



PARATUS

1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

ABN 16 930 055 791

W: www.paratus.org.au

ISSN 2208-2433 (Online)

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The Stories of Bravery behind the Tank Regiment's Victoria Crosses.

The regiment earned four
Victoria Crosses during the
First World War.

Richard Wain, Cecil Sewell,
Clement Robertson, and
Richard West (Picture:
Tank Museum).

The four Victoria Crosses
awarded to members of
the Tank Corps during the
First World War are to be
put on display alongside
one another for the first
time.

*For full story see following
pages:*



Clement Robertson

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.



In this Issue

- Victoria Cross Recipients
- Committee 2019/2020
- Secretary's Report
- Preparation for AGM
- Cambrai Day Association awards
- Honour Roll
- Port Macquarie Reunion
- Battle of Beersheba
- All that glitters
- Some Crime Humour

The Tank Museum in Bovington, Dorset, has managed to secure the four medals and has unveiled them today in a special exhibition.

One of the VCs, awarded to Cecil Swell, is owned by the museum.

Lord Ashcroft loaned one awarded to Richard West, and the family of Richard Wain lent his.

Following an appeal, the final VC, awarded to Clement Robertson, has also been secured.

The VC was and remains the highest award for gallantry, and the stories of each individual's bravery are staggering.

Sadly, all four VCs were awarded posthumously.



See front Page

Clement Robertson was the first Tank Corps officer to be awarded a VC for his heroics at Passchendale in October 1917.

Prior to an advance, he spent three days in no-man's-land marking out the routes for his tanks to follow – all under heavy fire.

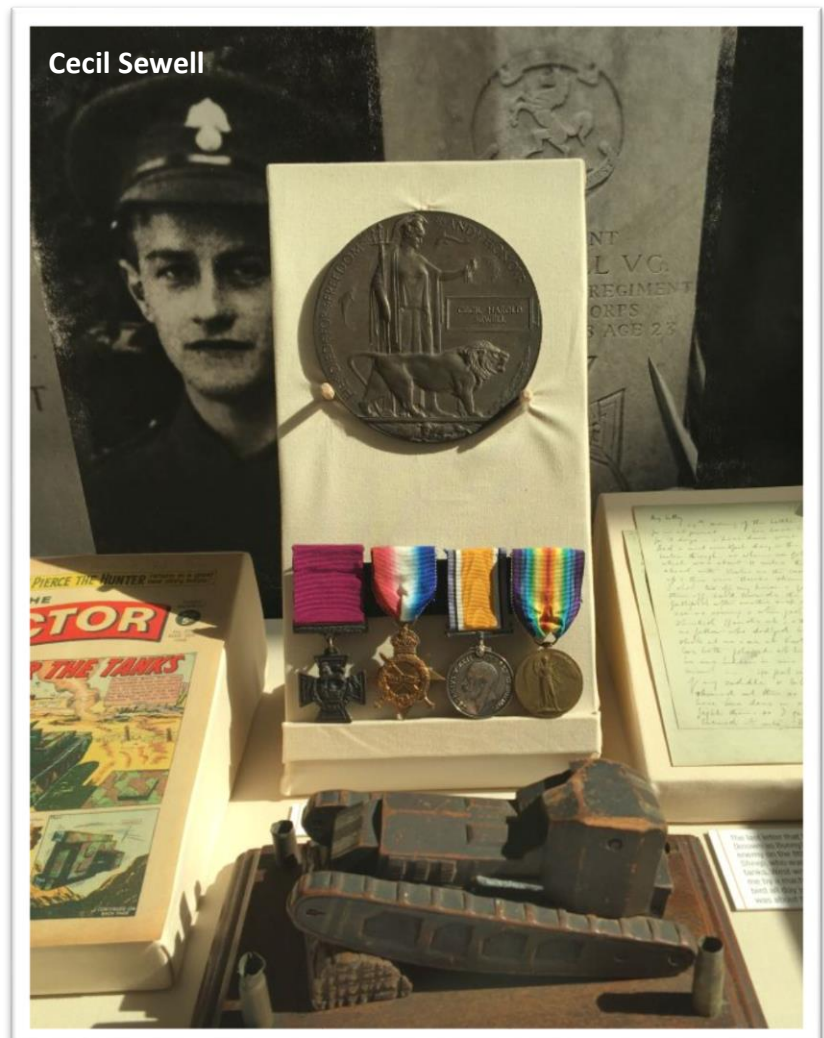
Despite the routes being mapped out, Robertson was concerned that the tanks might lose their way and get bogged down.

Astonishingly, he decided to lead them on foot, refusing to take cover from the shell and bullet fire. As the tanks continued forward, the 26-year-old was shot and killed, but his self-sacrifice led to a successful attack.



Captain Richard Wain was awarded the VC following his heroics at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917.

During the battle, he was seriously injured when his tank was hit, but he shunned a stretcher, climbed out with a Lewis gun and attacked the enemy. He captured a strong point, took prisoners and allowed the infantry to advance.



Capt. Wain then continued shooting at the retreating Germans until he received a fatal shot to the head. He was just 20.

Cecil Sewell was awarded his for two linked actions on August 29th, 1918.

After seeing one of his fellow Whippet tanks fall into a shell-hole and catch fire, he leapt from his own tank and dug away the mud so the men could escape. He then saw that his own tank driver Gunner Knox was wounded and he rushed to help. As he ran across open ground, the 23-year-old was shot several times. While administering first aid, he was shot again, fatally. One report stated that when their bodies were found, Sewell was slumped over Knox's body as if he were protecting him.

Richard West was an experienced soldier when the war started and his VC was awarded for two actions in 1918.

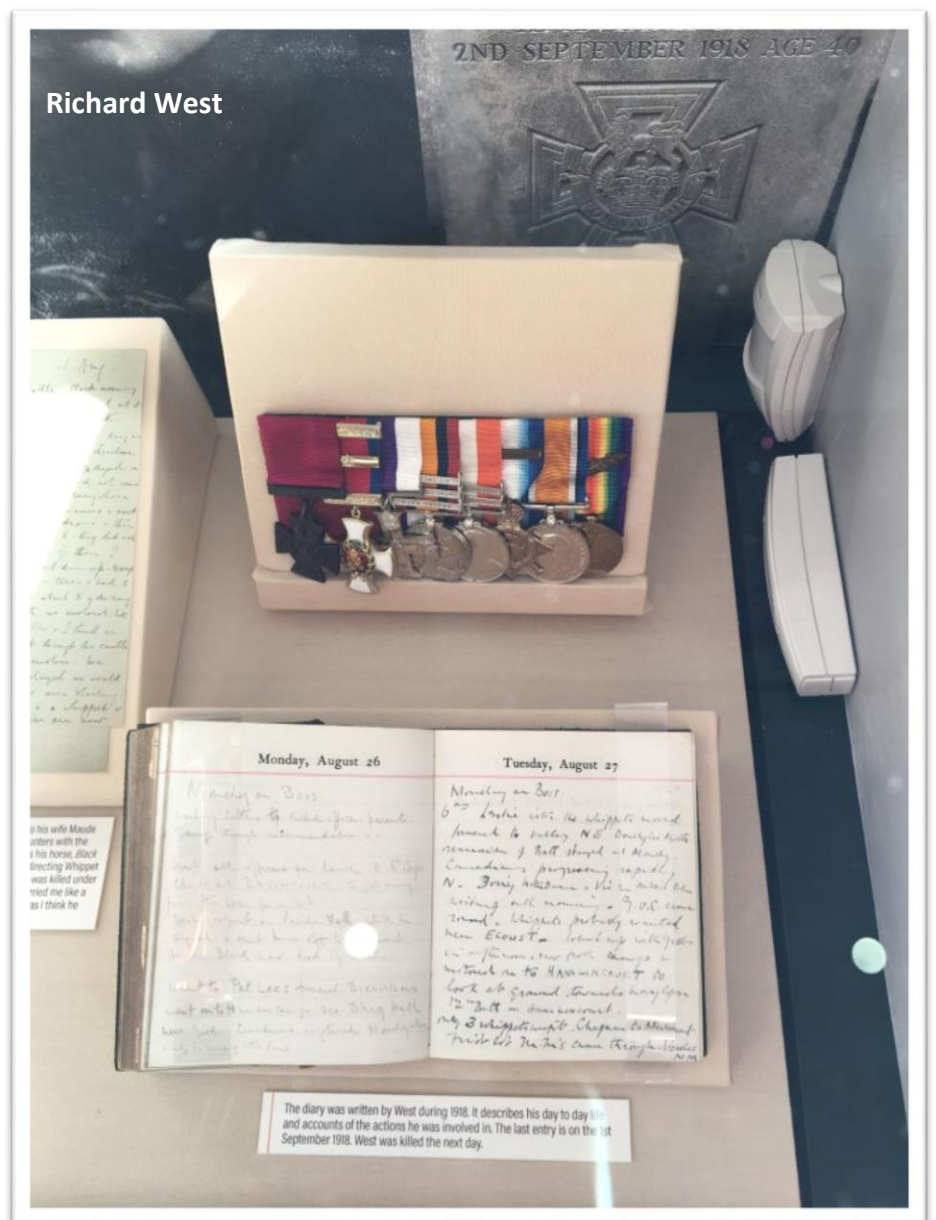
The first was leading men to their objective after having two horses shot from beneath him.

The second was on 2 September when, as a Lieutenant Colonel attached to the Tank Corps and in command of the 6th Light Battalion and their Whippet tanks, he feared a retreat from his infantry due to an enemy counter-attack.

Realising the danger, he rode on horseback up and down the line encouraging them to fight and defend their position.

His last words were:

"Stick it, men; show them fight, and for God's sake put up a good fight."





1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Committee 2019/2020

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MAJGEN Craig Orme DSC, AM, CSC, (Retd)

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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

Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
PO Box 301, Mentone. VIC 3194

E: secretary@paratus.org.au

B: Bendigo Bank
1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.
BSB: 633-000 Account: 161498159



Secretary's Section for the November Newsletter

Secretary's Report

This issue of the Secretary's report covers the following issues:

- Memberships
- Major issues from the last Management Committee Meeting
- Notification of the AGM
- Indicative agenda for the AGM
- Nominations for Management Committee positions
- Proxies
- Major Issues to be addressed at the AGM including Nominations for Life Membership and the Association Honour Rolls

Membership Notes: As at 1 December, the Association has a total of 492 active members; an increase of around 116 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the current Management Committee was elected.

As previously reported, the Association does not have a Recruitment Management Manager and we are largely dependent on existing members to encourage their friends to join.

Management Committee Meeting – 19 November 2020

The meeting was conducted over the internet using Zoom software with 11 of the 14 eligible Committee Members in attendance. Major issues decided/addressed included:

- Date, time and location for the 2020 AGM
- Management Committee positions due for election at the AGM
- Recommendations for Membership fees to be determined at the AGM – no change to membership fees for ordinary members, reduction of 50% for Affiliate and Associate members and 12 months 'free' membership for serving personnel when leaving the Regiment on reposting or discharge
- Life Membership nominations for Peter Rosemond and Ron Bell endorsed for presentation at the AGM
- Options for the Association Honour Roll (Newsletter and Website) be referred to the AGM for discussion and decision
- Feasibility of Scholarships (Education and/or Sporting) for children of Association members (eligibility criteria, conditions, age ranges, etc yet to be developed)

Additional information on these issues is provided in the following paragraphs.

AGM Notification

The AGM is to be held at the Broadford (Victoria) RSL on Saturday 16 January 2021 at 1030 hours. It is estimated the meeting will take up to three (3) hours. A budget of \$500 has been approved to cover the hire of the RSL hall and light refreshments (finger food and sandwiches). Beverages are not included.

Approval has been provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria to conduct the AGM beyond the five (5) month requirement after the end of the Association's financial year as stipulated in the Constitution.

AGM Agenda

An indicative agenda for the AGM is as follows:

1. **Introduction** – includes Reading of the Ode, Reading of the list of deceased since last AGM, Formal Welcome – Peter Branagan (President Broadford RSL) and Apologies.
2. **Administration and Reports** - Minutes from previous AGM and Matters Arising, Correspondence In/Out, Reports (President), Financial Report, Membership Report and State Representatives' Reports.
3. **Elections** - Committee positions declared vacant, Voting for Vice President, Secretary and two other Management Committee positions (it should be noted that at this AGM the terms of the President and Treasurer and half the Committee still have one-year or until the next AGM to run), Determination of Number of Committee Members, Voting for remaining Committee positions, Appointment of elected Members to Committee positions, Election of RAACC Delegate and Election of State Representatives.
4. **Membership Fees and Joining Fees** – Secretary to propose.
5. **General Business** - Ratification of Decision made by email - New Members, Consideration of Life Memberships – Ron Bell and Peter Rosemond and Honour Roll and Died of Wounds.
6. **Briefings** – Patron, Centurion 005 (Peter Branagan), Next Reunion, Project Encompass.

Nominations for Management Committee positions

Nominations for the positions of Secretary, Special Projects 1 and Special Projects may be made at any time from now and up until immediately prior to the actual election for these positions. Any current member may nominate for any of these positions by either emailing the Secretary (secretary@paratus.org.au) or by snail mail to the Secretary PO Box 301 Mentone Vic 3194.

Proxies

Members should be aware that proxies play an especially important role as far as the Association and the AGM is concerned. In the first instance, the AGM must have a quorum of 10% of the membership, either physically or by proxy as allowed under Rule 40 of the Constitution. With a membership of around 492, there must be at least of 50 members either present or represented at the AGM.

Secondly, proxies allow individual members to have a voice in the election of office-bearers as well as in the decision-making process. And this year is particularly important as the AGM considers two (2) nominations for Life Membership as well as a number of options for recognising those former members of the Regiment whom were Killed in Action (KIA), Died of Wounds (DOW) or formally recognised by the DVA as entitled to an *official commemoration*.

Thirdly, proxies provide the present Management Committee with an indication that the membership is either satisfied or dissatisfied with decisions made and the general philosophy of the Committee.

The Proxy Form to be used this year is provided on a separate page. It should be noted that it is a little different from previous years in that members may:

- a. Authorise their proxy (who must be present at the AGM) to vote on all matters on their behalf except for five (5) different resolutions which are listed below the line, and
- b. Authorise their proxy to vote according to their specific instruction (by ticking either For or Against boxes) on five (5) specific issues that are to be decided at the AGM.

Members must ensure that that the person appointed as their proxy confirms that they will be physically present at the AGM, otherwise the proxy is wasted.

Life Memberships

At the Management Committee meeting on 28 February 2019 a new Policy and Procedures for Life Membership of the Association was approved for all future Life Membership nominations. These Policies and Procedures have been used to process nominations that were received for Peter Rosemond and Ron (Dinga) Bell earlier this year.

In general terms the process followed for both nominations was as follows:

- a. Nominations vetted by the Secretary to ensure completeness, and that the nominees as well as the proposers and seconders met the criteria as laid down in the Policy.
- b. Life Membership Sub-Committee was established to review both nominations; subsequently a report was prepared that found that both nominees satisfied the selection criteria, albeit in a significantly different manner.

- c. The nominations were presented to the Management Committee on 19 November 2020 and after discussion both nominations were endorsed for presentation to the 2020 AGM.

The next step in the process is for the AGM to consider and vote on both Nominations for Life Membership. The entire process was conducted strictly as 'Staff-in-Confidence' and neither member was advised of the nominations until after the Management Committee meeting on 19 November 2020.

Extracts from the Report by the Life Membership Sub-Committee are contained in the following paragraphs:

Ron Bell - The following general comments were passed concerning the nomination and the subject of the nomination, Ron Bell:

- a. The written nomination indicated that the nominee clearly met all mandatory and highly desirable requirements and it was evident that Ron had demonstrated loyalty to the Association, its members and to the Regiment for a period greater than 10 years whilst he was a member of the Committee.
- b. Ron had been an excellent member of the RAAC during his service and this continued during his time with the Association and as a member of the Committee.
- c. It was apparent, based on the written nomination and personal knowledge of Ron over many years, that the criteria for life membership had been obviously met.
- d. Ron had been a first-class performer in all activities, including work, community and sport, and this continued whilst a member of the Committee.

The President summed up the discussion by indicating that Ron had met all mandatory and highly desirable criteria; that written advice recommending his nomination should be prepared and forwarded to the Executive and Management Committees of the Association for consideration, and ultimately that the nomination for Life Membership for Ron Bell be submitted for consideration and approval at the 2020 AGM.

Peter Rosemond - The President stated that the Nomination for Peter Rosemond was more difficult to evaluate as the written submission did not specifically address the criteria as specified in the Policy and Procedures. After careful deliberation, all members of the Sub-Committee felt that Peter Rosemond satisfied the mandatory and highly desirable criteria with clarity regarding the Committee's views about paragraph 2b of the Policy and Procedures. Whilst Peter had not served in a specified appointment of the Committee or Executive of the Association, he has been continually empowered by the Committee to act on their behalf in a number of dedicated and difficult roles (see further explanation below). The President invited all other members of the Sub-Committee to offer their opinions. The following general comments were made concerning the nomination and the subject of the nomination, Peter Rosemond.

- a. Peter had been an outstanding member of the Australian Army, of the RAAC. His unrelenting commitment to the Corps and to current and former members of the Corps have continued for many years after his retirement.
- b. Peter's leadership and advocacy has been sought, on numerous occasions, by the Executive of the Association to undertake delicate and difficult matters relating to the formal recognition of Coral-Balmoral, Binh Ba and Hammersley Veterans. Peter has also had an ongoing role on behalf of the 1 Armd Regt Association Executive in representing its interests and helping to mature the fledgling RAAC Corporation in a wide ranging number of sensitive issues, particularly those related to culture and values of membership matters.
- c. Peter has, over many years, acted in a guiding and mentoring role for both former and current members (including Presidents) of the Executive and Management Committees.
- d. As a member of the RAAC Corporation Advisory Board, Peter has formally represented the views of the Executive and Management Committees of the Association, as well as current and former members of the Regiment, seeking their counsel where appropriate.
- e. All Sub-Committee members felt that Peter has provided an untiring commitment to the Association, to the Regiment and to all former members of the Regiment in his endeavours working with the RAAC Corporation and Head of Corps to present cases to Defence Honours and Awards and to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal.

- f. The Sub-Committee all agreed that Peter has acted as a representative for the Association, as an agent of the Executive; and as the Association's point of contact for a number of significant matters and activities over many years since his retirement as RSM of the Army. Peter has also worked sensitively in the background with dedication, providing frank and fearless advice to the RAAC Head of Corps, the Representative Honorary Colonel RAAC, and the 1 Armd Regt Association's Patron and Honorary Colonel. His value in this role, acting in the Association's best interests, has been exceptional.
- g. All members of the Sub-Committee agreed that Peter Rosemond's continuous commitment and dedicated work, as an agent and advocate of the Association's Executive, met and indeed exceeded the requirements of paragraph 2b of the Policy and Procedures.

The President summed up the discussion by indicating that, in his opinion, Peter Rosemond had far surpassed the criteria for acceptance as a life member of the Association. Members of the Sub-Committee agreed with the summation and determined that appropriate written advice should be prepared and forwarded to the Executive and Management Committees of the Association for consideration, and ultimately that the nomination for Life Membership for Peter Rosemond be submitted for consideration and approval at the 2020 AGM.

Honour Rolls

Readers of the Minutes of Management Committee meetings may recall that the subject of Association Honour Rolls and Died of Wounds (DOW) was discussed at Management Committee meetings in February, August and November 2020. Research and subsequent discussions were a direct result of a suggestion that the Association should approach the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) for the formal recognition of Died of Wounds (DOW) for a number of former members of the Regiment who had died since the end of the Vietnam War.

Research revealed that the Australian War Memorial (AWM) only uses DOW if DVA advises that an individual's death is due to war service, provided that the death occurred within the prescribed period that is within two (2) years after the date of the official cessation of hostilities.

Further research revealed that previous Management Committees had acted in good faith taking advice from other parties as to whom should be included on Association Honour Rolls, which are published on the Association Website in the three (3) monthly newsletter (previously Centurion, now Paratus).

There are a number of irregularities with the current Honour Roll: only one soldier listed – Tpr J Kerr – was Killed in Action (KIA) while serving with 1st Armoured Regiment in Vietnam and only one soldier – Tpr MJ Hannaford – was officially recorded as DOW whilst serving with the Regiment. WO2 N Lowes is listed on the AWM Roll of Honour but has not been categorised as either KIA or DOW.

The following members, listed on the Honour Roll were not serving with, or posted to, 1st Armoured Regiment at the time of their death:

- a. WO2 JA (Chesty) Bond (RAAC) – KIA whilst serving with AATTV
- b. WO2 TD (Tom) Phillips (RAAC) – DOW whilst serving with AATTV
- c. WO2 J Stone (RAINF) – DOW whilst serving with AATTV

There also appears to be some confusion as to whether the listing for 'Stone' should actually be for Sgt J Stones RAAC who may have DOW after being Wounded in Action (WIA) whilst serving with B Sqn 3 Cav Regt. It should be noted, however, that the AWM Roll of Honour does not have a listing for Sgt Stones and therefore he was not either KIA or officially categorised as DOW. In fact, James Stones did not pass away until 1991, which is well outside the two (2) period used by the DVA.

If any of the above members - not serving with or posted to the Regiment at the time of KIA or DOW - are to be included on a future Association Honour Roll, then the list should be expanded to include at least four (4) members of 3rd Cavalry Regiment who were KIA or DOW and had previously served with the 1st Armoured Regiment. It is highly probable that there are even more former members of the Regiment who may have been KIA or DOW in Vietnam or in other conflicts, such as Korea. Should these also be added?

There are a further three (3) members who are categorised as DOW on the Association Roll of Honour, but who have not been officially recognised as such by either the DVA or AWM; WO1 Swarbrick, Tpr Barwick and Tpr Bellott. The Association has subsequently been requested to add Cpl AM Anderson (died in 2017) to this list of DOW. It would seem that there has been a misinterpretation, either intentionally or otherwise, of the terminology used by DVA. According to the DVA website, it has been Australian policy since 1922 to extend *official commemoration* to eligible post-war deaths and there are now more than 300,000 official post-war *official commemorations* at cemeteries, crematoria and Gardens of Remembrance in Australia. However, this does not mean that over 300,000 veterans died of their wounds, but rather their death may be attributable to medical conditions that have been accepted by

the DVA. It is also clear that the AWM does not recognise such deaths as DOW as the AWM Roll of Honour includes approximately 103,000 names.

There are many thousands of Vietnam veterans who have died since the end of the conflict or who were either not wounded (either seriously or otherwise) during the conflict, but who have been 'officially commemorated' and many of these are cancer related. To categorise such deaths as DOW detracts from those members who died of their wounds in the immediate aftermath of the conflict.

The Association Honour Roll also includes seven members of the Regiment who were killed accidentally on military activities whilst serving with the Regiment. Their inclusion on the Honour Roll is seen to be fit and proper.

At the Management Committee meeting on 28 August the Secretary was directed to identify three options for consideration. These are as follows:

Option 1 – to include only those officially recognised as either KIA or DOW and those that were killed accidentally, whilst serving with the 1st Armoured Regiment.

Option 2 – as for Option 1 but also to include a separate listing for former members of the Regiment who were either KIA or DOW whilst serving with other units.

Option 3 – as for Option 2 but also to include a separate listing for all those who had been entitled to a DVA *official commemoration*. However, the inclusion of such members would be subject to the approval of their NOK.

The Management Committee generally believes that the Association should adhere to the principles and policies of the AWM and the DVA in determining the categories to be allocated to all former veterans whose death may have resulted from DVA accepted medical conditions.

Members should note that the decision as to which of the above Options is to be adopted by the Association is to be determined by a vote of those members present at the AGM as well as proxies specifically identifying the preferred option.

Feasibility of Scholarships

The concept of academic and/or sporting scholarships for children of members of the Association has yet to be defined. It is anticipated that a reasonably detailed proposal should be available prior to the AGM.





1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

Rule 40
APPENDIX A

Appointment of Proxy

I, _____
of _____
being a member of: 1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

APPOINT

_____ (insert PROXY'S name)

Who is also a member of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated, as my proxy. My proxy is authorised to vote on my behalf on:

- a. all matters except those listed from 1 to 5 below the line (tick in the box provided if applicable)
- b. those matters numbered 1 to 5 below the line below at the general meeting/s (and any adjournments of the meeting/s) on: 16 January 2021

In relation to the following resolutions and/or nominations:

	For	Against
1. Life Membership – Ronald Harry (Dinga) BELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Life Membership - Peter William ROSEMOND CSC, OAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Membership – 12 Months free Membership for personnel on March-out of the Regiment (Reposting or Discharge)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Education and/or Sporting Scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Honour Roll:		
a. Option 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Option 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Option 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: *There can only be ONE VOTE FOR AND TWO VOTES AGAINST any of the Options listed in Resolution 5 – Honour Roll*

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
(of Member appointing Proxy)

This written notice may be handed to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the meeting, or if sent by post or email must be lodged with the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting (Constitution Rules 40 [6] & [7]).

Pursuant to Rule 40 [8] of the Constitution, 'Nothing in these rules shall prevent the Management Committee from exercising its discretion to amend the instrument appointing proxy from time to time, as the case may be.'

Please send Proxy to: The Secretary, 1st Armd Regt Assn Inc. PO Box 301, MENTONE VIC 3194 or scanned and sent via email to S

Cambrai Day 2020 1st Armoured Regiment Association Awards



Soldier of the Year – Tpr
Lachlan Phillips



Driver – Tpr Dakota Darrow



Gnr Tpr Jai Johnsen



JNCO of the year Cpl Wayne
Leathley



An Australian Light Horse Soldier, is the figurine that is to be suitably engraved and presented individually to the Soldier and Junior NCO of the year. This was to be presented at the Cambrai Day Parade in Adelaide but which has now been cancelled due to the COVID outbreak in South Australia.

Association Awards presented by
Mark Reid
SA Rep and Junior Vice President



Non RAAC driver of the
year Cfn Jake Kelly



Cpl Wayne Leathley also
Hammersley CC of the year



1ST ARMoured
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

Honour Roll

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

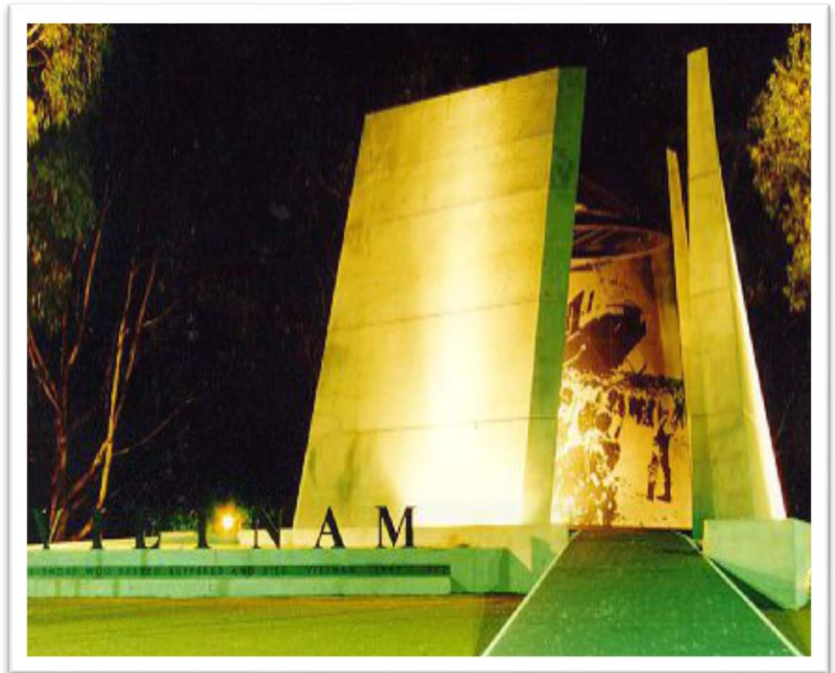
SGT R. G. Murray

TPR A. M. Jordan

TPR A. Patterson

CFN B. Silver (LAD)

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



Death Notices since last Newsletter

Warren James PROUD – 12 August 2020

Louis Roy HAYWARD – 28 Aug 2020

Bruce Anthony HOLT – 7 Oct 2020

Kenneth Eaton SHORT – October 2020

John Leonard WILLIAMS – November 2020

Vales to appear on Web Site as become available



1ST ARMOURD
REGIMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.

1st Armoured Regiment Association Port Macquarie Reunion 2021 - Registration Form

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.



1st Armoured Regiment Association Port Macquarie Reunion 2021

**'Update, Updates, Updates!!!'
Sep/Oct 2020**

Welcome to your Sep/Oct Reunion update. The Aug update was in the Association's Newsletter. If you missed it, or any of the updates or want a registration form then let us know.

Planning continues as we really want this Reunion to go ahead. Name tags and event tickets will commence production soon and will be given to Reunion attendees at the Meet and Greet or can be collected from John Atkinson at Rydges any time from the morning of Friday 23 July 2021.

Travel Update

Port Macquarie to Canberra direct flights! You can now fly between Port Macquarie and Canberra direct thanks to new flights introduced by FlyPelican. Flights will initially operate on Thursday and Sunday afternoons, with an introductory fare of only \$149 one-way. Jump on board this great deal ... flights take off from 1 November and you can book at flypelican.com.au.

Rydges Update

Rydges are still offering their discount accommodation package for either 2 or 3 nights till the end of November 2020. (see the June Update for details). What has changed is they are now taking your details to reserve a room and you do not have to pay till you check in. Also, this offer comes with 24 hours free cancellation notice (no later than 2 pm the day before). They will confirm your booking by email.

Slideshow

John Brooker is preparing a slide show for display at the Meet and Greet, if you have any photos you would like included and/or if you would like to see yourself or your mates as part of the slide show, either after army or during your service! You can send any pictures to him at johnbrooker@tpg.com.au

Attendees and Table bookings Update

If your name is not here and you believe you have registered then contact us immediately. There are still plenty of places left at the reunion before we have to think about putting people on a waiting list. Judi Payne is responsible for the seating plan at the dinner, if you have a request then let her know.

As of 27th Oct, the following have registered:

Johnny Atkinson	Aussie & Rhonda Austin
Geoff & Den Baker	John Brooker
Chris & Ruth Bavistock	Dennis & Helen Britten
Brian Chapple & Sandra	Barry Chambers
Edlington	Ian & Wendy Cummings
Charlie Dearling	Chris & Jan Fenton
Bob & Sue Ferrari	Roger & Sue Foote
Paddy & Debbie Garrigan	Brad Golding
Werner Golla	Herman Harberts
Margaret & Brian Hatfield	Chook Henry & Kris Witty
Phil & Sue Hoseason-Smith	Kevin & Angela Hunter
Max & Sandy Hyson	Richard & Iris James
Rob & Gloria Joyce	David & Vicki Key
Brian & Deidre Lewis	Des & Fran Mahar
George & Suelyn Main	Dean & Denise Martin
David & Ann Maxwell	Gary McNabb & Helen King
Neville & Terri Miller	Bill & Frances Morris
Mick & Judi Payne	Roger & Rhonda Powell
Mal & Carol Reardon	Mark & Gail Reid
Phil & Brenda Rossiter	Eric & Lyn Rowley
Bill & Mary Stanfield	Brewsta & Lozza Tarran
Graeme Unmack	Bill & Annette Van Der Schoot
Joe Verheijen	Phil & Beverley Vicino
Trevor Watts	Simon & Michelle Williams
John & Patricia Wilson	Ray Wood

Questions/ suggestions can be directed to

Mick & Judi Payne jicknmudi@gmail.com

John Atkinson johnnya955@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you in Port in 2021.

Port Macquarie Breakwall

MID NORTH COAST, NSW



Camping

- Powered site
- Unpowered site
- Allocation of unpowered sites only during the Christmas and Easter period.

Accommodation

- Riverside cabin
- Breakwall cabin
- Riverside cabin - 4 berth
- Riverside cabin - 4 berth
- Ocean breeze cabin
- Studio

Facilities

- Ⓜ Amenities
- Ⓜ Swimming pool
- Ⓜ BBQ
- Ⓜ Kiosk
- Ⓜ Playground
- Ⓜ Camp kitchen
- Ⓜ Dump point
- Ⓜ Bin station
- Ⓜ Fire extinguisher
- Ⓜ Fire hose reel
- Ⓜ Fire hydrant
- Ⓜ Evacuation meeting point



Remembering the Battle of Beersheba

31st October 1917

THE CHARGE: Ron Marshall's work, on display at Morpeth Gallery, commemorates 100 years since the last great horse charge in history. Picture: Ron Marshall

To the Men of Combat Team Foxtrot,

As your force assembles to join with Australian mounted troops around the world to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the 'last' great cavalry charge, it is perhaps a good time to remember the feats of those men and the effect they had on the enemy of their day.

At Beersheba the 4th Light Horse Brigade's bold charge against Turkish positions at Beersheba, seized critical wells that enabled British Empire forces to break the Ottoman line near Gaza and advance into Palestine....

It was not until 4.30 p.m. on the 31st of October, that the 4th and 12th Regiments of the 4th L.H. Brigade moved off at the trot, leaving the 11th to follow as reserve as soon as it arrived. Brig Grant led his regiments straight for Beersheba and the setting sun and from Kashim Zanna, amid bursting bombs and a hail of bullets from German aircraft, Lt Gen Chauvel, Commander of the Desert Mounted Corps and his staff watched excitedly one of the great feats of arms of the Palestine campaign. Two batteries of Horse Artillery galloped into action in the open to support the Light Horse and as soon as they had opened fire, Grant and his regiments, squadron after squadron in line, swept into full view of the enemy, the men grasping their bayonets as if they were swords. Two squadrons of the 12th Regiment galloped straight into the town while a savage hand-to-hand struggle took place around the trenches. It was too much for the Turks; their plans for the destruction of the wells and an orderly withdrawal collapsed.

Grant's brigade took over 1000 prisoners, nine guns and much other material, their losses were thirty-one killed and thirty-two wounded, no great price for such an achievement, but far more importantly, they had captured the wells intact.

While the famous ride cheered the Horsemen, it had a depressing and a permanent effect on the nerves of the Turks. An intercepted wireless message, sent by the Turkish commander as he fled in the night from Beersheba, was that his troops had broken because they were "terrified of the Australian cavalry."

A German staff officer captured in Beersheba said that, when the 4th Brigade was seen to move, its advance had been taken for a mere demonstration. "We did not believe," he said, "that the charge would be pushed home. That seemed an impossible intention. I have heard a great deal of the fighting quality of Australian soldiers. They are not soldiers at all; they are madmen."

Your current operations continue the strong association with the Middle East Region and fine traditions of the mounted Australian soldier forged by the Light Horse of WWI, the Australian Divisional Cavalry Regiments of WWII and more recently the soldiers of SECDET, AMTG, AATTI and MRTF of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I wish you every success in your operations and safe return to your families in Australia.

Maj Gen David Chalmers
HOC RAAC

2009

All That Glitters.....

The Origins of the Black Pace Stick and Sam Browne Belt in the RAAC

By Major Peter Branagan, OAM (Retd)

The old proverb *All That Glitters is Not Gold* means that not everything that is shiny and superficially attractive is valuable – in fact it could be silver! Such is the case with the accoutrements of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. The fittings on the black Sam Browne belt and black RSM's pace stick, the soldiers black web waist belt, the buttons and badges of rank on dress uniforms, all shine with a similar hue.

As the result of their attendance at a Royal Australian Infantry Corps RSM's course in early 1971; and their very shabby treatment thereon, Warrant Officers John Hawton and Ivan Maher decided to attempt to redress the situation. Their plan initially was to give our senior Warrant Officers an edge over their mainly infantry counterparts who naturally all wore the brown Sam Browne belt with brass fittings and the standard brown pace stick. Following consultation with his Commanding Officer at the time



RSM Armoured Centre 1972

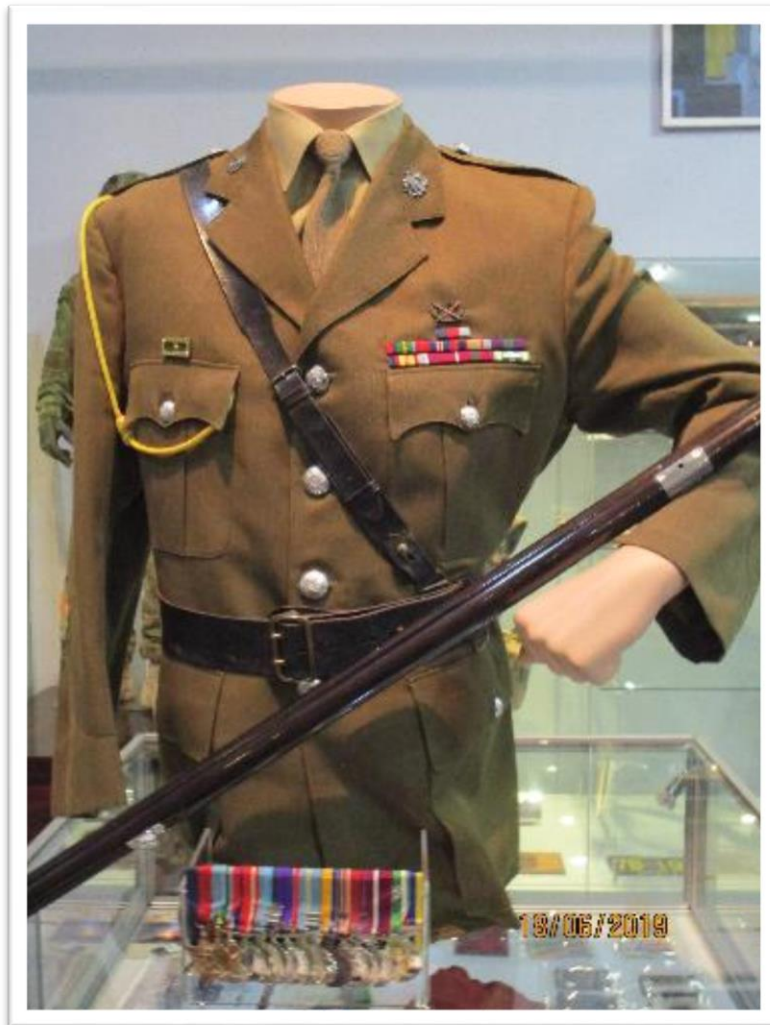
– Lieutenant Colonel Dimitri Richard 'Doc' Kepper; Ivan dyed his Sam Browne belt black and had the fittings chromed. He enlisted the aid of the Armoured Centre carpenter to disassemble his pace stick and paint it black whilst the fittings were also sent away to be chromed.

So was born a tradition in dress that has endured to this day, much to the chagrin of 'many' in the wider Army. In later years the black and chrome accoutrements were also adopted by the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps and Australian Army Aviation.

Ivan Paul Maher passed away on 19 September 2019 at the age of 91 years. However, his legacy will be ever enduring.



Ivan Maher and John Hawton - Canberra April 2008



Ivan Maher's original pace stick which he presented to WO1 Percy White, DCM on his appointment as RSM, 1st Armoured Regiment in July 1971. This pace stick is on display in the Percy White, DCM display cabinet in the Australian Army Tank Museum, Puckapunyal. Ivan's Service Dress jacket and medals are also featured in this image.



SSM Ivan Maher and Sgt Len Swarbrick Nui Dat, South Vietnam 1968

Crime HUMOUR

