

November 2016

# Centurion

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## 100 Years on



100 year anniversary of the first Tank deployed in combat, exactly on the 15th September 2016 and Celebrated in London, including a replica WWI British Mk IV Male Tank. See full article on page 23.

### Theatres of Operation

Japan

- Vietnam - Battle Honours
- Coral - Balmoral
  - Hat Dich
  - Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands

Afghanistan

Our Soldiers Today  
click on

<http://armynews.realviewdigital.com/#folio=1>

### 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.

#### Important:

If you change home, postal or email addresses, please advise Treasurer.

If at all possible please provide an email address for Newsletter distribution.



Paratus

### In this Issue - Number 73

- 2016/2017 Committee
- Honour Roll
- Exercise Hamel – Cultana
- Viet Vets day – Canberra, Lou Walker OAM
- ARN 169005 Update
- Viet Vets Lunch Melbourne, Col. Gerry McCormack
- Reunion 2018, Adelaide
- ARN 169044 - Moama RSL
- Editors Desk
- Notice to Members
- State News
- 100 year anniversary of the Tank
- A Cent called Phuốc Mỹ Stephen White, retired RTR Brig.

CO 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment  
LT COL Chris Gardiner



RSM 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment  
WO1 Jason Robinson



Some of the Vehicles manned by members of  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment over the years.



Staghound Armoured Car



Canadian Ford Lynx Scout Car



Saracen APC



Centurion Tank



Leopard Tank



ASLAV

Abrams M1A1 AIM SA Tank

M113AS4



M88 Recovery Vehicle

Bushmaster





**Patron**

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



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**Association Web Site**

<http://www.paratus.org.au>

**Far North Queensland Representative Wanted !!!!!**

An Expression of interest notice is to be placed on the Web page and Facebook page and next edition of Newsletter for a Far North Qld Representatives position.

Peter Still has volunteered to be the NT Rep. along with Mick Masterton who has volunteered to take up the NSW Rep position. They have been approved as stand in reps., until positions are advertised and voted on at the 2017 AGM. NT and NSW positions will be advertised prior to 2017 AGM.

**Expression of Interest to the Secretary Trevor Watts 0467 327 562 or [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)**



The following Honour Roll is dedicated to those 1st Armoured Regiment soldiers that have made the ultimate sacrifice



### Died Of Wounds 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 K Patterson  
CFN B Silver (LAD)

### Killed In Action

WO2 Chesty Bond  
US Bronze Star for Valour  
Killed Quang Tri,  
25<sup>th</sup> April 1969

WO2 J Stone (Mid Post)  
Killed Thua Tien,  
19th April 1967

TPR J Kerr  
Killed Phuoc Tuy Province,  
13 May 1969

### Died Of Wounds

TPR M Hannaford  
Killed Bien Hoa,  
14<sup>th</sup> December 1968

WO2 T Phillips (Mid Post)  
Da Nang, 20 Mar 1966

Corrected on advice by Bruce Cameron (Historian)

#### New members:

Craig Orme DSC AM CSC - Patron  
Jim Davis  
David Earl  
Mark Greaves - Serving  
John Haynes  
Larry Maxwell  
Peter Montgomery  
Brian Norton  
Auric Tomlinson

#### Donations 169005:

Doug Blackney  
Peter Jarratt  
Vic members on Tolmie camping trip

#### Q Store - for Sale:

20th Birthday Polo's  
1 x Maroon - 3XL  
1 x Maroon - M  
\$40.00 each includes postage.

Contact the Treasurer  
Ron Bell  
03 9408-8902

For all other items see Web Page  
<http://www.paratus.org.au/store>

## Exercise Hamel 2016 Cultana Training Area.

The Advertiser  
June 27, 2016

Almost 10,000 military personnel from the Australian Army, navy and air force — along with troops from the US, UK and New Zealand — will take part in the exercise at Cultana, between Port Augusta and Whyalla on the Eyre Peninsula. Exercise Hamel 2016 will run until mid-July. Brigadier Ben James, commander of the Army's 1st Brigade, told *The Advertiser* the exercise was designed to test the readiness of the 1st Brigade — based out of Adelaide and Darwin — for deployment.

He said troops would be put in hypothetical situations — including coming up against enemy gangs, militia or terrorists — and would have to respond to them.

"It's all going very well ... but there is a lot of hard work ahead," he said.

The 1st Brigade will be sending two task groups to Iraq to support Operation Okra, the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the international effort against ISIS, later this year.

Brigadier James said about 400 of the troops participating in Exercise Hamel would be deployed to Iraq later this year.

He said he wanted to highlight the importance of the army's Cultana training base.

Defence has given an insight into the exercise in a series of action photographs supplied to *The Advertiser* taken during preparations for the event.

Director General of Army Training and Doctrine, Brigadier Mick Ryan, said the exercise tested the troops on a range of different activities — from humanitarian assistance missions and disaster relief operations through to high level war fighting contingencies.

"We are very proud of the Army and this is a terrific activity where young Australian soldiers get out there and show the community who we are and what we do," he said.

He said the Army had been working with councils and the State Government to ensure Exercise Hamel would be conducted in a respectful manner.

"Major exercises do have an impact on the community and we have balanced the training objectives to try and minimise the impact on the local community," he said.

"We would like to thank the community for their hospitality, support, patience and understanding." Many military personnel and vehicles involved in Exercise Hamel arrived in Adelaide on *HMAS Adelaide III* last week.



An Australian Army Armoured Personnel Carrier at Cultana



M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks of the 1st Armoured Regiment during Exercise Predators Strike at the Cultana Training Area.



Commander of the 1st Brigade Brigadier Ben James Observes training from an M1A1 Abrams main battle tank.



Welcome the newest members of the Regiment



On Thursday 1 September 2016, Officer Commanding A Squadron, MAJ Al Charry, presented the Australian Defence Medal (ADM) to PTE Ian Hills, LCPL Chris Hughes, TPR Josh Ison and TPR Taylor Gibson.

The ADM is awarded to members who complete 4 years continuous service. On behalf of the Commanding Officer and soldiers of the Regiment, Thank you for your dedicated service.

1st Brigade - Australian Army



## 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association support at work

### Sponsorship Awards for the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Soldier of the year
- Junior Non Commissioned Officer of the year

### A Squadron Vietnam Veterans sponsor:

- The Hammersley Awards for A Squadron

### Students of Merit Awards:

- Tank Gunners Course
- Tank Crew Commanders Course
- Regimental Officers Basic Course – Tank



Your continued support and prompt payment of annual fees is most appreciated



## Honouring Vietnam Veterans Australian War Memorial 17<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – Lou Walker OAM



I was asked by the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association to represent the Association and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment on the occasion of the 'Honouring Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Program' held at the Australian War Memorial on Wednesday 17 August 2016, which I was honoured to accept.



The day started off with attending the Memorial's film studios at the Bean Building with another dozen or so invited veterans, for the production of a Short Film for a video portrait for the War Memorial which will be housed in perpetuity within the National Collection. This consisted of a video of the invited attendees reflecting on our involvement in the Vietnam War, no words just a constant gaze at the camera, then a second sitting reciting the lyrics to the song, 'I was only 19' from an auto que. I have no idea what will be used of my involvement in this process but I know it bought a tear to my eye when reciting the lyrics, as the song has a habit of cutting to the bone as I know it does for many veterans, regardless of era. There was a break of two hours before the second stage and I had to go and get my pass to attend, so I went to the information counter at the entrance to the Memorial and

as luck would have it, as when I walked in, they were conducting the outside rehearsals for the song, 'I was only 19' for the Last Post Ceremony later that afternoon.



Having met John Schumman previously in Quorn a few years ago and having a few cool drinks with him at that time, I venture fourth to say hello and to take a few photos as I thought I wouldn't have the chance during the actual ceremony. I was immediately confronted by security, but after explaining my purpose and swearing on the bible that I wouldn't take any photos, as they were concerned I would publish them on social media before the Last Post Ceremony went to air, they allowed me to enter. John remembered me so we had a great chat and of course he allowed me to take a few photos of their next rehearsal, much to the shaking of heads from security. John is keen to collect a few beers from me when he is next in Quorn!

The second stage was attending a special performance by John Schumman and Hugh Mc Donald of John's song 'I was only 19' in the Hall of Memory at 1600hrs.

Click on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UMgPOY-M44>

There were 100 invited Vietnam Veterans to this performance and was filmed live for the various television networks across Australia for viewing that evening during their news coverage and the MC for the performance was Brendon Nelson.



For those that have been in the Hall of Memory you know that the echo is very acute and having done a recce earlier, I wondered what the singing and guitar playing

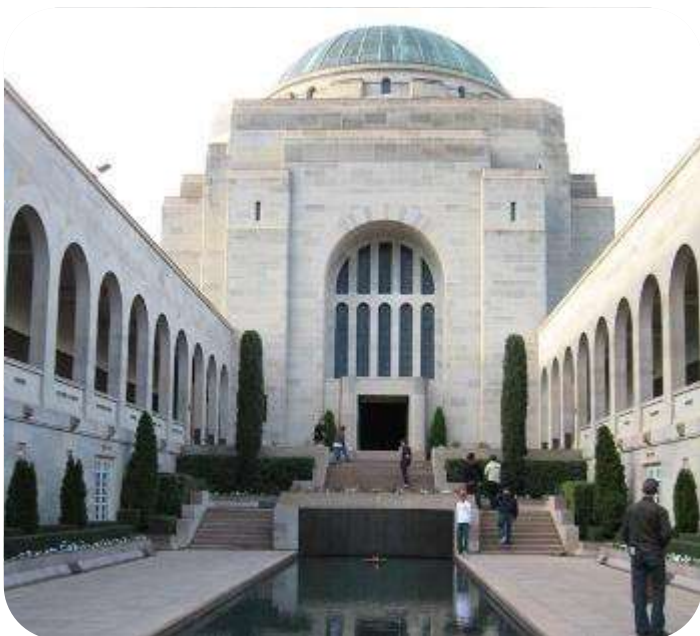
would be like during the actual performance. No need to worry, it was brilliant and very emotional to all present and will be a lasting memory for all that were privileged to witness.

Once that was over we had an hour wait for the Last Post Ceremony to begin and to allow the public access to the Pool of Reflection. Once again it was started off with John Schumman, Hugh McDonald and another guitar player performing the song; 'I was only 19', this time with chopper noise preceding the start of the song. The complete 'Last Post Ceremony' went for about an hour and I recommend it to all that visit the War Memorial.

The War Memorial has made some outstanding changes to the various displays and I was very impressed with the Vietnam Display. The RAAC involvement in that war takes up a large proportion of the display and all major conflicts that we were involved with are displayed in some format or another, again, well worth visiting and seeing. Another initiative is the 'Australia's Vietnam War' website at; [vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au](http://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au) where you can see 4665 combat incidents involving Australian and New Zealand troops from the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force displayed on interactive maps – over 95% of all recorded 1ATF combat incidents.



Detailed information is provided on every one of these incidents including the date, time, location, unit involved, friendly and enemy strength, friendly and enemy casualties, and a description of the event.



Vietnam veterans can add their own accounts by uploading their recollections, photos and other digital material building the website into an expanding archive of details about the campaign

Information in the website can be filtered using fields such as date, unit, operation name and casualty count. Analytical tools can be applied showing, for example, the causes of casualties suffered by particular units or the frequency of contact with the enemy. Map overlays show trends and areas of high concentration of combat events such as the concentrations of enemy land mine incidents.

Contact the team:

Telephone: (02) 6268 8848

Mobile: 0439 887 580

Email: [b.hall@adfa.edu.au](mailto:b.hall@adfa.edu.au)

Or use the website feedback system as stated above



I would like to thank the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association for allowing me the privilege of representing both the Association and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment during the, 'Honouring Vietnam Veterans Ceremony' during the lead up to the '50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan the following day.

Paratus

L.D.Walker, OAM







Engine Lift



Work on 005 is now progressing a little quicker than before as most of the stripping and fixing has been completed. As the above pictures show we have now lifted the new engine in.



We have now installed the oil tank and connected all the oil lines with the exception of the line to the oil cooler. The LH fuel tank has been cleaned and all the small pin hole repaired, repainted and repositioned back the hull.



### **RH Manifold is bolted to engine**

The RH fan housing assembly and RH air cleaner mount has been attached and the LH will also be in place by the time you read this article.

### **Fuel Lift Tank**



### **Fuel Tank in place**



We have also bolted the RH manifold back on the engine as we are not installing the RH fuel tank so we can access all the steering rods in case we have problems at a later stage.

Work will continue until the museum closes for Christmas break and will start again in the New Year. We hope to have 005 mobile in the first half of 2017.

Over the past 12 months John Blackwell, Tubby, Icky Smith, Bushy Coutts with the help of Gary Mc Nabb and Rob Joyce when available have worked on 005. Without John Blackwell this project would never eventuated.

### **Some of the Past History**



Centurion 169005 moving up the ramp to the school of Armour's Tank Hanger. John Brooker is driving and Ian Smith is in the Commander's Cupola  
Photo by Paul D. Handel

## Vietnam Veterans' Lunch

RACV City Club Melbourne Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016.  
2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. Special guest speaker

### Colonel Gerald M McCormack (Gerry)



Gerry, former Troop Leader of 1 Troop, C Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment who took part in the battles around Fire Support Base Coral in May and June 1968. The Coral battles were the first and last time an Australian Brigade size force was engaged since the Second World War.



Since retiring from the Australian Army in 2000, Gerry has filled in his time with grandchildren, writing, travelling and talking about history, current affairs and the meaning of life.



C Squadron members at the Luncheon  
L to R: Peter Lukeis, Leigh Jukes, Gary Willits, Kev Hunter, Gerry McCormack, Barry Clugston, Herman Harberts, David Wiegall & Mick Butler

## Gerry McCormack in Profile

After my two years in Vietnam I was posted as a Captain instructor at Portsea on the 12 month officer training course, for nearly 3 years after which I was posted back to Pucka as 2ic A Sqn which was commanded by the Brit Exchange Officer, a fascinating time. He was then made Training Officer on Regt HQ so, even though I was still a Capt., I had 12 months as Commander A Sqn. It included a month in the outback west of Alice Springs in M113, all of which were flown up there by Hercules. I was then promoted to Major and had 6 months commanding HQ Sqn before going up to Canberra to add some common sense to the project to replace Centurion with either the Leopard or the US M60. I am glad we got the Leopard but I am even gladder that we did not have to go to war in it. The armour was too thin!! but it did lift us into the modern tank world.

From there I spent 18 months in the Brit Army with time in Germany in the British Army on the Rhine and back in England at the Technical Staff College and then at the Command and Staff College near London. It was great to be there with the family as they were growing up.

Back home I went to Canungra on the wing that conducted Officer's Tactics courses, for Capt., Maj and Lt Col and left there on promotion to Lt Col to go to the HQ of 1 Div. at Enoggera. Peter Badman was the Chief of Staff so it was good to be working for him again. That include a couple of Kangaroo Exercises with part of the Regt, all of 2 Cav and most of the APCs. We formed an armoured battle group for the first time. Then back down to Pucka as CO of 1 Armd. Regt in 1983 & 84. This included two exercise at Shoalwater Bay, carried there by HMAS Tobruk and landed on the beach. It was a full strength Regt, three Sqns. of tanks and a full HQ Sqn to keep them loaded with fuel, ammo, rations and crews. I think that such a Regt only existed for about 6 years, the numbers were then cut and an ARES experimental Sqn was formed before it went to Darwin. After Pucka I went to Queenscliff to the Australian version of the Staff College that I attended in England. It was a two year posting and after that I was promoted Colonel and appointed as Commandant of Canungra. After that great assignment two more followed in Australia, one in Sydney and one in Canberra before I went to South Korea as the Commander of the Australian group attached to the UN Command. I spent a lot of time at Pan Mun Jom arguing with the idiot North Koreans. Then after that I became the Defence Attaché in Germany, two and a half years in Bonn near Cologne and then, when the German Govt. moved to Berlin we did too, but only for 6 months as my time was up.



# Reunion 2018 - Adelaide

Friday 16th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th November 2018



The 2018 Reunion will be held in Adelaide. Details such as they are at this stage are contained in this brief. These are correct at the time of printing, but be aware some may change slightly as the planning process continues.

**Dates:** 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## **Functions & Venues:**

**Fri 16 Nov:** Registration 1100-1600 Registration Intercontinental Hotel.

Meet & Greet 1800-2230 Intercontinental Hotel. Cost: **\$80 pp, food & drinks.**

**Sat 17 Nov:** Back to the Regiment Edinburgh military precinct. Exact details of the visit will be released closer to the event once the Reg. releases the day's activities. At this stage all attendees will be bused out and back to the Regiment, due to base security arrangements, **(\$15-\$19 pp, for bus. TBA closer to the date)**, if any other costs are incurred they will be passed on in due course.

There is a plan B, if for some reason the regiment can't host on base, but at this stage it is unlikely this would happen.

**Sun Nov 18:** Gala Dinner William Magarey Room Adelaide Oval Cost **\$125 pp, food & drinks.**

1830-1900 Pre Dinner Drinks.

1900-2359 Seated Dinner.

Accommodation and Function pricing will be placed on the association web site as soon as they are confirmed by the SA organising committee.

**See you in Adelaide**





## THE INTERCONTINENTAL



The InterContinental located in central Adelaide, positioned exclusively along the banks of the River Torrens, adjacent to the Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide Convention Centre and the Casino; InterContinental Adelaide effortlessly blends luxury with comfort. Guest rooms boast magnificent and uninterrupted views across the historic and cultural city of Adelaide, giving you a real sense of your surroundings. Visit website for further details: [www.icadelaide.com.au](http://www.icadelaide.com.au)

### REGISTRATION

The Registration will be held in the Pre Function Area of the InterContinental. Once guests have registered they can either catch up with each other at several bars or lounge areas within the hotel. Guest may even choose to get together in the many coffee lounges, cafes or hotels within very close proximity of the InterContinental.

### MEET & GREET

The main Ballroom of the InterContinental has a capacity for up to 500 delegates. 4 hour beverage package and a selection of platters included.

### ACCOMMODATION

Services available to guests include: free daily local

Newspaper, Coffee/Tea making facilities in room, High Speed Internet Access via DOCOMO with access for up to 4 devices, confidential fax machine, data port and a two-line telephone, Television with CNN, Foxtel and pay per view movies, Complimentary use of our Choice Fitness Centre.

There are also many hotels and motels to choose from within walking distance of the InterContinental.



## GALA DINNER

### ADELAIDE OVAL



Adelaide Oval has long provided the perfect location to host private functions and events. As one of South Australia's most impressive venues – boasting picturesque views of the hallowed turf, the city, St Peter's Cathedral and more – it provides a unique setting to entertain clients, celebrate milestones or network in style.

Our diverse range of rooms means we can cater for as few as five or as many as 3000 guests – for everything from meetings & seminars to conferences, cocktail parties, lunches & dinners, weddings and more.



### GETTING AROUND OUR CITY

#### ADELAIDE AIRPORT TO CITY

Adelaide Airport is only 7kms from the city, making it an easy 15 minute drive away to the City Centre by bus, car or taxi. Adelaide Metro buses leave frequently from Adelaide Airport and terminate in the city Centre.



#### FREE CONNECTOR BUS

The FREE 99C City Loop services take you on a loop around the City. It starts at Victoria Square heading both clockwise and anti-clockwise around the loop of the city.

It takes in the SA Museum, State Library, Art Gallery, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Botanic Gardens, Rundle Street (East End), Tandanya Aboriginal Culture Gallery, the Central Markets, the Hindley Street precinct, SA and Adelaide Universities, so is very useful for saving your legs and reaching all the major tourist attractions.

#### FREE PUSH BIKE HIRE

A great way to see Adelaide, with the Parklands and Torrens River banks. A leisurely ride along the Torrens takes in scenic views.

Adelaide has a network of dedicated bike lanes and paths. Look out for the three Adelaide City Bikes' depots around the city. Hire is free. They'll even give you a helmet and bike lock.

#### TRAM RIDE

A tram ride through the city's heart is **free**. Watch out for the bright green bus called "Tindo." It's the world's first solar-powered bus. Tindo travels between the city and North Adelaide.

Planning to travel a little further? Adelaide's bus and train network will take you efficiently to your destination, with major tourist attractions just minutes from the city. Adelaide's premier beachside resort is Glenelg and the tram service will have you there in barely 30 minutes.



#### WALKING

Seeing the city sights by foot is always a holiday highlight. The flat streets make Adelaide an easy walking city. The visitor friendly street layout means the only decision to make is which route to take.

#### ATTRACTIONS

##### RUNDLE MALL – RUNDLE STREET

Rundle Mall offers the largest selection of shopping facilities in Adelaide, including the three largest department stores, 15 arcades and 700 retailers.





Be tantalized all year round by some of Adelaide's best known cafes, restaurants and wine bars. Enjoy alfresco dining and the vibrancy that makes this street one of Adelaide's favourite hot spots for locals and tourists alike. Every Sunday, the street becomes the Rundle Street Markets. Stroll among more than 100 market stalls selling South Australian arts and crafts, fashion, jewellery, local wines and specialty foods. The street's fabulous cafes and stores are open too.

### ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens are among the most beautiful in Australia. See water lilies as tall as you are (maybe taller) and lush, green grass. Let tree-lined walkways guide you. Pack a picnic and let the musical birds serenade you.



### POPEYE RIVERBOAT CRUISE

The Popeye will take you on a 40 minute round trip from the landing outside the Elder Park Café, up to the Torrens Weir, before turning around and travelling back up to the Adelaide Zoo. You can either depart the boat at the Adelaide Zoo landing or continue back to the landing in front of the Elder Park Rotunda.



### CHINATOWN – ADELAIDE CENTRAL MARKETS

Pagoda style roofs, red lanterns, authentic restaurants, grocery stores and retailers ensure that a wonder through Chinatown's streets give visitors that unique experience usually only found in Asia. Situated at the Central Markets, this place is buzzing with the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of Central Market are sure to delight its visitors.



### HAIGH'S CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Haigh's Chocolates Visitor Centre is conveniently located five minutes' drive from Adelaide's city centre, or catch the Adelaide Metro bus service. Learn how chocolate is made from our raw cocoa beans, carefully selected from plantations around the world. View our quality chocolates in the making and then of course enjoy a taste or two. Free guided tours run for approximately 20 minutes.



### ADELAIDE GAOL

As one of the two oldest public buildings in Adelaide, the Gaol has much to offer in the way of education, history and entertainment. You can learn about Adelaide's penal history and its architecture from the time of the early settlers' right through to today. Wander around the Gaol at your leisure or book a place on one of our guided History Tours, maybe you would prefer a night time Ghost Tour or even participate in a Paranormal Workshop. A must see and an easy walk from CBD.



### PORT RIVER DOLPHIN CRUISES

Port Adelaide and the Port River is the home of the Port River Dolphins. Forming part of the world renowned Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, the Port River is one of a handful of places in the world where wild dolphins live within a major city. Located on 12 kilometres from the city centre, it inhabits the amazing sanctuary of about 40 Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins. Boat operators, based next to the famous Port Adelaide Lighthouse offer regular Port River cruises on Sundays.



### HAHNDORF BUS TOUR

Hahndorf is situated in the picturesque Adelaide Hills about 30 minute drive out of Adelaide and is renowned as the premier tourist town for the region. Hahndorf's attraction lies in the historical value of the town and has plenty to offer the tourist or day tripper. . It is the ideal place to buy traditionally made wursts and German smallgoods; there are also museums, galleries, antiques, soaps, fabrics, and a crazy leather shop which must not be missed. . After you take in all that, try a relaxing afternoon tea break at The German Cake Shop.



### WINE TOURS – Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale

The abounding Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale wine region is about an hour's drive from Adelaide; so is perfect for members and tourists wanting to experience our awards winning wine regions. It is home to some of Australia's more famous wines such as Jacob's Creek, Penfolds, Angove's, Fox Creek, Chapel Hill and many more. Boasting over 70 cellar door sales, one can truly experience fine tasting wines.



See you in Adelaide





Contact for registration and payment is:

Mark Reid – [reid54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au) – 21 James Harrold Court Golden Grove SA 5125

Des Thompson – [desthomo@bigpond.com](mailto:desthomo@bigpond.com) – 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

BSB 065112

Account No 10229270

Table bookings – [reid54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au) and Grant Lane - [grant.lane@outlook.com](mailto:grant.lane@outlook.com) – tables of ten only please.

## Adelaide Reunion 2018 Registration Form

PARTICULARS Title: Rank/MR/MRS/MS	Given name	Surname/ Post Nominal	Preferred Name
Member Name			
Wife / Partner Name			

### CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Suburb / Town</b>	<b>Mobile</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>Post Code</b>	<b>Email.</b>

**REGISTRATION FEE \$50.00**, Is non Refundable. Make cheques / Money orders payable to

1st Armoured Regiment Reunion 2018

Direct Debit to BSB 065112 ACC 10229270

I /we would be interested in attending all /some of the following events

Event	Number Attending
Meet & Greet, Intercontinental Hotel \$80.00pp	
Trip to 1AR Bus fare approx. \$15.00-\$18.00pp TBC	
Reunion Dinner Adelaide Oval \$125.00pp	

Note: All accommodation will be self-book.

Association Member	Yes	No
--------------------	-----	----

Any special diet / accessibility requirements

Return all registrations and payments by cheque/Money Order to:

1st Armoured Regiment Reunion

18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

### Disclaimer

All members and or their partners attending the 1st Armoured Regiment Association Reunion, Adelaide 2018 do so at their own risk. The reunion committee accept no responsibility for personnel injury, property damage or any other loss that may be suffered through participation in any event/s comprising the 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion, Adelaide 2018

SQN FOR NAME TAG CIRCLE ONE ONLY

HQ SQN A SQN B SQN C SQN TSS OSS LAD

Dates Served in SQN

Corps RAAC, RAEME, ORDNANCE, TRANSPORT, CATERING, MEDICAL, SIGS

Other list.....

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE**

## A journey from the steamy battle fields of SVN to the Moama RSL - ARN 169044

Bruce Cameron alerted me to the fact that ARN 169044 had been restored by the Moama RSL and that they would like to know the history of the tank and the contact details of the crew members. From information given to me by Bruce, I was able to track down and spoke to all the crew from around Australia and passed the information onto Ken Jones (RSL) to invite everyone to the recognition ceremony and the unveiling of a plaque. All members were able to attend apart from Driver, Mick Davies who passed away recently.

Peter Lukeis (Editor)



### Thanks to Bruce Cameron for the following article

The almost 70 year old tank stands on a concrete plinth. It is in the open, but it is obvious that it is well cared for. What is it that motivates some people to make such effort? The fact that the Centurion is a 'war horse' provides part of the answer. Its location is also relevant ... in front of the Moama RSL. It is the enthusiasm of the RSL's members to preserve a significant part of Australia's military history, however, that provides the real key.

As ex-service personnel, they are aware of the role that such tanks performed in Vietnam; defeating the enemy and saving Australian lives. It was for this reason that they acquired Centurion Army Registered Number (ARN) 169044 in 1986. A current project to turn back the effects that years of weathering have had on the tank's exterior, has rekindled the desire of the RSL's members to learn more of its history, in particular, about those who crewed it on operations.

This is where Mick Jacob BEM (M) comes in. Living in the area and known to be someone who served with 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in Vietnam, he was asked to help find out about the Centurion and locate its crew.

The RSL knew that the tank had detonated a mine in Vietnam, requiring it to be returned to Australia and rebuilt with another hull sourced from NZ. They were unaware of anything else, however.

The task that Mick accepted was not only to gather information about the mine incident, but also to locate the crew from that time (who the RSL wished to invite to be guests at a lunch to commemorate the completion of their 'restoration').

One enquiry led to another and before long the 1 AR Assn 'network' was involved. Soon after, Mick was able to inform those caring for this old 'clanger' about the incident that 'knocked it out' in Vietnam.

On 1 October 1969, call sign 21Charlie commanded by Corporal Auric Tomlinson detonated a mine made from an unexploded artillery shell (probably 105mm). It was pelting with rain, getting dark, and Tango Force VI commanded by Captain Colin Toll, had been ordered to redeploy quickly. There was a delay while a creek crossing was cleared by engineers

The first tank through was 21Charlie. Soon after they got to the other side, there was a huge explosion. Because the enemy had anticipated that the defile would be checked for mines, one had been placed on the opposite bank.

It was no ordinary mine; the explosive was offset from the switch so that it would detonate directly under the tank. The plan worked. The tank's hull was buckled to such an extent that it had to be withdrawn from operations. While the enemy's foresight paid dividends, so too did that of Captain Toll. There were no apparent wounds to the crew. (It can be many years before blast effect symptoms manifest themselves.)

The full crew at the time were Crew Commander Auric Tomlinson, Operator/Loader Mal Reardon, Gunner Wally Hunt and Driver Mick Davies Decd. Troop Leader Frank Meredith, Tango Force Commander Collin Toll



L – R front row Auric Tomlinson, Frank Meredith, Wally Hunt, Mal Reardon, Peter Lukeis, Colin Toll



The original crew who were in the tank at the time who had lost contact with each other were reunited for the first time for some 50 years at Moama RSL during an official ceremony to commemorate the Tank's service in Vietnam, along with the unveiling of its restoration and a blessing by Father John Tinkler, MBE CSC.

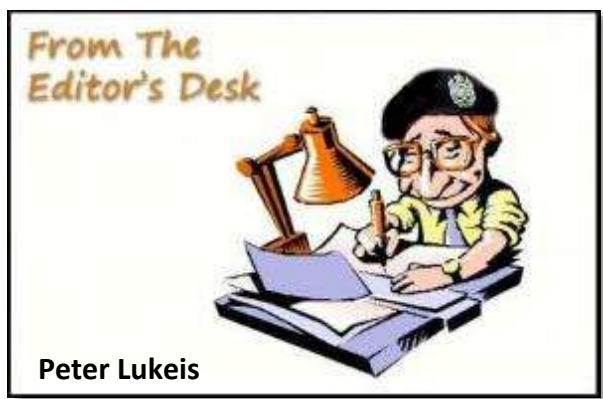


Ken Jones presents individual plaques to the crew after the unveiling of the permanent plaque.



Colin Toll responding on behalf of the Crew and the 1AR Association





This year the Vietnam Veterans lunch recognising the 50<sup>th</sup> year of, the battle of Long Tan, was hosted by the RACV in their Melbourne Venue. As an added bonus for me Gerry McCormack was chosen as the guest speaker.

Gerry was my Troop Leader in SVN being 1 Troop, C Squadron 1 Armd. Reg. and saw action including FSB Coral. On 30 May 1968, C Company 1RAR was on a Reconnaissance In Force operation when at about 8.30am, the lead 9 platoon, was pinned down by an enemy force in bunkers firing RPG and LMGs (2). 7 Platoon was ordered to assist 9 Platoon but it also was pinned down by another force losing most of one section including the machine gun. Clearly C Company was in deep trouble, however, substantial support was made available by the Task Force Commander in the form of two Main Battle Tanks from 1 Troop C Squadron (Lt GM McCormack) and a troop of APCs from A Squadron 3 Cavalry Regiment. On arriving at C Company's position the APCs began to extricate the rear troops while the tanks smashed through the jungle, with main armament clearing a path to locate 7 Platoon which was then able to withdraw.

The Brave action of the two Tank crews undoubtable was responsible for saving many lives that day and forged a strong bond between the Tanks and infantry. After a three hour battle C Company was able to break contact and target the enemy position with artillery, mortars and air strikes. The battles that were fought in and around FSPBs Coral and Balmoral were some of the most brutal and sustained battles of the war. For the outstanding achievements of the two battalions, The Regiment, 1 Armoured Regiment and 3 Cavalry Regiment were awarded The Battle Honour of 'Coral/Balmoral'.

The Annual Vietnam Veterans lunches in Melbourne have been going for 20 plus Years, organised and led by General Jim Hughes with the help of Brian McDougal. The lunches were originally hosted by the Naval and Military club until its demise and subsequently transferred to the RACV in 2009. Sadly at 4AM Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016, the day of the lunch, General Hughes passed away six days short of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Vale: Major-General Jim Hughes, AO, DSO, MC

James Curnow Hughes was born in South Australia on 18 August 1929. Hughes graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon on 13 December 1950 and was allotted to the Royal Australian Infantry Corps. As a lieutenant platoon commander serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment in Korea he was awarded the Military Cross for outstanding leadership and gallantry against the Chinese at the Battle of Maryang San in Korea on the 7th October 1951.



Hughes also served in the Malayan Emergency and Confrontation in Borneo as the Officer Commanding 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment. In October 1969 he was appointed as Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment which subsequently deployed to South Vietnam in May 1971. Due to the large enemy force build up in Phouc Tuy/Long Khan Province border area, his battalion was committed to operations soon after arrival in South Vietnam. The successful manner in which the Battalion was able to carry out its first operation was due to the very high state of the operational readiness achieved through Hughes' drive and enthusiasm. Throughout his tour of duty in South Vietnam he applied his knowledge of the enemy's tactics to relentlessly pursue him. In a number of fierce bunker clashes, Hughes commanded his Battalion and the support arms allotted him with such professional skill that the enemy was forced to withdraw after suffering heavy casualties.

In the final stages of the Task Force's participation in operations in Phouc Tuy Province, Hughes' tactical skill, devotion to duty and professional ability against a determined and skilful enemy were in the highest traditions of his Regiment and the Australian Army. For his service in South Vietnam Hughes was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1971. Hughes continued to serve in the Australian Army and rose to the rank of Major-General. In 1977 he was awarded the National Medal and in 1982 Hughes was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to the Australian Army.

He continued to serve as the Patron of the Korean Veterans Association of Australia, National Patron of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia, and State Patron of the Royal Australian Regiment Association. An East Melbourne resident in his later years Jim was active in a range of veterans and community organisations including Legacy. In 1999 Hughes received a second clasp to his National Medal. He was also a Knight of the Order of St Lazarus.

Rest in Peace Sir - your duty done.

## A Good Yarn by John (Bluey) Dyson – Tank Driver 32, C Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> AR - 1968

Sir Thomas General Daly graduated in about 1930 and was posted to the 4th Light Horse. In WW2 he was in the 2 AIF where he came across my Father. They both were members of the United Services Club, Brisbane and at times was a house guest at our family home in Buderim.



He paid a visit to Vietnam late March/early April 1968 and wished to visit the newly arrived Centurions. Escorted along 2 troop lines he saw me and with more brass than I have ever seen said, Trooper Dyson, stand easy or the like. Then came over and said, or the like ...how are things... I offered him a smoke which he accepted and we started talking, leaning on the front of 32, 169069.

He said words to the effect, I will tell our father I saw you. Now it was not good for a trooper to be talking to a General, and Mick Butler (Crew Commander) was called before Peter Simpson (SSM) who was called before Peter Badman (CO) who was called before God Knows who, and especial leaning on a centurion barrel discussing the war. When Sir Thomas General Daly heard about it, it was sorted out in seconds... A great man

## A short history of 169005 Centurion main battle tank "Ancient" Centurion Mk 3 Tank

(Reproduced from an old version of "Tracks" written by Mike Cecil)



Former Crew Commander Maj. Peter Branagan (left) and current owner Lt. Col. Peter Jarratt (Retd.) with a well preserved Veteran

169005 arrived in Australia about October 1951, and was issued to the Armoured School at Puckapunyal for Training. It remained with the Armoured School until late 1957, covering some 2600 miles during that time. Following a short period with 1 Armoured Regiment, 169005 was sent for base overhaul in late 1958, and upgraded to Mk5 standard.

With the overhaul completed 169005 was issued to 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment where it remained until mid-1965, when it was sent for a second base overhaul. This overhaul included an upgrade to Mk5/1 (AUST) standard during 1967. It was issued again to the 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment in December 1967, being signed for by Lt. Jeff Adams. By the end of September 1968 169005 was with 1 forward delivery troop in SVN. By early May 1969, 169005 was the "Charlie" call sign of 3 troop, B Squadron having covered over 800 miles on combat operations. The crew commander at the time was Whitney (Nobby) Clarke, the gunner was Chris Leihy and the operator was John Bartlett. As the normal Driver was on leave, James Kerr took over. It was his first operation. On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1969, 169005 detonated a large mine, which extensively damaged the hull in the area of the driver's compartment. James Kerr was killed instantly and Chris Leihy was wounded. The Tank was recovered back to Vung Tau and subsequently returned to Australia aboard HMAS Jeparit. Rebuilt at 4 base workshop, Bandiana during the latter part of 1969, using a replacement hull sourced from New Zealand. 169005 was then issued to 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Puckapunyal where it remained for most of the 1970's. 169005 completed a long service career on a high note. As call sign 12B and named "Ancient". It was crew commanded by Peter Branagan when it formed part of the winning troop of Paratus cup in 1976. It later took part in the last all Centurion Cambrai parade at Puckapunyal. Sent to long term storage in 1977 it was sold to Combat Vehicles Australia Pty Ltd. Passing through a collectors hands in the interim, 169005 was acquired by retired LT. COL. Peter Jarratt, a long serving RAAC Officer and former CO of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment. It is now restored and housed on his property in Central NSW. 169005 is only one of two Centurion Tanks involved in fatal incidences in South Vietnam.

**This story of course has a sequel, as 169005, is now in the hands of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association and is being again, extensively restored as per the earlier Update article.**

Yours Faithfully,

*Peter*

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**Notice to Members**  
**Some items of interest from the**  
**Committee Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> August**



**Boer War memorial Donation R. Bell**

As seen in the last edition of the Newsletter, there is not yet a memorial to the Boer War on Anzac Parade in Canberra. There is a site in Anzac Parade and an approved design, the centrepiece of which is a section on patrol of four Australian Troopers, mounted on war horses. Each Statue is a one and a half times' life size in bronze. As they are asking for every Black hat to "Kick in' I suggest we make a donation.

**Item 17/16** It was moved R. Bell Seconded K. Bell that a donation of \$100.00 be made to the National Boer War Memorial – **Carried**

**Far North Queensland Representative**  
**Wanted!!!!**

An Expression of interest notice is to be placed on the Web page and Facebook page and next edition of Newsletter for a Far North Qld Representatives position.

Peter Still has volunteered to be the NT Rep. along with Mick Masterton who has volunteered to take up the NSW Rep position. They have been approved as stand in reps., until positions are advertised and voted on at the 2017 AGM.

NT and NSW positions will be advertised prior to 2017 AGM.

**Expression of Interest to the Secretary Trevor**  
**Watts 0467 327 562 or [secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)**

**Long range 'Warning Order'**

The Crow Eater Boys Camping Trip for 2017 is to be held over the weekend 5/6/7 May. Was trying for early April but due to Easter smack in the middle of April and with Anzac Day and with a shearing shed ending early April it tends to fill that month up. The venue was to be the Gunyah, but the property owners of the Junction Outstation are that keen to have us back I found it hard to say no! The weekend will take the same format as last year but I will extend it by a day on either side if needed for those inter staters that wish to make the long trip more worthwhile or for those Crow eaters that can't make the complete weekend but can just pop in for a night. A more comprehensive 'Event' page will go up in early 2017. Paratus. **Lou Walker OAM**

**Vale:**

**Brian Onley**

Passed away on Friday 2nd September 2016.



**Marion Rae**

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Stinger Rae's wife Marion. Marion passed away at approximately 8.30pm on Wednesday 7 September night WA time. Our thoughts are with Stinger, Tarnya, Clay and Tameka on this very sad occasion.

**Lou Walker OAM**

**Can anyone guess who this is?**



Photo on left of page Kapooka early 1965, Ex Barrawinga `1968 (# Answer see bottom of next page)



## Notice to Members continued

### SITUATION:

Following committee discussions the First Armoured Regiment Association is embarking upon the task of collecting ALL names of those who have served within The Regt since 1949.

### MISSION:

To create a database listing the first names, surnames, years of service within the unit and squadron of all who've served including dates of service within the unit where possible.

**REASON:** for compiling this 'nominal roll' include:

- A. Preserving the history of the Regiment
- B. Paying appropriate recognition at funerals and memorial services on the passing of former members
- C. Reaching out and assisting those former members who may be in need
- D. Optimising the membership of the Association
- E. Fostering and maintaining the esprit de corps that existed during service with the Regiment
- F. As an aid in determining the bona fides of personnel applying to join the Association.

### EXECUTION:

Myself and Russ James (Ex WO1 RAAC Admin) have been tasked to collect the information using social media, word of mouth, photographs and publications and verifying as required in order to create the database over a two year period commencing Aug 2016. The information will be collected and entered onto the prescribed searchable database and will be made available for reference as directed by the 1AR Association. Information can be passed individually or by individuals in bulk if members believe they can supply more than one name containing at the minimum first and last names and dates of service if possible. If members providing the information can only supply incomplete information every endeavour will be made to complete and include the information where possible.

### ADMIN AND LOG:

Both Russ and I will utilize our own resources including privately owned software and hardware and will ensure the safety and security of the information contained within these systems.

### COMMUNICATION:

Please direct any information by email to myself at [leopardas.1@hotmail.com](mailto:leopardas.1@hotmail.com)

Using the following format:

1. First Name
2. Surname
3. Years of service
4. Squadron (if known)

(\*Please remember to include your own contact information also\*)

I will act as the conduit for information in the first instance.

If there are any concerns in relation to the collection/security of information or any other concerns please direct these to the association vide our Secretary Trevor Watts.

Those members who don't have access to a computer are more than welcome to ring Dick on his mobile 0488 026 881 or to text him with their info if more suitable'

Thank You,

Richard (Dick) Stanios  
Mobile: 0488 026 881

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### The Royal Tank Regiment



They've arrived! After a 26 hour journey, the Royal Tank Regiment's Pipes and Drums are now in Brisbane at the start of a two month combined concert tour of Australia with the Scots DG! The tour will include 10-12 shows per week in Perth, Canberra and Sydney, to name but a few.

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(# None other than our Treasurer Ron Bell)



## South Australia - State News

**Mark Reid**

A great night had by all at the Wellington Hotel North Adelaide.



Des Thompson and Paul Giles



Paul Giles, Stan Iry, Ted Taylor, John Sibly, Geoff Baker



Andy Preiss, Geoff Cooper, Lesley Cooper, Julee Preiss, Gail Reid, Denise Baker, Geoff Baker, Stan Iry

We attended A Sqn yesterday, myself; Geoff Cooper and Barry Filsell to present to the Regiment via A Sqn a sign to take to Iraq reminding all members that their families and the Association are thinking of them. We asked if it could be displayed at a prominent place when soldiers departing on operations from base were reminded of that.



Some of the soldiers at the presentation, whoever gets the Rhino suit for a faux pas sells the raffle tickets.







## Victoria - State News

### Ian Reynolds Upcoming events

#### 2016

Cambrai Long Lunch Emerald Hotel South  
Melbourne Friday 11th November 2016

#### 2017

ANZAC Long Lunch Friday 21st April 2017  
ANZAC Day March Tuesday 25th April 2017 with  
drinks afterwards at the Palmerston Hotel  
Tolmie Grand Final Camping Trip (Dates for AFL  
Grand Final TBC)

Cambrai Long Lunch Emerald Hotel South  
Melbourne Friday 17th November 2017.

#### **Mini Long lunch at the Sandringham Club.**

Kevin Bell, Richard Stanios, Michael Dunn, Bill  
Stanfield and Simon Williams.



#### **GRAND FINAL CAMPING TRIP**

The camping trip to Tolmie this year went well with numbers slightly down from the previous year to 22 people that attended. The weather was cold & at times wet with showers most of the weekend. Graeme Barr provided an additional esky & ice to keep the drinks cold & firewood to keep us warm. David Pye supplied the lighting for the site, & additional camp ovens for the dining in night.

Due to us being the only group allowed to use the site that weekend, we had the dining in night in the recreation hut, with roast beef and vegies slowly cooked in a bush ovens, for desert we had warm apple pie & chocolate Bavarian. Red wine was flowing plenty during the meal, with Port for the toasts. Graeme Barr came back with the firefighting truck to provide demonstrations & rides. Overall it was a very successful weekend. We managed to turn a profit on the weekend which was donated back to the Association for the upkeep of Centurion 005.

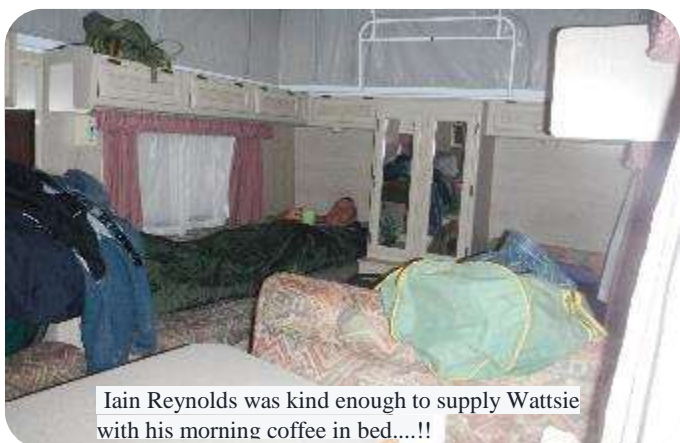
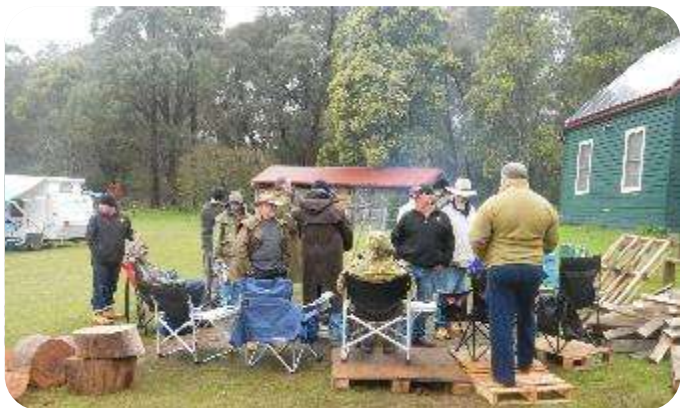


A picture tells a thousand words the corps RSM going for a morning ride



Iain Reynolds and Richard Stanios





## NSW - State News

**Welcome to  
Mick Masterson  
NSW Rep**

### **Army Service 1980 to 1994**

A Squadron as driver then junior Loader and gunner 13B, 13A and 13  
HQ Squadron Commanding Officers Gunner  
A Squadron Troop Leaders Loader 13, 21C loader 1D  
C Squadron (ARES regular army cadre staff) Troop Corporal 31B  
A Squadron Troop Corporal 12B, Technical Officer  
HQ Squadron Technical Officer  
A Squadron Liaison and technical officer  
Qualifications Driver, Gunner, Crew Commander, Special Equipment Operator, Regimental Gunnery Instructor, unit adventurous training officer abseil and top rope, T109 and Air Craft Handlers.

### **Police Service 1994 to Present**

Student Police Officer Goulburn Police Academy to current- Sergeant Development Officer (Public Order, Emergency Management and Terrorism Investigation) Simulated Operations Unit Police HQ Parramatta.

## WA - State News

**Bruce Scott  
Upcoming events**

**14 Aug:** A small group of members attended the VVAA WA organised Vietnam Veteran's Day at the State Vietnam WA Memorial in Perth

**18 Aug:** Vietnam Veteran's Day in Mandurah (locally organised by the RSL) and will involve our members from this area.

**20 Nov:** Cambrai Day Commemoration, in conjunction with RAACA WA, at the RAAF Association Function Centre, Bullcreek

More to follow for 2017 but the basic plan is - ANZAC Day, Regt Birthday Lunch, Vietnam Vets Day and Cambrai Day.

## ACT - State News

**Ian Cummings  
Upcoming events**

ACT Cambrai Day Drinks - 1600 - Late, Fri 18 Nov - The Dock Kingston

Annually in Canberra we conduct:

ANZAC DAY - Lunch - 25 Apr - The Dock Kingston

Regt Birthday long Lunch - Early Jul - The Dock Kingston

ACT Cambrai Day Drinks - Late Nov - The Dock Kingston

## Commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the first Tank to be deployed in combat

Exactly 100 years on from the first tank attack in history, on 15th September, The Tank Museum and the Royal Tank Regiment honoured the memory of pioneering British tank soldiers with a special appearance in central London.



Tank rolls through central London to mark historic day.



Commuters pass by a replica of the British Mark IV tank.



An Army photographer takes a photograph of a replica British Mark IV tank as it is displayed in Trafalgar Square. A Tank on the streets of central London is not a common sight, so naturally the presence of one in Trafalgar Square recently was going to attract plenty of attention.

No, there hadn't been a declaration of Martial Law in the United Kingdom's capital and the tank wasn't there to quell an insurrection — it was a replica of a British Mark IV Male tank from World War I and its purpose was peaceful; namely to mark the centenary of the invention of the tank.

The September 15 display was a collaboration between The Tank Museum in Bovington and games company Wargaming, which publishes the popular multiplayer historical combat game World of Tanks.

One hundred years previously, across the English Channel near the French towns of Flers and Courcellette, the first tanks rolled into action as part of a WWI offensive on the Somme in an effort to break the trench warfare stalemate which had developed. Tank Museum director Richard Smith said it was a day that changed history, heralding a new era in armoured warfare.

"The tank changed the nature of warfare," he said. "The morale effect on both sides was dramatic."

The tanks were supporting 150,000 British and Commonwealth troops, including 15,000 soldiers from the New Zealand division.

New Zealand's High Commissioner to the UK, Sir Lockwood Smith, was present at the tank centenary commemoration and said the event marked a significant occasion in New Zealand's military history. "It's 100 years ago exactly since the New Zealand division's first major engagement of the Somme," he said.

"The New Zealand division, supported by tanks, exceeded its objectives. It was a tremendous victory. "The exceeded their objectives by quite a lot. The tanks obviously helped and the Kiwis were good — they'd been rushed in from Gallipoli."



Members of the Royal Armoured Corps with a replica WWI British Mk IV Male tank.



Bystanders watch and take pictures as a replica British Mark IV tank is driven on the road around Trafalgar Square in central London. Sir Lockwood said while the tanks were crewed by Britons, the attack was a combined operation and the newly-deployed vehicles would have been quite a shock to the Germans.

"Imagine what they would have looked like if you were in the opposing lines," he said.

The tank display in Trafalgar Square was deliberately intended to call back to "Tank Banks", events held around the UK during WWI when tanks — then at the bleeding edge of military technology — were displayed at towns around the UK in an effort to sell war bonds to help fund the war effort.

Sir Winston Churchill, then Admiralty Lord, was an enthusiastic supporter of the tank concept so it was fitting his grandson Sir Nicholas Soames — himself a former armoured regiment member — made a short address at the centenary event.

Sir Nicholas noted the tank had been developed and deployed with a rapidity never seen before.

"No weapon of war was ever bought to the battlefield with more impressive speed and secrecy than this tank," he said.

"The procurement department at the Ministry of Defence should use this example as an example of best practice."



He said 100 years on, it was important to honor the memory of the extraordinary weapon that was the first tank, and the immense sacrifices made by tank crews in two world wars.

"No government should ever forget the extraordinary power and presence of armour on the battlefield," he said.

Following the display in Trafalgar Square, the replica tank — used in the Steven Spielberg film *War Horse* and then acquired by The Tank Museum — was driven underneath Admiralty Arch with support from the Royal Tank Corps and an escort from the London Metropolitan Police mounted branch, before being loaded onto a flatbed trailer for transport to the nearby Horse Guards Parade, where it was displayed next to the current British armoured fighting vehicle, the Challenger II tank.

Wargaming is well-known for its support of military history and has been a partner of The Tank Museum for many years. Wargaming product marketing manager Maxim Chvalov said as part of the tank centenary celebrations, the company was including the Mk I tank in *World of Tanks* so it was a natural fit to help organize a real-world commemoration as well. "It (the first tank) gave birth to a whole new engineering branch, which was resulted in many different tanks through the years — and in our game," he said.

"In Wargaming we always try to educate our community and share lots of things about the history of tank building, of the engineering, of the warfare, of the heroes, of big battles. All these dates are very important for us, that's why we couldn't ignore such a big date.

"We wanted to commemorate it and say thanks to the first tank, because he created the new world, the world of tanks — which is our game as well. That's why we're here."

Royce Wilson travelled to London as a guest of Wargaming

## A Cent called Phước Mỹ

By Stephen White, retired RTR Brigadier

ARN 169064 was just another Mk 5 Centurion off the UK production line in 1955. Exported to Australia, home service in Puckapunyal was unremarkable, 064 undergoing a couple of base overhauls and upgrade to Mk 5/1. By the time I arrived in 1st Armd Regt in 1973, as a sprog young British officer on attachment, it was probably rotting behind a hangar. It was knackered, after two and a half years in Vietnam, two RPG strikes, a mine blast or two and participation in two notable actions, Op HAMMER (Binh Ba) in '69 and Op HAMMERSLEY in '70. It had acquired, briefly, the barrel name Phước Mỹ. The records show it finishing as a hard target on the ranges at Pucka.



There the story might have ended but for a series of remarkable coincidences, proving that records can mislead. A website ran a thread on an exemplary restoration of a Cent in Victoria. Stripped to bare steel, the turret had obvious splash marks above the mantlet and what appeared to be a weld covering a probable penetration. A Cent expert based in the US noticed that this didn't fit with the known history of the tank's ARN. By this time, I was in touch with the owner and had independently commented on the similarity to the damage on an AWM photo from Binh Ba, which showed an identical strike. I thought it had to be coincidence as the AWM photo was of 064, Phước Mỹ, which we thought from the records had expired on the ranges. Or had it?



After research and detailed examination of the tank, the owner and Cent expert confirmed that 064 had not become a range target but had been masquerading under a different ARN for its final years with 1st Armd Regt at Pucka.

I was one of probably not more than half a dozen people in the world who now knew that 064, Phước Mỹ, had indeed survived and was in good hands. From that point, 064 started to bring together a small community of very interested parties, living in three continents and including its former crewmen. If you add the people on the receiving end of 064, you could say 064 has touched lives in four continents. Hard won Australian operational experience must have rubbed off on me. I eventually commanded 2nd Tanks and went on to bring the Apache into UK service as a one star, before starting a second career in industry. After retiring, I was looking for a substitute for flying old military aircraft as a hobby. A British company, Armortek, make some exceptional, large, working tank models in 1/6th scale. I bought a German PzKpfw 3 and taught myself the machine shop skills to build the kit to museum standards. When Armortek brought out a 105mm Cent, I had to build an Australian 20 pdr Mk 5/1, perhaps the one I'd crewed in Pucka. The kits are quite basic. To make an accurate and detailed 20 pdr Cent with Vietnam mods, I would need to retain about 40% of the kit and machine many new parts.



I started to make contact with members of the Association, who have been extraordinarily generous with photos, the life blood of scale modelling. Having by then stumbled upon the survival of 064, there was no question of the subject of my model. I started to make contact with her former crews, starting with David Hay, her operator at Binh Ba and Rip Riley, who commanded her during HAMMERSLEY. David, Billy Morris and Barry Bennier have been reunited with 064 and David has been to the UK and seen my model.

My model building is as much about research and commemoration as building. I've been amazed by how much has survived of 064's remarkable operational record. AWM holds a film of 064 in Vietnam, the radio traffic from Binh Ba, the vehicle log book, the relevant war diaries and countless photos and maps. On the enemy side, there are translated accounts from NVA and Regional Forces and I found a 50 thou map of Binh Ba in the Army Museum in Hanoi.

So 064 lives on, in Australia and, in model form, in the UK. © Stephen White. October 2016



Of 064's surviving crew, four signatures now grace the transmission decks of the model and I'd very much like a full house. The model's sound system is integrated with the radio control and plays original recordings of engine sounds, firing engagements recorded in Vietnam and radio extracts from the Binh Ba tapes. A short film is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxiYY7z0uxA>



I don't know of any other model with such a direct link to the original. This brings the tank's operational service to life and I take great satisfaction in explaining to interested public what the RAAC achieved in Vietnam and the sacrifice involved. 064's owner has been generous with photos and measurements, Allan Bowers, who served in the RNZAC, has produced exquisite working drawings and the Australian Cent expert resident in the US has given exceptional help with research and comment. The model itself is at a foot to the inch scale. It's about a metre and a half long, weighs nearly 150 kg and is constructed of aluminium and steel. It's powered by two geared electric motors and controlled by radio. It's been four years in the building and I aim to complete her towards the end of the year. With the progressive modification of the Cents in Vietnam, I've chosen to capture 064 as she would have looked in about September 1969, after Binh Ba but with most of the modifications she carried into HAMMERSLEY the following year. The crew figure is wearing the 1st Armd Regt Cap Badge, which I commissioned from a miniaturist.

