



PARAT

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PATRON: BRIG Ted Acutt (Retd) PRESIDENT: Keith (Mel) Meloncelli

SECRETARY: Russ James TREASURER: Werner Golla



1st ARMOURED REGIMENT

Theatres of Operation

Japan (1st Armd Car Sqn) Sth Vietnam

Theatre Honour

STH VIETNAM 1968-1971

Battle Honours

Coral - Balmoral

Hat Dich

Binh Ba

Rhodesia

Cambodia

East Timor

Iraq

Solomon Islands Afghanistan

Newsletter Contributions

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

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



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E: newsletter@paratus.org.au



Committee 2022

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Links to Web Sites and Face Book Pages

Web Sites Facebook Pages

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC MEMBERS ONLY 1st ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

www.paratus.org.au

www.raaccorpltd.org.au

1st ARMD REGT ASSOC SOCIAL PAGE RAAC CORPORATION

www.facebook.com/groups/106848019339045/

www.facebook.com/groups/112757492512931/

1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT FACEBOOK ROYAL TANK REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

www.facebook.com/1ArmdRegt/

www.royaltankregiment.com



Report from the Secretary - Russ James

Secretary, 1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

PO Box 301

Mentone. VIC 3194 B: Bendigo Bank

1st Armoured Regiment Association Inc.

BSB: 633-000

Account: 161498159



Secretary's Report

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

- Matters of Importance decided at the AGM (27 March 2022) including Election Results and the Future of ARN 169005
- Scholarships
- Membership Current Situation
- New Members
- Donations

Management Committee Positions for Election

The following Members of the Management Committee were re-elected, unopposed:

- President Mel Meloncelli
- Treasurer Werner Golla
- Special Projects 2 Graeme Unmack
- Liaison Officer for 1st Armoured Regiment Mark Reid
- Association Delegate to the RAAC Corporation Chris Fenton, and
- All State representatives including Pat Deeker (WA), Mark Reid (SA), Iain Reynolds (VIC), Jim Semmens (TAS),
 Mick Payne (NSW) and Brian Hatfield (Qld) were re-elected unopposed.

The following members stepped up to the plate and volunteered (and were elected) for the positions indicated:

- Communications Manager and Website Manager Bob Kennard, and
- Newsletter Editor Graeme (Wol) Walker.

The following positions are currently vacant:

- Recruitment Manager
- State Representatives for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (currently undertaken by the NSW State Rep)

The Management Committee, on behalf of all Association members, would like to express its sincere thanks to the new volunteers, as well as those members who stood for their previously held positions. Without these volunteers the Association would cease to exist.

Major Issues Addressed at the AGM

ARN 169005

John Brooker, on behalf of the ARN 169005 Board of Management, advised that there was a very high probability that our tank (ARN 169005) would not be relocated with the Museum when the new facility was built in the next two years. Subsequent discussion led to the establishment of a Subcommittee to investigate the options, and make recommendations, for the future disposition of the vehicle owned by the Association.

Members of the Subcommittee include Mel Meloncelli (Chair), Russ James (Admin Support), John Brooker and Peter Coutts (Operational and Historical aspects), John Blackwell and Dean Martin (Maintenance and Engineering considerations) and Tony Crook and Peter Swinfield (Museum inputs and Museum Technical issues).

Sporting Scholarship

The AGM was advised that the Management Committee had finalised the Selection and Appraisal criteria for Sporting Scholarship. Applications close on 30 June.

Membership Fees and Joining Fees

It was recommended, and accepted, that changes were not required to existing Membership Fees, or the imposition of an Association Joining Fee.

Membership – Current Situation

As at 10 June 2022, the Association has a total of 505 active (financial) members; an increase of around 128 since the AGM held on 14 July 2018 when the majority of the current Management Committee was elected.

Membership renewals – there were 212 members due for membership renewal on 1 February 2022. So far 182, or 85.8% have renewed with one (1) member resigning by email, one (1) who has suspended membership for 12 months and a further 28 who have failed to renew. Attempts to contact these members, by email and phone, have been unsuccessful. We have not yet given up and hope that the odd friendly phone call may have a positive result. These members remain as inactive members until 1 August at which time they will be re-categorised as 'Inactive – Resigned'. Your encouragement is sought to influence anyone you know who has doubts about renewing their membership.

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

New Members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since early March 2022:

John HOWARD (6 March 2022), Trevor LUCAS (9 March 2022), Martin GAMPE (15 March 2022), Matt STERRENBERG (2 April 2022), Jeff Madex (27 April 2022), Karl LANGHANKI (3 May 2022), Doc BRAIN (19 May 2022) and Ben PETERSON (5 June 2022).

Donations

The Association gratefully acknowledges the following members who have made donations since the last Newsletter:

Max HYSON, Gerry GERMAINE, Gerry MCCORMACK, Doug BLACKNEY, Bill BALDWIN, Roger COSTELLO, Abram SANDY and Anony MOUSE!

In addition, the Association also gratefully acknowledges the following members who have made donations to the Port Macquarie 2022 Reunion:

Graeme UNMACK, Gary (Pluto) McNABB, Gerry McCormack, Graeme POTTS and Rob MILLSTEED



The President in discussions after the AGM



1st Armoured Regiment Association Incorporated

Association AGM 27 March 2022



General discussions prior to the start of proceedings



The 'Big Three' hard at work





Association Patron Ted Acutt and Mark Reid

'Tubby' Brooker receives his lifetime membership certificate



Bob Kennard receives his lifetime membership certificate



Ron Bell receives his lifetime membership certificate



Families of Peter Moore MID and Peter Lukeis, with association members just prior to the memorial services



Honour Roll

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

Killed in Action

TPR James Kerr (13 May 1969)

Died of Wounds

TPR Mick Hannaford (14 December 1968)

Died within the prescribed period

WO2 Noel Lowes (6 July 1971)

Killed Accidently whilst on Military duty in a Training environment

TPR A. M. Jordan (14 October 1962)

CFN B. Silver (LAD) (19 November 1962)

SGT R. Morrison (17 August 1965)

LT A. J. Massey (7 July 1982)

TPR A. Patterson (7 June 1984)

SGT R. G. Murray (9 July 1986)



The Association recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who were either KIA or DOW whilst serving with units such as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, 3rd Cavalry Regiment or any other units in any conflict since the Regiment was formed in 1949.

The Association also recognises and acknowledges those former members of the Regiment who have passed since the end of a conflict and who may or may not have been recognised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as entitled to an Official Commemoration. Hundreds are known to have passed of wounds or illnesses and diseases that may have been contracted during military service.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary then, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

'LEST WE FORGET'

Members passed away since the last newsletter:
Brian MILLS (RAEME) (02 March 2022)
Dave ROGERSON (16 March 2022)
Andy ZSOLT (03 April 2022)
Phillip Allen MAHONEY (07 April 2022)
Kenneth Norman MILLER (27 April 2022)
Richard Darral CHAISTY (16 May 2022)
Jeff SIMPSON (RAEME) (24 May 2022)
Russell WARD (31 May 2022)

Farewell to Andrew (Andy) Zsolt

A large turnout from the Association along with fellow Black Hats from 4/19 PWLH attended the funeral for Andy Zsolt at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 11 April 2022.

(Photos courtesy Herman Harberts)









ANZAC Day Long Lunch - Melbourne

Victoria Rep Iain Reynolds arranged this year's Association ANZAC Day Long Lunch Friday 22nd April at the Emerald Hotel, South Melbourne. 20 members in attendance and all enjoyed a great meal and afternoon.







ANZAC Day across the Association



Association members at the conclusion of the march in the grounds of the Shrine of Remembrance



Association Secretary and Treasurer make an appearance at the Kelvin Club, Melbourne

ANZAC Day, Sydney 2022

A pretty poor turnout for the 1st Armoured Regiment with only 3 of us and a Bluebell marching behind our Banner and no Officer to lead us.

COVID played a part, but it would be good to see a renewed interest next year and a renewed pride in the Regiment's great achievements and most importantly the comradeship of those who have served together.

Please make the effort to come along next year.

The Clovelly Scout group that are associated with 1 AR member Dave Ferguson again did a great job in carrying our Banner, 2 on the poles and 4 on ropes, it's sad that they outnumbered the marchers.

The Black Hat gathering back at the Civic Hotel which is conveniently located near the end of the march at the corner of Goulburn and Pitt Streets was, however, a successful gathering and well attended. We had our own private area in the hotel and pub food was available.

MAJGEN Michael Krause AM and several other senior RAAC officers, including our popular Padre Rev Andrew Sempell, freely mingled in the gathering which also included families.

It would not be good if years of tradition were allowed to die on the vine, your future participation would be very much appreciated.

Yours in Armour, Bob Ferrari OAM

Crow Eaters Veterans Retreat Weekend 2022



Veteran Retreat 2022 Crew with property hosts Val and Graham Francis



'Crow Eaters 2022 Veterans Retreat' hats presentation to Val and Graham Francis at their gallery on Monday morning 9th May 22. Hats kindly donated by Bill Stanfield.



Veteran Retreat 2022 Crew 'Dining In Night'

Out and about in Richmond, Tasmania



Spotted in Tasmania in early April at the Richmond Arms Hotel were former Regiment members (front) Russ James, Peter Harrold, and (back) Stan Hanuszewicz and Dutchy Soutar

Tassie Veteran Retreats

There are now two Veterans' retreats co-located at Dago Point, Interlaken, Tasmania. One for Vietnam Veterans and the other for all Veterans.

Bookings for either Retreat may be made by ringing Malcolm or Ann Cash on (03) 6326 3571. Electronic Copies for each Retreat are available from the Secretary

(secretary@paratus.org.au) or Jim Semmens – Tasmanian Representative at tasrep@paratus.org.au

Mt Gambier Leopard gets a facelift



HAVE PAINT BRUSH - WILL PAINT: Geoff Baker, former Crew Commander of the Leopard Tank on display at the Mount Gambier RSL Bowling Club, gave the tank a facelift with assistance from fellow 1st Armoured Regiment colleagues Roger Martlew, of Millicent, Richard James, of Naracoorte, and Mark Reid from Adelaide.

'The old girl' gets a facelift

KATHY GANDOLFI

kathy.gandolfi@tbwtoday.com.au

"SHE was a beauty," said retired Regimental Sergeant Major Geoff Baker last week when he and three colleagues of the 1st Armoured Regiment Association gave a facelift to the army tank which is on permanent display at Mount Gambier's Returned and Services League (RSL) Bowling Club on Jubilee Highway.

Now living at Seaford, Adelaide, Mr Baker was crew commander for that actual tank in the 1980's, something he discovered by accident during a return visit to Mount Gambier which was his home-town as a boy growing up.

up.

"I was back in the Mount with my wife and we were walking down the street and she said, 'look, there is a tank like you had,'" said Mr Baker.

"I thought, wouldn't it be great if it was my old tank, and as it turned out - it was."

Despite the chances being slim as Australia had about 100 Leopard tanks during their service, Mr Baker checked the serial number, painted on the exterior of the machine, and immediately recognised that 29395 was indeed his tank.

"I practically slept with her for two years," Mr Baker said as he prepared to give the 46 year old tank a new coat of paint thanks to help from Mount Gambier's RSL, Bunnings who donated the paint and tools through Taubmans Paint, and Paxford Canvas who made, fitted and donated a new cover for the tank, while the local Woolworths made sure the men were fed during their working bees last week.

Mr Baker said the tank's name when it was in service was Coldstream but the repainting last week gave he and his colleagues the opportunity to rename it in line with the tradition of squadrons naming tanks with the letter of the squadron it belonged to - be it A, B or C.

As the tank was with C Squadron, and as the tank is now in Mount Gambier which was Mr Baker's home town, it was decided to rename the tank Crater City.

Mr Baker went to school at Mount Gambier's Reidy Park and North primary schools and then Tech School, now known as Grant High School.

As was common in those days, he finished school on the Friday and began work the following Monday as an apprentice mechanic with the highways department.

He left Mount Gambier when he was 17 years old and moved to Naracoorte where he was called up for national service in 1972 after which he joined the regular army with whom he served for 34 years.

Being a mechanic, it was natural fit for him to be allocated to the 1st Armoured Regiment based at Puckapunyal's army facility in central Victoria and later Mr Baker moved to Darwin with the brigade there.

He also had non-corps postings in Kapooka near Wagga Wagga and Tamworth in New South Wales, and in Sydney. Mr Baker said while the tank was made in 1976, his association with it was in 1983 and 1984 when he was posted back to the 1st Armoured Regiment at Puckapunyal as a troop sergeant to C Squadron.

"I was issued 29395 so it was basically my tank for two years," Mr Baker said.

During that time, the tank and its crew, with Mr Baker as the crew commander, participated in training exercises, including a major one in 1983.

"My squadron loaded all our tanks and sapport vehicles on the HMAS Tobruk and sailed from Melbourne to Shoalwater Bay near Rockhampton in Queensland for an eight week exercise, including a dawn attack at Sabina Point."

The tank stayed with the regiment for its entire life, never firing a shot in anger.

Replaced by the American Abrams tanks, the Leopard tanks were retired from service in 2007 and donated by the Commonwealth Government to RSL's for display in towns around Australia.

Three of Mr Baker's 1st Armoured Regiment colleagues helped him repaint Mount Gambier's Leopard.

They included Roger Martlew, of Millicent, who was a 20 year old when he served as a gunner on a Centurion tank - the forerunner to the Leopard - in the Vietnam War and has vivid memories of his tank being blown up in his first two weeks of service, suffering bad burns but thankfully surviving and having to return to serve out the rest of his 15 month tour.

Richard James, of Naracoorte, was a tank driver on Centurions and and was a driver during tank trials to determine whether Australia selected the American or German tank.

Mark Reid, of Adelaide, was a crewman on Centurion tanks in 1972 and later was a commander on the Leopard tank after its introduction.

Despite or perhaps because of their experiences, the men obviously maintain a strong bond, meeting regularly through their shared association, and with Mount Gambier's Leopard being a familiar reminder of that period in their lives, they gladly gave up their time to give it a fresh lick of paint.

"It's a brilliant idea to paint the old girl - give her a face-lift - and get together at the same time," they said.



Just over six (6) weeks to go and approximately 130 members, and their partners, of the Association, and former members, and their partners, of the Regiment are to gather in the coastal town in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region of NSW bursting with restaurants, beaches, fun attractions and accommodation. Add a few wineries, craft breweries, historical attractions, theatres and arts – what more could you ask!

Planning is well advanced for the three (3) events: Meet and Greet on Friday 22 July, Reunion Dinner on Saturday 23 July and the Recovery Breakfast on Sunday 24 July 2022. All functions are to be held at Rydges, Hay St, Port Macquarie.

A Joining Instruction with specific detail concerning dress requirements, COVID in NSW, the Registration Desk and Timings, reunion events and timings, travelling to and around Port Macquarie, as well as tourist attractions, health, welfare and safety is to be issued to all registered Reunion Attendees in the next two (2) weeks.

The Meet and Greet, from 1830 to 2300 hours, includes grazing/browsing platters of antipasto, breads and dips, hot food, as well as cheeses and fruits followed by canapes including chicken snitzel sliders, mini-cheese burgers and salt and pepper squid. Drinks include red, white and sparkling wines as well as both draught and bottled beer with jugs of soft drink and juices. Any other drinks, such as spirits or cocktails are to be purchased at individual's expense.

The Reunion Dinner, from 1830 to 2300 hours includes a three (3) course meal as well as the same drinks as at the Meet and Greet.

The Recovery Breakfast, also at Rydges, is to be held from 0800 to 1000 hours and is a smorgasbord event.

The Management Committee and PM22 Reunion Subcommittee is committed to providing a Reunion that mitigates the risks associated with the spread of viruses such as COVID and influenza.

A full list of attendees is provided below.



Port Macquarie Reunion 2022 Attendees as of this newsletter

Acutt, Peter (Ted) Atkinson, John

Austin, Dennis (Aussie) and Rhonda

Baker, Geoff and Denise (Den)

Beasley, Mitch

Beckett, Brian and Cheryl

Bell Kevin (Dinga) and Anderson, Vilma

Bower, Craig

Brooker OAM, John (Tubby)
Butler, Michael (Mick) and Irena
Charenko, Michael (Mick) and Julie

Chapple, Brian and Edlington, Sandra

Coutts, Peter (Bushy)

Cowcher, Brett and Meredith Cummings, Ian and Wendy Dearling, Charles (Charlie)

Fenton OAM, Christopher (Chris) and Jan

Ferguson, Bruce and Katrina Ferrari OAM, Bob and Sue Ford, Wayne and Judi

Fredericks, Chris and Carolyn Geldens, Anthony (Tony)

Golding, Brad

Grant, Warren (Wazza) and Christine (Chris)

Harberts, Herman Hardy, Scott

Hastings, Ian and Cathie Hatfield, Brian and Margaret

Hendrie, David (Dave)

Henry, Chris (Chook) and Witty, Kris Hoseason-Smith, Phillip (Phil) and Sue

Howard, John and Lynda Hunter, Kevin and Anglea

Hyson, Maxwell (Max) and Sandra (Sandy)

Key BM and Bar, David (Dave) and Key OAM, Vicki

Kennard, Robert (Bob) and Lynette (Lyn)

Lewis, Brian and Diedre

Main, George and Suellyn Martin, Dean and Denise McKenzie, James (Jim) McLeod, Christopher (Chris) McNabb, Gary and King, Helen

Meecham, Maurice (Maurie) and Joan

Meloncelli, Keith (Mel) and Ann

Miller, Neville and Terri

Millsteed, Robin (Rob) and Helen

Moody, Ross

Morris, William (Bill) and Frances Murphy, Alan (Spud) and Jill

Murphy, Anthony (Tony) and Geraldine Neville, Anthony (Tony) and Catherine

O'Gorman, Peter and Carol Payne, Mick and Judith (Judi) Peate, Robert (Jacko) and Linda

Potts, Graeme (Pottsy)

Powell, AM Roger and Rhonda Power, Ian (Punchy) and Sue

Reid, Mark and Gail

Rosemond CSC OAM, Peter (Pedro) and Vicki

Rossiter, Phil and Brenda Rowley, Eric and Lyn

Semmens, Jim Shearn, Robert (Rob) Stanfield, William (Bill) and Mary

Still, Peter

Taylor, Rod and Reece, Karen Thompson, Eric and Jan

Unmack, Graeme

Van Der Schoot, Bill and Annette Vicino, Phillip (Phil) and Beverley

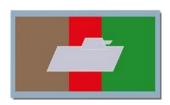
Warren, Ronald (Rabbit)
Watts, Trevor and Brenda
Wear, Russell (Russ) and Carol
Williams, Simon and Michelle

Wood, Ray





REGIMENTAL NEWS



In the absence of any updates direct from the Regiment, here is a selection of photos from activities as posted to their Facebook page.

Images of the Regiment at work 2021 and 2022





Pack Change



A Sqn mounted in Hawkei PMV-L - Cultana Nov 21



C Sqn ASLAV with Marine Corps Osprey VTOL aircraft overhead



Spt Sqn hard at it - Linear Replen



 $Some\ very\ famous\ quotes\ by\ Winston\ Churchill$

"Golf: An ineffectual attempt to direct an uncontrollable sphere into an inaccessible hole with instruments ill-adapted to the purpose."

"He occasionally stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing happened."



Spt Sqn - Barracks Pack Change

'There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.'

Donald Rumsfeld



Knock-off Note from the Editor

G'day All,

This is your newsletter. It stands to reason then, that a part of the content should come from you. I'm sure you all have a few photos from your time at the Regiment and, of course, a myriad of stories to go with them. So don't just leave them in your hard drive collecting virtual dust; send them in with (or without if you prefer) a story or caption to go with them and I'll add them to the following issue. So, get in touch via the email address at the bottom of the front page.

Cheers, Wol Walker Editor

"One One Alpha; Out"



Cambrai Day 1994 - A Sqn 'Alphas'

L to R - Jim McKellar (1A), 'Wol' Walker (11A), 'Clarence' Jones (12A), 'Beacon' Edney (13A) and Pete Swinfield (14A)

New Association Merchandise - Get Your Orders in NOW!

Our Vice President (Dean Martin – the 'spanner') has spent considerable time and effort in identifying and sourcing four (4) new products that are to be added to the Q Store Inventory, provided that sufficient orders are received. These goods are to be available to Port Macquarie Reunion (July 2022) attendees and should then be available in early August 2022 to all other Association members.

The four new items include:



PEAKED CAP - a new and very stylish peaked cap, black with red outline on the brim. The Regimental badge on the central panel and '1st Armoured Regiment Association' embroidered across the back. One size fits all with adjustable buckle.

Exceptional value at just \$16 plus postage and handling

LUNCH COOLER – designed for travelling nomads, fisherman and tradies! Fill this up with your sangas and cool drinks and they will stay fresh and cool for the entire journey. Buy a second one and ensure that your bait is as fresh as it was out of the freezer at your bait provider. A tough product that will stand the test of time. Strong, durable and includes a carry handle with the Association Badge on the front. Measures 225 mm wide X 195 mm high, X 155 mm deep and comes in Black/Grey Black, Navy Black and Royal Black. Designed for a 6-pack of soda water!

Incredibly priced at just \$14 plus postage and handling

VORTECH HAT - for the outdoors this hat - modelled on the classic Aust. Army 'Giggle Hat - is a must wear in the sun, either mowing the grass, ploughing the fields, sitting in the tinnie or up a ladder for the tradies! Super comfortable sweat band included. Affords a great barrier against the elements by being waterproof, comfortable and breathable. Made of heavy brushed cotton padded with cotton sweatband and available in sizes XS (54 cm), SM (57 cm) or L/XL (60 cm). Available in three colours - black, navy or white and includes Association badge.

What a bargain – a giggle hat that is not green for the unbelievably low price of just \$23 plus postage and handling

CONTOUR TUMBLE (COFFEE MUG) - everybody loves a great cup of coffee or tea. When on the long journey, keep the brew nice and hot for longer in a well-insulated brew mug. With the lid on it will be steamy hot an hour later. A high-quality mug stamped with our Association insignia.

The travel mug is a well-designed 350ml, double insulated wall travel mug with a stainless-steel outer wall and includes the 1st Armoured Regiment Association motif centrally located to the front. It is 225 mm wide x 195 mm high x 155 mm deep and comes in a Royal Black colour.

Priced at a very affordable price of just \$23 plus postage and handling

§§

1st Armoured Regiment Association New Merchandise Order Form – June 2022

| s: er: | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| rder Form Item Name | | Price | Size | Colour |
| Peak Cap (4290) | 1 | \$12.00 | | |
| Lunch Cooler | 2 | \$14.00 | | Black |
| Postage and Handling (Treasurer to complete) Total Amount | | \$26.00 | | |
| er Form | | <u> </u> | | |
| Item Name | Qty | Price | Size | Colour |
| | | | | |
| Total Amount | | | | |
| | | | | rm by email to |
| | | | | |
| | Item Name Peak Cap (4290) Lunch Cooler Postage and Handling (Treasurer to complete) Total Amount Per Form Item Name Total Amount Total Amount | Item Name Qty Peak Cap (4290) 1 Lunch Cooler 2 Postage and Handling (Treasurer to complete) Total Amount Per Form Item Name Qty Total Amount Opy and send either a scanned image or photo of cepresident@paratus.org.au with a copy to treasurer. | Item Name Qty Price Peak Cap (4290) | Item Name Qty Price Size |

Ordered Goods will not be available until early August and certainly not until PAYMENT has been received.

Payment Instructions for Electronic Funds Transfer are to be provided on the Invoice provided.

For those who do not have electronic access, send your cheque or money order to:

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