



ESTABLISHED 1946

March 2018
Issue No. 480

Journal of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association NSW Inc
Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW, 2021 . Website: www.raacansw.org.au
Email: raacansw@defence.gov.au . Tel: (02) 8335 5209 . FAX: 8335 5357 . ABN 49 709 547 198

ARMOUR

Patron: Major General Dave Chalmers, AO CSC
President: Rob Shoebridge . Editor George Baczocha

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email: george.baczocha@defence.gov.au . Tel: (02) 8335 5209.
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By Amelia McMahon

After months of anticipation, Defence Connect can reveal that Rheinmetall Australia has been selected as the successful tenderer for the hotly-contested LAND 400 Phase 2 program.

Rheinmetall's bid, comprising of the Boxer CRV, has beaten out BAE Systems Australia AMV-35 offering.

The project, worth up to \$5 billion, will see Rheinmetall deliver up to 225 combat reconnaissance vehicles to the Australia Army.

Under the company's offering to the Commonwealth, Rheinmetall will build a majority of the vehicles in Queensland. The first 25 vehicles will be built in Germany in a move Rheinmetall says will support the transfer of technology. Australians will be embedded into teams in Germany to learn the necessary skills before transferring back to Australia for the build of the remaining 200 CRVs.

While the first 25 vehicles are being built overseas, Rheinmetall will establish its manufacturing hub, the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Brisbane.

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Coming Events

Cambrai-Beersheba Days Annual Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia
on Saturday 17 Nov 2018

Thanks to Mike Butler and the 3 Cav Regt Association we have finally tracked down the owner of the above photos. Bob English thank you for your contribution. Our newsletter magazine is not only distributed to members but also goes to state and national libraries and as such will remain part of Australian Army history for future generations and history buffs.

To:mike butler
Subject: PHOTOS

Mike,

Perhaps they might be of interest and it was always my intention to make them available for just that purpose.

However, after so many years I cannot recall too many details. All I can come up with is the picture with the vehicle sitting on the rise in front of the jungle is during a land clearing operation, possibly this was "The Firestone Trail??" The guy in the chair was the vehicle commander, Blue, so called for his red hair and big red moustache.

Of course, the way too cool young soldier leaning against the vehicle would be me.

The group photo would be Christmas 1968, at our excellent accommodation in Nut Dat.

Regards,

Bob English





As a centre of excellence, the MILVEHCOE will be the focal point for the LAND 400 combat vehicles, LAND 121 logistics vehicles and other complex defence projects. Under the LAND 121 Phase 3B program, Rheinmetall is delivering more than 2,500 logistics trucks to the Australian Army.

Rheinmetall has partnered with several Australian SMEs for the project, including Melbourne's Heuch, Cablex and Tectonica Australia, Burnie-based Direct Edge, Brisbane-based G&O Kert, Melbourne/Brisbane-based Hilton Manufacturing, Perth-based Hoffman Engineering, Melbourne-based Nezkot Precision Tooling and Engineering, Adelaide-based Plasteel and Adelaide-based Redarc.

Rheinmetall has also partnered with BlueScope and Bisalloy Steel, which will see the companies deliver thousands of tonnes of armoured steel for the LAND 400 Phase 2 project.

Defence Connect hosted Rheinmetall Australia managing director Gary Stewart on the Defence Connect Podcast last week. Tune in to uncover the breadth of Rheinmetall's Australian operations and objectives, its focus on building sovereign industrial capabilities related to military vehicle manufacturing in Australia, why the company believes its Boxer CRV is the right choice for LAND 400 Phase 2, plus other key programs it's involved in across defence.

BOXER CRV

MANUFACTURER: RHEINMETALL
based in Dusseldorf, Germany

FIREPOWER: The Lance turret system, featuring an externally driven, airburst ammunition-capable automatic cannon, fully digital fire control technology and electro-optical vision devices. All of which can be operated by the commander and gunner.

SURVIVABILITY: This includes against light anti-tank weapons and guided missiles.

SURVEILLANCE: A fully integrated 360° Situational Awareness System with laser warning sensors

and Acoustic Shooter Locating System ensures the crew always knows what's going on around them, day and night.

FLEXIBLE ENGAGEMENT: An effective hunter-killer and killer-killer capability with digital networked sensors and fire control technology.

PROTECTION: It features tailorable architecture, with modular systems and a low-emission, multi-fuel engine in the front of the vehicle.

DIMENSIONS

Length: **7.93m**
Width: **2.99m**
Height: **3.3m**
Ground clearance: **50cm**

POWER

Engine: **720hp**
Fuel: **Diesel**
Transmission: **Allison Automatic**

PERFORMANCE

Speed: **103km/h**
Range **up to 650km**
Turning circle: **18m**
Gradeability: **60%**
Side slope: **30%**

Technical Notes & News

.Chauvel Cup a true test of resilience

Capt Anna-Lise Brink

The mental and physical resilience of 2/14LHR(QMI) troops were put to the test during a gruelling five-day competition at Kokoda Barracks, Canungra.

From pushing a two-tonne trailer up and down Canungra hills to a jerry can carry with more jerries than personnel, the challenges were designed to push soldiers to their limits.

CO 2/14LHR (QMI) Lt-Col Andrew Moss said while the activities were not realistic in a tactical sense, they were in terms of physical and mental stress. "We push people to the point where they feel they can't continue and then they're reliant on teamwork, personal resilience and courage to push through the actual activity he said.

The competition pitted troop against troop, focusing on a range of dismounted activities by day and night.

Troop leader Lt Joseph Murphy said the soldiers found it tough but rewarding. "It focused on teamwork and making troops work above and beyond what they're used to in the dismounted role. In turn, they realised exactly what you can achieve as a troop on the ground," he said. He said while the troops were prepared physically, the mental aspect caught some off guard.

Tprs Jonathan Margetts and Jacob Buttenthorn perform a stores-carry training exercise. "It certainly tested out the guys and made them realise just how far they can push themselves both physically and mentally," Lt Murphy said. "I enjoyed seeing the look of satisfaction on everyone's face when they got through."

Soldiers from 2 Troop B Sqn won the competition, which doubled as lead-up training to the 7 Bde Combined Arms Training Activity Exercise Diamond Run.

Source: Army News October 5th 2017

Tprs Timothy Everdell Andrew Morris, Brendan Scott take part in a training scenario
Photo: Cpl Ben Dempster



100 years of tank warfare

Maj Felicity Harnblin

Photo courtesy of www.contactairlandandsea.com/2017/11/22/



SOLDIERS from 1 Armd Regt have joined their armoured counterparts from around the world to mark the centenary of the first battle to feature massed tanks, during their annual Cambrai parade, held at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Showcasing the armoured fighting vehicles and equipment of 1 Armd Regt, the parade was also an opportunity for families to celebrate the regiment's arrival in SA, having last month departed their 22-year home at Robertson Barracks in Darwin.

CO 1 Armd Regt Lt-Col Chris Gardiner said the Battle of Cambrai was an important date on the regiment's calendar each year.

"To remember those armoured corps soldiers who fought in such a momentous battle a century ago is important for us to recognise today, he said. "While the equipment may have changed, the dedication and commitment shown by those who've come before us continues to serve as an example for our regiment."

Reviewing officer for the parade, Comd Forcomd Maj-Gen Gus McLachlan, said it was a significant milestone in the regiment's history as the soldiers marked both the centenary of Cambrai, and arrival to their new home in South Australia.

To remember those armoured corps , soldiers who fought in such a momentous battle is important for us to recognise today.

"This event not only allows us to remember a significant battle in the evolution of warfare - it was a chance to formally welcome the soldiers of 1st Armd Regt as they begin their future in SA following their departure from the Top End, and to thank them for their recent operational service in Iraq," he said.

For nearly three weeks on the Western Front during WWI, between November 20 and December 7, 1917, Allied forces fought near a small French village named Cambrai against the German Army in what was seen as its first mass use of tanks in a combined arms operation. The battle is now commemorated each year by Commonwealth and Allied armoured regiments around the world to commemorate this momentous battle now known as Cambrai Day.

The parade was also a chance to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba.



Photo courtesy of www.contactairlandandsea.com/2017/11/22/



Final parade Darwin



Poland looks to Bendigo-made Hawkei and Bushmaster vehicles as discussions continue

POLAND could become the latest country to import Bendigo-made armoured vehicles into its defence force.

Australian defence minister Christopher Pyne visited Warsaw to meet with Polish officials on Monday – and a possible contract for hundreds of Thales Australia's Bushmaster and Hawkei armoured vehicles was top of the discussions.

The negotiations have been ongoing for several years, but foreign governments have been waiting for the Hawkei to reach full production next year before finalising contracts.



Indonesia is also believed to be considering importing the vehicles.

The Australian Army contract for the Hawkei vehicle must be complete before production begins for export markets. The Army has received more than 20 of the vehicles, and a further 1000 will be produced.

Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters said Poland was one of several countries interested in the vehicles. "I know the team at Thales have been in discussions about a possible Poland export contract for the last few years," she said. "Defence contract negotiations are complicated and it's typical for these decisions not to be made public until a contract has been signed. "I believe that as our Bendigo Thales manufacturing facility ramps up its Hawkei manufacturing, more and more countries turn to Bendigo Thales for armour vehicles."

The Bushmaster has been imported by seven foreign governments including Jamaica, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Japan.

The vehicles roll off the production line in Bendigo and involve up to 120 companies in the supply chain. More than 170 people work on the Hawkei at the Bendigo factory.

The federal government recently provided Thales with additional funding to market its vehicles to international buyers. Thales has targeted countries which have limited defence manufacturing capabilities of their own. Like many eastern European countries, the Polish military remains relatively underdeveloped.

Ms Chesters said targeting these countries was a clever way of ensuring the Bendigo-made vehicles found the right market and were not competing with countries like Germany, France and the United States. "These export orders are vital. Export contracts of the life-saving Bendigo made Bushmasters will help secure local jobs in the short-term," she said. "Maintaining a strong industrial base, including the skilled workers here in Bendigo, has important strategic implications for Australia, therefore, we must not allow this industry to die."

October 31 2017—<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/>



Photo: Facebook—Matt Redwoods

Hawkei PMVs-L arrive in Iraq for operational trials

January 4, 2018 by Andrew McLaughlin

The Australian Army and CASG have deployed a number of Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles – Light (PMV-L) to Iraq for operational trials with Task Force Taji.

A Hawkei PMV-L at Camp Taji in Iraq on New Years Day. (Defence)



Both two and four door versions of the Hawkei have been deployed, and their deployment, sustainment and re-deployment will be assessed in the operational environment.

The Hawkei was selected in 2011 to fulfil the LAND 121 Phase 4 requirement for the light protected mobility vehicle. After a protracted development and contract negotiation period, a contract for up to 1100 Hawkei vehicles and 1058 companion trailers was signed with Thales in October 2015, and engineering and manufacturing development has been underway since then.

Low rate production of about 100 vehicles commenced in 2017, and full rate production is expected to run from 2018 to 2022.

The Task Force Taji operational trial is expected to run to mid-2018.

Source: Australian Defence Business Review (<http://adbr.com.au/hawkei-pmvs-l-arrive-in-iraq-for-operational-trials/>)



Private Daniel Harmer driving a Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle – Light at the Taji Military Complex



Message Board

From: Graeme Rees Jones
To: John Pearce
Subject: Advice

Greetings John,

As ANZAC Day approaches, I am minded to suggest that you advise the Officers to prepare for the agony of carrying the sabre on the long march down StKilda Rd, by regularly lifting a weight with the right arm to emulate the carry position. I can't remember the weight of the weapon but I do remember the agony! This particularly applies to your carrying the CO's Sabre which is, I believe, heavier than the Infantry Swords issued for the event.

Incidentally I saw a reference in a copy email to "the CO's Sword". That is incorrect because it is a "Sabre". Consult Google for the difference. Cavalry carry sabers. If this advice saves some pain, I shall be pleased. The practical advice should be passed down for other formal events in future.

I take this opportunity to relate 2 stories about ANZAC Day marches which I commanded during my time at the Regiment.

The first one involved an Infantry Colonel who insisted, in spite of my protestations, in positioning himself a mere 2 paces in front of me, giving the false impression that he was commanding our Guidon Guard. I suffered the indignity until we had marched over Swanston St Bridge and then looked back over my shoulder to my 2i/c (I think Graeme Smith) and gave the command to "step short" for 100 paces, which had the effect of our being a considerable distance behind the Infantry interloper.

The second story occurred during the march in the following year, when we were following a group of elderly veterans who had halted. By the time I gave the command "Escort to the Guidon - prepare to halt. Halt!" I realised that I had stopped in a pile of horse manure left by the police mounted group. So much for my shiny spit & polished boots when I realised that the TV camera was immediately on our Right and pointing directly at us. I was definitely in the shit on the ABC !! However, God took mercy as my good friend LTCOL John Bennett of Army PR was, as usual, the commentator and seeing my dilemma from the Control Room, instructed the cameraman over the intercom not to "shoot" me below the waist. Saved from national infamy and hilarity!!

Well John. Good luck.

Cheers Graeme :-)

ANZAC Ceremonies

Regimental ANZAC Eve

The Regimental ANZAC Eve commemoration will take place at 19:30 h on Tuesday 17 April 2018.

The Regiment will form up in the car park at the eastern end of Bob's Hall in Column facing north, 203 Cadet unit will be positioned behind the Regiment facing in the same direction. The band will be positioned in front of the regiment and will lead the regiment onto the parade. Association members will be formed up in between Bob's Hall and the Drill Hall. The association members will move into position in front of Bob's Hall at the same time the Regiment marches on.

Members are asked to be at Lancer Barracks by 19:00 hrs. There will be no parking in the barracks area.

Dress for association members is regimental beret, coat, medals and regimental tie.

At the conclusion of the function Association members are invited to the messes for drinks.

ANZAC Day

Do note that on ANZAC Day Wednesday 25 April 2018 the Association will be leading the post World War 2 Armoured Corps contingent; we will not be marching with the Army Reserve. The Association will need to gather at the corner of Bent and Philip Street around 10:00 h; position 21 on the map able to be downloaded [HERE](#). I will be 16,896 km away, so if you get lost don't call me, Len's phone number is 0418 607 456. Len is going to a meeting with the RSL on 16 April, if there are any updates, you will get another message.

Dress for association members is Regimental beret, coat, medals and Regimental tie.

At the conclusion of the march, there will be drinks.

sincerely,

John Howells

Hon Secretary

Royal New South Wales Lancers Association



Editor's Note: I have included the following article written in 1997 by LTCOL Peters as he seems to have accurately predicted the future battlefield and the style of warfare we should be planning for. For those who would like to read the original article it can be found in: Parameters, Autumn 1997 edition.

The Future of Armoured Warfare

By RALPH PETERS

Since history closed the mounted arm's stables, soldiers have compensated by naming their units after dragons, lions, panthers and their great lost love, the horse. Tankers, especially, like to associate themselves with the sleek and ferocious. Unfortunately, the armoured vehicles of the next century are apt to resemble hedgehogs, snakes, and caterpillars.

Armoured vehicles will be around for a long time to come. But their shapes, sizes, weights, armour, armaments, propulsion, connectivity, battlefield awareness, and crewing will change profoundly. The continuity will be in the mission: to deliver local killing power and allow protected manoeuvre. The evolution of armoured vehicles will be driven by technology and strategic requirements, but, above all, by the changing environment of combat: the increasing urbanization of warfare, and the growing transparency of traditional non-urban operations--in which we will be able to monitor the activities of enemy forces in real time. Far from being the twilight of the tank, the new era could become a great age of armour, but only if proponents and practitioners of mounted combat are willing to engage the future in a spirit of honest inquiry.



lacked the infantry strength to reduce the city building by building. Between these two examples, our soldiers found themselves in deadly combat in Mogadishu under conditions that begged for armour. Apart from the political considerations that denied our troops the tools they needed to overwhelm their opponents, the military itself was guilty of relying on traditional approaches to urban operations that are no longer feasible when domestic elites panic in the face of casualties (friendly or enemy).



The hints that Armor needs to reform itself grow ever harder to ignore. First, in the Gulf War, it took an Infantryman to recognize that the ground battle had opened in the pursuit phase. Too many armoured commanders sought to fight textbook battles--and the textbooks were outdated editions that elevated secure flanks above knock-out blows. Then came the Russian experience in Grozny. Our reaction was to mock Russian incompetence and repeat "you don't send armour into cities". Will we re-enact the Battle of Grozny? Yes, the Russians were militarily incompetent in Chechnya. On the other hand, they had no choice but to use armoured vehicles in city streets--like all advanced armies, they

lacked the infantry strength to reduce the city building by building. Between these two examples, our soldiers found themselves in deadly combat in Mogadishu under conditions that begged for armour. Apart from the political considerations that denied our troops the tools they needed to overwhelm their opponents, the military itself was guilty of relying on traditional approaches to urban operations that are no longer feasible when domestic elites panic in the face of casualties (friendly or enemy).

The lessons of these examples are many, but the core challenges come down to a few points. Mounted warfare in non-urban environments goes very fast, and will go faster. Traditional control measures are inadequate. Battlefields quickly become cellular and multi-directional, and therein lies more opportunity than danger for the force with informational superiority and a leadership unafraid of the initiative of subordinates. While rigorous training and equipment quality are essential, the key variable is situational awareness--both the practical kind that means seeing the enemy tank before it sees you, and the deeper sort of command visualization that allows a leader to understand not only the physical reality of the enemy situation, but, more important, the situation as the enemy perceives it.

In the future, formations will operate far more swiftly and in smaller increments than in even the most successful divisional attacks during Desert Storm, but this is the reborn paradigm: Go fast, hit the enemy's weaknesses, keep on hitting him, and don't stop moving. This is very old military wisdom. Somehow, many of us have forgotten it. Too often, we elevate safety of decision over decisiveness.

The lessons of Chechnya are even more relevant than those of our incomplete victory on the banks of the Euphrates. In the lethal urban canyons of Grozny--rather a small city, by world standards--the Russian military urgently needed means of protected fire and movement. They were forced to use what they had, and what they had was wrong. Equipment designed for war in the European countryside, flawed tactics, and grossly inadequate training and command and control led to disaster. The Russian experience does not prove that armour was the wrong answer, only that the Russians had the wrong kind of armour--and used that badly.

The key to the future of armoured warfare lies in disregarding what we expect a tank to be in order to focus on what we need the tank of the future to do.



Tomorrow's Armoured Force

On those disappearing battlefields that do not centre on urban environments and complex terrain, tanks will remain recognizable for at least a generation. We will see changes in lethality, protection, propulsion and weight, but the greatest advance will be in battlefield awareness. On-board, remote, and even strategic sensors will give our tankers a commanding view of the battlefield, and there will be a window of frustration as their vision outstrips their engagement range.

Eventually, tanks will gain a much deeper, indirect-fire capability, and sensing munitions will make an increasing proportion of land engagements resemble over-the-horizon naval warfare. These extra-urban tanks will become lighter,

and will go faster. Miniaturization of components, from engines through communications gear to ammunition, will pace advances in armour to make systems more rapidly deployable. Eventually, the tank's primary "armour" may be electromagnetic or may otherwise take advantage of physical principles we are only beginning to exploit. We can imagine developments from "battles of conviction," in which opposing combat systems struggle to "convince" each other's electronics to enter vulnerable configurations, to weapons that literally stop opponents in their tracks by manipulating the local environment. Many experiments will fail, but some--possibly the most radical--will succeed.

Despite protection advances, crews will remain the most vulnerable link in the armoured warfare system. This will be compounded by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Eventually we will see a variant of remote-control tanks operated by displaced crews that remain well apart from the advance--perhaps as much as a continent away. Virtual reality control environments will keep things lively. It is also possible that future tanks will be dual capability--normally directly crewed, but capable of remote operation under extreme threat conditions. *(This is already happening with drone aircraft and robot tanks. The Russians have been using robotic tanks very successfully in Syria)*

To complement the tanks, we will develop hyper-protective troop carriers to facilitate those dismounted activities indispensable to land warfare. But even here robotics will play a role so that we can operate under conditions created by weapons of mass destruction without soldiers present (although a human battlefield presence will always remain desirable--and usually essential). We may have to rethink mounted operations in future years: remotely-crewed vehicles can manoeuvre through intervening, high-threat terrain while soldiers are air-delivered to link-up points in or near populated areas or complex terrain we cannot ignore. Tangentially, we are likely to develop vehicles with a come-when-I-call robotic capability, as well as specially-intelligent tanks and troop carriers and, further along, "self-healing" vehicles that can repair and even remould themselves in response to battle damage.

"Flying tanks" have long been objects of speculation, but it is likely that fuel-logic and the psycho-physical dynamics of battle will demand grounded systems for many years to come. While attack helicopters already incorporate many of the characteristics previously imagined for flying tanks, we have found them a complement to, not yet a substitute for, armoured vehicles. If we do work toward flying tanks--in the interests of systems economy--the more successful approach would probably be to ask how helicopters could change so that they can move, shoot, and survive on the ground. Aircraft are conceptually more mutable than ground systems, and, if the flying tank proponents are right, this might become the back-door means to change the parameters of armoured warfare. A very real danger, however, is asking any system to do too many things, resulting in a system that does nothing especially well.

The relationship between direct and indirect fire means will also change. As noted above, tanks will acquire a longer-range precision capability. At the same time, aircraft and then orbital platforms will deliver an ever-greater proportion of the firepower we apply to combat in open areas. Great advances are on the horizon for fire coordination, and we are likely to see simultaneous joint attacks on complex targets by tanks, satellites, and hunter-killer computers. As with the Armour branch, Field Artillery needs to break from means-centred models and focus on the required ends. The alternative is to decline into the role of niche player--too heavy to deploy rapidly, too clumsy for urban operations, and a non-player in the information battle. While the goal of warfare will always be to destroy the enemy, the first step today is to inflict systems paralysis on conventional opponents, from air defence systems to command and control--and, increasingly, to national information infrastructures.

The long-term trend in open-area combat is toward overhead dominance. Battlefield awareness may prove so complete, and precision weapons so widely-available and effective, that enemy ground-based combat systems will not be able to survive on the deserts, plains, and fields that have seen so many of history's great battles. Our enemies will be forced into cities and other complex terrain, such as industrial developments and inter-city sprawl, where our technical reconnaissance means cannot penetrate or adequately differentiate and our premier killing systems cannot operate as designed. We will become victims of our success. We are becoming so powerful at traditional modes of warfare that we will drive our enemies into environments where our efficiency plummets, our effectiveness drops, and close combat remains the order of the day. We will fight in cities, and we need tanks that can fight and survive in their streets.

The Changing Nature of Cities

Urban operations--the tanker's nightmare--will be the growth area for armoured warfare. The world is becoming a network of cities with marginalized hinterlands. Increasingly, cities transcend statehood. In this contradictory world, where nationalism has



returned in plague force, nation-states are softening. Cities as diverse as Vancouver, Frankfurt, Moscow, Miami, and Shanghai are growing apart from their parent states, for reasons that range from ethnic shifts in the population base to wealth concentration. Vancouver doesn't need the rest of Canada. Moscow doesn't much want the rest of Russia, except as an ornament of power and a looting ground. Shanghai may not be able to "afford" China indefinitely. Miami has become the shadow capital of Latin America--a focal point of information, culture, investment, banking, society, and exile. Frankfurt am Main is well on the way to becoming a "German" city with an ethnic German minority. An ancient paradigm is reversing: while cities long sucked strength from the diverse resources of the state, the state is increasingly becoming a parasite on the world's more-successful cities. In this tiered construct, boom cities pay for failed states, post-modern dispersed cities pay for failed cities, and failed cities turn into killing grounds and reservoirs for hu-

manity's surplus and discards (guess where we will fight).

While many cities and post-cities are growing richer, more powerful, and more efficient, others--especially in societies with information disorders--are becoming poorer (on a per capita basis), weaker in their ability to self-regulate, and unable to deliver the most basic services that allow human beings to coexist in great densities. Many of these reservoir cities are anarchies attenuated by apathy, and the apathy of the masses can transform itself very quickly into violence. We are entering a period when we will increasingly judge the success of cities and their environs before we concern ourselves with their mouldering states.

There is no global village. The village is dying as a model, and it is dead as a source of power. Instead, a global network of cities and post-cities is emerging, of both the healthy and the faltering, whose elites interact across borders more efficiently and effectively than they interact with the populations of their own hinterlands. Our elites will be inclined to defend foreign elites, even at the expense of our own population (this is already the paradigm of US-Mexican relations and US-Saudi relations). Our future military expeditions will increasingly defend our foreign investments, rather than defending against foreign invasions. And we will fight to subdue anarchy and the violent "isms" because disorder is bad for business. All of this activity will focus on cities.

In the future, the term "urban warfare" will be a redundancy.

New Armor for Urban Warfare

Where does armour fit in? Today's armour, designed for a war that--blessedly--never was, is ill-designed for urban combat. Yet, until better designs reach our soldiers, we will need to make do with what we have. Ideally, that would lead to reassessments of our tactics and reorganization of our units.

At a time when the pace of technological and social change is without precedent in human history, our military is clinging to the past.

Regarding firepower, armour for urban environments will need two types of guns--or one gun that can do a variety of jobs. We will need a crude blasting capability, and we will need manoeuvrable munitions that can follow an assigned target beyond the limits of pure ballistic trajectories. We need old-fashioned flechette-type munitions--or an innovative substitute--and we need rounds that can penetrate multiple layers of steel and concrete before exploding or otherwise "blooming" a follow-on destructive capability. "Boomerang" weapons that respond instantly to attack and track the assailant until he or it is eliminated would be an especially powerful deterrent. We will need a counter-electronics capability and crowd control "weaponry." It is important not to limit conceptualizing to traditional guns; an ammunition-free technique that achieves the desired effect could become part of our weapons suite. Any means we could develop to isolate portions of the urban battlefield would offer a tremendous advantage. Again, it is essential to focus on the task, not the known means for performing that task.

But the primary job of armoured vehicles in urban areas will be to protect manoeuvre, movement, and resupply. Because urban environments promise endless ambushes, we need new forms of armoured protection--not just layers of steel, or laminate, or ceramics, or even reactive armour as it presently exists. Tomorrow's layers of armour will begin with spoofing techniques that complicate target detection on the part of enemy systems, before proceeding to environmental or atmospheric modification capabilities that defeat mines, distort the enemy's perceptions, and disrupt the trajectory and integrity of enemy munitions. Instead of today's rigid hulls and turrets, tomorrow's armour may be malleable, capable of reshaping itself in response to changing threat environments. Self-repair, and, in the following generation, self-healing of battle damage, are logical goals. Finally, "living" armour, with its principles based on biological models, may allow new levels of interaction among man, machine, and environment.

Armoured vehicles for urban warfare must also be nimble. While long-range sustained speeds are not a requirement, a sprint capability is essential. The vehicles must be highly manoeuvrable--at least in some variants. Deployment requirements and the varieties of urban operations suggest a modular approach, either to total armoured fighting systems, or at least to troop carriers. The ability to "task organize" vehicle size, power units, armaments, electronic warfare (EW) suites, and battlefield awareness capability is worth pursuing. Vehicles that could operate as compact individual entities or join together to form moving fortresses or to "circle the wagons" offer new flexibility. Armoured "mother ships" could "feed" or harbor smaller vehicles and robotic devices. Robotic scouts might climb through rubble, navigate corridors, or explore sewers, followed by team carriers with human decisionmakers and actors. These would be backed up by caterpillar mini-fortresses that hustle through streets and possess not only offensive and defensive environmental controls, but segmentation and self-repair capabilities. The visual signature of our armoured systems, to the extent we do not obscure them, should be composed to psychologically disarm the enemy, exploiting research on instinctive reactions to shapes, colours, sounds, and smells. Our systems should be sensually terrifying to opponents and intimidating to populations.

Urban warfare is three-dimensional. Armoured vehicles, using drones or ground robotics or hyper-sensors, must not only be able to see into multi-story structures and down into sewers, subways, and service tunnels, but must be able to introduce soldiers--in a protected manner--to upper-story or subterranean zones of operation. Ideally, armoured vehicles would be able to caterpillar above or snake below ground level, gripping the lower portions of structures, or entering subterranean passageways. This might be done with deployed subcomponents, such as team-capsule vehicles, or with extensions from master vehicles. The ability to cross exposed "ground" will be essential. A well-designed vehicle or extension might seal against a second story window, "sanitize" the immediate interior, and release soldiers from an armoured gate. To some extent, the soldier himself might become an armoured entity.

Secured areas might be out posted by robotics and picketed by soldiers cued by local fusion centres that combine intelligence from sources as diverse as miniature roaming sensors and national-level systems. Population control might be established by electronically registering every inhabitant with whom the force comes in contact and alerting in response to any human concentrations that do not fit habitation profiles. Eventually, body signature sensors should identify fear, hostility, or positive demeanours on the part of the locals. Any means that can be developed to separate the hostile actor from the "sea of the people" is highly desirable, since, in urban operations, the enemy's ultimate camouflage is his humanity.

A model urban operation of the future might begin with a massive information operations effort that attacks not only systems but souls. Air and space forces would then isolate the city electronically and through fires, attack pre-selected targets with precision munitions, suppress air defences, and impose barriers between urban sub-sectors. Army robotics parachute in to secure airfields and landing zones, followed by air-delivered troops with light armoured vehicles to extend the perimeter. The next wave includes heavier ground systems and more personnel delivered by air and, in littoral cities, by Navy-Marine operations. Robotic systems push deeper into the urban area, followed by armoured reconnaissance "moving fortresses," or combinations of separate vehicles, delivering firepower and dismountable forces to hostile zones. Behind the fighters, military police and intelligence personnel process the inhabitants, electronically reading their attitudes toward the intervention and cataloguing them into a database immediately recoverable by every fire team in the city (even individual weapons might be able to read personal signatures, firing immediately upon cueing).

Wherever the enemy resists, joint operations isolate and reduce the threat zone. Smart munitions track enemy systems and profiled individuals. EW actions veil the movement of armoured vehicles, remotely exploding mines as the vehicles move forward. Tanks and tank segments deliver direct and smart fires in a final barrage as troop carriers advance. The unit commander designates points of entry, and images of exteriors and interior layouts appear in the carriers for orientation. Carriers leech against buildings and subterranean passage entry points, collapsing the atmosphere at the points of entry to kill or disable any present enemies, before discharging troops. In extremely vertical environments, robotics and troops are air-delivered by systems that can spoof enemy sensors and vision into registering multiple images or completely false images. As soldiers clear the buildings--preceded by their individual sensors--they push their individual weapon's selector switch to "Inhabited," and, upon entering a room, the weapon does not discharge if pointed at a non-combatant without violent intent. Most friendly casualties are lost to enemy suicide attacks or come as the result of physical injuries received during fire and movement within buildings, such as broken limbs. When particularly stiff pockets of resistance develop, smart armour moves in to destroy them or soldiers cue stand-off precision weapons.

Other armoured units move swiftly through the city to establish a mobile presence and seize control of line-of-communication nodes and routes of ingress to and egress from the city. In vast conurbations, lightweight, electronically armoured systems are airlifted by rotary wing (or post-rotary wing) assets. Satellites monitor the city for any air defence fires, cueing immediate responses from near-space orbiting "guns." Drones track processed inhabitants who have been "read" as potentially hostile and "tagged." Any suspect concentrations draw immediate intervention. Non-lethal weapons control crowds and manage POWs. Operations continue 24 hours a day until the city is cleared of hostiles. When the environment is deemed acceptably safe, United Nations peacekeepers arrive to conduct the long-term operations necessary to restore or create an acceptable government and civil functions. US intelligence and electronic support continues, but US troops return to the United States or to forward bases to prepare for subsequent expeditionary actions.

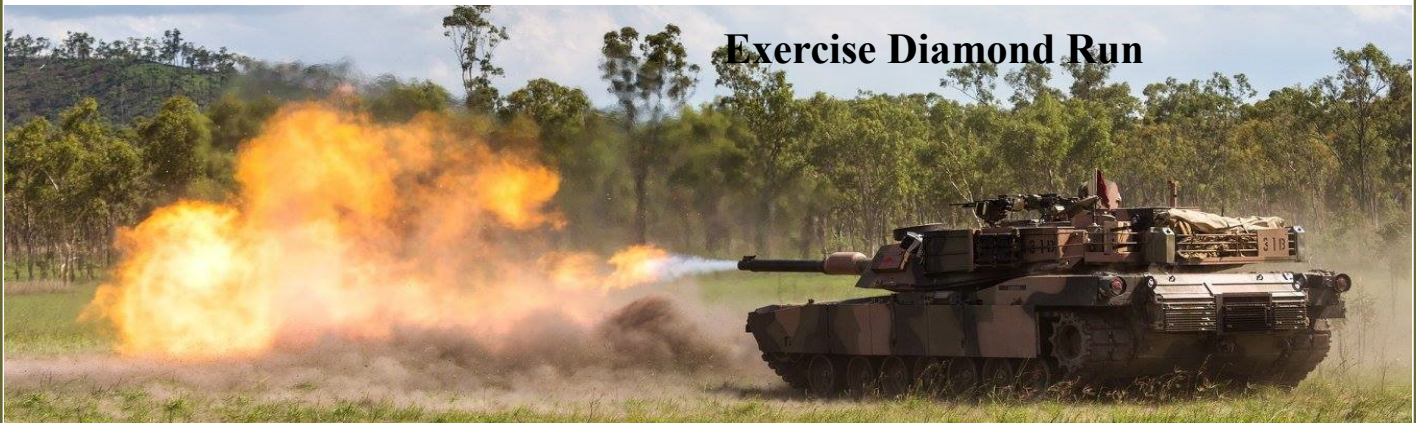
Many of the hypotheses contained in this essay will never be realized--not because they are too far-fetched, but because they will prove inadequately imaginative. We will develop far more appropriate, incisive, and interesting solutions than those offered here. Yet, even if every avenue of development here proposed is wrongheaded, the urban operations challenge is real, immediate, and growing. We will fight in cities. Even when we are not fighting, we will operate in urban areas and in complex terrain on a variety of missions.

What guidelines will help us to accomplish those missions successfully? In future urban operations, whether in 1997 or 2027, what should the US military strive for?

The physical contours of warfare have changed dramatically in our time, and they will continue to evolve. Thinking about the problem is a first step. The next step is to begin to prepare our remarkable military for reality.

From Parameters, Autumn 1997

Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Peters is assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, where he is responsible for future warfare. He has published widely on military and international concerns. His sixth novel, Twilight of Heroes, was recently released by Avon Books. This is his ninth article for Parameters.



NEW tanks acquired by the Australian Army have been tested out using Central Queensland's military training area. 7th Brigade used its newly acquired M1A1 Abrams Tanks during an exercise for the first time marking the realisation of the Australian Army's Plan Beersheba.

Exercise Diamond Run involved five M1A1 Abram Main Battle Tanks conducting both live-fire and dry combined arms training at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. Commander 7th Brigade Brigadier Anthony Rawlins said while the Brigade had operated with tanks in the past, they've never been part of the Brigade's normal inventory. "Tanks provide the firepower, protection and communications enabling the Combat Brigade to be heavy hitting on the battlefield, so it's very exciting," Brigadier Rawlins said. "It also reaffirms the capability of Army to maintain the heavy combat power of a Beersheba Brigade in a suburban base in Enoggera"

More tanks will join 7 Bde next year.

7th Brigade is a multi-role combat brigade of the Australian Army and consists of the following units.

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)
1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery
2nd Combat Engineer Regiment
7th Combat Signal Regiment
6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment
7th Combat Service Support Battalion

The 7th Brigade was first raised in 1915 as part of the First Australian Imperial Force and saw action at Gallipoli and on the Western Front during World War I. Following the end of the war the brigade was disbanded before being re-raised in 1921 as part of the Citizens Force (later known as the Militia).

During World War II the brigade took part in the fighting against the Japanese in New Guinea and on Bougainville.

Today, the 7th Brigade is part of the 1st Division and is based in Brisbane, Queensland. While 7th Brigade has not deployed as a whole unit since World War II, component units have deployed on operations to Timor-Leste (East Timor), Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Source: Army News November 30, 2017

The Bulletin November 5, 2017

www.army.gov.au

COLIN HARRINGTON MCLEOD (1893 -1962) CROIX DE GUERRE 1ST LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT

Colin McLeod was a complete horseman whose expertise gained him renown and recognition both nationally and internationally, in all areas of equestrian endeavour. In the Sporting, Working, and Military fields his excellence was rewarded. This horseman was equally competent when driving the horse in harness, mastering the untamed horse, riding the spirited polo pony, educating the trick horse, or riding in the cavalry charge.



Colin McLeod was born in Sydney in the colony of New South Wales in 1893. His first occupation was as an apprentice jeweller with Angus and Coote in George Street, Sydney, but the open-air life appealed to him more so he "went bush" to work in the horse and cattle runs of outback New South Wales.

In 1915 after the outbreak of the First World War, he enlisted and joined the First Light Horse Regiment of the Australian Imperial Forces. He was posted overseas and joined the Western Front Forces in Egypt in January 1916. He saw service in the desert at Abbassi, Montazah, Ascar, Gaza, Kantara and Boulac and was engaged in battle zones until the conclusion of war in 1918. In one such engagement at Romani he suffered a bullet wound to his right forearm and was hospitalised at Montazah.

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in November 1918. He was mentioned in Dispatches and was decorated with the Croix De Guerre in

recognition of his distinguished service during the campaign.

Upon his return to Australia his physical condition required him to go west to a drier climate. Accordingly he travelled to Western Queensland where he broke in horses in the Windorah area, including Galway Downs.

In the early 1920's Colin returned to the coast and settled in the Tweed River Valley, N.S.W. where he was self-employed transporting cream from dairy farms in the area to the Murwillumbah factory. His carrying vehicle was a covered wagon drawn by horses driven five-in-hand, which was quite a feat considering the steep and winding mountainous tracks he was required to traverse.

During his years in the Tweed River Valley Colin's horse riding feats became legendary. One Murwillumbah paper reported, "Squizzy Taylor, an outlaw who feeds on the hills of Bilambil had never before met such a rider and McLeod's tenacity only urged him to greater efforts. Even the ring fence failed to stop him, he bucked clean over it, but McLeod was still on him when the other side was reached. This was enough for Squizzy who caved in meekly. The Judges, Stewards, and others assembled gave three rousing cheers for the plucky horseman."

Another newspaper report quoted Lance Skuthorpe as describing Colin McLeod as Australia's Best Buckjump Rider.

Colin subsequently started his own buckjumping show and travelled the Northern Rivers of NSW and SE Queensland, where he and his companions Billy Fitzgerald, Jack Morrissey and Queensland Jackie entertained audiences with displays of riding bucking horses and bullocks, whip-cracking, rope-spinning and rifle-shooting.

In competition Colin went on to win over fifty champion and first prizes including Australian and Queensland Championships. He was the only man who ever succeeded in riding the famous Warwick Outlaw Nickerbockerbuckeroo. He did so on two occasions, riding the horse to a standstill. It was on one of these occasions in 1930, at the famous Warwick Rodea, that he was successful in winning the prestigious Australian Champion Buckjump Rider award. He was presented with a sash and the coveted silver cup.

Colin replaced his roughriding days with a riding school conducted at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, where he had twenty quiet riding hacks available for his clients.

In 1934 Colin went as a horse-master accompanying a boatload or re-mount horses and polo ponies from Brisbane via Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth to their destination at Calcutta, India. At this point his consignment of horses were taken from the ship and loaded on a train he accompanied to Udaipur which is on the western side of the country. He remained as a guest of the Maharana in the Marble Palace on the man-made lake at Udaipur, whilst he broke-in and trained horses. He returned to Australia in 1935.

He then continued with his riding school at Brisbane and later this was relocated to Southport, until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 when he re-enlisted in the army.

Throughout the war years he performed valuable service as an organiser and officer of the First Auxiliary Horse Transport Company, which operated horse-drawn flat top wagons carrying goods from the Brisbane wharves and transporting them to the

various Military Establishments in the metropolitan area. This was carried on during the height of the war in the Pacific when motor vehicles and fuel were very scarce.

In February 1942 Colin, then a Lieutenant of the First Garrison Battalion, was commended by Colonel A.L.P. Johnson, for quick and efficient action in respect of a fire in the Ammunition and Supply dump at Hedley Park, Brisbane.



Also during the war years Colin found time to write his recollections of having been a stockman and a Light Horse soldier. The manuscript was submitted to Smith's Weekly, a well known and well read publication of the time. They printed it under the title 'Night Horse'.

After the termination of hostilities Colin continued on with his riding school at Stevens Street, Southport, where his wife Linda and their family of two boys and three girls resided.

In 1947 with his second son Ranald, Colin travelled in his 1926 Armstrong Siddley utility to stations at Tambo, Augathella and Charleville breaking in mobs of horses which had accumulated during the war years. Machinery replaced horses and Colin returned to the coast where he was self-employed in a variety of occupations generally connected with horses.

In later years he resided on a small property at Greenbank near Brisbane where he enjoyed his horses as a hobby. In 1962 he took ill and was

hospitalised with a terminal illness. He passed away on 30th December 1962.

Colin McLeod stood 5'10" tall. He weighed about eleven stone, had brown wavy hair and hazel eyes. He was a well-built, good-looking man with very strong arms. In 1936, as I walked home from school, my father came along riding a big grey horse. He leaned down and lifted me from the ground. He placed me on a small hessian bag containing a set of horseshoes tied to the pommel of the saddle. I thought the muscles of his forearms, which I gripped tightly with my fingers, were much harder than the iron shoes upon which I sat.

In 1988 I nominated my father for inclusion in the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and his name was placed on the Honour Roll of Unsung Heroes, Certificate No 61.

Reprinted from <http://www.lighthorse.org.au/personal-histories/personal-histories-boer-war-ww1-1/personal-histories-colin-harrington-mcleod>

Lost Souls

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

If nothing is heard within three (3) months regarding these listings the names will be removed from the RAACA membership list.

Members Name	Last Address
Mr NH Nigel Cardow	PO Box 189 GRAFTON NSW 2460
Sir T Thomas Chiltern North	5/627 Toorak Road TOORAK Vic 3142
LtCol S Agnew	97 Hawkesbury Crescent FARRER ACT 2607
Mrs N Norma Gilbert	Unit 50, Gillin Park, 45 Mahoneys Road WARRNAMBOOL VIC 3280
Mrs ME Moya Britten	20 Rivett St. HACKETT ACT 2602
Mr JT Ragen	3 Pinnacle Street SADLEIR NSW 2168
Mr CJ Rodey	85 Becker Road FORSTER NSW 2428
Cpl LV Flood	"Murrilga" GOOLGOWINSW 2652
Mr CM Craig Anderson	11 Nunns Ave ORANGE NSW 2800

The Veteran web Network providing information to Australian veterans, ex-service and service personnel. Reaching more than 12,400 readers daily and growing.

All service and ex-service personnel can subscribe to the Veteran web Network cost free. Information is provided via email from various reliable sources. Veteran web is an information service, while is not a forum you are welcome to contribute.

Some interesting statistics of veterans by electorate can be found at:

http://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/publications/datastatistical/fedprofile/Electorates_Mar2016.pdf

Lest we Forget

We regret to advise the passing of the following members

LtCol	WJ	Bill	Parker	1 AR 10LH 2/3Cav
Mr	D	Don	Weedon	1AR, 4/19 PWLH,
Mr	LJ	Leslie	Brown	Orange Sub Branch
Mr.	N		Bice	HQ 4 Armd Bde
Sir		Thomas Chiltern	North	
Mr.	AF	Allan	Rowe	2/4AAR
Mr.	GY	George	Borrowman	2/7 AR
Mr	A	Adrian	May	3/9 SAMR
Mr	KA	Kenneth	Bowman	Orange Sub Branch
COL	BR	Bern	Sullivan	1AR,1/15th RNSWL,12/16th HRL,4/19 POW, Armd Centre



HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Mr. Don Mountain 20 NST Bn, POWLH

Mr. Christopher R White

Mr. Scott E. Warr 2Cav Regt, 2/14LH (QMI)

Vale

Bryan (MICK) Algie

It is with great sadness I report the passing of our friend and colleague Bryan (Mick) Algie. He was found dead in his home by family members, Tuesday 6 February. Mick's wife, Veronica having passed away on 24 October 2017, only a few months ago.



Mick served as a vehicle crewman with the Regiment in the 1950s and 1960s rising to the rank of staff sergeant and serving as a squadron quartermaster sergeant.

Mick regularly marched on ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day, and always attended our Regimental reunions. The last time most of us saw him was at the reunion, 4 November 2017.

The photo shows Mick at the reunion.

John Howells
Hon Secretary
Royal New South Wales Lancers Association

Vale

Vale John Creswick

It is with sadness that I report the passing of John Creswick at his Coffs Harbour home, 29 March 2018. John left the Regiment in 1965, had been unwell for some time.

John was a Centurion crewman in the Regiment, his family know little of his Army service. So if you served with him and have a memory of his service worthy of inclusion, please call John's daughter, Erica Scott, 042 374 361 and pass it on.

John Howells
Hon Secretary
Royal New South Wales Lancers Association

Vale

Merv Cummings

Sad news again, courtesy Dave Wood of the Castle Hill RSL Sub Branch, I have found out that WW2 Veteran and post war member of the Lancers Staff Sergeant Merv Cummings passed away.

Merv had been a long serving member of the Regiment and also a long serving Director Castle Hill RSL Club, was aged approximately 95.

John Howells
Hon Secretary
Royal New South Wales Lancers Association

Coral & Balmoral—50 Years On

The Battle of Coral–Balmoral (12 May– 6 June 1968) was a series of actions fought during the Vietnam War between the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) and the North Vietnamese 7th Division and Viet Cong Main Force units, 40 kilometres north-east of Saigon. Following the defeat of the communist Tet offensive in January and February, in late April two Australian infantry battalions—the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment (RAR)—with supporting arms, were again deployed from their base at Nui Dat in Phuoc Tuy Province to positions astride infiltration routes leading to Saigon to interdict renewed movement against the capital. Part of the wider allied Operation Toan Thang I, it was launched in response to intelligence reports of another impending communist offensive, yet the Australians experienced little fighting during this period. Meanwhile, the Viet Cong successfully penetrated the capital on 5 May, plunging Saigon into chaos during the May Offensive in an attempt to influence the upcoming Paris peace talks scheduled to begin on the 13th. During three days of intense fighting the attacks were repelled by US and South Vietnamese forces, and although another attack was launched by the Viet Cong several days later, the offensive was again defeated with significant losses on both sides, causing extensive damage to Saigon and many civilian casualties. By 12 May the fighting was over, and the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were forced to withdraw having suffered heavy casualties. US casualties were also heavy and it proved to be their most costly week of the war.



General Westmoreland, Commander, US Military Assistance Command Vietnam, speaking to members of 1 Troop, C Squadron, 1st Ar-

1 ATF was redeployed on 12 May to obstruct the withdrawal of forces from the capital, with two battalions establishing a fire support base named FSB Coral, just east of Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province, in an area of operations known as AO Surfers. However, poor reconnaissance and inadequate operational planning led to delays and confusion during the fly-in, and the Australians had only partially completed FSB Coral by the evening. The North Vietnamese mounted a number of battalion-sized assaults on the night of 12/13 May, with a heavy bombardment from 0330h signalling the start. Exploiting the disorganised defence to penetrate the Australian perimeter, the North Vietnamese 141st Regiment temporarily captured a forward gun position during close-quarters fighting, before being repulsed by superior firepower the following morning. Casualties were heavy on both sides but the Australians had won a convincing victory. The following day 1 RAR was deployed to defend FSB Coral, while 3 RAR established FSB Coogee to the west to ambush staging areas and infiltration routes.

Coral was again assaulted in the early hours of 16 May, coming under a heavy barrage followed by another regimental-sized attack. Again the base was penetrated but after a six-hour battle the North Vietnamese were forced to withdraw after suffering heavy losses. Expecting further fighting, the Australians were subsequently reinforced with Centurion tanks and additional artillery.



Australian centurion tanks move into to support soldiers in the Battle of Coral Balmoral.

On 22 May, FSB Coral was again attacked overnight, coming under a short but accurate mortar bombardment which was broken up by Australian artillery and mortars.

The Australians then moved against the communist base areas east of Route 16, with 3 RAR redeploying to establish FSB Balmoral on 24 May, 4.5 kilometres to the north. Now supported by tanks which had arrived from Coral just hours before, the infantry at Balmoral were subjected to a two-battalion attack by the North Vietnamese 165th Regiment. Following a rocket and mortar barrage at 03:45 on 26 May, the attack fell primarily on D Company before being repelled with heavy casualties by the combined firepower of the tanks and infantry. The next day the Australians at Coral assaulted a number of bunkers that had been located just outside the base, with a troop of Centurions supported by infantry destroying the bunkers and their occupants.



FSB Coral - 1968
Photo courtesy Fred Bowden

without loss to themselves. A second major North Vietnamese attack, again of regimental strength, was made against Balmoral at 02:30 on 28 May but was called off after 30 minutes after being soundly defeated by the supporting fire of the tanks, artillery and mortars. Regardless, the battle continued into June as the Australians patrolled their area of operations. However, with contacts decreasing, 1 ATF returned to Nui Dat on 6 June, being relieved by US and South Vietnamese forces. The battle was the first time the Australians had clashed with regular North Vietnamese Army units operating in regimental strength in

conventional warfare.

During 26 days of fighting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong sustained heavy losses and were forced to postpone a further attack on Saigon, while 1 ATF also suffered significant casualties. The largest unit-level action of the war for the Australians, today the battle is considered one of the most famous actions fought by the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

Source: *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*
www.army.gov.au

DFRDB UPDATE – APRIL 2018

LOWER HOUSE PETITION PN0063

On 5 February 2018, Minister Tehan's response to our Lower House Petition was posted in Hansard. Also posted was an accompanying background paper from the Department of Defence. You can view the Hansard entries if you Google "Lower House Petitions" and then enter PN0063. Alternatively, you can view our commented versions of the Minister's Response and Background Paper by following the links.

Again, it is the same old 'cut and pasted' response from the Department of Defence, one of the chief architects of our benefit reductions. A case of the perpetrator investigating and responding to the victim's complaint. We have been advised that once the Minister has responded to a petition there is no avenue of appeal.

UPPER HOUSE PETITION

Parliamentary procedure dictates that the Senate Petition could not be tabled until the Lower House Petition response was posted in Hansard. Jacqui Lambie was to table the Senate Petition. Unfortunately, since she lost her Senate seat, the petition has gone missing. Whether it is found or not, our experience with the Lower House Petition suggests it may well be an exercise in futility.

AN UPDATED EXPRESSION OF OUR CONCERNS

Herb has converted the submission, we put to the Minister's advisor and Department of Defence representatives in February last year, into a 30 minute pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation. He has altered the focus of our arguments and included more evidence.

This presentation is as much a tool for prosecuting our case as it is to demonstrate, to those of you who don't yet realize, the extent to which you are being ripped off. You can view the Presentation by following the link.

PRESENTATION TO ADSO

On 8 March, Kel Ryan, the new National President of the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), invited us to present to the Alliance of Defence Service Organizations (ADSO), at the Ex Service Organizations Round Table (ESORT) pre-meeting in Canberra. ESORT has direct access to the Minister on a periodic basis.

After our briefing, ADSO agreed that our DFRDB proposal should be supported. This support will be translated into ADSOs policy proposal in the lead up to the next election.

Another outcome was the promise of an invitation to present to the Annual National RSL Conference. We have many

followers who are members of Sub Branches and we ask that you do all you can to get State/National offices to get DFRDB high up on their agendas.

PRESENTATION TO AMANDA RISHWORTH MP

On March 28, we again travelled to Canberra to present our case to Amanda Rishworth (Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel), who gave us a good hearing, albeit within a limited time frame.

She was acquainted with the broader issue, but not so much the detail. She did not dispute the evidence in the presentation but asked 'where would the money come from?' To which we replied, the 'Future Fund'. She undertook to 'crunch some numbers' on costs but whether our presentation will produce a change in Labor's policy at the next election, it is yet to be seen.

When we mentioned that we may ultimately have to go to the High Court, she suggested that would be a good strategy, because if the Court found in our favour, the Government would have no option but to find the money.

PRESENTATION TO CATHY MCGOWAN AO MP

On 6 April we again met with our local Member, Cathy McGowan, who did not give us sufficient time to complete the presentation. After having forwarded our concerns to the Minister's office and our Lower House Petition to the Petitions Committee last year, she told us she had done all she could do. We have already expressed our disappointment. Follow the link to view the email to Cathy McGowan. Those of you who reside in the electorate of Indi should contact Cathy and do likewise. Those in other electorates, please make sure you keep DFRDB on your parliamentary representatives' radar. You can use the link to the presentation in your correspondence.

APPROACH TO THE DEFENCE OMBUDSMAN

Recently, Kel Ryan discussed our concerns in a meeting with the Defence Ombudsman and informed us they showed an interest in looking at our case. So we forwarded the presentation to determine if it falls within the Defence Ombudsman's jurisdiction and if so, the process for lodging a formal complaint.

After viewing the presentation, the Defence Ombudsman lodged a formal complaint on our behalf.

MEETING WITH MINISTER DARREN CHESTER

We have been seeking a meeting with the new Minister since the beginning of March and are still waiting for an appointment, which will be unlikely before his trip overseas for ANZAC Day.

APPROACH TO THE MEDIA

We have forwarded the presentation to a number of leading investigative journalists for Fairfax, NewsCorp and the Australian, as well as Paul Murray (Sky News), with a view to getting some public exposure.

THE FUTURE

The DFRDB scheme still has some 50 years to run until the last recipient dies, so it is imperative that we do not give up this fight.

We have always considered an appeal to the High Court to be a last resort but may have to look at it sooner. We have yet to seek a legal opinion but believe we have a sound case based on facts and actual case studies. The response from the Defence Ombudsman should give us more insight.

Our challenge however, would be to raise the necessary funding. So far, we have met all costs associated with this fight, but we will have to develop a strategy for raising the necessary funding for a High Court challenge. Plenty of publicity and some major sponsorship would be essential.

Jim and Herb