



ESTABLISHED 1946

September 2021
Issue No. 486

Journal of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association NSW Inc
Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW, 2021 .
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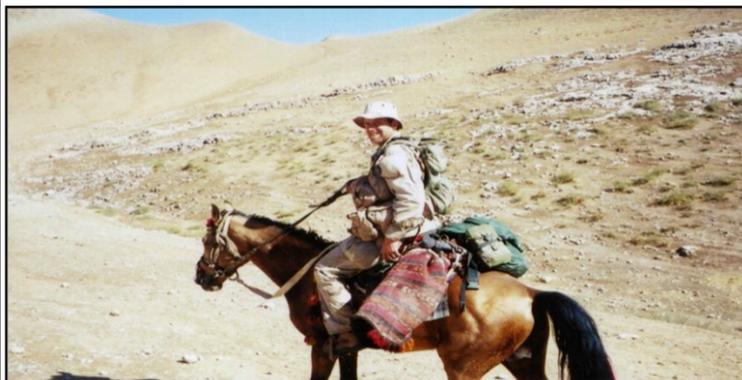
ARMOUR

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

Task force Dagger The liberation of Afghanistan from the Taliban 20 years Ago

This is the incredible true story of a group of Special Forces soldiers deployed to Afghanistan after 9/11 — and found themselves fighting a war on horseback.

On Oct. 19, 2001, Nutsch and a team of 11 other Green Berets with the 5th Special Forces Group's Operational Detachment Alpha 595 were inserted into Afghanistan to liberate the region from the Taliban without tanks or trucks. Just horses.



Then-Capt. Mark Nutsch led the 5th Special Forces Group's Operation Detachment Alpha 595. The team rode horses as they worked with militia allies to liberate Afghanistan from the Taliban in 2001. (Mark Nutsch)

“We didn’t know horses were going to be involved until about 48 hours prior to our insertion when we were told “be prepared to use indigenous animals for transportation.”

The assumption was that the horses were to be used in reconnaissance and as the most efficient way to move men through the mountains from engagement to engagement. The concept of “riding horses into combat” didn’t really occur to the team.

The Northern Alliance provided the Special Forces with horses, which were essentially the

only way to move quickly through the mountains of northern Afghanistan.

Despite having little experience on horseback, other than Captain Mark Nutsch, the soldiers adapted. Special Forces are trained to adapt and adjust to each scenario, to infiltrate and work with local communities.

ODA 595 was one of several Special Forces teams sent into Afghanistan to topple the Taliban weeks after the 9/11 attacks as part of an unconventional mission known as Task Force Dagger.

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Annual Dinner of the Association in celebration and remembrance of the Battles of Cambrai and Beersheba World War One.

Brigadier Rob Lording CSM , President of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association (NSW), cordially invites all fellow Black Hats to the Annual Dinner of the Association in celebration and remembrance of the Battles of Cambrai and Beersheba in World War One.

When and Where:

The dinner will be held at The Royal Automobile Club, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney on Saturday 13th November 2021.

Pre-dinner drinks from 1830 hrs for Dinner at 1900 hrs.

Black Tie, Mess Dress or Coat & Tie, (Miniatures may be worn)

Guest of Honour: The Guest of Honour has unfortunately not yet been confirmed due to the disruption caused by consideration of COVID-19.

Cost and Reply

RSVP: NLT 5th November 20 by paying \$99 per head to RAACA NSW as follows:
Electronic Funds Transfer to DefCredit, BSB 803205, A/c No 20539747.
Please include your last NAME and the text 'Dinner payment'.

For those who collect patches, the Lancer Museum has some new ones. They depict the M113 MRV and can be ordered from the museum shop. (www.lancers.org.au)





**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.00pm
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, PADDINGTON RSL, 220 OXFORD ST
PADDINGTON NSW 2021**



**RSL
NSW**

19 August 2021
RSL NSW Royal Commission Office

Dear Members

RSL Australia is preparing a consolidated submission to present to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide which is due to commence its deliberations before the end of the year. The RSL will collate input from across the country to present an initial submission to the Royal Commission on behalf of all members and veterans.

To support this process RSL NSW will establish a Royal Commission Office at ANZAC House. The Office will provide support to all levels of the RSL in engagement with the Royal Commission and will include: Circulating information and updates to members regarding the progress of the Royal Commission Assistance for individual members or veterans in drafting submissions.

Support for individuals in preparation for, and following appearances at, Royal Commission hearings Assistance for RSL NSW-related entities, including sub-Branched, District Councils and RSL LifeCare/RSL DefenceCare in drafting submissions.

Collating and drafting RSL NSW's submission, building on the views of our members, sub-Branched and District Councils.

Collaboration with RSL Australia

- Ongoing monitoring of the response to the Royal Commission and its progress in implementing Recommendations.
- Establishment of the Office will ensure the strongest response to the Royal Commission, and by doing so, also ensure the best support and outcomes for our valued members and the wider veteran community.
- Should you wish to contact the RSL NSW Royal Commission Office, please do so at submissions@rslnsw.org.au or on 0499 441 291.
- In the meantime, if you, or someone you know, requires support in relation to the Royal Commission the following services are available:
- Please note that sub-Branched do not offer mental health crisis support but can assist with connecting you to these services;
- Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14, Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467
- Open Arms (current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families are able to seek this free and confidential support) – 1800 011 046
- ADF Mental Health All-hours Support Line (for current serving ADF personnel and their families) – 1800 628 036
- Safe Zone Support (for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families) – 1800 142 072. When you call Safe Zone Support, you do not need to identify yourself.

Yours faithfully
Ray James OAM
RSL NSW President

(Continued from page 1)

“We had a great amount of experience on that team,” Nutsch said. “Our average age was 32, we averaged eight years of service, and we were considered a very senior, mature unconventional warfare-focused team.”

Nutsch, who went into Special Forces because he wanted to work with small teams, served as the commander of ODA 595 for two years before the 9/11 attacks and had already deployed to the Middle East half a dozen times.

Although Nutsch left the unit and started a new assignment on Sept. 10, 2001, that was short-lived. ODA 595 needed Nutsch, and he was subsequently reassigned the commander of the team. Days later on Sept. 14, 2001, Nutsch learned ODA 595 was poised to deploy.

“My team was informed that we were going to be the first Special Forces team deployed from the Special Forces Group into a mission that we didn’t fully know what it was going to be,” Nutsch said.

To prepare for Task Force Dagger, ODA 595 pored over National Geographic and tourist maps as they studied up on the regional personalities. Specifically, Nutsch said the team identified the anti-Taliban leaders of the Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazaras who ultimately formed the Northern Alliance. The Unit and CIA counterparts worked to unite these groups to form a militia with nearly 5,000 fighters.

ODA 595 first headed to Uzbekistan on Oct. 5, 2001, before crossing into Afghanistan on Oct. 19 in an MH-47 Chinook helicopter and connecting with Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and his Uzbek militia. Dostum was a former communist general who had earned some notoriety for changing his allegiance in previous Afghan conflicts.

Upon arrival, the team had a lot to learn — including how to ride the local’s horses within hours of touching down in Afghanistan. “We’re figuring out, how do you carry your rifle? What gear do I keep on my body? What can I put on the horse? What do I leave behind? You know, can I trust the guys next to me? Is there an ambush up ahead?” Nutsch said.

“There’s a whole lot of things going on besides having this half-wild animal that you’re trying to figure out how to ride,” Nutsch said. According to Nutsch, it was “pure fate” that he grew up on a cattle ranch and already knew his way around horses. Not everyone was as experienced as Nutsch. One of the other men on the team had ridden horses a little in high school, and it was a completely new experience for the other 10 members.



U.S. Special Operations Forces, members of Task Force Dagger, and Afghanistan Commander Abdul Rashid Dostum on horseback in the Dari-a-Souf Valley, Afghanistan, in October 2001. Public domain image by Master Sgt. Chris Spence, FOB-53/U.S. Army, United States Special Operations Command

The men essentially received a horseback riding crash course involving hours on the horses as soon as they arrived in Afghanistan — a painful process that demanded using new muscles. Furthermore, the saddles and riding gear wasn’t designed to accommodate the Americans, who were larger and heavier than their Afghanistan counterparts, according to an Army news release. Broken stirrups were repaired with parachute cargo straps. Eventually the team requested and received an air drop of Australian-style stock saddles to better fit the large frames of the soldiers, as opposed to the small wooden saddles used by Afghanistan soldiers.

Although Nutsch said there was a steep learning curve at first, the men adapted well and the horses actually provided them with flexibility. For example, they could ride at any time during the day or night, in all terrain types.

(Continued on page 5)

Meanwhile, the Taliban and al-Qaida had limited mobility using in the tanks left over from when the Soviet Union exited Afghanistan in the 1980s. “The horses allowed us to get in around them and behind them, and cut them off basically from reinforcement and retreat,” Nutsch said. This was possible because the special forces teams worked in three-man cells, along with their Afghan allies, and could view the enemy from various vantage points in adjacent districts, Nutsch said.

On October 21, the Northern Alliance sought to capture the village of Bishqab, which would help them gain a foothold to eventually move on to more strategic settlements and begin regaining control of Afghanistan. The attack would require a charge by the Northern Alliance’s 1,500 cavalry and 1,500 light infantry across a mile-wide plain marked by ridges, which would expose the forces to enemy fire: Bishqab was fortified with tanks, cannons, machine guns, anti-aircraft guns, mines, RPGs and mortars.

The attack by the Northern Alliance seemed suicidal, despite air support from US forces. However, due perhaps to the speed of the cavalry, the second line of horsemen succeeded in taking the Taliban trenches with the enemy fleeing. A second, larger attack the next day at Cobaki nearly saw the Northern Alliance fail; it was at this point that members of the Special Forces themselves charged into battle on horseback to aid General Dostum. This reinforcement turned the tide and the Northern Alliance took the day. Captain Nutsch emailed a report including a line that has since become famous:

I am advising a man on how to best employ light infantry and horse cavalry in the attack against Taliban T-55s, mortars, artillery, personnel carriers, and machine guns – a tactic which I think became outdated with the invention of the Gatling gun.

On Nov. 10, ODA 595 and militia allies liberated the city of Mazar-e-Sharif from the Taliban, marking a huge victory that paved the way for future success. Weeks later, Taliban surrendered in other areas of Afghanistan.

“Our American presence on the ground gave them hope and emboldened them that they can have a little better future,” Nutsch said about the Afghan allies.

Released in January 2018, the movie ‘12 Strong’ brings to the big screen the incredible true story of a group of Special Forces soldiers deployed to Afghanistan after 9/11 — and found themselves climbing into the saddle. The film is based on Doug Stanton’s book entitled “The Horse Soldiers”

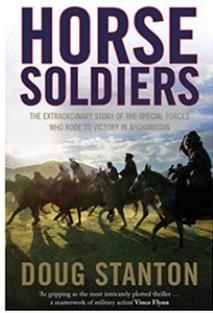


ODA 595 with militia allies on Nov. 9, the day before Mazar-e-Shariff was liberated. (Mark Nutsch)





The actions of these Special Forces, now known as the “Horse Soldiers,” has been commemorated by the America’s Response Monument, a statue depicting a Special Forces member on horseback. The statue stands in front of One World Trade Center.



Editor Note: *For those who interested, the book by Doug Stanton is worth a read. Sadly it portrays yet another conflict in which we were involved which from the military aspect was successful but in the end all gains were lost due to inept government policy and political interference in military operations.*

Talisman Sabre 2021 - Battle Group Eagle swoops

By Mike Hughes

Distinctive red-and-white shemaghs and blue baseball caps gave away the “enemy” soldiers scattered in defensive positions around a town under their control. Heavy machine guns being fired from less than a kilometre away shattered the serenity.

An enemy soldier yelled “tanks east” before shots were fired from the cannons of the enemy’s infantry fighting vehicles (IFV).

Adjudicators took their positions to determine the casualties for the scenario held as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre (TS21) at Townsville Field Training Area’s urban operations facility.



CAPTION: An Australian Army M1A1 Abrams tank from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment moves forward in a simulated attack serial held at the Townsville Field Training Area as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre. Story by Warrant Officer Class 2 Max Bree. Photo by Corporal Brandon Grey.

Shots were then fired on the enemy across a clearing from a force of 10 tanks from Battle Group Eagle.

Some enemy IFVs were destroyed, others were suppressed, allowing three United States Marine Corps (USMC) MV-22 Ospreys to land additional Marines nearby.

Suppressive fire from the M1A1 Abrams main battle tank kept enemy heads down as more tanks crossed open ground followed by Marines in assault formation.

Tensions escalated as actors playing town residents were threatened unless the attack stopped – all to no avail.

Some tanks were marked by the adjudicators as destroyed, but the rest pushed to the town outskirts and over barbed-wire obstacles.

Seeing things unfold from an Abrams was 2nd Cavalry Regiment’s Lieutenant Joshua Shorter, commander of the tank troop with the call sign Tango 32.

“An urban break-in can be quite complicated, but a tank is able to reduce the obstacles,” Lieutenant Shorter said.

“That can minimise the time infantry spend in the open on the approach and their break-in can occur earlier.”

Lieutenant Shorter said he would not want to be on the other end of so many tanks with their 120mm main guns being fired.

“That shock action has a large effect on the enemy morale. They are shaken and ready to be assaulted by the ground forces,” he said.

The enemy fell back from the town’s outer buildings just before the marines entered. “This door is booby trapped”, one Marine yelled before he called forward the Australian Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team attached with his platoon.

One EOD technician was Corporal Philip Rutherford, who had been attached to the US Marines just before the battle.

“At the line of departure, we met up with our platoons and said, ‘tell us where you want EOD and we’ll be there with bells and whistles on to get the job done’,” Corporal Rutherford said.



CAPTION: Australian Army Sapper Guy Phillips, right, of the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, alongside a US Marine during a clearance of an enemy stronghold at the Townsville Field Training Area. Photo by Corporal Brandon Grey.

More enemy vehicles were destroyed ahead of the Marines, who moved into the town centre to clear the main buildings.

House-to-house fighting broke out on the town’s western section as protracted gun battles ensued.

Australian M113AS4 armoured personnel carriers arrived to load wounded US Marines from a large building that had become a makeshift company headquarters.

Chatter over US Marine radios gave commentary on the last clearances. “Three buildings remaining. Two buildings remaining.”

The assault force of 180 Marines was from Animal Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, commanded by Major Joseph Carroll.

While his rifle company featured many infantrymen, Major Carroll said it didn’t have heavy assets. “Urban is infantry’s bread-and-butter but if you add tanks into that, it’s a game-winner,” he said.

“They bring a tremendous amount of heavy and medium machine gun ammo to suppress [enemies in] buildings. “That main gun can destroy buildings or at least make sure anyone in there is concussed as we make entry.”

His US Marine company was attached to Australia’s Battle Group Eagle, which also facilitated things such as rations, water, transport and a swap of liaison officers.

Having secured the town, Marines entered defensive positions then checked ammo and equipment. Lieutenant Shorter and the tanks occupied a northern guard position to prevent a possible counter-attack.

“The US Marines were timely, professional and their assault was aggressive and fast,” he said. “From what I could hear, the cross-talk between them and us was excellent for coordinating the assault.”

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CONTACT editor@militarycontact.com

BRITISH TANKS ARE HARMING THEIR CREW

Mike Butler



The new armored vehicle to be inducted by the British Army has got its priorities wrong. Instead of instilling fear in the enemy, it is instilling sickness in the personnel who travel inside.

While this wasn’t a planned feature, the excessive vibration and noise inside the Ajax armored vehicle are causing tinnitus - the ringing of the ears and nausea in the crew it carries.

The Ajax is a 38-ton vehicle with a 40-millimeter gun. It is supposed to be an improvement of the ASCOD 2 and includes heavier armor. However, a BBC report suggests that this additional armor is the root cause of the issues faced.

An internal report about the problems with Ajax was first released by The Sun. Apart from the vibration and noise issues, it also exposes some other problems with the vehicle such as its inability to reverse over an obstacle that is 7 inches (20 cm) high. The vehicle also has suspension problems that do not allow the gun to fire while the vehicle is moving.

But it is the vibration and noise that have caused the most issues. The trials were previously halted as the crews complained of aching joints and temporary hearing loss. After a four-month halt, the trials were resumed in March but with stricter restrictions on vehicle usage.

(Continued on page 10)

Technical Notes & News

Hanwha Defense Australia Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle (front) and Rheinmetall Defence Australia LYNX KF41 Infantry Fighting Vehicle (back), conduct LAND 400 Phase 3 user evaluation trials at Puckapunyal Military Area, Victoria.



Two companies have been short listed for the Land 400 Phase 3 Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA) of the next-generation tracked infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) and armored personnel carriers (APC), to replace the Australian M-113s. The two contenders are Hanwha Defense System AS21 Redback and Rheinmetall Lynx KF-41.

LAND 400 Phase 3 is a \$10-15 billion program which will recapitalize the M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) force of the Australian Army, with a combination of tracked IFV and APCs. The new family of vehicles will be better armed, highly protected and more efficient than the current M-113s. They will also be heavier and will rely on a new combat service support systems to sustain the battle.

When fully delivered the LAND 400 Program will allow the Army to successfully sustain mounted close combat operations against emerging and future threats, as part of an integrated Australian Defence Force”

The Lynx KF-41 is based on a brand new platform developed by Rheinmetall, which is operated by a crew of three and has the capacity to carry nine troops. It mounts the Lance 2.0 turret with 30-35mm automatic cannon, 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun. Rheinmetall can rely on the significant workshare already launched with Australian industries, and the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence MILVEHCOE (facility) being established Redbank to support the Land 400 Phase 2 (Boxer) vehicle acquisition.

The AS21 Redback is also based on a new platform that integrates an advanced Australian designed and built turret that mounts a 40mm automatic cannon, 7.62 mm coaxial machine gun and provisions for active protection system (APS). The vehicle is operated by a crew of three and has the capacity to carry eight troops. Both vehicles have an operational range of 500 km, and a top road speed of 70 km/h. Hanwha has approached Australian companies and has already teamed with some, to develop the Australian configuration of AS21. While the power train and automotive elements would be delivered by the Koreans, Hanwha said it is open to local participation in the fields of armor, electronics, structural assemblies, and system integration for the AS21.

Defense Industry Minister Melissa Price welcomed the announcement and stressed the importance of Australian Industry Content (AIC) in the multi-billion recapitalization effort. During the testing-phase Defence will work with the shortlisted tenderers to ensure small and medium enterprises across Australia have the opportunity to showcase their capabilities. Minister Price said.



Boxer gun car seen firing in Oz for first time

By Mike Hughes

The 'gun-car' variant of the Australian Army's Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles (CRV) has been fired for the first time in Australia by soldiers who will man it in the field.



CAPTION: A Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle at the Wide Bay Training Area, Queensland, fires its 30mm canon. Story by Captain Jesse Robilliard. Photo by Leading Aircraftman John Solomon.

The accuracy and lethality of the Boxer impressed the soldiers from 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) (2/14LHR(QMI)) on their turret conversion course.

After several weeks of theory, the soldiers travelled to the Wide Bay Training Area in late June for the live-fire component of the conversion course, where they fired the main 30mm armament of the Boxer.

Lieutenant Stefano Rankin was on the course to convert from the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) to the Boxer CRV and said he was immediately impressed with the turret.

"To fire the turret, it's quite different to what we are used to. It's very digitised, as opposed to the ASLAV," Lieutenant Rankin said.

"It is a very capable piece of equipment.

"The fire-control system on the Boxer is much more advanced than the ASLAV – it's a more modern vehicle.

"I managed to hit targets in excess of 2500m."

The Boxer CRV will replace the ASLAV, the current reconnaissance platform, which has been in service with the Army since the 1990s.

Members of 2/14LHR(QMI) said the advanced sights on the Boxer CRV sped up target identification and engagement.

Lieutenant Rankin said the most impressive part of the Boxer was the accuracy of the weapon system.

"From the start – from zeroing straight through to engaging targets – you are almost guaranteed a first-round hit," he said. "It's a significant advantage to the ASLAVs. "The accuracy of the weapon system is phenomenal compared to the ASLAV, and you are

just able to see targets more clearly through the advanced sighting system." Trooper Brett Ward said firing the main 30mm armament after several weeks of theory with the new turret was exhilarating.

"It was extremely satisfying firing it after being in the classroom for weeks, so to get out here and live-fire it, to get rounds on targets, mostly first time, it's extremely impressive," he said. "Just the incredible accuracy, even from the zeroing of the weapon, getting first-rounds hits with pinpoint accuracy, compared to the ASLAV, was really impressive." The bulk of the live-fire event was conducted from a static position at the Wide Bay Training Area.

However, Lieutenant Rankin said he believed firing on the move won't be an issue with the Boxer.

"The stabilisation system on the Boxer is very advanced," he said. "It has technology that calculates the movement of the vehicle to the target as well as the movement of the target to the vehicle. "This enables us to get first-round hits almost all the time, even when on a battle run."

The Boxer CRV is due to achieve initial operational capability in the second quarter of next year.

CONTACT Newsletter 150

Inbox

CONTACT editor@militarycontact.com via sendinblue.com

25 Jul 2021, 13:41

to me

50th anniversary of Operation Ivanhoe, Vietnam



DVA will hold a National Commemorative Service to mark the 50th anniversary of Operation Ivanhoe and the Battle of Nui Le at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra. The service will take place on Monday, 20 September 2021 at 10.30am and will be live broadcast nationally on ABC TV.

In September 1971, Australian forces were entering the final stages of their decade-long involvement in the Vietnam War. With elements of the Australian Task Force already returning home, enemy forces — particularly the battle-hardened 33rd North Vietnamese Army (NVA) Regiment — sought to establish themselves in Phuoc Tuy Province.

Operation Ivanhoe was intended to prevent enemy forces from gaining a foothold. Launched on 19 September 1971, it was a search-and-destroy sweep of the area south of the Courtenay rubber plantation.

Operational personnel comprised members of the 4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment/New Zealand (4RAR/NZ — the ANZAC Battalion), the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, armoured personnel carriers from A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, engineers from 1st Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers along with artillery support from 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery and air support from No. 9 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight and United States aircraft. Unfortunately, the Australian tanks that had supported previous operations had departed from Vung Tau to return to Australia less than a week before. The last major offensive operation of Australia's war in Vietnam, Ivanhoe saw Australian forces engage in a series of heavy contacts with the 33rd NVA Regiment.

This included the last major battle fought by Australian forces in Vietnam — the Battle of Nui Le on 21 September 1971. Throughout the day and into the night, soldiers from 4RAR/NZ's B and D companies were engaged by NVA troops across two locations about four kilometres apart. In support of the fighting on the ground, United States aircraft and helicopters from No. 9 Squadron RAAF provided substantial and effective air support, while artillery burst among the NVA positions. Overhead, helicopters from 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight dropped urgently needed ammunition, and monitored activity on the ground below. The intense fighting that day came at a cost. Five Australian servicemen were killed and many more were wounded. Clearing patrols went out at dawn the following day but the enemy had left during the night.



2nd Lt Graham David Spinkston contemplates a copy of *Taste of Courage* which had prevented an enemy AK-47 round from hitting his left leg as he led 12 Platoon, D Company, 4 RAR/NZ, in a bunker contact against 3 Battalion, 33 North Vietnamese Army Regiment, on 21 September 1971. The book is held in the collection of the Australian War Memorial. (AWM P07256.007)

During the operation, crew from A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment were also engaged in contacts with the NVA, resulting in a number of Australians wounded.

The National Commemorative Service will commemorate all those who served during Operation Ivanhoe, including the six Australian servicemen killed. It is an opportunity to reflect on the qualities of courage and perseverance that characterised Australians' service in Vietnam.

Details about the service will be available on the 50th Anniversary of Operation Ivanhoe and the Battle of Nui Le webpage of the DVA website.



(Continued from page 7)

BRITISH TANKS ARE HARMING THEIR CREW

Crews cannot spend more than 90 minutes inside the vehicle that can maintain a top speed of 20mph (32.1 kmph), less than half of its top speed.

The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) had initially contracted this work in 2014. However, issues with the vehicles have resulted in higher scrutiny of the work done by the contractor, General Dynamics. The MoD is spending £5.5 billion on 589 of these armored vehicles. So far, only 14 have been delivered with issues.

The project was aimed to modernize the British Army with a fleet of reconnaissance vehicles by 2023/24. But a review report by the Infrastructure and Projects Authority called it an “unachievable” goal in terms of cost, time, and

quality.

Having spent over £3.5 billion already, the Army and MoD remain committed to the project and are hopeful of achieving initial operating capability soon. They have been working with General Dynamics to resolve these issues.

RAACA Memorabilia for sale,

AFV Crewman's Badge	\$20
Pocket Badges	\$15
Lapel Badges	\$15
Armoured Antics	\$10
Vietnam Video	\$10
Boer War Lapel	\$15
Army combat badge	Large \$20
	Small \$20

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

Vale

Allen Chanter

Sadly, Allen Chanter passed away Saturday 15 May 2021. Allen served in the regiment (1ATB and 1AR (RNSWL)) taking part in the Sattelberg (New Guinea) and Balikpapan (Dutch Borneo) campaigns. He finished the war as a sergeant troop commander. After the war he re-joined and was commissioned in 1952.

Allen was 95, born 8 Feb 1923, his last address was Melton West VIC, 1400 Friday 21 May 2021, Tobin Brothers Funerals, 364 Main Rd West, St Albans, Victoria.

As we recognise most of the Lancer Association membership do not reside in Victoria, the RAAC Corp, 1AR and 4/19 PWLH societies have been approached to have some black hats present. Thanks very much for representing us all.

Allen in the past few years found a colleague in John Forrester a post war member of 1AR. John took the time to ensure Allen received copies of Lancers' Despatch and regularly visited him reminiscing about their tank days. It was John who let us know about Allen's passing.

Sincerely,
John Howells
Secretary

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

Mr.	Ronald	RK	Wood	6 NSW MR
Mr.		B	Hibberd	
LtCol	Donald	DR	Chappell	1AR, 3/9, 10LH
Major	Wolfgang	JL	Klimisch	1AR 2Cav 3 Cav 3/4 Cav 4 cav 2/14 LH
Mr.	Kevin	KA	Farrell	
Dr.	Kevin	KD	Holt Smith OAM	12/16 HRL, 6NSWMR

Vale

Major Graham Lovegrove (Jnr)

RAAC. OCS Class December 1977

It is with a sad heart I can report that Graham passed away quietly in Bali, Indonesia on 14 August 2021.

He will be missed by many.

RIP my friend

Sincerely,

David Compton

Vale

Harry Bell

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing on Saturday, 31st July 2021 of our Association's Patron and 2/6 Vet Harry Bell NX203171 (2/9).

A tribute to Harry was published in the Victorian Sun Herald on Saturday, 7th August. This tribute will also be added to the website tribute, along with other tributes to Harry, that are published in other newspapers throughout the country.

Later this month, or early September, I intend to email out a newsletter with some Association News and some preliminary details of our Association's next major event which will be the 82nd Foundation Day Commemoration Service to be held on Wednesday, 3rd November, 2021.

Hopefully, Covid restrictions permitting, we will be once again be able to hold this event at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance under the substantial canopy of our Unit Eucalypt. During this service we will also pay tribute to Harry.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Bob Stafford

Secretary/Treasurer

2/6 Cavalry Commando Regiment & 2nd Cavalry Regiment Association (Vic) Inc.

