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# ARMOUR

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## The Great Game & Task Force Uruzgan



RTF ASLAV25 Tiri Rud Valley Uruzgan  
Afghanistan

**T**ask Force Uruzgan (TFU) was set up as part of NATO's Regional Command South of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), in Afghanistan. The Dutch lead one of the four Provincial Reconstruction Teams in the southern region of the country. 1,200 to 1,400 Dutch military, mandated by the Dutch Parliament in February 2006, were tasked to maintain order in Uruzgan province. In addition they were to develop political and economic infrastructure and to train the Afghan police.

The Main Operating Base (MOB) was Kamp Holland in Tarin Kowt the capital of Uruzgan province and a few smaller Forward Operating Bases (FOB); Camp Hadrian 60 kilometres west of Tarin Kowt near a town called Deh Rahwod, FOB Coyote north of Deh Rawod near a place called Chutu and FOB Phoenix on the west bank of the Helmand river near the town of Tor Nasser.

The TFU under the command of Colonel Kees Matthijssen consisted of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), a battlegroup and an air detachment. The battlegroup consisted of infantry with armoured vehicles and artillery. If needed, support in the form of F-16's, six AH-64D Apache and five Eurocopter AS 532 helicopters of the Royal Netherlands Air Force were available.

Australian troops and soldiers of the Afghan National Army plus Afghan police officers were included as part of this PRT. During June 2007 a Taliban offensive and a Dutch counterattack proved to be the heaviest fighting in Uruzgan province since ISAF extended its Area of Responsibility to the south of Afghanistan. A large part of Task

Force Uruzgan's battlegroup took part in the Battle of Chora.

## Battle of Chora

The **Battle of Chora** took place in and around the town of Chora (3,000 inhabitants), in Afghanistan's Orūzgān Province, during June 15–19, 2007. The fighting was between ISAF and Afghan forces on one side and Taliban forces on the other, for the control of the Chora District centre, regarded by the Taliban as a tactical target because it provided ground access from the unsecured Gizab district in the north to the provincial capital of Tarin Kowt. According to press reports, the fighting was the largest Taliban offensive of 2007 in Afghanistan, and resulted in the death of one American, one Australian, two Dutch and 16 Afghan soldiers, as well as approximately 58 civilians and an unknown number of Taliban.

Uruzgan province, along with neighboring Kandahar and Helmand provinces in southern Afghanistan, is part of the Taliban's traditional Pashtun tribal stronghold. In Uruzgan, NATO's ISAF mission took over authority for Afghanistan from the US-led coalition in August 2006, resulting in 1,400 Dutch soldiers replacing some 150 US troops at the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Uruzgan's provincial capital, Tarin Kowt, and other bases. In addition to co-located Afghan battalions, there was an Australian element under Dutch command and contributions from other NATO allies. When faced with the security challenge, the Dutch focused their attention only on Uruzgan's three population centres, leaving other areas to Taliban control. Dutch activities included setting up checkpoints, some of which were near the town of Chora. At the time, there were 100 Afghan police in Chora.

Task Force troops were working in Chora on projects such as a school, a mosque and a bridge, following up on civilian construction projects initiated by the US. 60 Dutch troops were deployed in Chora, led by Captain Larry Hamers of the Regiment Stoottroepen Prins Bernhard.

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# Coming Events



4 April 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs
6 June 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs
1 August 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs
3 October 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs

All members are welcome, afterwards we usually adjourn to the Officers' Mess for a luncheon

## CAMBRAI DINNER 2013

Cambrai Dinner 16 November 2013. Please note this in your diaries and plan to support this commemoration which is our principal annual social activity. This year we will gather in the Victoria Barracks Officer's Mess. Our guest speaker will be our new RAAC Head of Corps Brigadier John MacKenzie.



## Vale

General Pearson, General Latchford and Major Gilchrist. Both of the Generals' funerals were Military with all the dignity and precision we would expect. A number of Committee members and ordinary members represented all the RAACA at the those funerals. Joffre's funeral was in East Victoria.

Our soldiers deployed on border protection with the Navy now have a new medal, the Operational Service Medal (OSM), it replaces the AASM&ASM. (see page 9 for more information). The RAACA has been lobbying for the issue of this medal from the moment the first RAAC troopers became involved.

Interestingly the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) will be replaced with the OSM. The RASB will continue to be issued to Afghanistan and East Timor veterans.

John Haynes, President

*(Continued from page 1)*

## The Battle

### June 15

On Friday evening June 15 there was shooting near Chora. Earlier that day, a Dutch convoy in Tarin Kowt was attacked by a suicide bomber, killing a Dutch soldier several Afghan civilians.

### June 16

A U.S.A-10 Thunderbolt II spotted a group of 60 persons moving toward Chora. Troops at Chora were informed, but the A-10 did not engage the group, due to uncertainty over identity and intentions. Shortly after, three Afghan police posts (Kala Kala, Nyazi and Sarab), on the road linking Chora to Tarin Kowt came under coordinated attack by a large number of Taliban fighters (the press claimed 800 men, although this number could not be verified). Coalition troops in Chora moved to support the Kala Kala and Nyazi Afghan police posts.

The Taliban captured Sarab police post, killing two brothers of the commander of the post. They also cut off the hands of the wife of a captured policeman who was forced to watch her mutilation before being beheaded himself. That afternoon, the Dutch withdrew from the Kala Kala and Nyazi checkpoints, allowing the Taliban to capture these posts as well.

The Dutch troops reassembled near the Chora awaiting instructions from their commander, Colonel Hans van Griensven in Kamp Holland near Tarin Kowt. Griensven ordered them to stay and fight. ISAF aircraft provided support and attacked the Taliban, scouts reported that 30 Taliban volunteers led by individuals nicknamed Kaka and Sadam, were gathered inside a farm at the village of Qual Eh-Ye-Ragh. An Apache helicopter fired two Hellfire-missiles at the farm, killing the Bosnians and civilians inside.

Rozi Khan, a local tribal militia leader with shifting loyalties (who was himself killed during October 2008 fighting in the area), offered 150-200 of his fighters to support the defense of Chora. The Dutch and Chora village leaders accepted Khan's offer reluctantly as the village leaders had to arm Khan's fighters (aware that Khan might later change sides again and turn the weapons on them). A group of Dutch and Australian troops at Kamp Holland near Tarin Kowt moved to Chora, commanded by LTC Rob Querido. The Australian troops deployed in Baluchi valley, between Tarin Kowt and Chora, to secure the key road.

Also on Saturday June 16 US Staff Sergeant Roy P. Lewsader was killed when his vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Tarin Kowt.

### June 17-18

On Sunday June 17 and Monday June 18 reinforcements arrived from Kamp Holland and the base in Deh Rahwod, increasing the number of allied troops at Chora to 500. Fifty Afghan Army reinforcements also arrived in Chinook helicopters. Taliban fighters, who had gained control of most of the residential areas, forced civilians to fight with them or face execution. The Taliban also used civilian homes as shelter, but were still attacked by NATO aircraft, causing civilian casualties. As the fighting continued, many Taliban fighters were killed.

On the night of Sunday, June 17 to the morning of Monday, June 18, during the loading of an 81-mm mortar, deployed in the courtyard of the Chora district government building, the bomb exploded inside the launch tube, killing Sergeant-Major Jos Leunissen and wounding three other Dutch soldiers.

### June 19

At 0930h, NATO briefly withdrew the aircraft supporting the fighting at Chora, but air support was restored at 0940h when Col. Van Griensven reportedly threatened to withdraw the six Dutch F-16s from NATO command.

At 1000h allied troops, together with Rozi Khan's militia, made a push called "Operation Troy", in which they recaptured the three lost checkpoints.

In July 2010 Dutch troops began to withdraw from Uruzgan, and were replaced by an American-led coalition force including Australian, Slovak and Singaporean soldiers. Command was transferred to the US and Australia on August 1, 2010. The Dutch Foreign Affairs Ministry stated that the security situation in central Uruzgan province had improved "considerably" since the beginning of the Dutch operations. With this withdrawal, the Netherlands became the first NATO country to end its combat mission in Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadij congratulated the citizens and government of the Netherlands for this independent decision.

## Australian Reconstruction Task Force



RAR took part in the Battle of Derapet, sustaining one killed. Corporal Daniel Keighran was awarded the Victoria Cross for his role in that battle.

Mentoring Task Force One (MTF-1) was an Australian Army unit created for deployment during the War in Afghanistan. Formed predominantly from the 7th Brigade, the battle group comprised personnel of 55 different units, and was based on the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) and comprised approximately 750 men. The unit was initially commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jason Blain, who subsequently handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings on 21 June 2010.

The unit was deployed in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper, the Australian Defence Force contribution to the War in Afghanistan. It served in Afghanistan from January to October 2010 and formally handed over responsibility for operations in the area to Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force Two in February 2010. During its deployment, the unit was partnered with the 4th Brigade, Afghanistan National Army.

The unit suffered almost 40 casualties during its eight-month deployment, including six deaths. While attached to MTF-1, soldiers from 6

*(Continued on page 8)*



## Technical Notes & News



*An Australian Army's Bushmaster conducting mounted patrols and convoys in Baluchi Valley, Afghanistan.  
Photo: courtesy of ISAF Headquarters Public Affairs Office from Kabul, Afghanistan.*

### Australian Army orders additional Bushmasters from Thales

Thales Australia has been awarded a \$205m contract for the production and supply of 214 additional Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles (PMVs) to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to help support its operations in Afghanistan. Defence minister Stephen Smith said that the new contract would bring the army's Bushmasters fleet to around 1,000.

"The Bushmaster has been a most effective piece of equipment and it's saved lives in Afghanistan," he said. "So it's been a most successful piece of kit, designed and built in Australia, in Bendigo."

The new award follows approval of funding worth \$15.5m by the federal government in March, for the production of long lead components for the next batch of Bushmasters at Bendigo factory by Thales, which is also the preferred manufacturer of the Hawkei vehicle, slated for production in 2016.

In addition to providing ongoing protected mobility for the command and control of its artillery, the new vehicles are expected to gradually replace the ageing Bushmasters in the army's existing fleet.

Manufacturing work in successive batches of 50 vehicles is scheduled to start in October and will depend on the performance of Thales in development of Hawkei into a suitable vehicle for \$1.5bn project LAND 121 phase 4, according to the defence minister.

The Bushmaster PMV is a 4x4 armoured vehicle for a range of uses, including troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer and command for deployment in combat and combat support missions.

Powered by a Caterpillar 3126E ATAAC turbocharged engine, the vehicle can carry up to nine soldiers along with their equipment, fuel and supplies for three days, depending on the type of variant.

Since 2005, the vehicles have been providing Australian troops with mobility and protection, particularly against improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Afghanistan.

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### Hawkei on show in Paris

Thales Australia's Hawkei vehicle is currently on display for the first time in Europe at the Eurosatory exhibition in Paris. One interesting aspect of the exhibit is the Vehicle Electronic Architecture (VEA) that is the result of an extensive joint development program between Thales in France, the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Australia. This allows the vehicle to be mission systems configurable, with surveillance, communications and battle management system able to be displayed on a single screen and out to meet rapid re-tasking at minimal cost and effort.



The vehicle will also be displaying Thales's SOTAS vehicle communications system, Sophie thermal imager, MBITR radios, as well as Polaris GPS. The crew will also benefit from the vehicle's Health and Usage Monitoring System (HUMS) which uses touch screens to display vehicle performance data on engine status, systems, power management, weapons and sensors.

Thales Australia's CEO Chris Jenkins said Hawkei had been future proofed regarding the increased use of networked technologies on operations, and this had driven development of a supplier-agnostic VEA that can be used to integrate an array of third-party equipment, giving users genuine choice when deciding which technologies to deploy for any given task.

As Australian Defence Media noted recently the Government allocated just over \$38 million to further develop and test the next generation Hawkei, as part of which Thales Australia will deliver six prototypes under Land 121 Phase 4, which will acquire 1,300 new light protected vehicles to replace the current Land Rover fleet.

## Boeing to support Thales Hawkei bid

**Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) will provide Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) during the next stage of development of Thales Australia's Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light prototypes.**

The contract will be delivered under Stage 2 of the Manufactured and Supported in Australia (MSA) option for the Land 121 Phase 4 program. Under the \$3.5 million contract, BDA will deliver ILS services to the Thales team for six Hawkei prototypes and a trailer that will be delivered to the Commonwealth for further testing. During the 16-month prototype production and testing phase, BDA will work with Thales Australia to help increase the vehicles' long-term availability and maintainability, with a view to reducing future support costs. This includes delivering development and training to operators, conducting logistics support analysis and providing logistic engineering support to the Thales design team.

## Plasan's RPG defeat system for Bushmasters?

**By Tom Muir**

**Over the past 18 months Thales Australia and Plasan, already cooperating in the development of protection systems for the Bushmaster family of vehicles and the Hawkei, (preferred contender for the Land 121 PMV -L MSA option) have added Plasan's lightweight Flex Fence 2 rocket propelled grenade (RPG) defeat system to the protective systems now available for these vehicles—should Defence want them?**

The company believes it needs to be one step ahead of what the customer is requiring so that if the operational environment changes in Afghanistan to a more increased RPG threat then Thales has a highly effective solution already designed for Bushmaster which will see a significant reduction in the operational user requirements time-table, rapid deployment and ultimately reduced threat exposure to ADF personnel.



Whilst there are various types of RPG defeat systems on the market including lightweight net, bar armour (aluminium and the much heavier steel) and even active defence systems, Thales has selected Light Fence from the Plasan Ultra FlexFence Family (UFF) of RPG defeat solutions comprise. Developed in consultation with potential customers, with more than 100 tests carried out during the trials program, FlexFence has been designed to defeat the Russian RPG-7 RPG fitted with a high explosive anti-tank warhead. According to Plasan, its FlexFence system is not only lighter than the widely deployed bar armour, but is more effective and cheaper, noting that bar armour is effective against about 60 per cent of incoming RPGs.

*ADM Defence Weekly issue 227 18/10/2012*

## Armoured Vehicles Market to Shrink by one Billion US\$ over the next Decade

Market research company ICD predicts the global market for armored and counter IED vehicles which was valued at US\$25.1 billion in 2011 will decline during the next nine years, as global operations in Afghanistan and Iraq drawing down toward the second half of the decade. As a result, the global AFV market is expected to register a negative combined annual growth rate of -0.43% during the 2011-2021 period, to reach US\$24.1 billion by 2021. Nevertheless, the cumulative market value for armored vehicles and counter IED vehicles acquisition during the forecast period is estimated at US\$265 billion.

*For more information on "The Global Armored vehicles Market 2011-2021" (Defense-update DF0001SR Request for Quotation).*

## ASLAV surveillance variants boost Beersheba capability

**With the delivery of 14 ASLAV surveillance variants (ASLAV-S) scheduled for next year (2013), surveillance operations under Plan Beersheba will have more eyes and ears with armoured cavalry regiments in each multi-role combat brigade, being equipped with a surveillance troop comprising two ASLAV 25s, four ASLAV surveillance variants and 20 trained surveillance operators.**



Combat Development Officer LTCOL Collingburn said the primary mission of the ASLAV-S was to provide the reconnaissance commander with a surveillance capability.

“The commander may use the surveillance information to move other reconnaissance force assets towards enemy targets,” he said.

“A secondary mission of ASLAV-S is to call, observe and correct indirect fire support onto enemy targets.”

This new capability could be deployed as part of a reconnaissance squadron conducting screening or covering force operations in support of a larger land force. The reconnaissance commander would likely

deploy his surveillance assets in a line to provide early detection and warning of enemy activity. The ASLAV-S capability will

perform surveillance operations while stationary and they will usually be employed in pairs.

### **Surveillance capability**

The vehicles will be fitted with the Multi-Spectral Surveillance Suite (MSSS) and comprise surveillance, navigation, targeting and communications subsystems that will provide the ground manoeuvre commander with better situational awareness.

The combination of sensor array and data fusion has proved to be a uniquely Australian Army requirement. Attempts to obtain an ASLAV surveillance capability between 1997 and 2005 were unsuccessful, none of the capabilities under consideration were assessed to be viable, mature technological solutions and therefore they carried significant engineering risk.”

The MSSS can accept a wide variety of modern sensors tailored to the warfighter’s specific requirements. The sensors are mounted on a heavy-duty stabilised support on a telescopic mast. It can also be mounted on a tripod if required. The multiple sensors that make up the MSSS include day/night electro optic, laser and RF/radar-based systems with integral “slew-to-cue” target hand-off functionality.

These sensors combine to enable the commander to locate and track threats at extended ranges, under any condition and provide the means necessary for timely and effective targeting by direct and indirect fire assets — *ArmyNews*

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ADM’s Defence Week Premium Edition

## Russia Plans to Field the T-99, a Radically New Main Battle Tank by 2015



The Russian Army is planning to begin modernize its armoured and mechanized forces beginning in 2015, fielding a new family of vehicles comprising a new main battle tank, armored infantry fighting vehicles, and various support platforms. The MBT will be based on the new Armata, the prototype is scheduled to enter field trials in 2013, about 10 months ahead of schedule. First Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Sukhorukov said. The new tank is under development at Uralvagonzavod in Omsk. The first deliveries of the tank to the Russian Armed Forces are scheduled for 2015. A total of 2,300 MBTs are expected to be supplied by 2020.

It should be remembered that the Russians are building their fighting forces not only against NATO, but more importantly, to protect their long southern borders with radical Islamic countries that may be gathering military power, and the growing dominance of China in the east. Armored and mechanized forces are key to maintaining military superiority or parity against such threats. The level of sophistication in meeting such threats is not as demanding as meeting the advanced technology fielded by US and NATO forces.

According to preliminary reports, the new tank designated T-99 will be less radical and ambitious than the failed ‘Object 195’ or T-95, it will weigh less, therefore, become more agile and will be more affordable, compared to its more ambitious predecessors.



## Message Board

The **Armoured Vehicles UAE 2013** conference and exhibition will be held 20-22 May 2013, Abu Dhabi, UAE). This year's conference will continue to provide an exceptionally rare opportunity to learn, share and connect with armoured vehicle procurers and operators responsible for some of the most important contracts in the region.

More information can be obtained  
[www.armouredvehiclesuae.com](http://www.armouredvehiclesuae.com)



**1. All Boer War descendants are invited to march with the Boer War descendants section of the descendants group in the Anzac Day March 2013. Check with the RSL or newspapers for the assembly point.**

**2. This year's Boer War day commemoration in Sydney will take place on Sunday 26th of May 2013, at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney, at 11 AM. All are welcome. What is happening in your town locality? Please involve yourself in any ceremony which is taking place in your area and let us know about it.**

From: Bob Ferrari [mailto:[bob@bellinger.com.au](mailto:bob@bellinger.com.au)]  
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October 2012 15:15  
Subject: FW: Sandy Pearson

Afternoon Gentlemen,

John Haynes and myself visited Sandy this morning at the War Vets Narrabeen where is currently under treatment in Peter Cosgrove House. We had a "Kodak Moment" and did a presentation of Bruce's book, "Canister On Fire". His copy had already arrived courtesy of the Army History Unit. The staff asked us not to stay too long and tire him out. Although he was frail and on oxygen, he was in excellent spirits and extremely mentally alert. He insisted that we have a beer that the staff magically produced but he didn't join us. He still has respiratory problems and some infection but all in all isn't too bad in my opinion. He has regular visits from family and plans to scatter Marjorie's ashes on her favourite golf course in November. I have another photo that I will send in a separate email and hopefully one of these will be suitable for "Ironsides" and "Armour".



Best regards,  
Bob

(Continued from page 3)



Baluchi Pass

1) which began deployment in 2010.

## Task Force rotations

Reconstruction Task Force 1 (RTF 1) [9.2006](#) – 4.2007

Reconstruction Task Force 2 (RTF 2) [4.2007](#) – [10.2007](#)

Reconstruction Task Force 3 (RTF 3) [10.2007](#) - 4.2008

Reconstruction Task Force 4 (RTF 4) 4.2008 – [10.2009](#)

Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 1 ([MRTF 1](#)), 16.10.2008 – [5.2009](#)

Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 2 ([MRTF 2](#)), 5.2009 – [2.2010](#)

Mentoring Task Force 1 ([MTF 1](#)), [14.2.2010](#) -

## RTF/MRTF/MTF commanders

Lieutenant Colonel [Harry Jarvie](#), 4/2007 -

Lieutenant Colonel [Mick Ryan](#), 5/2006 – 4/2007

Lieutenant Colonel David Wainwright, ?/2007 – 4/2008

Lieutenant Colonel [Stuart Yeaman](#), 4/2008 – 10/2008

Lieutenant Colonel Shane Gabriel, 10/2008 – ?/2009

Lieutenant Colonel [Peter Connolly](#), 6/2009 – 12/2009

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hocking, [12/2009](#) -2/2010

Lieutenant Colonel [Jason Blain](#), 2/2010 – 6/2010

Lieutenant Colonel [Mark Jennings](#), 6/2010 -



An ASLAV leading a resupply convoy from Kandahar to Tarin Kowt in May 2010

After more than eight months of intense operations in Afghanistan, the 730 members of MRTF-2 have officially transferred authority for security, mentoring and reconstruction to the Brisbane-based Mentoring Task Force (MTF-1) on 14 February 2010.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF 1), formed by the Darwin-based 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group, took over from the 4<sup>th</sup> Reconstruction Task Force (RTF 4) in Tarin Kowt on 16 October 2008.

When deployed in 2006, the Reconstruction Task Force had three components: an engineering and indigenous capacity building group, a protective force, and command, logistics and support elements.

Capacity-building component (carpenters, plumbers, electricians and plant operators) composed of elements of:  
1st Combat Engineer Regiment.

Protection Company Group of motorised infantry drawn from:  
6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (6 RAR)  
7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (7 RAR)  
2nd Cavalry Regiment

Command, logistics and support elements from:  
1st Brigade

## Mentoring Task Force

First Mentoring Task Force (MTF-1), Force Elements Currently Deployed as part of JTF633, Australian Operations in Afghanistan Fact Sheet, Department of Defence [accessed 14 August 2010]

*Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings, the bulk of the MTF is comprised of elements from the Australian Army's 7th Brigade (Brisbane), with support elements drawn from the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force. MTF-1 includes five Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLTs), and one Combat Team (CT). These teams are structured to best support the mission of ongoing assistance in the development of the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army. Australian soldiers that operate in the OMLTs live with, train and provide support to their Afghan National Army colleagues at patrol bases in Uruzgan Province. The Trade Training School, run by MTF-1, conducts fixed steel and concreting, plumbing and basic construction skills courses. There is also a mobile training school, offering courses to local nationals in specific areas.*

(Continued on page 14)



# Australian Operational Service Medal (OSM)

The Australian Operational Service Medal (OSM) recognises Defence people, both Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and Defence Civilians, who willingly and ably perform their work as part of an operation or within other specific hazardous environments and conditions that has been recommended by the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) and approved by the Governor General for declaration as an operation warranting recognition through a medal.

The OSM will replace the Australian Active Service Medal and the Australian Service Medal for future operations. For ADF members the OSM will be awarded as the standard medal with a unique ribbon for each operation, similar to the practice in place for the United Nations Medal. Provision also exists for the award of an accumulated service device to denote those who undertake multiple tours on a particular operation. Those operations currently recognised by the AASM or ASM will continue to be recognised with those medals while the operations are active, for example Operation SLIPPER.

Her Majesty the Queen approved the OSM on 22 May 2012.

Details of the medal design and ribbon colours will be released after manufacturing contracting arrangements have been completed. Work is underway to commence the manufacturing process and it is anticipated that initial stocks of the medal will be available in the coming months.

ADF members who undertake operational service will receive an OSM with a unique ribbon for each new operation. ADF members who undertake additional periods of qualifying service on the same operation will, where appropriate, receive an accumulated service device - in the form of a numeral similar to those issued by the United Nations.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, and the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, publicly announced the OSM on Thursday 19 July 2012.

## Civilian recognition

The OSM also includes a variant that will be available to recognise those Defence Civilians and other classes of civilian who are employed on ADF operations under the provisions of the *Defence Force Discipline Act 1982*. No recognition of civilians has been given since the end of the INTERFET operation in 2000, accordingly those who have been employed on operations since that time may be entitled to receive the civilian OSM. The Civilian OSM is in the form of the standard medal with a unique civilian service ribbon. Each operation will be denoted by a clasp to the medal.

The eligibility criteria for the Civilian OSM are currently being developed and will be announced when the Governor-General has approved the determinations for the respective operations. This will be widely publicised.

## Operational Service Medal – Border Protection

The first service declared for the OSM is the range of border protection operations conducted since 1997. The basic qualifying criteria for the OSM - Border Protection require members of the ADF to have been deployed or force assigned for duty as a member of a declared operation:

- a. for a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days; or
- b. completed 30 sorties from a unit assigned to a declared operation, provided that those sorties were conducted over a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days at a rate of one sortie per day.

More detailed criteria are contained in the Governor-General's Determination dated 18 July 2012.

## How is it awarded

Defence requests that ADF personnel who feel they may be eligible for the OSM – Border Protection as a result of their involvement in border protection operations or Defence Civilians who have been awaiting recognition since 2000 for their employment as part of a declared operation do not apply for recognition at this time.

The Directorate of Honours and Awards is still working through the administrative aspects associated with the OSM and will be providing further information as soon as it becomes available.

Phone the free-call number 1800 111 321 for further guidance, noting its operating hours are: 10.00am - 4.00pm AEST /AEDST, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

**Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No S 67**

**From:** Clarke, Wayne MAJ  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 November 2012 21:16  
**To:** Baczocha, George TPR  
**Subject:** Lost Souls [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

George,

Just reading the October 2012 issue of armour. Great article on Battle of Kursk. In the Lost Souls Section it says you are looking for Mr Wayne Clarke PO Box 1309 etc etc. That's me.

As you see by the signature block below I am still serving. The PO Box is no longer in existence though I still live in Tamworth.

Yours in Armour,

*Wayne Clarke*

W.S. CLARKE  
MAJOR  
12/16th Hunter River Lancers

**VIRTUTIS FORTUNA COMES**

Extract of a letter from Werner Golla to Colonel Haynes (date)

"I particularly enjoyed the most recent Armour and the history of the tank battle between the Germans and the Russians forces. My Dad fought on the Eastern Front and was taken prisoner but escaped. One of my uncles likewise, but the Russians incarcerated him until early 1950's when upon his release he was subjected to a rigorous debrief by the Americans. My uncle received financial compensation, enough to start his own business. Upon his return to Germany his wife had remarried presuming her husband had been killed in action."

John Haynes notes that he served with Werner for many years and with him was part of a winning inter service Badminton team at one stage. He also advised Werner that the RAACA NSW has an ex German Leopard II crewman, Marcel Krug, who has proudly retained his tank driver's licence.

From: P&C Macmichael  
Subject: Armour Newsletter

G'day Armour

I would like to draw your attention to a minor mistake in the October 2012 issue No.466, page 15 "The Battle of Long Tan" Cpl Peter Clements callsign was 23Alpha not 23 Bravo as shown. I have noticed this mistake in other writings.

Regards  
Paul Macmichael



The Lancer Museum at Parramatta has been lucky enough to find a Matilda Tank! It is well on the way to having its engine back to running order but there is a small problem as they do not have a turret. Would everyone please keep their eye out for a Tilly Turret please and advice the office when you have found one.



# NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

## We need your help urgently

The Federal Government has now approved our Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) which means that we can campaign strongly in industry for donations which will attract tax deductibility. Like all of our supporters you have been extremely generous over the time that the project has been running. However there is still a long way to go. If the project is to be completed within the next few years, before the centenary of ANZAC 2015 we will need a significant injection of government funds. The Federal Government has committed a seed grant of \$200,000 to the project. The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr. Snowden, has indicated that further funds might be able to be allocated in the 2013 – 2014 Budget.

To ensure that this happens we would like you to write to your local Federal member, requesting that funds are made available in the budget. If there are other members in your family and they could each write a letter that would be terrific. (The statisticians tell us that politicians regard one letter as representing 200 votes.) It would be even more effective if you could seek an interview with your local member to hand deliver your letter and discussed the project with him or her. Form letters are generally not as effective as a personal letter but here are some ideas that you might care to use.

- This was the first war Australia fought in as a nation, bridging the process of nationhood.
- It was the first war that Australian women and Australian aborigines took part in.
- 23,000 Australian men and women served.
- On many occasions they fought alongside New Zealanders making them the first ANZACs.
- Over 16,000 served in official contingents and up to 7,000 in British or irregular units.
- The first Australian servicewoman died on active service.
- Approximately 1,000 Australians died in this war making it still the third most costly war in human losses after World War I and World War II.
- The memorial is being built in ANZAC Parade to remember those who served in this war.
- The veterans and their families were given little financial or welfare support

**Tony Larnach Jones**  
Deputy National President NBWMA

1<sup>st</sup> March 2013

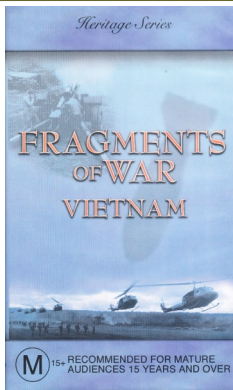
**Patron-in-Chief:** Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

**National Patron:** General David Hurley AC DSC, Chief of the Defence Force

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National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. –  
Victoria Barracks, Building 96, Paddington NSW 2021 • ABN 29 293 433 202 • Web: [www.bwm.org.au](http://www.bwm.org.au)





## Fragments of War—VIETNAM

Members will recall that we had copies of the Tape of this video, which is narrated by Jack Thompson, for sale some years ago. We still have one or two of those tapes left at \$25 each.

Now we have had the Tape converted to DVD for sale at \$10 with postage free.

It is an excellent résumé of the War.

Please contact the office for your copy

## The war we have chosen to forget

By NATALIE O'BRIEN



FOR Barbara Horgan, the push for a national memorial to commemorate the Australians who fought and died in the Boer War is extremely personal. Both her father, Alured Kelly, pictured, and her maternal grandfather, William Newman, fought in the battle with 16,000 others, but their efforts have never been formally recognised in Canberra's military memorial precinct, Anzac Parade. "They

would have wanted it," Ms Horgan said. "Not a lot is known about many Australians who fought and died there and they were responsible for some remarkable feats.

The only thing people really remember about the Boer War is the execution of soldier Breaker Morant."

The three-year conflict is the only major battle that does not have a memorial in the precinct. The National Boer War Memorial Association was allocated a site in 2006 by the National Capital Authority, but it has not been able to raise enough funds to build a memorial. The national president of the association, John Haynes, said they had asked the federal government for funds but despite having donated to memorials for the other conflicts they "had not contributed one cent" to the Boer War Memorial. A design has already been approved and the association needs to raise \$150,000 by the end of November so it can be completed in time for the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

The Boer War was fought from 1899 to 1902 and was responsible for the third largest loss of Australian life in conflict. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross and almost 1000 – all volunteers – were killed.

Mr Kelly's memoirs are kept at the Australian War Memorial library. He wrote that he "took no more than a passing interest" in the war between England and the South African Republic. He decided to enlist after a visit to a tailor who "casually" asked him if he would mind

going to the South African war. "I just as casually replied that I would not mind" Mr Kelly returned home. Now his daughter, Ms Horgan, will join hundreds of others on Friday at a rally at NSW Parliament House to draw attention to the situation. "We should remember the contribution made, especially by Australian horsemen who in that war showed their true talents to the rest of the world."

## More memorials to honour soldiers

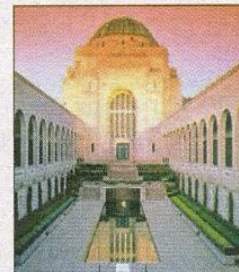
MORE than 110 years after the guns fell silent in South Africa, a national memorial to the 1000 or so Australians who died in the Boer War will be built in Canberra.

The 60,000 Australians who have served on peacekeeping or peace-making missions since 1947 will also be honoured with a monument.

Both memorials will be built on Anzac Ave in Canberra, alongside memorials to World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

President of the Boer War Memorial Association and former Army Colonel John Haynes said a site for the Boer War Memorial was approved in 2006 and it had taken five years to get a design approved.

The striking memorial will feature a one-and-a-half-times-life-sized section of four mounted



ICONIC: War Memorial.

troopers galloping through the high veldt landscape.

They will be cast in bronze by Melbourne sculptor Louis Laumen, who created the statue of Saint Mary MacKillop that stands outside St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney and the Aussie Rules sculpture at the MCG.

The Boer War was the first time Australian and New Zealand soldiers, later to be known as Anzacs, fought together, Mr Haynes said.

Ian McPhedran

## Major General K W Latchford AO

Major General Kevin Latchford was born in Sydney in 1927, the son of Colonel EW Latchford MBE MC, a well known and respected Regular Army officer whose service at the Small Arms School Randwick and later at Bonegilla, Victoria has been recognized by the naming of the Latchford Barracks – the present home of the Army's Logistic Training Centre.

General Latchford was educated at Cleveland Street and Sydney Boys High Schools and Albury High School before entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1945. He graduated in 1947 and was allotted to Armour.



South Vietnam. 1968-06. Informal portrait of Lieutenant Colonel K. W. Latchford, Commander, 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit.

He served in 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Armoured Car Squadron in BCOF as a Recce Troop Leader and on return to Australia was a founding member of 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment. In 1949 he was attached to the British Army for armoured training in BAOR – initially as a Crew Commander and then as a Tank Troop Leader in 5<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards serving in 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. This began a long association with the Centurion tank.

On his return to Australia he served as Adjutant Armoured School and then as Officer Instructor when the Centurion Tank Mk3 was introduced into the RAAC. During this time he conducted the Tropic Trials on a UK Centurion Mk3 on Manus Island.

Following a posting as Adjutant/Quartermaster with 10 WAMI (later 10 LH) in Western Australia he returned to Puckapunyal and 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment as Regimental Technical Adjutant and later commanded A Squadron. After attending the Australian Staff College at Queenscliff he was posted to Army Headquarters in Canberra where he served as a General Staff officer and then as Military Assistant to the CGS.

Selected for advanced armoured training in 1962 he was posted as an Exchange Officer to Rhine Army and served as a Tank Squadron Leader in 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars which was equipped with later models of the Centurion tank.

Returning to Australia in 1964 he served at Army Headquarters and later as SORAC 1 on Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Division in Sydney. In 1968 he was appointed Commanding Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Civil Affairs Unit and served in Vietnam in 1968/69. He was awarded MID for his services in this new area of soldiering. He returned to 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment as Commanding Officer in 1969 and was responsible for the preparation and training of A and C Squadrons for operational service in Vietnam.

Following his RAAC service General Latchford was commander 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force at Enoggera and then Director General of Recruiting for the ADF, Director General Coordination and Organisation at Army Headquarters and finally Director General Natural Disasters Organisation in Defence. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia in 1978 for distinguished service in the development of the Australian Army. He retired in 1984 after 39 years service.

He was appointed Honorary Colonel of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in 1986 and served in that role until the Regiment was relo-





## RTF bases

Tarin Kowt, Camp Russell  
FOB Chora (ANA)  
FOB Khyber-Lyddiard  
FOB Lyddiard (ANA)  
FOB Phoenix  
FOB Qudus  
FOB Worsley

Fire Base Tycz\*  
FOB Davis (aka FOB Ripley)  
FOB Locke (ANA)  
FOB Mashal  
FOB Poentjak\*  
FOB Ripley (aka FOB Davis)



A Special Operations Task Group patrol October 2009

## Current order of battle

As of March 2011 approximately 1,550 Australians were deployed to Afghanistan.  
National Command Element

### Mentoring Task Force 2 (MTF-2)

Headquarters, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR)  
4 x Combat Teams including infantry, cavalry, engineers and offensive support  
5 x Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams  
Force Communications Unit IV (1st Combat Signal Regiment)

### Logistics and support units

Detachment, 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (operates ScanEagle UAVs)

### Special Operations Task Group

Elements of the SASR, 1 CDO, 2 CDO and the Incident Response Regiment  
Rotary Wing Group (including two CH-47D Chinooks helicopters).  
Detachment, 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (16 gunners attached to the British Army)  
RAAF Control and Reporting Centre (Kandahar International Airport)  
Two AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and three C-130 Hercules transports  
Personnel embedded with various coalition units  
Force Level Logistic Asset (Kandahar International Airport)



Australian and Afghan soldiers 2009

## References

- ◆ **(Dutch)** Uruzgan Weblog: Uruzgan: Het gevecht om Chora
- ◆ **(Dutch)** Infanteristen, commando's: iedereen vecht tegen Taliban - Binnenland - de Volkskrant
- ◆ Operation Enduring Freedom: Coalition Deaths
- ◆ "Over 100 die in southern Afghan battle". [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com). 2007-06-19. Retrieved 2007-07-04.
- ◆ Operation Enduring Freedom: Coalition Fatalities
- ◆ "Afghan officials: Over 100 killed in southern battle". [www.cnn.com/](http://www.cnn.com/). 2007-06-19. Retrieved 2007-07-0
- ◆ **(Dutch)** Ze schoten een magazijn op me leeg' - Binnenland - de Volkskrant
- ◆ **Wikileaks**
- ◆ **Wikipedia**

## Got a Story to Share?

Do you have a story to share with your fellow troopers. We are always on the look out for new writers and new material for our newsletter.

At the moment we are looking for:

- personal experiences with your life in an armoured or cavalry unit.
- Stories and photos from our recent overseas operations in Timor, Iraqa and Afghanistan
- Technical articles on vehicles and equipment used .

Everyone who has served in the army has at least one story that would be of interest to RAACA Members, so get in touch with us and get it into print for posterity. We can provide help and advice if you are not confident of your writing ability. Email [raacansw@defence.gov.au](mailto:raacansw@defence.gov.au) or ring on 02 8335 5209



## Lest we Forget

### We regret to advise the passing of the following members

Harlow, J (1 AR LAD)  
 Lewis, G.H  
 Peters, K.T  
 Gebhardt, John.A  
 Farthing, P.H  
 Thomas, G.M  
 Watkins, D.J  
 Colonel Dr A.J. Hull CSV  
 MAJ Forbes, Angus.E  
 Wieland, Leslie J  
 MAJ Gilchrist, J.J

Head, James  
 Pennicook, George MBE (1AR)  
 McMillan, D  
 Lenehan, M.B (2/6 AR)  
 Dumont, George  
 LTCOL Hull A.Jim  
 Simmons, R.J  
 Hayes, H.D (Bully)  
 Weedon, Don  
 GEN Pearson, C.M.I  
 MAJGEN Latchford, K.W

### We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between July 2012 to December 2012

J. Haynes	C Robson	K Fitzgerald	Betty Ellis
Henty Lodge Social Club	G P Sutherland	V E & B D Werner	G C & H M Silver
CR CE Price	Maroubra RSL Sub Br	Diana Hollway	Peter Lamprey
Joan Pecover	Mary Williams	Ian Sayers	Douglas James
Mary Tom	Colin Partington	David Neenan	Colin Heggen
Mary Sadler	Gweneth Brooks	David Deasey	Sid Lewis
John Belling	Peter Morrow	J Allard	P Mountfort
Jennifer Bull	John Overton	Anne Lipple	Sandra Adamson
J N Looney	S M Lamb	D Tydeman	Trish Woodman
Murwillumbah RSL	City of Sydney RSL	K B Mc Clure	NBWMA Vic Br
Mittagong RSL	Leslie Williams	Horrie Cross	Chester Hill-Carrimar RSL
Faith Bell	FFFAIF	I L Brewsli	Imprimeur Books
Bathurst Family History Gp	J Webb	Lindsay Horden	L I Roberts
KC & SM Ashman	Howlong RSL Sub Br	Glenorie RSL Sub Br	Smithfield RSL Sub Br
RSL Veterans Ret Village Sub Br	Betty Salter	Chatswood RSL Sub Br	J K Doherty
Penshurst RSL Sub Br	Diana Holloway	GoulburnRSL Sub Br	B J Waverley RSL Sub Br
Epping RSL Sub Br	Harold Langford	Curtis Hill	Mary Dorney
Hornsby RSL Sub Br	Nelson Bay RSL Sub Br	British Sub Br RSL ACT	Patricia Watson
Judith Emmett	South Hurstville RSL Sub Br	NSW Masonic RSL Sub Br	Thirroul RSL Sub Br
RSL Belfield Sub Br	Dennis Weatherall	Redfern RSL Sub Br	Callala Beach RSL Sub Br
T G Tait	Kirribilli RSL Sub Br	Enfield Croydon Park RSL Sub Br	R J Mercer
M Banning-Taylor	Gerringong RSL Sub Br	Burwood RSL Sub Br	Narooma RSL Sub Br
Frank Jackson	C L Raymond	Duncan Spencer	Condobolin RSL Sub Br
Dubbo RSL Sub Br	Wellington RSL Sub Br	James Lee	City of Greater Wollongong RSL Sub Br
WA & D Durant	Dr PD Byrne	Belconnen RSL Sub Br	Rod Milton
Ballina RSL Sub Br	Kathleen Swan	Rose Bay RSL Sub Br	Boorowa RSL SubBr
Greg Lawrence	Tilligear RSL Sub Br	James & Cheryl Robinson	Entrance Long Jetty RSL S/B
Adamstown RSL Sub Br	Naval Assoc of Aust GI Sub Sect	Concord District RSL Sub Br	Hilda S. Bartley
GR Lovegrove	Bundanoon History Group	HA Langford	Stephen Saywell
Tomakin RSL Sub Br	Boggabri RSL Sub Br	Raymond Terrace RSL Sub Br	Wagga Wagga RSL Sub Br
Bruce Garton	Shirley Teague	Woolgoolga RSL Sub Br	Carole Robson
Dungog RSL Sub Br	Pelican Flat RSL Sub Br	Cootamundra RSL Sub Br	Estate of Valerie M. Howse
City of Parramatta RSL Sub Br	M.G. Mills	Brian G. Vernon	Tea Gardens RSL Sub Br
Marguerite Andrews	Botany RSL Sub Br	Wallace Allan	Brian Openshaw
Alison Flanagan	J.G. Hitchen	City of Liverpool RSL Sub Br	



## Vale

Major General Cedric Maudsley Ingram "Sandy" Pearson AO, DSO, OBE, MC (24 August 1918 – 7 Nov 2012) was a retired Australian Army officer.

He served during WW2 finishing the war as a Lt Col and later commanded the Australian Forces during the Vietnam War, (1ATF 1968~69).

He was Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon and retired as Chief of Personnel (Army) in 1975.

Following his retirement, Sandy was appointed the Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Holsworthy.

He was a very well-respected Hon Colonel and had a very welcome presence at all Regimental parades.

Without fail, he would always stop and talk to soldiers when

inspecting the unit on parade.

Sandy was part of a long line of Honorary Colonels that served in that role at 2 Cav Regt with great distinction.

In October 1987, as Patron of the Welcome Home March, Sandy led a huge contingent of Vietnam veterans through the streets of Sydney.

His involvement in assisting with the planning of that event with the RSM Army, WO1 Kevin 'Lofty' Wendt and the Organising Committee, will never be forgotten by those who marched on that day. He will be sadly missed.

### **First Half of C Sqn I Armd Regt Tanks Arrived in South Vietnam on 24-28 Feb 1968**

The first consignment of 'gun' tanks (A half squadron of nine, plus six Forward Delivery Troop tanks) arrived at Vung Tau on 24 Feb 68. Seven were off loaded at the Song Dinh hard on 27 Feb 68; the remaining eight, on 28 Feb 68.

Courtesy—RAAC Homepage Defence Intranet

### **HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE**

**Greg Darcy**  
Camilleri, J, 4/19 PWLH  
Kelly, P,J  
Kendall, E.G, 7/21 ALH  
Maxwell, E  
Mc Donald, C  
Parker, R.H, 4/19 PWLH, 8/13 VMR.  
Stenhouse, A.J, 1/15 RNSWL  
Hull, D

# Lost Souls

**If anyone knows the where-abouts of the following members would they please contact the RAACA Office**

Members Name	Last Address
Mrs. S.R. Barrett	Po Box 848, Gordonvale Qld 4865
Mr. L.S. Black	7, Tandara Court, Black Rock Vic. 3193
Mr. A.J. Brown	86, Griffin Ave., Tamworth NSW 2340
Mr. D.A. Coleman	PO Box 1049, Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Lt. Col. F. Danger	School of Armour, Puckapunyal Vic.3662
Mr. B. Golding	Box 6061, Kincumber NSW 2251
Mr.M.J. Hayes	1 Shamrock Pl., Orange NSW 2800
Mr. D. McRoberts	PO Box 421,Croydon Hills Vic. 3136
Col. R.J.H. Noble	6, Piper St.,Ainsley ACT 2692
Mr. S.K. Porto	PO Box 602,Cowra NSW 2794
S/Sgt K.V. Vickery	15/243 Donelly St., Armidale NSW 2350

## 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:

## 2547 Captain (Honorary Major) Joffre James Gilchrist (Retd)

Sincere condolences on the loss of Joffre. I have enclosed some articles and a photo that we published in the 2008 edition of the RAAC journal Ironsides.

Sincerely,  
Peter Branagan  
**P.G. BRANAGAN, OAM**  
Major  
SO2 HOC (GRes)  
Editor Ironsides

*"The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future."*

## From 1st Armoured Brigade to 1st Australian Task Force - A Journey in Armour

By Major John Baines, RFD

Tucked away in the East Gippsland hamlet of Eagle Point is a living legend of Australian Armour. Retired Major Joffre James (Gillie) Gilchrist is justifiably proud of his 34 years of military service in Australia and overseas, spanning many ranks, units, postings and varied roles. His service included pre World War Two with Militia and PMF artillery units, 1st Armoured Brigade, BCOF, the introduction of Centurion and culminated in Vietnam War service as OC Forward Delivery Troop, 1969-70.

As work was almost impossible to find in Melbourne through the Great Depression, Gillie moved to a family property near Gilgandra, NSW where as a battling rouseabout and general hand he would regularly send money home to help support his mother and sister. His country experience with the land and machinery stood him in good stead, when in 1936, on his 21st birthday; he returned to Melbourne and soon after enlisted in the CMF and was posted to the 10th Field Battery RAA. Enjoying his part time service as a driver, he transferred to the PMF in February 1939 serving with the 3 M.D. Motor Transport unit and 13th Heavy Battery, RAA.

Seeing an opportunity to go to New Guinea in 1939, in a highly prized posting as a tractor operator installing guns from the original HMAS Sydney in ground mounts at Port Moresby, he applied his initiative and arranged an impromptu familiarisation and training session as a "Defence Representative" from the tractor distributor and gained the position.

This interest in driving and vehicles became a focus of his life and as the driver to Brigadier F.B. Hinton, Commander 1st Armoured Brigade, was encouraged to join the 2nd AIF and the Australian Armoured Corps (AAC) in July 1941.

Like many of his comrades, he was bitterly disappointed that after training for three years in NSW and WA on AFV platforms including Vickers Medium Mk II, M3-Light Stuart, M3-Medium Grant, Bren Gun Carrier, Dingo Light Armoured Car, Rover Heavy Armoured Car, Armoured Command Vehicle and the White APC to fight overseas, the 1st Armoured Brigade was not to see operational service. As a regular NCO this was a lingering but powerful influence on his continuing service.

Following WWII he was posted as an Australian Armoured Corps (AAC) WO2 with the 65th Infantry Battalion, British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) and in 1947 after his return from Japan immersed himself in the RAAC at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) School. This was followed by a series of instructor and cadre postings including 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers and Royal Military College Duntroon followed by Centurion Tank Driving and Maintenance, Gunnery and Wireless studies at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington in the United Kingdom in preparation for the tanks introduction into Australian service.

Subsequently he joined the staff of the AFV School in 1952 and was appointed RSM of 1st Armoured Regiment from 1954 - 1957 and later RSM to 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles and 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry. During this time he keenly sought and was posted to the Maralinga Support Unit at the Atomic Testing Ground in February 1959, where his duties ranged across military and civil responsibilities.

In 1963 his career path changed when he completed the ARA QM course at the Jungle Training Centre (JTC) and was

*(Continued on page 19)*

promoted to Lieutenant (QM) and allotted to the RAAC serving with 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles with a promotion to Temporary Captain (QM) in 1965 and Captain (QM) on Cambrai Day 1968.

With this background, it was therefore inevitable that at the age of 52 years and 10 months he fought hard to be accepted for operational service in Vietnam and completed the physically demanding Battle Efficiency Course at the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra in July 1968. On 21 January 1969 he deplaned in Saigon finally achieving the operational posting he had craved since enlistment and was posted as Officer Commanding, Detachment 1st Forward Delivery Troop.

During his time in Vietnam, "Di We" Gillie applied his civil and military skills across many a varied task including forward delivery, pay officer and civil support to villages such as Binh Ba, before and after the battle in June 1969. He celebrated his 54th birthday whilst in country, probably the oldest armoured corps soldier to do so. He and a select few humorously recall the "lost safe key incident" in which having lost the key to the safe, an access hole was cut in its rear and the safe placed against the wall for the remainder of the deployment.

Having achieved his ultimate quest of war service after a lifetime of living in barracks with his caravans and boat dedicated to the army, he retired in 1971, married Sylvia, and settled into his current home on the Gippsland Lakes.

Remembering "Gillie" as the exacting QM of 8/13 VMR in 1968 from the perspective of a CMF trooper, it was a humbling personal experience to have him share the recollection of his journey in armour and ponder the value of lessons learnt.....So after 34 years of service and 37 years of retirement, his humble message to today's soldiers are to be proficient in all matters, apply fairness in your dealings, loyal to all ranks and above all - **be committed**.

(Extract fro Ironsides 2008 courtesy of MAJ P. Branagan, OAM)



Pay Correct Sir! Soldiers from a B Squadron troop have their Military Payment Certificates (MPC) changed over in the jungle by Captain J.J. Gilchrist, Phuoc Tuy Province, South Vietnam 1969.





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# DECISIVE BATTLEFIELDS 2013 FUNDRAISING\* LONG TAN TREK TOUR

Hosted and guided by  
Dave Sabben MG

Part of the 2012 Trek Tour



Walk the Long Tan battlefield, which still looks much the same as it did in 1966,  
with the former 12 Platoon commander at the Battle of Long Tan.

**Tue. 08 October 2013 - 8 days / 7 nights**

Saigon, Balmoral, Coral, Dong Nai, Vung Tau, 1ALSG area, Nui Dat, Horseshoe, minefield, Frankie's mine incident, the Long Hai's, and featuring a 4-hour guided walk across the Long Tan battlefield where Dave will describe "in real time" all the significant events of the battle, on the locations where they actually happened. End with a visit to Cu Chi.

**\$3193**

per person, twin share. See the web-site below for details. \*\* Includes international air travel ex Mel, Syd or Bris (ask for fares from other cities).

**This tour ends on Tuesday 15 October at Saigon airport...  
...where a second 12 day / 11 night Tour starts:**

## THE DECISIVE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE 3 VIET NAM WARS

**\$2594**

per person, twin share. Need to add international air travel if not following on from the Long Tan Trek Tour.

**Dave Sabben will host a further tour of NINE  
more of the decisive battlefields of the three Indo-China Wars.**

Between Saigon and Hanoi, we'll see Hoi An, Da Nang (Op Starlight, 1965), Marble Mt (VC hospital), China Beach (R&R Centre), Red Beach II (1965 landings), Hai Van Pass, Hue (Tet '68) - see where the heaviest fighting took place both south & north of the Perfume River. Then to Quang Tri (Easter Offensive '72), Dong Ha (Tet '72), the DMZ ('66-'72), Khe Sanh ('68), several camps & FSBs, the Vinh Moc tunnels, Hamburger Hill ('69), the A Shau Valley ('69) and other sites. Then to Hanoi to visit sites of military significance including the Army Museum which has the tank that broke down the Palace gates in Saigon in 1975, the "Hanoi Hilton" prison, and other sites. We'll spend a full day at the Dien Bien Phu battlefield. Plus, we'll discuss TWO other battlefields: Lam Son (in Laos, '72) and Dich Van. The Decisive Battlefields Tour will end with a 2-night R&R at Ha Long Bay. Departs Hanoi Sat 26 Oct - arrives back in Australia on Sunday 27 October 2013.

Numbers for both tours are limited. \*\* Single supplements upon application.

Please see the full Tour Conditions & Booking Form on the NNT website, or they can be sent to you on request.

(A preview of these Tours may be seen by viewing [www.longtantrek.com](http://www.longtantrek.com) and selecting one of the Long Tan Trek Tour "Report"s or by downloading the full 2013 itinerary from "the 2013 Long Tan Trek Tour Details")

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