	Title/Rank	First Name	Surname	Preferred Name	Member No
Name					
Wife/Partner					
Postal Address					
Home Phone		Mobile		Email	
Corps/Unit/Regiment/Squadron/Troop details including years and location served:					
Events				No. Attending	Total \$
Registration Fee – See Note 1	\$35 per person (Member and Wife/Partner)				
	\$40 per person for non-members				
I/We would like to attend the following functions:					
Fri 23 Jul 2021 - Meet and Greet	\$50 pp members	\$55 pp non-members			
Sat 24 Jul 2021 - Reunion Dinner	\$120 pp members	\$135 pp non- members			
Sun 25 Jul 2021 - Recovery Breakfast	\$15 pp members	\$17 pp non-members			
				Total Cost	\$
Special Dietary Requirements:					

Please Note: All travel and accommodation for the Reunion weekend are the responsibility of attendees.

Payment Details: When sending this completed form the registration fee may be paid, either by an electronic funds transfer to BSB: 633-000, Account No: 161498159 and Reference '**PM21 REG Surname**' **Important**
Or by Cheque or Money Order to: Secretary, 1st Armd Regt Assoc, PO Box 301 MENTONE VIC 3194

Subsequent Payments: On receipt of this Registration Form, the Association Treasurer is to prepare and send an itemised invoice to the member's address. Lump sum, part payments or instalments are acceptable.

Disclaimer – In submitting this form, you agree to the following:

All members, their partners and guests attending the Port Macquarie Reunion do so at their own risk. The Association and Reunion committee accept no responsibility for personal injury, property damage or any loss that maybe suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Association 2021 Reunion.

Signature:

Date:

Scan or copy and Email to:

johnnya955@gmail.com, cc to Secretary@paratus.org.au

Or post to:

John Atkinson, Secretary, Reunion Sub-Committee
6 Forrest St, LAKE ALBERT
NSW 2650

Note 1. Due to the Coronavirus, Registration Fees do not have to be paid at this time. Any Registration Fees that are paid will be fully refunded if it is necessary to postpone or cancel the reunion due to Coronavirus.



Recent discussions held by members of the Executive of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association determined that:

The Reunion planned for Port Macquarie in July 2021 should go ahead and the Reunion Committee should continue with planning taking into account the following.

Possible effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- *doubts concerning the efficacy of a yet to be developed vaccine,*
- *the closure of state borders,*
- *issues relating to the future of Virgin Australia as well as increased costs of airfares,*
- *difficulties with booking accommodation, and*
- *a reluctance of our older demographic to commit to a Reunion in such a difficult time*
- *The final decision to proceed with the Reunion in July 2021 may not be made until the situation is much clearer towards the end of this calendar year*

If the Reunion cannot proceed in July 2021, then a suitable date in 2022 should be investigated.

That a request for the Standards and Standard Party for July 2021 should be submitted to the Regiment.

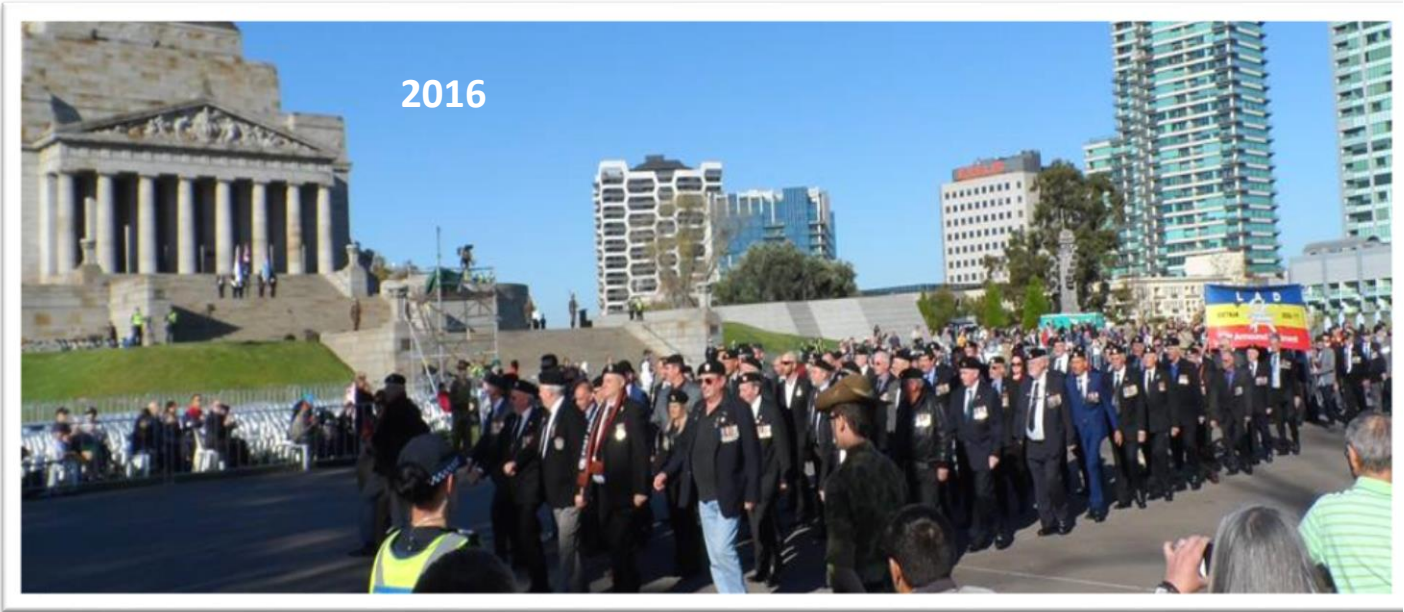
That the Registration form for a July 2021 Reunion should be released but the Registration Fee does not have to be paid and that any Registration Fees paid would be fully refunded if the Reunion was either cancelled or deferred until 2022.

Any queries in relation to this Stop Press Notice should be directed to the secretary@paratus.org.au or johnnya955@gmail.com

ANZAC Days of past



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REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.





1ST ARMoured REGIMENT

Chauvel Lines, Edinburgh Defence Precinct
EDINBURGH SA 5111

To all the members of 1st Armoured Regiment past and present,

Like so many things this year, Anzac day will be unlike any that we have experienced before; however, this does not change or diminish its significance. Anzac day is a time to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who taught us to endure hardship, to show courage, to be bold as well as resilient, and to stick together. It is in this regard that this Anzac day will provide a special significance for each and every one of us.

I was fortunate to join with many past members of the Regiment this year in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Operation Hammersley. This marked the third consecutive year in which 1st Armoured Regiment commemorated this milestone for significant actions from the Vietnam War. The comradeship and pride that I witnessed amongst so many of our veteran community on that day was an inspiration, and shows how, through the toughest situations and over the greatest length of time, the Anzac spirit lives on. It is a spirit that unites us regardless of Corps, service or background, and it unites us with those that no longer serve.

As we spend this Anzac Day in more isolated surroundings than perhaps we are used to, we must remember to reach out to each other and offer our support to those in need. The Regiment will reflect on the significance of the Anzac spirit forged by our predecessors in battles like Binh Ba, Coral Balmoral and Operation Hammersley, and the example it sets for future generations. Indeed this legacy extends beyond those forged in times of war to all those that have served in this great Regiment. It is because of you that we enjoy such a strong professional culture that has been built throughout our history. I hope that you are all able to reflect in your own way and take pride in your service to the nation.

Our thoughts are with all of our Regimental family this Anzac day and through these difficult times. We hope you all stay safe and well.

Paratus,

Tim Orders

Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
1st Armoured Regiment

22 April 2020

Care Packages



Attached is a photo of a Care Package that Mark Reid has despatched to three (3) Members of the Regiment currently deployed overseas. We had to put the packages together pretty quickly as the members concerned are due home in late April. Consequently there was little time to consult on the contents.

Please do not distribute this photo until after the 10 April 2020 by which time the packages should have arrived at the destinations. One of two of the items (including the bow tie and toilet paper) are intended for comic relief.

Regards

Russ J

FYI – tanks involved in the early 1960s with trials landing from the Clive Steele.

Peter and Russ, Another for your library. Looks like the date may be confirmed. Maybe some of the Centurion crew are still around.

Jack

I think this another one from Stockton. It must be 1963 because the Minister of the Army, Mr Ford is on the lead tank.

Ross

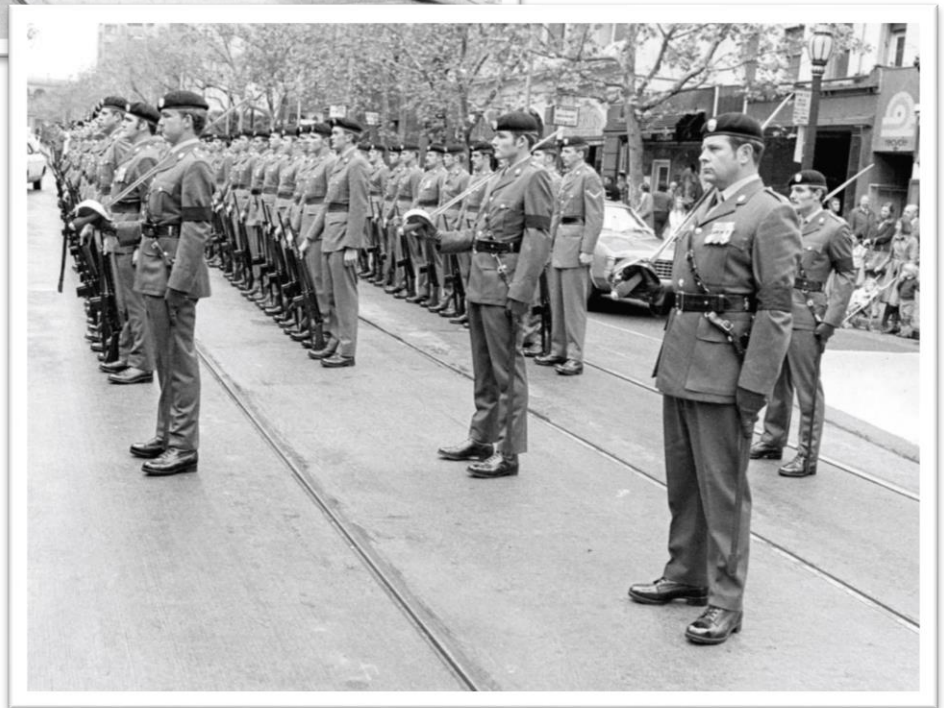
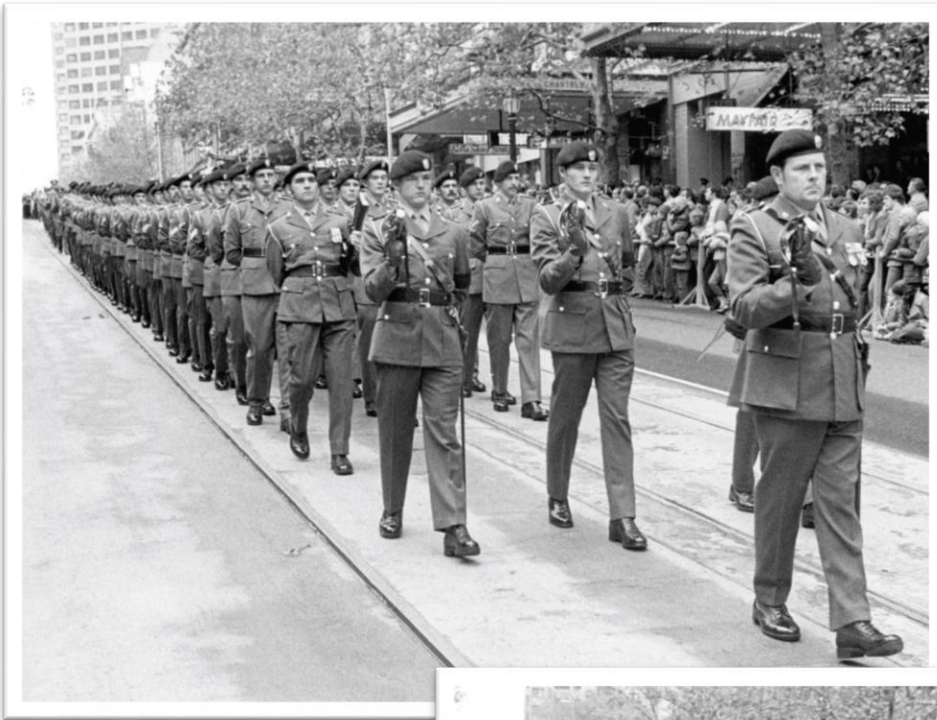


Hi Peter

Currently digitizing all my old photos, negs and slides. Found two that may interest for possible inclusion in Paratus - both taken 19 May 1979. The event is the State Funeral for Robert Gordon Menzies. There were three contingents, RAN, 1AR and RAAF. The Regiments Guidon was also on parade. The inspecting officer was Prince Charles. I remember the day - wet and the concrete and tram tracks were slippery. Collins Street outside Scot's Church.

Charlie

Charlie Dearing



END OF AN ERA

31 December 1997 was a sad day for those 'Q Store Creatures' and 'Shinny Bums' who for many, many years provided Q and Admin support for the RAAC. Most of these soldiers had initially been trained as 'A' Vehicle crewman so their appreciation of the RAAC line soldier allowed them to work closer with those working down the vehicle hangers. Not only did it allow a deeper understanding the dual trades these soldiers held meant that if an additional crewman was required they could be called on to fill vacancies operating AFV's at short notice and with an immediate understanding of the short term role they were required to fill. I recall when the notion was first mooted around the corps of a change and during a visit by our then RAAC Corps Director to Canberra in 1993 where the 'boss' said there would be some 'sabre rattling' as the corps was not in favour of any change. I left the RMC SGT's Mess feeling confident, unfortunately the ADF's need for change must have been greater than the desire of we clerks and storemen to continue to serve the RAAC. Nonetheless we were RAAC soldiers for a time some longer than others and 'A' Vehicle crewman but all had a love for the black beret and our corps, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

The list of names in the attached picture was kindly provided to me by WO1 Peter Swinfield, and is currently displayed in the ante room of the RAAC Offr/WO/SNCO Mess at Puckapunyal.
 Pause to remember the soldiers named, some of whom have sadly passed and recall their contribution to the RAAC.
 Contributed by: Richard (Dick) Stanios April 2020.

END OF AN ERA
To Record the Corps Transfer
Of the following
Warrant Officers and Senior Non Commissioned Officers
Of the
Royal Australian Armoured Corps
To the
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps
Due to the Transfer
Of the
Clerk Administrative and Quartermaster Storeman / Sergeant Trades
31 December 1997

Warrant Officer Class One

J. M. Baily	M. A. Dean	W. J. Golla	R. S. Kennard	R. S. Rae
S. N. Bell	S. D. Edwards	A. W. Johnston	P. G. Kent	C. A. Read
S. G. Bingham	K. A. Fox		M. A. Miller	B. Reeding

Warrant Officer Class Two

C. J. Andrews	S. Dixon	I. R. Fullarton	J. G. Lane	R. S. Stanios
L. E. Anthony	R. A. Dodd	M. J. Gaffney	G. N. Mantell	R. W. D. F. Vonk
K. J. Argus	A. Duncanson	P. J. Haigh	A. J. Marshall	R. W. Wellington
R. J. Bartlett	A. Flood	I. G. Jones CSM	G. C. Perkins	K. J. Wilson
A. I. Bock	B. J. Fulker	M. J. Kearns	M. A. Rutledge	G. N. Worthington
W. C. Bunker		M. W. Kies		G. A. Young

Staff Sergeant

S. T. Broad	G. A. Hedt	R. C. Macey MM	M. A. Roach	S. G. Stroud
M. I. Brooke	C. R. Haughton	N. J. Maloney	J. A. Schofield	G. C. Thurlow
T. R. Findlay	P. Lawler	R. J. Parrott	M. J. Sexton	A. J. Twomey
G. N. Goss	T. C. Latler	R. Pullinger	J. Soal	T. J. Warnecke

Sergeant

A. R. T. Allen	G. B. Coller	S. M. A. French	D. R. Knight	V. Montefusco
M. J. Bain	W. C. Cullen	M. L. Greaves	P. W. Lever	P. J. Perry
C. J. Barker	P. R. Darke	S. B. Harrold	B. G. A. Matthews	T. J. Rademaker
G. B. Briggs	P. J. Deeker	J. E. Holyoake	S. J. McInerney	I. D. Read
R. N. Briggs	I. S. Dunlop	N. S. H. Jones	A. D. McMillan	S. B. Selkrig
G. I. Brittain	T. B. J. Flynn	M. Kerschmer	G. J. Mills	W. J. Walker
C. R. Cleal				B. A. Wardley

'In Gratitude for Their Service'

PRESENTED TO
 RAAC SERGEANTS MESS
 BY
 DIRECTORATE OF ARMOUR
 DECEMBER 1997

1st Armoured Regiment & WW II Australian Armoured Unit Memorandums

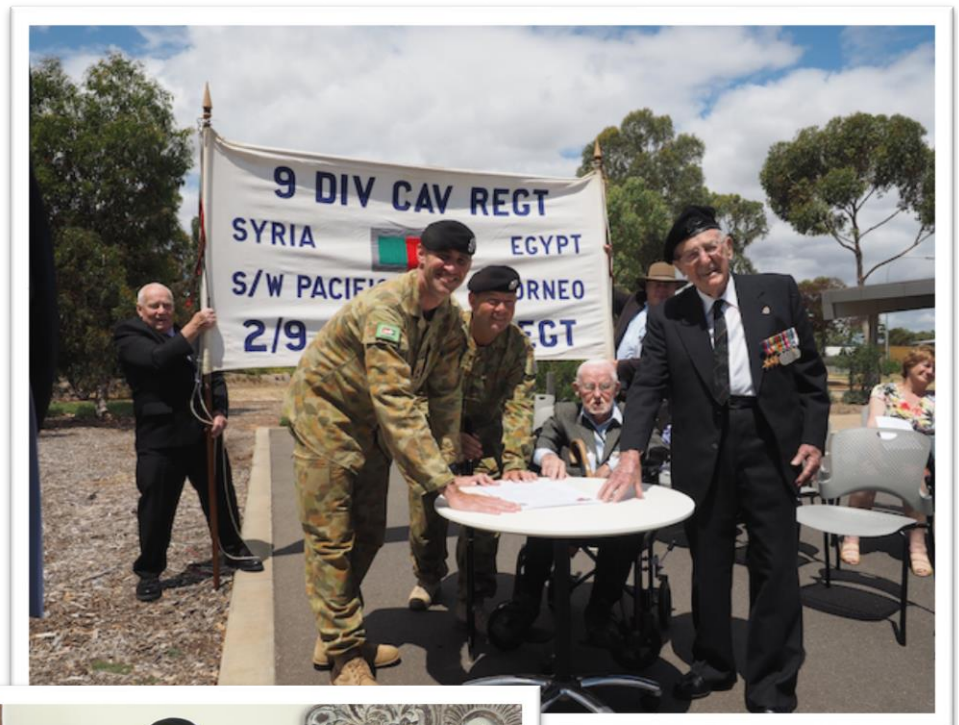
1st Armoured Regiment established unit to unit links with the WW II 2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment in 2013 and the 9th Division Cavalry Regiment which later became the 9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment in 2015. These two distinguished AAC units were left with no ongoing Regimental continuity with the RAAC after the reorganization of the Army in 1948.

The template for these arrangements was established in 1971 between the then LTCOL "Blue" Keldie MC, CO of 2nd Cavalry Regiment with 6th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment.

1 Armd Regt established separate Memorandums of Understanding with 2/6 Aust Armd Regt and the 9 Div Cav (Cdo) Regt as explained in the attached documents. Both units proudly saw themselves as part of the ongoing heritage of the Australian Light Horse and the Royal Tank Corps' *Through The Mud and The Blood To The Greenfields Beyond*.

9 Div Cav Regt used Bren Gun Carriers and a range of tanks including Vickers Light Mk VIA and Crusader Tanks in the Middle East and North Africa from 1941-1942. 2/6 Aust Armd Regt with M3 Light Stuart Tanks were the first Australian tank unit to fight the Japanese in the South-West Pacific 1942-1943.

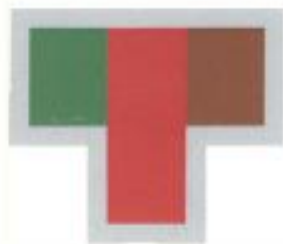
Maj John Baines, RFD, (Retd)
RAAC Honorary Historian



Memorandum of Understanding

9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment

Battle Honours 1939-1945 War



To: Lieutenant Colonel Michael Murdoch
Commanding Officer
1st Armoured Regiment, RAAC

The past is rich with tradition for Australia's soldiers;
a tradition of courage, loyalty, comradeship and superb battle tactics.

The 9th Division Cavalry Regiment, a unit of tanks and Bren-gun carriers, was formed in a name change in February 1941 from 8th Division Cavalry Regiment which had been established on 26 January 1940 by taking over two squadrons of 7th Division Cavalry Regiment.

The 7th Division Cavalry Regiment had been formed from elements of Light Horse Regiments, the Victorian Light Tank Company and the 1st Armoured Car Regiment and machine gun units.

The soldiers of the 9th Division Cavalry Regiment, later renamed the 9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment, proudly wore the Black Beret of the Australian Armoured Corps into battle and exhibited the qualities epitomised by their standard of "Through the Mud and the Blood to the Greenfields Beyond" as Cavalrymen and Cavalry Commandoes in mounted and dismounted combat.

With the formal appointment of 1st Armoured Regiment as an Armoured Cavalry Regiment within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps of the Australian Army, it is appropriate that the living veterans of 9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment wish to pass on their traditions which will be enriched as part of the heritage captured within the fighting spirit and traditions of the 1st Armoured Regiment.

The complete list of Campaign and Battle Honours awarded to the 9th Division Cavalry Regiment and the 9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment are as follows:

North Africa 1942	Defence of Alamein Line	Tel el Eisa
Tel el Makh Khad	Sanpet el Miteirya	West Point 23
El Alamein	Syria 1941	Sidon
Wadi Zeini		Jebel Mazar
South West Pacific 1945	Borneo	Labuan

1st Armoured Regiment with a proud and distinguished history of its own, is well suited to tell our soldiers' story and establish a link for our descendants to identify with the proud traditions of armoured cavalry in battle and the loyalty of soldiers to their Regiment through the many complexities and uncertainties of War.

The 1st Armoured Regiment undertakes to keep this outstanding history alive and utilise the example set by the men of the 9th Division Cavalry Regiment and 9th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment to develop esprit de corps and resilience in the face of adversity.

This document marks the auspicious occasion whereby we now entrust, with thanks, the significance of our Campaign and Battle Honours to the 1st Armoured Regiment RAAC on this 14th day of November 2015.

Lillie
O.A.M.

A.J. (Lex) Lillie
Veteran
9th Div Cav (Cdo) Regt

[Signature]

LTCOL Michael Murdoch
CO
1 Armd Regt

[Signature]

BRIG Mark Brewer, CSC & Bar
EOC
RAAC

[Signature]

J.E. (Jim) McCabe
Veteran
9th Div Cav (Cdo) Regt

Memorandum of Understanding



2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment Battle Honours 1939-1945 War



To: Lieutenant Colonel Scott Winter
Commanding Officer
1st Armoured Regiment, RAAAC

The 2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment earned a proud place in the history of Australian armoured combat as the first Australian tank regiment to go into battle in WWII, in the Defence of Australia in the South West Pacific.

It has been suggested that the 2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment informally entrust the custodianship of its battle honours to 1st Armoured Regiment, RAAAC as a way of ensuring regimental continuity of tradition for our former unit.

Whilst recognising that we, nor anyone else from our former unit, hold no authority within the precincts of Australian Army protocols or legal authority on behalf of the former 2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment or the ensuing Association formed from 1947 to 2011, we would like to express our gratitude to the 1st Armoured Regiment RAAAC for the generous offer it has made to informally undertake the role of Custodian of our oral history.

We believe that the preservation of this important heritage will serve as a daily reminder to the "tankies" of today and of the future, of what courage, endeavour and the aggressive employment of armour in support of infantry can achieve.

1st Armoured Regiment, Australia's only tank regiment, and with a proud and distinguished history of its own, is well suited to tell our soldiers' story and establish a link for our descendants to identify with the proud traditions of tank service in battle. The 1st Armoured Regiment undertakes to keep this outstanding history alive, and utilise the example set by the men and tanks of the 2/6th Armoured Regiment in continuing to maintain Australia's tank capability.

The complete list of Battle Honours and Campaigns awarded to 2/6th Australian Armoured Regiment is as follows:

Southwest Pacific 1942-45
Buna-Gona
Cape Endaiadere
Simemi Creek

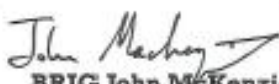
This document marks the auspicious occasion whereby we now entrust, with thanks, the significance of our Battle Honours to the 1st Armoured Regiment RAAAC on this 16th day of February 2013.


Kevin Austin
Veteran
2/6th Aust Armrd Regt


Alan Barnham
Veteran
2/6th Aust Armrd Regt


Doug Spinney
Veteran
2/6th Aust Armrd Regt


LTCOL Scott Winter
CO
1 Armrd Regt


BRIG John McKenzie
HOC
RAAC



Lieutenant Colonel Miles in his 'Tracks To Tradition – A REGIMENTAL HISTORY' article in the first issue of the Tracks magazine in 1955 wrote, "On the 7th of July, 1949, the Squadron was renamed the First Armoured Regiment, and at about the same time we were equipped with Churchill tanks."

Recently the Regiment underwent a major re-organization involving the addition of "C" Squadron and the reduction in size of Sabre Squadrons. This is by no means the first reorganization that has occurred within the Regiment and, as this is the first issue of our Journal, a few words about our Regimental history seems appropriate.

This history commences with our birthday on the 21 st January, 1946, as it was on that day that the First Australian Armoured Car Squadron was formed in Puckapunyal for service in Occupation Forces in Japan. The Squadron was formed by Major e. Ives (now Lt.-Col. Ives, CO. of the Apprentices' School) and was equipped with Staghound Armoured Cars and Canadian Scout Cars (better known as "Doodlebugs"). The Squadron sailed from Sydney late in March and arrived in Kure on the 12th of April, 1946.

During the later stages of World War II the Fourth Armoured Brigade was stationed in Southern Queensland and served as the parent formation for a number of Armoured Units, some of which saw service in the Islands. It was from this Brigade that the original volunteers came to form the Armoured Car Squadron. We have, therefore, a direct link with the once large and proud Armoured Corps that was raised during the war.

During the period that the Squadron was in Japan it performed normal occupational duties, which included guards on the Imperial Palace in Tokyo and extensive patrolling of the Island of Skikohu, mainly to let the Japanese know that there was an Occupation Force.

The Squadron was stationed initially at Kaitaichi and later moved to semi-permanent barracks at Hira, near Kure. On the 18th of December 1948 the Unit finally embarked at Kure for return to Australia, where it was again stationed at Puckapunyal.

On the 7th of July, 1949, the Squadron was re- named the First Armoured Regiment, and at about the same time we were equipped with Churchill tanks. We were still, however, only a Regiment in name, as our Strength was that of a very under- posted Squadron and no Regimental Headquarters had been raised. The next three years were very lean ones and amounted to a struggle for existence, as those who were with the Regiment at the time will tell you.

One important episode was the publication of our alliance with the Royal Tank Regiment, which was made effective from the 30th June, 1951. We

should be proud of our alliance with this fine Regiment, and we must make sure, by our efforts, that the Royal Tank Regiment shares that pride.

The year 1952 was an eventful one in our history as it was the beginning of that year that we started to receive our Centurions and by June our strength had risen so much that we were able to form R.H.Q., H.Q. Squadron and "B" Squadron. In September of the same year, Nucleus Squadron was formed and was dispatched to Holdsworthy for manning the nucleus of Second Armoured Regiment which was to be formed.

The major highlight of our Regimental life since then has been our participation in the ceremonies connected with the visit to Australia in the early part of 1954 of Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. Many of you will remember our participation in the Royal Review in Canberra on the 15th of February, and the Guard of Honour we provided at Government House and Parliament House, Melbourne, on 24th and 25th of February, respectively. Participation in these ceremonies was a great privilege and inspiration to us as a Regiment. We will long treasure the memory of the kind words of praise uttered by our Sovereign.

The final changes that have taken place in the structure of our Regiment are of recent date and need no further elaboration. Our L.A.D. has had similar history to our own. It was raised about the same time as the Armoured Car Squadron, as the 348 Australian L.A.D., and served with the Squadron in Japan. It returned with them in 1948. Unfortunately, from the time of the L.A.D.'s return to Australia until March 1953 it existed in name only, as during that period it merged with Southern Command Workshops. During this dormant period the L.A.D. changed its title first to the 36 L.A.D., and then to its present title of 1st Armoured Regiment L.A.D. Since March, 1953, it has functioned loyally and efficiently as the integral part of the Regiment that it should have always been.

Last, but not least, our Signal Troop was raised and functioned as a part of the Regiment until January, 1954, when it suffered a fate similar to that of the L.A.D. and was merged with 1st Infantry Brigade Signal Squadron. Happily, however, the Troop again returned to the fold in January of this year, with the exception that some of its members have been retained to operate the Brigade switch-board. Thus concludes the chronicle of the past - the future is untouched before us.