

# Centurion

February 2018

1ST ARMOURED REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



## Position Vacant

Applicants must be team players. Some arduous work required. Remuneration good.  
Company vehicle supplied

### 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 Secretary.

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



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# The First Armoured Regiment Association

Committee 2017/2018

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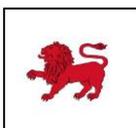
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<http://www.paratus.org.au>





## Notices from the Secretary/Memberships/Treasurer Richard (Dick) Stanios



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**P:** Secretary, 1AR Association  
PO Box 60,  
Bandiana MILPO. VIC 3694

**B:** Bendigo Bank  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association  
BSB: 633-000  
Account: 161498159

### MEMBERSHIP FEES!!!

**M**embers are reminded that membership fees are due now - February 2018.

**Prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.**

#### Benefits:

- New financial assistance for the conduct of scheduled State functions.
- Financial assistance to the November 2018, Adelaide reunion.
- Only financial members are entitled to vote on all Association matters.
- Access to the member's only social Facebook page.
- Keep in touch with all Association news and events by receiving the ongoing Quarterly Newsletter.

#### Sponsorships:

- Awards for the following:  
1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Soldier of the year.  
Junior Non Commissioned Officer of the year
- A Squadron Vietnam Veterans sponsor:  
The Hammersley Awards for A Squadron
- Students of Merit Awards:  
Tank Gunners Course  
Tank Crew Commanders Course  
Regimental Officers Basic Course – Tank

#### Payment options are:

\$25.00 for one year.  
or  
\$70.00 for three years.

Please remit payment including in the Reference Name and Membership number, to our following new Bank Account

#### Bendigo Bank

**1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association**  
**BSB: 633-000**  
**Account: 161498159**

Or post to Secretary (see new address)

Members are requested to direct all association correspondence to the Secretary's email address:

[secretary@paratus.org.au](mailto:secretary@paratus.org.au)

and not to personal email addresses. Emails received into personal email accounts may not be actioned.

Cheers,  
Dick  
Secretary/Treasurer

#### Donations:

Bob (Snapper) Snape  
Roger Powell  
Brian C Dunn

#### New Members:

Kevin Heyward  
Chris McGough

#### Q STORE:

##### !!! Reminder

Anzac day is fast approaching so don't forget to order Beret and or beret badge along with tie and scarf for wearing on the parade or any other like functions



Go to Web Site [www.paratus.org.au](http://www.paratus.org.au) and in the Menu click on Q Store then follow the instructions.

Any questions contact Mick Dunn

# The First Shot is Fired

1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment SVN February 1968.

Ref: Canister! On! Fire!

*I have a clear memory of having to deal with a 'pissed-off company commander when my gun jammed.*

Bob Owens, LO,  
C Squadron, 1968

Badman's concern about the state of the squadron's defences in February 1968 is understandable in light of what became known as the Tet Offensive. The North Vietnamese High Command decided on a new campaign to regain the initiative and seal the fate of the South. It was timed to coincide with the start of the truce for the Vietnamese New Year Festival, 6pm on 29 January 1968. The NVA and VC struck immediately, launching numerous massed attacks throughout South Vietnam. In many places the mobility and firepower of the limited armour available, saved the day.

US and ARVN tank and cavalry units formed the nucleus of reaction forces, moving quickly to counter enemy threats as they arose. This was particularly so in the battles for Hue and in the defence of Tan Son Nhut Airport and the large US bases at Bien Hoa and Long Binh. There were two immediate outcomes: first, the enemy were badly beaten, losing almost 39,000 in Saigon and surrounding provinces alone, and second, the value of armour's mobile firepower and shock action was at last appreciated by US commanders. New operational planning saw mobile task forces being formed to pursue a weakened enemy. Armoured reinforcements were called for, including a mechanised brigade.

The successes achieved by armour seem not to have been appreciated by 1ATE soon after C Squadron arrived at NuiDat, they were 'welcomed' by the Task Force commander. Brigadier Hughes's words were surprising: 'I didn't want you, I didn't ask for you, but now you're here, I intend to make best use of you. Was there an element of 'positioning' here, should the Centurions prove a failure?

Despite their losses during Tet, the enemy were not defeated. They set about planning new attacks, to be directed against Saigon in May 1968. This next campaign became known as 'mini Tet' and was designed to influence the Paris Peace Talks commencing at that time. The involvement of 1ATF in helping to counter this offensive would become a watershed for the Australian Army.

One of those who arrived with the C Squadron Advance Party, was the LO, Second Lieutenant Bob Owens. The last thing he had expected, was to find himself on operations three days later, even before the tanks had arrived. Prior to Tet most of 1ATF had been deployed north to Bien Hoa Province to help protect the US military complexes at Long Bien and Bien Hoa. It was left to the IATF Ready Reaction Force to respond to a determined attack on the ARVN Sector HQ at Baria'" at 5am on 1 February 1968.

A Company 3RAR (Major Brian [Horri] Howard) and 3 Troop A Squadron 3 Cav (Second Lieutenant Roger Tingley) did a magnificent job in clearing and securing the town, following a well-planned occupation by 0445 Provincial Mobile Battalion. While the battle was being fought, arrangements were made to collect the closest infantry (B Company 3RAR, Major Bert Irwin) from Binh Ba, and bring them back to Nui Oat to reconstitute a reserve.

One of the problems was that there were only two troop-carrying trucks available, resulting in engineer dump trucks being pressed into service. Another problem was the need for an escort and someone to lead it. This was where Owens came in:

The only [armoured] vehicles available for the escort were two fitters 'tracks'," still in transportation mode with cranes stowed inside, no gun shields, and guns still in boxes. The machine guns were quickly prepared and briefly test fired before departing.

With twelve infantry squashed into each of the two fitters 'tracks', the company made it back to Nui Oat. The same elements were deployed to Baria the next day, 2 February. The enemy were well known to set ambushes to catch relief forces and considerable care was taken to ensure that the route was safe. Dittmar noted in his diary:

Second lieutenant Owens again commanded the escort ... such as it was.

He recalls:

As we neared the outskirts of Baria, the Company Commander [Irwin] requested that we engage an area from which sporadic pot shots were being received. This we did, however, as luck would have it, [after a number of rounds] my 'fifty' experienced a stoppage-" Fortunately the enemy fire had been suppressed and the remainder of the escort passed without incident. Apart from me, the crews on both vehicles were from the Armoured Squadron Workshop.

Such were the circumstances under which 1st Armoured Regiment, RAAC, fired their first shot in action. It was to be hoped that Centurions would be present when the enemy were next encountered.

# The following Honour Roll is dedicated to those 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice



## Killed In Action

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

## Died of Wounds

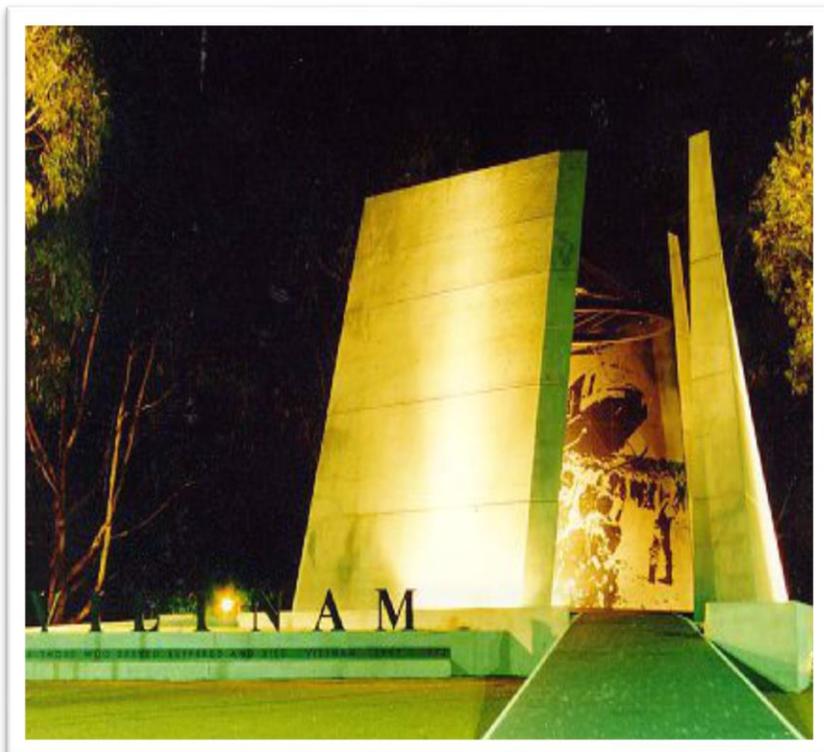
TPR M. Hannaford  
WO2 T. Phillips

## 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)



## VALE:

Sad news that Howard (Andy) Anderson passed away on the 1st of January 2018. Corporal **Howard ANDERSON** Service No: 311616 Vietnam Service Between: 22/10/1970 and 25/09/1971 Total Days: 339 A and C Squadrons, 1st Armoured Regiment LAD. RIP

Advised by Russell Cunningham

(22 Jan 18) Herald Sun list death notice for 48680 **John LOCH** RAEME inserted by VVAA. The deceased was a member of the 1 Armd Regt LAD

Sad news just in from our QLD Rep on the passing on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 of WO2 **Kenneth Alfred RICHARDS**, MM, RAAC, AATTV.

Messages of condolences may be forward to Son-in-Law, Dale Martin: dsmartin1379@gmail.com.

(See full details on following page)



**RAYMOND JOHN**

**"RAY"**

**EVANS**

AGED 73 YEARS

Late of Taylors Beach. Ray passed away at home on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Beloved Brother and Brother-in-Law of Bob and Julie. Cherished Uncle of Lisa, Kerry and Kim. Ray was a much loved Great Uncle and Friend.

SADLY MISSED

As per Ray's wishes,  
a private family cremation has been held.

From Bruce Scott:

This is sad news indeed. He was crew commander of 4Bravo in 1970, SVN. One of the very best. (For more information on service in Vietnam See Vale on Web Site) [www.paratus.org.au](http://www.paratus.org.au)

The following information on the passing of a soldier was only recently received by the association:

On 14 Apr 2017 at Wodonga, Warrant Officer Class Two **A. K. (Aif) HUNTER** RAAC, AATTV

Alfred served as a WO2 with AATTV in South Vietnam from 11 Mar 1968 to Jun 68 with 3/7ARVN Cavalry, PK 17 North of Hue, Jul – Sep 68 with 2/7 ARVN Cavalry, PK 17, Hue then Oct 69 to Mar 69, Armoured School, Thu Duc near Saigon.

In addition to the unit citations awarded to AATTV, Alfred was also awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry (with Silver Star) for his service in South Vietnam.

Advice has been received from reliable sources that **Terry Glen** - a member of B Sqn from 1962 to 1967 - passed away approximately two weeks ago in Echuca and that his funeral was held in Seymour last week. From Russ James 5/2/2018

On 9th January 2018 WO2 K. (Ken) A. Richards, MM, RAAC, AATTV. Ken served in South Vietnam as a WO2 from 6 Dec 1966 to May 67 at Duc My Ranger Training Centre and from Jun 67 to Nov 67, 1/7 Cavalry Squadron, Tanks and 3/7 Cavalry near Hue. RTA 6 Dec 67.

While serving with AATTV, Ken was awarded the Military Medal. A copy of his citation reads as follows:

Army Number:	42924
Substantive Rank:	Sergeant
Temporary Rank:	Warrant Officer
Christian Name:	Kenneth Alfred
Surname:	RICHARDS
Honour or Award:	MM

Warrant Officer Richards enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 29 October 1957, and after recruit training was posted to First Armoured Regiment, Royal Australian Armoured Corps. He volunteered for service in South Vietnam and was posted to the Australian Army Training Team on 6 December 1966, where he was allotted as an adviser to 3rd Troop 7th Cavalry Squadron, Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

On 7 September 1967 in Thua Thien Province, 3rd Troop was ordered to capture a heavily armed, well entrenched enemy position in a village consisting of two regular Viet Cong companies. Warrant Officer Class Two Richards occupied the Armoured Personnel Carrier spearheading the assault, which was supported by infantry. When the assault force was about 25 metres from the enemy they came under intense anti-tank, automatic small arms and 82mm mortar fire which halted the supporting infantry. Warrant Officer Class Two Richards on seeing this, stood on top of his Armoured Personnel Carrier, with total disregard for the intense enemy fire, and by shouting and waving attempted to rally the infantry to press home the assault. After a short delay the assault was pressed home by the Armoured Personnel Carriers. Because of the lack of supporting Infantry, Warrant Officer Class Two Richards dismounted some Armoured Personnel Carrier crewman and led them in an infantry type role through the village seeking out and neutralising small groups of Viet Cong until the village was securely held by Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces.

Warrant Officer Class Two Richards coolness under fire, personal bravery and leadership, directly contributed to the success of the mission. His courage and initiative were an inspiration to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers and reflects great credit on himself and the Australian Regular Army.

In addition to the unit citations awarded to AATTV and his award of the MM, Ken was also awarded the South Vietnamese Armed Forces Honour Medal 2nd Class.

## Australian - Vietnam War Memorial Commemorative Park - Dedication Day

16-12-2017 - Kevin Wheelahan Park, Sunshine Victoria"

### Official proceeding



In honour of the fallen, the Vietnam Veterans, and the Vietnamese Veterans, the Ode of Remembrance was recited by Steve Lowe (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam), followed by a minute's silence.

Australian and Republic of Vietnam Anthems and flags raising ceremony.



Australian National Anthem sung by the Dual Identity Leadership Program graduates.



South Vietnam National Anthem performed by a group of ladies of the Vietnamese Women Association of Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter

### Unveiling ceremony



A number of distinguished guests had been invited to officially unveil the memorial.

The memorial is made from polished black granite which consists of the following elements



Central Memorial - the front face reads - "IN MEMORY OF 521 AUSTRALIANS WHO DIED DEFENDING THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM", and with the words "TỔ QUỐC GHI ƠN" engraved on the back, which equivalently means "Lest we forget" or "We will remember them" (Word by word translation means – "The Nation pays tribute to the fallen").



Fallen Diggers Memorial (on the left of Central Memorial) – on the front is the inscription of the names of 521 soldiers who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. On the back, one side is a list of major events happened during and after the Vietnam War. On the other side is the list of names (individual, family, organisation,) who have sponsored "the 521 fallen Australians as a member(s) of their family.



History Memorial (on the right of Central Memorial) - on the front left is the map of South Vietnam with locations where the Australian advisors & army were present, and on the front right is the map of Phuoc Tuy province where Long Tan is located. On the back left is a picture of an Australian soldier taking care of a Vietnamese baby girl (helping and building relationships with local people). And on the right is the map of South Vietnam depicting where the ARVN operated through out in all Corps.



Five slant niche pedestals that are engraved the portrait of 5 ARVN Generals who valiantly took their own life (committed an honour suicide) when forcibly receiving the order of surrender (Saigon fell into the hands of communists in April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975).

## Speeches



Ms Viv Nguyen (President of Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter – VCA VIC):

*Today is especially dedicated to Vietnam Veterans, to the Vietnamese Veterans, your families, your comrades, those who are still living and those who are incapacitated, this memorial is dedicated to you.*

*We are here today to pay respect to you. It's hard enough to serve your nation, it's even more of an honour for you to fight for freedom for us in another country that is why we are eternally grateful for your sacrifice, the living and the dead. To all of our Vietnamese Veterans, you did what you had to do for your country. And today in Australia, this is your country, this is our country, this memorial is dedicated to you."*

## Appreciation and presentation

Back to the podium, Ms Viv Nguyen went on -

*"I thank Peter for reminding us that there are 521 Australian soldiers, 521 lives perhaps not fully lived and there are thousands and thousands more of South Vietnamese soldiers, men and women whose lives may not have fully lived and for that we are grateful. And that is why we don't forget, we cannot forget and this memorial will remind the future generations that there were people whose lives were not fully lived so that ours can be fully lived."*

Taking this opportunity, she expressed her appreciation to the Brimbank Council, and especially to the members of the Commemorative Park Committee (of which she is also a member of): Mr. Bruce Davies (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam), Mr. Steve Lowe (Vietnam Veterans Association Education Team), Mr. Gary Collins (President of Sunshine RSL), Mr. Long Nguyễn (President of Footscray RSL), Mr. Minh Nguyễn (President of Vietnamese Veterans Association in Australia National), Mr. Thăng Đỗ (Vietnamese Veteran), Mr. Triều Trần (Human Rights Committee VCA VIC), Mrs Bé Hà (President of Springvale Indo Chinese Mutual Association - SICMAA), Ms Natalie Phan (Royal Australian Army), Mr. Phong Nguyễn (Vice President VCA VIC).



In appreciation of his very special contributions, Mr. Bruce Davies has been presented with a plaque which reads –

*The Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter To Major Bruce Davies MPE With appreciation from the Vietnamese Community in Australia Victoria Chapter and the Commemorative Park Committee For your tremendous efforts in the design and construction of the Vietnam War Memorial Park in Sunshine, Victoria.*

# Farewell to the Top End

Maj Felicity Hamblin – Army News

CO Nucleus Sqn Maj Jason Holman marches the squadron to conduct flag lowering ceremony at the regiment's HQ, while inset, LCpl Raymond Caldow lowers the unit's flag last time at Robertson Barracks.

Photos: Cfn Priyantha Malavi Arachchi



Soldiers of 1 Armd Regt have farewelled Robertson Barracks in Darwin, ahead of their departure down south to RAAF Base Edinburgh, marking the realisation of Plan Beersheba for 1Bde.

CO 1 Armd Regt Lt-Col Chris Gardiner said the regiment's proud 22 year history in Darwin will be remembered as a rich chapter in the life of the regiment when the soldiers arrive in their new barracks this month. "It's a bittersweet moment for our soldiers," he said. "We achieved a great deal while based at Robertson Barracks including the introduction of the Abrams tank and we have had a huge 24 months to finalise our time here. "The brigade's Road to Ready culminating with a deployment to Iraq supporting Task Group Taji was an incredible way to conclude our time. "I'm so impressed with the focus and dedication shown by the soldiers of our regiment."

As part of the parade at Robertson Barracks, troops marched past Chauvel Lines, then watched their flag lowered for the final time, before their regimental sign was uplifted by an M88 Hercules Recovery vehicle in preparation for its move down south.

Comd Forcomd Maj-Gen Gus McLachlan, who took part in the regiment's move to Darwin 22 years ago, said it was a proud, yet sombre moment as he watched the soldiers get ready to depart the Top End. "I must admit I had a lump in my throat as I watched the flag lowered for the last time," he said. "While it's a big change for the advantage of moving to Adelaide is the access to training facilities all-year round, without the disruptions sometimes seen with the NT climate." 1 Armd Regt soldiers will be welcomed to SA in late November, where they'll commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Cambrai by holding a regimental parade featuring their suite of armoured vehicles.

# The Regiment occupied Chauvel Lines in Adelaide, RAAF Base Edinburgh. The blessing of the lines marks a new beginning in our new home.



The Honorary Colonel of the 1st Armoured Regiment Major General Craig Orme DSC, AM, CSC and General Harry Chauvel's great granddaughter Mrs Honor Auchinleck unveiling the sign in front of Regimental Headquarters



Australian Army soldiers from 1st Armoured Regiment held a parade at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia, on Monday to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. The parade also provided an opportunity to celebrate the regiment's arrival to South Australia, having recently relocated from their 22-year home at Robertson Barracks in Darwin.



The Regimental Padre Captain Poitr Kowalczyk begins blessing the grounds of Chauvel Lines.



The Regimental Padre blesses the remainder of Chauvel Lines accompanied with bagpipes from an ASLAV Personnel Carrier



Mrs Honor Auchinleck addresses the Regiment



The Regimental Lance Guard at the raising of the flag over Chauvel Lines behind Sir Harry Chauvel's saddle, of which the Regiment are proud custodians

# Tanks a lot Beersheba

Capt. Anna-Lise Brink – Army News



M1A1 tanks rumbled through Brisbane city for the first time during a freedom of entry march with 2/14 LHR (QMI) on October 28 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. The M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks are new additions to 7 Bde and were a major drawcard with thousands of locals lining Adelaide Street to catch their first glimpse of the vehicles.

CO 2/14 LHR (QMI) Lt-Col Andrew Moss said it was a proud moment for the unit. "M1A1 tanks for the first time in the heart of Brisbane – I thought that was just wonderful and it certainly got a cheer from the crowd," he said. The parade involved a procession of 65 military vehicles, 300 troops and horses and riders from the Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop.

They were halted and challenged by Queensland Mounted Police before Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk inspected the troops and allowed them to pass.

The granting of Freedom of Entry is a tradition with medieval origins and is the highest accolade a city can bestow upon a group.

"The freedom of entry is important for the linkage between community and Army because that's where we draw our reason for going to war – the support from the community," Lt-Col Moss said.

"But today was equally about commemorating our forefathers who fought at the Battle of Beersheba and it's a great honour to be able to do that and be able to recognise their achievements."

The march had added significance for tank crew commander LCpl Cori Martin, who paraded in one of the unit's new tanks.

His great great uncle, Gen Sir Harry Chauvel, commanded the Desert Mounted Corps at Beersheba. "It was a massive achievement for him to lead the more than 800 men who made the cavalry charge over the distance under fire," Cpl Martin said.

"Following in my family's footsteps is pretty close to my heart; I'm so glad to be posted here



**Tank crew commander LCpl Cori Martin poses for a photo before the parade. He is the great great-nephew of General Sir Harry Chauvel, who was in command at the Battle of Beersheba.**

# 169005 UPDATE

February 2018  
Tubby Brooker



All major work on 005 is now complete and we have only to carry out cosmetic work. The aux gen runs really well, starts up straight away with no rattles.

We fired up the main engine prior to the Christmas break, but found a carbie problem which we will fix.

By the time you are reading this we should have 005 fuelled up and running. We were waiting on a drum of fuel to arrive

Over the coming months we will give her a repaint and a major interior clean and replace operators hatch pads and drivers hatch pads.

Photo below initial fire up from a Jerry can, before the Christmas break.



## A partial story from our member, Mick and his wife Janet Kuilboer's nine week trip overseas, mostly Europe. Many thanks Mick for your contribution to our Newsletter

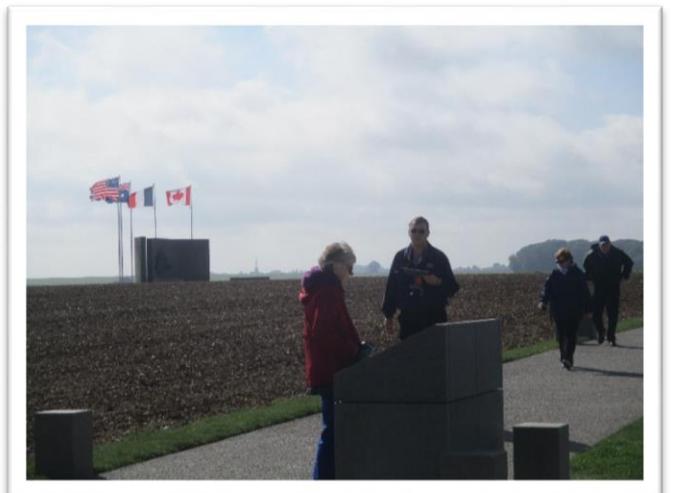
Our trip to Europe was originally planned to visit my wife, Janet's, great uncle who was killed on the Somme 100 years ago on Anzac Day. He is buried in a small cemetery named Queant Rd. We had visited his grave some years back but thought to do it again for such a special time. Anyway it didn't happen as I got sick and we had to postpone the trip till recently. We spent quite some time roaming around the WW1 battlefields of the Somme and Flanders and later also the battlefields of Normandy. In between we visited a few other WW1 and WW2 locations also.



Tank Cemetery, Guémappe. This is named the Tank Cemetery but apart from the name seemed to have no relevance to armour.



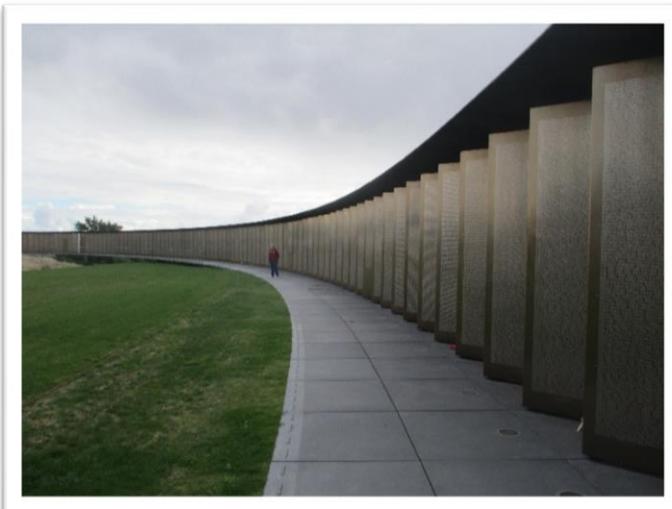
Janet at the grave of her great uncle in Queant Rd Cemetery. He was killed on Anzac Day 1917 so it was his hundred year anniversary. It was a real pity we couldn't be there on the day.



Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel. It is one of the most impressive memorials on the Somme. In the photo Janet is reading one of the very informative plaques that you walk past on the way to the memorial seen here in the background.



Model of a part of the Wellington Tunnels, Arras  
We did an excellent tour of this tunnel that had been created over many years for the mining of limestone for building material. The NZ tunnelers were responsible to set up a section of the many kilometres for housing thousands of soldiers hidden from German eyes prior to a big attack. A massive undertaking.



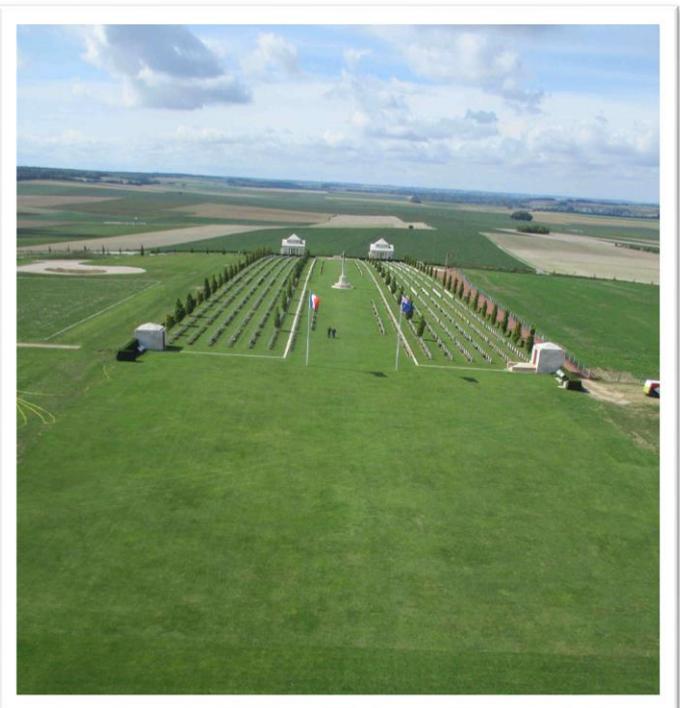
Ring of Remembrance, Ablain St Nazaire. This list the names of all the soldiers killed in WW1 in alphabetical order without nationality, rank or country - just the name. There are tens of thousands. We easily found Janet's great uncle Henry Soulsby, no one else with that name and initial but her other great uncle was just one of quite few J, Mason's. The Ring is located across the road from a massive French cemetery and memorial chapel monument.



Janet looking at the wreaths at the Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel.



Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux. There is a lot of work going on to improve information and facilities for visitors including a new Monash Centre directly behind the memorial.



View from the top of the Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux



Australian soldier, Albert. Along with soldiers of other nationalities he is standing in front of the Albert Cathedral. Just above his rifle you can see a clock counting down the days of WW1.



Australian servicemen in Harefield (St Mary's) Churchyard cemetery, not far from Heathrow Airport. In WW1 the owner of a large three story home (Harefield House) gave it to the Australian government for a convalescence home for recovering soldiers. It ended up being a hospital also. The local church offered their graveyard to bury the dead. A local who owned adjoining land gave some to expand the cemetery. Interestingly the headstones are not the usual ones in CWGC's. One grave is for a nurse that served in the hospital. Further over is a grave with a usual headstone which I think was for a WW2 servicemen I didn't get a good photo so can't tell. Also the original house is gone and there is now a large building and new housing called Harefield House Estate. We had a plane to catch so didn't get to have a really good look at the graves

# BATTLE OF CORAL AND BALMORAL



## 50th anniversary of the Battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral

A national commemoration will take place in Canberra on 13 May 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of Australia's involvement in the battles at the Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral in Vietnam in 1968.

The service will take place at the Vietnam War Memorial on Anzac Parade from 10 am to 11 am on 13 May 2018 and members of the public are encouraged to attend to pay tribute to those who served and died in the battles.

A Last Post Ceremony will also take place at 4.55 pm at the Australian War Memorial, conducted in honour of the veterans of the battles.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, will provide grant funding to enable Vietnam veterans associations to conduct commemorative activities outside of Canberra. The department will also provide financial assistance to bring two descendants of those killed in the battles to Canberra for the national commemoration.

### Historical information

Australian, New Zealand and United States forces were involved in a series of actions between May and June 1968 at Fire Support Bases (FSB) Coral and Balmoral some 20 kilometres north of Bien Hoa City. These bases, established across a route used by North Vietnamese forces to attack Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) and Bien Hoa, provided defended positions for artillery and mortars which would, in turn, support infantry patrols of the area.

The 1st and 3rd Battalions Royal Australian Regiment (1 and 3RAR), 102 Field Battery Royal Australian Artillery and 161 New Zealand Field Battery, deployed into FSB Coral on 12 May 1968. 1 and 3RAR began preparing defensive positions, but these were incomplete when a North Vietnamese Regiment attacked the base during the early hours of

13 May. The North Vietnamese, having penetrated the artillery positions and briefly forcing the defenders to abandon one of their guns, were forced back after heavy fighting.

Coral came under attack for a second time at 2.15 am on 16 May when an estimated three battalions of North Vietnamese infantry assaulted the base which was now defended by armoured personnel carriers of A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment as well as 1RAR's infantry. Fighting lasted several hours before the attackers were forced to withdraw.

Further attacks on Coral followed, on 22 May, and again on 26 and 28 May, but the Base was not seriously threatened again. Having had the opportunity to establish a strong defensive perimeter, the Australians were able launch their own attacks against the North Vietnamese and did so on 26 May when infantry and tanks destroyed a North Vietnamese bunker system that had been discovered in the vicinity. The Australians continued to launch aggressive patrols from Coral, engaging in combat against North Vietnamese forces and experiencing some fierce actions through until the end of May.

By this time the North Vietnamese had turned their attention to FSB Balmoral, which had been established by 3RAR some 4.5 kilometres north of Coral, on 24-25 May. Tanks from Nui Dat helped Australian infantry defeat a two battalion-strong North Vietnamese attack just hours after their arrival at the base on 25 May. A second attack followed on 28 May, but a combination of infantry, tanks, artillery and mortars repelled the North Vietnamese assault. North Vietnamese activity in the area subsided and operations at Coral and Balmoral were suspended on 6 June 1968.

A total of 26 Australians were killed during the fighting at FSB Coral and Balmoral. Estimates suggest that more than 300 North Vietnamese were killed in these actions, but exact figures will never be known.



Bunker busting at Coral. 31A in the foreground Nev Callis, 31B Bill Burton and Editor Centre and 31 Gerry McCormack barrel far right. Battle raged from 11.40 to 15.30 expending just about all ammunition on 31B

Picture taken by James Parkinson (he was on the following ARV).



## Slovakia first to order new AMV XP

**Slovakia and Finland** have agreed on a joint development of the Patria AMV XP (Armoured Modular Vehicle – Expanded Payload, Extra Performance, Extra Protection) fitted with a medium-calibre turret that will equip the Slovakian Army.

Signed off by each nation's defence ministry, the development partners are Konstrukta Defence (prime contractor), Patria Land Systems (vehicle) and EVPU (weapon system).

Patria has already delivered the first prototype AMV XP hull/chassis to Konstrukta for testing and integration of the Turra 30 unmanned turret from EVPU. Testing in Slovakia will get underway by the end of this year, followed by winter testing in Finland into 2018.

Assuming the tests are successful, Slovakia intends to procure up to 81 AMV XP vehicles to fulfil a requirement for a wheeled infantry fighting vehicle (IFV).

Mika Kari, president of Patria's land business unit, said on 17 November that the AMV XP would be a new amphibious version mated with the Turra 30 turret, and that it would fulfil the requirements of both the Slovakian and Finnish Defence Forces. Patria would not, however, provide details to *DTR* about the config-

**ABOVE:** The AMV XP was displayed at DSEI 2017 fitted with a Kongsberg Protector remote weapon station. It is a contender for the UK's MIV program. Image: Patria



**ABOVE:** To be installed on Slovakia's AMV XP, the Turra 30 unmanned turret weighs around 1,500kg at STANAG 4569 Level 1 protection and is armed with a 2A42 30x165mm cannon, a PKT 7.62x54mm machine gun and an exposed launcher for two anti-tank guided missiles (either the 9K111 Fagot 'AT-4 Spigot' or 9K113 Konkurs 'AT-5 Spandrel'). Image: EVPU

uration or number of AMV XP that Finland plans to acquire.

Slovakia will be the launch customer for AMV XP, which made its public debut in 2013, having originally planned to purchase a quantity of Rosomak 8x8s (Polish version of AMV built under licence) to fulfil the IFV requirement.

### AMV XP FROM NOW ON?

The question now is whether the future of Patria's AMV brand will be

represented by the AMV XP, with its greater payload, improved mobility, larger capacity hull, improved protection and digital electronic architecture backbone, or will the company continue to offer both vehicles? Current industry trends point to the former. As threats have proliferated and the capability of wheeled vehicles has increased, their gross vehicle masses have increased too. Examples include Nexter's VBCI 1 and 2 and Mowag's Piranha series of vehicles. With a launch customer in Slovakia and an order seemingly to come from Finland, it is hard to imagine prospective new customers

being offered AMV instead of AMV XP.

Perhaps an indication of Patria's intentions is the offering of AMV XP for the British Army's Mechanised Infantry Vehicle (MIV) requirement, rather than the AMV. As is the customary Patria business model in the land space, part of the AMV XP package for the MIV program would involve significant technology transfer to enable the vehicle to be fabricated and assembled in the UK.

Another AMV-based 8x8 – the BAE Systems-Patria AMV35 – is currently under consideration to meet the Australian Army's Land 400 Phase 2

Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) requirement.

The AMV variant on which the AMV35 is based is by no means obsolete but it is no longer the flagship version of the product now that AMV XP has moved beyond the concept demonstrator stage and found its first customer. With life now coursing through the veins of the AMV XP and its establishment in the market underway, has the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group's insistence on military-off-the-shelf solutions for the CRV requirement come back to bite it?

– *Ian Bostock*

# What the?





# SOUTH AUSTRALIA STATE NEWS

Hammersley Awards  
Cambrai Parade  
Cambrai Dinner

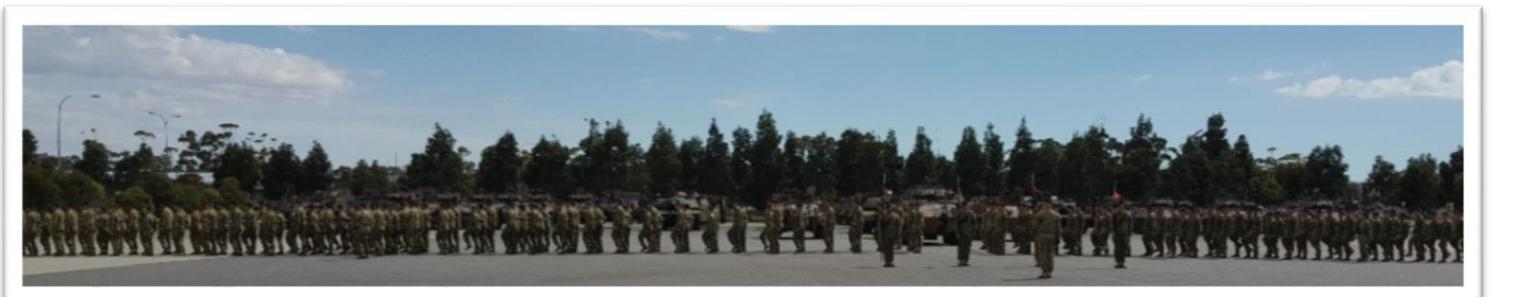
State Rep – Mark Reid



Hammersley and soldier of the year A Sqn awards



Standard





Cambrai Day



Cambrai day Geoff cooper Ted Taylor



A Sqn



Stan Iry presented with his flowers and chocolates before undergoing surgery on 29/12/2017.

**Mark Reid SA Rep**

TPR Matt King received a CO's Exemplary Service Award for saving the life of a young child in Adelaide. TPR King's actions were also highlighted in personal correspondence he received from Commander Forces Command, MAJGEN McLachlan.

Matt, from the men and women of the Regiment, excellent effort!



LTCOL Gardiner presents TPR King with the certificate.





ASLAV on display



The boys Regimental dinner



The boys



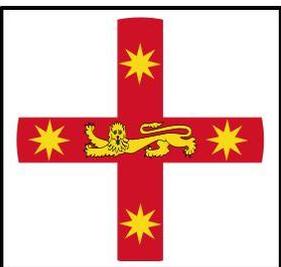
Mick Dunn, (Patron) Craig Orme, Mark Reid



Ken Beattie Mrs Jones



Graham Jones and company



## NSW STATE NEWS State Rep – Mick Payne

Had a great long weekend at Ian Bignall's place to celebrate Cambrai Day. Attendees ....Mick and Judi Payne, Ian and Di Bignall, Mick Eilola, Jacko and Linda Peate, and a couple of local non Armd vets, The weekend started with a few ales on Friday night, lunch, dinner sat, brekky, lunch, and roast dinner sun, barby brekky

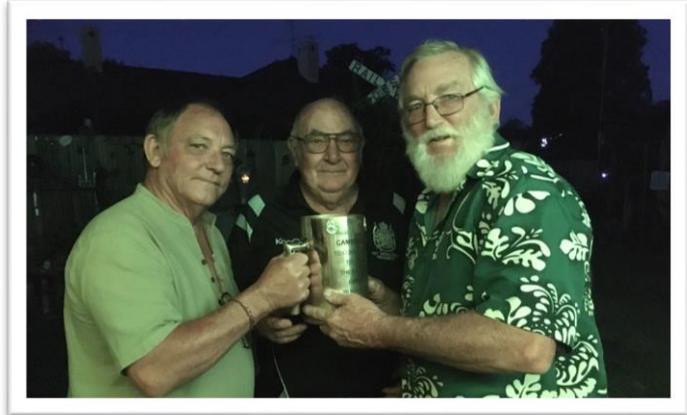


Monday morning with a small commemoration at the Manilla cenotaph at 1100. The president of the Manilla Sub Branch put a few notes over the bar for all of us, a great gesture.

All in all it was a great weekend, Chris Fenton did not attend due to a cow that would not calve on time, and Bill and Fran Morris did not attend due to their sons house catching fire on the Friday night ( two of the most original excuses yet) Still working on a couple of long lunches in the future.

Cheers 🍷😊

Mick and Judi





## VICTORIAN CAMBRAI LONG LUNCH



The Cambrai Long Lunch was held on Friday 17th November at the Emerald Hotel. Due to a lot of the Victorian members travelling to South Australia for Cambrai celebrations over there, we only had 10 in attendance. I would also like to thank Derek Simpson for making the trek down from the School of Armour to join us at the luncheon & for giving us a report on the Association & also what is happening within the Corps. Despite the small number in attendance everyone had a great time, & the staff at the Emerald looked after us very well.



## Association Student of Merit Prize



TPR Charles 1st Armoured Regiment, presented the Association Student of Merit Prize for the tank gunners by Vice President WO1 Derek Simpson.



# Cambrai day November 1917

One hundred years ago - Special Order Number 6:



The British used some 476 tanks to smash through German lines in the 1917 battle of Cambrai

## Special Order Number 6.

- Special Order No 6.
1. Tomorrow the Tank Corps will have the chance for which it has been waiting for many months, - to operate on good going in the van of the battle.
  2. All that hard work & ingenuity can achieve has been done in the way of preparation.
  3. It remains for unit commanders and for tank crews to complete the work by judgement & pluck in the battle itself.
  4. In the light of past experience I leave the good name of the Corps with great confidence in their hands.
  5. I propose leading the attack of the centre division.

Major-General  
M. J. Elles.  
R.G.

19<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1917. Commanding Tank Corps.

Distribution to Tank Commanders.  
P

1. Tomorrow the Tank Corps will have the chance of which they have been waiting for many months – to operate on good going in the van of the Battle.
2. All that hard work and ingenuity can achieve has been done in the way of preparation.
3. It remains for Unit Commanders and tank crews to complete the work by judgement and pluck in the battle itself.
4. In the light of past experience, I leave the good name of the Corps with great confidence in your hands.
5. I propose leading the attack of the centre Division.

Major-General M. J. Elles. CB, DSO  
Commanding the Tank Corps in France

Cambrai, 19th November 1917

Distribution: To Tank Commanders

FEAR NAUGHT



From Christopher McLeod

Greetings members, just a quick note from the Cambrai battle field. Today I attended the memorial activities at Flesquieres. Many of you will know that is where the WW1 tank D 51 "Deborah" is to be found. A family group joined me at the lunch table and we chatted before all going to a presentation about how "Deborah" was discovered and the associated research. It turns out I was sitting with descendants of a crew member of "Deborah"! A very pleasant surprise.

It's not Cambrai Day here yet but it is where you are. There are Australian "boots on the ground", albeit RMs, on the Cambrai battle field as was the case in the original.

Hope you all have a great day.

### “BALLANTYNE’S BULLET”

In a Centurion romping along  
 She may be old but she's going strong  
 I'm enjoying the scenery, chasing the Cong  
 A scream from the Commander  
 What's this I hear?  
 Strike me pink  
 We've been shot in the rear.  
 The petrol went up with a terrible  
 WHOOSH  
 The gunner climbed out over the  
 Commander's Moosh  
 We scurried for cover  
 And cringed in fear  
 Centurions don't like  
 Being shot in the rear.  
 Old Gus had been an R.P.  
 A father figure to me  
 Then some silly bastard  
 Put him in charge of an A.P.C.  
 No-one had told him, I'm quite sincere  
 That a fifty will put a hole  
 In a Centurion's rear.  
 The hit was put down to an R.P.G.  
 But no-one disputed it came from  
 OLD G.B.  
 I hope now when he's driving around  
 In his old rocket  
 A copper comes along and kicks him  
 right in the sprocket.

From Herman Harberts treasure trove of Memorabilia  
 'Pinnaroo' SVN 1968 – 31A



# 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment Association Reunion 2018

Adelaide - Friday 16th, Sat 17th and Sun 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Commemorating 50 years since the  
Battles of Fire Support Bases  
Coral and Balmoral



## At this stage come and join

Bailey - Lionel & Joyleen  
Beatty - Ken & Wendy  
Brooker - John  
Brooks - David  
Burnett - Kevin & Julie  
Chambers - Barry & Helga Grzona  
Grainger - Col & Ros  
Hampstead - Terence & Lee  
Harberts - Herman & Roslyn  
Hatfield - Brian & Margaret  
Ho-season Smith - Phillip & Suzanne  
Iry - Stan & Celeste  
Jamieson - Peter & Elaine  
Jay - Robert  
Jeffrey - Baden  
Jeffrey - Colin  
Kiellerup - Rus & Liz  
Kostin - John  
Laurie - Ian  
Mahar - Des  
McNabb - Gary & Helen King  
Payne - Mick & Judi  
Peel - Doug & Nola  
Prior - Mick  
Ralph - Tony & Joy  
Reeves - Phillip & Marie  
Reid - Mark & Gail  
Roberts - Ian & Sue  
Robertson - Keith & Doreen  
Rossiter - Phillip & Brenda  
Rowley - Eric & Lyn  
Stanfield - Bill & Mary  
Sullivan - Peter & Maureen  
Taylor - Ted & Cathy Lamb  
Thompson - Des & Betty  
Unmack - Graeme  
Vicino - Phillip & Beverley  
Walker - Lou & Barbara  
Watts - Trevor & Brenda  
Wear - Russell & Carol

1.  If you are Intending to be there, please complete registration form now and send to Mark Reid or Des Thomson along with \$50 registration fee (see page 2)

2.  **Hotel Accommodation:** bookings via Hotel Trivago or similar search engine will give the best discounts but get in early, there are seven along North Terrace a 5 minute walk from the Intercontinental and 10-15 minutes from the Adelaide Oval.

3.  **Caravan Bookings:**

- **Adelaide Caravan Park** [acpmanager@aspengroup.com.au](mailto:acpmanager@aspengroup.com.au)  
David Bullock – 0409 866 020 Reunion members will receive a discount (let David know when booking) and also meal discount at the nearby Hackney Hotel.
- **Big 4 Caravan Park West Beach**
- **Levi Park**
- **Brown Hill Creek Tourists Park**

4.  **Don't forget to order your reunion T Shirt. (See page 3)**

## Functions & Venues:

**Fri 16 Nov:** Registration 1100-1600 Reg. 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,

**Reunion Association to cover cost of buses.**

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 18 Nov:** Gala Dinner William Magarey Room Adelaide Oval  
Cost

**\$125 pp, food & drinks.**

1830-1900 Pre Dinner Drinks.

1900-2359 Seated Dinner.

**Contacts for registration and payment are:**

**Mark Reid E:** [reid54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au) M: 0439 646 116 21 James Harrold Court Golden Grove SA 5125

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

**Table bookings:** **Mark Reid** [reid54@bigpond.com.au](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au)  
**Mick Dunn** [mdunn8888@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:reid54@bigpond.com.au)  
**OR**  
[desthomo@bigpond.com](mailto: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	\$
<b>*Total Cost</b>		<b>\$</b>

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  
 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

# Order shirts now for the 2018 reunion, Adelaide

Orders will be placed in the Registration Bags.  
Can be posted but will incur postage costs.

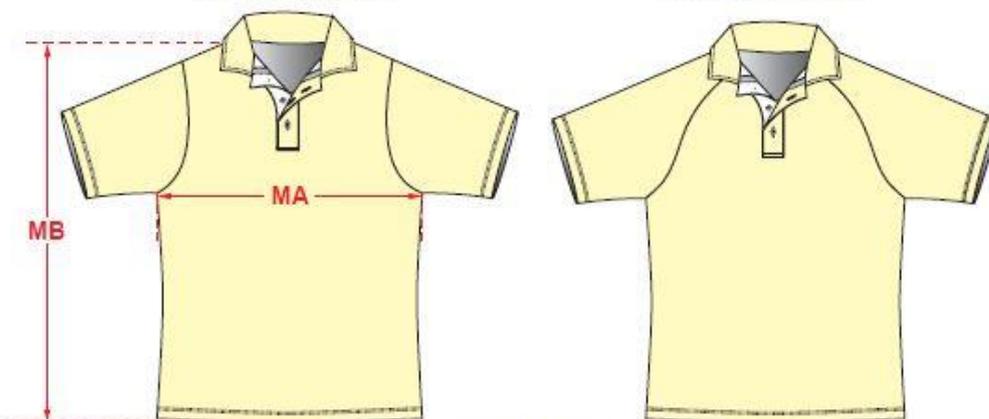
## Follow these 2 easy steps to order

1. EFT \$45 per shirt to **BSB 065 112 A/C No 10229270, Reunion Treasurer** and **Reference 'shirt/s & your name' (Important)**
2. Then email Des Thompson [desthomo@bigpond.com](mailto:desthomo@bigpond.com) and advise **Shirts/s, your Name and size/s** E.g. Size/s 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....Etc.  
If in doubt contact Des on M: 0408 156 482



MEN set in sleeve

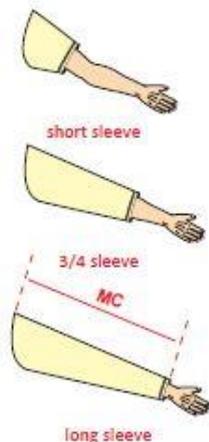
MEN raglan sleeve



MENS/UNISEX

Size(cm)	KIDS							ADULTS									
	4	6	8	10	12	14	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	6XL	7XL
MA Chest Width	36	38	40	42	44	48	52	54	57	60	62	65	70	74	78	81	85
MB Length from HSP	48	50	58	62	65	67	70	72	74	76	78	80	84	88	92	92	92
MC Long sleeve length	42	46	54	58	62	64	63	65	65	66	68	70	73	73	73	73	73

\*Tolerance of 1-2cm is considered acceptable



### How to get the best size:

1. Find a shirt that you wear at the moment and fits you comfortably.
2. Measure the Chest Width (Arm pit - Arm pit).
3. Correspond that measurement to our size chart. For example: If your shirt measures 60cm across the chest, then you would be a Large.

**Please note:** Promocorner/ Spida Sports will not take any responsibility for shirts that have been ordered in the wrong size. No refunds will be given.

If you require extra width or length please let one of our staff know. We can organise custom sizes for a small fee.