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The battle of Long Tan wasn't the biggest battle the army fought in South Vietnam nor was it the longest and it didn't incur the largest number of casualties.

That dubious honour goes to the battle of Coral-Balmoral but Long Tan while only four hours in duration was the costliest single contact for the Australian Forces during the war.

The battle severely weakened the enemy in Phuoc Tuy province and they never again posed a significant threat to the Australian Task force in Nui Dat



Much of the battle was fought in a blinding monsoonal thunderstorm and took place over an area no bigger than two football fields. Meanwhile, just 5 km away in Nui Dat, Sydney entertainers Col Joye and the Joy Boys with 17-year-old singer Little Pattie, were putting on a concert for the troops. The noise of the battle could be heard during the concert.

One unit that played a curial role was 1 APC Squadron whose involvement in Long Tan came at a key moment in the battle.

The unit's first task was to transport A Company to the area to relieve D Company which was holding out against desperate odds. This task went to 3 Troop supported by a section from 2 Troop, under the overall command of LT Adrian Roberts, comprising of 10 APCs.

The 2 Troop carriers had not been fitted with gun shields for the crew commanders at this stage.

After collecting A Company from their lines, the column set off across country in the pouring rain at 1800hrs. The troop forded a flooded creek and shook out into assault formation astride the plantation road.

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Coming Events



16 November 2016	RAACA AGM	TBA
19 November 2016	Cambrai Dinner	Royal Automobile Club

“The Kelly Gang” Horsed Cavalry Formation of 6 Aust Div Cav Fought in Syria- June & July 1941



On 22 June, Berryman, who commanded the 6th Division's artillery in Syria, ordered the formation of a troop of horsed cavalry from 32 good cavalry horses captured from the Vichy French at Rachaya to patrol the rugged hills mountains of Syria which were not suited to mechanized cavalry operations

Lt Burt, who two days before had assumed command of C Sqn 6th Australian Division Cavalry formed a troop of 18 men and at midnight led the troop to Bmerriq in order that the advancing infantry would be covered on the right. This group became known as “The Kelly Gang”

Lt Burt handed over the troop over to Millard who expanded the force to a strength of nearly 70, the bulk of its strength from C Sqn, but there were within its ranks men from B Sq and HQ Sqn. Startling changes in accustomed duties took place. Sergeant W.D. Esler, the Regimental Sergeant Cook, became Troop Sergeant. Sergeant J.A. Wood, a mechanic, became a Sergeant Farrier, while Trooper A. Bell, a gunner-operator, acted as veterinary surgeon.

This band of irregular horse was organized into four fighting sections each under an N.C.O. plus a headquarters section and troop headquarters.

From 23 June until 3 July, when it moved to join the coastal operation, the “Kelly Gang”, which was armed with rifles and Brens and accompanied by pack horses, ranged through the hills around the villages of Bmeriq, Mazraat Islamiye, Kafr Cheba and Kafr Hamme which lay in a vertical crescent to the east of Khiam. The country was so rough that mounts frequently had to be left with horse holders while patrols were continued on foot.

The “Kelly Gang” was disbanded on 14 July 1941 and was the only Australian horsed cavalry formation to operate in action during WW II.

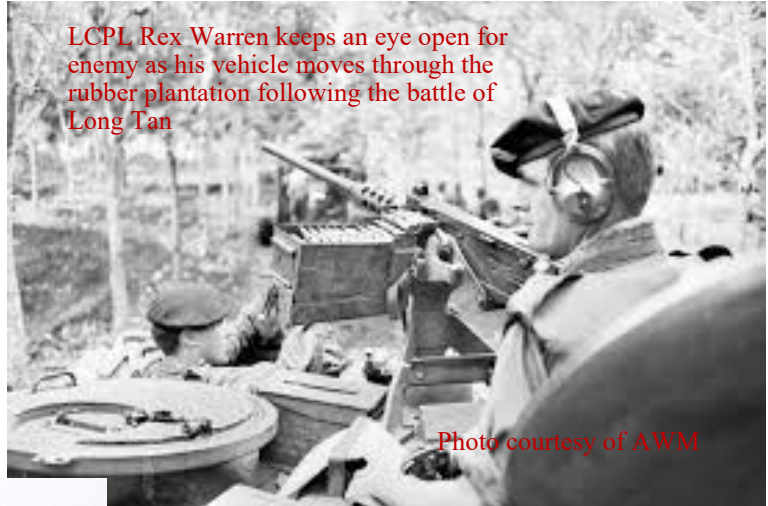
Reference: 6th Div Cav Cdo Regt History p157-161, 172-3

The move took just over an hour as the column had to fight it way through pockets of enemy and brave the heavy defence artillery barrage being put down around D Company.

On the left hand side of the road, between the rubber plantation and Suoi Da Bang creek, the section being lead by SGT Joe O'Reilly, call sign 23, was receiving continued heavy enemy small arms fire.

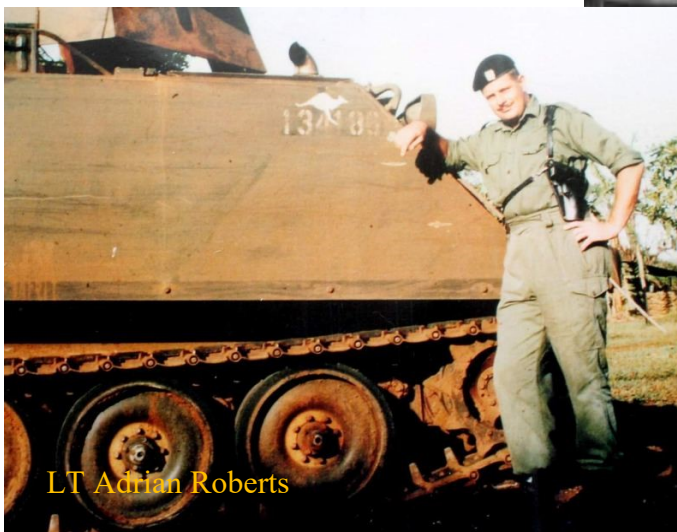
SGT O'Reilly, whose section was on loan from 2 Troop, was knocked out when his head was grazed by a Viet Cong small arms round.

Further out on the left hand side of O'Reilly's section, CPL Peter Clements on board 23B with no protective gun shield, had been seriously wounded when he was shot in the stomach and fell down inside his carrier.



LCPL Rex Warren keeps an eye open for enemy as his vehicle moves through the rubber plantation following the battle of Long Tan

Photo courtesy of AWM



LT Adrian Roberts

His driver drove the APC over the enemy machine gun crew that had wounded his crew commander.

CPL John Carter on board call sign 39M, fitted out as an ambulance but without the red cross, which was also on the right hand side of the troops formation, spotted men in what appeared to be green uniforms.

Aware that they might be D Company, he hesitated but immediately came under fire from a 57mm recoilless rifle (RCL) team.

Both radio antennas on 39M were shot away after two rounds from the RCL team. Despite this CPL Carter opened fire with his 50 calibre machine gun, which then jammed.

CPL Carter ordered his driver TPR Paul McNamara to stop the vehicle while he climbed out of the crew commanders hatch with TPR McNamara's Owen gun. With no thought to his own safety he engaged the enemy, killing the RCL team just as another round was fired at his carrier.



Returning to Nui Dat after the battle at Long Tan

The round exploded, dazing TPR McNamara and the A company diggers inside the carrier. CPL Carter continued to engage the enemy while TPR McNamara through additional magazines to him, enabling him to kill a further five enemy.

His action effectively drew attention away from the other members of the troop, who continued to advance to the north, reaching D Company by 1900hrs.

On arrival 3 Troop advance through D companies position, carrying out a quick sweep of the area through which the attacking enemy were forming up for another attack, catching them on their flanks and inflicting heavy casualties.

On seeing the APCs arrive the enemy broke off their attack and the survivors melted away back into the jungle leaving the Australians in possession of the battlefield.

CPL Carter received the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions in neutralising the enemy anti-tank weapon, While LT Adrian Roberts received a Mention in Despatches for his leadership of the troop.

CPL Clements died on August 27 after succumbing to the serious gunshot wound he received during the battle.

The information in the above article has largely been sourced from the Army Newspaper, August 25th 2016 edition, from their special 12 page lift out entitled "Honouring Their Sacrifice".

Late breaking news - 10 August 2016

Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan will recommend 10 soldiers who fought in the Battle of Long Tan be awarded a military honour or have their existing honour upgraded.

Mr Tehan today said he would recommend to the Governor-General that each recommendation from the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal's review into the actions of 13 individual soldiers during the battle be approved.

The Battle of Long Tan took place on 18 August 1966. It was the most costly single battle fought by Australian soldiers in the Vietnam War, involving 105 Australians and three New Zealanders from D Company 6RAR and more than 2,000 enemy troops. A total of 17 Australians were killed in action and 25 were wounded, one of whom later died from his wounds.

D Company were greatly assisted by an ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from New Zealand's 161 Field Battery, together with additional artillery support from the Australian task force base at Nui Dat and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell.

The Tribunal recommended Medals of Gallantry for Lieutenant Adrian Roberts, Sergeant Frank Alcorta and Lance Corporal Barry Magnussen (deceased) and Commendations for Gallantry for Second Lieutenant Gordon Sharp (deceased), and Privates Neil Bextrum, Ron Brett (deceased), Ian Campbell, William Roche, Geoffrey Peters and Noel Grimes.

The Tribunal did not recommend a Victoria Cross for the late Warrant Officer Class 2 Jack Kirby (deceased).

The Tribunal found the Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded to WO2 Kirby in 1966 was, "the appropriate award to recognise [his] distinguished conduct and leadership in the field during the Battle."

For Corporal William Moore (deceased) and Private Allen May, the Tribunal recommended the Chief of Army's original decision to not award an honour be affirmed.

Mr Tehan paid tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith (Retd) who was commanding officer of D Company 6RAR on the day and who made the application for the review in 2015.

"The independent Tribunal was tasked with investigating the actions of 13 Australians during the Battle of Long Tan and to make a recommendation about awarding military honours," Mr Tehan said.

"I thank the Tribunal members for their thorough research and considered recommendations, awarding military honours is not something that is done lightly.

"It will be a great honour to write to the Governor-General and ask him to endorse the Tribunal's recommendations in full.

"The gallant actions of those who fought in the Battle of Long Tan are among the stories of the 60,000 Australians whose service and sacrifice we will commemorate this year on Vietnam Veterans' Day, which is also the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan."

The Tribunal's full decision will be published online at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Regards

AW Hine
LTCOL
Secretary, RAACA NSW
Building 11
Victoria Barracks PADDINGTON NSW

HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

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

Technical Notes & News

Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicle, Australia



The Bushmaster armoured vehicle, developed by Thales Australia (formerly ADI) in Australia is in full production at Thales's protected mobility systems manufacturing facility at Bendigo, Victoria.

The Australian Army has tested the vehicle over thousands of kilometres in the extreme climatic conditions and terrain from sub-zero mountain areas to desert and tropical conditions in north Australia.

In July 2002, the Australian Army awarded a contract to ADI for 300 Bushmaster infantry mobility vehicles in six variants: troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer and command.

With a road cruise speed of 100km/h, the Bushmaster

transports troops, quickly and comfortably and is suitable for deployment in complex, diffuse and lethal operational environments such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Bushmaster family of vehicles provides high-level protection against anti-tank mines, improvised explosive devices, mortar fragments and small arms fire.

Bushmaster orders and deliveries

The first of 300 Bushmaster vehicles was delivered to the Australian Army in August 2004 and the vehicle was operationally deployed to Iraq in April 2005 and Afghanistan in September 2005. Deliveries completed in 2008.

In February 2006, ADI signed a licensing agreement with US-based Oshkosh Truck Corporation to market, manufacture and support the Bushmaster for North American customers and countries eligible for foreign military sales. In January 2007, Oshkosh was awarded a contract by the US Marine Corps for two category II mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles based on the Bushmaster. The Bushmaster variant was withdrawn from the MRAP competition in August 2007.

In August 2006, the Royal Netherlands Army placed a contract for 25 Bushmaster vehicles, for operations in Afghanistan. For speed of deployment, the vehicles were supplied from those being built for the Australian Army. In August 2009, Netherlands placed an order for 14 Bushmasters, bringing total vehicle orders to 86.

In December 2006, the Australian Army ordered a further 143 vehicles. In August 2007, the procurement of another 250 vehicles was announced by the Australian Army and a further 293 vehicles were ordered in October 2008. Total procurement for Australia is 737 vehicles. The Australian Defence Force placed an order for 101 Bushmasters in May 2011. A further order for 214 vehicles was announced in July 2012.

In May 2008, under an urgent operational requirement, the UK placed an order for 24 Bushmaster vehicles for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 1,000th Bushmaster vehicle was delivered to the Australian Defence Force in June 2013.

In December 2013, the Jamaica Defence Force placed an order for 12 Bushmaster vehicles and a five-year support package. The vehicles were commissioned into service in January 2016.

The Japanese Ministry of Defence placed an order for four Bushmaster vehicles for its Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) in April 2014. The deliveries were completed in March 2015.

In June 2015, Netherlands ordered for 12 new Bushmaster vehicles. The deliveries are scheduled to conclude by mid-2016.

Bushmaster remote weapons station

Some of the vehicles are fitted with a remote-controlled weapon system, and all vehicles have the Thales SOTAS M2 multimedia communication system. The vehicles were deployed to Afghanistan in October 2006. In November 2007, the Netherlands Army ordered an additional five vehicles to replace vehicles damaged in Afghanistan. 13 were ordered in June 2008, 18 in August 2008, nine in January 2009 and 14 in June 2009.

In September 2006, it was announced that Australian Army Bushmaster vehicles would be fitted with a remote weapon station (RWS), for added troop protection. A total of 44 Raven R-400 weapon stations from US-based Recon Optical, and electro-optic systems (EOS) from Australia, have been ordered and upgraded vehicles are to enter service in 2008.

Tactical armoured patrol vehicle (TAPV) programme

In June 2010, Thales Canada signed a teaming agreement with DEW Engineering and Development to offer its Bushmaster for Canada's tactical armoured patrol vehicle (TAPV) programme. Thales has been shortlisted in the pre-qualified bidders list, but the final contract was awarded to Textron Systems Canada.

In February 2010, the Bushmaster single-cab utility variant was selected by the Australian Department of Defence for its LAND 121 phase three programme.

Bushmaster crew cabin

Bushmaster is designed to transport up to ten troops. The cabin, with a 1,415mm headroom, is fitted with eight face-to-face ergonomically designed seats with full four-point harness seat belts. There is a personal weapons storage area, mission equipment storage, a radio suite intercom and a split air-conditioning system to each occupant seat position.

The cabin is fitted with three roof hatches with locking handles to provide protection against ambush and an alternative escape route. The vehicle is transportable in C-130 Hercules aircraft for rapid deployment in forward areas of operation.

In June 2008, Thales launched a single-cab utility variant, the Bushmaster single cab armoured combat support vehicle. This variant can carry 4,000kg load on its rear tray, and has a cruising speed of 100km/h and maximum range of 800km.

In 2009, an additional variant was added to the range, which includes a dual cab that has been down selected for the UK MoD's operational utility vehicle systems (OUVS) requirement.

The Bushmaster family of vehicles is available in a range of variants, including troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer and command for application in combat and combat support roles. It is capable of sharing a high level of commonality, reducing the training and logistics footprint.

Driver's cabin

The driver and crew cabin areas are ergonomically designed for comfortable travel in varied terrain and harsh environments, minimising crew fatigue and allowing the crew to rest or concentrate on the mission. The engine noise level inside the cabin and crew compartment is very low.

The cabin is fitted with a large windscreen and side windows for all-round visibility. The dashboard is ergonomically arranged, with easily readable and night-vision goggle compatible cockpit instrumentation.

The driver can use the push-button control central tyre inflation system to adjust the tyre pressure while on the move to suit the terrain type and keep the tyres inflated with limited punctures.

Bushmaster weapons

The forward central roof hatch can be equipped with a weapon mount for a 5.56mm or 12.7mm machine gun. A light cannon can also be fitted. The ballistically protected windows can be fitted with optional shooting ports.

Lockers can be replaced with additional ammunition and arms or fuel and water tanks to extend the operational radius. The crew seating can be reconfigured to accommodate operational requirements.

Propulsion

The Bushmaster engine, a Caterpillar 3126E ATAAC turbocharged six-cylinder, produces up to 224kW (300hp) at 2,400rpm. It provides a power to weight ratio of 16kW/t, governed maximum cruise speed of 100km/h. The vehicle has a range of more than 800km.

A double wishbone independent suspension system designed by Timoney in County Meath, Ireland provides good cross-country mobility across difficult terrains. The complete powerpack, (engine, automatic transmission, cooling system) can be easily replaced in the field without special tools.

Self-protection

The armour-protected monocoque protects against the blast of claymore, anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, mortars, improvised explosive devices and has a range of ballistic protection kits. The shaped hull deflects the blast.

Wire cutters are installed on the roof on both sides of the vehicle to protect soldiers exposed above the roofline. The fuel and hydraulic tanks are located outside the crew compartments to minimise fire risk.

A 270L drinking-water tank is installed under the floor of the crew compartment, contributing to crew safety in the event of a landmine explosion. The armour protected seating provides additional protection against spinal injuries.

Message Board

From: Ron Baikie [mailto:baikieron@yahoo.com]

This might be of interest to some of the troops.

I was last treated for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL) in 2003 out of St George Hospital in Sydney. As NHL is an Agent Orange presumptive disease, I was TPI'd at that time. I received CHOP Chemo every two weeks for 6 months. The common treatment now is RCHOP. The "R" is Rituximab which is a new very effective component. As I've already had the CHOP back in 2003, I can't be treated with that again. I have to go through 4 x weekly treatments of Rituximab after which I can return to AC and come back every 2 months for 8 months for one treatment each time.

DVA have been great. They flicked me the air-fare and paid all charges from Raffles Hospital. Raffles is now billing them direct. I just emailed Julie Cripps this morning to see whether they'll provide any assistance for the accommodation. It's expensive, I'm in a mid-range serviced apartment which is \$200 a night.

Raffles Hospital is first class. My oncologist is Dr Daryl Tan. Had the NHL been a highly aggressive type, an option would have been stem cell treatment. Apparently there is a waiting list for this in OZ and people are travelling to Raffles to have it done.

I hope this is of interest.
Cheers

From: B & J Cameron [mailto:cameronshome@bigpond.com]
Subject: WO2 Tom Phillips

Thought the following might be of interest to members

The late WO2 Tom Phillips, previously buried at Terendak, was reinterred in the Military Section, Woden Cemetery, Canberra at 11am on Mon 6 June. 2016.

WO2 Phillips was the first member of the RAAC to be killed in Vietnam. He died of his wounds on 20 March 1966 after being shot in a contact near Da Nang while attached to 433 RF Coy, ARVN (as a member of AATTV).

From Head of Corps Cell, Puckapunyal:

Greg Hooper, WO1 Peter Swinfield RSM RAAC and other RAAC members were in attendance for the reinterment of WO2 Phillips in CBR and the Tpr Holland at Mulwala the next Day. SOARM is providing the appropriate guards."

Best wishes, Bruce

29 Jun 2016 1 Tp A Sqn 4/19 PWLH /1 APC Tp 1 APC Sqn Awarded Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation

1 Troop, A Squadron, 4/19 PWLH (redesignated as 1 APC Troop, 1 APC Squadron from late Sep 1965

On 29 June 2015 the G.G. approved the 1 RAR Gp 65-66 (inc. 1 APC Tp) to be awarded the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation.

All eligible members of 1 Troop, A Squadron, 4/19 PWLH (redesignated as 1 APC Troop, 1 APC Squadron from late Sep 1965) are now entitled to wear the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation.

At the bottom of the link are two more links that indicate that eligible members can apply to DH&A to receive the insignia.

Link: Shortcut to: <http://www.army.gov.au/Army-life/Honours-and-Awards/Stories-about-Honours-and-Awards/Republic-of-Vietnam-Cross-of-Gallantry-with-Palm-Unit-Citation-for-1-RAR>

From: Peter Beauchamp
Subject: Aware of OAM



You may find room in the net edition to advise the members that Peter Beauchamp life subscriber to Armour, was on the 13th June 2016 awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to Veterans and the Veteran community for his work as an Advocate in QLD.

Peter Beauchamp OAM
Advocate L4
SED District advocate
Vice President Manly Lota RSL

Hi,

I just read that an old friend, Colonel Graham "Curly" Templeton has passed away. I served with Curly when I was in the 1st Armd. Regt.LAD . I got to know him well both as an officer and a friend. When he arrived in Vietnam AATTV he was married up with another old friend of mine WO Bill Grogan RAEME. They both came up to the Free World HQ one day when I was EIS and the Taskforce Armourer. Curly and Bill asked me to convert their SLR's to Automatics and Curly also asked me if I could get a couple of M60's for them. They wanted to mount one of them on a Sanpan down in the Delta where they were working.

I went out to the Rice Mill and obtained two M60 and bought them back and bought then up to near new with all the latest Mods. I exchanged them for ????

I didn't see either of them again. I counted Capt (then) Curly Templeton as a friend. That was the last time I seen him.

I will remember him with fondness.

Sincerely 41961 WO1 R. (Tommo) Thompson. Ret.

Environment Household Appliance Scheme

This may be of interest to anyone in NSW who:

- Are a NSW resident

- Hold one of the following valid concession cards:

 - Pensioner Concession Card

 - Health Care Card or Low Income Health Care Card from Centrelink

 - Veterans' Affairs Gold Card

- Own a fridge six years old, or older, and want to replace it (Approximately 40% discount) OR

- Own a plasma or cathode ray tube (CRT) television and want to replace it (Approximately 50% discount).

The deal is in conjunction with the Good Guys and they have a range of Hisense and Samsung fridges of most sizes; however, the TV range is limited. One of the conditions is that they remove your old fridge and TV.

You have to register and get approval from Environment NSW before contacting the Good Guys head office (this phone number is provided when NSW Environment approve your application along with an approval code). At the link below is all the details including Models available, conditions and delivery charges.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/appliance-replacement-offer.htm>

Appliance replacement offer

We are offering discounts on fridges and TVs so you can replace them with new, energy efficient models and save energy and save money on your energy bills.

We are offering:

- A 40 % discount on the cost of a fridge

- A 50 % discount on the cost of a TV

If you're eligible you can: choose from a range of energy efficient fridges and TVs from our retail partner The Good Guys and have your new appliance delivered to your home and installed. Have your old appliance removed and recycled



BAE Systems bid provides glimpse into the future of Britain's battle tanks

David Szondy June 7, 2016

In service since 1998, the British Army's Challenger 2 main battle tank is reaching middle age, and the Ministry of Defence is looking to extend its life until 2025. BAE Systems originally built the Challenger 2 and has put in a bid for replacing many of the key systems, which gives us a look at what the British tank of the next decade could look like.



Originally conceived during the Cold War days of the 1980s as a replacement for the Challenger 1, the Challenger 2 is in service with the British Army and the Royal Army of Oman. Though it had previously been used in peace

keeping missions, it first saw combat during the 2003 invasion of Iraq, where it gained a reputation for survivability thanks in part to its Chobham armor.



The upgrades will include an improved fire control system (Credit: Crown Copyright)

No Challenger was lost in battle and some survived up to 70 rocket grenade hits in a single action only to go back into service in a matter of hours.

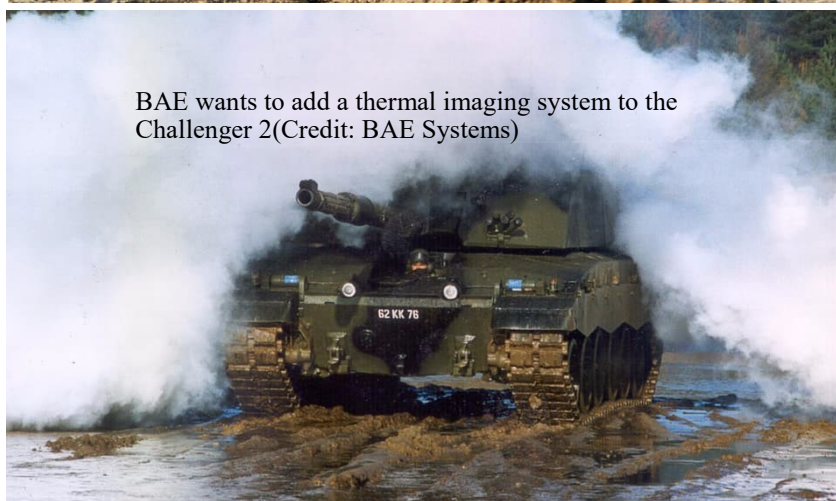
The challenge for the British Army is deciding what comes next. Back in 2001, with the Cold War behind and 9/11 still ahead,

the government had no strategy about what to do when it came time to replace the Challenger 2. What would replace them? Would their life be extended? Would they be replaced at all? Was it time to rethink armor strategy altogether?



No Challenger 2 has ever been lost in combat
(Credit: Crown Copyright)

This changed with the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, which identified the new Russian T-14 Armata main battle tank as a serious potential threat and stated that Challenger's L30A1 120 mm rifled gun was now obsolescent. Since the Challenger 2 was still a highly effective vehicle, and the economics of replacing over 400 tanks that originally cost £4,217,000 each was prohibitive in an age of austerity and political uncertainty, the Ministry of Defence decided to upgrade the existing tanks and began soliciting bids.



BAE wants to add a thermal imaging system to the Challenger 2 (Credit: BAE Systems)

The goal of the upgrade program is to extend the life of the Challenger 2 to 2025 and to replace key technology systems with more advanced designs. The BAE Systems bid, which includes seven partners, is likely to be one of several proposals and could change before the final selection, but it gives an idea of what the tomorrow's main battle tank could look like.



The upgrades will extend the life of the Challenger 2 until 2025 (Credit: BAE Systems)

Since the armor and powerplant of the Challenger 2 are already top tier, the upgrades envisioned by BAE and its partner companies focus on more turret-based technologies. For example, the Commander's primary sight will provide a 360° view of the vicinity and the ability to electronically hand off targets to the gunner. In addition, it will integrate with a new thermal imaging system for day and night surveillance and target engagement that the company says will allow for 24-hour operations.

Another upgrade is the gun control system, which moves the turret and aims the gun

under the command of the fire control system. BAE says the new systems will improve speed and accuracy while future-proofing the technology.

The Challenger 2's subsystems will be controlled by a new electronic architecture that includes a new Commander's crew station, as well as the capacity to easily expand and allow for new interfaces, reconfigurable displays, and controls.

BAE says that if it wins the contract, the Challenger 2 Mark 2 standard will be converted at the General Dynamics' factory in South Wales.

Team Challenger® 2

Source: BAE Systems

© BAE Systems plc

BAE Systems designed and built Challenger 2 – now we are leading the team bidding to keep it battle-ready for the next two decades. Our complete knowledge of the tank means we can provide the safest and most effective solution for the British Army, alongside the best industry partners available.



Key elements of the Challenger 2 Life Extension Project

1. Thermal Imaging System

This provides day and night surveillance and target engagement. We now have the opportunity to provide an up-to-date system which will deliver improved, 24-hour performance.

2. Commander's Primary Sight

The current sight gives the Commander 360 degree independent surveillance, electronically 'handing over' targets to the gunner and looking for new targets. The new system will include thermal imaging and give the Commander a full 24-hour, day and night hunter/killer capability, delivering greater situational awareness and flexibility.

3. Gun Control Equipment

This sub-system moves the turret and the gun under direction from the fire control system, ensuring timely and accurate fire. We will future proof the sub-system with up-to-date technology.

4. Electronic Architecture

This connects the vehicle's sub-systems. Once upgraded, it will allow a new Commander's crewstation to be installed and give the vehicle an expandable architecture hosting new interfaces, reconfigurable displays and controls.

5. Fire Control System

This acts as the brain of the weapon system, orchestrating the sighting, gun control and sensor sub-systems to provide accurate and dynamic weapon aiming. We will modernise and future proof this system.

Further Capability Improvements

There is an opportunity for further capability enhancements to Challenger 2. We will follow a systems engineering and User Centred Design approach to offer the Ministry of Defence options for their consideration.

Bringing the team together

All team members are leaders in their field with a long track record of serving the British Army. BAE Systems will use its unique knowledge of Challenger 2 to integrate the most technologically advanced and proven systems available.

General Dynamics Land Systems – UK (GDLS-UK)

Working with BAE Systems, GDLS-UK will carry out the vehicle conversion programme in its new AJAX manufacturing facility in South Wales. This solution combines our unique knowledge of Challenger 2 with GDLS-UK's expertise in integration. It also ensures commonality with AJAX to allow more efficient integration into the British Army.

Technical Support – QinetiQ

QinetiQ will provide its systems engineering expertise and an independent assessment service, including computer modelling and verifying safety measures. This is essential to ensure we offer the most robust, effective and low-risk solution.

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Land Systems-United Kingdom

QinetiQ

LEONARDO

MOOG

SAFRAN

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Mission Systems

BAE SYSTEMS
INSPIRED WORK

Key elements of the proposed Challenger 2 upgrades (Credit: BAE systems)



Background Briefing on Australian Mefloquine and Tafenoquine Administered to ADF Personnel -February 2016

Introduction

1. The anti-malarial drugs mefloquine¹ and tafenoquine have almost certainly been responsible for significant suffering by ADF members and veterans. These veterans and their families have faced many difficulties in gaining recognition of their condition and have faced more than a decade of neglect and denial by the medical system supposed to support them.

Background

2. Mefloquine hydrochloride (trade name Lariam) is a quinoline-derived anti-malarial drug that has been widely used by numerous military forces, including the ADF, for the last quarter of a century. Mefloquine has been in use in the ADF since 1990, administered to personnel on major deployments including Somalia, Cambodia, Bougainville, East Timor, Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as many other smaller operational and training deployments to malarious areas.

3. That mefloquine is a neurotoxic drug which can cause neuropsychiatric side effects is not disputed by the manufacturer, relevant health authorities, or the Surgeon General ADF (SGADF). However conventional wisdom has been that these side effects are only temporary, and only experienced by individuals with pre-existing psychiatric illness. Recent scientific-medical research now indicates that the neuropsychiatric side effects can be long term or permanent, as a result of lasting brain damage in some people.

4. During the period 1999-2002, 1,300 ADF personnel were administered mefloquine and 1,500 ADF personnel were administered tafenoquine (a similar drug to mefloquine) in a series of drug trials by the Army Malaria Institute (AMI) in Bougainville and East Timor. The drugs were administered for periods of up to seven months. Mefloquine was administered in a "loading dose" three times higher than the dose approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Tafenoquine was not and is not approved by the TGA.

5. Seemingly favourable results of AMI clinical trials of mefloquine conducted among ADF personnel have been cited in justifying continued use by overseas military forces as mentioned by the Ministry of Defence in the recent UK parliamentary enquiry on the risks of mefloquine.

6. Following the 2001-02 East Timor trials there were numerous media reports that participants had experienced psychotic side effects, paranoia and suicide ideation. The experiences of these drug trial participants are consistent with mefloquine's accepted neuropsychiatric side effects. Significantly, US authorities have warned that mefloquine's side effects can confound the diagnosis of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) personality disorders, "psychosomatic" and neurological disorders among veterans because the side effects are similar to the symptoms of those illnesses.

7. Concerns about long term neuropsychiatric health impacts of mefloquine have been raised by US Department of Veterans Affairs since 2004 and the drug was banned by US Special Forces in 2012.

Issues

8. Despite ADF claims to the contrary, the manner of involvement of soldiers in these trials raises strong concerns about their ethical basis. It is alleged many were in effect coerced or ordered to take a drug that exposed them to permanent neurotoxic brain injury. It would seem there is strong evidence that many ADF soldiers were provided with misleading or inaccurate information on the risks associated with participation.

9. Foreseeable risks were excessive in comparison to the likely benefit of the studies, and the rights, safety and well-being of the subjects were compromised through their conduct. The ADF and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) far from being proactive in monitoring the health effects on those administered these drugs are dragging their feet in providing proper medical care for subjects who may be experiencing chronic adverse effects from the drugs administered during the trials. It is thought many of these drug trial participants will have been misdiagnosed having PTSD and few if any will have received proper care or support.

10. A conservative estimate of the total number of ADF veterans who have had significant exposure to mefloquine and tafenoquine neurotoxicity since 1990, including those involved in the drug trials, is approximately 5,000. Given this exposure it is likely that at least several hundred ADF veterans have experienced long-term or permanent neuro-psychiatric side effects. The overall number may be as high as 1,250 and it is incumbent on Defence and DVA to undertake proper follow-up medical studies for those affected. Despite the fact that mefloquine is a prescription drug recorded in the ADF's electronic pharmaceutical database, there is no screening of current or former ADF personnel who have taken mefloquine or tafenoquine.

11. Overseas military and veterans' authorities have begun to implement programs to support affected veterans, however Australia's Defence and Veterans Affairs Departments to take any decisive action on this. The UK Ministry of Defence recently publicly apologised after admitting it may have broken guidelines and wrongly prescribed mefloquine to troops adding "processes are now in place to ensure this cannot happen again; help will be provided to all those affected".

12. The ADF and DVA need to respond in similar manner. Failing to do so would not only place the health and wellbeing of ADF members, veterans and their families at further risk, but also cause serious reputational damage to both organisations and ultimately incur far greater cost to the Commonwealth than timely, proactive intervention.

Recommendations

13. In order to address the matters raised in this brief it is recommended that the Commonwealth:

a. Conduct a full, independent and public review of the existing ADF and DVA health policies, procedures and practices for veterans with neuro-psychiatric illnesses and/or symptoms, brain injuries, exposure to neurotoxic drugs including (but not limited to mefloquine), including investigation, treatment and support, in order to provide improved care for those veterans and their families.

b. Direct an independent body to implement the proposed mefloquine veterans outreach program, including the identification of all personnel administered mefloquine during their service, research, awareness and education, training health staff, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and social support for veterans and their families. The implementing body would be independent of the ADF and DVA, with the relevant powers to direct those organisations to achieve the appropriate outcomes.

c. Conduct a full, independent inquiry into mefloquine use in the ADF and its impact on veterans and their families, including the conduct of clinical trials by the AMI, the involvement of the manufacturer, decisions by senior ADF leadership and the involvement of foreign governments and organisations.

d. Cease conduct of clinical trials involving participation by ADF personnel deployed on operations without full public acknowledgement of assessed risks and a commitment to provide full health support in the event of adverse outcomes to participants.

e. Investigate the failure to enforce adequate workplace guidelines relating to mefloquine use in the ADF.

Conclusion

14. The case for a public inquiry and a program of proactive outreach to veterans affected by the neurotoxic side effects of mefloquine during their ADF service is compelling, consistent with the ADF's evidence-based approach to mental health, as well as the ADF and DVA's primary duty of care under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. The fact that mefloquine is a neurotoxic drug that can cause neuropsychiatric side effects is not disputed by the manufacturer, relevant health authorities, or the ADF who unfortunately appears unwilling or unable to directly address the issue and act in the best interests of their veterans.

15. The total number of ADE personnel who have been exposed to mefloquine and tafenoquine toxicity is approximately 5,000.

16. There is anecdotal evidence that many Australian veterans who took mefloquine during their ADF service, then served in Iraq, Afghanistan and/or other conflicts have suffered from long term mental health problems that have been incorrectly attributed solely to their experiences in those conflicts rather than being caused at least in part by the neurotoxic side effects of mefloquine.

17. Both the ADF and DVA need to display leadership by implementing a public inquiry and outreach program along the lines of that proposed above. Indeed Australia could potentially take a leading role in what will likely become an international effort for affected veterans.ⁱ

i Tafenoquine is a similar drug to mefloquine, from same family, similar elimination half-life also allows for weekly dose. It was given to approximately 1,500 ADF personnel during the 1998-2001 trials in Bougainville and East Timor. It has never been licensed by regulators including Australian TGA and was found to be "more neurotoxic than mefloquine" in 2009.

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

Lost Souls

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

Members Name	Last Address
Mrs J Rowan	10 Lavender Avenue PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196
Mr M Kite	380 Kaolin Street BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Dr K D (Kevin) Smith OAM	PO Box 440 ARMIDALE NSW 2350
LTCOL J (John) Crossman	GPO Box 2135 HOBART TAS 7001
Mr W T Southwell	PO Box 4096 FINGAL BAY NSW 2315

The Restoration of "Ace"



1945



2016



Steve Lan and Michael with the M113



Joe applies finishing touches to ACE

Rear: Dick Keynes, Murray Alexander, Keith McDougall, Patrick Donovan, Don Perkins, Alan John,
Front: John Haynes QM, Ray Stanley, Theo. Fischer CO, Brian Bourke (Adj), Maurie Temple.
The photo was taken in the Officers Mess at Unley Training Depot.
In the photo there are 4 past CO's of 3/9 SAMR."



Dear Michael

I enjoyed your email and your enthusiasm. I shall attach a copy of the article I sent to the DVA competition. It is about my time in an infantry battalion. It seems such a long time ago that I was the Adjt of the 2/9th Aust Armd Regiment. Naturally I have been trying to recall it and some things are coming back.

If I can write a short article about raising the regiment and the problem of training men without tanks, I shall send it to you.

I hope you enjoy the Mess Luncheon. I always did and now I miss them very much

Warmest regards John Sedgley

Active Service Memories of John Sedgley, 1943-1945

War is a terrible waste of the treasure of a nation, its manpower and its economic wealth. In a perfect world there would be no need of a defence force, but the world is not perfect. Even as a schoolboy I thought I should join the Army, and in 1934 I enlisted in the Army aged 18, and trained at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, for four years. In war you spend a lot of time in training, much of it monotonous, and a short time in action with terrifying moments. The training was designed to help us make decisions and recover quickly.

I was transferred to the Australian Imperial Force in 1942 to the 1st Armoured Division and later to the 3rd. At last on 17th August 1943 I was transferred to a theatre of active operations as a staff officer at Port Moresby. I wanted direct contact with the enemy, but my role here was in the Battle Room marking on a wall map the locations of enemy sightings during the last 24 hours and maintaining a file about them.

One hot and steamy afternoon in October 1943 General Sir Thomas Blamey walked into the Battle Room with Lt. Gen. Berryman. Whilst talking about the patrolling of our troops I said that I was a regular soldier and needed the experience of active service if I were to continue in my profession after this war. Gen Blamey turned to one of his staff officers and said "Send him off." – What astonishment and excitement that was for me! A few days later I received a posting to 2/23 Australian Infantry Battalion, 9th Australian Infantry Division, which was in action in the Finschhafen area of the Huon Peninsula. I have attached two sketch maps of New Guinea and Borneo, so you can follow my story. I was concerned about my fitness for active service and about travelling to join my new battalion. I decided to walk across the Kokoda Track to a staging camp at Cape Endaiadere, then travel by barge to Lae, where I would take any available transport to Finschhafen and report to Headquarters 26 Infantry Brigade.

On 20th September 1943 I was taken to the start of the Kokoda Track by jeep and was horrified by what I saw ahead of me: an extremely steep and muddy series of steps reaching up into the mist. I knew that this was just the start and that there was much tougher country ahead. Decision Time! Should I go on or go back? I simply wasn't fit enough for what lay ahead, so I returned to Port Moresby and arranged to fly across the Owen Stanley Range to Dobodura. At the Army Staging Camp nearby at Buna I was allocated a tent with two other junior officers.

During that first night there was an enemy air raid. Searchlights were swishing around the sky, anti-aircraft guns were firing with enemy planes circling low overhead and bombs exploding near the airfield. Vehicles were racing around and there was activity everywhere. The noise was intense. We three remained in our bunks, just listening. I said, "This is my first experience of enemy action. I must see what is happening." Immediately there were two streaks of white as my companions, naked, dashed to the safety of the slit trenches outside the tent line. Afterwards we three talked about the raid and I realised I was now on a new learning curve, changing from a junior staff officer to a regimental officer in a fighting unit.

From Buna I travelled on a barge which motored up the coast at night and was hidden during the day in a creek or under trees to protect it from air attack. About the 25th November 1943 we reached Scarlet Beach just south of the Song River mouth. I was told that HQ 26 Infantry Brigade was located at

Jivevaneng, up the road to Sattelberg, named 'Easy Street'. I wondered how soldiers had ever staggered up that track to fight. Here was I, climbing up a ladder-track leading to the sky, fully clothed, carrying a huge pack with much gear which was useless for an infantryman in the jungle,. I was soon saturated, half blinded by sweat and short of breath. I was exhausted and felt dreadful. After many rests I arrived at Bde HQ where I was delighted to find my old Duntroon friend, Ken Mackay, was the Brigade Major.

Ken took me to the Brigade Commander, 'Torpy' Whitehead, who said that before joining my battalion I was to get patrol experience with 2/4th Cavalry Commando Squadron of Timor fame which was operating behind the enemy lines in the Finisterre Ranges beyond Finschhafen. I spent some time with them, toughening up and learning to move silently in the jungle. On one patrol we went down into the valley of the Song River to see if a 'Quick Boy' track was clear of the enemy. It was extremely steep and we hung on to trees and bushes to steady ourselves as we scrambled down. We were almost at the bottom when a light machine gun opened fire on us. We all dived for cover before racing up that valley-side so fast that not one of us touched a tree or a bush until we reached the top. I was last in the patrol going down and I was last racing back! Fear drove my feet! As our task was to get information but not to fight, our mission was completed.

About 10th December 1944 I joined my battalion at Wareo on the northern bank of the Song River opposite Sattelberg. I took command of B Company for the advance up to Sio at the northern end of the Vitiaz Strait, between the Huon Peninsula and New Britain, 100 km north of the Song River. There the 9th Division was relieved and we were sent back to Australia. We arrived in Brisbane in January 1944 and most of the Battalion was given three weeks' leave. As I was the last company commander to join the battalion I was detailed to take the stores and the rear party by train to Ravenshoe on the Atherton Tableland. I had not seen Mary and our two children for twelve months so you can imagine my feelings at this decision, especially as Anne had been born whilst I was in New Guinea. The battalion spent 12 months at Ravenshoe, resting and retraining for what became the Borneo Campaign.

Living in tents or bivouacs in the rain forest became boring. We were beginning to feel the Americans had decided they no longer needed us Australians as they had recaptured the Philippines and were moving north. It seemed that the war would soon be over and we were depressed by thinking that our efforts in New Guinea would be forgotten. It would be an all-American victory. Morale improved considerably when we moved down to the coast north of Cairns to train for beach landings. In one exercise my company of over 100 men had to dash through a swamp. We came across a crocodile. All my men were as afraid of him as I was as we waded across. He disappeared - afraid of us too!

Early in the New Year of 1945 we moved to Townsville to go overseas again, sailing in an American troop ship, but we did not know where to. Rumours were flying thick and fast. The wharf labourers refused to load our ship so we had to do it ourselves. Can you imagine our anger with these fellow Australians!

In Townsville all leave was cancelled on the night before we sailed. That was not well-received and a number of soldiers went absent without leave. I was ordered to take a small group of men into the city and arrest those of our battalion that I could find. None of us wanted to do this task. I collected about 20 men in the city centre and had them put in the Army Detention Centre. Their comments to me were not complimentary. When it was time to return to camp I took them all with me, saying, "Let's forget about those arrests, go to your tents and just be on parade in the morning".

When we disembarked from the troop ship at Morotai we found that 26 Infantry Brigade was to capture Tarakan Island on the east coast of Borneo. The enemy had highly developed defences on the island, including hundreds of steel pickets just below the low water line in the sea. There were thick barbed wire entanglements on the beach, and on the sand-hills behind were oil tanks which could be filled from the Djoeata oil fields to flood each and the bay and then be set on fire.

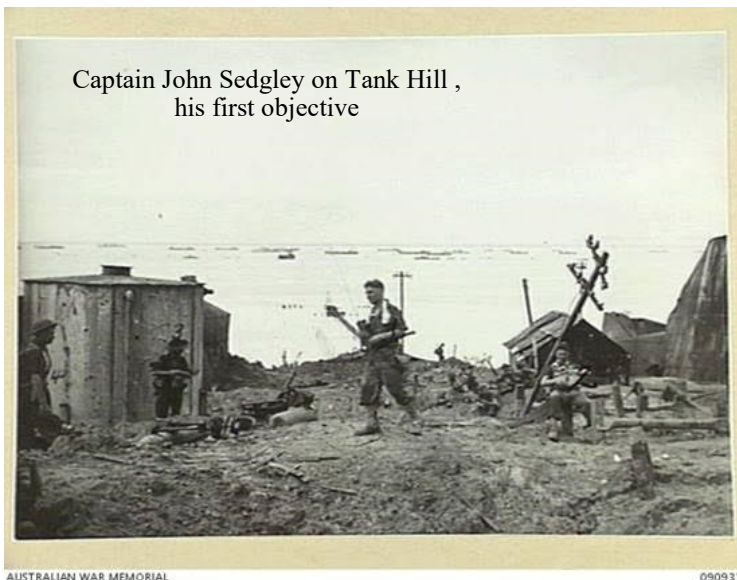
The day before we landed, Australian engineers cut lanes through the pickets and wire for the landing craft and the US Air Force bombed the oil tanks so they would be empty when we landed. We were to land on Green Beach on 1st May 1945 west of the Tarakan jetty. Because the sea was shallow off the island, we were launched from our American Landing Ships well out to sea in amphibious tanks called Buffalos. This meant a long run into the beach and a long exposure to enemy fire. Dawn was just breaking when our Buffalos were launched. My company was in the first landing wave.

As we moved to the shore we were escorted by American rocket ships and supported by American aircraft bombing the beach. The noise was intense. The swish of rockets being fired over our heads was both terrifying and exhilarating.

My Buffalo was the first ashore. We had to jump out at the water's edge because of mud and a bank too high for the vehicle to climb. The air was full of dust and smoke and the noise of bombs and guns still firing was deafening. I quickly gathered my Company around me and ran towards my first objective, the high ground beyond the beach. We had gone only a short distance when enemy fire forced us to take cover. I looked at my men and saw 100 pairs of eyes asking me what to do. I realised that this was a critical

moment for which I had spent four years of training at Duntroon. I directed them to move up the left-hand spur which led to the enemy's position. While one platoon attacked them from behind, another gave them fire support. It was successful and we captured our objective. This was a turning point. My ability to lead had been tested, and now I knew I could confidently lead them anywhere.

Once I came under enemy fire I realized that for me there are degrees of fear. First, apprehensiveness, catch your breath and take cover. Second, scared stiff but make sure those around you are aware of the danger. Third, so scared that it is difficult to think clearly. That's when your training will carry you and your group through.



Captain John Sedgley on Tank Hill ,
his first objective

In a few days the Brigade's three battalions had driven the enemy back to the centre of the island. We had captured the hospital, the town and the airfield and then moved on to protect the engineers who were making the airfield operative. Some of us were drawn back to the flat ground near the airfield for a rest. Although the enemy had been driven into the jungle, there were rumours that at night individuals would creep into our rest area and stab sleeping men. One moonless night when it was pitch black, a young soldier screamed out "He's got me; he's got me!" Normally I slept above ground with my boots off. In less than a second I was in our slit trench beside my batman, trying to look over the sights of my pistol toward the scream. From then on, I slept with my boots on in a trench shared with my mate, my batman.

In other incidents my hat, which I was wearing, had its brim cut by a piece of shrapnel; my batman, standing near me, had a bullet pass through his haversack; a Matilda tank from my old Armoured Regiment coming to help us ran over a land mine. Its four startled soldiers shot out of it like corks out of a bottle of bubbly. A jeep ran over a mine just outside my company perimeter and was blown many feet into the air, killing the four occupants.

My company was holding the most dominant feature on the island, a sand-hill known as Margy. We were still being shelled by the enemy from a gun somewhere in the jungle, so I had asked for an air strike. An Artillery officer who had spent the campaign back near the beach came to my HQ just before the bombs were due to be dropped. He had no idea of the effects of bombing close to our own position so I told him to take cover in a slit trench until he saw me stand up. Then he could look for the damage done to the enemy. I had not told him that when a bomb explodes some distance away first there is the noise and the heat wave, followed a second or two later by the shrapnel from the bomb casing. I stood up as soon as the heat wave had passed and so did he. I never worried about being wounded by shrapnel but to my horror a large piece of metal came hurtling toward us and crashed into the spot where he had been crouching. He had no idea how close he had been to ending his war then. Worse, I would have held myself responsible for his departure.

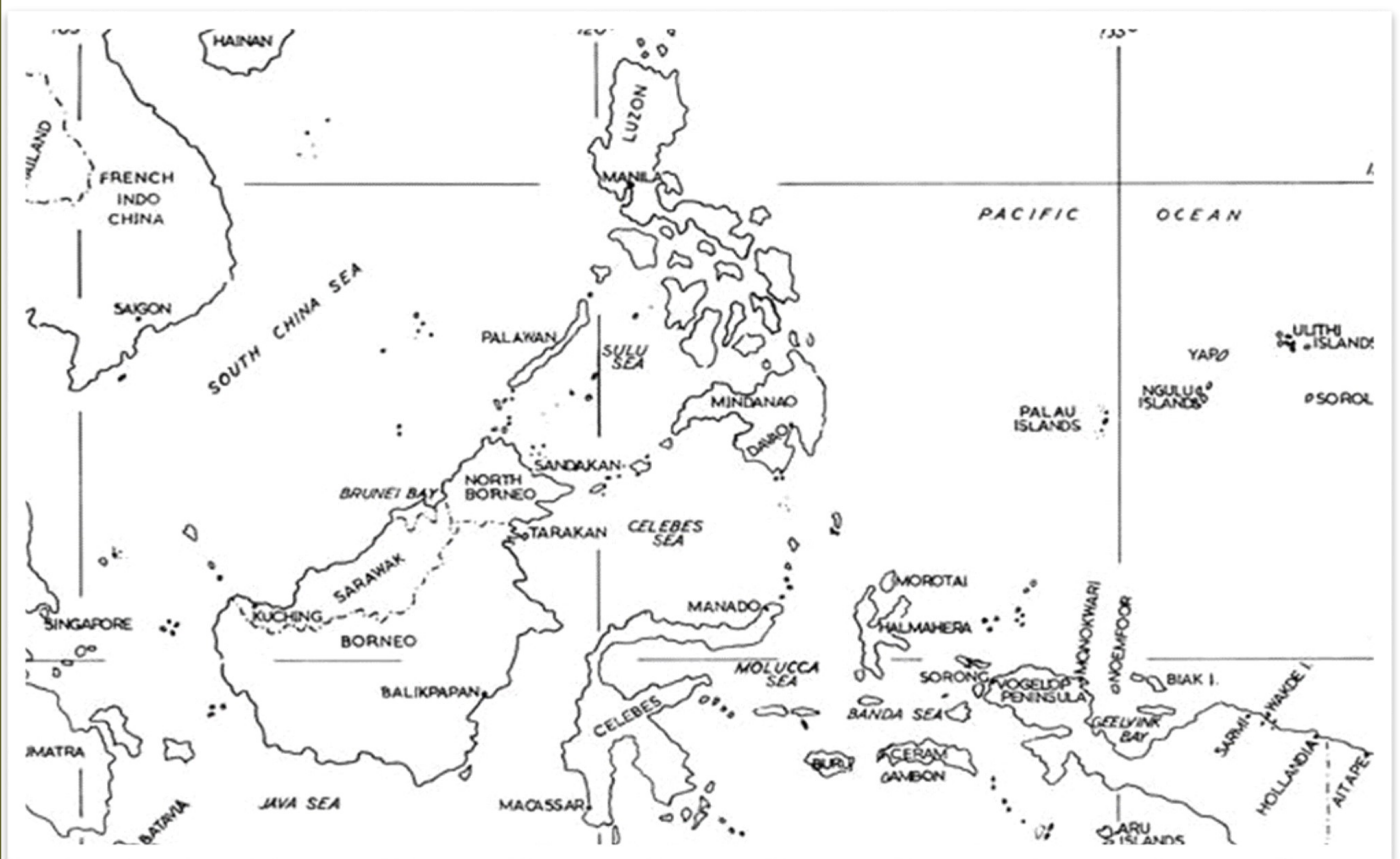
I had been directed to make contact with a company from another battalion which was clearing a track known as Snags Track. With two soldiers for protection, I joined them. The Company Commander had planned to clear an enemy post with napalm delivered by the Royal Australian Air Force. To mark the area smoke mortar bombs were fired into the target just before the planes arrived with their belly tank bombs ready to attack. But a wind had blown up and the smoke came back on to us.

We signalled to the planes to stop but for two planes it was too late. They were on their approach runs. One bomb landed in the target area, the other hit a tree above us. The canister burst but did not explode and we were saturated with the napalm liquid. Soon some RAAF officers came forward to inspect the shattered bomb. We were indignant because their only interest was in why the detonator had failed and the bomb had not exploded. Blow them, we thought, so our escape meant nothing to them!

I took my company out along a track running from the airfield to the sea, to ensure it was cleared of enemy positions. We had travelled about half way along it when an enemy soldier crossed. We decided to capture him if possible so a platoon spread out along the track and on my command we raced into the jungle where he had gone. We had penetrated about 20 metres when he stepped out from behind a tree with his sword to cut ME down. Fortunately my two coverers were quicker and despatched him. I felt sorry for the man. He did not have a chance to escape or surrender. In his pack we found a large number of wrist watches and a small gold bar gold. We thought he must have been an orderly in a hospital or a dressing station. He had nothing of intelligence value so we decided to keep these things for ourselves. Of course we reported this. I still have his sword - not a beautiful Samurai one.

We were given the task of clearing another track between the airfield and the eastern side of the island. The track was undulating and we were held up by enemy fire from a knoll about 100 metres ahead. I tried to drive them off with mortar fire rather than risk having a casualty at this stage of our war. We knew that in Europe the fighting had ended: our war could not go on much longer. Just before dusk we took up a defensive position on a knoll, covering the track with three booby traps. (A trip wire across the track attached to a hand grenade.) Just after dark there was a burst of enemy fire confirming their presence but we soon settled down for the night. In the early morning jungle blackness, the first booby trap went off. We were awake! Then the second went. All weapons were ready to fire! Then the third exploded. Fire!! All magazines were reloaded and there was no more sleep that night. What do you think we found next morning? A dead orang-utang and the enemy had left. (Orang-utangs were not endangered then, but we were!) I went back to Borneo after the war and found them to be friendly and gentle creatures.

Our task in Tarakan was over. We were waiting for the next operation when we were told that Gracie Fields, the famous English singer and comedian would visit us with her entertainment group. This was great news.

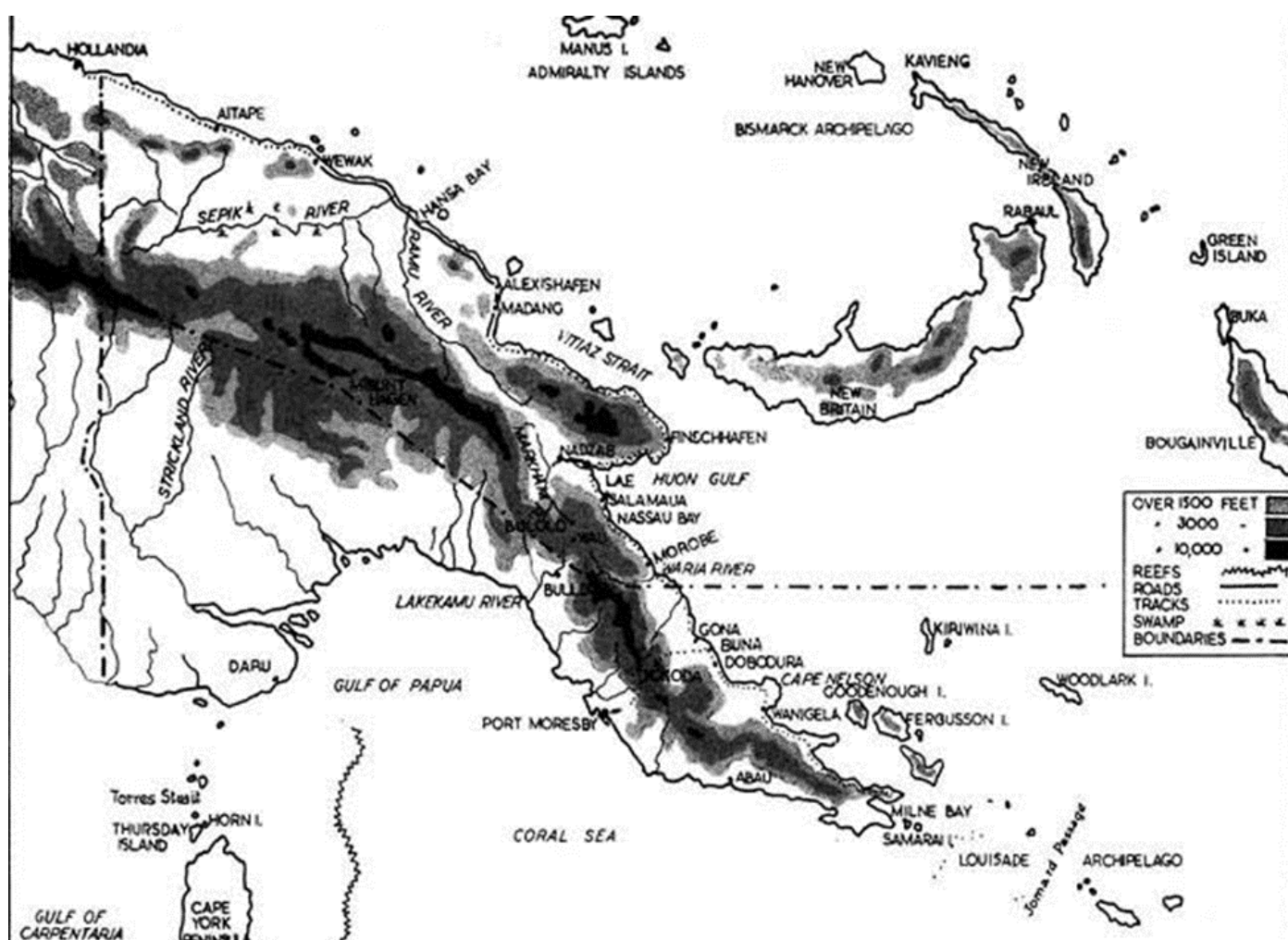


Our engineers built a stage in a valley with adequate lighting because her performance would be at night when it was cooler. We took along our groundsheets and a box for a seat. There must have been at least 2000 happy soldiers there. Afterwards I was told that some of our enemies came too; they watched from the hill behind us. It was a marvellous performance and we really appreciated it. They were to be on for an hour but Gracie and her husband (Monty Banks) sang for over two hours.

The soldiers made Jungle Juice to help pass the long evenings. Beer and spirits were not permitted on the island. I held the fermenting liquid in my hut for my company to try to control consumption. Sometimes we had film nights as well. During the evening of 15th August we had a film to which most of us went. Whilst it was running, the searchlights near the beach came on and their beams were flashed around the sky in great circles. There were some loud explosions too. We knew what that meant. There was a great shout from us all as we raced off to celebrate elsewhere. The War was over! A number of officers gathered in the Medical Officer's hut where we drank a toast to Victory. Our spirits were high and our drink was ethyl alcohol with some green toenail paste to give it the appearance of Absinthe. When I returned to my hut all the Jungle Juice had gone and there were many happy young soldiers. Within a month I was transferred home to Victoria and my family. All the heartaches I had lived with during the War disappeared.

Being a soldier gives you comradeship and adventure, and the security of the service. But this sense of security must not be allowed to cloud the horrors of war, which I have scarcely touched on here. Now, 70 years later, I *know* that for those left behind and those fighting, war is a terrible thing.

End Note: My sincere thanks to my friends Yvonne Learmonth and Sue Day for their suggestions, and my daughter Anne who edited it for me



42352 WO2 Thomas Dudley Phillips: 26 May 1927 - 20 March 1966

DA NANG, VIETNAM. 1965-12-25. INFORMAL GROUP PORTRAIT OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM (AATTV) CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS DAY AT AUSTRALIA HOUSE. LEFT TO RIGHT: BACK ROW: WARRANT OFFICER PHILLIPS (DIED OF WOUNDS 1966-03-20), CAPTAIN BELLEVILLE (KILLED IN ACTION 1966-02-12), WARRANT OFFICERS WADE, STOCKLEY, WARRANT OFFICER LEES (KILLED IN ACTION 1966-01-13), MASTER SERGEANT EUGENE JORDAN (US ARMY); FRONT ROW: WARRANT OFFICERS MACPHERSON, DOWSETT, MAJOR MC NEILL, WARRANT OFFICER KENT, AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN OF A MERCHANT VESSEL IN DA NANG HARBOUR, WARRANT OFFICER SUTHERLAND AND WARRANT OFFICER SELMES (WOUNDED IN ACTION 1966-03-19).



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01011.020

The late WO2 Tom Phillips, previously buried at Terendak, Malaysia, will be reinterred in the Military Section, Woden Cemetery, Canberra at 11am on Mon 6 June. A guard will be provided by RAAC members from the School of Armour. The Corps RSM will be in attendance, together with other serving and former members of the RAAC,

WO2 Phillips was born in Wales. He was the first member of the RAAC to be killed in Vietnam. Aged 38, he died of his wounds on 20 Mar 66 after being shot in a contact while attached to an ARVN Regional Forces company (as a member of AATTV). WO2 Phillips sacrificed his life on behalf of his fellow men, he was Mentioned in Dispatches posthumously.

Ian McVie and the 3 Cav Regt (Vietnam) Assn are thanked for the following citation information:

Warrant Officer Thomas Dudley Phillips enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in June 1959 after previously serving for several years in the British Army. He then served continuously with the 1st Armoured Regiment at Puckapunyal until posted to the Australian Army Training team in October 1965, and assigned as an adviser to Regional Force units in the central Vietnamese Province of Quang Ngai.

On 18 March 1966, Warrant Officer Phillips was the adviser with the 423rd Regional Force Company on an operation in an area approximately 15 kilometres south of Quang Ngai City. He was accompanied by Warrant Officer John Neville Selmes, who was advising another Regional Force Company, and three United States Army Lieutenants. At 0810 hours both forces were engaged by a significantly superior Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Regular Force and a vicious fire fight ensued at close range. After approximately fifteen minutes all the Regional Force troops, with the exception of their Company Commanders, abandoned the position leaving the advisers to oppose the enemy alone and personal weapons only available since requests for artillery and air support had been refused.

At this point, whilst the group of advisers was attempting to withdraw, one of the US Lieutenants was wounded and Warrant Officer Selmes went to his assistance. While Selmes assisted the wounded officer to a safer position, Warrant Officer Phillips continuously exposed himself to heavy enemy fire in order to engage the enemy effectively and cover his comrades' movement. This enabled the wounded officer to be taken to a rear ward position from which support could again be called.

While Warrant Officer Phillips was providing covering fire and successfully impeding the enemy's approach he was seriously wounded in the stomach by a burst of automatic fire. He was seen to stumble but nevertheless recovered and continued to give fire support until he could no longer stand. After his subsequent recovery by the remaining advisers and as a result of these wounds, he died in hospital on the morning of 20 March 1966.

During this engagement all the advisers were wounded. By his courageous action, both before and after being wounded, Warrant Officer Phillips enabled the remainder to reorganise their position and eventually arrange evacuation for the whole party. Warrant Officer Phillips sacrificed his life in this endeavour and his conduct was in the highest Australian tradition of courage and professional dedication.



Please help us complete the national memorial to Boer War veterans

23,000 people from Australia went to war in South Africa between 1899 and 1902, and some 1,000 died there. We sent 143,000 horses of which none returned.

Our first six Victoria Crosses were awarded there, along with 161 other bravery awards.

At last, in 2006 the Government agreed to provide a Site in Anzac Parade Canberra for a Boer War Memorial. Since then our volunteers have raised nearly all the \$4 million needed to build the memorial but we are still \$100,000 short.

Our program is described in detail at: www.bwm.org.au

We selected the design illustrated in the sketch at the base of this page ie; FOUR MOUNTED TROOPERS in BRONZE 150% life size. Each sculpture costs \$1/2 million.

To complete the memorial we need that \$100,000. Tax deductible donations of any size above \$2, should be sent to: NBWMA, Building 96 Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021. Please do what you can to assist.

The President, Colonel John Haynes (Retd) OAM and members of the National Boer War Memorial Association express their grateful appreciation for the opportunity to promote this worthy national project.

John Haynes

john.haynes@defence.gov.au

Immediately below is the first of the four Mounted Troopers completed at 150% life size, the second is also now complete. The man at the front is 177cm tall. The Mounted Trooper inset top right is the third, it's shown here in full size Clay ready for the foundry to call. The smaller insert to the right shows the fourth Mounted Trooper as a 50% sized plasticine model ready for copying into Clay.



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

Vale

Arthur Francis CSC, OAM

It is with sadness that I notify the Funeral of former RSM-A, Arthur Francis CSC, OAM.

Arthur passed during his sleep on Sunday Morning following recent illness.

The funeral was conducted at All Saints Anglican Church, Singleton, at 1100hrs on Tuesday 16 Aug 16.

Please pass on to others as appropriate.

Regards, Pedro ("Peter Rosemond" <pedro.rosemond@bigpond.com>

Vale

Doug Beardmore

It is with sadness that I report the loss of another of the Regiments dwindling World War 2 veterans, Doug Beardmore. Doug passed away on Wednesday 13 April, a few short weeks from another ANZAC Day.

His funeral will be held at the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium at 1400 next Thursday 21 April 2016.

Few of his remaining 28 surviving colleagues from the WW2 Regiment will be able to be there. It falls to us, the Regimental Association members who served after the war ended to show our respect by turning up with medals and beret.

Vale

Tom Mitchell

It is with sadness that I pass on news from General Glennie that captain Tom Mitchell passed away in hospital last Thursday evening.

Tom served with the Regiment when it was equipped with Centurions in the 1960s. He was highly regarded by those who served under him. Tom is survived by wife Margaret.

sincerely, John Howells

Lest we Forget We regret to advise the passing of the following members

Mr W (Bill) Deane
Mr PR Peter (Pedro) McLay, 3 Cav
Mr C I (Ian) Bromham, 3rd Dragoon Guards (UK & India)
Mr J F (John) Dale, 2/4 AR
Mr C W Goodyear, 1/15 RNSWL
Mr K (Kevin) Kludas BEM, 1AR, HQ 1 Armd Bde

WO1 H J W (Mick) Stuttard
Mr J (Jeordie) Ward, 1 AR, 2,3 Cav
Mrs J Springett, (1 Aust Armd Bde ASC)
Major D (Don) Hutton
Mr R J Smith, 2/7 AR
Mr P (Paul) O'Connell

We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between June to September 2016

J. Haynes	R Powell	R Roberts	P Cloaves
S Lewins	R Thomas	T Lysaght	J Joshua
A O'Laughlan	E Ramsay	J Hartigan	P Stow
H Maffey	C Symons	J Stuttard	P Worthingham
A Madden	J Bryson	M Edgeloe	D Howell
M Mc Donald	R Hill	M Shephard	J Morley
T White	R Bishy	J Whithead	M Tucker
M Sheppard	J Redington	D Deasey	A Booth
S Hudson	A Little	R Jay	P George
J Looney			

Photo courtesy Trevor Chris Hyde's Facebook post



2016 Subscriptions Reminder

The subscriptions for the new financial year starting the 1st July, 2016 are now due for the RAAC Association (NSW).

There are a number of exemptions as follows:

- Full Life Subscribers;
- Subscriptions Paid in Advance (3 Year Subscription);
- Members over the age of 75 years (at the start of July);
- Life Members and Widows.

For all others please mail to: **RAAC (NSW) Assoc., Bld 96, Victoria Barracks, PADDINGTON NSW 2021.**

Payment Methods:

1. Cheque or Postal Order (Payable to the RAAC (NSW) Assoc.).
2. Electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the: **Defence Bank, BSB 803 205, Acct No. 20539747**
(First three letters of account are ROY)
3. Credit card – use the PAYPAL option on www.raacansw.org.au

The usual rates apply: \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. For any questions on membership please check the RAACA Website.

Paying on this reminder helps the volunteer Committee and avoids getting a written reminder.



ADSO ALLIANCE OF DEFENCE SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

24 May 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT **'IT'S TIME'**

TO STUMP UP FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, AND VETERANS

The Defence Force Welfare Association, together with its partners in the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations (ADSO)¹ comprising some 90,000 members, are beginning to wonder whether the men and women of the Australian Defence Force, and the veterans' community, are in a policy free zone leading up to the forthcoming election. As a combined voice those Associations are looking for policy initiatives from all political parties that would provide some redress of the concerns expressed to the Government and Opposition parties over the last many years.

Instead of positive policies we see;

1. Government wastefully spending millions fighting veterans' claims most of which are ultimately proven to be valid. Such disputes almost invariably lead to depression, high levels of stress and adverse mental outcomes.
2. Government and Defence failing to fully recognize that many ADF members who took Mefloquine may have suffered physical and mental harm. They need reassurance that the Government will take positive and proactive action to survey those who were administered this drug and provide no questions asked health support to combat the impacts of this drug. It's Time to actively support them and their families in every way possible to ensure their physical and mental health needs are met.
3. Government allowing the Veteran Disability Pensions to be reduced in relative value at the expense of our disabled veterans.
4. Government reducing the value of ADF superannuation by deliberately discounting the indexation of MSBS and DFRB/DFERDB superannuation payments, not to mention the use of 50-year old life tables to reduce DFRDB superannuation payments.
5. Government resisting the provision of hearing appliances to meet the identified clinical need of veterans with complex hearing loss requirements.

Our service personnel have made a major contribution to Nation's security and freedom since federation but governments over the years have fallen well short of their obligations to them. This reinforces the need to recognize the special compact between the Nation and its service personnel with an 'Australian Military Accord'.

It's Time for all political parties to release their veterans' policies.

<i>Contacts</i>		
ADSO Campaign Co Directors		ADSO National Spokesman
Ted Chitham (0418) 733 887	<i>http://adso.org.au/</i>	David Jamison (0416) 107 557
Alf Jaugietis (0438) 282 284		

¹ The Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA), Naval Association of Australia (NAA), RAAF Association (RAAFA), Royal Australian Regiment Corporation (RARC), Australian Special Air Service Association (ASASA), Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA), the Australian Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Ex-Service Men and Women, the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia, Partners of Veterans Association of Australia, Royal Australian Armoured Corps Corporation (RAACC), the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia (NMBVAA), Defence Reserves Association (DRA), Australian Gulf War Veterans Association, Australian Commando Association, War Widows Guild, Military Police Association Australia (MPAA), and the Australian Army Apprentices Association.