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ARMOUR

Patron: Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell AC
President: Rob Shoebridge . Editor George Baczocha

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Vale

H.S. "Horrie" Cross MBE OAM JP

Life Member and a former Treasurer of the RAAC (NSW) Association for many of the post-war years, Horrie Cross died on 24th February after a nasty fall in his home. He was 94.

"Horrie was a true icon of our Corps and will be fondly remembered by so many who knew him".

R.I.P

(continued on page 22)

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Coming



25 April 2016	Anzac Day	<i>Refer page 24 (FUP details below)</i>
30 Oct 2016, 1500hrs	Church Service	St James, King St Sydney
19 Nov 2016	Cambrai Dinner	<i>RACA</i>

The Armour form up point on ANZAC Day is Phillip Street (just in round corner with Bent Street).

Armour will be marching as a block and are due to step off at 0930 so marchers should be there around 0900.

After March catch up is at the usual venue, Civic Hotel, corner Goulburn and Pitt in the dedicated upstairs area.

Notes From the President



Dear fellow RAACA NSW members,

Welcome to the first Quarter of 2016 edition of *Armour*.

As ANZAC Day 2016 approaches, many of us will be remembering family, friends and colleagues who fought in conflicts in many parts of the world over many decades. Some of those memories will be of people who are still alive; some will be of those who died in conflict, as prisoners of war or were missing in action; some will have died after conflict of their wounds or illnesses associated with conflict; some will still be suffering from the physical and psychological wounds of war and service; some will have lived long and productive lives of love for family and contribution to the community.

In this last category, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Horrie Cross, MBE, OAM. As the page 1 obituary says, Horrie was a stalwart of The Corps, from service in World War II and BCOF Japan, through to leadership roles in RAACA, the old RAAC Club and his local RSL. He was a truly remarkable man who lived a full and active life. With his son, Bill, Horrie attended the 2014 Cambrai Day Dinner, a remarkable feat for a man then in his 93rd year. Vale.

Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell, AC, will stand down as our Patron in the near future. The General has been a strong supporter of RAACA NSW and a ready source of advice. It was fantastic to have him lead RAACA NSW in the 2015 Sydney ANZAC Day March and to attend the 2015 Cambrai Dinner. It is our intent to formally farewell the General at this years Cambrai Dinner. I would like to record my sincere thanks for his support and to wish he and Mrs O'Donnell the best for the years ahead. I am very pleased to tell you that Major General David Chalmers, AO, CSC (Retd), now working in the Department of Veterans' Affairs, has accepted the Executive's invitation to become our Patron. His biography appears in this edition.

ANZAC Day 2015 saw an impressive number of serving and ex RAAC men march in Regimental Associations or in the RAACA NSW contingent in the Sydney March. I hope that, although 2016 may not have the attraction of the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landing, it will still attract many members to join us to march and then attend the reunion and, if not already members, sign up to RAACA NSW. More details of this year's March are in this edition.

As an Executive, our focus has continued to be on how we can support RAAC veterans, particularly those who served in Vietnam, East Timor, Afghanistan, Iraq and the plethora of post Vietnam peace keeping and peace enforcement operations. The theme of the role of Associations supporting ex-servicemen and women was reinforced by the comments of Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, DSC, AM, Chief of Army at the 2015 Cambrai Dinner. James 'Sonny' Kovaks has been involved in a number of individual cases providing invaluable liaison and support service. We have also been well supported, from a policy advice perspective, by Noel McLaughlin, Chairman of the RAAC Corporation. At the March Executive Committee meeting we determined to shift the focus slightly to support RAAC members transition out of Army. The article on the NSW Veteran's Employment Program adds some bones to the skeleton.

Finally, my thanks as always to the excellent and dedicated voluntary Committee who serve you, the members, so well. It is always a pleasure to go to meetings where the intent is clear –to do all we can to help serving and ex-RAAC members.

I hope to see many of you at this years Sydney ANZAC Day March.

Yours aye, Rob



Major General Dave Chalmers, AO, CSC

Major General Dave Chalmers graduated from RMC in December 1980 and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC). Following initial employment as a tank troop leader in 1st Armoured Regiment he served in a range of regimental postings in armoured personnel carrier and reconnaissance units and at the School of Armour. In 1997/98 he commanded a reconnaissance regiment, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry). He was National Commander of the Australian Contingent on Operation Tanager in East Timor in 2001/2002, and commanded the 7th Brigade in 2004/2005. Major General Chalmers also commanded Combined Joint Task Force 629, the ADF relief effort in Sumatra following the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, and Joint Task Force 636, the ADF support to the Melbourne

Commonwealth Games during the planning stages in 2005.

Major General Chalmers' staff experience was principally concerned with land force development. He was closely involved in the Army 21, Restructuring the Army and Hardening the Army reviews.

In July 2007 Major General Chalmers was appointed Operational Commander of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, initially seconded to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). In 2010 he retired from the Australian Defence Force and joined FaHCSIA as its Northern Territory State Manager. He subsequently served as Group Manager Indigenous Coordination in FaHCSIA's National Office. On 11 February 2013 Major General Chalmers transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs as First Assistant Secretary Commemorations and War Graves. He has responsibility for delivering the Anzac Centenary Program and for the overseas National Commemorative Services at Gallipoli and Villers-Bretonneux.

Major General Chalmers is a White Ribbon Ambassador, a Legacy legatee, and Vice President of the volunteer guides at the Australian War Memorial. He was an honorary Aide de Camp to the Governor General and Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment from 2011 to 2014.

In Jan 1997, Major General Chalmers was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for his work as Secretary to the Army 21 Review. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in Jan 2003 for his service in East Timor and promoted to become an Officer of the Order of Australia in Jun 2006 for distinguished service as the Commander, Combined Joint Task Force 629 on Operation Sumatra Assist.

He has attended a number of training institutions including the UK Armour School (1985/6), Australian Command and Staff College (1992), and the US Army War College (2002/2003). He was selected to be the Chief of Army's Visiting Fellow to the Australian Defence Studies Centre in 1999. As well as a BA(mil) he has a Masters degree in Defence Studies and a Masters in Strategic Studies. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Major General Chalmers has two adult children; a son (Craig) and a daughter (Megan).

Courtesy of Paul Williams Facebook page



The Future Battlefield

How Likely Are Robotic/Automated Battlefield Vehicles? Part 1

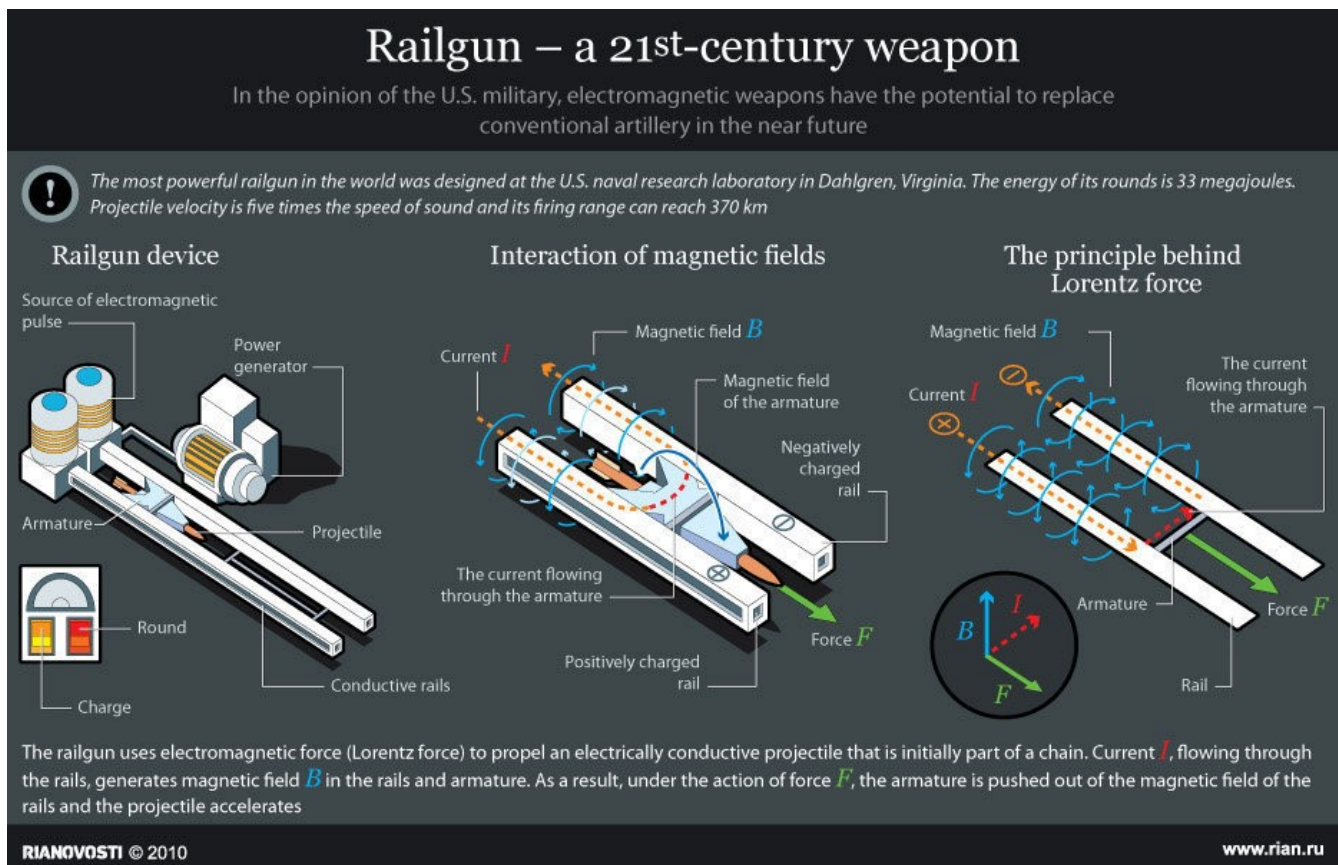
“... robotic/automated systems can be characterised as systems where sensors can trigger effectors without waiting for a human.” Dr Patrick Hew, Senior Research Scientist, Defence Science and Technology Group. (DFLW Blog, 15 July 2015 <http://www.army.gov.au/Our-future/Blog/Articles/2015/07/Robot-enabled-warfare>).

The point of this quote is to highlight the fact that the traditional ideas of robotic warfare are in need of review. We must differentiate between weapons which are remotely controlled by humans (e.g Remotely Piloted Vehicles, RPVs) and those which operate independently with no human interface. The latter have been in use for decades (and longer) ... booby traps (including pit traps), mines, IEDs, and not to forget Vietnam's mechanical ambush (banks of Claymores initiated by a trip wire).

The difference can be thought of in terms of robots which have some form of supervisory control and those which are self-supervising (or automated). To date, the latter are limited to the 'set and forget' examples mentioned above. The possibility of self-supervising robots undertaking an independent mobile role on the battlefield is unlikely any time soon.

Supervised (or controlled) robots are likely to have an ever increasing impact on battlefields. Take reconnaissance for example. Cavalry can already deploy RPVs to scout ahead of ground forces and send back data. Not everything can be detected from above, however. Is it possible that remotely controlled ground vehicles, carrying a variety of sensors, could be sent forward of manned cavalry forces, to sense and report? 'Sense', of course, could include visual information, as well as data from other detectors. This is easily within the bounds of today's technology (indeed, has already been achieved commercially, see below).

How possible is the obvious extension of this ... the ability of such robots to be used to engage targets, either with their own weapons, or by being detonated themselves? Also very feasible today. It's just the nature of the battles currently being fought, which is holding back the advanced development of such weaponry. When the need arises, the solutions will be there. Are self-supervising robotic vehicles likely? Not in the immediate future.



“Powerful, modular and combat-ready, the Modular Advanced Armed Robotic System (MAARS®) from QinetiQ North America is an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) designed expressly for reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) missions to increase the security of personnel manning forward locations. MAARS can be positioned in remote areas where personnel are currently unable to monitor their security, and can also carry either a direct or indirect fire weapon system.”

What Impact Will Rail Guns and Lasers Have?

"BAE Systems officials said an electromagnetic rail gun firing a kinetic energy warhead could be a real option for the Army's next generation Future Fighting Vehicle." DefenseTech, 23 Oct 14.

A **rail gun** uses stored electricity to generate sufficient energy to propel a projectile at very high velocity. Instead of a barrel, it is fitted with a pair of parallel conducting rails, between which the projectile is accelerated by electromagnetic force.

So velocities higher than can be achieved with conventional guns, means improved accuracy and longer range; no cartridge cases, means reduced size and silhouette of the weapon platform; smaller 'rounds', means faster rate of fire; and absence of combustible propellant, means increased survivability. The list of advantages goes on, but not everything is as it seems.

In 1981, George Sawyers (former RAAC officer) gave me a tip. The Engineering Design Establishment (EDE) had built a rail gun. He suggested that I ask if they could give me simplified drawings to allow me to propose a project at the UK's Royal Military College of Science (part of the course that I was about to attend). I did, they did, and the project team built a scaled down (but still powerful) version. It was the first rail gun fired in Europe (publically, at least).



We were captivated by the super velocity that was achievable. It was a surprise, therefore, when our research found that projectile velocity can be **too** high to penetrate armour effectively. Overall, the fact that velocity had to be 'tailored' in terms of targets, was not really a disadvantage at all (just a matter of regulating the size of the current pulse before firing).

"Laser weapons mounted aboard U.S. Navy ships and large trucks have already shown the power to shoot down flying drones during test trials. That early success has encouraged the U.S. military to fund a new effort to develop smaller versions of these anti-drone weapons that can fit light ground vehicles such as the military Humvee." IEEE Spectrum 15 Apr 15

Earlier this year, Lockheed Martin demonstrated the potential of high powered lasers: *"Known as ATHENA, for Advanced Test High Energy Asset, the ground-based prototype system burned through the engine manifold in a matter of seconds from more than a mile away. The truck was mounted on a test platform with its engine and drive train running to simulate an operationally-relevant test scenario".*

It has been stated that fibre optic lasers are revolutionising military applications.

Comment. It cannot be denied that a revolution in vehicle based weaponry is imminent. The days of conventional ballistics (i.e. propellant and cartridge cases) as the only solution for all applications are long gone. Could a manned AFV or a supervised robot incorporate such weapons? Most definitely.

Developments in Armour Materials

Metallic Armour: *"Known as super bainite, the new armour steel has been developed to have outstanding ballistics properties and, in tests, it has performed better than 'normal' steel armour. The material was invented and developed in the UK, with production ear-marked to take place in Port Talbot, South Wales. Under the agreement the steel will be turned into seven different items, including perforated armour plates that could be used on future frontline armoured vehicles".*

Army-Guide.com



Boer War Centenary Parade Canberra 1999,

"Super bainite sounds like something out of a comic book, and indeed given its strength and armouring properties Wolverine might like to consider it as an upgrade to his adamantium-enhanced skeleton and claws. But even Wolverine would think twice about taking on a tank armoured with super bainite, which offers a new type of super-strong, affordable ballistic protection for armoured vehicles." Army Technology.com. 21 Aug 14.



Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) counters penetration by breaking up the HEAT jet or AP projectile. Tandem warhead HEAT anti-armour weapons (eg, RPG) are able to defeat ERA. Further developments are occurring in ERA, as well as an alternative, Non Explosive Reactive Armour (NERA).

Alternative Survivability Concepts. Rather than protecting all parts of the AFV in a 'shell' like fashion, an alternative is to split the vehicle into modules and protect those in accord with their priority. Ensuring crew survivability doesn't require the whole AFV to be protected to the same level. The M1A1 Abrams incorporates modular protection design on this basis.

Comment. Are developments in armour protection likely to keep up with developments in weapon systems? The rail gun technology will certainly challenge protection levels, but is this necessarily the way AFV technology will develop? AFVs, both manned vehicles and controlled robots, require vision optics. High powered lasers could make these inoperable, irrespective of the vehicle's armour. When optics are available which can be safeguarded (quite feasible), modular protection will enhance survivability

Subject: RAACA Newsletter

Hi Bob,

I've attached a compilation from my blog. Thought it might be of interest re the Newsletter.

Best wishes, Bruce



HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

LTCOL Jeffrey G Coleman, Armd Cntr, A Sqn 1AR, A Sqn LHR, 3/4CavRgt, C Sqn 1AR
LTCOL John Duff, 1 Armd Regt | 4 Cav Regt | 12/16 HRL | 3/4 Cav Regt | 2/14 LHR

New Narrabri Memorial for the 1st Australian Armoured Division

At 11am on the 15th of March 2015 a new memorial to those that served, associated with the community, was dedicated at Narrabri, NSW.

Somehow a small town's RSL Sub-Branch and Club in rural NSW managed to raise nearly \$400,000 to make this project happen.

That there was support from all the community and community organisations was made clear on the day with well over 500 (estimate) people present for the dedication.

Adopted by the town for now and for the future were the members of the 1st Australian Armoured Division, as they were immortalised on a plaque next to all of those locals who had lost their lives in the conflicts that Narrabri had been a part of since 1914.

Due to health issues I was unable to attend but my husband and partner, Geordie, made the trip. If you look at the photograph you will see that on his chest are medals. These medals belonged to 'Jim', a 1st Australian Armoured Division mate that I had made a promise to, just before he went into hospital for the last time. That promise was that I would fight to see the Division honoured by a Memorial in my region and secondly that I would wear his medals at the dedication.

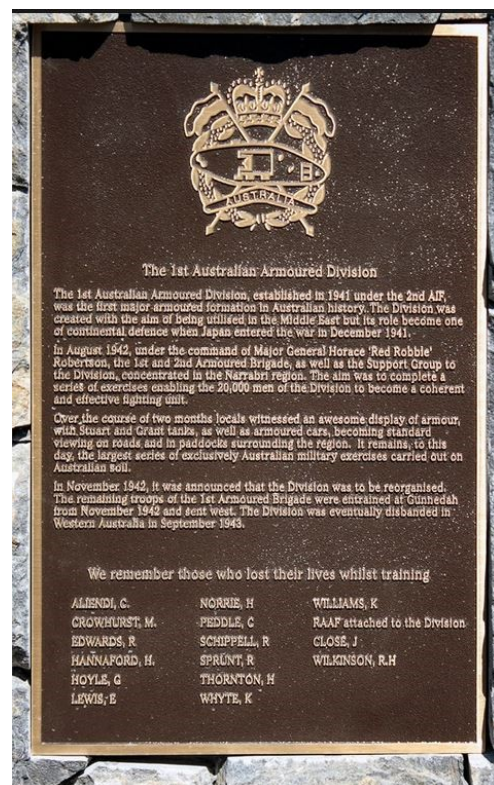
These were the medals that he had sent me because 'no one is interested in my family Cate'. I hadn't been given a choice - he had sent them to me without my knowledge and then made me promise to not send them back to him. So I returned that promise with two of my own - albeit spur of the moment ones.

As it turns out Narrabri RSL Sub-branch offered, without me asking or even prompting them, whether I would like to write a plaque to be included on their new memorial? Gratitude is not a long enough word for how I feel about that service organisation. I also would like to thank that Club for allowing Geordie to wear Jim's medals as well. Medals, I am advised, should only be worn by a person if the recipient of them was a relative - of which Jim wasn't (although we considered him adopted to our family) but they gave Geordie permission for the day.

Lastly, I would like to say to Neville, and to Jack and to all of those other souls that I interviewed that are no longer with us.

You are forgotten no more.

We in the North West of NSW remember you and we honour you.



Cate Clark is an author and researcher with a strong love of military history. She has written two publications on the 1st Australian Armoured Division – both of which are still available by ringing 040842 5564 or by contacting her at Cate@writerightmedia.com.au Or if Facebook is your thing: www.facebook.com/TheBlackSoilPlainsAndBeyond

Message Board

From: "White, Hadyn" <Hadyn.White@dva.gov.au>

Subject: FOR INFORMATION ONLY - Long Tan Vietnam [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]

I've received a few enquiries about arrangements for an 18 August service in Vietnam and rumours that at least a couple of thousand Australians are intending to attend. You will know that the service is organised by the Australian Consul-General, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

The link to the Australian Embassy in Vietnam providing information on access requirements for persons proposing travel to the site is <http://hcmc.vietnam.embassy.gov.au/hchi/LongTanCross.html>
Referred for information only in case you also get enquiries.

Hadyn White
Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner NSW & ACT
E-mail: Hadyn.White@dva.gov.au
Phone: (02) 9213-7773 Mobile: 0413 302 693

The Museum has an M113

Just to let you know, the Museum now has an M113 on exhibition. The vehicle 134 541 was one of the Regiment's home trainers.

There is still work to be done on the livery to make it match what it was when the vehicle served with us; including the contentious issue of a vehicle name and squadron sign. It is this work that the generous donations many gave toward acquiring the vehicle will cover; the exhibit was obtained by the Regiment on our behalf, at no cost to the Museum.

You might note that it is intended to exhibit ACE at Lancer Barracks in July. A message will be sent out with the details.

Please take the time to visit the Museum and see our new acquisition.

sincerely,

John Howells
Hon Secretary
New South Wales Lancers Memorial Museum Inc

www.lancers.org.au



Steve Lesley, Len Koles and Mike McGraw
with the M113

From: Bob Thompson [mailto:tommo_30@bigpond.com]
To: Baczocha, George TPR
Cc: Baines, John MAJ 1
Subject: FW: Thanks to Capt. Arrowsmith Medal of Gallantry, MID.

Hi George,

I have just read Maj. John Baine's email where he has listed the Vietnam RAAC Awards, I off course knew a lot of them but one in particular caught my eye and bought back an instant memory. I thought I would share it with you and your readers if you decide to publish it:

Capt. Thomas Arrowsmith pulled me out of a hole. I was on my way fully loaded in a Fitters Tracked Vehicle with a Suspension Station within my vehicle and travelling from Fire Support 'Julia' out into the "J" with the escort of Capt Arrowsmith. I was heading for the disabled tank that had the front left hand Suspension Station blown by a mine, when I dropped a track. We were in the middle of a suspected mine field. I got off to see what the problem was and found the rear idler needed to be adjusted out to hold the track on. My driver had failed to have the grease gun on board hence we couldn't adjust the idler out to tension the track.

Capt Arrowsmith didn't have his grease gun as well, he nor his crew would get off the their track to fit the cross tow which they fitted without leaving the track and towed me back to 'Julia' without further mishap. The Centurion tank was towed into Fire Support Base Julia later, where we carried out the replacement.

This photo I took at 'Julia' after Capt. Arrowsmith towed us back. As you can see by the track we were loaded to the hilt we borrowed a grease gun and adjusted the track. I appreciated Capt. Arrowsmith and his crew for their rescue.

Thought you might be interested.

Regards

41961 WO1 Bob Thompson ASM 106 Fd Wksp.



Subject: SENATE ENQUIRY - ADF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Executive Council
cc Advisory Board members

Gents,

I refer you to the email below.

The Senate Standing Committee Inquiry into ADF Mental Health Issues in which the Corporation was an active participant has handed down its report (Refer original report).

Also attached is a copy of the Ministerial press release and the ADSO letter forwarded by DFWA/ADSO's National President David Jamison seeking an urgent follow-up of members who took part in the Mefloquine trials and seeking disclosure of the Inspector-General ADF's review into Mefloquine at an appropriate time.

At first blush, the Senate report is quite comprehensive and it appears there is a major challenge ahead for DVA given the huge size of its client base (3.84 at 73) to meet or action any or all of the recommendations. Similarly it can be suggested that it remains to see how many of the recommendations the Government will action either pre or post-election.

That said, it is pleasing to see the RAAC Corporation's submission extensively footnoted in the report.

There is a huge amount of detail in the report, so I have only set out some very, very brief comments below.

Please note: The page numbers I cite below re the actual page numbers in the entire pdf document from cover sheet to end and not the paginated numbers that appear at the top left corner of each page.

The RSL's contention at 2.39 at 37 regarding the lack of accurate detail of persons presenting with mental health problems is noted and supported.

A well-founded fear of being stigmatised or worse, through self-reporting, still pervades and continues to be held by all personnel so affected, be they serving or former members.

This also ties in with comments in para 3.33 at 59. See also 5.3 at 108 and Table 5.1 109. The potential damage to career/deployment as perceived by Offr/NCO respondents in Table 5.1 is significant (see also 5.59 p-5.61 at 130). Phoenix Australia's opening comments at 2.40 have equal validity.

The statistical data represented in Tables 2.1 at 22, 2.2 at 23 and 2.3 at 24 reports that the effect of a psychological insult suffered by ADF members to their system is much higher than the ABS comparative data, despite superb efforts by Defence to ensure members receive the best through-care from enlistment to discharge. Alcohol issues (Table 2.3) appear in my humble view, to be well managed when comparing the ADF data to ABS data.

Paras 3.64 – 3.66 at 67-68 are particularly relevant from veterans' practitioner's perspective.

It is extraordinarily frustrating that records are still incomplete for members who serve tours of duty on operational service.

Notwithstanding the beneficial provisions of the relevant legislation, a difficulty still presents in ensuring adequate documenting of any incident which causes an insult to a serving members' system – be it physical or psychological. This in some way dovetails with the soldier's mindset of not wanting to report every squeak and rattle for fear of being perceived to be weak. The result of this is stress and frustration in later years in endeavouring to validate any claim against the Commonwealth they may have. Equally critically is the fact if a veteran is deceased, any absence of medical or other evidence could potentially prove to be fatal to a claim lodged for a War Widow's or Defence Widow's Pension. It is that end of the injury/illness/disease claims continuum that serving members regardless of age or marital status, need to be aware of. I believe further education of serving members about their need to have regard to accurate and timely reporting of their own and their subordinates' health-averse incidents, needs to be undertaken.

The issue of psychologists' fees and acceptance of White cards for treatment/counselling remains as has been the case for many years, a bone of contention and the comments in 4.54 at 95 are noted as is the comparative chart of DVA vs APS Fee schedules (Table 4.2 in 4.55 at 96).

The IT problems experienced by DVA (5.64 – 5.72 at 130-132) present a major challenge to the Department to make all systems communicate with each other and to eliminate unnecessary duplication or triplication.

Homelessness (6.30-6.41 at 145-151). The criticism of the Dept for citing a figure 3000 homeless veterans has on its face now been discredited.

The validity of that figure given significant attempts to locate these homeless veterans by senior serving ADF members and others gives credence to the emerging level of suspicion of that the actual number of homeless was much less. This has been verified by the following comment in the report: *This number was disputed by the RSL, which criticised*



DVA, noting that 'already this year the DVA has cut its own estimates of at least 3,000 homeless veterans in 2009, to 300 in 2015' (6.31 at 146). The derated figure which has been explained away by DVA's COO as "a definitional issue" is on balance, closer to the mark.

The Committee also noted at 6.50 and 6.51 at 153:

6.50 The committee acknowledges that the provision of housing is not within DVA's portfolio responsibility; however, this does not discharge DVA of its obligation to support veterans and assist them to access one of the most basic human needs, stable housing. Furthermore, the committee recognises the challenges of accurately quantifying the number of veterans who are homeless; however, the committee is troubled by the narrow definition of homeless that DVA has recently employed, which may inadvertently downplay the seriousness of the issue. The introduction of a universal identification number and identification card for veterans should assist in the identification of veterans who are homeless. This would also assist homeless support services to identify veterans and connect them to DVA and other appropriate veteran support services.

6.51 The committee is very concerned by evidence that veterans who are receiving in-patient services for mental ill-health are being discharged into homelessness and often on more than one occasion. This is a significant dereliction of duty of care for both the mental healthcare provider and DVA, as the purchaser of the services. Veterans whose mental health has deteriorated to the point of receiving in-patient care should be identified by DVA as at risk of homelessness and be provided with ongoing psychosocial management. This should include the provision of an ongoing psychosocial case manager to actively manage a veteran's care program until their mental health and living situation is stable.

The report is very comprehensive and also contains some heart-braking direct evidence from veterans and their families.

There remains much to be done. ESOs are the conscience of the nation and we owe it to all ADF members serving and former to continue to be a ginger group and take issues to the Government to ensure our ADF personnel get the very best during and post-service.

They earned it. They deserve it.
I commend all attachments to you.

Regards,
Noel
Noel Mc Laughlin
Chairman
RAAC Corporation

NSW Government Veterans Employment Program

Transitioning between careers is generally a stressful time in most people's lives. But transitioning from a career that is also a lifestyle and identity—such as a career in the military—can be all-consuming.

On leaving the regular Army in 2013, I somewhat naively believed that, as a former Cavalry squadron commander, I would have no real problems finding appropriate work. But as my long service leave was drawing to a close and the study that I thought would be so important in securing that high profile role was all but finished, I came to realise the stark reality that Australian workplaces seemed to show little interest, let alone appreciation, of my rank, experience or operational tours. While the rhetoric of employers was clear - that they supported former military personnel and understood their value - the opposite seemed to be true when it came to my own job search. Indeed, I was not alone in my observations.

However, there now appears to be a real push to adjust perceptions of veterans across a range of areas in society. New South Wales is leading the groundswell following the NSW Premier Mike Baird's election commitment to employ 200 additional veterans into the NSW Public Sector by 2019. This commitment came off the back of recommendations received by a NSW Government forum on the key issues facing younger veterans in the community.

The NSW Government's Veterans Employment Program is based on the premise that tax-payers have already invested significantly in military individuals and that when these people transition out of Defence, their wealth of skills and experience should be leveraged by NSW employers. It is, in essence, a program to bring together Defence, the NSW Public Sector and former military individuals to ensure that the transferability of veterans' skills and experiences to civilian workplaces is understood, and to ensure that current employment processes do not disadvantage or discourage the hiring of these high calibre individuals. The Veterans Employment Program will be launched in early May, and I hope this much-needed initiative heralds a shift in public and private sector perceptions about the capabilities of former military people. I sincerely encourage all Armour readers to promote the Veterans Employment Program within their networks.

Garth Callender
Manager, Veterans Employment Program
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet



MEDIA RELEASE

**SENATOR THE HON MARISE PAYNE
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**

**THE HON DAN TEHAN MP
MINISTER FOR VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MATERIEL**

Friday, 18 March 2016

RELEASE OF SENATE REFERENCES COMMITTEE REPORT INTO THE MENTAL HEALTH OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

The Government welcomes the contribution of the Senate Reference Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's report into the mental health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans and will carefully consider the Inquiry report and its recommendations.

The Government takes the wellbeing of current and former ADF members very seriously and funding for mental health treatment services is demand driven, it is not capped. The Government is focussed on early intervention strategies to treat mental illness early.

This Government has invested in expansion of non-liability health care provisions to treat mental health conditions, improved the time taken to process compensation claims and, in the 2015-16 Budget, funded additional case coordinators to support clients with complex needs, including those with mental health conditions.

The Opposition's call for the Minister for Defence to demand that the Inspector General of the Australian Defence Force release a report into the use of anti-malarial drug mefloquine are misguided on a number of fronts.

Firstly, the IGADF's investigation on this matter is ongoing, so any request to release the report is premature – there is no final report at this point in time.

Secondly, the IGADF is a statutory appointment and the Minister for Defence does not have the discretion to release its reports. The release of IGADF investigations is determined by the IGADF on a case by case basis, and with due consideration of privacy and legal issues.

Current and former ADF personnel who have concerns relating to the ADF use of anti-malarial medication are encouraged to visit the "Malaria, mefloquine and the ADF" website through the ADF Health & Wellbeing Portal on the Department of Defence website.

Anyone who believes their health has been affected by their use of mefloquine or tafenoquine during their ADF service is encouraged to lodge a claim with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Media Contacts:

Minister Payne's Office: 0429 531 143

Minister Tehan's Office: 0477 395 356



Lost Souls

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

Members Name	Last Address
Mr. Brad Golding	PO Box 6061 KINCUMBER NSW 2251
Mr. P.M Nicholls	388 Glen Eira Road CAULFIELD VIC 3162
Mr. B. K (Bradley) Smith	3 / 103 Rawson Road WOY WOY NSW 2256
Mr. A Bill Baxter	2 Smith Street PARRAMATTA NSW 2124
Mr. J John Hollett	103 Wimbledon Drive KINGSLEY WA 6026
Mr. K Ken Turnham	6 Mount View Road TEMPLESTOWE VIC 3106
Brig C Chris Stephens	35 Roebuck Street RED HILL ACT 2603
Mr. Norm Jones	2/12 Ellis Road , ALSONVILLE NSW 2477

Vale Chris Gardiner

It is with sadness that we heard today of the passing of our colleague and fellow Lancers' Association member Chris Gardiner.

sincerely,
John Howells
Hon Secretary
Royal New South Wales Lancers Association



Chris Gardiner at the November 2014
Association Reunion

Russia's Cheap But Deadly T90 Tank

By **Tyler Rogoway** (Website Foxtrot Alpha)

The Russian T-90, a hybrid evolution of the T-72 and T-80, weighs in at almost 48 tons, and would lead Russia into battle if a major land conflict erupted today — not a crazy idea anymore.



The T-90, nicknamed "Vladimir" in its later iterations, came about from post Cold War Russian initiative to keep only one main battle tank in production, the simpler and more reliable T-72 or the more complex T-80. The resulting T-90 is an effective warrior that balances capabilities and complexity against cost.

The Russian T-80 main battle tank takes the American A1 Abrams route when it comes to a power-plant, packing a gas turbine engine capable of putting out 1000 hp (versus the Abrams 1500hp). The use of a turbine over a traditional diesel engine left the tank with decent power but with dismal range. Additionally, this configuration was maintenance intensive. In effect, the T-80's logistical demands on the battlefield were a severe

hindrance to the effectiveness of the type. In fact, Russia's "turbine tank" was so unpopular that the Russian Armour Ministry apparently swore that they would never support going the turbine route ever again. In later variants, the T-80's thirsty and finicky turbine was replaced with a more traditional diesel engine.

Where the T-80 shined when compared to the simpler T-72 was in its targeting system and self-protection systems. Still, the T-80 design was vulnerable when it came to high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) rockets that were fired at it from the side. This, along with poor training, chaotic logistical support and less than optimal tactics, led to the loss of an unacceptable percentage of T-80s during the First Chechen War of the 1990's.

As part of Vladimir Putin's initiative to rearm and modernize Russia's military, Russia now relies on upgraded and battle-tested T-72s and the newer T-90 exclusively. The T-90 cuts a low profile and is a marriage of classic soviet simplistic reliability and high tech features. In fact a good way to explain the T-90 is that it is somewhat of a hybrid concept, combining the reliable and proven chassis of the T-72 with the more advanced turret of the T-80, including its more modern fire control capabilities and support sub-systems. The T-90 is lighter and more nimble than her American counterpart, with the A1 Abrams weighting in at 68 tons compared to the T-90's 48 tons. The T-90's lower mass results in a smaller, less expensive package, that carry out spectacular maneuvers, whether it be on the open range or in tight urban environments.

The T-90 is propelled by a supercharged, liquid cooled, four-cycle, 12-cylinder diesel engine with horsepower ratings ranging from around 850 to 1250 depending on the variant. By choosing not to design a gas turbine engine into the T-90, the Russians allowed for a simplified, smaller, cheaper and more reliable design, which makes total sense after their less than satisfactory experiences with the T-80. This power-plant choice also allowed for the tank to have close to double the range of the T-80 under ideal conditions, or close to 400 miles on a single tank of fuel.

FIREPOWER

The T-90 packs a gyro stabilized 125MM smooth bore cannon, but unlike her American counterpart, she is not relegated to "just" firing armored piercing discarded sabot (APDS), high explosive anti-tank and high explosive fragmentation rounds. The T-90's 125mm can also fire the 9M119 "Refleks" anti-tank guided missile. This laser guided missile can strike ground based and low flying aerial targets at close to double range of the T-90's main gun. Yes, you read that right, the T-90 can shoot guided missiles out of its main gun and can even take down helicopters with those missiles under certain conditions. The T-90's predecessors also had similar capabilities as well, although the system is said to be better refined in the T90, especially the latest versions.

Unlike the hand-loaded Abrams, the T-90 uses an auto loading system for its main gun. Russian tankers have been heard saying that the Abrams is a bolt action while the Russian T-90 is a semiautomatic. In addition to the T90's big cannon, like the Abrams packs a .50 cal and a 7.62 cal machine gun, but these are both externally mounted, whereas the M1 packs one of its 7.62 caliber machine guns in an internal coaxial mount right next to the main gun. The T-90's .50 cal can be remotely operated from within the tank, a feature that has only recently been added to the Abrams' capability via the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station (CROWS) upgrade.

The T90, in its original form, acquired its target using a day/night sighting system which originally lacked range and fidelity in comparison to its western counterparts. Inferior night time targeting capabilities have handicapped Russian main battle tanks for decades. With this in mind, Russia finally looked outside of its borders for a sighting system that could match the versatility and range of their tanks' main guns.

This came to fruition with the inclusion of the French-built Thales "CATHERINE" target sight installed on later T90 models. This site, when paired with the T90's upgraded fire control system and laser rangefinder/designator, gives gunners and commanders the ability to detect targets beyond the range of their weapons, allowing them to have increased situational awareness and the ability for enhanced "fire and maneuver" capability which is crucial for winning on the modern battlefield.

The T-90's ERA "bricks" give the tank a distinctive, and intimidating look. Additionally, these units have also been added to the roof of the T-90. This is a good thing seeing as modern anti-tank missiles often work in an "indirect attack" mode, where they pop up high just before reaching their target, then dive back down, or detonate while cruising overhead, striking the tank where its armor is usually the thinnest, on its top side.

Finally, the T-90 packs a robust countermeasure system that is oriented at defeating western style attacks shortly before or as they happen. Known as "Shatora" or "Curtain" in English, this system has a series of laser warning receivers positioned around the



tank. Laser range finders and/or laser target designators are key targeting components of modern tanks and attack aircraft. These lasers supply a tank's fire control system the info it need to produce a firing solution during combat. In the air, and even on the ground in some cases, laser designators provide a point in space for a missile or bomb to fly towards and hit.

Once the T-90's threat warning system detects that it is being "painted," or was "squirted" by a laser, a series of countermeasures aimed to defeat an enemy's targeting process get activated either automatically or manually. First, infra-red and optical dazzlers, located on the front of the tank's turret, are slewed in the direction that the laser energy originated from, in an attempt to blind the enemy tank's targeting sensors. These dazzlers appear red during combat

operations and make the tank seem like it has sinister red "eyes" on either side of its main gun. Smoke grenades with a very specific chemical makeup can also be fired off from the turret in an attempt to conceal the T-90's exact location and thus break or keep an enemy from maintaining a weapons lock.

The T-90 also sports a magnetic mine detection system that uses an electromagnetic pulse to disable mines before the tank runs them over. Additionally, at least some of Russia's T-90s are fielded with the "Nakidka" signature reduction application. This surface treatment is said to greatly reduce the tank's radar and infra-red signature via the use of radar absorbent material (RAM) and infra-red reducing paint and insulation. Seeing that tank detection is more and more reliant on radar, both of a standoff (E-8 J-STARS) and a tactical (AH-64D/E Longbow Radar) variety, applying RAM to the outer surface of Russian main battle tanks could make some sense. Seeing as the majority of tactical targeting is done via IR sensors these days, Nakidka's infra-red



reduction properties are of high value. Multi-spectral imagine sensors are slowly eliminating this reliance on strictly IR target systems, as these sensors offer greater resistance to IR suppression and masking.

When you look at the T-90's unique mix of capabilities and adherence to a clear and conservative design philosophy, the weapon system really does makes great sense. By taking the best attributes of two "legacy" systems, roughly the turret of the T-80 and hull and drivetrain concept of the T-72, and combining that mix with more modern technology, the T-90 represents a truly well rounded solution to the main battle tank equation. It packs reliability, relative simplicity, a comparatively light footprint, a capable main gun and guided missile system, relevant speed, and layered defenses, all at a price that is roughly less than half that of an M1 Abrams.

Does the T-90 standup to the latest M1A2 Abrams

model? No, but dogfighting one-on-one with America's super-tank was not what it was designed to do. In many ways the T-90 is a textbook 80% solution at less than 50% of the price, a concept that has become incredibly relevant in a time when shrinking defense budgets are begrudgingly dictating force structures around the globe.

Instead of trying to "beat the US" by poorly copying our extremely high cost "100% solution," Russia decided to take what it already had and make it better so that its return on investment actually made sense. For instance, the deletion of a turbine engine lowered the T-90's cost and complexity, and in doing so it kept its design weight down and thus drastically increasing its range and logistical independence, a key operational factor for Russia, a country with the most land-area in the world.

SURVIVABILITY

Although the Russia's main battle tank of choice is much lighter than its American counterpart, it does have good armour and a fairly robust self defensive suite. Different configurations of the T-90 exist, but generally the tank relies on a triad of defense measures to stay alive in combat.

First, there is the T-90's basic armor, made up of varying composite and metal materials sandwiched together. The current mix of materials Russia is using in its armor is said to be very effective and relatively light, albeit not as effective as the incredibly robust armour the Abrams. Seeing as the T-90 weighs almost a third less, this is hardly a surprise. Russia has learned that



"layering" a tank's survival ability measures is more cost effective, and in some cases more operationally effective, than relying almost entirely on one single concept of exotic, expensive and heavy armor plating alone.

The T-90's second tier of defenses relies on explosive reactive armor (ERA). ERA consists of two armor plates with an explosive charge core sandwiched in-between. This type of armor works against a multitude of attack weaponry, including missiles and rockets that carry high explosive anti-tank warheads, as well as the dreaded sabot round. Sabot rounds are basically cannon shells that separate after leaving the tank's smoothbore barrel, what remains is a thin fin stabilized rod made of dense material like depleted uranium, flying through the air at high speed and into its target. Once the sabot round penetrates a tank's turret, the kinetic force of the dense sabot dart dumping its energy into a small point creates a stream of lava-like molten metal that pours into the

tank's cabin. This instantaneously increases the tank's cabin pressure via heating the inside of the sealed turret, thus killing, or should I say cooking, everything inside. The idea behind ERA armor is that it explodes outward destroying an incoming munition, or at least greatly depleting its killing potential, just as it is hitting the tank. The whole string of events happens in a



fraction of a second. It may sound extremely violent, setting off a bomb on the outside of your own vehicle, but it works, and the charge is designed to fire outward, away from the hull or turret of the tank. The T-90's ERA "bricks" give the tank a distinctive, and intimidating look. Additionally, these units have also been added when you look at the T-90, and what came before it, the T-80, it is intriguing how Russia was able to control the propensity to "grow" their tank's design, not adding weight, unneeded complexity and cost over time, as so many weapon systems tend to do. Instead, they looked at what mattered most and took a balanced approach to offensive capabilities and survivability in relation to cost. This is precisely what so many in America's defense lexicon are pleading for these days, including your author.

It is sad that we have continued to produce Abrams tanks when the military already had too many, and a cheaper, lighter, and more rationalized tank concept could better ben-

efit our forces and augment the "Gucci" Abrams already in widespread service.

We can have a much more capable and flexible force if we get away from buying huge quantities of extremely expensive "one



-size-fits-all" platforms, and really there is no need to in the first place. We simply cannot have it both ways, where the high end of the mix still exists, and the low end is really just another form of high-end once the final bill arrives. This absurd situation is the primary reason why our incredible shrinking military's hardware and procurement situation is in such shambles. It is the classic bait-and-switch really.

Terms like "affordability," "commonality," "jointness" and "multi-role" make the ill-informed and/or the hyper career driven in Washington take a gamble on what really are flawed weapons concepts to begin with. What we end up with years later, long after most

of the folks who bought into these nonsensical programs in the first place are out of office or have received their last star, are a grossly over budget and behind schedule weapon systems that feature rapidly decreasing capabilities and performance goals. Then, similar geniuses who allowed the gambling on such flawed "innovative new concepts" to continue on indefinitely, end up realizing that said gambles were really much, much larger and more volatile than they were ever intended to be.

What is even worse is that due to the complexity of these "affordable" new concepts, the majority of them are technologically and conceptually outdated by the time they actually enter service. The whole situation is out of control and it needs to stop. For those who say "it has always been this way," I say you are just another part of the problem not the solution.

Why can't we procure platforms that are proven to work for 80% of the tasks they will be presented with, like the T-90, then invest in smaller fleets of weapon systems that can handle the other 20% better than any one-size-fits all solution ever could? In the end we would save a ton of money, become a more resilient and adaptable force, and we would no longer have to hear the term "too big to fail" associated with fiscally obese and already antiquated weapons programs.



***THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THEIR
HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO
REPEAT IT***

Former ADF Members Now Protected from Release of Personal Information Held on Record by the National Archives of Australia

In an important ruling for the ex-service community earlier this year, the Administrative Appeals tribunal has ruled that personal confidential information included in former ADF members' departmental personal files will no longer be freely available to members of the general public.

It is a routine practice of the Defence Department to pass all personal files of former ADF members to the National Archives (NAA) after discharge. In early 2010 the Association wrote to the National Archives of Australia because we discovered it was the practice of the National Archives to make available to the general public the service records of former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) during the "open access period" as defined in the Archives Act 1983. This initial letter began a string of correspondence to the relevant Government Ministers seeking a resolution of what we saw as a major breach of privacy against former servicemen and women.

The trigger for our concern was a specific case which revealed that not only were the details of the ex-member's service history (such as dates of enlistment and discharge, promotions, service postings and duties performed in such postings) supplied by Archives, but also personal details such as confidential performance reports and medical history records. This was done without any reference whatsoever to the ex-serviceman concerned.

In essence the practice of the National Archives meant that any member of the public, upon payment of the prescribed fee, could obtain a copy of the entire service record of a former ADF member where that record is in the open access period i.e. after the passage of (now) 20 years from lodgement. To make matters worse it was our understanding that while Archives, under the "open access period" rule, could make available to the public all such personal and private records of an ADF member or ex-member, it would

not reveal the identity of any person who made application for access to such records, nor did it appear that Archives had any interest in, or control over the purpose for which those records would be used. There was clearly a gross imbalance of privacy interests in operation.

"In essence the practice of the National Archives meant that any member of the public, upon payment of the prescribed fee, could obtain a copy of the entire service record of a former ADF member..."

In 2013 the National Archives sought our assistance in restricting the range of information that could be accessed by the general public. We were given examples of the range and type of information the NAA felt was releasable under the Act. Even this information was found to be inappropriate for release as the files contained information that, apart from the expectation that it would not be publicly released by virtue of its security classification, provided ready access to personal and family details that could in some circumstances represent a risk to the security of family members of the person concerned. Details of security gradings, intelligence (intellectual) assessment outcomes and performance reports as well as what really should be classified as medical records were included as well. The potential to damage and undermine the person's professional reputation was also there. The Archives accepted that this information should not be publicly released and the National President was asked to provide evidence in support of the restriction of release of this personal information to the AAT hearing. As mentioned above the AAT accepted our position and agreed that the restrictions we asked for were reasonable and allowable within the Act.

Older M113s to be scrapped

Katherine Ziesing | Canberra

The latest surprise is a tender which came out last week for the scrapping of a number of M113s. *ADM* assumed that some kind of typo had been made since the venerable M113s only completed a comprehensive upgrade program under BAE Systems less than three years ago.

Early in the 2000s Defence commenced an upgrade program which saw 431 of its aging fleet of over 700 M113A1s upgraded by BAE to the M113AS4 under Land 106.

Upgrades to the M113 included an electrically powered turret, day/night weapon sights, a new engine, steering controls, drive train, electrical and fuel systems as well as a newly designed internal layout to accommodate safe stowage in a variety of situation.

Individual variants of the M113 were to be fitted with specialist equipment. The service life is scheduled out to 2025, according to Army sources.

Upgrade work was completed in 2012. At the completion of the Land 106 upgrade program there remained approximately 350 M113A1 vehicles including hulls of different configurations available for disposal action.

The disposal does not include the vehicles upgraded by BAE, a Defence spokesperson confirmed to *ADM*. Land Systems is looking to scrap the following variants in five tranches from Bandiana in Victoria:

LOT1 – 57 Hulls; LOT2 – 35 Carrier Personnel variants; LOT3 – 95 Carrier Cargo variants; LOT4 – 28 Carrier Command Post variants; and LOT5 – 4 Carrier Recovery variants.

In response to questions put to Defence about which vehicles were being scrapped, the following statement was issued:

“Defence is committed to maintaining the heritage of this ex significant ADF equipment. A Carrier Command Post, ARN 134456 will be transferred and displayed at the Australian War Memorial. Defence has also allocated a number of M113s for display within Defence museums, units and barracks in order to ensure the heritage of the M113 is retained.

“Defence have also made M113s available to Australian Heritage Organisations (AHO), including RSLs. Early in 2015 Defence released a Request for Tender (RFT) to AHO. The RFT offer was for AHOs to purchase demilitarised M113A1s on a cost recovery basis; this RFT closed on 28 May 2015 and Defence is finalising allocations to meet all compliant Heritage Organisations bids.

“The remaining M113s will be destroyed and recycled in accordance with export control requirements. As ITAR applies, approval will be required once the outcome of the RFTs are finalised. This is not expected to be a significant issue as end users include AHOs and scrapping.”

The tender documents also state that the vehicles will not be moving under their own power and will need to be transported. Also, the M113s were purchased by the Commonwealth from the US Government through a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) agreement, meaning they are subject to the US Government Arms Export Control Act (AECA). The tender is scheduled to close on August 28.



THE VASEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION – NSW

Vasey Housing is named after its founder, Mrs Jessie Vasey, the widow of Major General George Vasey who was killed in WWII. As a war widow, Mrs Vasey fought for the rights of all war widows, many of whom were living in, or near to poverty on a miniscule pension. It was almost impossible for these ladies to gain even modest accommodation and it was only by Mrs Vasey's personal efforts and fundraising that 'Vasey Housing' was born. The Association has been very successful over the decades having expanded its accommodation range and scope to assist with anyone with Service connections.

Now Vasey self-contained apartments are available to both single men and women with Military Service connections over the age of fifty-five years who wish to pursue an independent and dignified lifestyle. The Vasey Sydney properties are located at Maroubra, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Epping and Waitara, all in picturesque garden settings within a reasonable distance of amenities and transport.

An elected Board of Directors, most having a Military Service background, exercise control over Vasey. The day to day management of the villages is carried out by a small staff. Compliance with the necessary Government Acts and Regulations is assured. The Vasey Housing Association maintains its 'not for profit' status and continues to offer great value, comfort and security to all of its residents.

Anyone seeking accommodation solutions at a modest cost are invited to contact Mr David Elkins, the CEO of Vasey on (02) 9299 3951.

Forward Delivery Troop.

The photo comes from the album of Roger Tingley, MC, and depicts one of two M113 (petrol engine) vehicles which had been used in the APC trials during 1962/63. At the time of the photo, the other M113 (U1) was still with the Army Design Establishment's Trials and Proving Wing at Monegeeta (Vic). Roger is at the far left, while WO2 Percy White features in the centre of the back row and Tpr Jock McConnell is the one on top [other names can be attributed].

Roger explains that those in the photo were mostly from Armoured Centre's Forward Delivery Troop (OC, Capt John Haynes; Troop Sergeant Major, WO2 White). They were supplemented by a couple of others in order to put on a demonstration for visiting "brass".

'Rip' Riley, one of those who took part in the APC Trials, comments that the "warry lot are acting as an eleven man section of assault troopers; remember that there was seating for eleven blokes, ten down the sides and one for the section leader, on the commander's station jump seat; all seats were fitted with seat belts".

Another member of Forward Delivery Troop around this time (Bill Burton) explains:

"As young soldiers when we marched into 1 Fwd Del Tp (Spec) we all attended a two week Indoctrination Course, before joining crewman courses in the training wings. Capt John Haynes was the OC and WO2 White (ex-1st Armoured Car Squadron and an original member of the Regt), was the TSM. We studied things like:

advanced map reading, by day and night; customs of the service; basic radio procedure (for being range picket);

national flags of at least ten different countries; ranks of all three services, etc. We were also taught the history of the 1st Armoured Regt, the motto Paratus ('Prepared'), and the Regimental Marches in quick and slow time etc. The TSM was an absolute stickler for detail".



In the early 1960s, a forward delivery troop was formed to support the possible deployment of Ambrose Squadron (Australia's SEATO response force). They were located at Armoured Centre and were responsible for ensuring that 1 Armoured Regiment had the vehicles and crewmen they needed, when they needed them. Later, after the Laos emergency passed, the Troop reverted to being part of the War Establishment of Armoured Centre.

A forward delivery troop was employed in Vietnam to hold AFVs and crews in readiness to immediately replace those needed to maintain the combat effectiveness of the tank and APC squadrons. The essential importance of this capability was proven on numerous occasions.

Today, the missing element from Plan Beersheba's force generation cycle is an RAAC forward delivery troop. No armoured cavalry regiment will ever be fully 'ready' unless it is supported in this way.

(Note: Percy White was subsequently awarded the DCM while serving with the AATTV and was later RSM, 1st Armoured Regt.) The OC John Haynes left the army as a Colonel and had just finished 14 years as President of the RAACA NSW.



The National Boer War Memorial



This Royal Australian Armoured Corps project must have your help if it is to succeed!

The Australian troopers who served in the Boer War, the predecessors of our troopers of today, were our first soldiers to fight in a war as Australians.

Although all the other major wars are commemorated in Anzac Parade in Canberra, there is not yet a memorial to the Boer War. **Every Black Hat should help to redress this deficiency!**

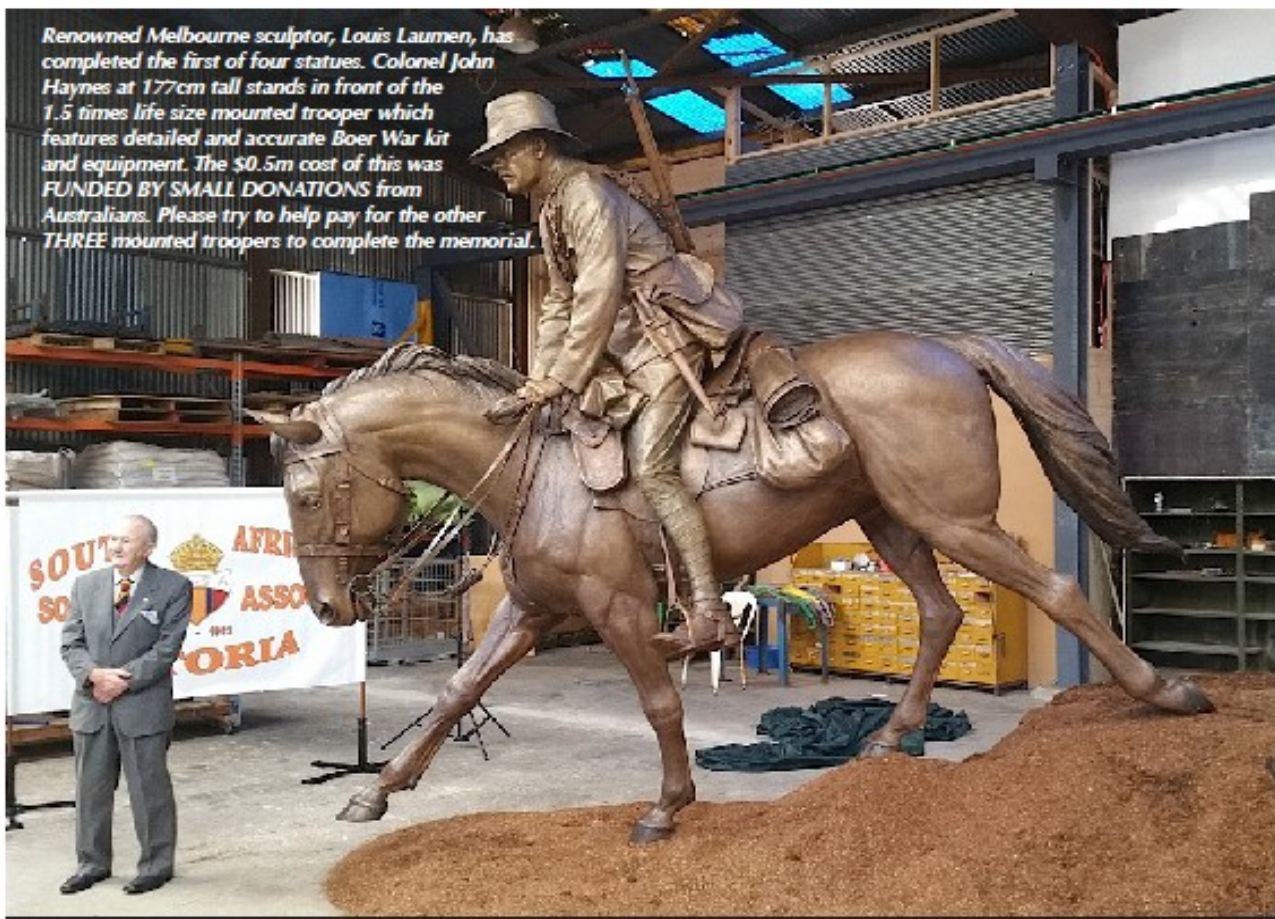
But do they deserve to be commemorated? Try this ... 23,000 young people from Australia served there, 1,000 lost their lives there – more than the total lost during all warlike operations since WWII. Our first VC was awarded there along with another five, and 161 other bravery awards. We sent 143,000 unarmoured personnel carriers (horses) none of which came back.

Of course the deaths, the other men and women who served and our gallant horses all deserve a memorial, but it's up to us to do something about it.

We have a site in Anzac Parade and an approved design, the centrepiece of which is a section on patrol of four Australian troopers mounted on war horses. Each statue is 1.5 times life size in bronze. The photo below shows the results of our efforts so far: the first mounted trooper recently completed in the foundry; in front is former RAACA President, and now NBWMA President, COL John Haynes OAM (RL).

Please help us to get the next three completed. Please visit the NBWMA website and consider making a tax-deductible donation of \$2 or more. We need every Black Hat to kick the tin.

Renowned Melbourne sculptor, Louis Laumen, has completed the first of four statues. Colonel John Haynes at 177cm tall stands in front of the 1.5 times life size mounted trooper which features detailed and accurate Boer War kit and equipment. The \$0.5m cost of this was FUNDED BY SMALL DONATIONS from Australians. Please try to help pay for the other THREE mounted troopers to complete the memorial.



NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

National Patron:

Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC, Chief of the Defence Force

National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. • ABN 29 293 433 202

Victoria Barracks, 75 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021

Tel (02) 8335 5209 • Fax (02) 8335 5357 • Email: secretary@bwm.org.au

Web: www.bwm.org.au

(Continued from page 1)

Vale

H.S. “Horrie” Cross MBE OAM JP

Life Member and a former Treasurer of the RAAC (NSW) Association for many of the post-war years, Horrie Cross died on 24th February after a nasty fall in his home. He was 94.

Horrie had been awarded both the MBE and later the OAM for the huge amount of work he did representing, and fighting for, the interests and well-being of the ex-service community, especially RAAC veterans.

During WW2 he joined the Armoured Corps and served with the 2/1 Recce Sqn as a gunner/operator in a Grant Dozer Troop - a part of the 4th Armd Bde. In mid 1945 his squadron supported the 1st Armoured Regiment at Balikpapan.

After the war he joined the Australian contingent of the British Commonwealth Occupational Force, arriving in Japan in February 1945. He spent almost 12 months in Japan and was promoted to Sergeant prior to returning to Australia. Upon discharge, Horrie took advantage of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Training Scheme to study Accountancy at Sydney Technical College. This was to be his life career as a civilian.

When the Federal Government put out a call for war veterans to join the (then) CMF, Horrie was newly married and living at Maroubra; As it was too difficult to get to 1/15 RNSWL for night parades at Parramatta, Horrie opted to join the Pay Corps. He was subsequently promoted to LT and remained in the CMF for nearly 7 years before the demands of his growing family became his greater priority.

Although Horrie claimed his time in the Pay Corps was not only helpful to his civilian career but enjoyable, he always remained a member of the Armoured Corps Association and soon afterwards, the Maroubra RSL Sub-Branch – remaining as a member of both until the day he passed away.

RAAC (NSW) Association member Bill Cross OAM, is the eldest of Horrie’s 6 children, 9 grand children and 9 great-grand children. Horrie was buried at Botany cemetery on March 8th and was farewelled at his memorial service by many of his fellow Black Hats.

As the Corp’s Representative Honorary Colonel, MAJGEN Roger Powell AM (Retd), said in an email to Bill



Bill and Horrie Cross at the 2014 Cambrai Dinner, Sydney

“Horrie was a true icon of our Corps and will be fondly remembered by so many who knew him”.

R.I.P.

Lest we Forget

We regret to advise the passing of the following members

SGT Brian (Spider) L Webb, 1 AR 3 Cav 8/13 VMR

SGT Leslie Chipperfield

Mr. Laurence Schilling

COL G.M (Curly) Templeton, 1 AR (AIF), ATTV ,
D-ARMD, 10LH

Mr. Neville J Calliss 1AR

Mr. Horace S Cross MBE OAM (HLM) 1 AA
Bde Recce Sqn

Mr. Chris G Gardiner SUR, Lancers

Mr Colin (Pete) J Morris 2/6 AR

Mr. Jim R Lumsdaine 2/6 AR

Mr. Leslie J Ball 2/6 AR

Mr. Michael Davies 1AR

VALE:

Major General W B Digger James AC, AO(Mil), MBE, MC, MBBS, DTM&H,DPH, DIH,FRACS Order of St John, .

It is with deep sadness and regret that we notify our members and friends of the passing of our Patron Major General 'Digger' James on Friday evening of 16 October 2015.

Major General James was the Association's valued Patron of the Australian Light Horse Association for the past 10 years and his knowledge and guidance during this time cannot be understated. He was involved in a number of Association projects the most notable being 'The Waler Memorial' in Tamworth and of course the Australian Light Horse Memorial and 'the Park of the Australian Soldier' in Beersheba, Israel.

Born: 14 May 1930 Shepparton Victoria, Son of Thomas C James Orchardist. Education: Grahamvale State School, Shepparton High School, Royal Military College Duntroon 1948-1951, University of Sydney MBBS 1963, RAMC Millbank UK London DTM&H, DPH, London University DIH.1969/71. Elected FRACS 1981.

Military Service:

Graduate Royal Military College Duntroon 1951,

Platoon Commander 1 RAR in the Korean War 1952 (seriously wounded in action, Immediate Award of Military Cross), 1954-6 Royal Australia armoured Corps,

Adjutant Armoured School, then Adjutant 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers in Muswellbrook. (1957 Resigned to undertake medical studies Sydney University. Graduated 1964) Commissioned Captain Medical Officer Army,

2 Camp Hospital 1964-1966 Medical Officer,

Duntroon Hospital 1966-68,

Officer Commanding 8th Field Ambulance,& Senior Medical Officer 1st Australian Task force Vietnam War 1968/69 (Awarded MBE) Medical Officer,

St John Ambulance in the Biafran War, NIGERIA 1971 (Awarded O StJ).

Director of Medical Services Qld 1971-75,

Director of Army Medical Services 1975-81.

Provided Field Hospital and medical support for Professor Fred Hallows Aboriginal Trachoma Programmes in Central Australia 1976-7.

Vale

Bob Whittaker

All of those whose M113s needed de-bogging or other recovery in the 1970s and 1980s will remember Bob Whittaker.

Bob passed away in the early hours of 7th November 2015. Our thoughts are with his wife Jean and family.

No funeral details yet, and as Bob was living in Caboolture, Queensland, it is unlikely that many Lancers will be able to attend.

Terry Boardman tells us that Bob was RAAC before he was RAEME. He was in the Regiment when Terry was posted to 1 RNSWL, as it then was, in April 1953. They both lived at Blacktown and sometimes travelled to Parramatta together. Bob was involved in vehicle recoveries while on FTD in the 1950s, these would have included Matildas, Staghounds, Whites and Canadian Scout Cars (Doodlebugs). When we got Centurions he was, together with John Whitehorn, Graham Thomas, myself, and a few others, part of the tank transporter (Special Equipment) crew. By then Terry thinks Bob had switched to RAEME and I recall him also doing Cent recoveries at Pucka. Bob was highly skilled in recoveries and his offsider was often Neville Hillman who was equally competent.

The photo, supplied by John Pigott shows Bob Whittaker and Tom Mullins, heavy recovery LAD, early 60's recovering a log for the camp fire at Puckapunyal.

sincerely,

John Howells

Hon Secretary

Royal New South Wales Lancers Association

john.howells@lancers.org.au

www.lancers.org.au



Vale

Toddy Todorovic

From: Ron Baikie
Subject: Re: Toddy Todorovic

I have heard from Geoff Stelmach that Toddy Todorovic passed away morning of the 7th November 2015.

It's always confronting losing a friend. Just received some not so good news. Toddy hasn't been well for years and he has had a nasty fall, hit his head and has a haemorrhage. He's been admitted into Colac Hospital and word from Jenny (wife) was that he was not going to make it.

Toddy was the first person to greet me in the barrack lines when I marched into the Regiment in 1969. Attached is a recent picture of Toddy, Jim King, Russell Stewart and Geoff. Also, a couple of pics from 1971

TODOROVIC, Ilija (Trooper)
Service No: 3796665
DOB: 26/09/1948
POB: Naples ITALY
A Sqn, 1 Armoured Regiment 20/8/70 – 16/12/70
C Sqn, 1 Armoured Regiment 17/12/70 – 2/6/71

FROM GEOFF STELMACH



Vale

Colonel Graham Muir “Curly” Templeton

It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of 237688 Colonel Graham Muir “Curly” Templeton, aged 84 years.

His funeral was held at Palmdale just North of Gosford and was attended by about 200 people. Curly retired there in 1985 and set about making his mark on the district especially with Legacy. He was President of the local branch (Brisbane Waters) in 1989- 1990 and again 1997-1998.

His AATTV mates were in strength, especially his former CO during his time in SVN, Brig Ray Burnard. Curly was selected from the NZ Territorial Forces to attend the NZ Army OTU and then by the NZ Army to be one of the 10 Kiwis to come to RMC Duntroon 1950-53. He graduated into the RNZAC but then transferred to the RAAC in 1957. His first posting was to 1 Armd that year, then promoted Capt and made Adjt Jan 1958 to KRG Coleman and then JM Maxwell. Over to 10th LH, back to 1 Armd on promotion and then Staff College, LWC and AATTV. Into the Directorate where he looked after the Lts and Cpts of the 1970's and made himself well known to us all.

His time as Defence Attaché to Pakistan and informal Armoured Corps connections to President Zia were the stuff of legend and comments made by email from those days were illuminating.

Curly was one of the Characters of the Corps when the Army had enough time to have Characters, his energy, enthusiasm and good nature were all attributes that made time with him enlivened and memorable.

VALE CURLY

Gerry McCormack



SYDNEY ANZAC DAY MARCH

UPDATE No. 3/2016

Policy

This update is to remind sub-Branch and Association members of the criteria for participating in the Sydney ANZAC Day March and provide some general guidelines. Once again it is important that this information is disseminated as widely as possible.

There are three ways by which an individual can participate in the March: (i) as an Australian veteran, (ii) as the descendant of an Australian veteran (iii) as a veteran or descendant of a Commonwealth or Allied force.

We ask that people keep an eye on the RSL NSW website and encourage all associations to register to receive these updates.

Australian Veteran

Veteran eligibility to march is based on the criteria to become a Service Member of the RSL i.e. any person who has served in the Australian Defence Force for at least 6 months. Veterans should assemble with one of the service units of which they were/are a member. The choice of where to march is a personal one however it is recommended that those who served together should march together as an act of remembrance and mateship.

Descendant of an Australian Veteran

A descendant of a veteran can march with veterans as a carer (one per veteran marching), banner party or flag carrier regardless of whether they are entitled to be a member of the RSL or not. All other descendants are invited to march with the descendants associations in a place of prominence in front of the Commonwealth and Allies contingent. One descendant only of a deceased veteran may honour their relatives service by wearing his/her medals on their right breast.

Commonwealth or Allied Veteran/Descendant Veterans

Veterans should be clearly identifiable by their campaign medals and should be at the head of each national group.

No medals or awards earned whilst a nation was in conflict with Australia or the Commonwealth shall be worn in the Sydney ANZAC Day March.

Dress should reflect the occasion i.e. traditional/national costume or dress (including headdress) is not appropriate.

Both the British Commonwealth and Allied contingents will form up in alphabetical order as printed in the March Broad Sheet and under the direction of the March Marshals. Displays of foreign national flags are restricted to 1 per group.

No flag of a nation that was used when that nation was in conflict with the Commonwealth or Australia is permitted to be displayed.

Display of historical flags or ensigns of countries that no longer exist is inappropriate.

Banners are restricted to 1 per group and are not to contain any political slogans. The display of photos or other memorabilia is not permitted.

Descendants of Allied Veterans

Descendants of veterans are encouraged to participate to honour the fallen at the express invitation of the contingent leader/organiser.

Descendants are to march behind the veterans within the national group.

Once again, dress should reflect the occasion i.e. traditional/national costume or dress (including headdress) is inappropriate.

The national group may have no more than 30 descendants of veterans participate including banner party and flag bearers.

General Policies

Veterans who are unable to march should make use of the taxi service provided at the beginning of the March (contact ANZAC House for bookings).

The Sydney ANZAC Day March is not a parade and therefore no vehicle, animal, weaponry or memorabilia (including historical uniforms) may be included without the prior approval of the March organisers.

Escorts to Colours etc. and catafalque parties may carry arms. Otherwise service contingents should only carry arms when authorized by the ANZAC Day March Executive Committee c/- ANZAC House.

As the head of each unit approaches the ANZAC Memorial, hats are to be removed (by following the unit leader's movements or by order) and the right hand held over the heart and kept in that position until the unit is clear of the ANZAC Memorial, when the reverse is to be followed.

Heads are to be turned left towards the ANZAC Memorial when passing it. Banners and Flags are to be dipped. Defence Force formations are to salute the ANZAC Memorial as they pass it.

***The Armour form up point on ANZAC day is Phillip St (just in round corner with Bent Street).
Armour will be marching as a block and are due to step off at 0930 so marchers should be there around 0900.
After March catch up is at the usual venue, Civic Hotel, cnr Goulburn and Pitt in the dedicated upstairs area.***

ANZAC Day March Executive Committee March 2016 www.rslnsw.org.au ANZAC House (02) 9264 8188

admin@rslnsw.org.au