

August 2017

Centurion

1ST ARMoured REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



1ARMd personnel deployed to Iraq with Task Group Taji Four would like to express their gratitude to the 1st Armoured Regiment Association for the amazing care packages they received.

Thank you for supporting our troops. It was much APCated.

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.



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AGM Report from outgoing Secretary Trevor Watts

Our AGM was held at the Seymour RSL Clubrooms on Saturday 8th July.

36 members were in attendance and there were 35 valid proxy forms submitted. The meeting went well with much discussion into the direction of the Association and its affairs. It was obvious that everyone wants us to get back on to an even keel after the turmoil of the last couple of years. Members spoke from the heart of their love for **OUR** Regiment which passes on to the Association and we should all get together and show the younger members that we are there for them as well as for the support of our Veterans from **ALL** eras. Elections were held for all positions on the Committee.

I pass on my congratulations to the new executive committee:

President Greg Nicholas
Vice President Derek Simpson
Secretary Richard Stanios
Treasurer Trevor Hyde.

And their committee:

Operations manager Mick Dunn
Vic Rep Iain Reynolds
NSW Rep Mick Payne
ACT Rep Mick Payne Caretaker
Qld Rep Kevin Bell

NT Rep Peter Still
WA Rep Pat Deeker
SA Rep Mark Reid
Tas Rep Jim Soul.

I hope that everyone gets behind these men who have put their hands up to run the Association for us. Remember they are all **volunteers**.

I would like to thank you for the support I have received over the past 2 years in my role as secretary, in particular our past committee of Kevin, Simon and Mick. It has been a very trying time but be assured we all have tried to do what is best for our Association. It seems I, we, have not pleased everyone, but there you go.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Reunion next year.

PARATUS

Trevor Watts

Thanks Trev for your hard work and support
Editor

1st Armoured Regiment Association Committee 2017/18

Patron

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

Contact Details

Executive Committee

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Vice President

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vicepresident@paratus.org.au

Secretary

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www.raaccorpltd.org.au

Association Web Site

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



The AGM has come and gone and as a result we now have a new Committee installed. Congratulations to all the successful candidates listed in the page above and hopefully now the Association can move forward smoothly under the new team.

In this edition we have introductions to the new Executive Committee and lots of good coverage of our Soldiers receiving their care packages, thanks largely to the dedicated work done by Mick Dunn and Mark Reid.

It is now time to concentrate on the coming Reunion in Adelaide 2018. If you are able to attend please fill in Registration form (see page 13) and send to Mark Reid or Des Thompson sooner rather than later.

It is very pleasing to have received a number of Articles for the Newsletter on past memories from

Dick Stanios
Terry (Bluey) Bowman
Mick Kuilboer
And Youg Reg

Please keep similar articles coming or photos of old mates that you may want to catch up with or those you want to identify.

I have recently volunteered to manager the contents of the Web Site so if any one wishes to post an item of interest or upcoming event please contact me on either:

newsletter@paratus.org.au
webpage@paratus.org.au

Mick Dunn, Operations Manager, is now looking after the Q Store and we have put together a comprehensive list of all items available on the Web Site. Please refer to the Web Site menu 'Q Store' and follow the instructions.

If you have any queries or questions re Q Store matters please contact Mick on
operationsmanager@paratus.org.au

Retraction of article on page 10 of the May edition of the "Centurion" article 'Enough is enough'

Hi Peter,
Great job with the newsletter.

On page 10 there is a mention of the Mt Warren Park shopping centre. This information is false, there was no such ban put on the sale of ANZAC badges by Coles. This "fake news" has caused a great deal of financial distress to the small business owners (Australians) who lease shops in the centre. This hoax was put on to social media (including the associations Face book page) by persons hoping to ferment hatred of people with Middle Eastern backgrounds.

Regards,
Rod Ward

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/mt-warren-anzac-day-badges-hoax.shtml>

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/questnews/logan/internet-message-claiming-anzac-day-badges-were-banned-from-being-sold-at-local-supermarkets-has-been-revealed-as-a-hoax/news-story/343a0f256f9ad9c62362c4a91593658b>

<http://www.hoax-slayer.com/bob-katter-labor-party-worst-nightmare.shtml>

Also it has been brought to my attention, that an inaccuracy was detected in the heading used in the article on page 13 relating to the emblazonment of the Coral-Balmoral Battle Honour on the Regiment's Standard and the correcting of the Theatre Honour for Vietnam.

The formal submission to the Corps RSM was lodged on behalf of the Regiment and the Association, by the RAAC Corporation Chairman on 10 March, 2017 and approval was subsequently granted by AHQ on 28 March, 2017.

The successful submission to the Minister by Bruce Cameron to have the Theatre Honour Vietnam 1968-72 corrected to Vietnam 1968-71, was also formally endorsed by the Corporation. The work of Bruce in having this matter corrected, is gratefully acknowledged.

Apologise to Noel Mc Laughlin and Committee of the RAAC Corporation for failing to acknowledge the work done in gaining the battle honours for Coral/ Balmoral to have emblazoned on the standard (See article page No.25)

Peter Badman of course was OC C Sqn 1AR and not CO as was reported

Yours Faithfully,

Peter

Peter Lukeis

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1 ARMD personnel deployed to Iraq with Task Group Taji Four receiving the Care Packages sent by the Association.





Australia Army soldier Warrant Officer Class One Jason Robinson who is deployed on Operation OKRA with Task Group Taji 4 addresses the Task Group during an Anzac Day Service at Taji Military Complex, Iraq.



**JOINT TASK FORCE 633
TASK GROUP TAJI-IV**

TMC AFPO 20 AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE SYDNEY NSW 2890

Mr Kevin Bell
President
1st Armoured Regiment Association
president@paratus.org.au

DEAR MR BELL,

On behalf of all the soldiers and officers of 1st Armoured Regiment, currently serving with Task Group Taji IV, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the hard working members of our association for the marvellous care packs we have just received.

I have seen a few care packs over the years and can say, without a doubt, they were the most thoughtful and useful items for a soldier currently deployed to the Middle East. The stubbie-cooler, beanie and treats from home brought a piece of Australia to the team here in Iraq. I know that the razors, in particular, were a welcome addition.

I understand that robust packages of that nature come about through the tireless efforts of a few individuals so please pass on our appreciation to all involved. We are indeed very fortunate to have an association that is dedicated to supporting both past and present members of the Regiment. Tonight will see the first Australian members of Task Group Taji IV head home. This contingent has done 1st Armoured Regiment and the Army proud, ably supported by their families and a professional and dedicated association.

PARATUS

JG Robinson
Warrant Officer Class One
Regimental Sergeant Major
Training Task Unit
Task Group Taji IV

30 May 17



Training for Victory

With the transition from Task Group Taji 4 to Rotation 5 under way in Iraq, the commander of the current Training Task Unit looks back with pride on the achievements of the training mission, **Capt. Sharon Mascall-Dare** writes. **Army News** Edition 1397, June 1, 2017

Lt-Col Chris Gardiner is deployed with Task Group Taji 4, a combined force of about 300 Australian and 100 New Zealand Defence Force personnel who are training Iraqi security forces just north of Baghdad.

Under Lt-Col Gardiner's leadership, the task group's Training Task Unit is delivering training to Iraqi security forces at a crucial time with the battle to recapture Mosul still under way.

"Since Task Group Taji began operations in 2015, we've trained more than 21,000 members of the Iraqi Army and police," Lt-Col Gardiner says. "We're out on the range with the Iraqis every day, delivering the instruction they've requested to help them win their fight against Daesh. "Watching the daily interactions between the Iraqis and our Anzac trainers is a highlight – they see each other as equals, the relationship is founded on respect.

"We can see that we're helping the Iraqis, every day." Although Anzac Day was a special occasion for the combined Australian/New Zealand task group, after the dawn service the men and women of Task Group Taji were "back on the tools" by early morning, delivering training in marksmanship, building clearances and explosive hazard awareness. As they continue their mission to support the Iraqis, Lt-Col Gardiner says the legacy of Anzac Day is always on everyone's mind.

"I've been fortunate to visit the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Western Front, where I've seen the rows upon rows of headstones," he says. "When I remember those men, I also think of my family back in Canberra.

"I'm grateful for the sacrifices made in the past so we enjoy the freedom we have today." He says he always wanted to join the military and continue his family's military legacy.

"My grandfather was a brigadier in the British Army. He was a signaller and was appointed a Commander of the British Empire for his service," he says. "I considered becoming a signaller myself, but when I was at RMC the all-corps environment educated me about what was available within the Army.

I'm proud to be a member of RAAC." Since graduating from Duntroon, Lt-Col Gardiner's career has taken him to Afghanistan and Iraq – this is his second time in Iraq – as well as training and professional development overseas.

In 2016, he was appointed the CO of 1 Armd Regt in Darwin at a key moment in the regiment's history, when it was designated as the mounting headquarters for TGT-4. It was the first time the headquarters had deployed since it was founded after WWII. "The timing was fortuitous; it was an opportunity to contribute to the history of the Regiment," he says. "But I also had mixed emotions – I looked across at my wife and daughters and knew it was going to be an exceedingly busy two years.

"In some ways, my wife was more excited than I was – like everyone else in the task group, we all rely on the support we receive from our families and communities."

During the deployment, that support became increasingly apparent as care packages and letters arrived from well-wishers at home in both Australia and New Zealand.

"Soldiers from Australia and New Zealand continue to serve their countries in the Middle East region and it's important we respect their contribution," he says. "It's important that people at home understand the effort Australia and New Zealand's young men and women are making in Iraq and throughout the Middle East. "They are committed to their mission and to their country."

Congratulations

Colonel Scott Winter AM (CO 1 Armd Regt Jan '11 to Dec '13) is to command 3 Brigade next year. He takes over from distinguished predecessors: Brigadier Chris Field AM CSC (RA Inf) and before that (now) Major General Roger Noble DSC CSC AM (RAAC).

The Townsville based 3 Brigade has tanks co-located with its ACR (2 Cav Regt), a near training area, and responsibility for developing the Army's amphibious capability.

On behalf of all Association Members, I extend our warmest and heartfelt congratulations to Scott and wish him every good fortune in his future command.

Peter Lukeis
Editor





Our New President's Report and Personal Introduction

Greg Nicholas

Dear Members,

Welcome to the August 2017 newsletter.

It is with great honour that I take over the reins as President of the Association. I also wish to express congratulations to Derek Simpson - Vice President, Richard Stanios - Secretary and Trevor Hyde – Treasurer, who round out the Association Executive for the next year.

I'd be remiss in not extending my appreciation to the former Association Executive led by Kevin Bell who followed Anthony Crook. I would personally like to thank the work of Anthony and Kevin and their fellow Executive Committee members.

Duty on an elected committee is not without challenges noting we're all volunteers elected by the membership. The Association has a number of challenges over the coming months and years ahead to ensure it remains relevant in the changing environment in which serving members of the Regiment serve.

Before I touch on the work ahead I wish to reflect on the Association.

The association was established to promote camaraderie amongst members who served in the 1st Armoured Regiment irrespective of whether or not members deployed on operations. In my time the unit has moved from active deployment to peace time and returned to an active period; it's relocated; furnished with a new vehicle; reorganised to include the three facets of our corps; and includes female members. The unit has changed from the one in which I served and possibly for the majority who are reading this Newsletter.

I'm aware that there has and is a degree of angst and friction amongst members; and between various 'groups' (for want of a better term) within the Association. I've also been disheartened to learn that the behaviour within the Association was raised at a Corps Conference. I find such behaviour incongruous for an organisation built around camaraderie.

What I expect from each member is respect for the past Executive Committees; respect for those who undertook work for previous Committee's in good faith and on request of previous Executive; and respect for the membership as a group without bias. A non-negotiable for me is your commitment as a member to assist 'righting of the ship' with positive respectful conduct with no vested interests apart from the long term survivability of the Association. If we continue an unhealthy path the Association will simply wither on the vine like many others.

So let me be clear, the friction must stop.

The Committee has work ahead to 'right the ship'. I've received various briefing notes from previous Executive and the work of the Committee will in the initial stages centre around the Constitution and its passage; finance records and audit; review our forms of communication; and forthcoming events such as the Centenary of Cambrai Day. Some may take longer to organise but I ask you to be patient.

I was also asked to include a small snapshot of myself as some may not be familiar.

I entered the Royal Military College in 1975 and graduated in the Class of '78 with a BA (MilStud). I served in various armoured units [1st Armoured Regiment (2IC B Sqn, ADJT), 2nd Cavalry Regiment (TPLDR, RSO), 1/15th RNSWL (ADJT)] as well as Brigade and Land Force operational headquarter appointments; and as a Reserve officer at HQ 5 BDE and the Royal Military College. Some 35 years' service (regular and reserve force) in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Following ADF service I pursued an Australian Public Service career in the former Department of Transport and Communications; the National Board of Employment, Education and Training; and some 15 years in Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

I contributed to a number of programs and government initiatives including national security and terrorism matters; the Australian Government's northern waters strategy to combat illegal fishing; migration including people smuggling and illegal fishing; as well as the establishment of the Federal Magistrates Court (FMC) (now the Federal Circuit Court) and formation of the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART). I completed my APS career leading a team responsible for the delivery of Commonwealth Legal Aid to States and Territories with individual responsibility for veteran's matters.

I've worked in various consulting roles with Jacobs (formerly SKM) and other companies with tasks in the Department of Veterans' Affairs and Department of Defence. I was fortunate to work in India with the task of relocating an Indian Police Contingent from India to Haiti during the 2008 Haiti crisis. Since 2012 I've worked in Business Development with Electro Optic Systems Pty Limited to market technology of remote weapon systems and remote turrets for use on land, sea and some air platforms.

In my private life I have two adult children, play golf, sail and ride a 2007 Ducati ST3s. I'm the recipient of two Australia Day Achievement Awards in recognition of my work on the FMC and ART projects and the inaugural President of Gold Creek Golf Club where I transitioned it from Government to private ownership.

In closing let me restate that I look forward to serving the Association as do my fellow Executive and meeting as many members as I can over the year ahead.

Paratus.

Greg Nicholas
President



Our New Vice President's Personal Introduction

Derek Simpson

Born in England and moved with family when I was 7 years of age to Peth, WA. Grew up in Perth and in 1984 decided to join the Australian Army after working for a few years prior. Completed Kapooka and was allocated to the RAAC where I decided Tanks where the way ahead for me. I commenced my military journey with C Sqn 1 AR, the SEQ Tp on the Bridge. Upon Promotion to LCPL I was sent back to C Sqn and the B Sqn as a Tp Cpl Once that was completed I was posted to the School of Armour for two years before being rewarded and promoted to SGT. I was fortunate to be Tp SGT 2 Tp B Sqn for two years, then back to C Sqn as a Tp Ldr.

After a couple of years within HQ 1 BDE I was posted back to 1 AR as the OPS SGT and the promoted to be OPSWO and subsequently back to C Sqn as the SSM in 2005. Had a great Sqn and an opportunity to take the Sqn to USA for the initial

M1 exposure for 6 weeks, we had a blast and gained some sound knowledge.

On completion of my SSM time I was posted to 1 RTB and a CSM for a recruit company, then off to Perth as the TRG WO for A Sqn 10 LH. # Years there saw me depart for the project space on promotion to WO1. In 2012 I was appointed RSM of 4/19 PWLH and then in 2014 I commenced as the RSM 1 AR. I spent 2016 within the Warrant Officer and NCO Academy and Jan 2017 I commenced as RSM of the School of Armour.

I have deployed a few times throughout my career and have benefitted greatly from these opportunities.

Finally, all of the above could not have been achieved without the love and support of my family, my wife Michele and 4 adult children, each of whom have been dragged across the country to enable me to succeed.

Like all of us, we have spent an amount of time within the Regiment. The length of time, era, role and even corps is irrelevant, the provision of service under the 1 AR flag is what binds us as a good group of people.

D.J. Simpson | Australian Army
Warrant Officer Class One
Regimental Sergeant Major



Our New Treasurer's Personal Introduction

Trevor Hyde

Trevor completed an apprenticeship with the then Victorian Railways as a Fitter & Turner. After his apprenticeship he worked with various firms in Victoria specialising in diesel fitting.

Trevor Joined the Army at the age of 25, in '68 and after recruit training, went to Armd Centre for Corps training and then posted to 1 AR.

He Served in SVN 69-70 with B & A Sqn and promoted to Cpl.

Spent 2 years as an instructor at 1 RTB in various wings.

Posted back to 1 AR late '72 into Recce Trp as Trp Sgt of 42 Sect.

Moved over to tank in 74-75 and promoted to Sgt.

Mess appointments in the Sgts Mess.

Posted to 4 Cav 79.

Posted back to 3 Trg Gp late '80 on promotion to WO2, became treasurer.

Posted to Armd Centre in '82 as SSM Spt Sqn plus Treasurer of the museum.

Posted to 5 Trg Gp 84, became Secretary of the Sgts mess.

Posted to 6MD as Cadet Liaison Officer.

Took discharge in '88

After discharge he became the maintenance supervisor of Atlantis marine Park (WA) till closure.

Moved down the road to Club Capricorn as the maintenance supervisor.

Obtained a position with AlintaGas (WA)

Forced retirement in 97-98.

He now carries out the duties of the Admin Officer with the local CFS.



Reunion Update

1st ARMD REGT Association 50th Anniversary Reunion 2018

Commemorating 50 Years since C Squadron, 1st Armoured Regiment fought at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral South Vietnam (May / June 1968)

Adelaide

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



Registrations as at 17/07/2017 are as follows:

Chambers, Barry & Helga Grzona.

Burnett, Kevin & Julie.

Robertson, Keith & Doreen.

Brooks, David.

Peel, Doug & Nola.

Reid, Mark & Gail.

Hampstead, Terence & Lee.

Unmack, Graeme

Hoseason-Smith, Phillip & Suzanne.

Thompson, Des & Betty

William Magarey Room (Sophistication at its best)

Don't miss this land mark occasion!! See you in Adelaide

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.

Functions & Venues:

Fri 16 Nov: Registration 1100-1600 Registration Intercontinental Hotel.
Meet & Greet 1800-2230 Intercontinental Hotel.
\$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 Regiment releases the day's activities. At this stage all attendees will be bused out and back to the Regiment, due to base security arrangements,
(Nil cost for bus.)
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.

Registrations as at 17/07/2017 are as follows:

Chambers, Barry & Helga Grzona.

Burnett, Kevin & Julie.

Robertson, Keith & Doreen.

Hoseason-Smith, Phillip & Suzanne.

Peel, Doug & Nola.

Reid, Mark & Gail.

Unmack, Graeme.

Brooks, David.

Thompson, Des & Betty.

Hampstead, Terence & Lee.

See you in Adelaide

↓ Don't forget to fill in the following Registration form

Contacts for registration and payment are:

Mark Reid reid54@bigpond .com .au 21 James Harrold Court Golden Grove SA 5125
Des Thompson desthomo@bigpond.com 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

Table bookings: **Mark Reid** reid54@bigpond.com.au
 Mick Dunn mdunn8888@gmail.com

Tables of ten only please.

Adelaide Reunion 2018 Registration Form

To avoid disappointment and to help us organise proceedings please complete this Registration form now and send to:

**1st Armoured Regiment Reunion
 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella
 SA 5161**

OR

**You can scan it and Email it to:
 reid54@bigpond .com .au
 OR
 desthomo@bigpond.com**

Please also send Registration Fee for \$50 or \$50 plus *total cost, via either of the following methods of payment:

Cheques / Money orders payable to
 1st Armoured Regiment Reunion
 18 Edinburgh Cres Reynella SA 5161

Online Banking
 BSB 065112 ACC 10229270, Reference **“your name”**
 and the word **“2018 Reunion”**

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

CONTACT DETAILS

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

REGISTRATION FEE \$50.00, Is non Refundable.

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

Event	Please circle preference	Cost
Meet & Greet, Intercontinental Hotel \$80.00pp	Me only/both	\$
Reunion Dinner Adelaide Oval \$125.00pp	Me only/both	\$
*Total Cost		\$

Note: All accommodation will be self-book.

Association Member	Yes	No
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Any special diet / accessibility requirements

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
 16TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Report on 21st birthday party

By Simon Williams

2017 BIRTHDAY DINNER WEEKEND



Thank you to all those that attended the birthday weekend festivities in Seymour, the weekend started off with a meet and greet at the Seymour club, it was a casual evening with drinks and nibbles and catching up with old friends.

Due to the renaming parade being held at Pucka we had to hold our AGM at the Seymour RSL this year, after all the formalities the RSL lady's aux put on a fantastic afternoon



Sue Ho Season-Smith Michell Williams Judy Payne

Another big thank you has to go to my wife Michelle Williams, Sue Ho Season-smith and Judy Payne for decorating the dining room in preparation for the Regiments Birthday dinner and the Associations 21 birthday, the evening was well attended and the staff at the Seymour club were so helpful in every way the meals were hot and the drinks were cold, I don't think you can do better than that.

Breakfast was back at the RSL, again set up by the ladies aux.



Greg Pollock Craig Orme peter Keane

We had eggs, bacon and lots of coffee for sore heads, some of the old committee chipped in to help cook and clean up afterwards, many thanks for all your help.

I trust the new Committee will get the full support of all members for future functions arranged for their benefit

Regards Simon Williams



Peter still Greg Nicholas Craig Orme



Mark Reid Greg Nicholas Trevor Watts



Craig Orme Vilma Anderson Derek & Michel Simpson



Trevor Watts Hayden Crowley



Herman Harberts Gary & Helen McNab



Kevin Bell Vilma Anderson Simon Williams



Graeme Unmack Tubby Brooker John Blackwell



Ho, Craig Orme, Simon Williams, Peter Moore, Mick Payne Trevor Watts



Bill Stanfield Mick Dunn

Not all innovation gets recognised. Australian engineer Lancelot De Mole first developed a design for a tank in 1912 and described it as a tracked fighting vehicle. He offered it to the British War Office and later, in 1915, had this model made. His tank was never built but it remains the earliest practical design to have been developed.



Further CRV Testing at Mount Bundy

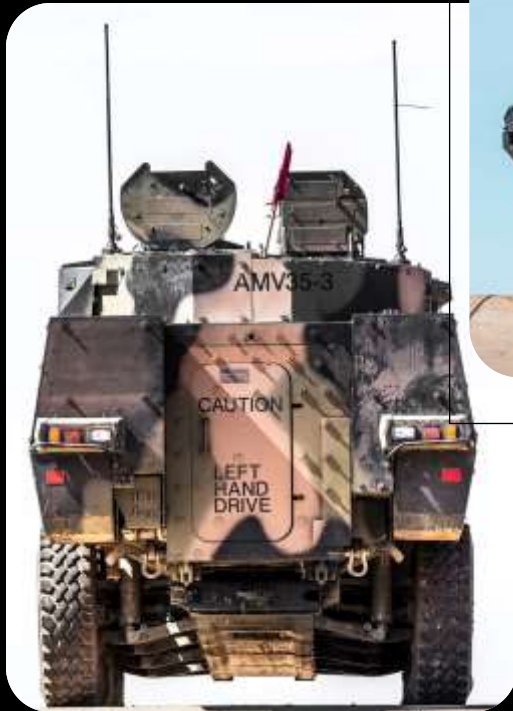
As part of an ongoing evaluation process the LAND Phase 400 2 Project Team provided a live-fire demonstration to members of 1st Brigade while deployed in Mount Bundy Training area on 15th May 2017.

LAND 400 Phase 2 will acquire 225 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles (CRV'S) to Army's Armoured Fighting Vehicle capacity, providing mounted support to Defence operations for decades into the future.

The primary role of the CRV will be to perform ground-based reconnaissance and counter- reconnaissance. The CRV presents a highly lethal armoured vehicle with the capability to neutralise enemy armour, pinning down enemy forces with suppressive fire and preventing an enemy's ability to manoeuvre.

Two tenders for the CRV have been short-listed for further consideration, the Patria AMV 35 from BAE Systems Australia and the Boxer CRV from Rheinmetall.

Both options are existing in-service designs with the ability to be modified to suit the Army's current and future requirements.



BAE Systems Patria AMV 35 during a live fire demonstration at Mount Bundy Training Area on the 15th May 2017



A LAND 400 Project Phase 2 Rheinmetall Boxer CRV during a live-fire demonstration at Mount Bundy Training Area on the 15th May 2017.

Images by CFN Priyantha Malavi Arachchia



N40 advance party establishes Command and Control near the AFVFFTS prior to deployment of sabre troop as part of EX HYDRA RUN. The exercise, held at Mount Bundy Training Area, prepared troops of Nucleus Squadron to support EX SOUTHERN JACKEROO.

1st Brigade – Australian Army

Images: B May

Mentioned in Dispatches

The Mention in Despatches (MID) is the oldest British award and was a device used by commanders at sea or in the field to bring the services of deserving officers to the attention of higher authority.

The MID was instituted in Australia in 1920 and took the form of a small oakleaf device.

Many Australian Defence Force personnel received an MID during World War I and II and their names appeared in the London Gazette. Only one device was awarded irrespective of the number of times an individual was mentioned.

Following World War I the device was fixed at a low angle to the centre of the ribbon of the Victory Medal, which was awarded to all personnel who served in any operations or at sea.

For those awarded during World War II, the device is placed at the centre and at 60 degrees on the ribbon of the 1939-1945 War Medal.

The MID continued in Australia until the end of the Vietnam War and was phased out with the introduction of the Australian system of honours and awards in 1975.



In memory of my late
Father in Law MAJ J D MAY
Editor

Interesting Memories of Gus Balantine by Richard (Dick) Stanios

Association's Secretary



'WO1 Gus Balantine was my first RSM when I marched in to the Regiment in 1977, a big towering man who spoke English very well, a strong booming voice which was still very much tainted by an even stronger German accent. Gus was, for want of better words, a child soldier during the latter stages of WW11 during which he was captured and became a POW.

Some years later and following a grateful opportunity to immigrate to Australia, the land of plenty, Gus settled and after some time joined the Australian Army. Promoted to Lance Corporal in the 1960's and serving with Transport Troop and acting as Regimental Policeman within Headquarters Squadron.

In the 70's Gus was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) and in 1975 became Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) of The Regiment.

As those most likely to read this short story will know and understand the position of RSM carries many responsibilities as the 'Right Hand Man' of the Commanding Officer (CO) one of these responsibilities is to host visitors such as the 'old's and Bold's' to the Sergeant's Mess at different times. This allows old and new soldiers to mix, relive and enjoy the day in the company of many likeminded people.

On one occasion during a visit of this type, a gentlemen visitor was seated at the bar recounting his story of fighting the 'Gerry' during WW11, of course Gus overhearing the man's stories became very interested in what was being said given that he'd fought for the 'other side'. It was about this time Gus observed a wrist watch the man was wearing and he thought it looked familiar, he commented on the watch to the visitor who almost gleefully advised Gus that he had 'liberated' it from a German POW at the end of the war. The man removed the watch from his wrist so that Gus to take a closer look, it was at this time that Gus, seeing the watch even after

many years and determined that it was indeed very familiar advised the man that in fact that it was his watch and that the German POW he's taken it from was none other than he!!, the visitor appeared quite embarrassed and slowly offered the watch back without really knowing the words to use to accompany the gesture, Gus declined saying 'No, you've looked after it better than I ever would have' you keep it.

An interesting life story with an incredible coincidence and circumstance'.

In 1999, I wrote a couple of stories about my time in the Army and in particular the Regiment, Gus upon reading these sent me the attached hand drawings about those stories. I've kept them safe ever since as they were sent to me by a larger than life soldier who I was proud to have served with. RIP Gus...



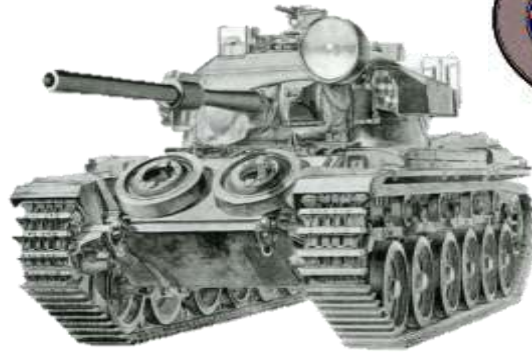
169005 UPDATE July 2017



Work on 005 is progressing rapidly now as can be seen by these photos. The engine compartment side of the rebuild is all but finished. We have to thread the wires for the electric gauges along the turret wall into the instrument panel.

The 100 gal fuel tank has been emptied and cleaned out and put back together. Exhaust crossover pipes cleaned and all heat shields repaired and bolted back onto the pipes. Gearbox cleaned and painted ready for placing back into the vehicle. The engine compartment is all but finished and about the start on the transmission compartment.

By the time you are reading this we should be well advanced target date to fire her up around the end of October.



by Tubby Brooker





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



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)



**Donations:
Care Package**

VALE

Bob Winstanley passed away April 2017

New Members

Geoffry BARNETT SA
John Cottis NSW
Brendan Barry TAS

'From The Treasurer'

Members are reminded to include appropriate detail when paying monies into the Association's account electronically (EFT). Payments should include a name or other detail that indicates who the payment is from so that receipts etc.' can be issued.

Cheers
Trevor
treasurer@paratus.org.au

Q Store

Is now open for business

Go to Web Site www.paratus.org.au and in the Menu click on Q Store and follow the instructions.

Any questions contact Mick Dunn
opsmanger@paratus.org.au

VICTORIA'S LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT HONOURED

Major Colin O'Dell RFD (Retd) President 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment Association

At an official parade held at the School of Armour in Puckapunyal, Victoria on 26 November 2016, a new Guidon was presented to 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse (PWLH) Regiment. The Guidon represents a century of battle honours and military tradition and connects current serving members of the 4/19 PWLH with the previous Victorian Light Horse Regiments all of which have a proud history. As Commander-in-Chief, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), was the Reviewing Officer for the parade.



Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC «Retd) inspects the 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment's troops during the parade at Puckapunyal

Honouring Victoria's Light Horse Regiments
As the sole remaining Light Horse Regiment in Victoria, the 4th/19th PWLH Guidon recognises all Light Horse Regiments the Victorian State has ever produced, as well as its ancestral Armoured Regiments. These units were involved in many of the ANZACs most legendary WW1 battles, including the Charge of the 8th Light Horse at The Nek and the Charge of the 4th Light Horse at the Battle of Beersheba in October 1917.

The Regiment's Commanding Officer, LTCOL John Molnar sees the Guidon as a way to honour the Regiment's illustrious past and to inspire its current member to achieve similar accomplishments in the future. "We have transformed from a Reserve duplicate of Regular Army counterparts, to a modern integrated unit, whose members have deployed to East-Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Solomon Islands," LTCOL Molnar said. Former CO, LTCOL Graeme Smith RFD (Retd) agrees that the role of the Regiment has changed greatly over time, yet the Guidon illustrates that enduring enthusiasm and professionalism of its members. "The Guidon is the Regimental icon. For me personally, it's a reminder of the success that can be borne from difficulty and hardship in battle," LTCOL Smith said.

Presentation Parade

Hundreds of family and friends, (including several descendants of members of the original 4th Light Horse), joined Australian military and government VIPs to witness the parade, along with former members of the Regiment

and Australian Army Cadets. The Governor General came onto the field with the Creswick Light Horse mounted before and following his vehicle. Then the old Guidon came onto the field in a White Scout Car preceded by a Ferret Scout Car. The Ferret Scout Car was driven by W02 Ian Dunlop, grandson of 4th Light Horseman No. 1027 Corporal Charles Henry Jenkinson who served at both Gallipoli and the Battle of Beersheba.

Following ancient tradition, the drummers marched to the centre of the parade. Their drums were laid on the ground, the base drum was laid across the drums and a kettle drum laid on top to form a table. The new Guidon was then laid on top of this. Following its presentation, the Guidon was then blessed by all three denominational Army Principal Chaplains.

"The blessing of this Guidon is a true Australian military liturgy," said Director General Chaplaincy Australian Army, Principal Chaplain Glynn Murphy. "Like the Army, the guidon parade is bigger than the individual. It's about the whole of the Australian government, the entire command of the Australian Army and chaplaincy care for all those who have served, those still serving and those who will serve into the future," he said.

Following the formal ceremony, the old Guidon was driven from the field forever. The laying up of the old Guidon will be held 27th November 2017.

"The parade was fantastic. The precision and pageantry, the inclusion of the Creswick RSL Light Horse Troop - you could see that so much work had gone into making this ceremony remarkable," said local Mayor, Councillor Rhonda Sanderson.

Custodians of Heritage

Speaking to the Regiment after the inspection, the Governor-General said, "The Guidon depicts stories of immense sacrifice and enormous courage. These stories speak to who we are and who we aspire to be. Remember, you are the custodians of the heritage of some of the most extraordinary acts of gallantry ever displayed by those who have worn the Australian Army uniform. You continue to serve with professionalism and selflessness that would make your forbearers proud."



Soldiers from 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment unveil the Guidon for the first time. The 6 colour patches of all the Victorian Light Horse Regiments are displayed on the Guidon. The ribbon at the top of the Guidon is the Presidential Citation to the 1 Troop, A Squadron, 4/19 Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment, Vietnam.

This is an enhanced version of an article by CAPT Lucy Saaroni which was first published in Army News Edition 1388 15 December 2016.

The Battle of Cambrai - 100 year Anniversary

November 2017

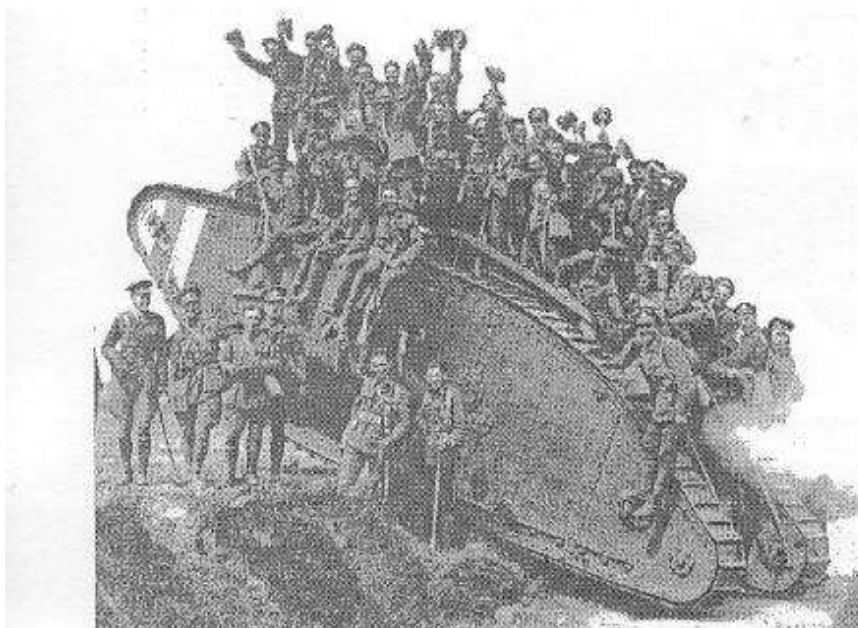
Citation: C N Trueman "The Battle of Cambrai"
historylearningsite.co.uk. The History Learning Site, 17 Apr 2015. 22 Jul 2017.

The Battle of Cambrai, fought in November/December 1917, proved to be a significant event in World War One. Cambrai was the first battle in which tanks were used en masse. In fact, Cambrai saw a mixture of tanks being used, heavy artillery and air power. Mobility, lacking for the previous three years in World War One, suddenly found a place on the battlefield – though it was not to last for the duration of the battle.

While the battle of Passchendaele was being fought, Douglas Haig approved a plan to take on the Germans by sweeping round the back of Cambrai and encircling the town. The attack would use a combination of old and new – cavalry, air power, artillery and tanks that would be supported by infantry. Cambrai was an important town as it contained a strategic railhead. In front of it lay the very strong Hindenburg Line – a defensive position in which the Germans put a great deal of trust. The plan included an attack on the Hindenburg Line and the use of three cavalry divisions that would encircle Cambrai, thus cutting it off. While Haig's plan won the approval of some, others were less than inspired that it included tanks as these new weapons had yet to prove their worth in battle in the eyes of some.

The attack started at 06.20 on November 20th 1917. The Germans were surprised by an intense artillery attack directly on the Hindenburg Line. 350 British tanks advanced across the ground supported by infantry – both were assisted by an artillery rolling barrage that gave them cover from a German counter-attack. The bulk of the initial attack went well. The 62nd Division (West Riding) covered more than five miles in this attack from their starting point. Compared to the gains made at battles like the Somme and Verdun, such a distance was astonishing. However, not everything had gone to plan. The 2nd Cavalry Division had a problem crossing the vital St. Quentin Canal when a tank went over its main bridge and broke its back – the same bridge that the cavalry were supposed to use to advance to Cambrai! Elsewhere, British units also got bogged down in their attack.

By November 30th, the German were ready to counter-attack and defend Cambrai. Many British army units had got themselves isolated and their command structure broke down in places. The German counter-attack was so effective that on December 3rd, Haig gave the order for the British units still near to Cambrai to withdraw "with the least possible delay from the Bourlon Hill-Macoing salient to a more retired and shorter line." The failure to build on the initial success of the attack was blamed on middle-ranking commanders – some of whom were sacked. The initial phase of the battle did show that mobility was possible in the war but that to sustain it, a decent command structure was needed so that impetus gained in one area of the attack was aided by gains elsewhere in the advance. While losses did not equate to the Somme or Verdun, the British lost over 44,000 men during the battle while the Germans lost about 45,000 men.



THE BATTLE OF CAMBRAI - 20TH NOVEMBER 1917



The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

Brief History of The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment

The 2nd Royal Tank Regiment was formed from the Heavy Machine Gun Corps in 1916 and first saw action in tanks during the Battle of the Somme in August 1916. Cambrai in November 1917 (celebration day) saw the newly formed 'Tank Corps' in action for the first time and gaining ground in a war that had been at a stalemate for years. The Tank Corps saw service until the end of the war on all fronts. After the war, the Tank Corps became the Royal Tank Corps (1928) and then later the Royal Tank Regiment in line with Cavalry terminology; it formed a large part of the newly formed Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) in 1939. In World War II, the forebears of 2 RTR saw action in Europe, the Western Desert, Burma, Italy and NW Europe after D Day. In 1992, 2 and 3 RTR amalgamated to form the present 2 RTR.

The Present

The Regiment is currently part of the famous 'Desert Rats' - 7 Armoured Brigade, and are based in Fallingbommel, between Hanover and Hamburg, in Germany. The Regiment has recently returned from both war fighting and peace support operations in The Gulf with its Challenger 2 main battle tanks. In 2004 the Regiment has conducted a major manning re-organization and took on the role of being Opposing Force (OPFOR) in BATUS (Canada) from Apr through to Oct 04. With the Regiment together for the first time since February 03 after training for and being at the front of a well-executed, rapid, high intensity war fighting campaign we are all extremely proud of what we have achieved.

The Future

What lies ahead for the Regiment in the future? In Aug 05 we will be preparing to move to the UK (Tidworth) and becoming part of 1 Mech. Brigade. In conjunction with the move, the Regiment also begins their Training Year. During that time our energies will be focused on conducting a Regimental conversion programme to the new BOWMAN system and will also conduct low level Sqn training.

HISTORY - REGIMENTAL DISTINCTIONS, TRADITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

Black Beret

Much of the uniform and equipment of the soldier of World War I was quite impractical for use inside a tank. In particular, the visors were of necessity small, and it was necessary to keep the eyes very close to the slits in order to get even a limited vision which was all that was possible; moreover as the tank bumped and lurched, it was impossible to wear a head-dress with any sort of peak.

Originally, tank drivers and gunners were supplied with a primitive brown leather crash helmet, which incorporated a chain mail visor, this was soon discarded as being impractical. By May 1918, General Elles and Colonel Fuller, when dining together at Bermicourt, discussed the future of the Tank Corps and its uniform. The 70th Chasseurs Alpins were billeted in the area at this time and General Elles tried on one of their berets. Of the various proposals put forward he strongly favoured a black beret. He was influenced by the presence of the Chasseurs Alpins, many of whom were trained at British tank schools, and who had a particularly close liaison with the Tanks Corps units.

Black was selected because it would show oil stains least. When bending over the engines inside a tank (and they needed a great deal of tending), it was almost impossible to avoid getting oily.

No change of uniform was possible during the war. Later, when advocating that the black beret should be accepted officially, General Elles, in addition to explaining its advantages inside the tank, added that, both in war and on manoeuvres 'it was very convenient to sleep in'. The black beret was approved by HM The King on 5th March 1924.

The black beret remained the exclusive head-dress of the Royal Tank Corps until its practical value was recognised by others and its use was extended, in various colours, to the whole of the Royal Armoured Corps in 1940, and later to other arms. After World War II, on the introduction of the blue beret, the Royal Tank Regiment reclaimed their right to exclusive use of the black beret, which may not be worn by any other Regiment or Corps with the exception of the Berkshire and Westminster Dragoons.

HISTORY - 3rd ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

The 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, like the 2nd and 6th, is a direct descendant of the Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps. 'C' Company, MGC was formed at Bisley in June 1916 and went to France the same year. After a series of offensives in 1916 the company was expanded to become a Battalion and later to become a Tank Brigade. At the same time 'D' Battalion formed the 1st Tank Brigade; the two battalions were the first to go into action in tanks. In May 1917, 'D' Battalion was transferred to the 3rd Tank Brigade where it was grouped with 'F' Battalion, later to become the 6th Royal Tank Regiment.

The Battalions served together with distinction throughout the 1st World War taking part in the Battle of Cambrai (20 November 1917), the March Offensive (1918), the Second Battle of Amiens (August 1918) and the Battle of the Hindenburg Line (September 1918). The Brigade was equipped with the new light tank in February 1918. On 26th March 1918, 12 Whippets with Captain T R Price in command achieved a notable success at Villiers Bretonneux where they charged and overran two enemy battalions, which were forming up for an attack.

In 1923, now as 3rd Battalion, Royal Tank Corps, the Battalion moved to Lydd in Kent where it remained until the outbreak of the Second World War; the Regiment in the was remarkable. In March 1940, the history of the Regiment and a brigade of Green Jackets were sent to Calais with orders to defend the town to the last man. The Regiment fought a heroic action against overwhelming odds and as a result was almost totally annihilated. Reformed, the Regiment sailed to North Africa later in the same year and served in the Western Desert until being sent to Greece in March 1941. 3rd RTR in 1st Armoured Brigade Group landed at Piraeus on 11 March, they were equipped with old A10 tanks previously belonging to 5 RTR. Their initial mission was to assist in guarding the Florina Pass, but they were soon forced to withdraw after heavy enemy pressure. Hampered by disorganised Greek troops and refugees, the 3rd fought a difficult and costly withdrawal action against the Germans and by the time they reached Trikkala they had only 5 tanks left; the end of the action reduced them to none.

The Regiment reformed again and joined 4th Armoured Brigade in the Western Desert taking part in both Battles at Sidi Rezegh. The Regiment then served in all major engagements of the desert war including Alamein, Gazala and Alam Halfa. Towards the end of 1943 the 3rd returned to England to join 11th Armoured division, which was commanded by General 'Pip' Roberts, a former Commanding Officer of the 3rd in the desert. This was followed by the Regiment landing in France after D-Day and from that point on being involved in the Normandy battles such as Epsom and Goodwood, and continuing through northwest Europe until the end of the war.

The 3rd and 6th Royal Tank Regiments amalgamated on 31st October 1959. The 'new' Third moved to Catterick Camp, Yorkshire in 1962 as the RAC Training Regiment. They then moved to Fallingbostal, West Germany in 1965 and then in 1967 to Tidworth in Hampshire where the Regiment converted from Centurion tanks to the Armoured Reconnaissance role. Squadrons subsequently served independently in Cyprus and Sharjah.

Still in the armoured reconnaissance role they moved back to West Germany in Wolfenbuttel in 1969. From there it was back to Fallingbostal in 1971, this time to serve on Chieftain for the first time, as part of 1st Armoured Division. In 1976 the Regiment returned to Tidworth, again as part of UKLF, as the Armoured Regiment. 'A' Squadron was detached to the School of Infantry at Warminster as Demonstration Squadron whilst 'B' and 'C' Squadrons enjoyed the sun in Cyprus, as part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces, in the Reconnaissance Role.

In 1979 the Regiment returned to BAOR, this time stationed in Paderborn with Chieftain Tanks equipped with the new Improved Fire Control System (IFCS). The unit was part of 4-Armoured Division and remained for 7 years.

3 RTR became the RAC Centre at Bovington and Lulworth in Nov 1986, with one squadron (designated F squadron) stationed in Cyprus.

After a short successful spell the Regiment moved on to Hemer as part of 6 Armd Bde, 3 Armd Div in March 1988, in the role of 1st (BR) Corps Reserve, equipped with Challenger and forming the 12th BAOR armoured regiment. July 1990 to January 1991 saw the unit operational as the Tyrone Roulement Battalion, Northern Ireland. During this time the Gulf War developed and the 3 RTR Band deployed to Saudi Arabia as part of 5 Armoured Field Ambulance, employed as Medics.

Since the war, the Regiment has served in UK, Germany, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. It has been both Armoured and Armoured Reconnaissance and has been equipped with Scorpion, Scimitar, Centurion, Chieftain and Challenger.

HISTORY - SINCE AMALGAMATION

The Second Royal Tank Regiment was formed from the amalgamation of the old 2 RTR and 3 RTR. 2RTR had previously assumed a split role, with 2 squadrons in the north as the RAC Training Regiment in Catterick and 2 squadrons in the south as the RAC Training Regiment in Bovington and Lulworth. 3RTR were still in the heavy Armour role prior to moving from Hemer. They re-located to Lumsden Barracks in Fallingbommel as the new 2RTR on the 5th August 1992.

Just before Christmas in 1993 the Regiment completed a 6-month tour in Cyprus as part of the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. This is where the black beret and the cap badge were replaced with the sky blue beret and UN cap badge. The Regiment was centrally located in the Ledra Palace Hotel with many troops permanently based in outstations along the border between the Greek Cypriots to the south and the Turks to the north.

In 1995 2RTR was the first Regiment to assume the role as the opposing force (OPFOR). This was basically playing the part of a live, tactically thinking enemy force against the training Battle groups in BATUS, Canada. We proved to be a formidable force, mounted in converted CVRT vehicles known as sturgeon and salamander. We set the standard for other units adopting this role for the future.

The following year saw 2 RTR take its tanks out to the former soviet Drawsko Pomorski training area in Poland. This was the first time British troops had trained in a country from the former Warsaw Pact since its disintegration a few years earlier. This was part of the build-up training required prior to deploying to BATUS as a Battle group. We also trained on Grafenwohr and Hohenfels training area in the south of Germany. The tank crews also trained using the state of the art computer simulators owned by the Americans. The Regiment was now ready to deploy to Canada on Exercise Medicine Man 4 with Challenger 1. Here the Regiment had the opportunity to fire the tanks and manoeuvre tactically at the same time (only done in BATUS).

In 1997 in the Regiment served a 6-month tour in Northern Ireland. B and C Squadrons were based in Girdwood in Belfast. Their areas of responsibility were the New Lodge and the Ardoyne respectively. E Squadron fulfilled a different role as the Prison Guard Force at the Maze Prison. Fortunately all members of the Regiment returned to Fallingbommel safely.

On return we started a Training Support year (1998). In May/June of that year it completed Operation Lodestar in Sennelager, assisting other units train for Bosnia training; the Regiment also performed the same role for other Regiments conducting Northern Ireland training.

Late in 1998 the first consignments of Challenger 2 arrived; 2 RTR being the second Regiment to be equipped with the new tank. Challenger 2 promised to be an even greater improvement on Challenger 1, with more modern technology and better reliability. This led to an intense period of conversion, culminating in a live firing package on Hohne Ranges at the beginning of 1999.

In the spring of 1999 B Squadron took their vehicles once again to Poland, and shortly after their return redeployed to Canada on Exercise Medicine Man 4, in support of the 2 RRF Battle group. The remainder of the regiment deployed as its own Battle group for Exercise Medicine Man 5. All squadrons managed to reunite briefly in Germany for the Millennium celebrations. In the year 2000, B and E squadrons and echelon elements moved back out to BATUS for the year as OPFOR. The last mission to be carried out by the 2 RTR OPFOR this year was against the first ever brigade size force. This was the 16 Air Assault Brigade. C Squadron meanwhile prepared to deploy to Bosnia with the KORBR on OP PALATINE in April for a 6-month tour.

The present Regimental badge, with certain modifications including the Queen's crown, dates from the formation of the Royal Tank Corps in 1923. When the choice of a Corps motto was considered in 1917, 'Dread Naught' was first proposed, but Colonel Fuller's alternative suggestion, '**Fear Naught**' was adopted.

When the Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps was formed, its men wore every type of cap badge due to the fact that its men were drawn from many other units. As this was bad for morale, a more corporate identity being required in early January 1917, a request was made for the Tank Corp's own metal cap badge. This would have taken a long time to procure and so the War Office was asked for a provisional worsted arm badge that had been designed by General Sir Ernest Swinton, the founder of the Tank Corps. A sample arrived in the form of a Mark I tank, complete with rear wheels. For simplicity the rear wheels were removed. The Tank Arm badge has been worn ever since. When the Tank Corps reformed at Bovington and Wareham in 1919, the arm badge was taken into general use by all

officers and men and is believed to be the only badge of its kind which survived the years of the First World War and was continued in use as part of a peacetime uniform.

It is now worn by all officers and men of the Royal Tank Regiment and by the officers and men of the Berkshire and Westminster Dragoons.

After the battle of Moreuil in July 1918 the 9th Tank Battalion was honoured with the award of the 'Croix de Guerre avec Palmes' and authorised to wear the badge of the French 3rd Division on the left arm.

COVERALLS

Black coveralls are worn by all ranks. This custom was introduced at the Royal Review in 1935. It lapsed during the Second World War and was re-introduced in the 1950s. The custom is now officially recognised and black coveralls may be worn only by members of The Royal Tank Regiment. All ranks display their name on white name tags above the breast pocket.

THE ASH PLANT STICK

During World War I long sticks were often carried by officers. Such sticks came to have a new and greater use with the introduction of tanks, which often became ditched on the boggy, shell-battered ground of the battlefields, particularly in Flanders. Officers of the Tanks Corps used these sticks to probe the ground in front of their tanks, and often led them into action on foot, testing the firmness of the ground step-by-step as they went forward. The carrying of an ash plant by officers of the Regiment both on and off parade continues to this day and is considered traditional.

From Noel Mc Laughlin Chairman RAAC Corporation

G'day Peter,

Just a quick note to update you on a couple of matters that the members of the Association including those who also served on tours with the Tanks as well as with Cav, might be interested in.

On 10 March 2017, a submission by me as Corporation Chairman was tendered to the Corps RSM for the emblazonment of the Battle Honour **Coral-Balmoral** on the 1st Armoured Regiment Standard. Approval for this was received on 28 March 2017. Battle Honours for Vietnam had been approved by the Governor General in 1983

The success of this initiative was further aided by an inconsistency in policy identified by me and which formed a major plank for the submission.

On 30 March 2017, I lodged a further submission to the Corps in respect of **Operation Hammersley** to:

- Seek to have the award of the CGWP approved for all members of B Sqn 3 Cav, A Sqn 1 Armd Regt and 1 Fd Sqn RAE who took part in that battle; and
- To seek approval from the Chief of the Army for the awarding of the Battle Streamer **LONG HAI 1970** to be affixed to 1 Armd Regt's Standard, 3 Cav Regt's Guidon and the RAE Corps Banner.

The brief which comprises 18 pages (over 7,000 words) and 7 attachments, will no doubt work its way through the chain of command and it is not yet a done deal.

The issues canvassed also relate to the airbrushing from history of the achievements of Cav, Tanks and Engineers. We have contended that a grievous injustice was done to all RAAC and RAE soldiers who were involved in Hammersley, in particular during the terrible events of 18 February, 1970. Hopefully natural justice will prevail. On 25 May 2017, a further submission was tendered by me to the Corps RSM.

This submission argues that the change in policy which allowed the emblazonment of Coral/Balmoral on the 1 AR Standard can be applied to the 3 Cav Guidon to have the following three outstanding Battle Honours emblazoned:

- **Bien-Hoa**
- **Hat Dich**
- **Binh Ba**

The catalyst for this submission is the renaming of Spt Sqn at the school to

B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt which means in effect the reinstatement of that unit.

The submission contends:

1. The reinstatement of B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt which will continue with and maintain the heritage of its famous predecessor, will be greatly enhanced by the addition of the remaining Battle Honours being emblazoned on the Guidon.
2. The emblazonment of these remaining Battle Honours will also will operate in a significant manner to recognise the bravery and sacrifice of the APC crews who distinguished themselves in Vietnam from 1965 to 1972.

Memories of times, places and people that change your life.

By Terry (Bluey) Bowman - May 2017

An Armoured Regiment Cook's Story

I served for 6 years in the Australian Regular Army from 17 to 23 years old, 1966 to 1972.

My Basic training was at Kapooka.

I think the third intake of national servicemen were just going through ahead of me.

19 weeks of Corp training at Ingleburn, spending Friday nights to Sunday in Kings Cross, sleeping at Naval House, aka 'Johnny's', 75c a bed, an eye opening education for a country boy whose mates were doing Year12 at home.

I was 17 when I was attached to the 1st Armoured Regiment.

We went by road convoy from Puckapunyal to Rockhampton for the first exercise held at Shoalwater Bay, called Barrawinga.

As a jockey in a Mark III with Bluey Coleman, we ran off the road and wrote the truck off. I did the following days in the back of a Land Rover.

The tankies were known as 'koala bears'- not to be sent out of Australia or shot at, so we were attending as 'umpires'. There was no need for them to play an active part as they would never go to SVN! How wrong can you be!

We cooked for a couple of hundred with O.R, Officers and Sgts. in separate messes on range fuel stoves. The LAD made us a huge mud oven, of steel, rock and mud. It worked a treat and our W.O. Caterer bought in a mobile kitchen. It was like a caravan with a wood fired steam engine inside. (Great coffee). We were probably the last cooks to cook for the troops in wood fired ovens.

When you 'play' war- so do the doctors. I cut my hand open with a knife and went to the R.A.P. It needed stitches. The 2 blokes consulted, at least I think one was a doctor, possibly both. They stitched me up with a blunt needle from a housewife kit without any local anesthetic. It hurt like hell. But who was I to question them on what was happening. I just thought they were right and this was soldiering. It was just 'gung ho' bullshit at my expense.

In the morning we always knew who the last picket was. Their job was to light the immersion heaters so we had 44's of boiling water by breakfast time. The other name for the immersion heaters was 'chuffers'. They watched us light them and thought if the cooks can do it, it can't be hard, run a bit of range fuel down the barrel and drop a match in it. They always looked down the barrel if it didn't start straight away. As a result they had no eyelashes, eyebrows or a fringe at breakfast.

Around this time the nashos of Coral/Balmoral were getting their call-up papers. I turned 18 at Shoalwater Bay. When I returned I bought my first car, a new Mini Deluxe. Our trip back from Queensland was by train.



The kitchen at Kapyong was pumping. National Service was in full swing. The Regiment Armoured Centre and Service Corps all ate there while RASC Centre was being built. Some lunchtimes we filled the place twice, I think over 500. There were around 3 cooks per shift plus a couple of civilian kitchen hands from a men's shelter in Melbourne call Gill Memorial, usually drunks or worse.

Most professional cooks source the best products to produce the best food results. We had no say in what we got. We would go to see what we had and did what we could with that. I would rather serve and eat fillet steak than bully beef... but we always had more of the latter... example only, not factual.

We had a great football team and I played alongside many C Sqn originals. I remember belting 21 Construction one day, unremarkable, except that day their coach was Kevin Sheedy. Trooper Kiellerup was fullback and Rowley in the Centre were brilliant.

I remember how cold Puckapunyal could be. The blokes would come in for breakfast in winter heavy tank suits and a heavier over suit and still freezing.

The Coral/Balmoral nashos were coming on-board about now and within 12 months we boarded a train at Seymour station and I think the band did play Waltzing Matilda and we were off to SVN.

Except for politician's sons, when people are drawn by ballot, you couldn't get any more random cross-section of society. We often hear people talk about the 'bronze Anzac.' it's not accurate. The heritage of men I served with range from Indigenous, Dutch, German, Maltese, Scottish, English, Italian and many who weren't as obvious. Some were tertiary educated, some farm laborers, policeman and ex-cons, hard drinkers and teetotalers... men you would normally ever associate with or come across in your life, but all became your brothers.

Every man has a story. I want tell you about two, an Englishman and a teetotaler.

The Englishman, 'Angry Ant' was our SSM and the best 'people manager' and logistics person I have ever had the good fortune to work for.

I can say this because he managed me and I was a handful. Early in the tour when the first lot of nashos went home I got drunker than I have ever been, and despite my mates giving me a cold shower and putting me to bed, I got up and let Angry's tent down. The next day, to stop the repercussions I went to see him and confessed. He made me pay for a month but never charged me. Then one day he said 'I think you have learned your lesson.'

There were numerous other misdemeanors, although never charged. I always paid a price, always felt sorry, and always learned a lesson.

To this day I benefit from what he taught me.

As a cook attached to C Sqn we had no real support. I was lucky to have him looking after me. I was still only 19.

The teetotaler was the only son of elderly parents, he was not a hard man and he went into a tough, hard-bloke environment of Basic training, Corps training and Canungra. It must have been twice as hard for him, but he never whinged, not once, or bad-mouth anybody. While he carried out the most demeaning job in the unit for the full 12 months, and although the butt of many jokes, he kept his sense of humour.

One day the boys took him to the Barbers shop at 'the flags' in Baria. He left on the run when the girls were told he was a 'cherry boy' and they took off after him.

On a clearing patrol one morning, in a dream, he walked through a trip-wire setting off a flair, sending all of us to the deck in 2 foot of red bull dust.

I had just turned 18 and two years out of High School and was sent to Canungra. I didn't drink or smoke, played all sports and was fit. But as an undeveloped kid it was a hard 21 days. I arrived back bigger, stronger and fitter, except when I arrived back they decided I couldn't go the SVN as I was still too young. I had to be 19 and if I didn't go within the 12 months I would have to do the course again.

'Padre' was the 'Blowfly'. He looked after the grease-traps, showers, toilets and urinals for the unit. He burned off the thunder boxes with range fuel.

One day too much range fuel, and it hit the fan! Another night, running from mischief, I crashed into a bin full of slop from the grease-traps that had been left in the sun all day as I hadn't helped Padre remove it when he had asked. I was covered head to toe in the slop. Padre appeared on the scene and said "See, God got you for what you have done". We all laughed! He did a terrific job.

I tried to find him some years ago and was saddened to find he died of AIDS in a Sydney hospital some years earlier.

As a gay man conscripted into the Army, at a time when it was against the law to be gay in and out of the Army, it must have been hard. He had nowhere to go, he just did his job and he kept his mouth shut.

If you think your time was hard, then put yourself in his shoes.

I tried to find him some years ago and was saddened to find he died of AIDS in a Sydney hospital some years earlier.

You don't have to be front-line to be a hero and a brave man.

After I learned of his death, my respect for him only grew along with the guilt I felt for some of my remarks.

But I hope we served for all groups – because all groups served.

I did my 12 months and while doing my regular job and at "Angry's direction, due to my indiscretions, laid a lot of sandbags as we built the Sqn lines in '68, along with tank pickets, forward listening posts (outside the wire with a field telephone - going out after dark, returning before first light), a couple of TAOR patrols, even leading one. They said, 'as a Cpl you'll do'. I got us lost and we spent the night out towards the Horseshoe in a rice-paddy. By chopper I delivered a number of meals to Fire Support bases and one night joined a river ambush with Bob Owen and crew, an invitation I wish I had declined. I mention this not as a 'wary', but I earned my money in SVN.

I left the Regiment and Catering Corps on returning from SVN in Feb 1969.

It had been hard work and you coped a lot of flak, a thankless job. As a cook you never really belong, you are only an attachment to the unit.

On the positive side of the job, I knew and worked with everybody over the year and ran the Crown and Anchor game and bought a new 69 Kingswood with the proceeds when I got home.

I turned 20 in SVN Sept 1968. I missed the call-up.

I had already been there and done that. We were winning when we left.

I served my last 3 years as an M.P. ... still unpopular, but at least I was given respect. The experience has a lifelong effect, both good and bad.

This is not meant as a whinge, it was a tough job and it made me stronger.



Blue with Grandson Jack today

G'day Peter,
Great read in the latest Centurion, appreciate the effort you put into it. Sorry but I don't have anything much to write about, I was only in 1AR for two years as Troop Sgt, SHQ Troop, C Sqn. It was an interesting and enjoyable time for me as a 'bucket' among all the 'tankies'. Every now and then I see names I remember some I even have contact with, many not unfortunately. One of my great memories were the fantastic end of year functions the squadron had. One was an Arabian Night (1984)



Janet (wife) and I dressed for the Arabian Night

The second an Early Australia (1985) theme. I wonder how the Arabian Night would go over these days. A pity we didn't have digital cameras/mobiles back then as photos are far and few between. I may have others but only one on the computer. I've attached it for you. It's of myself and Janet (wife) dressed for the Arabian Night. I have a few more of the Early Australia night which I'll also send separately.

I also have attached to this email a photo taken at the Cambrai Day parade in 1985 and one taken at Melbourne Zoo on Paratus' birthday in 1984.



1 AR parade at Melbourne Zoo 1984



1st Armoured Regiment Cambrai Day Parade 1985

One suggestion if I may. Could you include a section where people can ask about mates they have lost. For instance I'd like to know what happened to my driver, Chris Murr. Of course he may be a member of the association but as there is no member list on the website I wouldn't know. That's it for now,
Regards
Mick Kuilboer



Michael & Janet at C Sqn 1AR Christmas Function



TPS David England & Mick Walsh

OC MAJ Stone has his say at C Sqn 1AR Christmas Function

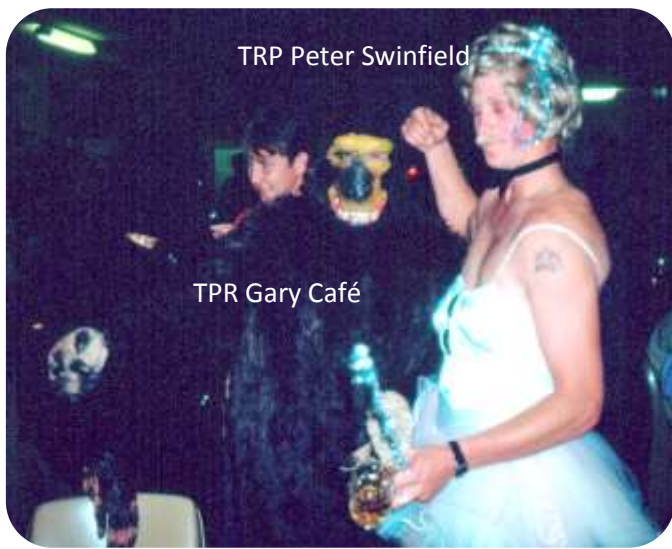


TP Graeme Lancaster & TP/LCPL Steve Graves

Drawing the raffle at C Sqn 1AR Christmas Function



Karen Chappel, Dean Chappel & Bob Murray



C Squadron Christmas Party 1985

A Good Yarn By Young Reg

One day (1970), 1 Troop C Sqn, we were out on the Pucka range with the grunts and some cavalry, we had been told to look out for the "enemy" operating alone or in groups. We were supposed to pretend we were in "jungle". We came up hull down over a ridge and via my gunners sight I spotted movement in a donga a couple of clicks down a valley.

I put my CC, Nev Callis "ON" and he radioed a "CONTACT" to our Troop Leader and "niner". We got the OK that we were in a "free fire zone" and we then launched over the hill in a four tank "charge" down the valley, with Cav following just like the charge of the light brigade.

We were all very excited and fired off a couple of blank main armament and plenty of co-ax and flex blanks, a big yippee shoot.

I lost sight of the "enemy" for a while then when we drew up at the side of the donga I spotted him and put my smoking 20 pounder muzzle straight at the chest of the "enemy" who was standing with his arms raised in surrender. I thought that's funny, I was expecting the enemy to be dressed in black pyjama's, this bloke was dressed in greens with boots and gaiters and carried an army blanket.

The grunts jumped off the carriers and searched our "enemy". Only then under interrogation did we find out that our "enemy" was actually AWOL from 2 RTB. He had spent the night before out on the range where we had practiced a live "Vietnam style" night shoot with the drivers light on the star picket.

Regards,
Young Reg

(Editors comment: I hope he had a spare pair of undies)

Important Notice!

Everyone is most welcome to attend

The Unveiling of the Light Horse War Memorial in Hay (Country NSW)

WHEN: Saturday 11th November 2017

WHERE: Marchers are to assemble at the Memorial Hall, Lachlan Street. HAY. NSW

TIME: 10.30 AM for the Hay R.S.L Sub Branch Remembrance Day Service.

At the conclusion of the service the march led by the Kapooka Military Band will proceed to the site of the Hay Light Horse War Memorial for the unveiling at 11.30 AM by the Deputy Chief of the Australian Air Force, Air Vice Marshall Warren McDonald who is a local boy, having grown up in Hay and completed his Schooling at the Hay War Memorial high school.

A luncheon will be held at the Hay Services Club at 1 PM.

Persons wishing to attend must book by Friday 8th September. Charge for the luncheon is \$25 PP. This must be paid when booking for the booking to be accepted. This is so catering can be organised.

CONTACT: Lurleen Mitchell
PHONE: 02 6993 1086