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ARMOUR

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SPONSORING THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION INC.



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The end of the Tillies -2/4 AAR

Frank B. Pemble-Smith SX30290

If that had not been the case things would probably have been more hazardous than they were when they were loaded from the pontoon wharf at Torokina.



apron in 3 rows.

We were to be there for the next 4 months or thereabouts, July 7th if my memory serves me faithfully. I didn't run to a daily diary. The rest of the troops on Bougainville were quartered inland some 8 miles at Bosley Field. We jeeped back and forth 3 times daily for meals. The RAP was still in charge of a Doctor.

It was our job to get as many of the tanks as possible to move under their own power. This I think we achieved rather well considering the lack of tools and equipment which amounted to zero. Only four {4} to my memory had to be towed to the wharf and dead handled aboard. These tanks caused some concern during the loading operation as the pontoons heaved and the ship too.

This ship was brand new, it was just completed prior to the end of

There were 32 tanks ensconced on the fighter strip at Bougainville when the final decision was made as to where they would finally rest, in June 1946. Most of them were still able to be moved under their own power, thank goodness.

To begin this epistle, after the draft that sailed on the SS CANBERRA for home in early March 1946; about 4 days later a party of four (4) was sent to Torokina by 500 tonner which took about 5 days as we leisurely made our way via Buka and then down the east coast to a plantation before sailing back past Buka and on to Torokina., Here we reported to 8 Field Stores , if I remember aright. We were quartered on the ground floor of the Control tower on the fighter strip at the sea edge. The Tanks were lined up in harbour immediately in front on the

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Coming Events



17 April 2012	Committee Meeting	Gallipoli Club 1830 hrs
25 April 2012	ANZAC Day	FUP 1000Hrs
	Post March gathering, Civic Hotel, Goulburn St., Sydney.	
12 June 2012	Committee Meeting	Gallipoli Club 1830 hrs
14 August 2012	Committee Meeting	Gallipoli Club 1830 hrs
9 October 2012	Committee Meeting	Gallipoli Club 1830 hrs
November 2012	Cambrai Day Function	TBA
11 December 2012	Committee Meeting	Gallipoli Club 1830 hrs



Please take note of the Design for the National Boer War Memorial in this issue. It was launched at Defence HQ Canberra by our National Patron General Hurley the Chief of Defence Force. This marks a significant milestone in the quest for a National Boer War Memorial to be constructed in Anzac Parade Canberra. It will be a fitting Memorial to the predecessors of today's troopers in the RAACA. This is a feather in the cap of the RAACA NSW which initiated the Project for the Corps.

Shortage of numbers for the Cambrai Dinner this year forced its cancellation. Please respond to the questionnaires in this Armour which seeks your advice on how we should celebrate Cambrai in future.

Our Membership is gradually shrinking mostly due to the failure of members to advise change of address. Please do what you can to tell us where they are; the list of Lost Souls is in this Armour and do what you can to find new members to join your Association. The office will supply brochures and other supporting material if you ask. If you have Black Hats on your email list why not check them out for membership or send us the list and we'll do the work.

The passing of Ian Bryant is a severe set back to our Ironsides Inc Project. We are determined to keep this going but we will need to find a retired one star or above with passion for the Cause to take over. Please feel free to suggest someone. One of our members Noel McLaughlan is now working on the project for the RAACA.

John Haynes, President

(Continued from page 1)



operations in WWII ; the M.V. CRUSADER, tank landing ship, especially made for use round the islands for armoured formations. Down in the hold the non goer's were shoved into position and the tank used for this work was Beaugeste IV from 7 Tp.

To keep the account short, we were pleased to see the tanks aboard as the wet steel decks and the rolling sea could have had us in jeopardy on several occasions. We saw the ship off and it sailed to Rabaul where they were unloaded and taken out to Kokopo return stores depot as the other tanks were from the camp on the other side of Tunnel Hill and they are there today under the vines and jungle canopy which has over grown them. Those chaps still with us, who were in 'B' Sqn, at the time will remember these moments and movements.

This is the true account of the last days of the 'Tillies' that served the Regiment so sturdily through the stirring actions and times of its glorious chapter in action in South Bougainville (on the Buin Track) and Scott

Force. The witnesses to this last action of the shepherding the 'Tillies' were , Doug (Boong) Tansell SX19601 from The Alice, the reason for his nickname, Doug Morton from Victoria, Arthur Elliott ;SX302S5 (I think) and myself from S.A. My memory for names these days is failing. We four then found ourselves within 5 days aboard the SS River Norman fresh out of Evans Deakin yards in Brisbane on a pre maiden voyage to Torokina and direct back to Sydney to test out her engines etc. This ship then maiden voyaged Sydney - Tokyo - Sydney. so in our eyes the last four chaps with the 2/4th colour patch arrived home on July 17th 1946. I do not know when the other 3 were discharged but, I was on August 6th. 1946.

Those four months were quite enjoyable for the four 21 year olds and not without some amusing incidents, however, that is another story and can remain as such. One final piece of information, while we were at Torokina: the war Graves commission also had a detail there uplifting the graves for transport to Rabaul and a more beautiful and satisfactory resting place . We offered our services which were accepted and we took it upon ourselves to try and personally attend to the 2/4th graves where possible. As you would appreciate there were only bones to contend with in almost all cases and these were relabelled carefully, wrapped in new blankets and stowed about 20 per 44 drum for the onward movement.

All in all, we hoped we had been able to , 'Tend to our own' and remember

"LEST WE FORGET"

(Photos courtesy of Department of Information, Commonwealth of Australia)

Dear members,

Due to our wish to relieve our WW11 members from paying subscriptions we are slowly going broke.

Would all members please consider making a tax deductible donation to the RAACA NSW.

Apart from our normal running costs, we face a big pay out to the Federal body to fund the annual Congress at the Armoured School.

The bottom line is; we need your help to survive financially.

Yours Aye

John Haynes

Technical Notes & News

“The Cloak of Invisibility”

BAE Systems has recently tested an ‘invisibility cloak’ that allows a vehicle to blend into its surroundings, effectively becoming invisible to thermal imaging systems.

The system called ‘ADAPTIV’ was developed and patented in Sweden, it operates over infra-red and other frequencies. ADAPTIV can instantly blend the vehicle into the background, reducing detection range below 500 meters. Furthermore, the new technology can also mimic natural objects and other vehicles and offer cooperative Interrogator Friend/Foe (IFF) capability by displaying distinctive patterns visible only at a certain spectral range or in response to an interrogation signal (for example, illumination by coded laser designation).



ADAPTIV can instantly blend a combat vehicle into the background, reducing detection range below 500 meters.
Photos: BAE Systems

The system combines sheets of lightweight, hexagonal metallic ‘pixels’ designed to change temperature very rapidly presenting a thermal pattern that optimally blends with its surrounding. Each electrically powered pixel is individually heated or cooled using commercially available semi-conducting technology. Alternatively, it can mimic another vehicle or display identification tags, reducing the risk of fratricide.

The pattern is determined by an on-board computer feeding from on-board cameras that pick up the background scenery. The system allows even a moving tank to match its surroundings. Alternatively, it can mimic another vehicle or display identification tags, reducing the risk of fratricide.

Project manager, Peder Sjölund explains: “Earlier attempts at similar cloaking devices have hit problems because of cost, excessive power requirements or because they were insufficiently robust. Our panels can be made so strong that they provide useful armour protection and consume relatively low levels of electricity, especially when the vehicle is at rest in ‘stealth reconnaissance’ mode and generator output is low.”

Trials by BAE Systems in mid-July showed that one side of a CV90 could be made effectively invisible or appear to be other objects, including a 4×4 vehicle, when viewed in the infra-red spectrum.”We can resize the pixels to achieve stealth for different ranges.” Sjölund added, “A warship or building, for instance, might not need close-up stealth, so could be fitted with larger panels.” Earlier this year the British media reported about another adaptive camouflage program pursued by BAE Systems, utilizing a kind of electronic ink, to ‘paint’ the background image on the vehicle’s surface.

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Current work focuses mainly on the infra-red spectrum, as this is most important to the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV), which funds part of the work. However, BAE Systems engineers have combined the pixels with other technologies, which provide camouflage in other parts of the electro-magnetic spectrum at the same time to provide all-round stealth, which will be developed further over the next few years.

Combat vehicle protection technologies have evolved dramatically in recent years, moving far beyond traditional ballistic and blast protection, spanning into 'hit avoidance' through the use of countermeasures and active protection and signature management, eliminating part of the risk by avoiding detection or target acquisition by enemy weapon systems. Part of the trend of signature management is the use of advanced camouflage, hiding the protected vehicle from visible observation (by advanced camouflage materials) and imaging systems, particularly thermal imagers, which provide the core for most of the modern automated engagement systems (including target acquisition systems and missile seekers).



We are trying to locate 29494 WO2 Robert John Kennedy (RAAC) who served with the AATTV in 1964 - 1965.

If you know where we can contact him please get in touch with Peter Conway, email address plconway@nsw.quik.com.au.

If you have not received the latest issue of Iron Sides 2011 Edition and you would like one, please contact the office

10 - 16 Nov 1999 2 Cav Regt, Occussi, East Timor. International Force for East Timor (INTERFET)

2 Cav Regimental History:

“The arrival of the Supplementary Force (SUPFOR) in Maliana on 08 November 1999 brought the Squadron up to 29 AFV's, with a manning of seven Officers, nine SNCOs and 84 ORs. Another grouping resulted from the PBG deployment to Ambeno enclave. A new troop, C/S 34, deployed to Ambeno enclave on the 10 November 1999, via the port facility at Batugade. The new troop organisation was an APC troop with five ASLAV PCs, commanded by Sergeant Col Thomas which was to deploy under command the PBG with no A1 Echelon logistic support.”

Ref No 90 p10 Nov 08
RAAC Homepage Defence Intranet

Latest digital Abrams tanks for Iraq

The final shipment of M1A1 Abrams tanks, purchased by the Iraqi government, arrived at Besmaya Combat Training Center (BCTC) mid-August. The delivery included the last five of the 140 tanks ordered by the Iraqi government through a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement with the US.

“The M1A1 Abrams Tank Program was initiated to modernize the Iraqi Army’s tank capabilities with 140 tanks and eight heavy-tracked recovery vehicles,” said **John Hutchings**, a desk officer with the Army Modernization Program, United States Forces – Iraq.

“The tanks are the latest digital tanks coming out of the United States,” he added. “They are the most modern M1A1s in the Middle East.”

Upon arrival the tanks are secured at the BCTC where they are unpackaged and tested before their transition to the Iraqi army.

“When the tanks get there they get de-processed,” said Hutchings. “The de-processing team undoes all the strapping and takes all the



packing out of the tank barrel, cleans them up, and tests them for quality assurance. If they should find anything wrong due to the shipment process, they will fix the issue before turning them over to the Iraqi army.”

Currently, 85 tanks have been fielded to the Iraqi army and more than 40 are ready for transfer in the near future. With the FMS package, the Iraqi army also receives training for their M1A1 operators and maintenance personnel.

Courtesy *Defpro.com*

Bushmaster Upgrade Completed

It was announced by the Minister for Defence Materiel, Jason Clare that all Bushmaster vehicles in Afghanistan have now been upgraded to provide better protection against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

The upgrades include installation of new seating and flooring to provide better protection for the Commanders, drivers and troops.



The Government also announced the purchase of an additional 101 Bush-

masters to support the Afghanistan operation.

Thirty one Bushmasters have been damaged beyond repair since the vehicles were deployed. The procurement will replace these 30 plus add another 70 for training and operational duties.

We all should be buying as much as we can of Australian owned and made producers. Find out how to identify them; check the Web at “AUSBUY” or ring (02) 94375455 to get a free Guide Booklet.

Significant changes to Legacy’s level of assistance

Legacy has now broadened its range of assistance beyond the families of veterans to include incapacitated veterans themselves. Please do what you can to ensure any incapacitated veteran you know is made aware of this important change to Legacy’s responsibilities.

Warrior Refurbishment Program

Lockheed Martin has been selected by the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) to upgrade the British Army's Warrior Armoured Fighting Vehicle (CT40).



Under the £642m (\$1bn) contract, the company will provide upgrades and enhancements that will extend the vehicles' service life to beyond 2040 as well as fulfil the British Army's current and future requirements.

The major enhancements including fitting and integrating the CT40 weapon system, an open electronic architecture system and improved armour protection.

The upgrades will provide the commanders and the war-fighter with increased flexibility, mobility, lethality and firepower. The Lockheed Warrior Transformation Team (WTT) includes Ultra Electronics, the Defence Support Group, SCISYS, Rheinmetall Defence, Curtiss Wright, Thales UK, Moog, Meggitt, CTA International, Westwire, TKE, MTL and Caterpillar UK.

The contract is part of the major £1bn (\$1.6bn) Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme.

The art of war is of vital importance to the State, it is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin.....

Sun Tzu

Photo of the month

Saladin Gunnery Course, Puckapunyal February 1964

The relaxed Trooper on the right is your editor, if anyone recognises the Crew Commander, please contact the office



Message Board

A member has sent a request for an AFV crewman's badge and a Pocket badge along with a Postal note for the correct amount but he did not include his name or address.

The postal note is dated 5 Nov at WestPoint PO ?
Let's have the name and address please fellow member.

The Ironsides Corporation which was to fight issues such as the Black Beret, is in recess due to the tragic death of Brigadier Ian Bryant. A subcommittee is now working on its Rejuvenation, this is being lead by Noel Mc Laughlan. We will need too find a senior ex officer with the necessary passion to take on the next phase.

Letters Received



Subject: Christmas in Vietnam 1968

G'Day All... The photo below is of the second tour Xmas in Vietnam 1968 with a group of diggers from 3 Cav Unit. It was given to me by the daughter of Sgt. Noel Beare (Yogi), he's the one on the right hand side of the photo.

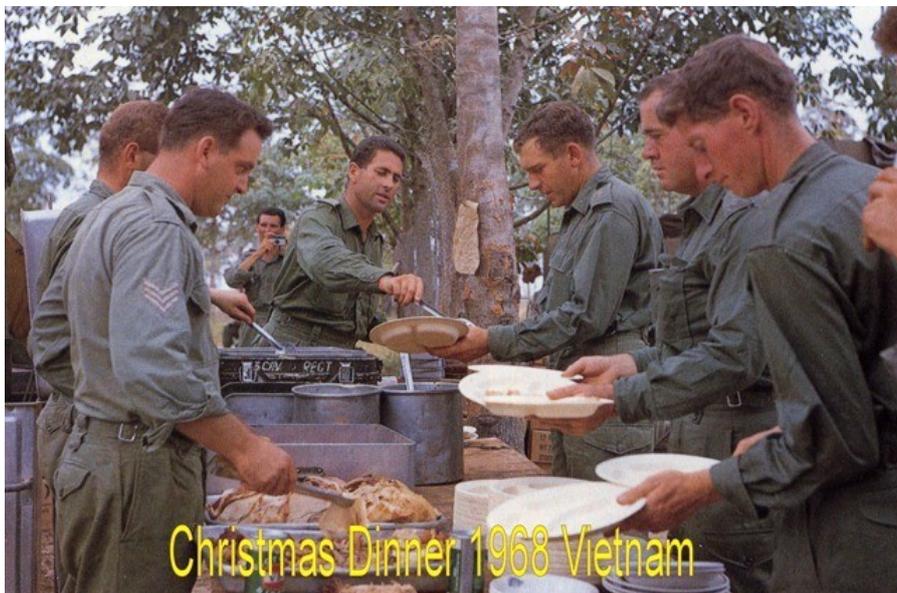
If any one can recognize any of the others please let me know and I'll pass it on.

We think the officer serving at the end is non other than the ex CGS GEN L.G. O'Donnell and the hungry officer in the middle of the three on the right is Dave Lawrence

Duty First

Paul Pulis

PS: I can't recall an Officer or NCO (Sgt) serving me Xmas dinner in Vung Tau





I thought this may be of interest. I took these photos on Anzac Hill Alice Springs a couple of weeks ago. On the Memorial wall surrounding the memorial there is only one plaque. It was placed there this year by members of 3 Cav.

Whilst not nearly as important, we had our evening meal at the local RSL. Great food at good prices.

Rob Richards



17-20 Oct 69 B Sqn 3 Cav Regt Responded to Increasing Enemy Activities in Southern Parts of Phuoc Tuy, SVN

“ On 17 October intelligence reports started to be received of enemy activity around the southern parts of the province. Elements from the Ready Reaction Force's 2 Troop were asked to assist with a cordon and search operation of Dat Do on 18 October. The same day callsign 20 Bravo led another section to an area northeast of Baria following reports of enemy activity. The next day elements from 2 Troop fired on four Viet Cong as they moved into Operation Stuart some 3 kilometres east of Thai Thien for deployment under the operational control of 9 RAR.....

On 20 October 1 Troop's 11 Section, which was the ready Reaction Force, was deployed to the beach approximately 3 kilometres east of Phuoc Hai after reports that a company from the local Viet Cong D445 Battalion was in the area.”

Reference: RAAC Defence Intranet:

We have a family puzzled as to why a Gunner Called Colin Walter LEGARD should have an Armoured Corps Badge.

Anyone with a clue please contact the office"



NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL PROGRESS



After many months of negotiations positive progress at last!



Press Release

The Minister for the Arts, the Hon Simon Crean MP, has advised that the Canberra National Memorials Committee has approved the Boer War Memorial design proposed by the National Boer War Memorial Association.

The memorial will be an inspired design of Australian troopers mounted on war horses breaking through the trees of Anzac Parade in Canberra.

The sculptures of a section of four horsemen are dynamic, bold and realistic; not impressionistic. The positioning and postures of the troopers create dynamism and tension in the memorial. Each horse and soldier is portrayed with individual character and movement in the act of patrolling; searching and watching.

The history-capturing design will bring a new note to Australia's national military memorial precinct which leads to the Australian War Memorial. It will commemorate Australia's first war as a federated nation.

The design embraces the horseman as the bushman folk hero of Australian culture; an independent and resourceful Australian acclimatised to a tough existence on the land. The significance of the four troopers is that they represent the four-man section, a formation for fighting and patrolling established during the Boer War. When they went into combat, three men would dismount to fight while the fourth would lead the horses to cover. This display of interaction and observation is reflected in the placement of the horses in the setting.

When hearing the call to arms young adventurous Australians volunteered in their thousands. Some 16,000 were sent from Australia, first from the colonies and then from the Commonwealth after Federation in 1901, with a further 7,000 enlisting in South Africa, bringing the total to nearly 23,000 men, 60 nurses and 43,000 horses. Colonel John Haynes, National President of the Boer War Memorial Association, describes the Design as "*A magnificent and fitting memorial to the predecessors of today's troopers serving in the Australian Defence Force*".

For further information please contact:

Chris Dawson PR Officer on 0439 990 930

or

Keith Smith Mob 0411 898 302 Press Officer, Boer War Memorial Association.

15 Feb 1941 The Fall of Singapore and NO Armour in 8th Aust Div to Counter Japanese Armour Offensive Operations

“The Malaysian campaign is a study of tanks – Japanese tanks – in offensive operations. Because of the special training for this campaign and its jungle warfare conditions, the Japanese tanks, unopposed by British armour, constantly achieved surprise and dominated the battle field; even in jungle conditions, they demonstrated that speed and fire-power could turn an initial penetration into a near-disaster for the defenders.....

The 8th Australian Division had no armour as its divisional cavalry had been handed over to the 9th division before leaving Australia. The reason for this was that it was thought that tanks would be unsuitable in the jungle terrain. How wrong they were is a matter of history.....

The Japanese seem to have had no doubts about the value of tanks for a campaign in Malaya. They had gained considerable experience with armour in their operations in east and south east Asia during the previous five years.” Singapore fell to the Japanese on 15 Feb 1941 and the 8th Australian Division went into captivity.

Reference: RAAC Homepage Defence Intranet

HISTORIC FEATURE.....” Bill Richardson, B.Squadron 1 Australian Armoured Regiment.

(Photos courtesy of Department of Information, Commonwealth of Australia)



In June 45 our unit left Australian shores heading for Moratai to take part in the landing at Balikpapan.

Our ship was an American Liberty Ship, one of those 10,000 all welded cargo ships. On board were about 50 or more of us, B Squadron tank crews and others. Our tanks had gone on another ship. The Captain of the ship was a friendly fellow, who told us over the P.A System all that was going on from time to time. We, of course were all camped on deck.

Les Holt and I made our camp on a platform situated in front of number 2 hatch where the big crane that unloaded no 2 hatch was located, it was about 10 feet in the air ,a

good spot.

Approaching the strait between New Guinea and New Britain the Captain announced that we would reach Bonga about 0500h .There is about 20 miles of water between the two straights. Still dark, we felt a bump and a short time later the ship came to a halt. .When daylight came we could see a branch of a tree over our heads. We had run straight into the shore at right angles

Our friendly Captain decided to reverse off. All of us were instructed to move to the rear of the ship and when he revved up the engines we were supposed to run from one side to the other. In between the two sides was a hatch about three feet high. Naturally the plan did not work.

The American Navy arrived from Finchhaven and tried to tow us off. No go again so they brought some barges, bolted them all together making a platform about 60 foot by 30 foot. The “Friendly Captain” again recruited all the soldiers to rig the crane on number one hatch, open it up and transfer the stored equipment onto the platform. Things went well. I was one of the people on the platform .Things went well for a while, then the wind

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came up and the sea got rough and the platform began to bang and bounce against the side of the ship. We had to jump off the barges, onto the rocks, climb up the cliff and step onto the bow of the ship.

The friendly Captain again, asked the American Navy who was standing off watching, what was going on, to come in and tow the barges away. The answer came back "No can do" as all of our men are sea sick. We watched as the sea smashed the barges to pieces, and all of the goods we had stacked on them went into the sea.



We were transferred to Finchhaven and billeted in a disused hospital. The food was good and we received a bottle of beer a day, life was pretty good.

A couple of days later our ship came into the harbour, it had a tear in the hull about ten metres long under no 2 hatch. After another week's delay we eventually arrived in Morotai. Due to our late arrival it was panic stations with no time for exercises. Our tanks were loaded onto L.C.M'S. These were similar to the ones used at the Normandy landing the year before, when the allies invaded Europe. They are like an L.S.T. except they flood the tank deck, reverse the L.C.M;S in with the tanks aboard, then close the door, pump out the water, and away we go. When you reach your destination, the reverse happens, The advantage of this ship is it can discharge the tanks a long way from the shore without any danger to itself. We had our tanks waterproofed to wade through about three or four foot of water. The water proofing consisted of canvas over the engine louvers and the drivers cabin sealed down with a type of plasticine, with a charge underneath connected to a wire in the turret to blow it off when out of the water.

The beach was protected with poles driven into the sand, with cross members every which way, making an impenetrable barrier. Z force had been there and blown sections out of it. The L.C.M'S, sailed us right into the beach, we only had to wade a few feet and were on dry land.

Our objective was Parramatta Hill, which was pretty high, it overlooked all of the coastline we had just come from. There were American Liberator Bombers dropping bombs only a few hundred yards ahead of us as we advanced. All of the Nips were underground in bunkers. The bombing probably only gave them a headache.

Flame throwers were the most effective weapon to deal with them. Half way up the hill a sniper was holding things up, a tank was going to go first to eliminate him, he was tied in a tree. At that time we were on a flat plateau which overlooked all of the coastline that we had left that morning, we were all standing round looking at the view; one tank some infantry and engineers, We saw an American fighter plane flying along actually below our level. He fired four rockets, which could only have been at our people, we were the only ones down there I looked the other way and saw another one flying straight at us, he was on our level, I saw him fire four rockets from under his wings, he was only about two or three hundred yards away. There was a bunker protruding about three feet out of the ground which I ducked under. The rockets landed among us. When the air cleared there were only a few of us still standing. Some killed most wounded, including all of the tank crew.

I was instructed to take the tank back down the hill, no good without a crew! I was almost down on level ground when one of the tracks fell off, one of the rockets had hit the track and severed it and welded it together again just enough to travel a couple of miles and then snap again. I spent most of the afternoon and night putting it back on and joining it up. What a day for the first day of a landing!

When the township and refinery were secured it seemed that our job was finished. Not so. Aerial photos across the bay detected strong fortifications, gun emplacements still active and as we were the squadron at that end of town, Fighting HQ. troop was selected to go and have a look.

We loaded our tanks on to L.C.M's and proceeded across the bay. Recon had told us we would not have any trouble landing as the area we had chosen was firm sand. My L.C.M approached the shore, he lowered his ramp and I proceeded to drive off expecting to be only a foot or so of water, the tank should have levelled off at

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the end of the ramp. Not so, It kept going down at the same angle. I realised it was mud and stopped. I informed the skipper that we should reverse back on and find another spot. The driver of the L.C.M. a coloured American serviceman wanted to get away as soon as possible and the LCM in reverse with the engine going full blast trying to get the craft away from the tank and I had the tank in reverse trying to back on. He was see sawing the steering trying to free the craft from the tank. I was getting no where and the tracks were slipping on the ramp, if he had stopped I could have attached a cable to a track and walked back on. The skipper drew his pistol and threatened to shoot him. He took no notice, kept wriggling the craft yelling Gotta Go, Gotta Go, and eventually he did, leaving us there like sitting ducks. As the tank started to fill with water, I turned the engines off, exited the vehicle and crouched down behind the turret.

The other two tanks seeing what had happened scouted round and found some solid ground to land on.

Eventually the three people in the turret joined me on the back of the tank. No one fired at us, the nips had all shot through. When the tide went out we waded ashore.

All the guns on the recon photos were dummies, coconut logs positioned to look like gun barrels. The next day they ferried a D7 bulldozer over and towed my tank ashore. You could have driven a yacht up the track it made in the mud. It was a write off. The water had ruined everything.

Fighting had now ceased so we made a nice camp close to where we had landed, close to the sea. Each day we would go round to the compound and get about 20 or 30 Japanese prisoners and had them build a court like a tennis court, on which we used to play curcloss. The prisoners polished our boots made our beds, cleaned our tanks, I had the shiniest shoes, cleanest clothes that I ever had had and the tanks looked as if they had been polished.

The Indonesians were a sorry sight, starved looking, nothing to eat. They used to carry their food round with them, if they caught a fish they tied it to a bamboo frame and carried it on their back. Of course they were always stealing food from our camp, if we caught one we would give him a hot cross bun haircut and let him go. The Dutch who were the ruling body before the war, made a camp across the road from us. They had no trouble with theft. The first Indonesian to walk down the road they shot and left the corpse lying in the road.

About this time the Brass began recruiting people to go to Japan as a peace keeping force. We were young and free, so quite a few agreed to go, me included, until we noticed that the ones who had joined were down on the parade ground being drilled, - no way, not going to do that again.

Return to Australia was on a points system, married men first, then by age, disability and as I was only 22 the youngest in the squadron, I'd be here forever.

All the American equipment was on lend lease, and they did not want it back. All American vehicles were dumped, but as our tanks were English, they were to be returned to Australia but only as ballast on ships returning home.

About Xmas time our CO. contacted the captain of an L.S.T. moored in the harbour and asked if he would take us to Moratai, as it was on the direct route from Japan. We loaded the tanks and a week later we arrived in Moratai. Plenty of ships were going back and forth, but no one wanted ballast.

Some of the older men were getting itchy feet, being stuck with no prospects of getting home. However, it was possible to get a ride on an American aircraft, if you were game to take the risk, as many didn't get there due to lax maintenance and the mountains over New Guinea were high.



Finally someone came up with the idea that as our tanks had been through a war, they were probably worn out any way, so we took pad and pencil listed all their faults and rejected them. The tanks were lined up on the beach, the engines were started a brick was put on the pedal and sent them on their way into the sea. They walked majestically through the shallow water to the edge of the reef and tumbled over with hardly a whimper.

I sailed from Moratai on Anzac day 1946 and arrived in Sydney on the 10th of May. Everything was so different, uniforms were rare, they were all civilians. How quickly they had forgotten!

On this Day

The Australian Tank Corps was gazetted on 15 Dec 1927 and made effective from 13 Dec 1927.

On 14 Dec 48 the AAC was granted the title "Royal" and became the RAAC

CAMBRAI DAY CELEBRATION.

It has been the practice of the RAACA (NSW) to mark this auspicious day in the life of the Corps, with a formal dinner at which a notable member of the Corps is invited to give an appropriate address.

For the past three or four years there has been a steady decline in interest in this function culminating in the situation which arose last year where we had less than 30 members indicating their intention to attend. This response was despite personal invitations being sent to 200 members including a response slip and a reply paid envelope, less than 100 bothered to respond.

The Committee is more than aware that members have many calls on their time which make it difficult to attend RAACA social functions and the reasons for that inability are many and varied. With this in mind, we are seeking your feedback on what sort of occasion should be held to mark Cambrai Day (20 Nov.).

The alternatives suggested are:

- A formal dinner on a Saturday evening at an appropriate venue on or near 20 Nov.
- An informal function at Victoria Barracks, on or near 20 Nov.
- An informal function at eg., a centrally located RSL Club.

An alternative to any of the above. It is not worth organising such a function because I'm just not interested.

We really need your feedback on this matter, so it would be a big help if you could reply by email to mike.phillips2@defence.gov.au, or to "The Secretary, RAACA(NSW), Bldg.96, Victoria Barracks Paddington NSW 2021.

Because ours is a voluntary staff, and therefore their attendance is not readily predictable, telephoning can be a difficult exercise.

Please have a think about this and let the Committee know your thoughts.

The Following Books are available through the RAACA Head Office

- More bang for no bucks \$30
- Armoured fighting vehicles (Jack Livesey) \$30
- The Great Tanks (Hamlyn) \$30
- World War II Tanks \$30
- Mega Book of tanks (Lyne Gibbs) \$30
- Tank versus tank (Kenneth Macksey) \$30
- The 7th light horse regiment 1914-1919 \$30
- Just soldiers (Darryl Kelly) \$30
- Good bye cobber, good bless you (John Hamilton) \$30
- Citizen and soldier (Kevin Baker) \$30
- Darwin 1942 Australia's darkest hour (timothy Hall) \$30
- Modern tanks (Ray Bonds) \$30
- Westralian Cavalry in the war (Colonel Olden) \$30
- The miraculous "fires" of a man called Jack (John Cox) \$30
- A Tankie's travels (Jock Watt) \$30
- Boer War Men of the Queanbean-Braidwood Region (John Cope) \$30
- More Bang for No Bucks \$30
- History of the RAAC General Hopkins \$100

We are keen to clear our shelves as we are not set up as a library. Any reasonable offer will be accepted for these books, just contact the Office

2002 South Africa End of War Ceremonies

Just for interest these pictures show Digger James presenting a commemorative medal supplied by Greg Faux (now of National medals) to the small Australian contingent at Melrose House, Pretoria. This was where the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging was signed and the Australian High Commission hosted a ceremony. Maj Gen Lahey, Chief of Army designate, is speaking at the National Ceremony.

MILES FARMER



Lest we Forget

We regret to advise the passing of the following

Goulding, Geoffery	Harrison, A. J
Lehman, P	Davis, HEJ
Miller, Alan A	Shanks, C
Malcolm, James	Meagher, Desmond
King, Peter	Dick, Jim
Ford, B	Walker, H (Bert)
Williams, Charles Mervyn	Morris, Geoff
Westerland, Cecil Frank	
Hill, R.K.	

HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Bucholtz, F.A (Fred) Marr, Walter 12/16th, 1/15th Bertles, JF (John) 12/16th
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We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between October 2011 to January 2012

J. Haynes	N.Traves	J.Campbell	J.H. Lewis-Hughes
K.G.Radburn	Memorial Hall Trust	T.C.Irwin	Bronte Surf Life Saving Club
Girgrove RSL Sub Branch	Greensborough RSL Sub Branch	Mildura District Nurses	R.Dare
E. Matthews	L.Robinson	Reservoir Sub Branch	A.Stackman
C.Doyle	P.George	F.Swindley	D.Heap
E.Tynan	L.J.Pegus	P.J.Bates	B.Hort
D.Connely	C.J.Johnston	Dewit & Hayes P/L	Glenroy RSL
Country Womens Association	Returned & Services Womens Association	Australian Intel Corp Association	War Widows Guild Australia
B.Phillips	V.M.Brown	B.Thompson	D.O.McMillan
A.Jones	J.L.Everett	R.J.Mercer	R.Crick
Werribee Legacy widows Club	LambtonNew RSL Sub Branch	National Servicemens Association	Dandenong Ranges RSL Club
A.Bewley	A.Hamilton	Dr. P.Bryne	D.Deasey
L.Greenwood	D.Hollway	M.G.Mills	Auburn RSL Sub Branch
J.E.Hill	Bomaderry RSL Branch	L.Tanner	J.V.Hoadely
R.Ellis	Y.Woods	V.Waterhouse	D.Carment
S.R.Teaque	JR & EL.Hartmann	L.Roberts	C.M.O'Donnell
B.T.Holmes	L & R Cox	CW&ED Supple	P.Angell
D.Sharp	PD&S Douglas	C Dawson	J.Looney
A.Barnham	R.Amery	A.Stackhouse	Maygars Hill Winery
Probus Club of Grimshaw	Makea Joan Sadaraka	B.Openshaw	P.Oliver
EN&DE Blake	Lions Club of Stratford	G.Wade	T.M.Jones
W.D.Swinbourne	H.M.Silver	H.A.Toyne	D.Turner
F.Noyce	M.Perdriau	L.Koles	L.N.Bootes
G.Mackay	K.Doyle	E.White	K.Price
J.Norton	M.Williamson	M.Murray	NSA Australia
J.Treble	T.Nicholson	C.M.Black	J.Finlayson
A&C Wright	R&H Bricknell	M.Holz	T.Ford



Atomic Veterans are aware of the extreme difficulty veterans, so far, are having in obtaining a disability

pension under the VEA despite recent seemingly positive changes to the Act. DVA has now specified what cancers will be accepted as a basis for a claim.

Please alert any Atomic Vets or widows of this break-through.

27 Feb 1860 2/14 LHR (QMI) Unit Birthday

The birth of the unit that is as the 2nd/14th Light Horse (Queensland Mounted Infantry) occurred on 27 February 1860, when the Governor, Sir George Bowen, approved the Rules and Regulations of the Brisbane Mounted Rifles. The Governor appointed John Bramston as Captain and commander of the troop. Later that year two more troops of the Queensland Mounted Rifles were raised and known by their district titles of Ipswich and Port Curtis.”

#26 Feb 1840 3/9 LH (SAMR) Birthday

The “Royal South Australian Volunteer Militia Cavalry” is the origin of the mounted units of South Australia and is recognised by 3/9 LH (SAMR) as their birthday.

Memorabilia	Cost
AFV CREWMAN’S BADGE	\$20
TIE	\$35
DECALS	\$3
POCKET	\$15
LAPEL BADGE	\$15
STUBBY HOLDER	\$7
ARMOURED ANTICS BOOKLET	\$5
TIE CLIPS	\$20
CUFF LINKS	\$30
VIETNAM VIDEO—FRAGMENTS OF WAR	\$20
ARMY COMBAT BADGE SILVER LARGE	\$20
ARMY COMBAT BADGE SILVER SMALL	\$20
ARMY COMBAT BADGE AS A PAIR	\$30
BOER WAR MEMORIAL TEE SHIRT	\$50
BOER WAR MEMORIAL LAPEL BADGE	\$15

Lost Souls

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following members would they please contact the RAACA Office

NAME	LAST ADDRESS
Mr. Castellari	9 Byrnes Place, Curtin ACT 2605
Mr. Corby B.W.	5/27 Moad St., Orange, NSW 2800
Mr. Cottle, A	31 Dalhouse St., Haberfield NSW 2045
Mr. Dengate, C	34 Bowman Av., Camden NSW 2570
Mr. Edgar, G.W.	17 Byng St., Orange NSW 2800
Mr. Hancock, P	46 Barrington Dve., Woongarra NSW 2259
Mr. Hickey, K	1 Allawah Ave., Sefton NSW 2162
Mr.. Kennedy, J	30 Osbourne St., Umina NSW 2257
Mr. Rodd, M.H.	27/17 Oaks Villiage, Tarraganda Ln., Bega NSW 2550
Mr. Thorncraft, A.F.	18 Casuarina Dve., Orange NSW 2800

Change of Address

To change your mailing address, please fill in the new address below and return **the complete page** to: RAACA (NSW Branch) Membership Officer, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021

Name:

Address:

.....Post Code:.....

Mobile No.:

Phone No.:

Email:.....

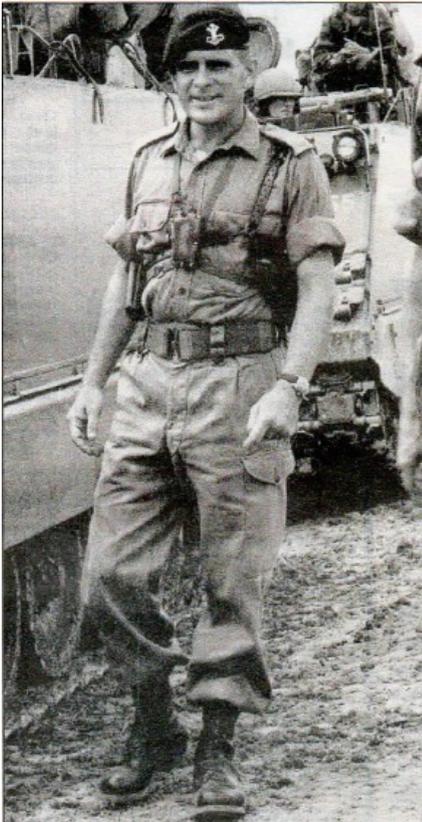
PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS FOR ALL EXCEPT FOR EMAIL

Members are thanked for their response to the request to receive
Armour by email.

Due to that response with this issue we have sent Armour by
email to all email addresses we hold.

If this doesn't suit anyone please contact the office and we will cross
you off the email list and send a paper copy.

Vale



LTCOL R.K. Hill MC, (Retd) passed away in
Brisbane on
Tuesday 20 Dec 2011.

The RAAC serving members and veteran community express their deepest sympathy to his family.

It is with deep regret that I pass on the info' that 51407 Robert Keith Hill at age 79 passed away suddenly at Greenslopes Hospital in Brisbane on Tuesday from infections around his heart.

Bob served as a T/Sgt with 3RAR in Korea and a few yrs later changed Corps to RAAC. In 1965, as a Lt, Bob led No 1 Tp of A Sqn, 4/19th PWLH in Vietnam. Later that year he was promoted to Capt and led the largest APC Tp ever, 18 x M113A1's.(1 Tp of 1 APC Sqn) and he set the high standard for APC operations in 1ATF.

In September 1970 he returned to South.Vietnam as 2i/c of B Sqn 3rd Cav Regt. Bob retired as a Lt Col and later became

Patron of the 3rd Cavalry Regt Vietnam Association.

In June 1965 he was awarded the MC for 'heroic leadership' in a night action and the US-Bronze Star for Meritorious Service along with the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Being a mad yachtie and boatie Bob had gone to Brissie with his brother to buy another boat.

Lest we forget Bob, you were a great Boss.

From Bob Coker..

VIETNAM LOST FILMS

Australian and New Zealand Premiere on The History Channel

Wednesdays at 7.30pm from March 7 to April 11,

This is a story that is in danger of being lost to history. It's a story of the men who came home from the Vietnam War and tried to forget - men who represent a second silent generation. Although the U.S. lost the war, what is overlooked today is that the men who fought in Vietnam won every battle. It's time to give these veterans a voice. It's time to allow them to tell their stories and relive their courage, their fears, and their struggles. This six-hour miniseries will cover the time period from the initial massive troop build-up in 1965 to the fall of Saigon in 1975. The sound design, using popular music and covers of rock music from that era, will be integral to evoking the time period and the experience.

Seeking Information on 1st Australian Armoured Division

Cate Clark is seeking information about the 1st Australian Armoured Division 1942-1945. Having recently published *To Fight and Do Our Best* – a book devoted to dealing with the Armoured Division during its stay in the region of Gunnedah NSW in 1942/43 – Cate is now looking to expand on the Division's story.

In 1942 units of this elite Division took part in the most extensive land exercises (manoeuvres) that Australia had ever witnessed. In November of that same year the 20,000 men of the Division were then reorganised with half of the soldiers going to Western Australia to guard Australia's 'back door' and the remaining sent onto Queensland and to a new Division – the 3rd Australian Armoured Division. Cate intends to follow the soldiers and to recount their story.

Cate is seeking any veterans that have not already been contacted by her and also any residents of the many towns that the Units passed through, or called 'home', who would be interested in contributing their recollections or photographs of that time.

Contact Cate at: 0408 425564 or info@writerightmedia.com.au. The sample chapter of *To Fight and Do Our Best* at: www.writerightmedia.com.au will illustrate the type of information required and 'Latest News' at the same site will detail the concept a little more fully.



1 Australian Armoured Division Concert Party



General Stuart Tank



Home Sweet Home