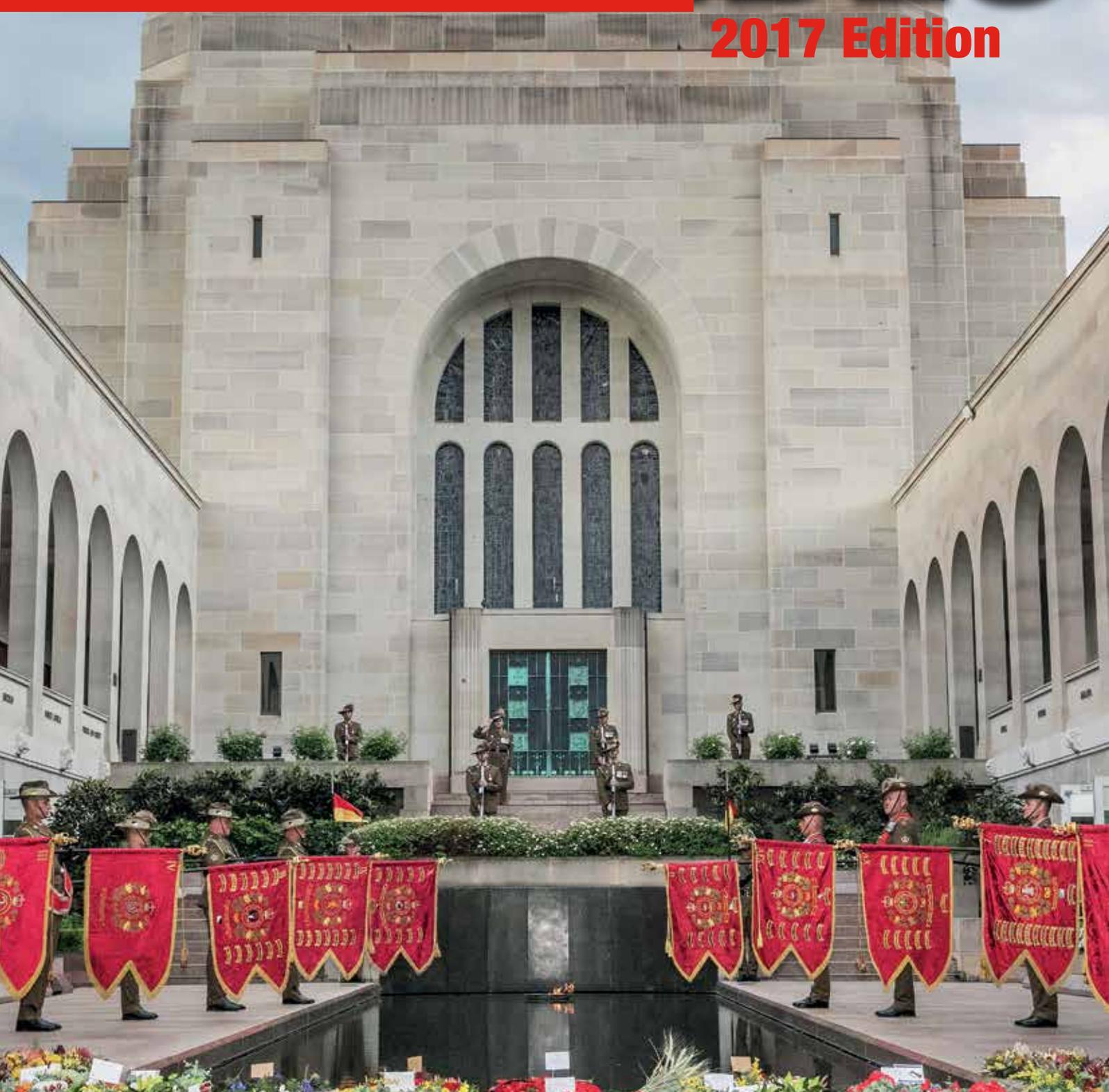


# IRONSIDES

2017 Edition



**The Journal of the  
Royal Australian Armoured Corps**

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
Land Systems

INNOVATE. IMPROVE. REPEAT.





# contents

Compliments from the Colonel in Chief	2
Heads Up from the Head of Corps	3
Message from the Representative Honorary Colonel For Exemplary Service	4 5
Comments from the Corps RSM	6
Sitrep from Commander Forces Command	7
7th Brigade Sitrep	8
1st Brigade in 2017	9
2nd Cavalry Regiment in 3rd Brigade	10
Land Simulation Capability	11
Back to the Future	12
RAAC Contingent Commemoration of the Charge at Beersheba 2017	14
Wearing the Crimson Ribbon – From Ruffy to Beersheba	16
Unit Sitreps	18
Tulugal Program – Produces Optimized Cavalry Scouts	29
Southern Stingers - Re-Naming of Support Squadron	30
Leopard AS1 Cut Away	31
Battle of Cambrai	32
Battle of Beersheba	36
RAAC Trades and Training	42
Project LAND 400 Update	43
D-AFVS - Land Capability Division	44
Battle of Beersheba - 100 years Commemoration - Canberra	46
7 Div Cav - WWII DIV CAV REGTS	48
B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment Historical Collection	50
Australian Army Tank Museum & RAAC Memorial Update	52
2nd Lt Eric Layton Purdy – the First Australian Tank Commander	54
Black Beret	58
Vales	62

## 2017 EDITION

The views expressed in published articles are the author's own and not necessarily those of the Army or Department of Defence.

### Editor:

MAJ G.T. Hooper, CSM

### Deputy Editors:

WO2 T. Finn & SGT D. O'Neill

### Publisher:

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps  
Hopkins Barracks PUCKAPUNYAL VIC 3662

### Typeset, Artwork and Printing:

New Millennium Print  
1/38 Kembla Street, FYSHWICK ACT 2609  
1300 362 679

### Cover Images:

The Standard and Guidon's of the RAAC proudly displayed around the Pool of Remembrance during the Last Post Ceremony as part of 100 years commemoration of the Battle of Beersheba, Canberra 31 Oct 2017.

### Back Cover Images:

WO1 Courage – Mascot of 2nd Cavalry Regiment 1987 -2017





# Compliments

## from the Colonel-in-Chief

HRH Prince Charles



CLARENCE HOUSE

I am delighted once again, as Colonel-in-Chief, to introduce this year's Journal.

This year marks the centennial commemoration of a most auspicious event for our Corps, the Battle of Beersheba. This iconic battle forged a large part of the Corps' dedication, ethos and courage and I am sure that each commemoration will serve to reflect the great sacrifice of our predecessors.

In addition, this year marks the centennial of the start of the Battle of Cambrai. Again, this is a significant point in the Corps' history, commemorated, I know, with great reverence by many. I would particularly like to commend the 1st Armoured Regiment's personnel, recently returned from operations, for their many Cambrai Day parades, including this year's parade in Adelaide.

I am delighted to say that each Regiment and Squadron continues to conduct itself impressively. Therefore the individual I wish to highlight this year is, of course, the recipient of the annual Prince of Wales's Award, Major Stephen "Butch" Cassidy of the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers. As always, this selection was an extremely difficult decision given the talent shown across the Corps. Major Cassidy is a truly deserving recipient and I am most grateful for his work and service.

I need hardly say that I am very much looking forward to visiting Australia to attend the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and I hope I may have a chance to renew my very special connection with you all whilst there.

In the meantime, I can only thank you once again for your dedicated service, particularly those who are deployed or about to deploy. I wish all of you in the R.A.A.C. every best wish for 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles', with a long, sweeping underline below it.

# Heads Up

## From the Head of Corps

By Brigadier Chris Mills



**W**hat a year it has been! And what a privilege it is to be part of this Corps, its history and future.

Before the Light Horse left for Australia following the end of World War 1, British General Edmund Allenby wrote a remarkable tribute to them. It concluded: "The Australian light horseman combines with a splendid physique a restless activity of mind. This mental quality renders him somewhat impatient of rigid and formal discipline, but it confers upon him the gift of adaptability, and this is the secret of much of his success mounted or on foot. In this dual role the Australian light horseman has proved himself equal to the best. He has earned the gratitude of the Empire and the admiration of the world." A remarkable testament to a remarkable group of soldiers and their leaders. But this generation of light horsemen has been followed by subsequent generations of remarkable Armoured Corps men and women who have equally excelled in the wars and operational commitments that have followed. From World War II, to Korea, Vietnam, Malaya and Borneo, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan and the Sinai. Each generation building on the example of the last, to create the reputation we enjoy today.

As part of the current generation of the Corps I believe we are truly blessed to stand on the shoulders of giants. But with that blessing comes a responsibility: to honour what those who have gone before us have achieved; to live Army's values of courage, respect, initiative and teamwork; and to leave an inheritance to those that will follow that we will be proud of. This year three key events have provided us with an opportunity to pause and reflect on our proud history. The 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba and the significant commitment from the Corps both overseas and in Australia, giving us an opportunity to commemorate the bravery of those involved and the supreme sacrifice payed by those killed and injured. It also gave us an opportunity to draw focus on broader WW1 Middle East Campaign and the great success the Light Horse brought to that campaign. In contrast, the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai gave us an opportunity to reflect on the mud and blood of the battlefields of Europe and the bravery of those involved. It also enabled us to commemorate the first significant use of tanks on mass as part of a combined arms teams and the effectiveness of the capability ever since. Finally, we saw the renaming of Support Squadron, School of Armour, to B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and in doing so we saw its Guidons and all they represent passed on to the latest generations of "Stingers". This event allowed us to acknowledge the example of our Vietnam veterans and the challenges they faced in the jungles and rice paddies of South East Asia.

As HOC reflecting on these past examples, makes our current achievements all the more special. This year we have again seen our men and women, and the Regiments they are a part of, excel on exercises and operations. They

have embraced our history, continue to live our values, and have achieved great things. This year we also saw the final pieces of Plan Beersheba come to fruition with tanks arriving in 2/14 LHR (QMI), marked by the unit's freedom of entry to the City of Brisbane with crowds cheering as the Regiment, with tanks apart, moved down Edwards Street. 1st Armoured Regiment also concentrated in Adelaide leaving Darwin behind and our Reserve units have risen to the challenge of providing both PMV lift for the Reserve Infantry Brigades and our Cavalry Scouts to the ACR's. Each of these events demonstrates how we are moving forward as a Corps, continuing to support our Army, standing on the shoulders of giants.

On behalf of the Corps I would also like to take this opportunity to again congratulate MAJ Stephen (Butch) Cassidy, the 2017 Prince of Wales award winner. MAJ Cassidy was awarded the commendation for exemplary service to the RAAC. A very worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

This year we unfortunately also shared the grief of the passing of our comrades, TPR Stuart Reddan, WO2 John Ferguson, WO1 Bob Aboud and Brig Gordon Jones. Stuart at the start of his career, and John, Bob and Gordon having spent the better part of their lives in service of the Corps. We also honoured the passing of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's beloved Mascot Courage and in his passing saw him promoted to WO1.

In moving forward, I note that by the time this edition of Ironsides is published, the men and women of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will have again deployed to the Middle East, following in the footsteps of those that have gone before. We wish them every success and a safe return. In 2018, we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral and the 25th anniversary of the OP Solace deployment. And I am sure the men and women of our Corps will continue to achieve great feats and set the standard for others to follow.

It is a privilege to be a part of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. I wish all those who have served and those continuing to serve a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to seeing as many of you who can make it, at next year's Corps Dinner. In closing, I would like to thank the Corps RSM, WO1 Peter Swinfield, for all his support and tireless hard work over his tenure. His efforts have been exceptional and have had a lasting impact on our Corps. I wish him all the best in his next posting to Army Knowledge Group. I look forward to formally welcoming the incoming Corps RSM, WO1 Jim Carroll in 2018 and wish him all the very best in his new appointment.

Good soldiering and every success.

BRIG Chris Mills, HOC





# Message

## From the Representative Honorary Colonel of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps

By Major General Roger Powell, AM (Retd)

**2**017 has been an exciting and very busy year again for the men and women of the RAAC. A culminating point for the Corps this year has been the 100th year anniversary of

the Light Horse charge at Beersheba, followed by the 100th year anniversary of the battle of Cambrai, France; two WW1 events that changed the course of history. Both tactical events, in their complementary way, emphasised the importance of mounted combat and the value of 'shock action', with relatively fast manoeuvre, that completely shattered the spirit of their respective static fortified adversaries. Each battle, in its own way, has provided a profound message to the tactical proponents with a penchant for single minded, attritional combat. The speed of acquiring information, speed of acquiring targets, speed of manoeuvre, speed of decision-making, and speed of engagement are all central to our doctrine led, digital and networked Army of the future. Protection inhibits speed; and one is a trade-off for the other!

As I write these words, I am returning from Beersheba in Southern Israel, after witnessing a most special and moving series of memorial services to our light horsemen and their waler horses. It was a very busy 31st October 2017, and a wonderful tribute to our ANZAC forebears, who 100 years ago to that day mounted the last famous cavalry charge to outflank the Turks and successfully capture the water wells intact at Beersheba, so essential for General Harry Chauvel's planned further exploitation to Damascus. It was such a privilege to 'rub shoulders' and chat with many of the 5,000 Aussies, from all walks of life, who made the pilgrimage to recognize the brave deeds of their ancestors. I also met some of the 100 Aussie horsemen and women who rode the route taken by their forebears and who then re-enacted the final charge over the same hallowed ground. I met a 72-year-old farmer from Harden, NSW who had a bad fall, with his horse rolling on top of him, early in the ride. The local doctor told him he must be 'made of tough stuff'. To prove the Doc was right, the bush stockman rode the rest of the journey on heavy painkillers. Our RAAC Reserve Regiments, whose lineage is linked directly to their light horse forebears, represented the RAAC very well indeed. The guidons of the 12/16th HRL and the 4/19th PWLH added poignancy to each of the memorial services throughout the day. Two young men, LT Ryan Conway from 2/14 LHR (QMI) and CPL John Abel from 4/19 PWLHR were selected by the Army to receive a sponsored trip to undertake the ride. I got to chat with them both throughout the activities and they will never forget the experience. Indeed, it was a truly remarkable experience for us all.

Through my travels during the last 12 months, I think the world looks less stable and more uncertain and complex than at any time in my lifetime. I have had the opportunity to visit Hong Kong, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Hungary, Slovakia, South Africa, Israel, and NZ. Travelling so extensively has continued to inform and influence my views of the growing international tensions. Of particular concern for me, is the insidious growth of asymmetric terror

tactics that have threatened to fragment nation states and coalitions, and to instill fear into large portions of peaceful societies. What a poignant reminder of how we should learn from the past and how often we appear not to do so! The politics playing out in the USA, the Asia Pacific and Europe, in which views are becoming increasingly polarised, requires strong leadership in our region and at home, to ensure we invest wisely in our military capabilities and capacity. Tough decisions about the priorities for investing in our maritime, aerospace, land, and cyber capabilities continues to be a challenge for our senior leaders. I remain convinced that we must be effective advocates to justify funding for future mounted combat capabilities, that are digitized and networked into the military fabric of the ADF and our allied defence forces. Our job, as informed mounted combat exponents, is to promote the value of armoured fighting vehicles, within the context of the likely future scenarios, to which Australia may have to commit armed force. We know, based on past experience, that this requires considerable ongoing investment in state of the art fighting vehicles, equipment, and the soldiers who crew, maintain, repair and support them. We all need to 'lean forward' as skillful advocates.

There continues to be informal collaboration between the RAAC's Honorary Colonels to ensure we play our parts in offering our perspectives on the art and science of mounted combat. We see it as one of our key roles to share our insights and past experience, when invited to do so. Also, the RAAC Corporation's leadership team held its AGM in Seymour on the 14th October. The Corporation continues to go from strength to strength, ably led by Noel McLaughlin, his Executive & Advisory Board and is very well supported by the State and unit associations across the country.

I think it is also important to advise you, that I continue to correspond with our Colonel in Chief, HRH Prince Charles. I send him an annual update on a range of RAAC matters, in particular, our operational commitments, our Honorary Colonels' appointments, our RAAC Regimental milestones, and the very moving dedication of the magnificent Boer War Memorial earlier this year. Mention will also be made of the LTGEN Sir Harry Chauvel Foundation, launched recently in Melbourne on 31st October. I trust we will support its ideals and objectives, as they become more widely known, hopefully culminating in an appropriate legacy for our great Australian light horse general, a most understated ANZAC hero of WW1.

Finally, as we enter the 2017 Festive Season, my thoughts and best wishes are, as always, with the soldiers and their families of the Corps, particularly those on operational service. I invite all of us to pause and reflect about our RAAC men and women, and their loved ones, who are on operational service; and those members and their families who are still recovering from the losses and hardships resulting from their service to the Nation. I pay tribute to those veterans who have died in the last 12 months and express my condolences to their loved ones.

As 2017 draws to a close, thank you to all those current and past RAAC members and their families for the support that you provide to one another in our Corps and my very best wishes for 2018.



# For Exemplary Service

## The Prince of Wales's Commendation

By Major Greg Hooper, CSM



*The Prince of Wales's Commendation is awarded annually to a current or former member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.*

It shall be awarded for exemplary service, achievement or a significant deed, embodying the values and ethos of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps. The actions of recipients will have resulted in substantial benefit to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

Following discussions with the Colonel-in-Chief of the RAAC, Prince Charles – The Prince of Wales, at Highgrove in July 2003; the then Representative Honorary Colonel, Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell accepted a proposal from His Royal Highness to formulate an award recognising exemplary RAAC service in his name.

Following a lengthy hiatus, a proposal was sent to the Colonel-in-Chief in early 2007 for his approval and, subsequent to his positive response, the inaugural Prince of Wales's Commendation was decided at the RAAC Council held at Robertson Barracks Palmerston in August 2007.

In recognition of his 39 years service in the Army where he retired as CGS in 1990 and his continuing service as the Honorary Colonel of 1st Armoured Regiment and

Representative Honorary Colonel of the RAAC; Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell, AC (Retd) was the very worthy inaugural recipient of this prestigious award.

The initial criteria for the award included the words 'unit or sub unit of the RAAC'. At the 2010 RAAC Council it was

decided to delete these words from the criteria as several unit nominations had been received and any decision to make a unit award was deemed extremely contentious and inappropriate.

Nominations are received each year prior to the RAAC Council where they are discussed in depth prior to a decision by the Head of Corps. At the annual RAAC Dinner held that night, the winner from the previous year is presented with a framed and personally signed by the Colonel-in-Chief - Prince of Wales's Commendation.

The recipients of this prestigious award so far have been:

2007 Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell, AC (Retd)

2008 Brigadier Justin Kelly, AM

2009 Warrant Officer Class Two Brian Heenan

2010 Major Richard Sarkies

2011 Major Peter Branagan, OAM

2012 Major John Baines, RFD

2013 Warrant Officer Class One Greg Hooper, CSM

2014 Major Gary Bush

2015 Warrant Officer Class One David England

2016 Major General Roger Powell, AM (Retd)

2017 Major Stephen "Butch" Cassidy



Major Cassidy has served in 2 Cav Regt, 2/14 LHR QM and Armoured Positions at RMC and 1 CSR during a career spanning 30 years. In his fourth posting to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment he has been instrumental in stabilising the unit as it transitioned from the First Brigade and immediately assumed training with the Ready Brigade. His management of facilities projects has established the unit in Lavarack Barracks and his compassion and empathy for soldiers experiencing difficulty with wounds, illness and injury has been the central pillar of the unit approach. In 2015 he coordinated unit support to the late TPR Matt Millhouse's wife and family led the unit's support to a large and warmly received 2 Cav Regt reunion. His sustained contribution to the corps and in particular his efforts as the 2IC of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment make him a worthy recipient of the Prince of Wales Award.





# Comments

## From the Corps RSM

By WO1 Peter Swinfield

*"The military profession is a thinking profession" – Anon*

**A**s I write my annual Ironsides 2017 article, I reflect upon where this year has gone, as well our many collective achievements as a Corps. The year commenced with the usual

high level of activity from the previous year. We welcomed WO2 Scott Pennycook, WO2 Michael Hunter and SGT Jan Van Der Waal to the RAAC Trade & Training Cell. We farewelled MAJ Mark Beveridge who deployed to the sandpit, while WO2 David Bastian and SGT James Evans decided that civilian life was more appealing. I would like to thank David and James for their considerable dedication and service to the RAAC.

The challenges of the RAAC Trades & Training Cell this year have again been many, with short notice tasks coming in weekly and usually on a Friday. Our main task for 2017 was transitioning the APC trade back to RAINF. This represented a significant challenge to the Cell which had invested considerably over the previous two years establishing the ECN 060 Armoured Cavalry trade model which embedded APCs back into the RAAC. We quickly shifted our focus on returning the APC capability to RAINF, with RAINF APC training commencing at the School of Armour in May. This work was accompanied by the redevelopment of Management Packages to provide the training needed for the RAINF to employ the APC within their units. The flow on effect of this has been a reduced RAAC DTR for APC along with the cross training of qualified APC crews onto Tank or CRV platforms. In addition PWS, M88A2, PMV-M all continued to add to the workload of the Cell even though these platforms are not employed by the RAAC.

Across the Corps, the tempo remains busy and challenging. 1st Armoured Regiment is moving to Edinburgh in South Australia, 2nd Cavalry Regiment is on deployment and the third tank squadron is being raised at 2/14 LHR (QMI). Our Army Reserve units have also been adjusting to changes, with the revitalisation of the 2nd Division ensuring our RAAC Army Reserve brethren continue to provide much needed capability in support of ACRs.

The RAAC capability conference was held in February at the Khan Centre, School of Armour. The conference was presided over by the HOC Brigadier Chris Mills with the command teams of the regular and reserve units as well as invited guests including Chief of Army and Commander Forces Command in attendance. On Saturday 25 February 2017, the annual Corps dinner was conducted in the Major P.G. Branagan, OAM Hanger. During the dinner, the HOC farewelled four Officers and three Warrant Officers of the RAAC who had provided over 250 years of combined

service. My whole hearted thanks for their dedication and service to the RAAC and the Australian Army and I wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Congratulations must also go to Major "Butch" Cassidy from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment upon being awarded the Prince of Wales's commendation for exemplary service to the RAAC. A very worthy recipient of this prestigious award. Well done.

Over my three years in the position of Warrant Officer Trade and Training Armour and the RSM RAAC I have been amazed and very proud of the officers and soldiers of the RAAC who continue to do outstanding work. Whether this has been a tank driver at the dusty Mount Bundy range or an RAAC officer training the Afghanistan National Army, it is very evident that we are all very proud of the role we perform in service of our country. The black beret and emu plumes, along with the customs and traditions that have been forged over many years make our Corps unique from all others. Our rich history continued on 08 July 2017 when Support Squadron, School of Armour was officially renamed as B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment.

As a Corps, we must ensure that our unit and Corps history is maintained and instilled in our young officers and soldiers. The importance of this cannot be over emphasised as we move squadrons and units around the organisation. We must never lose our RAAC "Esprit de Corps" as this is the underlying foundation of the RAAC and how we fight and train. Our thirteen Armoured Associations have continued their strong support to RAAC and their units. Their tireless efforts are very much appreciated and it is reassuring to know that their support in many forms is always available to our soldiers and their families. I would like to personally thank the Chairman of the RAAC Corporation, Mr Noel McLaughlin, OAM, for his outstanding support to myself, the HOC Cell and the RAAC. This was most evident when Noel was presented the Certificate of Recognition by the HOC at the Corps dinner this year.

Well done to all in the Corps for your continued efforts during what has been a very busy and at times frustrating, but productive three years. It is these busy times that we must reflect on the lives of those members (past and present) of the RAAC that have passed away in the last twelve months. The loss of TPR Stuart Reddan on 04 May 2017 in a training accident and two stalwarts of the RAAC, WO1 Bob About and Brigadier Gordon Jones AM to illness, is a timely reminder of how precious life is. May they all rest in peace and our thoughts are with their family and friends always.

To the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, good luck and have a safe deployment. To all those RAAC officers and soldiers that are away overseas, our thoughts are with you. To those moving on posting, please travel safely. I now handover the reigns to WO1 Jim Carroll and wish him all the very best in his new appointment.



# SITREP

## From Commander Forces Command

By Major General Gus McLachlan, AM



The 100th Anniversaries of the Battles of Beersheba and Cambrai have been significant milestones for the Corps this year. I commend the Head of Corps and Corps COs and RSMs for the manner in which events in Israel, Canberra and Adelaide honoured these landmark events. It is important we commemorate our history because we innovate for the future from a firm base of our history and traditions. Innovate we must. The global security situation remains challenging and the Army must always seek to anticipate the next challenge while preserving the offensive mindset of the Light-horsemen and the determination of the first tank soldiers.

Forces Command has overseen significant evolution of the Armoured Corps in 2017. I appreciated the opportunity to be the Reviewing Officer at the parade to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai which also marked the move of the 1st Armoured Regiment to Adelaide and I enjoyed images of M1 Abrams Tanks leading the 2/14 LH Regt Freedom of Entry Parade through Brisbane to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. Both of these events were important commemorations but they also marked the end of a period of change in our Army under Plan Beersheba. I encourage all members of the Corps to not view these changes as an end-state, rather they mark the beginning of a new period of combined arms collaboration for the Army.

I know that the changes that have been made to adjust Plan Beersheba to meet the Army design directed by the Defence White Paper 2016 have resulted in turbulence for some members of the Corps. The decision to return the M113AS4 to three infantry battalions to create the base for the future acquisition of an Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) means that a number of crewmen and women will need to leave the M113 trade and cross train onto tank and ASLAV. The contribution these soldiers made to the preservation of mounted combat skills for our infantry has been important

but the Army leadership team has determined this is to be a core function for infantry in a more lethal battle-space in the future. The RAAC will have a similarly critical role through the provision of an enhanced tank capability and the very versatile cavalry capability that will soon be acquired to replace the ASLAV. Whichever of the two Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle contenders are selected the result will be a more lethal and survivable vehicle capable of operating in any threat environment.

I am also satisfied that we have confirmed the important role and organisation of our Reserve RAAC units and sub-units. Provision of protected mobility for the infantry will remain the responsibility of the RAAC in the 2nd Division. When these units are not required to lift infantry they will be expected to conduct general light cavalry roles in the security zone. The Reserve will also be responsible for the generation of the Cavalry Scout troops for the Corps and I expect the COs of the paired units to collaborate closely on the development of this important high readiness capability.

We have more work to do to increase the flexibility for the COs and RSMs of the RAAC to train and manage their soldiers and officers across the fleet of vehicles in the Corps. We need to be able to conduct conversion training in the Regimental environment while maintaining the standards set by the School of Armour. Watch this space in 2018.

Thank-you to the COs and RSMs who complete their tenure at the end of this year. You leave the Corps in very good shape and set the conditions well for those who follow you. I watch with pride the ongoing leadership the Corps provides in the professional development of our Army.



COMD FORCOMD mentors troops in the field





# 7th Combat Brigade Sitrep

By Brigadier Anthony Rawlins, DSC

**7**th Combat Brigade (7 CB) has continued to support Army in delivering effects across six lines of operation in accordance with Chief of Army priorities. In the last 12 months, the brigade supported wider Army as the Reset Brigade; simulated a divisional force under a US Corps for Exercise TALISMAN

SABRE, explored innovation for manoeuvre in the electronic spectrum and broader EMCON considerations and supported key modernisation initiatives. In respect of the latter, of great relevance to RAAC was the finalisation of Plan BEERSHEBA with the introduction of the M1A1 Main Battle Tank to the brigade's Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR). The brigade's officers and soldiers impressed wider Army over this period with their professionalism, job competence, team work and innovation.

The brigade progressed through individual to battlegroup level skills and manoeuvre over 2017 as it cycled through the Reset and Ready windows of the Army Force Generation Cycle. Units used this opportunity to focus on the basics. This was best demonstrated by 7 CSSB's warfighting focus and culminated at the end of the year with 8/9 RAR excelling in their CTC Battle Group Warfighter assessment and the brigade's Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA). The training design for CATA supported multi-echelon training through collegiate and synchronized events, maximizing individual and collective opportunities for our soldiers and culminated after a month at Shoalwater Bay with brigade level defensive operation. The final battle included a cavalry screen, reserve demolition, danger close artillery and live fire main defensive battle. These activities have set strong foundations for 7 CB to provide a potent capability for the Army as it gears up as the Ready Brigade in 2018.

It was Force Modernisation that had the greatest visual impact on the Brigade's capability to Army. 2/14 LHR (QMI) showcased the combat power of the Main Battle Tank during the Brigade CATA following the introduction of the M1A1 as part of the transition to the ACR structure under Plan BEERSHEBA. The infantry Battalions also restructured under Plan KEOGH to generate their own integral lift provided by the M113AS4 and Bushmaster; 8/9 RAR rolling out the Bushmaster capability as part of their BG Warfighter. 6 RAR is still getting their teeth into the requirements of the M113AS4 having commenced drivers courses as they grow the capability. This is a significant step for the brigade in developing the skills and informing force structures for the transition to the L400 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles and Infantry Fighting Vehicle. In addition to the combat unit platform modernisation, 7 CB led with the introduction of the L121 fleet through 7 CSSB.

A capability that proved it has much to offer as the brigade redefines how it manages its logistics under the Combat Service Support (CSS) Concept of Operations. Concepts focused on flexible CSS force structures to support prioritised brigade manoeuvre. This saw the previously large CSSB node dissolve for a more robust, flexible and dynamic task organised logistics train.

Whilst elements of the Brigade were deployed of exercises for force generation or involved in modernisation, there were personnel in the brigade heavily focused in developing or supporting broader Army through non-platform support, including tasks like instructor support to the School of Armour. In broad numbers this saw the brigade contribute over 60 percent of Forces Command's support requirements during the Reset period. In all cases our soldiers acquitted themselves superbly, drawing praise for their competence and professionalism.

Professional development and resilience remained a focus of the brigade across 2017. This commenced with the brigade tactical exercise without troops week, facilitated by MAJGEN Krause. It was a great opportunity for officers to develop their tactical proficiency and understanding in a relaxed environment and will be carried as a concept into 2018.

Innovation and experimentation has been a hallmark of the brigade in 2017 and was largely led by our junior soldiers. Innovation including: 7 CSR developing a retrains module to go on the back on a G-wagon, providing greater communications flexibility and endurance for the Brigade; 1 Regt, RAA and 7 CSR learning electronic patterns for the purpose of shaping how the Brigade looks on the battlefield, and the Headquarters developing concepts for a scaleable headquarters to operate across the spectrum of conflict from humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to high end warfighting. Concepts that will be tested in 2018 with the intent on providing Army a greater capability.

The Brigade would have been unable to maintain this tempo without an excellent relationship between our soldiers, families and the local community. We are an integral part of the Brisbane community and 2017 saw the community deploy in force to participate in 2/14 LHR (QMI) Freedom of Entry to the city of Brisbane, with the M1A1 MBT drawing cheers from the crowd as it rumbled through the city streets for the first time. 2018 provides an opportunity for Brigade to enhance on the lessons and development across 2017. In 2018 7 CB will seek to harness the opportunity provided by the joint land series of exercises to master sub-unit, battle group and Brigade war-fighting skills, including enhanced EMCON and digitisation, professional military education and resilience training. These efforts will get us into a great position to be poised for the transition back to Ready Brigade status by mid-year and deploy forces to the Middle East Region based around 6 RAR, 7 CSR and 1 Regt, RAA.



# Message

## The 1st Brigade in 2017

By Brigadier Matt Pearse, AM



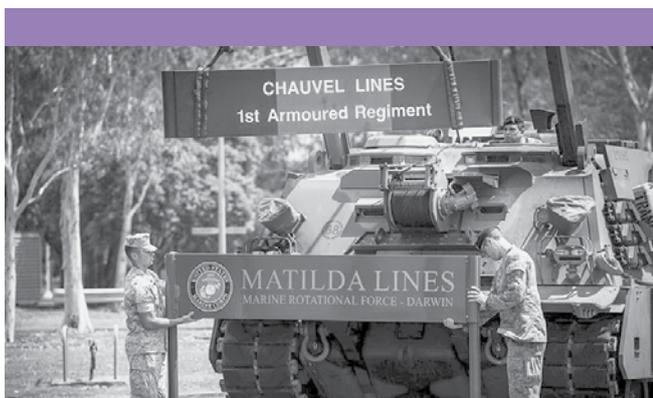
In 2016/17 more than 1,200 members of the 1st Brigade deployed overseas to support ADF operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates. With approximately one-third of the Brigade deployed, our remaining personnel completed a number of combined-arms exercises to maintain contingency forces, support the 'readying' of the 3rd Brigade and support international engagement objectives. These training activities included several unique opportunities including coordinating

commence force modernisation and restructure action.

Modernisation programs have enabled several capability enhancements including new medium and heavy trucks for our logistic elements, and massing of logistic capability within 1 CSSB. The brigade has also started skill and knowledge transfer to motorise 5 RAR and mechanise 7 RAR. Finally the 1st Armd Regt has returned from operational deployment, relocated from Robertson Barracks to RAAF Edinburgh, transferred M113AS4 to 7 RAR and is commencing action to raise a second CRV Sqdn.

The 1st Brigade has also continued to develop interoperability and understanding with our regional partners. This has been achieved through a number of exchanges and exercises, from Section to Company level, with Indonesia (Ex AUSINDO RHINO, Ex WIRRA JAYA and Ex KARTIKABURRA), Timor Leste (Ex HARI'I HAMATUK, Ex ARAFURA WARRIOR) and other countries from the near-region (Ex INDO PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR).

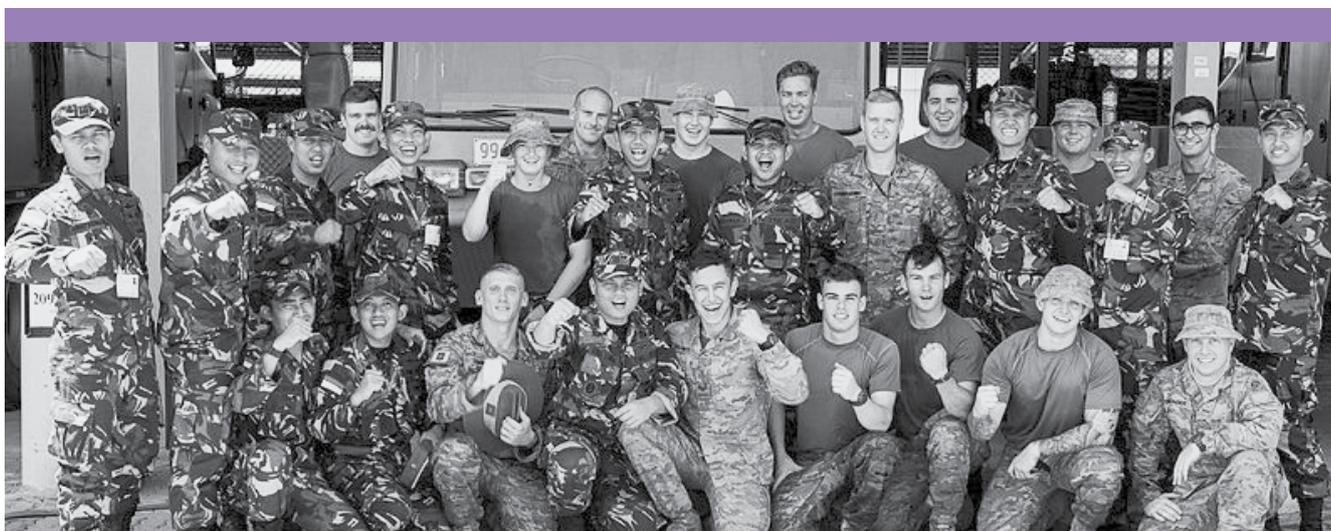
Finally, the outstanding performance of our junior members was formally recognised this year with the awarding of seven Silver and twelve Bronze Army commendations. Additionally, SIG Dion Parkhurst (1 CSR) was recognised as the 1st Brigade Soldier of the Year, BDR Rohan McCraig (8/12 Regt) was awarded the RAA JNCO of the year, and LCPL Joshua Saffin (1 Armd Regt) was awarded the FORCOMD JNCO of the Year. Well done to all our junior leaders; fantastic potential ahead for the 1st Brigade and Army.



1ARMD closing of the Chauvel Lines and opening of Matilda Lines

simultaneous training in Queensland and the Northern Territory, and conducting live fire battle group training, including a danger-close practice, with the Japanese Ground Self Defence Force, the United States Army Pacific and the Marine Rotation Force – Darwin.

In July 2017, the 1st Brigade transitioned from being Army's 'ready' force to 'reset'. This enabled brigade units to reinvest in individual and small team training and



EX Kartikaburra Indonesian Exchange program





# 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 3rd Brigade

By Brigadier Chris Field, AM, CSC

**A**s I noted in *Ironsides* in 2016, 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2 Cav Regt) changes 3rd Brigade. Since 1988, I have served a decade in 3rd Brigade and I can feel the change 2 Cav Regt's integration brings to our formation. Reflecting on 2 Cav Regt's performance in 2016-17, I will explain why I believe the Regiment is so impactful on 3rd Brigade.

**Quiet professionalism:** two outstanding Commanding Officers have led 2 Cav Regt during my tenure as Commander 3rd Brigade. LTCOL James Davis and LTCOL Grant Chambers. Both are clearly different personalities. Yet, both share the common traits of deep thinking, humility and building cohesive teams through mutual trust. Employing a cavalry mindset, both Commanding Officers report accurately, articulate precise ideas, and speak only when necessary. When they speak, others listen.

**Employment of the Colonel Commandant:** MAJGEN MG Krause performs service as Colonel Commandant 2 Cav Regt that is probably unique in the Australian Army. Motivated, self-starting, and creative MAJGEN Krause truly partners with Commanding Officer 2 Cav Regt. Together they design professional education and development that benefits, not only 2 Cav Regt, but the wider-3rd Brigade, Army and Defence. Importantly, MAJGEN Krause gently provides pathways for commanders to improve themselves and reach their own professional and personal potential.

**Combined arms mindset:** In addition to 2 Cav Regt's outstanding combined arms performance on 3rd Brigade's BROLGA Series of exercises 2016-17 and Exercise Talisman Sabre 2017, the Regiment emphasises combined arms whole-of-fleet management for their three vehicle-types – M1A1 Abrams tank, ASLAV-25 reconnaissance vehicle and M113AS4 armoured personnel carrier.

2 Cav Regt's broad thinking means cooperating and collaborating with Army's Darwin/Adelaide and Brisbane

Armoured Cavalry Regiments, along with the School of Armour and the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group. In addition, the Regiment developed an excellent partnership with 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion implementing Plan CENTAUR's maintenance reform. This inherent combined arms approach, employing the ADF's fundamental inputs into capability, ensures a shared understanding of Army's armoured vehicle maintenance needs and requirements now and into the future.<sup>1</sup>

It is an honour to have served with 2 Cav Regt and Battle Group Eagle. Every mission asked, every task assigned and every challenge set for 2 Cav Regt was achieved with enthusiasm, precision and aplomb. With the introduction of Land 400 capabilities and systems in Army in the next decade, Army's Armoured Cavalry Regiments will remain central and critical to Australia's future fighting power.<sup>2</sup>

(Endnotes)

1 The Fundamental Inputs to Capability are: Personnel; Organisation; Collective Training; Major Systems; Supplies; Facilities and Training Areas; Support; Command and Management; and, Industry. Australian Government, *2016 Defence Industry Policy Statement*, Department of Defence, Canberra, 2016, p. 19

2 Martin van Creveld, *Fighting Power: German and U.S. Army Performance, 1939-1945*, Praeger; Reprint edition, 2007, pp. 3 & 170. Martin Van Creveld asserts that 'within the limits set by its size, an army's worth as a military instrument equals the quality and quantity of its equipment multiplied by its Fighting Power'. He defines Fighting Power as: *...resting on mental, intellectual, and organisational foundations... manifesting, in one combination or another, as discipline and cohesion, morale and initiative, courage and toughness, the willingness to fight and the readiness, if necessary, to die ...Fighting Power, in brief, is defined as the sum total of mental qualities that make armies fight.*



# Land Simulation Capability

## A new Era

By Lieutenant Colonel J. Mildon & Major W. McDade

The Directorate of Land Simulation (DLSim) was established in January of this year to manage the Land Simulation Capability. Under this remit, DLSim provides direct support to Army's Nine Capability Programs, including the Directorate of Armoured Fighting Vehicle Systems (DAVFS), and maintains the Land Simulation Core (LS Core), which includes Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS), Live Instrumented System (LIS) and virtual simulation software for training. The Army Simulation Manual was drafted and released in the later half of this year to provide the framework for the management of the Land Simulation Capability, integrating people and platforms across the Live Virtual and Constructive environments. Of particular note is Part 5 of the ASM, detailing the process for 'bottom-up innovation', helping soldiers and units develop their simulation ideas through various innovation days and forums conducted across Army during each year.

Live	Virtual	Constructive
Real people using real equipment in the real environment	Real people using virtual devices or real equipment in a training mode	Simulated entities in a computer simulation
		
Combat Training Centre - Live Instrumentation System (CTC-LIS)	Weapons Training Simulation System (WTSS) Virtual Battle Space 3 (VBS3)	Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCATS)

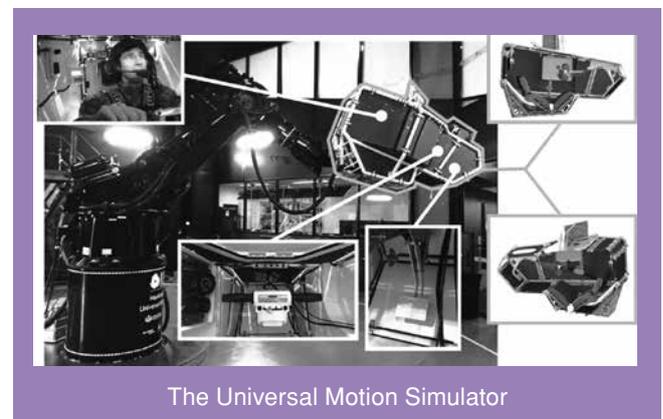
The Live Virtual and Constructive Environments

### Land 400

Within the Armoured Fighting Vehicle realm, DLSim has worked closely with DAFVS and CASG in support of the recent Land 400 Phase 2 Training System evaluation activities and L907-2 Tank replacement project. The Training System delivered under L400 Phase 2 will deliver a mixture of high and medium fidelity systems; encompassing all classes of simulators, from Full Mission Simulators to Technology Enabled Learning, providing virtual training up to Squadron level at both the School and Brigade locations. Live Instrumented System (LIS) instrumentation kits for a Squadron of Land 400 Phase 2 vehicles will also be delivered as part of the acquisition. These kits will be integrated with the Combat Training Centre (CTC) system, ensuring the new platforms seamless transition to the Warfighter series. Most importantly, simulation systems procured under Land 400 Phase 2 will comply with the recently endorsed LS Core – Common Architecture; ensuring interoperability with future Armoured Fighting Vehicle simulators and Army's planned acquisition of state of the art simulators over the next decade.

### Universal Motion Simulator

The Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation (IISRI) at Deakin University has been developing the Universal Motion Simulator (UMS) for over 10 years. The culmination of this has been a M1A1 Abrams Driver Module connected to a Robotic arm, providing Full Mission scenarios in a completely immersive environment. Currently being trialled in support of the final M1A1 driver course at the School of Armor, feedback from participants at all ranks has been highly positive and we look forward to enhancing this type of capability within RAAC.



### Weapon Training Simulation System upgrade

Starting in late 2017, the digitisation of the Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS) will commence. This three year process will provide tetherless Bluefire© weapons, enhanced ranges and scenarios using photorealistic 3D terrain, VBS3 generated content and advanced coaching tablets. Implementation of these new coaching tablets will provide instructors and firers with instant feedback for marksmanship reinforcement/correction and After Action Reviews for individual and collective performances during the conduct of generated scenarios. Importantly, the digitisation of the WTSS will support the roll out of Army's new combat shooting continuum, improving skills maintenance and individual readiness across the Army. In addition to the digitisation of our fixed WTSS facilities, Army will also acquire nine Mobile WTSS (M-WTSS) systems for use by the Amphibious Task Group and regional Reserve units. Rolling out late 2018 and beyond, the digitised systems provide a versatile four lane (12m long) capability that is pallet capable for ease of transportation and establishment anywhere in Australia.

### Conclusion

2018 is shaping up as an exciting year for the Land Simulation Capability. We look forward to the L400 Phase 2 preferred tenderer announcement in 2018 and will continue to work closely with DAFVS to deliver state of the art simulation in the support of Army's armoured capability.



# BACK TO THE FUTURE

By Major General M. Krause, AM

*'As the first elements to come in contact with the enemy, the reconnaissance detachments must be organised in peacetime just as they will be in war' Guderian<sup>1</sup>*



When I take a quick glance around my study, I realise that I am not the only relic present. On my shelf is a rather tattered maroon folder and inside is a well-thumbed blue-covered pam. MLW2-1-2 to be precise, more commonly known as The Reconnaissance Regiment, 1983. If we still had pam libraries in units, I suppose I could return it.

It is well out of date with its equipment (Annex F tells you how to use a prismatic compass and build a sun compass), but a medium reconnaissance effect is a current topic of debate within Army. At the Talisman Sabre/Hamel AAR this year there was continuing discussion of the value of medium reconnaissance as part of a broader conversation about rediscovering how we find and process information. I was also made aware by our Head of Corps of some work the US Army is doing to reenergise and revalue its ground reconnaissance efforts. So, I thought I would take this opportunity to use these pages to provoke some discussion about our own Army and Corps, and see how we are doing.

A few definitions and scope might be in order. Most of us will have a working definition of reconnaissance, surveillance and security so I won't labour those definitions. These tasks are all-corps tasks and so nothing we should claim as our own or worry too much about. What we do need to remind ourselves, and then by extension others, is the time-frames in which commanders think and plan and

the complimentary information flow that matches respective time frames.

We have used the terms close, medium and long-range reconnaissance before, and, while quite catchy, they tend to reflect the idea of space rather than the idea of time. Far more useful, but a little unwieldy, would be to think of reconnaissance efforts in terms of the lead-time that commanders think and plan, and then ensure that forces are matched to these time frames. While the idea of space is important, as reconnaissance forces will often have to be a certain distance from the main body to answer these questions, the key idea is that of time, to ensure the right information is passed in sufficient time for battle procedure to be completed. A close reconnaissance platoon of a mechanised battalion works to the information requirements of the battalion commander, usually in a fairly short time frame of perhaps 24hrs. It might be to search a planned forming up place, it might be to identify enemy on an objective. At the other end of the spectrum might be a long-range Special Operations patrol, inserted to answer questions for the Divisional Commander. The commander's time frame is usually measured in weeks, so the patrol is looking to understand and report on matters in time so that planning and orders can be completed.

Medium reconnaissance has traditionally filled the gap in between, and there is a realisation that this effect is still very much required yet has been allowed to languish in our Army for all sorts of understandable but lamentable reasons. The key recipient of this information is usually a formation commander, operating in that 72-hour gap between Division and battalion.

Like everything we tend to do in the military, this operation does not happen in a vacuum but happens in a contested and adversarial environment. Our adversary will know what we are aiming to do, and will attempt to thwart us by evading our reconnaissance effort, moving faster than we are able to react, and by degrading our efforts through counter-reconnaissance (ie: killing us). Therefore, our reconnaissance forces also need some ability to withstand these efforts, prosper in their own, and also do their part to degrade the enemy's efforts. Put simply, our forces need



Cavalry on Operations since 1999



to see without being seen, kill without being killed and then report accurately at all times.

This leads to a force that can survive on its own away from the main force, have the mobility to move in unexpected ways in both time and space, have the sensors to see without being seen, have superb communications, have enough firepower to shape, delay and sometimes strike hard, and then enough protection to survive on the modern battlefield if the other guy draws first.

This capability is expressed and explained very well in the old pam The Reconnaissance Regiment, and I contend that, with modern equipment, communications and sensors, is still a force to be reckoned with. The ability to shape an opponent, to degrade, disrupt, exhaust and confuse him before the decisive action is still a useful thing to be able to do. When employed on Hamel or COAC the results are there to be seen. When not, a commander is invariably blind and reactive.

As we move towards what I might call the enhanced ACR, with two cavalry squadrons and a tank squadron each, we have the opportunity to reflect on whether we are 'just replacing ASLAV' with LAND 400 or are we doing our bit to enhance Army's medium reconnaissance effect. Are we providing a better cavalry capability? It's not just our job: STA and ARH are a critical part in this effort, as is the intelligence and signals effort to support it, but it is an RAAC task to perfect and lead. It's also one that joins all parts of the Corps together, and one that goes back to the very roots of the Corps.

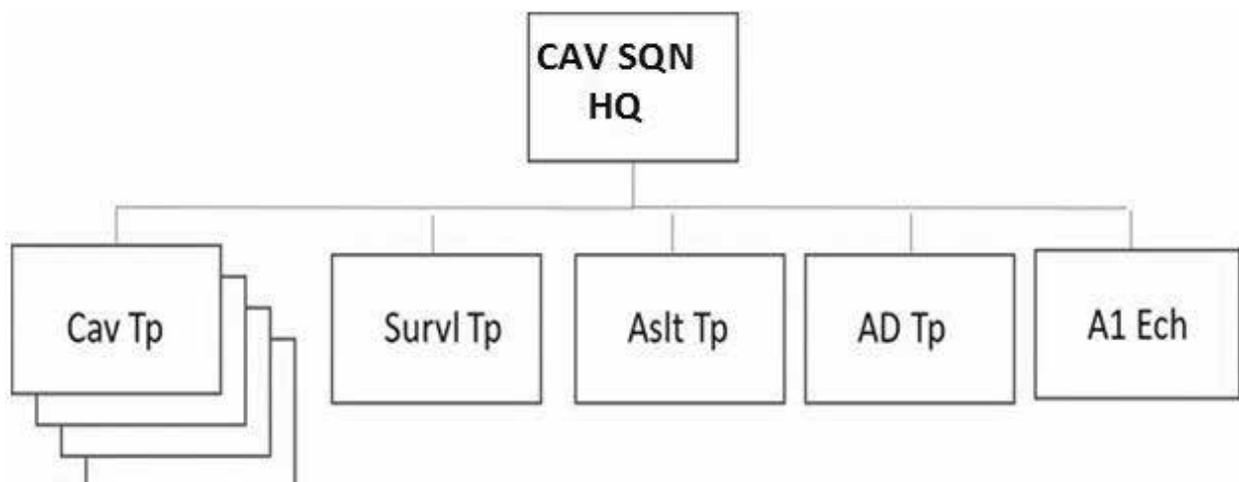
Surviving away from the main force requires the ability to operate against the unexpected with integral resources. It's too late to group a force once it is in contact; as the quote from Guderian reminds us, the cavalry must be grouped correctly before the mission starts. This usually means an

all-arms force, with integral fire support. A quick look at the Reconnaissance Regiment pam and you can see what an excellent force structure it is. Every troop is a permanent combined arms force and every squadron has its integral mortars, air defence, surveillance and an additional assault troop for detailed search. That is not what we look like today, and nor is it envisaged that we do so. Some of it we can graft on later from other units – mortars and air defence might be in that category, and the separate assault troop could be a mechanised infantry platoon – but some such as the dismounts within the troops are so integral that they need to be there all the time. At the moment we are just a vehicle-based organisation without the necessary combined arms effect. It's light armour, but it's not cavalry and it's not a medium reconnaissance effect. When two out of three of our squadrons in the new ACR are arguably not fit for purpose, and are not planned to be, we need to ask why.

Let me close not with my words but a few lines from the first pages from the Reconnaissance Regiment pam: 'Ground reconnaissance is possibly the oldest and most refined of the military arts which has changed little throughout the years'... Reconnaissance seeks to reduce the unknown aspects of the enemy and the operational area so that the commander may apply his combat power to achieve his aim with the smallest possible loss in men and materials.'

Still relevant; still required. Form follows function – our function is to provide the basis of the cavalry capability for army, and a fundamental role is medium reconnaissance. Our current or envisaged future form doesn't match the needs statement. Let's not forget our roots and let's make sure we are all still arguing and debating the best way to fulfil our mission.

<sup>1</sup> Guderian, 'Achtung-Panzer', first published 1937, Arms and Armour Press, London, 1995, p165



Cavalry Squadron from the 1983 Reconnaissance Pam. With Modern Equipment, this remains a remarkably effective organisation



# RAAC Contingent

## Commemoration of the Charge at Beersheba

31 October 2017

By Lieutenant Colonel J.M. Molnar

**W**e've been in Israel for three days now and with the compressed rehearsal program for the 100 year commemoration of the Battle of Beersheba, it is perhaps the first chance to reflect on the stories of the Australian Light Horse that once rode and fought through the deserts and towns that stretch from Egypt through to Gaza and on to Damascus. The Army contingent for the commemoration consists of the Guidons and Guards of the 4th/19th Princes of Wales's Light Horse and 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers, representatives from 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, my RSM WO1 Jamie Adams and myself.

We are 30km South of Beersheba where the Australian Light Horse Association Troop move closer to the original 1917 form up point to commence their re-enactment of the Charge that occurred exactly 100 years prior. We stand amongst the horses lathered in sweat and they are surprisingly restless given the heat of the midday sun and the fact they are three days into their journey. The ride so far has taken the mounted troop through the Negev Desert

near Urim, Israel along the ANZAC trail towards Beersheba with over 100 Australian riders taking part.

Lieutenant Ryan Abil from the 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry and Corporal Robert Conway from 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse are wearing the 1917 pattern uniforms of their Light Horse ancestors. They are sitting on their mounts and convincingly send us back in time as they approach with a backdrop of arid rocky ground with a spattering of Acacia Trees under a piercing cloudless blue sky. The ground is not unlike much of the interior of Australia 10,000 miles away. Little appears to have changed for thousands of years with only the occasional Bedouin ruin an indication that life in some form had once inhabited this land.

We dismount our transport beside a dusty track and change into our Service Dress. We ritually uncase the Guidons of the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments who formed the first and second ranks of the charge respectively. The Guidon parties with lances form a surreal image standing in a formed rank at attention in the desert. The column of



2017 Australian Army Light Horse Contingent to Beersheba Israel

L to R - (2 Cav) CPL Samuel Cutts, Tpr Paul Argæet - (4/19 PWLH) SGT Mick Dwyer, WO2 Lindsay Black CSM, SGT Danny Alakus, , LTCOL John Molnar (CO), WO1 Jamie Adams (RSM)- (12/16 HRL) SGT Richard Hardwick, WO2 Luke Robinson, SGT Darrell Byron - (2/14 QMI) TPR Harrison Dietrich, CPL Warwick Naggs.  
(not in picture, Chaplain Rabbi CAPT Dovid Gutnick)





Preparation for Light Horse Re-enactment

riders approach and the Guidon parties present arms as the Light Horse riders give a rousing eyes left salute. The original 1926 Guidons have only been replaced once, the 4th in 1963 and 12th in 1987. They carry many more battle honours than the original including those from the Second World War and Vietnam. It is a proud moment for all involved. Army Public Affairs photos completed and the column of Light Horse riders continue their journey to Beersheba and we are left standing alone in the desert to dismount the Guidons and head back to Tel Aviv.

On the morning of the 31st October 2017 we awake at 1:30 am to ensure the contingent can negotiate the tightened security around the Cemetery Service in Beersheba. The controls are tighter than boarding an international flight and despite the early start it still takes over an hour to get in. A reflective program

commences with various readings and interviews streamed live through the ABC. For the most part, it feels like a movie set with cameras and frenetic stage management a bizarre distraction for those trying to deliver meaningful words to a not yet arrived audience. The chaos builds as various dignitaries including the Defence Chiefs of Australia and Israeli and foreign VIP's fill the velvet roped off seating toward the front of the stage. This chaos culminates with the arrival of the Prime Ministers Malcom Turnbull and Benjamin Netanyahu and Governor General of New Zealand, Dame Patsy Reddy surrounded by a press gallery of hundreds. The New Zealand Defence contingent which included the Queenstown Mounted Rifles in conjunction with the Australian Army Band delivered several musical arrangements and readings covering the history of the time of the charge. This was followed by addresses from each Head of State and focussing on the success of the Light Horse and friendship between nations now enjoyed.

MAJGEN Dave Chalmers AO, CSC from the Department of Veteran Affairs commenced the service. Guidon parties with many hours of rehearsal under their belts perform faultlessly with the Centenary Guard and receive compliments from all attending. Once completed we change back into civilian clothes and go in search of firstly, a hasty exit point and secondly some food after nearly nine hours without even a coffee. With our uniforms hanging on a fence near a roundabout trying to call in the bus, a local bakery was a fine find. With lunch complete the contingent headed to the Beersheba Light Horse Park for the evening ceremony. With more of an Australian focus the 2,000 strong crowd were addressed by LTGEN Angus Campbell AO, DSC, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, actor Mr Bryan Brown AM, the Australian Army Chaplains BRIG Glynn Murphy and CAPT Dovid Gutnick with closing comments by Jeanne Pratt. Entertainment was provided by the Be'ersheva Girls Choir and the Australian Army Band. The evening concluded with a barbecue thanks to the Pratt Foundation and many Israeli's insisting on getting a picture with a soldier wearing a slouch hat with plumes. Some things never change.



2017 Australian Army Light Horse Contingent to Beersheba Israel



# Wearing the Crimson Ribbon From Ruffy to Beersheba

**Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Cecil Maygar V.C., D.S.O., & VD.**

By David Finlayson



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL H1 2606

**T**he award of the Victoria Cross has proven to be a critical moment in the recipient's life. Along with the crimson

ribbon comes a public interest in their life and set of public expectations that create ongoing obligations upon them. An often-recorded thought that appears in the biographies of Victoria Cross recipients is that it was easier to win than wear.

Victoria's first Victoria Cross recipient was Lieutenant Leslie Cecil Maygar of the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles. Maygar's Military life is well documented and most biographies focus on these periods of service. Whilst these are essential aspects of his story, one ponders what it was like to wear the crimson ribbon in a small rural community in Victoria between the South African and Great Wars?

Leslie Cecil Maygar was born at Dean Station, near Kilmore, Victoria in May 1868 the seventh child of Edwin and Helen Maygar. The Maygars had arrived in the Port Phillip District from Bristol England in the late 1830s. The Maygars were political refugees from Hungary.

Life in Colonial Victoria was bountiful to the Maygars: Edwin's joint ownership of the Strathearn Station near Euroa with his three sons illustrates the family's success. During this period the Maygars became skilled horsemen.

The family whilst being successful graziers lead lives that rarely resulted in public attention. A survey of the newspapers prior to 1900 provides very few glimpse of the family. The Euroa Advertiser of September 1897 contains the first public mention of Leslie Maygar. Maygar and his bother Horace were felling trees when an accident occurred killing Horace instantly: *"Leslie Maygar carried his brother to the camp, then ran home some three miles for help."*

The article also makes mention of the brothers being members of the local detachment of the Victorian Mounted Rifles which Leslie had joined in March 1891. By 1899 Leslie had being promoted to Sergeant with Ruffy Detachment of E Company.

Maygar attempted to join the earlier Victorian Contingents to for South Africa but was turned down due to bad teeth. After being appointed as a Lieutenant in Militia in August 1900 he enlisted 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles in January

1901. He embarked aboard the *"Orient"* for South Africa on February and appointed as a Lieutenant with the Contingent in March after arrival in South Africa.

On November 23 1901 Lieutenant Maygar was to distinguish himself near Geelhoutboom by rescuing a comrade whilst under fire. For his Courage he was recommended for the Empire's highest honour the Victoria Cross.

In February 1902 the Melbourne Age reported *"A Victorian Gets the VC"* It is officially announced that the Victorian Cross has been awarded to Lieut Leslie Maygar, of the Fifth Victorian Contingent, for especial gallantry. The action for which Lieutenant Maygar receives the cross "for valor" was performed in a fight at Greelhoutboom. One of his men was left dishorsed on an open plain, under heavy Boer fire, and Lieutenant Maygar, placed the man on his own horse, himself running the gantlet of the Boer fire on foot until he could reach cover!"

*Lieutenant Maygar was a Lieutenant in the Victorian Mounted Rifles before he joined the Fifth Contingent. He was a grazier, living near Ruffy, in the Longwood district."*

Various other newspapers throughout Victoria also ran with Maygar's exploits. The Melbourne Leader of 22 February reported that; *"there is much rejoicing in the mounted Rifles that the first Victoria Cross won by a Victorian has gone to Lieut Maygar of the Ruffy Detachment F Company"* in 1902 there are 50 newspaper reports concerning Maygar and his Victoria Cross. The grazier from Ruffy had become a public figure before his return from South Africa.

Lieutenant Maygar did not return to Australia with the 5th Contingent but served briefly with a South African irregular unit, Doyle's Australian Scouts, between March and May 1902. He returned to Australia September 1902. For his service in South Africa he was awarded the Victoria Cross and the Queen's South Africa Medal with five clasps and he was also Mentioned in Dispatches.

The Euroa Advertiser between 1902 until 1917 would provide a constant chronicle to Maygar's life in Ruffy. In October 1902 a meeting was held at Ruffy to discuss and plan a *"formal and united welcome to Lieut Maygar VC and Private Ryan..."* on their return from the front. A social and dance would follow with Lieut Maygar being *"presented with a handsome medal as a souvenir."* The Advertiser



reporting the event starts with a grand statement. *“There is but one V.C in the district, but more than that, there is one in Victoria gained by a native born soldier and that distinction is Ruffy’s.”* The welcome home appears to have been attended by who’s who society and politics. The closing lines clearly establish the standing of a new local identity for Maygar; *“So the district and the people rose to all requirements and carried out well its welcoming and congratulatory social to its first and greatest warrior.”*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A04436

LTCOL Maygar, VC, DSO in Egypt during 1916-17

Maygar resumed his appointment with the 16th and later 8th Regiment Australian Light Horse soon after his return to Ruffy. In this period the activities of the Militia were regularly reported in the Advertiser. Typical reports see Lieutenant, later Captain, and Adjutant Maygar: attending the opening of the Longwood Soldier’s Memorial, officiating at military dinners and balls, acting as patron to military concerts, attending militia camps and shoots. These activities would cover many towns in Victoria’s North East.

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 saw Captain Maygar being appointed to the 4th Australian Light Horse Regiment. He was promoted to Major in October and embarked aboard the Wiltshire on 19 October. By May 1915 he was serving on Gallipoli as the Officer Commanding B Squadron. Whilst on Gallipoli he was transferred to the 8th Light Horse Regiment as Acting Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel this appointment and promotion were confirmed in March 1916. He would later take temporary command of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade between September and late October 1917.

For his leadership at the Battle of Gaza he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and was twice Mentioned in Dispatches

On evening of 30 October enemy aeroplanes attacked Australian positions near Khassim Zanna. A bomb landed

near to Lieutenant Colonel Maygar wounding both horse and rider. The horse bolted into the darkness taking Maygar with him. Despite a search Maygar was not found by his comrades. Maygar was later found by another unit and evacuated to the 65th Casualty Clearing Station at Karm, where his shattered left arm was amputated. He died of wounds on November 1 1917. Chaplain Skipper conducted a military funeral at El Imara the following day. Later he would be reinterred at the Beersheba War Cemetery. The epitaph the family selected for his grave was *“Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15.13”*

The news of Maygar’s reached Euroa within days the Euroa Advertiser reports; *“..comes the regretted tidings of the death of Lieut Colonel Leslie Maygar V.C. the crusader hero from this district. Among every class of the community there is but one feeling-intense sorrow that the all devouring war has taken toll of one so brave, so humble so honourable”*

The Euroa Gazette of November 1917 obituary for Maygar again asserts his special place in the Longwood district. *“The reported death of Lieut-Col. Maygar V.C., caused feelings of intense sorrow throughout the whole community. As a soldier he has won for himself the rank that he occupied by sheer merit. He has proved himself to be a capable officer, who had the respect and esteem of his men. In his civilian life, as a worthy resident in our midst his quiet, unassuming disposition endeared him to all... Flags were flown at half-mast for the gallant officer who died such a noble death”.*

It is clear that prior to Maygar’s exploit at Geelhoutboom that his life was both the unremarkable and typical of county grazier of the Federation era. The award of a Victoria Cross would propel Maygar into a very public life. Whether the language and the sentiments found in the press reports were welcome or, not it appears that Maygar responded with a sense of dignity that befits the wearing of the crimson ribbon.

*(Original spellings from the period have been left uncorrected.)*



The grave of LTCOL Maygar VC, DSO

# Unit Sitreps

## School of Armour



Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor: Lieutenant Colonel J Gillman

Regimental Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class One D Simpson

School Motto: Forge

### FORGING AHEAD

To quote the 2016 Ironsides Article for the School of Armour “The School of Armour (SOARMD) continues to forge job-standard and employment-ready individual AFV crewmen to build the capability within the Armoured Cavalry Regiments (ACRs)” with a primary focus of growing the three APC sub-units within RAAC. Well, with the commencement of 2017 came a complete shift of focus for wider Army.

With the re-introduction into Army of the Mechanised Battalion, we are now (and always have been) the School of all things Armoured Fighting Vehicles, the Mounted Combatant centre for excellence for the Australian Army. The School remains focussed on the delivery of job standard Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) crews, only now the hat badges are diverse.

This year saw the School conduct the Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA) for the down-selected contenders for L400, both very capable platforms that will only enhance the capability that the RAAC delivers. Trials troop travelled around Australia putting the platforms to the test across many environments, as well as display and educate wider Army on the platforms capabilities.

The winter months at the School became very busy, very quickly. SOARMD supported a FORCOMD training analysis tour of Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom to understand different training and career progression models in preparation of IFV. The most important insight was that we, the Australian SOARMD, are indeed at the leading edge of training for mounted combatants, and where other developed nations aspire to be.

This year was one of historical Corps significance; not only with the 100th anniversary of Beersheba and Cambrai, but in rewriting some of our own corps and SOARMD history. On 08 Jul 17, Support Squadron was renamed and rebadged, B Squadron, 3rd 4th Cavalry Regiment, a chilly day in the hangar for the parade but the passion of the former members of B Sqn (Stingers) and the flying of the Guidons generated a healthy warmth. The School will now

proudly maintain the legacy and continue the fine work of this acclaimed sub-unit.

In late September, SI Gunnery Wing and WSM CTW had to opportunity to observe Exercise Worthington Challenge held at the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps School in New Brunswick, Canada. The competition was held over a six-day period with teams from all five Canadian Divisions, US Army, Danish, and Polish Armies with Norway and Brazil also sending observers. The ‘Worthy’ challenge consisted of a number mounted combat tasks including static direct fire serial and patrol battle runs, mounted navigation with a AFV ID, first aid, recovery and observation post . The intention is for Australian participation in Worthington Cup (Canada - CRV) and Sullivan Cup (US –Tank) in alternate years to benchmark our capability against the world standard.

The School has been a hub for displaying our RAAC capabilities in training and platforms, with many high profile visits throughout the year including the the Hon Mr Tehan (Minister for Defence personnel and DVA) and the Chilean Chief of Defence. Our staff also took to the streets with support to the ADFA Open day and a Recruiting drive around Tasmania, giving them an opportunity to engage with the community and display mounted combat capability.

SOARMD has also been fundamental to the modernisation of Army through a raft of supported trials and user evaluations. We conducted detailed trials into new Mounted Combat targetry and continue exploring the future of AFV driving simulation through a Common Driver Trainer in concert with Deakin University. Nothing but praise from all involved and these displays provided a couple of days respite from the busy training schedule.

2017 has been a year of fluency, and as always the RAAC has shaped and re-shaped not only our training, but also that of our supporting combat arms. 2018 is shaping up to be no different, a challenge we will readily tackle. All staff at the School of Armour have remained focussed and professional throughout the year, and the 2018 team will be no different.

*Forge*



# 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers

Commanding Officer: Lieutenant Colonel S M Francis  
Regimental Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class One D Kirkman  
Regimental Motto: Tenax in Fide – Steadfast in Faith



The loss of our vehicles to the digitisation project between March and September meant that training in 2017 was not as active as we would have liked; however, 2016 finished up with a call to the Regiment that saw us in our element (if not our vehicles).

Towards the end of 2016, we were called upon to provide assistance to the Forbes / Condobolin floods in Western NSW as part of a greater 5 Bde response. To minimise the footprint of the Army, we were instructed to utilise our green fleet vehicles rather than PMV – we were told that we would most likely be moving stores than people – so we eschewed the comfort of the Bushmasters for the more rudimentary Unimogs. We were also asked to provide a DACC second-in-command, and OC B CAPT Ian Goodwin volunteered for duty.

DACC headquarters had been established for a few days before CAPT Goodwin arrived, yet consisted of little more than a plastic chair and radio. A quick call to RHQ organised the CP box and laptops, while another call went to Canberra to procure maps for the area. A register recording personnel, time out and time in, their destination, and tasking was created, while the battle board recorded locations of incidents and other relevant information.

At the end of the first week CAPT Goodwin was “promoted” to DACC commander while Tp Ldr 1 Tp, LT Jonathan Newton, took over as DACC 2IC. With the Cavalry now in charge we were able to increase the tempo to include reconnaissance tasks to maintain situational awareness for the DACC element as well as the supported SES headquarters. By the end of the second week, all drivers (including those from the infantry and CSSB) had a list of PIRs and instructions to provide a debrief to the DACC 2IC at the completion of each task. In fact, not only was the SES using the battle board to brief their personnel, they had set up a webcam focussed on the maps so their main headquarters could track events in real time.

The DACC tasking was complete by mid-October, with a “BZ” from CJOPS and a letter of appreciation from the SES NSW. Of particular note, the SES acknowledged “the collection of flood intelligence that will support future flood operations and the integrated training that occurred with all agencies when not undertaking flood operations”.

Training in 2017 saw the Regiment return to the basics, with training concentrated on the development of dismounted skills for the Cavalry Scouts, and methods of movement for the PMV crews utilising the deployable simulation kit.

A Sqn (Cavalry Scouts), under command of MAJ Colin Bigger, conducted its major activity in May, with reconnaissance tasks in support of 4/3 RNSWR, and then a VAP task for 6 Avn Regt at Luscombe Airfield. This culminated with a night / early morning withdrawal by the patrols, evading a large OPFOR, and testing the soldiers on their ability to exfiltrate from a contested area unseen. In September, the Sqn was a last minute addition to the Reinforcing BG training in Singleton, where they provided detailed reconnaissance reports for the incoming combat teams during EX Telopea Walk. The work done here has now seen a change in the exercise design of EX Telopea Run, with recon elements now playing a major role.

For B Sqn (Protected Lift) the year saw many hours on the simulation systems, allowing for training in vehicle movement, orders, and reporting. Towards the end of October, the Sqn was able to put this training into effect as they supported the School of Military Policing at Majura, providing convoy escorts, immediate TCPs and overwatch tasks. Later this year they will work with both Infantry and CIMIC to support an exercise centred on KLE and force protection.

Finally, the change to unit establishment will see the Regiment grow a new Sqn – C Sqn (Protected Lift) based at Jordan Lines, Holsworthy from January 2018.

*Tenax in Fide*



# 1st Armoured Regiment



Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel C D Gardiner

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class One J G Robinson

Regimental Motto:

Paratus - Ready

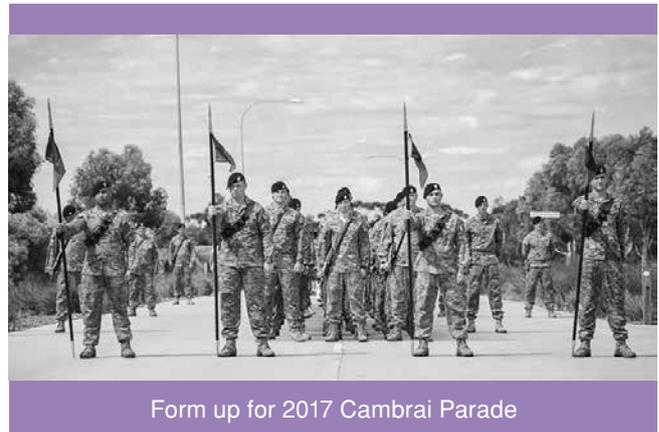
The last twelve months have been an exceedingly busy period for the 1st Armoured Regiment, including a significant milestone in our history. The Regiment formed the mounting unit for Task Group Taji-IV, deploying to Iraq, while the remainder participated in the combined joint Exercise Talisman Sabre 17. Closing out the year, the Regiment relocated from Darwin to Adelaide, while simultaneously changing its order of battle as part of Plan KEOGH.

1st Armoured Regiment elements deployed to Iraq as the mounting unit headquarters for Task Group Taji-IV. This deployment signified the first opportunity the Regiment has had to contribute to operations above sub-unit size. 1st Armoured committed considerable personnel to the ranks of the Task Group who deployed to Taji Military Complex, Iraq, from November 2016 to June 2017. Our soldiers worked along side others from the 1st Brigade and wider Australian Army, as well as approximately one hundred servicemen and women from the New Zealand Army, predominately from the 2/1 Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. A sub-unit sized British force commanded by Blenheim Company of the 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, were also part of the team. The mission was to Build Partner Capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces by providing timely and relevant training, either in Taji or as part of a mobile training team. The Task Group trained approximately 8000 Iraqi Security Force personnel, with many that had completed training departing immediately for operations in Mosul. It was a privilege and a milestone to have been the mounting headquarter of such a combined force. The excellent work of those on operations was made possible by those who remained in Australia, meeting the demands of a busy training year with the scant manning that was left.

During July, A and N Squadron deployed on the biennial combined Australian and United States training activity, Exercise Talisman Sabre 17, conducted in Shoalwater Bay Training Area along the Queensland coast. This exercise involved over 30, 000 Australian and US defence personnel,

with both Squadrons performing very well in their roles. It was a great opportunity for the Squadrons to assist in the development of the combat brigade restructure.

The Regiment completed its combat structure at the end of 2017. It moved from an Armoured Cavalry Regiment structure consisting of a squadron of Tanks, Cavalry (Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle), and Lift (Armoured Personnel Carrier) to a squadron of Tanks and two cavalry squadrons. This new structure will bring exciting opportunities for the Regiment, greater armoured capability for the Brigade, and assist in the integration of Land 400 phase 2.



Form up for 2017 Cambrai Parade

The tempo of 2017 remained to the end, with the Regiment relocating all remaining assets from its current location at Robertson Barracks in Darwin to Edinburgh Defence Precinct, North of Adelaide. This is another significant moment in the Regiments history, with Darwin being home since 1995. The relocation was appropriately marked by the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. Cambrai activities included blessing the new Chauvel Lines, the Regimental Ball, and the Cambrai parade. It was a fitting end to what has been a very exciting, busy, and successful year for the 1st Armoured Regiment.



1st Armoured Regiment



# 2nd Cavalry Regiment

Commanding Officer:

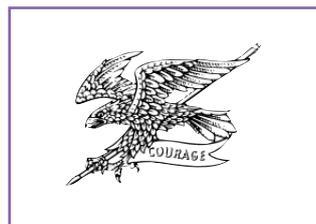
Lieutenant Colonel G Chambers

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class One T Lynch

Regimental Motto:

Courage



**A**s I said to the reunion crowd over the Beersheba weekend, my enduring memory of 2017 will be the sterling performance of the JNCOs of this Regiment. We have at least as many acting up a rank as not and everyone I meet from outside of the Regiment mentions Corporal Brown's or Corporal Oakover's sheer excellence in trade or in general. Ours are as good a group of Corporals as I remember serving with previously. Their initiative is irrepressible and their appetite for challenge and the demands of professional mastery insatiable.

The Regiment completed its period in the readying cycle in good order. We would not have been able to do so without the indefatigable efforts of Support Squadrons RAEME and RACT crews: the vehicle availability across all fleets (with the possible exception of our fuel truck fleet) was impressive and I never once thought we would fall short of an objective because we couldn't keep fuel or ammunition up to the wagons. C Squadron's crew and section gunnery training was the best I have seen. It was conducted on a rudimentary field firing range but with the help of engineer plant and some CS gas the crews were put under significant pressure: all stood up to that pressure very well. B Squadron's cooperation with Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion and Charlie Company of the 3rd Battalion during almost every field training period we undertook was of the highest standard. They will continue to be a credit to the Regiment next year as they start to transition their APC skills to the 3rd Battalion. A Squadron's capacity to understand and shape the enemy while orientating the rest of the Brigade has been first rate throughout the training year. They have also been adept at striking the enemy sooner than they expected it, and with greater force. The Regimental Headquarters routinely demonstrated the power of a small and dedicated staff cooperating with excellent vehicle crews. We were never a delaying factor on the Brigade's rate of advance and were always able to anticipate the Brigade's needs.

While we were honing our foundation close combat skills, the Regiment also supported the ongoing development of the Papua New Guinean Army, by providing training teams to their Army's officer training college. The Regiment sent a small team of our finest NCOs and soldiers led by a junior officer and a warrant officer during the first quarter of the year, and also reinforced a team of the same kind from the 4th Regiment. In the field there were two particular tactical actions that demonstrated the potency of Battle Group Eagle. First, the conduct of the best battle-group danger-close live-fire attack across an obstacle I think the Army has seen in many years. Second, the conduct of an excellent envelopment of the enemy's initial intercept line/forward defensive zone on the first night of close combat during Exercise Talisman Sabre. Both of these events allowed the Regiment to demonstrate its utility as the basis for a strong combined arms team as well as its basis in

audacious offensive action. Unfortunately time prevented us from savouring these events as the Regiment completed an exceptionally rapid transition to providing contingency forces, as well as preparing for operations.

After completing our foundation training the Regiment transitioned to three different efforts. First, the provision of AFV forces at reduced readiness notices to meet operational contingencies. Second, preparation for the transition of the APC capability to the Royal Australian Regiment. Third, mounting forces for Task Group Taji Six as part of Operation Okra. The first task has taken a lot of hard work to build a preparedness mindset within our Regiment. We have now established that mindset and day to day practices allowing the provision of mounted forces at short notice. The second task has involved a significant amount of work in the stables preparing a very large M113 fleet for dissection and redistribution. The third task has involved accepting attachments from many and varied Australian and New Zealand Army Regiments and Battalions then rendering them into a cohesive whole. The first and third tasks will endure until mid-2018. The second task will take until the middle of 2019 to complete.

In amongst this very busy year the Regiment has managed to undertake a number of significant memorial activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the charge at the wells of Beersheba. We sent a troop sized detachment to the Winton Outback Festival to help them celebrate a re-enactment of the mounted recruiting drive that moved through the region a little over 100 years ago. We hosted a Regimental reunion of some 150 olds and bolds over the Beersheba weekend. The reunion raised in excess of \$11,000 dollars for the Queensland based Mates for Mates charity. We commemorated the Commander of the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade, Lachlan Chisolm Wilson, with the local law firm he founded while he wasn't serving in the Light Horse. We conducted a combined Australian New Zealand commemorative parade on the anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba in keeping with the tradition of the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division (incidentally whose patch our Armies have adopted for Task Group Taji).

Finally, we also farewelled two long serving members of the Regiment. Tony Lynch left the Regiment on posting to D-SCMA via Afghanistan having served for almost thirty years in and amongst this Regiment. He was dined out in early September and has left a lasting mark here. WO2 Courage died in mid-October and was promoted post-humously. He will be sorely missed, but fondly remembered. 2 Cav Regt will adopt a new Courage (III) a 12 year old female Wedge-Tailed Eagle from the Gold Coast. We are anticipating her arrival in January 2018, She weighs 3.8kg, whereas Courage II weighed 2.5kg. She is fully trained, having previously been involved in bird shows. Perhaps more on that in next year's Ironsides.



# 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers



Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel A.M. King

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class One J.A. Moriarty

Regimental Motto: Virtutis Fortuna Comes – Fortune is the Companion of Valour

**W**hile this year has been an extremely busy and productive one for the Regiment five of the most significant events in the Regiments history occurred this year.

Firstly from August this year the Regiment moved from under command of the 8th Bde (NSW) to under command of 11th Bde (Qld).

Secondly, as a result of the recent unit establishment review Support Squadron has been removed from our ORBAT and from January 2018 the Regiment will consist of RHQ, 'A' Squadron and 'B' Squadron.

Thirdly 'B' Squadron will be relocated from Muswellbrook in the Hunter Valley to Caboolture, located 55 kilometres north of the Brisbane – this move will double the posted strength of the unit within the next two years with 'B' Squadron positioned centrally within the population centre of SE Queensland.

Fourthly 'A' Squadron, who has been solely located at Armidale since 1948 will move its SHQ and a troop to Beersheba Barracks, Tamworth and have troops located at Chauvel Training Depot at Muswellbrook and Gaza Training Depot at Armidale. Surely this is the biggest reorganisation of the Regiment since it was established in 1948.

And fifthly over the period 31st October - 4th November the Regiment commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Charge at Beersheba by conducting or attending a number of activities as follows:

- A Guidon party travelled to Be'er Shiva in Israel to take part in the commemorative activities conducted on the 31st October 2017.
- The HONCOL, CO, A/RSM and SSM Support Squadron attended the National Commemorative Parade in Canberra accompanied by the Guidon of the 16th Light Horse Regiment (Hunter River Lancers).
- A cataflaque party participated in the unveiling and dedication of a plaque honouring Major Eric Hyman DSO (OC of 'A' Squadron during the Charge). This plaque was donated by the Lions Club of Tamworth and was unveiled by the grandson of Major Hyman in Hyman Park, South Tamworth.
- A cataflaque party participated in the unveiling and dedication of a full size bronze statue of a mounted light horseman which was donated by the Muswellbrook Shire Council.

- A plaque describing the Charge was unveiled at the Australian Light Horse Memorial in Tamworth by the Regimental Association and a relative of Major Cuthbert Fethersonhaugh DSO (OC of 'B' Squadron during the Charge) at precisely 4.30 pm, the time the charge started.
- Members of the Regiment attended a church service in St Pauls Cathedral, Armidale, during which a plaque was unveiled that honoured the original 12th Light Horse Regiment (New England Light Horse) Guidon that hangs in the cathedral. This guidon was presented to the regiment in 1928 and has hung in the cathedral since 1990.
- The Beersheba Dinner was held in the hangar at Beersheba Barracks with 180 people attending including a number of descendants.

In 2017 the Regiment deployed 45% of its posted strength to Talisman Sabre 17 and successfully delivered cavalry scout and protected lift capability.

Recruiting has been very successful including five female cavalry scouts and with the move of 'B' Squadron to Caboolture approx. 33 ex-ARA personnel have transferred from the Standby Reserve to the Active Reserve. These members have brought valuable skills and experience back into the Active Army Reserve, RAAC.

The Officers, NCOs and APS staff in our Planning, Admin and Logistics positions, both full and part time, have achieved outstanding results to ensure the unit and soldiers remain well administered and equipped for all our training activities. They have been instrumental in ensuring the unit passed every audit since 2015 in good order - successfully keeping the CO out of trouble.

The Regiments Facebook and Twitter pages have catapulted the regiment's name into the limelight. Our Facebook page now has a following of more than a 1100 people and is growing every week. When the regiment called for expressions of interest for the new squadron in SE Qld the EOI reached over 20,000 people and captured over 200 interested Ex-ARA soldiers.

The Regiment has proved its ability to adapt over the last three years and its overall performance over the last 3 years is chief among the factors that has helped guarantee its future.



Within the new unit manning structure the Regiment currently has 120 out of the 209 positions in the UE filled with 'A' Squadron currently at 67% full and 'B' Squadron 35% full.

Any Combat Service Support soldiers in our squadron locations will transfer to 11 CSSB and will continue to support the unit from their home locations, as they have always done.

The men and women of the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers have secured their future by proving their ability to contribute to capability - proving by performance, is the way of 12th/16th HRL. The dedication and professionalism of each member is the reason this unit finds itself in such a great position of opportunity for the 2020s and beyond.

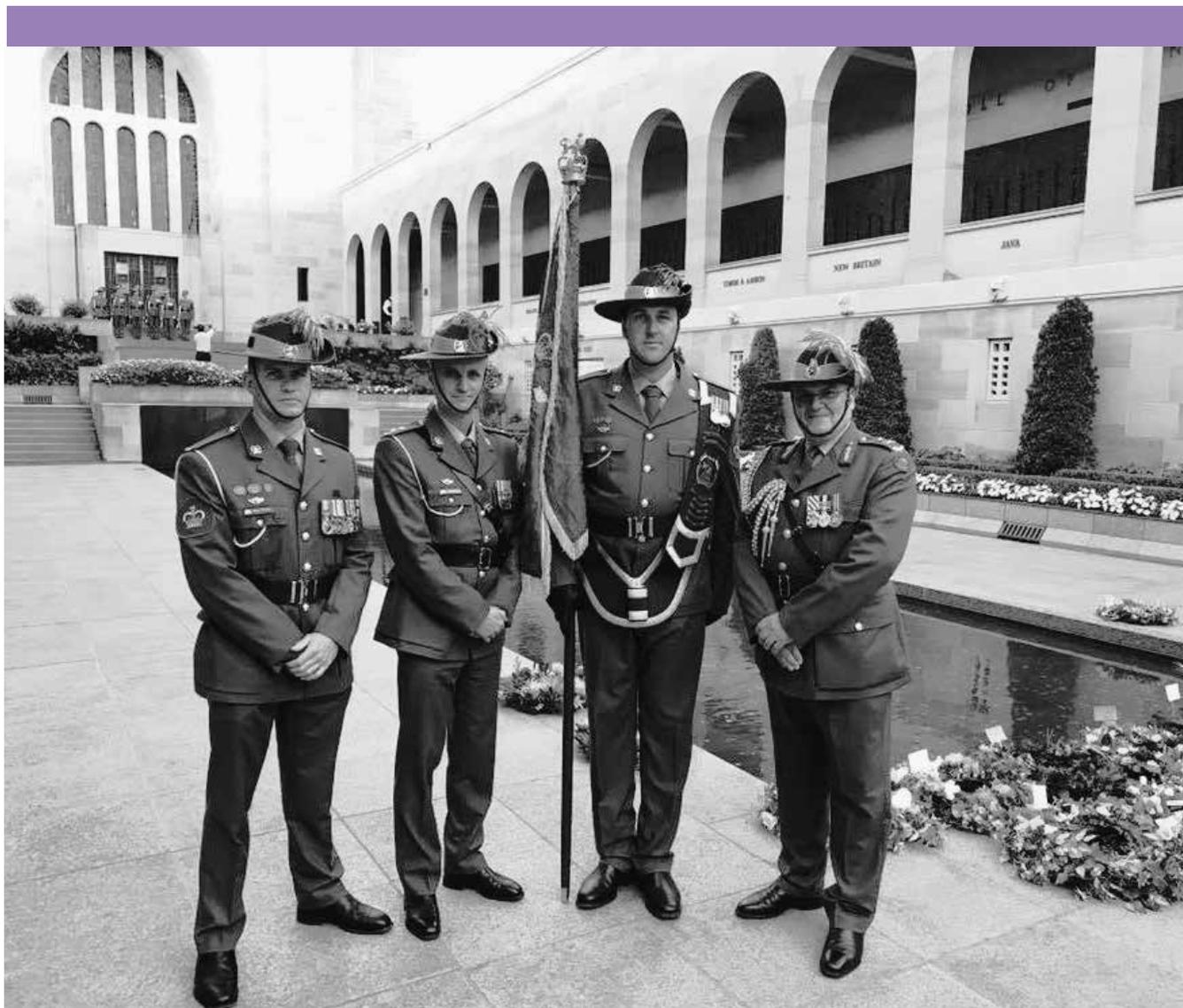
The regiment farewelled its current CO at the Beersheba Dinner. Lieutent Colonel Adam King started his Army career 32 and a half years ago, as Trooper King in the 12th/16th

Hunter River Lancers, and the members of the Regiment wish him well for the future. We also farewelled our RSM, WO1 Jason Moriarty, who has moved to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment as its RSM. Good Luck to him.

To lead the Regiment into the future is the incoming CO, Lieutenant Colonel David Fisher, who lives in Brisbane. Lieutenant Colonel Fisher brings considerable experience to the unit, having served on operations in Iraq with the British Army's Royal Yeomanry.

The immediate future of the Regiment will be full of new challenges – some big, some small - but based on our performance and our ability to rise to the occasion in the past we look forward to facing and defeating any challenge that comes our way - whatever its size.

*Virtutis Fortuna Comes –  
Fortune is the Companion of Valour.*



16th LH Guidon at Canberra



# 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse



Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel J M Molnar

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class One J Adams

Regimental Motto:

Ich Dien – I Serve

**T**he Regiment is about to again embark on the road to HAMEL as part of Reinforcing Battle Group Jacka. As always, it has been a busy year with troops returning from the Transit Security Element mid year, our annual nine day EX DAMASCUS returning to the training program and the continuation of the TULUGAL Optimised Cavalry Scout program which was extended to include members from the School of Armour, 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers and 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles. The program is planned to expand further in 2018 to include representative from the Regional Force Surveillance Units and selected members from all Cavalry Units. Collectively the program aims to improve the dismounted capability of Armoured Cavalry Regiments through a mutual understanding of the way in which each Unit operates.

The Regiment was also fortunate to mount the Headquarter element for the Army contingent to commemorate the 4th Light Horse Charge in Beersheba, Israel. Guidons from the 4th and 12 Light Horse were presented during two services in Beersheba. Finally, our 4th Light Horse Guidon is now laid up at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne after completing its final official duties.

As always, we commemorated our founding Light Horse Regiments major battles at the Nek and the Charge at Beersheba, but also continued to remember the efforts of 1 Troop A Squadron 4/19 PWLH during the Viet Nam war at our annual McIntyre Dinner. Now more than ever the employment of this sub unit is worth considering as our current role within the total force develops.

The Squadron arrived in Vietnam in June 1965 attached to the 1 RAR Group to be employed in a wide variety of tasks. The Cavalry element was essentially a strategic reserve and because the formation was likely to be sent on any one of several fire-fighting missions they adopted the motto 'get in, do the job, get out quick'. In summary the tasks were, as **APCs**: infantry insertions; redeployments and extractions; ready reaction force; insertion of SAS patrols and logistic tasks; and as **Cavalry**: in ambushing (with or without infantry support); ready reaction (without infantry); reconnaissance including maintaining a presence as a deterrent; cordon and search operations; flank protection and early warning as part of search and destroy operations.

This summary should resonate with all members of the corps across generations of soldiers and officers who

regardless of equipment and resources have trained to undertake many of these tasks during their time in service. In my final year of command, it is a stark reminder that the Army, in a continual state of evolution, continues to demand a capability from this Regiment that generally aligns to this task list. Reconnaissance and Protected Lift.

Since retiring our M113's in 2007 and working through the guidance stated in Plan Beersheba, the Chief of Army through Forces Command endorsed two clear tasks for RAAC Units of the 2nd Division on 27 June 2017.

- A primary task of generating two Cavalry Scout Troops to provide capability to the Regular Armoured Cavalry Regiments and, a
- Secondary task of providing two Bushmaster PMV troops to provide organic lift capability to the Reinforcing Battle Group.

So, what does this mean? The 2nd Division RAAC Units will have one vehicle; the Bushmaster PMV as a platform to both emulate a Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle in training Cavalry Scouts and to provide protected lift to infantry sections. It means, that thinking back to Assault Troopers and APC's it looks very much like back to the future but with a few distinct differences:

**One**, our vehicles are deployable in all theatres of current operations, **two**, that our Cavalry Scouts are integral to Armoured Cavalry Regiments and will deploy with them on operations and **three**, we will be equipped with the latest in service weapons, uniforms, body armour and specialist reconnaissance equipment. The majority of our PMVs are now digitally upgraded to ensure our ability to fully integrate with the Combat Brigades.

In January this year, we welcomed our new RSM, WO1 Jamie Adams and at the end of the year I will welcome LTCOL John Pearse, CSM into the Unit as our new Commanding Officer. We wish him luck, persistence and a healthy dose of resilience as we enter a period that demands us to be an integral part of a total force.



# A Squadron 3rd/9th Light Horse

(South Australian Mounted Rifles)

Officer Commanding: Major C Manning  
Squadron Sergeant Major: Warrant Officer Class Two D R Wasley  
Regimental Motto: Nec Aspera Terrent – Nor Hardships Deter



**2**017 has seen many changes occur within 3rd/9th Light Horse! Starting from the top, the unit saw Major Christopher Manning return to occupy the helm of the Squadron. Concurrently, a new 2IC also posted in. Captain David Adams arrived at the unit with his vast experience from his service in the ARA. Between the two they have strived to reinvigorate the unit and have overseen changes to the ORBAT and other processes within the unit.

The unit currently operates three Troops; 1 Troop is responsible for PMV training and is the primary supporter of the Reinforcing Battle Group support tasks, 2 Troop is responsible for G-Wagon Surveillance and Reconnaissance Vehicle (SRV) training as the surrogate non-armoured platform and 3 Troop as the dedicated Cavalry Scout troop. The unit received the Mission Kit for the G-Wagon SRV late last year and the Sqn has worked hard to fit out the first vehicles after qualifying the Training Sergeant, SGT Scott Kernot on the kit. The fitting of these vehicles with the mission kit will enable the Troop to conduct the myriad of Light Cavalry Scout tasks from a properly enabled platform. The Sqn has continued to grapple with the ongoing servicing and inspection regime pertaining to the PMV fleet. However, the impending digitisation will see them capable of integrating with the Battlefield Management System which will increase the capability for the unit to integrate within 9 Brigade and its full-time counterparts.

The unit sent a section sized compliment of PMV's to Exercise Boars Run in support of 7 RAR and was ably supported by 4/19 PWLH. This saw members integrated with 7 RAR, A Sqn 1 AR, 9 Fd Sqn 1 CER and a number of other supporting units. This gave a unique training opportunity which saw the Sqn members working together to achieve real time support and integration in a combat role which included live fire activities.

Further contributions by the unit saw CAPT Bob Cushion and TPR James Wilsdon deploy on Transit Security Element 85 and Troopers deploy to Rifle Company Butterworth 120. This year also saw the return of SGT Paul Williams from the Sinai on Operation Mazurka where he was awarded the Force Sergeant Major's Commendation. The contribution of these members, whilst not only a credit to themselves, will see the unit gaining valuable knowledge and skills acquired as a result of their experiences. The provision of this additional training opportunity will increase our capability upon their return and can only strengthen the unit's capability as part of the 9th Brigade.

This year has also seen the Sqn grow three new Troop Sergeants and the qualification of 14 new fully qualified

Cavalry Scouts adding to the unit's capability. A number of senior soldiers will also be promoted to LCPL as they complete their promotion courses in the last six months of the year. The Sqn has also benefited from a number of soldiers from the ACRs transitioning to part-time service and parading with the Sqn. In addition, the Sqn has also received the newly graduated Lieutenant Leigh Haring from the part-time officer's first appointment course. These promotions and transfers clearly demonstrate the health of the unit with a strong spread of promotions across all ranks which will make a significant addition to capability going forward in 2018.

Recruitment has seen an increase in interest with the unit recruiting over 20 members over the last financial year; mainly due to the diligence and hard work of CPL Robert Hutchinson and LCPL James Findlay. This has been impart due to cooperation formed between the Sqn and Defence Force Recruiting to using 3rd/9th's facilities in Elizabeth North Training Depot to run information sessions and personal fitness assessments for the northern metropolitan area. The unit has also successfully recruited its first two female light cavalry scouts which marks a significant milestone in the history of the unit. The accelerated training option (ATO) which allows recruits to go from basic training to complete their employment training in a continuous block has also seen a positive influence in recruiting and will assist in providing job ready cavalry scouts upon their entry to the unit.

This year marks a historical milestone for many light horse units with the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. The Sqn will commemorate the event through the conduct of a formal dinner at the Adelaide Town Hall as well as a Catafalque Party at the Light Horse and War Horse Memorials in the Adelaide CBD.



3/9th SAMR at Cultana West training area Sep 17



# 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment

(Queensland Mounted Infantry)



Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel A P Moss, CSM

Regimental Sergeant Major:

Warrant Officer Class One PA Kirkman

Regimental Motto:

Forward

**2**017 has been punctuated with a series of significant events for the Regiment, including: the re-establishment of C Squadron and introduction of the M1A1 Main Battle Tank (MBT); the progression of training to a combat team level; the Freedom of Entry to the city of Brisbane; and tragically the training death and commemoration of the life of Trooper Reddan. The Regiment continued to support operations across the year with a small number of individual deployments to the Middle East Region, all of whom represented the unit superbly.

The Regiment progressed from individual skills to squadron level manoeuvre over 2017 as it cycled through the Reset and Reaching windows of the Army Force Generation (FORGEN) Cycle. The squadrons initially exploited simulation to shake out and practice basic command and control. This included every member of the squadron in their crew positions. A skill and training methodology that will have a significant place in the future as Army manages the aging ASLAV fleet and changes its training design with the introduction of the L400 Cavalry Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV).

Despite B Squadron initially focusing on armoured personnel carrier skills, a revised force modernisation structure of an ACR with two CRV squadrons saw both CRV squadrons train against traditional cavalry tasks (one sqn

in ASLAV and the other in M113AS4). This provided some unique opportunities for squadron force on force activities that would generate rat cunning and learn lessons that can only be generated with a live enemy free play force. The live fire practices were equally as challenging with troop practices conducted over a 12-hour period and squadron over 48-hours, including the use of a large 360-degree box. Skills focused on the advance, infiltration, search (mounted and dismounted), deliberate and quick attacks, raid, delay and exposure to artillery danger close. All callsigns performed to an excellent standard and will set up the Regiment well for the Battle Group Warfighter in 2018.

While collective performance has been excellent it was the Regiment's individuals who consistently attained Student of Merit across the majority of the School of Armour courses that demonstrated the unit's professionalism to the broader corps.

Force modernisation (FORMOD) had the greatest visual impact on the Regiment as it underwent another significant change in its 157-year history. This included the introduction of the M1A1 MBT, the re-raising of C Squadron as the tank squadron, the introduction of the Land 121 B vehicle fleet and the raising of a dismounted long-range reconnaissance patrol (LRRP) capability for the brigade. The M1A1 MBT will add a significant capability to 7th Combat Brigade and



Vehicles and Guidons of the 2/14th LH



brought to a conclusion Army's Plan Beersheba, making each combat brigade as like as possible. The M1A1 has already had an impact, providing the punch to the 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment's Battle Group and drawing the cheers during the Freedom of Entry Parade as it was introduced to the Brisbane public. The Land 121 vehicle has also had an equal impact in the logistic space, providing significantly more capacity and is just one of the new employment concepts that the Regiment has to get its head around within the broader changes of the Combat Service Support Concept of Operations.



2/14th Freedom of Entry Beersheba Parade

Plan KEOGH resulted in an over establishment of cavalry crewman in the regiment and the Regiment exploited the opportunity to generate a dismounted reconnaissance capability. The soldiers conducted a demanding LRRP course focused on close target reconnaissance, observation posts, search, firearms and communication, and reconnaissance planning and reporting.

Despite all these changes, the soldiers rapidly adapted to changing efforts and missions with a positive attitude and professionalism.

Those not directly involved in the Regiment's FORGEN or FORMOD were heavily involved in broader Army support requirements. This included non-platform support to the School of Armour and the Royal Military College ensuring our next generation of soldiers and officer and a good understanding of Armoured concepts and skills. It was perhaps the support to the 6th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment's M113AS4 conversion training that impacted the unit the most. This saw many of the units more senior personnel providing instructor, crew and logistic support as the Battalion took on the APC function. This requirement is expected to continue into 2018 as the Army continues restructuring under Plan KEOGH.

When not training against traditional cavalry skills the Regiment focused on resilience. The Regiment adventure training exercise was sea kayaking but it was the troop competition for 2017 that put the soldiers under the most

pressure. The competition was a dismounted resilience activity held in the mountainous training area of Canugra and placed troops under physical and mental duress. This included: obstacle courses, trailer pushes, multiple stores carries, CS gasing and mental challenges. I suspect though it will be the 5kg block of never ending ice and the US liaison officer that will be forged in the soldier's memory.

As the oldest regular unit in the Australian Army, 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) has close ties with the community. This was never more evident than at the Regiment's Freedom of Entry to the City of Brisbane Parade to mark the 100th Anniversary commemoration for the Battle of Beersheba. There was a huge turn out in support of the Regiment during the parade and this flowed into a hugely successful community family day at Southbank supported by the RSL. The Regiment supported many other community engagement events including QMIHT horse ride 'In Pursuit of Beersheba', Village Roadshows Outback Spectacular and many school activities.

For members of the Regiment it was the training death of Trooper Reddan that will have an enduring impact. He was as one of our best and will be remembered for his professionalism and cheeky flair. He was farewelled by the Regiment during a moving ceremony with full military honours. The Regiment came together during this difficult period and were supported by Trooper Reddan's wonderful family that have been absorbed into the Regiment as our own.



2/14th 0F and Guidons Freedom of Entry Beersheba Parade

The year concluded with a handover parade between the outgoing Commanding Officer and Lieutenant Colonel Conners, who will take the Regiment forward into 2018. 2018 holds challenges for the Regiment, including the Combat Training Centre Battle Group Warfighter, confirmation of roles and functions under Plan KEOGH Unit Establishment and Basis of Provisioning, and the careful management of the aging ASLAV fleet. However, with the soldiers' professionalism, skills and attitudes, the unit is postured to face these challenges with success.

*FORWARD!*



# A Squadron 10th Light Horse



Officer Commanding:

Major D J Wright

Squadron Sergeant Major:

SGT L Woolfe

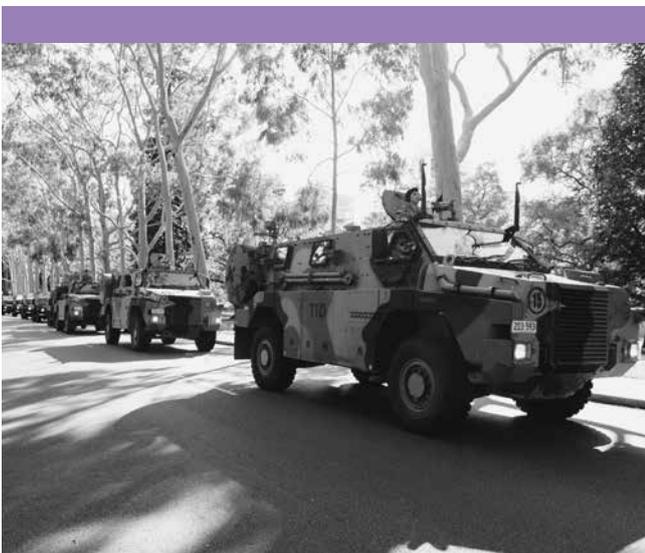
Regimental Motto: Percute Et Percute Velociter – Strike and Strike Swiftly

2017 saw the SQN welcome new cadre staff members with WO2 Michael Martin filling the Training WO role and new SQN 2IC CAPT Blake Bishell joining the unit later in the year following his return from the MEAO. Several Reserve members have also commenced 2017 in new roles, including the SSM and two of our Troop SGTs. The SQN also warmly welcomed back CAPT Duane Nurse in the OPSO role.

The SQN was re-structured at the beginning of the year into a three-sabre troop organisation: 1 Troop was equipped with the SQN's allocation of PMVs, in order to undertake the troop-lift role, 2 Troop similarly has been equipped with G Wagon SRVs in the mounted reconnaissance role, while 3 Troop has been tasked with the dismounted cavalry scout role.

Training soon began in earnest, with the SQN deploying to two locations for the February field weekend – 1 Troop engaged with members from both 16 and 11/28 BNs for PMV-familiarisation training at the Muchea Air Weapons Range, while 2 and 3 Troops travelled to Northam Training Area to reacquaint themselves in dismounted cavalry skills.

March again saw the respective Troops conduct training in their required METLs, in preparation for the SQN's deployment on Exercise Talisman Sabre. The SQN continued to punch well above its weight when it comes to putting soldiers in the field, attendance rates were up 10% on previous years and the SQN led its battle group counterparts in this regard.



A SQN-Old Boys Parade 23 Apr 17

As part of the Brigade's commitments to Exercise Talisman Sabre saw SQN members deploy to SWBTA, and by all accounts, acquit themselves very well. Our cavalry scouts deployed with 2nd Cavalry Regiment while our PMV crews partnered with 11 BDE members to provide protected lift, conduct convoy escorts, and perform tasks in accordance with their relevant training. It was pleasing to hear of the professional performance and conduct of the SQN's soldiers, in particular our JNCOs, who have really come to the fore this year, not only during Talisman Sabre, but in all SQN activities.

October has seen high levels of activity in support of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba. SQN members and vehicles, have deployed to the south west of WA, as well as numerous activities within greater Perth, in support of this important event. The OC, MAJ Daniel Wright, in company with CAPT Blake Bishell and WO2 Michael Martin travelled to Canberra to participate in the official anniversary ceremony, with the unit's guidon.

2017 has seen an increase in numbers at the SQN, ranging in rank from Troopers, including TPR Lisa Browne, our first female cavalry scout, to LT Andrew Philp, the 3 Troop Leader. 2017 also saw a number of promotions, including CPLs Edmund Chan and Dorn Nguyen and LCPLs Khoon Chua and Nick Ledger. These soldiers are just a few of the many excellent JNCOs currently in the SQN, and the performance of these and their respective peers, bodes well for the future of 10th Light Horse.

Also of note, is the deployment of our previous 2 Troop leader, LT Marius Basanovic, who is currently deployed on Transit Security Element as the Platoon Leader with six of our troopers. We certainly wish them all well on their deployment and look forward to their return in early 2018.

Of significance for 2018 is the implementation of the UER, and the effect this will have on the Sqn. The Sqn loses a number of key ARA positions and will fall under direct command of the 11/28 Bn RWAR. Whilst the outcomes of this UER present challenges for the Sqn, they are challenges felt across all RAAC Reserve units.

In closing, there is no doubt that our SQN faces a number of challenges for 2018 and beyond. However, as my tenure draws to a close, I remain confident that the professionalism and enthusiasm of the SQN's soldiers will continue to defeat these challenges and maintain our position as one of the 13th Brigade's highest performing units.

*Percute et percute velociter.*



# Tulugal Program

## Produces Optimised Cavalry Scouts

By Captain Lucy Saaroni

**D**esigned by Victoria's 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment, the Tulugal Program delivers an enhanced Cavalry Scout capability for the Australian Army by combining the conventional fighting techniques of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps with Aboriginal field craft.

The Program has already garnered national participation, with Cavalry Scouts from the 12th/16th HRL, the 3rd/9th SAMR and the School of Armour travelling to HMAS Cerberus to marry up with 4th/19th PWLHR for the culminating field exercise.

"The Tulugal Program draws on the experience of Aboriginal people over thousands of years, to generate a tactical advantage for Australian Army soldiers conducting warlike operations," explains the program's creator, Lieutenant-Colonel John Molnar.

The Program requires Cavalry Scouts to use their knowledge of the land to work in the shadows: to see without being seen and to leave no trace as they obtain, distribute, and communicate vital combat and battlefield information to the lines behind them. Importantly, the Tulugal Program teaches Cavalry Scouts deductive reasoning and critical analysis skills so that they can interpret what they are seeing, hearing, smelling and feeling

and provide command with an intelligent combat and battlefield picture.

Indigenous tracking and bush craft skills are taught to participants of the program, who must then demonstrate these competencies in the field, proving their ability to combine contemporary and traditional tactics, techniques and procedures in order to gather an intelligence picture with stealth and cunning.

"The Program instills cultural competence. This goes beyond an ability to read the natural environment; we are teaching our Cavalry Scouts how to effectively engage with and better understand different cultures," LTCOL Molnar said.

For Trooper Luke Green, the Tulugal Program has been a remarkable opportunity to improve upon his basic RAAC proficiencies.

"The ancient tracking skills of Aboriginal people can help us to read and interpret the information we are gathering on the battlefield. We are learning how every blade of grass tells a story," TPR Green said.

The Tulugal Program is offered as the culminating activity in the training calendar, with a clear focus on RAAC Cavalry Scouts achieving the standard required for reconnaissance, surveillance and supporting Armoured Cavalry Regiment tasks.



Members who participated in Tulugal Program

# Southern Stingers

## Re-Naming of Support Squadron To B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment, School of Armour

By Major Aaron Cimbajevic, OC B Sqn, 3/4 Cav Regt

### Background

**A**lthough Support Squadron, SOARMD has a proud training support history; an opportunity to rename the squadron presented itself due to the restructure of RAAC under Plan Beersheba. On 27 November 2014, B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment held a transition parade with 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Townsville with the unit ceasing to operate. As a result, the custodianship of the regiment's guidons and historical collection was entrusted to RAAC Head of Corps cell, located at SOARMD.

In April 2017, Head of Corps RAAC wrote to the Chief of Army requesting to rename Support Squadron. Historically, B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment has a linkage to SOARMD, with the nucleus of the unit being raised in the Armoured Centre (Puckapunyal) for service in Vietnam in 1966.

The RAAC endorsed the proposal at the Corps Conference in 2016 and re-affirmed its endorsement in 2017. Furthermore, the B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment Association fully supported the renaming as a positive outcome for the preservation of the history and lineage of the unit. Chief of Army accepted the recommendation on 15 May 2017 with the re-naming to occur in conjunction with the RAAC birthday celebrations.

The re-naming parade occurred under typical wintery Puckapunyal conditions in the 'Boppa' hangar. Official guests at the parade included MAJGEN Roger Powell, AM (Honorary Colonel) and Head of Corps RAAC. The entire SOARMD was present to embrace the significant event with families and previous serving members also in attendance. Head of Corps gave a rousing speech in his capacity as the Reviewing Officer to the newly re-named squadron and the Guidons were formally handed over to SOARMD. All those assembled then moved to the Sergeants Mess for a social event to mark the occasion with the soldiers and officers of the squadron now proudly wearing the 'stinger' hat badge.

### Implementation

The memorandum of understanding between the OC of the squadron and CO/CI SOARMD provided the foundation agreement to adopt the name change. The squadron remains under the existing C2 arrangement as a sub-unit of the SOARMD and will continue to perform its extant role. The squadron is not an independent sub-unit as was the case in the 3rd Brigade.

### Historical collection

The HOTO of the historical collection from Head of Corps Cell also occurred as part of the renaming. WO2 Socrates Lekatis is the current collection curator. The curator and his committee are now responsible for the historical collection inventory and have conducted a stellar job so far in establishing a unit historical gallery at SOARMD.

### Conclusion

Now that the renaming is official, the squadron is the custodian of the customs and traditions of B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment whilst continuing its vital role in support of the SOARMD mission.

*Resolute and Tenacious!*



Official re-naming parade on 08 July 2017



# Leopard AS1 Cut Away

By Major Paul Handel

A discussion between Mr Neil Dailey, Manager Army Heritage, and the then Head of Modernisation and Strategic Planning-Army, MAJ GEN F.A. McLachlan, in 2015 set in train a project which will provide a unique exhibit to the Australian Army Tank Museum. MAJ Gen McLachlan discussed the matter with the General Manager, Fleet Support Unit (RAN), Mr Jason Aquilina, in September 2015, and the project is a joint venture between the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army.

The project is to section a Leopard AS1 Main Battle Tank, which will be used as a training aid for School of Armour courses, and will be available as an exhibit to show the internal space and details of a Main Battle Tank for civilian visitors to the Museum.

As far as is known, there are four tanks “cut down the middle” in Museums around the world. The most famous is the Centurion at The Tank Museum, Bovington, in the UK. Two Leopard 1 MBTs are at Defence University, Cranfield, UK and The Wehrtechnik Sammlung in Koblenz, Germany. An M48 MBT is located at the Israel Tank Museum at Latrun. There are a number of former Soviet-era MBTs which have armour pieces removed to allow the interior to be seen located in various other Museums, but these were basically Training Aids modified for student instruction.

AAHU appointed MAJ Paul Handel as Project Officer for the task. MAJ Handel was Manager of the Australian Army Tank Museum for a number of years and was returned to the Active Reserve to undertake the task.

The work had to be undertaken with the available resources of the Fleet Support Unit South East, located at Garden Island in Sydney.

In order to ascertain the feasibility of the work, a Leopard C1 turret was recovered from Puckapunyal range and transported to FSU-SE Garden Island, arriving in February 2017. This turret was similar to the Leopard AS1 turret in armour configuration. Work began on trial cutting of the turret, using a variety of tools, including grinding/cutting power tools, oxy-acetylene cutting torch and a thermal lance.

The cutting of the turret roof, sides and rear was done by the FSU personnel, and very little trouble was encountered with this work. A trial was made to cut the turret frontal armour but the cuts were not able to penetrate the armour in full. The cuts were made using both the thermal lance and oxy equipment. Removal of the mantlet was not possible due to the distortion of the trial turret, caused by the impact of rounds.

This caused a rethink of how to present the turret, and it was decided to keep the turret front plate and mantlet intact, which also allows the gun trunnions to be kept, making the support of the barrel and breech assembly much easier. The decision was then made to cut the turret from behind the front plate into the left of centre, where a

reinforcing member is located inside the turret roof. The cut will then follow the reinforcement to the turret rear.

The hull will be cut left of centre probably around the ammunition stowage area (“wine rack”). The engine cover will be cut, and the hull floor will be cut around the mounting points for the powerpack so that there will be some support for the powerpack when reinstalled. Additional supports will be required under the hull to take the weight of the powerpack when the vehicle is finally positioned for display.

Having the engine supported on its original mounts will not affect the display of the vehicle.

The vehicle will be displayed so that students and visitors can walk between the two parts of the vehicle. Viewing the crew positions, looking from the left side of the main armament, means that the confines of the vehicle can be more easily appreciated, as the driver’s, gunner’s and commander’s positions will be seen with all the actual interior equipment in place. The loader’s position will be quite open.

The power pack will be re-installed into its usual position and will not be sectioned, as a sectioned engine is already available in the Museum.



Turret for Leopard Cut Away been prepared for transport to Garden Island

The hull and turret will be transported to Sydney at the end of November. School of Armour will transport the hull on a tank transporter, and the turret, placed on a stand, will be carried by Recovery Platoon of 5 Combat Service Support Battalion.

Throughout the project, continual support by Australian Army Tank Museum staff and volunteers has been of utmost importance, as has the support provided by the staff of Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering at Holsworthy.



# Battle of Cambrai Centenary

*“From the mud, through the blood, to the green fields beyond”*

By Major Mick Henderson

*“Accusing as I do without exception all the great Allied offensives of 1915, 1916, and 1917 as needless and wrongly conceived operations of infinite cost, I am bound to reply to the question, ‘What else could have been done?’ And I answer it, pointing to the Battle of Cambrai: ‘This could have been done.”* Winston Churchill

**A**t 0620h on the cold and foggy morning of 20 November 1917, an artillery barrage from 1000 guns commenced and with it, the first successful mass combined arms employment of the tank.

Within 20 minutes of crossing the line of departure the first breach of the German forward trenches had occurred. The Infantry and Tank cooperation so heavily rehearsed in the lead up proved overwhelming with crews regularly finding trenches and strongpoints abandoned.

Within 24 hours the 476 tanks and 60,000 infantry supported by 300 aircraft had breached the Hindenburg Line. The shocked German defenders withdrew uncontrolled and the attack advanced to a depth of 8km behind German lines, more than the combined total of allied advances in the three months prior.

25 November 2017 marked the culmination of the Royal Tank Regiment’s (RTR) commemoration of the 100th

anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. My attendance at UK Command and Staff College meant that I was fortunate enough to represent the 1st Armoured Regiment on behalf of the Commanding Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major.

The weekend was extraordinary. Commencing with a lecture on the history of the Tank Corps and the battle in the Cambrai Town Theatre, a 3-hour battlefield tour was then facilitated by guides from the

Bovington Tank Museum. The tour brought to life the detail of the battle from the Corps Commanders down to the individual tank crews. These insights gave me, perhaps ashamedly, a depth of understanding of the battle that I did not previously have. I had under-appreciated the extent to which tanks had been employed in urban clearances during the assault and that the technique of silently registering artillery had been used for the first time in history in order to contribute to the surprise and shock of the assault. A new appreciation of the complexity and extent of the enabling actions that occurred including the conduct of Battalion and Brigade level passage of lines and use of battlefield replenishment using trains of 14 tonne sledges pulled behind resupply tanks.

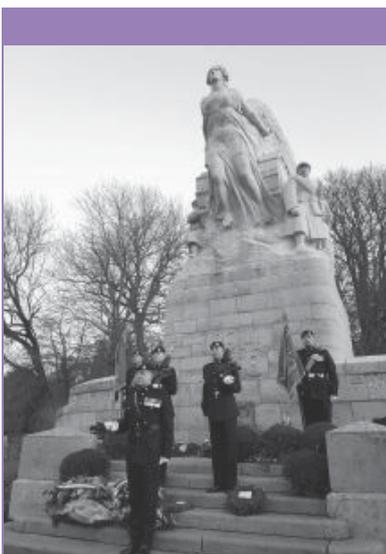
What stood out most, however, were the characteristics associated with heavy mechanised armour that have persisted since its creation over a century ago. The respect for logistics in planning and execution, the embrace of technology and mastery of combined arms to achieve manoeuvre defined the crews at Cambrai and this continues today. The adage that to understand the future we must first understand the past was pressed home and I have no doubt that what was achieved at Cambrai has set a tradition soundly based in the values that are inculcated in our armoured vehicle crews today.

The weekend also saw an opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of 1st Armoured Regiment, attend an Officer’s reception at the Cambrai Town Hall and a Freedom of Cambrai Parade at the Town Square. My thanks to the Commanding Officer RTR, LTCOL Simon Ridgeway and to the Regimental Colonel RTR, LTCOL (R) Stephen May for an impressive and unforgettable commemoration.

PARATUS



Major Mick Henderson in the Cambrai City Square with the Town Hall and a replica MkIV tank in the background



The RTR Standards are on display at the Cambrai City War Memorial where Major Henderson laid the wreath on behalf of the Regiment and Association



WWII SHOOTING GALLERY NOW OPEN!

# TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME TO REMEMBER



TANKS • WEAPONRY • ARMoured VEHICLE EXHIBITS • WWII SHOOTING GALLERY



LARGEST DISPLAY  
**ARMoured VEHICLES & ARTILLERY**  
IN SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

**APC RIDES!**  
11AM & 2PM DAILY  
\*Conditions apply.



KIDS CORNER • RETAIL STORE & REFRESHMENTS



ANNUAL PASSES AVAILABLE ON SITE



THE AUSTRALIAN  
**ARMOUR & ARTILLERY**  
— MUSEUM —

2 Skyrail Drive, Smithfield (Cairns), next to Tjapukai  
T: 07 4038 1665 E: info@ausarmour.com W: ausarmour.com  
Open 7 Days 9:30am - 4:30pm\*



\*Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday



Lieutenant Ryan Abil of 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry), Corporal Robert Conway of 4th/19th Light Horse Regiment (New South Wales Mounted Infantry) and Elbit Systems was proud to collaborate with The Royal Australian Armoured Corps to participate in the Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba.

**Lest we forget.**



Prince of Wales Light Horse, and John Welsh of Elbit Systems of Australia.  
e of Beersheba commemorations in Be'er Sheva, Israel.

# The Battle of Beersheba

## 31 October 1917

By Major Wayne Clarke

At 1630 hrs on October 31, 1917 two regiments of the 4th Light Horse Brigade (4LHB), the 4th Light Horse Regiment (4LHR), from Victoria, and 12th Light Horse Regiment (12LHR), from NSW, were in an FUP behind



LTCOL Murray Bouchier DSO - CO 4th LHR

a low ridge about 6 kilometres south-south east of Beersheba. The 4th LHR, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Murray Bouchier, a grazier from Strathmerton, are on the right and the 12th LHR, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald Cameron, a Boer War veteran and grazier from Scone, are on the left.

completely reorganised the EEF – it now consisted of two infantry divisions corps: XX Corps commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Phillip Chetwode and XXI Corps commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Edward Bulfin; and the Desert Mounted Corps (DMC) commanded by newly promoted Lieutenant General Sir Harry Chauvel. The DMC consisted of the Anzac Mounted Division (ANZ Div), the Australian Mounted Division (AUS Div) and the Yeomanry Mounted Division (UK).



LTGEN Sir Harry Chauvel - GOC DMC

In the front line of the assault formation are the 'A' Squadrons of both regiments in extended line. Three hundred metres further back are the 'B' Squadrons of both regiments, also in extended line, and a further 300 metres back are the 'C' Squadrons of both regiments in line of troop column. Co-located with the 'C' Squadrons are the RHQs and machine guns.

So why are these regiments here in this spot at this time and about to charge a prepared defensive position?

The newly appointed commander of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF), General Sir Edmund Allenby, wanted a plan that was a bit more imaginative than repeated frontal attacks - he had seen enough of those on the Western Front. Since taking command he had



Beersheba Overlay



LTCOL Donald Cameron DSO - CO 12th LHR



The good news was that Chetwode did indeed have such a plan. His plan was to make the Ottomans position in Gaza untenable by turning their flank at the inland end of their defensive line at a place called Beersheba. Beersheba was a small town located at a railway junction 40 kilometres inland from Gaza, in the Negev Desert and was mainly known for its wells. Wells that were full of the most precious resource in that part of the world – water. It was the presence of this water that made it a viable plan to send 40,000 men and 20,000 horses into the desert. Allenby liked this plan.

So while XXI Corps remained in position in front of Gaza, keeping the attention of the Gaza defenders, XX Corps and the Desert Mounted Corps (less the Yeomanry Mounted Division) travelled across the desert, moving only at night, over the period 28-30 October, IOT avoid Ottoman observation and contact.

With the mission to capture Beersheba and its wells intact the objectives of the attacking forces were as follows:

**XX Corps** – Phase 1 – a two divisional assault on the forward trenches of the Ottoman defences located to the west and south-west of Beersheba between the Wadi el Saba<sup>1</sup> and the Khalasa Road, preceded by an artillery bombardment. Phase 2 - Assault the main trenches defending Beersheba and the Ottoman artillery batteries supporting them. LOE - the high ground on the western side of the town.

**DMC:** Preliminary Phase - cut the road to Hebron and Jerusalem. Phase 1 – capture the strongly fortified redoubt on the Tel el Saba feature; Phase 2 – assault Beersheba from the east and seize and secure the wells.

Beersheba was defended by elements of the Ottoman III Corps with its HQ located in Beersheba. Located in and around Beersheba were: the 67th and 81st Regiments from the 27th Division; the 48th Regiment from the 16th Division; and the 2nd Regiment from the 24th Division. These regiments were supported by the 6th and the 8th Regiments of Lancers from the 3rd Cavalry Division, A total of 4400 rifles, 60 machine guns and 28 field guns in these lancer and infantry regiments were available for the defence of Beersheba.

By dawn on 31 October XX Corps was in position to the west of town. The mounted divisions of the DMC, who had ridden between 40 and 55 kilometres overnight, were either in, or moving to, their designated start or reserve positions. During the morning Chauvel would establish DMC HQ on a hill near a locality known as Khashim Zanna located 8 kilometres to the south-east of town. The HQ of both ANZ Div and AUS Div would eventually co-locate with DMC HQ.<sup>2</sup>

At 0555 hrs as the sun came up the artillery of XX Corps commenced their preliminary barrage. The barrage objectives were to cut the wire to the front of the 60th and 74th divisions, then switch to target the Ottoman

fortifications, trench lines and rear areas, while at the same time conduct counter-battery work targeting Ottoman guns. This barrage lasted until 0830h. When the barrage lifted, the lead brigades of both divisions moved forward to secure their initial objectives. By 1030h the lead brigades were within 500 metres of the Ottoman main defensive position (MDP). The heavy artillery stepped forward to engage the barbed wire protecting the Ottoman MDP. This barrage continued until noon. The divisional commanders commenced their main assault at 1215h, screened by the dust and smoke from another bombardment. By 1330h, after intense hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches, the Ottoman defensive line on the western side of Beersheba was captured at a cost of 116 killed and 1010 wounded.

With the objectives of XX Corps now secure the actual capture of Beersheba itself was now up to the DMC.

The first objective was to cut the road from Beersheba to Hebron and Jerusalem, approx. 10 kilometres north-east of Beersheba in the vicinity of Tel el Sakaty<sup>3</sup> IOT prevent Turkish reinforcements arriving from the north and to provide cut off to enemy forces retreating out of Beersheba in that direction. At 0800h while the infantry battle was still being fought on the western side of Beersheba, the commander of the ANZ Div, General Sir Edward Chaytor, a New Zealander, ordered 2LHB to secure Tel el Sakaty and gain control of the Jerusalem road. 2LHB consisted of the 5th (Qld), 6th (NSW) and 7th (NSW) Light Horse Regiments (LHRs). By 1145h the road had been cut between Beersheba and Tel el Sakaty despite continued bombardment by Ottoman artillery and engagement by heavy MGs. The two lancer regiments of the Ottoman 3rd Cavalry Division, about 1100 men, still held ground to the north of Tel el Sakaty itself. 2LHB established an outpost line that covered the road and the north-eastern approaches to Beersheba. Skirmishing with enemy forces continued for the rest of the day.

The second objective of the DMC was to capture the strongly fortified defensive position on the Tel el Saba feature. At 0800h Chaytor ordered the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (NZMR) to attack Tel el Saba. The NZMR consisted of the Auckland, Canterbury and Wellington Mounted Rifle Regiments. Tel el Saba was the MDP on the eastern side of Beersheba and it dominated the approaches from the south and south-east. With its steep sides littered by boulders, this flat-topped, treeless, hill was strongly garrisoned by a Turkish infantry battalion from the 48th Regiment and a machine gun company of eight machine guns.

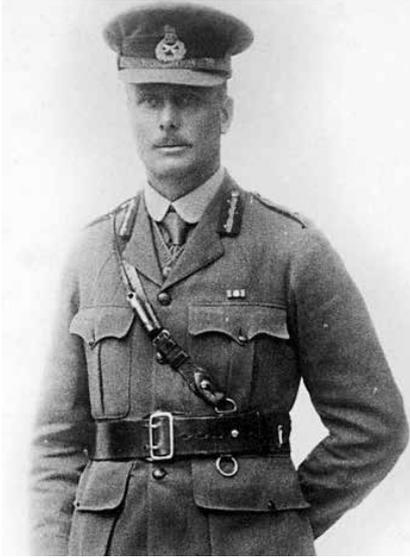
At 0910h the NZMR commenced its attack supported by a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA). About 1600 metres short of the objective the Kiwis dismounted and continued the attack on foot. At 1000h Chaytor ordered 1LHB, consisting of the 1st (NSW), 2nd (Qld) and 3rd (SA/Tas) Regiments, to reinforce the NZMR attack, and then, at about 1330h, Chauvel ordered the two uncommitted

1 wadi is a non-perennial watercourse

2 This hill is now called Chauvel's Hill locally

3 tel means hill





*BRIG William Grant DSO - GOC 4 LHB*

regiments from the 3LHB, (the 9th (SA) and 10th (WA) regiments) plus two more batteries of RHA, to also reinforce the attack.<sup>4</sup> At this point almost a division of mounted troops had been committed to taking Tel el Saba which was, in those days, about 300m high and covered about 30 hectares in area.<sup>5</sup> While it was

obviously a hard nut to crack, by 1500h Tel el Saba was finally in Anzac hands, but the day was getting on. A total of about 30 Anzacs died taking this objective. With Tel el Saba taken orders were issued to consolidate the position, conduct reorg and prepare for counter attacks, before moving towards the town. It was clear that any attack on Beersheba from this direction would not happen before dark.

As a result, back at DMC HQ, things were getting tense. At 1500h Chauvel called a conference. It consisted of his HQ staff, the two divisional commanders, Hodgson and Chaytor, plus Fitzgerald, the commander of the 5th Yeomanry Mounted Brigade (the DMC reserve) and the commander of 4LHB, Brigadier William Grant, a Queenslander. Chauvel put the situation to the group - the town has to be taken today. Grant, who had probably been discussing the situation and options with his COs during the day, says that his men can take the town. He asks Chauvel 'Will you give me a free hand, Sir?' to which Chauvel replies 'I must know what you intend?' Grants reply is simply 'a cavalry attack'.

LTCOL Donald Cameron, in a letter to Charles Bean in 1928, stated 'It was clear to me that the job had to be done before dark, so I advised galloping the place as our only chance. I had some experience of successful mounted surprise attacks on the Boer camps during the Boer War'.

Chauvel, running all the permutations through his head, turns and looks towards Beersheba 8 kilometres away – it is shrouded in smoke and dust, the sound of artillery and HMG fire echoes across the plain, Germans planes are in the air and the sun is getting low in the sky. After a few moments and without turning around he says to General

Hodgson, the commander of the Australian Mounted Division, 'Put Grant straight at it'. Grant leaps onto his horse and rides away.

Most of 4LHB has been resting up about 10 kilometres to the SE of Beersheba, in a locality known as Iswaiwin, since it had arrived at 1130h that morning. At 1545h they receive a warning order to saddle up at once, pack horses to the rear. Bouchier and Cameron are told to report to Bde HQ. They arrive about 1600h and Grant issues orders for their attack on Beersheba.

MAJ Eric Hyman, a Tamworth grazier, is the OC of 'A' Squadron, while 'B' Squadron is led by MAJ Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, another Boer War veteran, and a grazier from Coonamble. MAJ James Lawson, a hotel-keeper from Rupanyup, originally from Yorkshire, will lead 'A' Squadron



*MAJ Eric Hyman DSO - OC A Sqn 12th LHR*

and CAPT Albert Reid, a farmer from Murrumburrah NSW, is the OC of 'B' Squadron. After orders are given the two regiments move from their current location to the FUP.

And so this is why we now have two regiments of 4LHB in the FUP ready to commence a mounted assault on Beersheba. While the men sat in their saddles contemplating what was about to happen, despite all the secrecy of the battle plans, they knew that Beersheba is the key to Gaza and had to be taken that day.

And so at approx. 1630h, with sunset in about 30 minutes, and with the shadows lengthening, the 4th and the 12th moved off at the walk. As the regiments crested the ridge two German aircraft swooped in dropping bombs and strafing them with machine gun fire, fortunately inflicting only minimal damage. Once in motion the first and second lines gradually fanned out until there was about five metres between each horseman. The frontage of the assault formation is about 1250-1500 metres.

Enemy artillery quickly acquires the approaching regiments as they crest the ridge and come into view. They engage with shrapnel, but the range is long and as the men and horses are well dispersed very few casualties are inflicted, but the pace quickens anyway. Bouchier and Cameron are still at the head of their Regiments. The vanguard of the 12th, led by Hyman, sweeps past Cameron. Cameron then leads his 'C' Squadron, his reserve squadron, down the left flank to suppress suspected machine gun positions as well as protect the left flank of the charge. Bouchier leads

4 8LHR, the 3rd regiment of 3LHB, had been tasked to establish a line of outposts between AUS Div and the 7th Yeomanry Mounted Brigade located to the west astride the Asluj Road, south of Ras Ghannam.

5 These days it is the site of an archaeological dig and has been heavily excavated.



the main body riding at the head of his lead squadron with Lawson.<sup>6</sup>

The Turkish trenches are now 4 kilometres to the front, supported on nearby hills by machine gun and artillery positions. 'Speed and surprise were their one chance', writes Gullett. After travelling a further two kilometres a machine gun position engages the lead squadron of the 12th from a hill to the left. This may well have caused serious damage to the charging squadrons but the Essex Battery of the RHA quickly puts the machine guns out of action with their second shot. All this intensifying enemy fire only speeds up the charge to a gallop.

By now the lead squadrons can be seen and are within range of the riflemen in the forward trenches. An erratic opening volley quickly settles into sustained rapid fire, felling many horses in the lead squadrons. But the charge is now an unstoppable force, the fire has served only to urge the riders on, they are now low on the horses' necks and they drive the spurs in. Then after a final salvo from the artillery, the Australians are under the guns, which cannot be depressed any further. As the charging squadrons come to within 800 metres of the trenches, which were now clearly visible, casualties virtually cease, despite an increase in the firing.

The layout of the Ottoman position is such that the main established trench system is oriented to the south overlooking the large wadi that runs along the left flank of the actual charge. The defences directly facing the axis of the charge are less well developed trenches, rifle pits and dugouts. There is no wire.

The Turks, dazed by the sheer audacity, thunder and speed of the charge, plus the fact that the riders, as mounted infantry, don't dismount short of the objective as is expected, forget to adjust their sights as the charge draws nearer. As a result the last few hundred metres to the trenches are covered untouched with the defenders firing harmlessly over the heads of the approaching charge. In addition the clouds of dust generated by the charge make picking a target nearly impossible.

On the right an advanced partly dug trench is consumed by the first wave of the 4th without check. After jumping the main line of trenches and pits, crammed with Turks, Lawson and his squadron rein in and dismount in an area



MAJ James Lawson DSO - OC A Sqd  
4th LHR

6 It appears that 'C' Squadron of the 4th joined in the fighting in the trenches with the rest of the 4th.

of tents and dugouts. Lawson is quickly joined by a troop of the 12th.<sup>7</sup> A terrible disorder reigns, some have their mounts shot from under them. LT Frank Burton and his senior section, which has been together from the start, are all shot dead as they dismount. The 4th goes to work with the bayonet, some use their rifles as clubs, Between 30 and 40 defenders are killed before the remainder surrender in that line of defences. LT Ben Meredith turns his back on a group of surrendering Turks only to be shot dead by one of them. Incensed by this outrage his men put all of this group to the steel without mercy. Lawson then leads an attack on the second line of pits and dugouts, killing and capturing 100 Turkish soldiers plus a machine gun. He then leads a rush on the rear defensive positions. For his 'most conspicuous gallantry in action' Lawson, (recommended for the VC) is awarded the DSO.

As the second line of squadrons approach the position, one of the troops of the 4th dismounts to attack and capture the advanced partly dug trench before continuing to support the attack on the main trenches. The rest of 'B' Squadron dismounts on the objective and joins 'A' Squadron. The OC, Reid, is awarded a MC for 'the most conspicuous gallantry' for leading his squadron 'at the gallop under a terrific rifle and machine gun fire.....galloping over the first and second line of trenches this splendid work enabled the regiment to push forward and capture all the Turkish trenches in front'.

A number of soldiers in the 4th are recognised for capturing enemy soldiers and/or materiel. While the fighting was proceeding in the trenches, Armourer-SGT Jack Cox saw a machine-gun being hurriedly dismounted, from a mule, by its crew out on the right flank. In a minute it would have been in action at close range. He dashed at the party alone, bluffed them into surrender, and took forty prisoners.<sup>8</sup> Cox will be awarded the DCM as will TPR Sloan Bolton, who continues on into town, and not only assists in capturing men and guns but also cuts some demolition wiring. TPRs John Burley, Tom O'Leary and Bill Birkett-Vipont are all awarded the MM for acts of a similar nature. CAPT Norman Rae, from RHQ, single handedly captures sixty prisoners. He 'also set a fine example to his men when under extreme heavy rifle fire and machine gun fire'. Rae is awarded the MC.

TPR Alfred Healy, along with O'Leary, are recognised for their efforts as advanced ground scouts for the 4th. SGT Monty Carr, acting as a troop leader 'set a fine example to his men and ably controlled the fire of his troop during the whole action and on several occasions showed fine dash and judgement in capturing many prisoners'. Carr is awarded the MM. After being badly wounded in the arm during the charge TPR William Scott 'led an ammunition horse into the firing line and assisted in bringing led horses out of action, leading six himself'. As he reached cover he collapsed off his horse. Scott is awarded the MM.

7 Most likely 1 Troop, 'A' Squadron

8 In Gullett it says 40 enemy, but in Cox's citation it says 5 enemy captured. Possibly the 5 were the gun crew and the others were in the vicinity.



As it becomes obvious that the objective has been seized, the 2IC of the 4th, MAJ George Rankin, a grazier from Rochester, VIC, is responsible for the 'reorganisation of the unit and consolidation of the position after the attack. Throughout all the operations, he, by his personal bravery, and great coolness, (did) considerably influence all ranks by the splendid example set by him'. Rankin is awarded the DSO.



MAJ George Rankin DSO - 2IC  
4th LHR

On the left the progress of the 12th is described by Gullett as "brilliant and decisive". As 'A' Squadron approaches the main trenches at an oblique angle, a redoubt is in the centre of the squadron frontage. MAJ Hyman dismounts with about a dozen men and assaults the redoubt. Hyman and his men kill sixty of them with bullet and bayonet before the remaining 40 defenders surrender. Hyman personally kills 15 with his revolver. Hyman (recommended for the VC) will be awarded the DSO for his actions. Amongst the men who join Hyman are SGT Arthur Adams and CPL Verny Chilcott – they are awarded the MM.

Meanwhile the remainder of 'A' Squadron continues through a couple of gaps in the main trench system and they gallop straight for Beersheba. The Squadron 2IC, CAPT Rodney Robey, an estate manager from Ulmarra, who was born in Tamworth, takes the lead.



MAJ Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh DSO  
- OC B Sqn 12th LHR

As the second wave of the 12th reaches the trenches MAJ Fetherstonhaugh's horse is mortally wounded. Thrown clear, Fetherstonhaugh shoots his favourite charger to end its suffering and then turns on the Turks responsible. He charges the remaining thirty metres to the trenches on foot,

shooting Turks with his revolver as he goes, when he stops to reload he falls, shot through both legs by a single round. Like Hyman, Fetherstonhaugh (also recommended for the VC) will be awarded the DSO for his efforts.

A Turkish redoubt on the left flank of the 12th's axis of assault directs heavy fire at the charging horsemen. Nine men who have their horses shot, go to ground just short

of the trenches and engage the redoubt. At the same time SQMS Alfred Townsend and SGT Harry Peard attack the position, killing ten, capturing two and scattering the remainder. Townsend will be awarded a Bar to his DCM<sup>9</sup>, and Peard will also get a DCM.

The performance of the stretcher bearers, working amidst the dismounted fighting, is outstanding but at a cost. As TPR Albert 'Tibby' Cotter of the 12th, who, before the war, played test cricket for Australia<sup>10</sup>, is tending wounded, and dying, men in amongst the confusion. He is shot and killed by a Turk who had surrendered but not been relieved of his weapon<sup>11</sup>. TPR Ernest Hyland of the 12th 'displayed great dash and determination in the attack, was prominent throughout the action in the capture of prisoners and afterwards in attending to his duties as a stretcher bearer in searching for wounded'. Hyland is awarded the MM as is TPR James Offord of the 4th who 'showed great gallantry whilst attending to wounded men, under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire, and carrying them to the regiments dressing station, whilst performing his duty as a stretcher bearer'.

Most of 'B' Squadron, now led by the Squadron 2IC, CAPT Jack Davies, a grazier from Scone, go around to the left flank, ride along the forward edge of the main trenches, and then follow Robey and 'A' Squadron towards Beersheba at the gallop. After crossing over the railway embankment or going under the railway viaduct Davies and Robey rein in just short of the town. A conversation similar to the following takes place....

Davies yells out to Robey, 'Is that all your blokes, Rodney?' 'Yes Jack', Rodney replies.

'OK, I'll go straight into town and secure the wells, you take your blokes and go around to the left and cut off anyone trying to leave town to the north', says Davies, as his horse gasps for breath after its frenetic gallop.

'Righto Jack, see you later. Good Luck', Robey wheels his horse around, 'Let's go lads'.

Robey and his men ride hard, crossing the wadi and pushing around the western side of the town to envelop it from the north. Davies rides straight up the main street. By now the greater part of the enemy has surrendered, but scattered groups still exchange fire with the light horsemen, some bitterly refusing to give up until others are shot or bayoneted.

In the time between the first wave smashing into the trenches and Robey and Davies arriving in downtown Beersheba the Turks go from organised resistance to chaos

<sup>9</sup> Townsend's first DCM was won at the 2nd Battle of Gaza. Only one other member of the light horse won 2 DCMs.

<sup>10</sup> Cotter, a fast bowler, played in 21 Tests between 1904 and 1912 (89 wickets, average 28.64), and 115 first-class matches between 1901 and 1914 (123 wickets, average 23.45) for New South Wales.

<sup>11</sup> Cotter had recently been mentioned in despatches for his efforts at the 2nd Battle of Gaza.



and head for the hills, including the HQ Staff of III Corps. The German engineers, who have wired the wells and buildings of importance to be blown up, join them and leave the switches to the detonators open.

'A' Squadron SSM, Dan Mason, and SGT John Dowley, a 'B' Squadron troop sergeant, quickly assess the situation and start rounding up Turkish soldiers and getting things organised in case there is a counter attack. Mason 'is especially conspicuous in capturing a large number of prisoners and assisting in the capture of a battery of guns. He also gave great assistance in reorganising the troops, the securing of prisoners and placing the town in a state of defence against counter attack'. Dowley's actions were similar to Masons 'in several instances tackling groups of enemy single handed and causing them, to surrender'. Both these men are awarded the MM.

Robey is awarded the Military Cross, as is Davies, for their 'courage, determination, resourcefulness and initiative in action'. Cameron and Bouchier each receive the DSO for the conspicuously able and determined manner in which they directed the attack by their regiments.



CAPT Rodney Robey MC - 2IC A  
Sqn 12th LHR

Bouchier, who dismounted on the objective, with Lawson and his men, participated in the desperate fighting, shooting 6 enemy with his revolver. Cameron, after leading his 'C' Squadron down the left flank and engaging a machine gun position moved into town and took command of the situation. With Cameron, Robey, Davies, Mason and Dowley taking charge of a chaotic environment in Beersheba, the 12th is responsible for the capture of over 700 prisoners, including 38 officers, plus 9 artillery pieces, 3 machine guns and a large quantity of other war materiel. The 4th takes a further 500 or so prisoners plus more artillery pieces.

Beersheba, with most of its precious wells intact, has fallen at a cost to 4LHB of 31 men killed, 34 wounded and 70 horses lost. A couple of the wounded from each regiment will die in the next few days and weeks. Total DMC losses that day are approx. 55. Including enemy soldiers captured by the British infantry a total of nearly 2000 are taken overall. Somewhere between 500-1000 Ottoman soldiers are killed.

Just over an hour has passed from the time the troopers were ordered to saddle up to when Davies gallops up the main street of Beersheba. The attack achieves more than simply the capture of Beersheba, it unlocks the desert, and it sets a shining precedent for every man amongst the DMC and the EEF.

In remembering that 4LHB, with their rifles slung over their backs, and armed only with bayonets in their hands, attacked an entrenched, fortified position guarded by hundreds of rifles and backed up by sighted machine guns, artillery and aeroplanes it is little wonder that a captured German staff officer commented, 'We did not believe that the charge would be pushed home. That seemed an impossible intention. I have heard a great deal of the fighting quality of Australian soldiers. They are not soldiers at all; they are madmen!'

With Beersheba taken the Ottoman defences along the line Gaza-Beersheba became unstable. While the Ottomans held the line for another week, after a sustained attack that started on 6 November the Ottomans abandoned Gaza and started to withdraw. This withdrawal did not really stop until the Turks surrendered one year later on 30 October 1918.

From 31 October 1917 to the end of the war the Turks never forgot Beersheba; their cavalry, shy of the light horseman before Beersheba, from that moment practically faded out of the war. The charge had dealt a heavy blow to the morale of the entire Ottoman force from which it never recovered.

One week after the battle Gaza fell, six weeks after the battle Jerusalem fell and 12 months later the 400 hundred year old Ottoman Empire was no more and the mounted forces from Australia had played a more than significant part in the final victory – a victory that had started with the Charge at Beersheba.

**AUTHORS NOTE:** This account of the Battle of Beersheba is based on what I have read, what I have seen when I visited and walked the battlefield and how I have interpreted the many personal accounts, histories, maps and records that can be found in the reference sources listed below. Where any part of this account differs from what other people understand or believe happened it has not been my intent to ignore, denigrate or diminish the part played by any person or unit not mentioned or incorrectly mentioned.

#### SOURCES:

- Fortune & Valour – A History of the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers and its Predecessors* by Major Wayne Clarke (currently still being written).
- A Pack of Bastards – the 12th Light Horse Regiment at War: an unpublished manuscript* by WO2 Kenneth Norman (ret'd).
- Endure and Fight - a detailed history of the 4th Light Horse Regiment, AIF, 1914-1919* by David Holloway published 2011.
- The War Diaries of the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments.*
- The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918 Vol VII - The Australian Imperial Force in Sinai and Palestine, 1914–1918* by Henry Gullett.
- The Battle of Beersheba on the Wikipedia website- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Beersheba\\_\(1917\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Beersheba_(1917))*
- The Australian War Memorial website- [www.awm.com.au](http://www.awm.com.au)*
- The Australian Light Horse Study Centre website- <http://all-research.tripod.com/>*
- The hand drawn map by Lt Frank Massie, Adjutant of the 12th LHR 1917/18– the original is in the Mitchell State Library of NSW.*



# RAAC Trades and Training

## Headquarters Combined Arm Training Centre

By Captain L.M. Guglielmi

2017 has seen significant changes made within both the trades and training area of the corps, and as such the RAAC cell within HQ CATC has had an exciting and tumultuous year. Key highlights have included the reintegration of the APC back to the infantry, the restructure of the ACRs, the roll out of mounted weapon skills to other corps and the new direction for the RAAC ARES. This has been simultaneous with engagement in key projects such as LAND 400, PWS Mk 2, LAND 907 and BMS.



Amphibious Trial with 2nd Cavalry Regiment

Following the RAAC capability conference, the cell farewelled the SO2, MAJ Mark Beveridge for 6 months on OP HIGHROAD, and the CRV trade manager WO2 Dave Bastian from Army after more than 30 years' service to the corps. With this the cell began ECN surgery for the removal of the APC stream from Armoured Cavalry and assists its return to the RAR. Simultaneous to this we began to look to the new structure of the ARA regiments with the removal of the APC squadrons and their replacement with the new look CRV squadrons in their place. This substantial body of work has remained the main effort of RAAC TT for 2017 and is expected to continue for the new team in 2018. The reduction of CRV troops to four vehicles, the removal of APC from the corps and the establishment of the third tank squadron in Brisbane has created many capability opportunities and limitations that the corps will see develop. Sweeping change often has a momentum of its own, and the cell has been able to provide input to influence at times, and at other times has been riding the wave toward an uncertain future.

The cell has spent significant time supporting effort in exporting the mounted weapon skills that our corps is held in such regard, to others in Army to grow their own capability. This has been in focus with RAINF and RACT and Army's increasingly armed and protected B vehicle fleet. Whilst still in its infancy, the intended proliferation of remote weapon stations across the protected mobility fleet will see black hats no longer being the sole custodians of Army's mounted direct weapon capability. This requirement will only grow with the roll out of LAND 121 and the reintegration of PMV-M to three RAR battalions.

Modernisation has been another significant supporting effort for RAAC TT in 2017. With LAND 400 phase 2 completing RMA and entering tender evaluation the future of cavalry was on display around Puckapunyal in 2017. The opportunity to have a close inspection of both vehicle bids was a highlight of the year and promises to be another high point of 2018 when the project moves into its next stage. Ongoing modernisation efforts within the tank program including M88A2 refresh and C4I upgrades has seen significant development during the year with many of the outcomes to become reality in 2018 at the ACRs.



The two L400-2 contenders with current fleets

With all but two members of the RAAC cell posting out of HQ CATC in 2018 the cell will go through significant renewal with an influx of immediate experience from the wider corps. This will only enhance the effectiveness of the cell in 2018 and add value further to the advice and analysis the cell produces within CATT branch. Those of us departing the cell wish our successors all the very best for the coming year in what promises to be a rapidly developing environment for the corps.



# LAND 400 Phase 2 update

## from the Project Office

LTCOL Chris McKendry, Project Manager LAND 400 Test & Evaluation

2017 has been another busy year for the CASG LAND 400 Project Office with the LAND 400 Phase 2 (CRV) Risk Mitigation Activity coming to a conclusion in August after 12 months of testing. The vehicle performance assessment was completed at Monegeetta where the vehicles were put through their paces to ensure they met the environmental and mobility requirements. Trial Troop from SOARMD then underwent conversion training before a user evaluation stage was run from February to June. This included transportability assessments with the Canberra Class LHD, in-service road transport assets and the C-17 heavy lift aircraft. They

also had a brief taste of the top end with a testing stage completed in Darwin and Mount Bundy, which looked at the vehicles ability to operate in this harsh environment. The final significant event was the blast testing at the Proof and Experimental Establishment in Graytown in June and July. This testing took a vehicle from each tenderer and subjected it to under wheel and under belly mine blasts to ensure crew survivability during IED events. All testing concluded on time and allowed the Project Office to complete the final evaluation and preparation of documentation in the lead up to a Government announcement in early 2018.



Left - AMV-35 moving through terrain – May 2017, Mount Bundy Training Area  
Below - AMV-35 undergoing an under wheel blast test – July 2017, P&EE Graytown



Right - Boxer CRV moving through terrain – May 2017, Mount Bundy Training Area  
Below - Boxer CRV undergoing an under wheel blast test – June 2017, P&EE Graytown





# Directorate of Armoured Fighting Vehicle Systems

## Land Capability Division

By Lieutenant Colonel Leo Purdy

The Directorate of Armoured Fighting Vehicle Systems (DAFVS) sponsors the Combat Vehicles Program on behalf of the Chief of Army. DAFVS provides strategic level representation for the mounted combatant community across all the Fundamental Inputs to Capability at capability management, development and sustainment forums. In essence DAFVS is the key point of contact for Army in terms of management of the current AFV systems (products) and development of future AFV systems (projects).

The Directorate is a mixture of tactical and technically competent and experienced members. These form Armoured, Cavalry and Armoured Mobility Cells as well as a program management office. The Directorate offers opportunities for RAAC, RAINF, RAE and other corps personnel both as project sponsors and product sponsors to manage the current fleets and develop future capabilities. If you are interested in a posting to the directorate engage your Career Manager for posting cycle 2019.

### Armoured Cell

The Armoured Cell sponsors Army's Armoured Capability, founded on the M1A1 Situational Awareness Main Battle Tank and M88A2 Armoured Recovery Vehicle fleets. In the future this may also include an M1 based Armoured Engineering System. In 2017 the cell has supported a

wide variety of initiatives; the ongoing M1 MBT, AGT 1500 engine and M88 ARV Refresh projects, amphibious load trials, deep water fording kit acceptance, conversion and relocation of the Advanced Gunnery Training Simulators and the establishment of an armoured squadron in 7th Brigade. Units will also receive in late 2017/early 2018 a new battle management system which combines hardware from the Mounted Family of Computer Systems developed by DRS Technologies and Army's TORCH software integrated by Elbit Systems of Australia. This will enable the M1 MBT and M88 ARV to send and receive information across the Armoured Cavalry Regiment data network.

Notably, the cell was successful in progressing its two major projects, *Land 907 Phase Two Main Battle Tank Upgrade and Land 8160 Phase One Under Armour Breaching and Bridging Capability*, through Gate 0 of the Capability Life Cycle. Consequently, the cell will conduct detailed engagement with units in early 2018 to help define user requirements for the future armoured capability. Furthermore, a Risk Reduction Activity for the Armoured Engineering System will be jointly conducted by Army and CASG with the Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Centre and Pearson Engineer Limited at Aberdeen Proving Ground (US) in June 2018. This will demonstrate the capabilities that the M1 Assault Breacher Vehicle (ABV), Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) and a range of



Potential Future Armoured Capability options





The Boxer and AMV 35 CRVs at the transportation trials during the Land 400 Phase 2 Risk Mitigation Activity

engineering attachments provide to the future armoured engineering system. Units will be engaged to participate in this demonstration and inform the options to be developed.

### **Cavalry Cell**

The Cavalry Cell's primary focus for the year has been support to the LAND 400 Phase 2 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) Risk Mitigation Activity (RMA), and the subsequent evaluation of the final tendered submissions. A key phase of the RMA was the user evaluation, which occurred in Puckapunyal and Mount Bundy Training area. Key to the user evaluation was the feedback provided by the trials troop members regarding the useability of platform when conducting tactical tasks. Their detailed observations have played an important role in ensuring that we understand the risks and opportunities each platform poses to the end user, and will be a key consideration when the Commonwealth considers options to pursue during acquisition. Following RMA, RLS and BAESA tendered their final submissions for evaluation. The Cavalry Cell were integrated into the CASG lead Tender Evaluation Organisation (TEO), where they were responsible for assessing each tendered submission from an end user perspective. A key part of this process was the involvement of RAAC and Infantry members from across Army, who supported the TEO for key phases of the evaluation. The Tender evaluation will inform the senior leadership committee process late in 2017 and early 2018, with Government likely to select ASLAVs replacement in early 2018.

The legacy ASLAV fleet remains central to Army's Cavalry capability and will continue to play an important role in preparing our force to realise the capabilities afforded by Land 400 Phase 2. In 2017 Army reviewed its unit structures and respective allocation of the ASLAV, to better maximise legacy system output, while building

the necessary skills and experience to support future capabilities. This review has resulted in adjustments to Army's fielded fleet and sustainment pools, to enhance our ability to sustain ASLAV through to the introduction of the Land 400 Phase 2 in the next decade

### **Armoured Mobility Cell.**

The Armoured Mobility Cell sponsors the M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) family of vehicles and Land 400 Phase Three project. The M113AS4 is the latest evolution of the APC that has served the Australian Army with distinction since the mid-1960s. 2017 has seen the transfer of these reliable vehicles from the ACRs to Infantry Battalions in each Combat Brigade. This new employment enables the reconstitution of a second Cavalry Squadron in the ACRs, and provides the Infantry with an excellent vehicle to develop their tactics and structures in preparation for the arrival of the Infantry Fighting Vehicle to be delivered under Land 400 Phase Three. The M113AS4 is now serving as the test bed to evolve Army's armoured mobility capability from an APC enabled force to an assault capable IFV mounted force. In future, the M113AS4 will be considered for new roles including lead-in training vehicle, combat support and logistics roles in manned or unmanned configurations.

Phase Three will deliver an Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) capability to Army mid next decade to replace the APCs which are no longer suitable for their original role of providing armoured mobility on the modern battlefield. Analysis to date indicates a need for a fleet of around 450 vehicles including; IFVs, command-and-control vehicles, Joint Fires vehicles, engineer reconnaissance vehicles, ambulances, recovery vehicles, repair vehicles, combat engineer variants and manoeuvre support vehicles. Phase Three will proceed to Gate One approval around 2018 and Gate Two approval early next decade.



# Battle of Beersheba

100 years Commemoration - Canberra 31 Oct 2017

By Major Greg Hooper, CSM and WO2 T Finn

In addition to the commemorative service conducted in Israel the Australian Army with the Royal Australian Armoured Corps remembered those that fought and fell as part of the Battle of Beersheba 31 October 1917. The commemoration included a service at the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, a last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and to finalise the day of remembrance a gathering of troops at the Royal Military College – Duntroon (RMC-D).



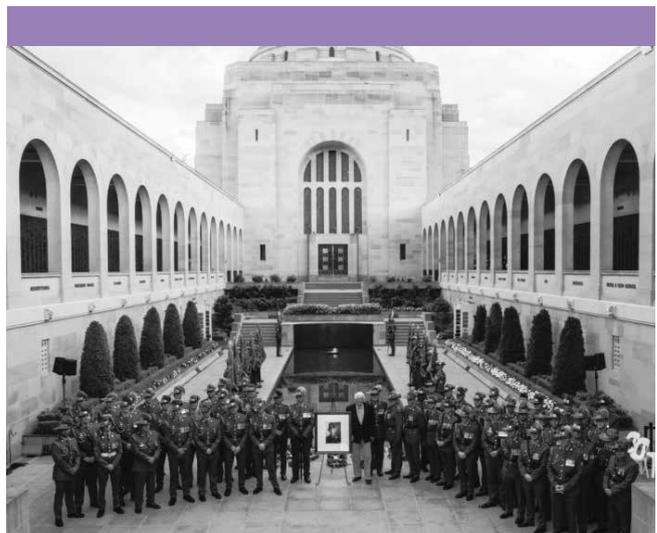
Standard and Guidons of the RAAC paraded in front of the Desert Mounted Corps Memorials - 31 Oct 2017

The standard and guidons of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) were all paraded as part of the ceremonies less the 4th and 12th Light Horse (LH) guidon that were in Israel. The last time the Standard and guidons were all paraded together was in 2001 as part of Federation celebrations.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent approach and support from Army Headquarters, Military Commitments, Australian Federation Guard, Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony, 1st/15th RNSWL Band, The Australian Light Horse Association and RMC-D. All personnel from these organisations all worked in such a flexible, collaborative and focused way to ensure the Beersheba day was a success and fitting remembrance to our fallen comrades. The Battle of Beersheba in many ways is the birth place of The RAAC ethos, courage and is very much what has forged the character of the Corps today.

The last post ceremony on the evening of 31 Oct 17 and was dedicated to: 916 Sergeant Colin Brodie Bull, 12th LH Regiment, AIF - KIA 31 October 1917. The reading was delivered by HOC RAAC Brigadier Mills.

Sergeant Bull, charged with the 12th LH however, did not survive the charge. He was shot while galloping across no man's land. Lieutenant Ralston of the 12th LH wrote to Bull's parents to say, "It will be a relief to you to know that he never had to go through that most awful horror of a battlefield, lying crippled and praying for death". He added that Bull's "loss was deeply felt by all his old comrades ... the last I saw of him was offering to bet a corporal that he would beat him in the gallop for Beersheba. I had just told the troop that we were to charge the position and take it at all costs." Ralston finished his letter by writing, "your son to my mind has the right to the greatest title it is possible to give, 'he died as he lived, a true soldier and a gentleman'".



RAAC Command Group and descendent of SGT Bull who the Last Post Ceremony was dedicated at the Australian War Memorial, 31 Oct 17





HOC RAAC Brigadier C Mills with Australian Federation Guard Catalafque Party at the Australian War Memorial, Last Post Ceremony - 31 Oct 17

Today Trooper Colin Bull lies in the Beersheba War Cemetery under the words, "Son of Mr and Mrs J A Bull, For the death of heroes, bless ye the Lord." He was 21 years old.

Members of The Australian Light Horse Association had the honour at this year's Beersheba Day Ceremony to escort the Guidons of the various RAAC Regiments for the Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba and the charge of the 4th and 12th Light Horse Regiments.

The Australian Light Horse Association (ALHA) has been

operating since 1986 and was first formed by a number of ex OIC's and senior NCO's of the RAAC in Queensland and currently has in excess of 550 members throughout Australia, with over 30 troops continuing to honour the memory of the Australian Light Horse Regiments through ceremonies, parades and events.

The Mounted Escort for the Centenary Parade consisted of 12 ALHA members from NSW, SA and the ACT. (Phil Chalker ALHA National President)



Mounted escort with Guidons preparing to march on - 31 Oct 2017

# WWII DIV CAV REGTS

## CONNECT UP TO PLAN BEERSHEBA ACRs

MAJ John Baines, RFD (Retd)

The 2016 Beersheba Parade on the 28th October 2016 at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera Brisbane, saw the sign-off by the Commanding Officer of 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry), LTCOL Andrew Moss, CSM of the Memorandum of Understanding which will ensure the story of the 2nd/7th Division Cavalry Regiment of WW II will be told as part of the ongoing regimental history of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) and the RAAC.



Div. Cav. Soldiers patrolling

This MoU between the 2/14 LHR(QMI) and the 2/7 Div Cav Regt Veterans and their New South Wales and Queensland Associations completes a process of regiment to regiment agreements initiated by 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 2nd/6th Division Cavalry Commando Regiment in 1971 to honour the soldiers of the WW II Divisional Cavalry Regiments who were converted to Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiments after their return to Australia from the Middle East to fight the Japanese in the S.W. Pacific and who were not granted regimental continuity within the RAAC in 1948 when the Australian Army was reorganized. Each is now associated with a Plan Beersheba Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR).

- 2/6 Cav (Cdo) Regt with 2 Cav Regt. 9 Oct 1971 Annex F RAAC Bulletin 19..
- 9 Div Cav (Cdo) Regt with 1 Armd Regt. 14 Nov 2015 IRONSIDES 2016
- 2/7 Div Cav Regt with 2/14 LHR (QMI) 1 Nov 2016 IRONSIDES 2017

2/7 Div Cav Regt has a unique battle history in that as an Australian Armoured Corps Regiment fought dismounted against entrenched enemy after leaving its vehicles behind and chained to trees in Port Moresby to fight on the Sanananda Track; just as its forebears in the Light Horse tethered their horses in Egypt and fought dismounted at Gallipoli.

This link adds to the relationship between both units who with overlapping recruiting areas and the quirks of fate that saw individual personal links between the two units such as the family service of the From family from SE Queensland.

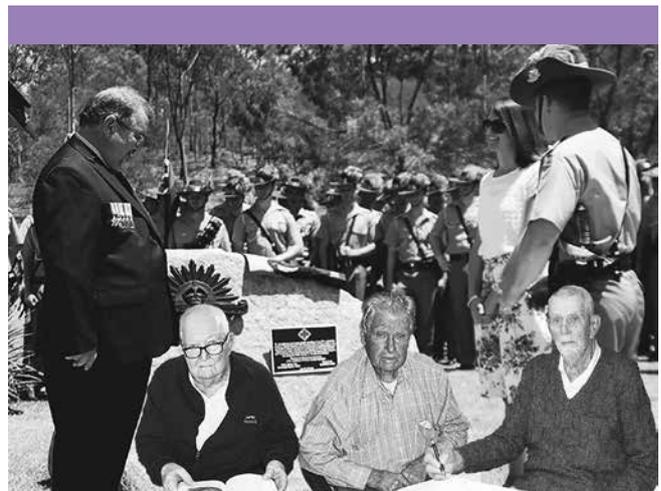
LTCOL F.C.E. From, a WW I veteran, was Commanding Officer of 2/14 QMI from 1938 to 1943 and his son Fred a member of the 7 Div Cav Regt.

The AWM website states: "The 7th Division Cavalry Regiment returned home from the Middle East in March 1942 when Australia was threatened by the Japanese and was sent to Papua to help defend Port Moresby in September.

Australian troops had been fighting Japanese troops in Papua since July and, after months of hard fighting along the Kokoda Trail, in terrible terrain, towards the end of the year they had pushed the Japanese back to their bases at Gona, Buna, and Sanananda. Casualties were heavy and in the middle of December the regiment was flown from Moresby to Poppoetta to reinforce the Australians. The regiment's carriers, however, remained in Moresby, as it was thought they would not be needed in the jungle.

On 18 December the regiment moved up to Huggins roadblock, and went on to take part in the bitter fighting along the Sanananda Track and village. The village was not captured and cleared until 21 January 1942, by which time only about fifty fit men remained with the regiment. Fifty-four men, including the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Edgar Logan, had been killed, while another man had died of wounds, and 67 had been wounded. Three more had died from scrub typhus, while over 240 men were ill with malaria."

### LEST WE FORGET



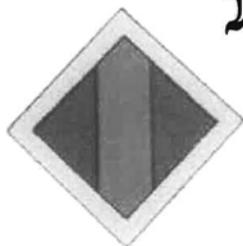
Unveiling a memorial plaque at Gallipoli Barracks on 27 Nov 2016 are CO 2/14 LHR (QMI) LTCOL Andrew Moss, CSM, Mr Max Wheat President of the 2 /7Aust Div Cav Regt Assoc and Gina Doyle representing the NSW 2 /7Aust Div Cav Regt Assoc. Inserted within are the veteran signatories: Frederick From, AO and Graham Tweedale from Qld and Blair Adams from NSW



# Memorandum of Understanding

## 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment

### Battle Honours 1939-1945 War



To: Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Moss, CSM  
Commanding Officer  
2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI)

The past is rich with tradition for Australia's soldiers;  
a tradition of courage, loyalty, comradeship and superb battle tactics.

The 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment formed in April 1940 and became a unit mainly of men who were from New South Wales and Queensland. Initially it was formed from elements of Light Horse Regiments, the Victorian Light Tank Company and the 1st Armoured Car Regiment and machine gun units.

However two squadrons made up of Victorians and South Australians were released to form the basis of 8th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment and later by name change to the 9th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment.

There is no existing 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment continuity of tradition within the armoured cavalry of the Australian Army.

With the formal appointment of 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) as an Armoured Cavalry Regiment within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, it is appropriate that the living veterans of 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment wish to pass on their traditions which will be enriched as part of the heritage captured within the fighting spirit and traditions of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI).

The soldiers of the 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment proudly wore the Black Beret of the Armoured Corps on mechanised operations in the Middle East and Cyprus and fought valiantly in the traditions of "Through the Mud and the Blood to the Greenfields Beyond" as dismounted troops in New Guinea on the Sanananda Road.

On return to Australia, the regiment was redesignated the 2/7th Division Cavalry (Commando) Regiment in June 1942 and became the administrative headquarters for the 2/3rd, 2/5th and 2/6th Commando Squadrons in April 1943.

The complete list of Battle Honours awarded to 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment is as follows:

North Africa 1941  
Southwest Pacific 1942-43  
Buna-Gona  
Sanananda Road

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) with a proud and distinguished history of its own, is well suited to tell our soldiers' story and establish a link for our descendants to identify with the proud traditions of armoured cavalry in battle and the loyalty of soldiers to their regiment through the many complexities and uncertainties of war.

2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) undertakes to keep this outstanding history alive and utilise the example set by the men of the 2/7th Australian Division Cavalry Regiment to develop esprit de corps and resilience in the face of adversity.

This document marks the auspicious occasion whereby we now entrust, with thanks, the significance of our Campaign and Battle Honours to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI) RAAC.  
on this *first* day of November 2016.

Blair Adams  
Veteran  
2/7th Aust Div Cav Regt

Frederick From, AO  
Veteran  
2/7th Aust Div Cav Regt

Graham Tweedale  
Veteran  
2/7th Aust Div Cav Regt

Stuart Coppock  
President  
2/7th Aust Div Cav Regt Assoc (NSW)

LTCOL A. Moss, CSM  
CO  
2/14 LHR (QMI)

BRIG M. Brewer, CSC & Bar  
HOC  
RAAC

Max Wheat, RFD  
President  
2/7th Aust Div Cav Regt Assoc (QLD)





# B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment Historical Collection

By W02 Socrates Lekatis

It is fitting for B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment to be returned to Puckapunyal. In 1965, 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron was raised to support Cavalry operations in South Vietnam. On their arrival in country, 1 Troop 4th/19th PWLH was absorbed and this commenced the long history, conceived in Puckapunyal born in the battlefields of Vietnam, and continuing the proud tradition in peacekeeping/security operations in the Asia-pacific region, Africa and the deserts of the Middle-east, through to the present day. During which the Regiment underwent many changes in its location, equipment, organization and roles within Army.

In March 1966 the troop was re-designated 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Troop. The troop expanded and in May of the same year became 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron. In January 1967 the Squadron was renamed A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. B Squadron was raised at Holsworthy in 1967 and both A and B Squadrons saw active service in South Vietnam.

In November 1971 the Squadron returned to Townsville as B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, while the Squadron in Holsworthy was absorbed into the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. In 1981 B Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment was amalgamated with the 4th Cavalry Regiment to form the 3/4 Cavalry Regiment. In 1981, the decision was made to amalgamate the two regiments to form the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. After this, the unit headquarters was established at Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane along with 'A' Squadron and the Technical Squadron, although 'B' Squadron, which had been transferred from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, remained in Townsville. On 14 May 1986, while at Enoggera, His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh, presented the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's guidon to the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. In July the same year, the decision was made to reduce the regiment to a single squadron and, as a result, the Brisbane-based elements were transferred to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, leaving 'B' Squadron in Townsville. In 2014 the Squadron was placed into transition pending outcomes of Plan Beersheba, in 2017 the Chief of



On the 24 November 2017 the last B Sqn 3rd/4th Cav Regt Honorary Colonel BRIG D McKaskill, AM opened the Collection



Army approved the renaming Support Squadron School of Armour top B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment

On the 8th July 2017, Support Squadron, School of Armour was rebadged B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. The newly named Squadron will continue the fine traditions and mission of Support Squadron. This "mini" Armoured Cavalry Regiment residing at the Home of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps is the hearth of the Corps; without its support to the School it would not be able to develop the future Troopers and leaders of the Corps. Support Squadron's history will be held in trust by B Squadron 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and housed in the Waler Club, the home of the RAAC Soldier.



TPRs Peile and Jackson putting final touches top the exhibition area

The mission of the collection is to preserve the cultural heritage and historical items for 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment in order to strengthen esprit-de-corps of its current and past members.

This stewardship commenced when officers and soldiers established crew rooms/Messes, or any place where members would gather to receive operational briefs or to unwind by sharing a tall story with a beer in hand. They would display these 'war trophies' or 'relics' to illustrate their achievements during operational tasks. On its return to Australia the Unit saw these weapons/relics make their way to Messes, the Australian Army Tank Museum, the Army War Memorial and member's personal man caves for display. The rest of the South Vietnam War Trophies were displayed throughout the Squadron in Townsville. The Scorpion Club (All Ranks Club) had a misfortunate accident with a M113 driving through it; well it may have been a raffle that saw, LCPL Dennis Barlow (driver of the APC) demolish the boozier due to white ants with the OC, MAJ Keith Schollum as the crew commander. This 'incident' created an opportunity to expand the boozier with an exhibition room to house the now growing collection. After Operation Solace this gave the opportunity for the official opening of the new boozier and coincided with an 'Old and Bolds' reunion

which saw an increase in donations to the collection from the Vietnam, Somalia, Cambodia and Rwandan veterans. The then Museum Manager, LCPL Shane Abdo, displayed these items in the new boozier. The Somali items triggered a chain of events for current and ex-members to donate more items to the collection that encompassed individual and other Squadron deployments.

The deployment to East Timor saw the collection grow again. As a result, the Scorpion Club secured a \$10,000 loan to be paid off in 10 years from DEFCREDIT, which was paid off that year, and with the assistance from 3rd Combat Engineers Regiment saw the exhibition grow again. The new Scorpion Club was the heart and the Museum became the soul of the Unit.

The intent of the Museum was to allow reinforcements or 'REO' to wander through the Museum with a beer in hand and casually look at what he/she has to live up. It also became a place to gather likeminded persons and bring family members to understand why we serve. These photos and items captured snapshots in time which immortalized unit members forever.

In 2014, the Collection was cataloged and packed by WO2 Rocky Hema (curator) and transported to the School of Armour to be held in trust by the Head of Corps section, MAJ Greg Hooper CSM and WO2 Tim Finn. Some items were placed on display in Tactics Wing and in Building 21.



Thales ASLAV CPT Program Manager, Greg Hooper and WO2 "Socs" Lekatis curator Historical Collection

Currently, it been regrouped and is occupying the old School of Armour Orderly Room area in Building 21. Without the support from CPL Matthew Ash and TPR James Peile from B Squadron also the Corps Training Wing IETs; especially, TPR's Thomas Carruthers, Baley Orth and Steven Cleaver., it would not have been ready for displaying. The rehousing of the Collection would not have occurred without the generous donations and support from THALES.

The newly badged Squadron members will continue to uphold and establish new customs and traditions for the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment in accordance to the Army ethos.

*'Knowing where we come from makes the brotherhood of past and present soldiers stronger.'*



# Australian Army Tank Museum & RAAC Memorial Update

By WO1 Tony Crook

Assistant Museum Manager

## Introduction

Since the last report, it has been a very busy time at the Australian Army Tank Museum (AATM) and our headquarters, the Australian Army History Unit (AAHU). AAHU performs incredible work with limited staff to support entire museum network within Army, recognition to Neil Dailey and his team for their sustained effort is deserved. Support provided to the museum from the School of Armour is also much appreciated and is essential to maintain the collection and museum grounds in a presentable state.

The focus over the last 12 months has been on implementing accounting and safety procedures for the museum, while maintaining museum operations and supporting training for the CTMC course and the School of Armour. There have been some significant events over the year including support to the School of Armour with the renaming of Support Squadron to B Squadron 3/4 Cav Regiment and assistance for the Beersheba anniversary activities.

## Staffing

The AATM's "stalwart" and Curator continues with Joe Linford. Joe has done an incredible job over the last 20 years, the hours that he commits to the museum to manage the collection, volunteers and shop is commendable. Joe is rarely seen outside the confines of the museum as he conducts the daily museum business working on meeting the needs of the many. Complementing the work of both Curator and the Volunteer group is the Reserve staff. MAJ Craig Montgomery has made a great difference with improvements to the compliance and governance processes

and has been actively recruiting more staff. The AATM is supported by WO1 Tony Crook, WO1 Mark (Smiley) Moran, SGT Graeme Woodham, SGT Andrew Hill and CPL Megan Buckley. Next year we anticipate the posting in of some additional RAEME personnel who will provide a much needed technical boost. The Reserve staff performs a range of tasks to ensure the AATM is presentable and sufficiently manned where large group bookings or commemorative services are conducted. The number of Army Reserve Training Day Salaries (ARTDS) available for the Museum continues to present challenges as we carefully manage this resource. Where required, Reserve members will continue to undertake work to improve the AFV fleet and the associated collections in addition to mandated training and readiness requirements.



Leopard 1 Turret and Driver Simulation



Centurion 005 readies for first start up after refurbishment

## Volunteers

The AATM volunteers are a dedicated team who contribute significant time and effort to keep the collection and museum grounds in a fit state, the ongoing clean-up and maintenance due to the open hangars would not be possible without their help. This group consisting of John Brooker, John Blackwell, Ian Smith, Peter Branagan, Peter Beaumont, Peter Coutts, Gary Francis, Robert Joyce and Paul Cracknell. No task appears beyond them as they maintain the fleet, catalogue and archive documentation, in addition to the numerous grounds maintenance tasks required to keep the AATM in a presentable state. Their commitment to the Museum and the preservation of the collection is outstanding.

## Museum Works

The dreaded white ants have struck again and attacked the floor of the main hall, as a result the display had to be moved out while half the floor was removed and repaired, and this had a major impact to access and caused some disruption to museum operations. Significant work was completed last year on repainting the majority of the collection, however the exposure to the elements and the battle against birds and spiders have taken a toll. The never ending cycle of washing and exposure to the elements is not good for the long term preservation of the collection; Joe is working on a priority list to protect some of our most important vehicles. Work has been completed on repainting the 88 Flack and we are in the process of closing in the bay to better protect it from the elements. The museum is getting a Leopard Gun tank cut in half, a fair bit of preparation was required to strip out the vehicle before the hull was sent the Garden Island in early November. The turret will be sent in December; MAJ Paul Handel is the project manager for the task and anticipates that the project will be completed by late next year.



The floor been replaced after the white ants have done their damage

The banner for the 2/6 Armoured Regiment was presented to the museum on the 18 November and will add to the existing artefacts the museum has for the Regiment. Works have continued on the Centurion 169 005 and it is expected to have the vehicle running by the 15 December.

## Support to Army Training

The priority for the AATM's continued existence as a viable operation is to provide direct support to Army training. This is achieved by a number of formats including formal presentations of historical and/or technical presentations on Corps history or vehicle development. Our regular ADF visitors come from a variety of areas such as the Capability and Technology Management Course (CTMC) who are briefed on AFV development as part of their annual studies. Other groups include Royal Military College, the

Australian Army Cadets in addition to others corps or Military Associations. Occasionally, the AATM is requested to supply information from its library to various agencies within Defence. Training support is also provided when courses use the AATM as the venue for the presentation of lessons; the Museum has training aids dating from 1928 to current times. The School's of Armour and Artillery both use the AATM regularly for education and training purposes. We have to continue our focus on providing training support, for without us achieving this aim, there will be no requirement for the Army to continue keeping Army Museums.

## Visitors

The AATM continues to attract significant numbers of civilian visitors each year. The local Mitchell Shire Council has a vested interest in promoting the AATM as a destination for visitors to the district, it has been noted that since the completion of the Viet Nam Walk in Seymour, Museum numbers have increased. When required, Reserve staff can be assigned to assist larger groups with access to the PMA through the security contractor. This can be achieved by careful planning and advanced notice to both the AATM and Defence Support Reform Group. The Museum is open to the Public however entry is subject to the Safe Base levels which can change at short notice.



2/6th Aust Armoured Regiment Commemorative Service, 18 Nov 17

## Conclusion

Containing a world class collection of AFV development and design, the future of the AATM is now set to encompass the heritage of other Corps and interested groups. The challenge now for the AATM, is to promote an agenda that will see the collection grow and the facilities improved to a point where the number of potential visitors encourage planning for a site where the needs of both Defence and the General Public are catered for.



# 2nd Lt Eric Layton Purdy

## The First Australian Tank Commander

By Mike Cecil, Colbert WA USA

In late January 1917, newspapers across Australia published details of some of the gallantry awards recently published in the London Gazette, in particular to those who had commanded several of the new 'heavy armoured cars', as tanks were initially described, during the Battle of Flers-Courcellette the previous September.<sup>1</sup>

Under such banners as *'Honors for Tankers – Military Crosses Won'*, the papers briefly listed the exploits of several crew commanders, mostly from D Company.<sup>2</sup> Two officers of 3 Section, C Company were also included in the article. The first was 2nd Lt Francis James Arnold commanding C14, tank number 509, a female.<sup>3</sup> He was awarded the Military Cross for commanding 'his tank with great courage and determination. Later, the tank being held up, he and his crew continued the fight with their revolvers.' The second mentioned was 2nd Lt Eric Layton Purdy, who commanded C16, tank number 510, also a female.<sup>4</sup> His Military Cross was awarded as a result of fighting 'his tank for 5 ½ hours with great gallantry, beating off continual enemy bombing attacks'. What the Australian newspapers failed to grasp was that Eric Purdy was an Australian by birth, having been born in the Sydney suburb of Enmore. Hence, he is undoubtedly the first Australian to both command a tank in combat and to be awarded a decoration for gallantry while commanding a tank.<sup>5</sup>

On 15 September 1916, tanks were deployed on operations for the first time. Of the 49 available, a combination of mechanical failure and inexperience saw the final number actually committed to combat reduced to just 15. The battle was spread across a front of nearly 12 kilometres stretching from Courcellette, (near Pozieres) in the north west to Combles in the south east, where the British sector abutted the French Army sector. The few available tanks were committed to battle across this broad front in ones and twos.

In the area north of Combles, the 169th Brigade of the 56th London Division was to advance from Leuzenake Trench and Leuze Wood to capture Combles Trench, then continue the advance along Loop Trench to capture Sunken Road Trench. The Loop, part way along Loop Trench, was a major German strong point. The French 1st Division supported the attack by advancing toward Combles village and securing the British right flank. The dividing line between the two allied forces was within the Combles Ravine, midway between the woods and the village itself. Combles and



Lt. Eric Layton Purdy in 1917, wearing the collar insignia of the Machine Gun Corps and the Military Cross ribbon above the left breast pocket. (*The Tank Museum Archive via Stephen Pope*)

Loop Trenches were the initial objectives at the far right of the British advance, and key features in securing the right flank of the advance toward Sunken Road Trench and Bouleaux Wood further to the north.

Eric Purdy's tank C16 moved to the jumping off point at the southern end of Leuze Wood before dawn on 15 September 1916, most probably along the valley to the north with the low ridge on the north side of Combles Ravine shielding it from German observation.<sup>6</sup> The defender's may have heard the noise of the big Daimler six-cylinder engine and the rattle and clank of the tracks, but could only wonder as to what they were hearing. They found out soon enough! Just before 06:00, C16 commenced to advance over the ridgeline and down the long slope toward The Loop strong point, quickly outdistancing the infantry. Its machine guns used to good effect, the tank knocked out German machine guns and kept the German infantry well engaged while the advancing infantry took Combles Trench and commenced to bomb their way along Loop Trench toward The Loop. Early tanks were

largely immune to small arms, but artillery was altogether another matter. C16's advance was halted in a small dip in the ground almost on the German frontline trench when one of the tank's tracks was broken by shellfire.

With the crew unhurt, the tank became a large immovable and impenetrable steel pill-box, machine-gunning any Germans brave enough to venture within view. And they did so repeatedly over the next five and a half hours, advancing within throwing distance to hurl grenades at the stranded vehicle while covered by small arms fire from their comrades. Eric and his crew continually beat back these attacks until, running out of ammunition and physically exhausted, they set fire to their vehicle in accordance with orders and withdrew unharmed back up the slope to Leuze Wood. For his actions, Eric was awarded the Military Cross.

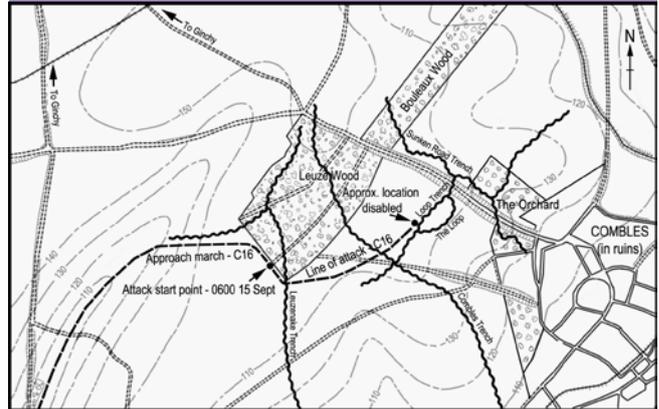
Eric Layton Purdy was the eldest child of Walter J Purdy and Charlotte Ann Layton Abbott, his second name being a family name on his mother's side. He was born at 'Clifton Terrace', 3 Edgeware Road, Enmore, Sydney, on 5 September 1893 and was followed by three siblings – Doris Mary in 1895, Cecile Maud in late 1897, and Harold Walter in 1902. Eric's early education was in Sydney,<sup>7</sup> but the family moved to England soon after Harold was born, where Walter entered the hotel business. Eric's education was continued first in Chelsea and later at Ardingley College in Sussex, where he also served in the school's Cadet Officer



Training Unit. After leaving school, he worked with his father in the hotel business.

By the time of the assault on the German line at Combles in September 1916, Eric was a hardened and experienced veteran, having enlisted as a private with the 23rd (County of London) Battalion (The London Regiment) soon after war was declared. He deployed to France in March 1915, and just 12 days later, was commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment, returning to England to join the regiment's 6th (Service) Battalion. Deployed to France again in September, he was badly wounded during the Battle of Loos in October, and evacuated to hospital in England. He returned to his unit in late January 1916, before transferring to the Heavy Section of the Machine Gun Corps where he trained on the new and highly secret 'heavy armoured cars'. He again deployed to France in mid-August 1916, subsequently commanding C16 on the first day that tanks were committed to combat.

Promoted to Lieutenant on 1 October 1916, Eric took part in the early stages of the Battle of Arras and the Third Battle of Ypres. In November 1917, he took part in the Battle of Cambrai and later transferred to England to train on the more modern Whippet tank. Returning to France, he took part in the defense of Colincamps, 13 kilometres north west of Pozieres, during the German offensive of late March 1918. More battles followed, but in late August, while leading his section into the attack along the Bapaume to Arras Road, Eric was again wounded and evacuated to



The Leuze Wood battle area, showing the probable path of C16 to the start line at the south east corner of Leuze Wood, and the advance down hill across No Mans Land to just short of The Loop strong-point where it was disabled by shellfire. The infantry start line was Leuzanake Trench. By late afternoon, the infantry had bombed their way along Loop Trench past the disabled C16 and established a bombing block just short of Sunken Road Trench. (*France 1:20,000 map sheet 57c SW, corrected to January 1917*)

hospital in England. He was still recuperating when the war ended.

After the war, he resumed working in the hotel business. He also met Alice Margaret Wainwright, known as Margaret,



The disabled and burnt-out C16 in October-November 1916 after the front line had advanced beyond Combles. Then within the French 1st Division sector, the hulk became the collecting point for French Army salvage operations gathering equipment from the abandoned German trench lines. Note the tank's broken right track and the wood-framed, wire mesh covered 'grenade screen' attached to the roof. Barbed wire 'pig tail' posts used to support the German wire entanglements can be seen forward of the tank. The German trench line is only a couple of metres to the right of frame, which allowed the German infantry to approach closely and hurl grenades at the tank during the 5 ½ hours the crew continued to engage the enemy and defend their stranded vehicle. (*Pegler Collection*)



5. Essentially the same view in 2017, with the south east corner of Leuze Wood where C16 started the attack, visible in the left background. C16 was disabled in what is now only a slight depression visible in the centre of the image just over 15 metres in front of the camera. (Martin Pegler)

the couple marrying in September 1920. They had three children: Tonia in 1926, John Graham in early 1929 and Josephine in 1930. Not content to simply run a hotel, Eric joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve in the mid-1920s and trained as a pilot. He was promoted from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer on 16 March 1928 while steadily improving his flying skills, but was downgraded to Class C in September 1933 due to age, and relinquished his commission in September 1936.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, Eric was re-commissioned into the RAF Volunteer Reserve. Concerned for their children's safety, Eric and Margaret sent the children to Canada as unaccompanied refugees in July 1940 when they were just 13, 11 and 10 years of age. In 1943, John returned to England, followed a year later by big sister Tonia, and in 1945, by Josephine.

By 1948, the Purdy's were resident at the Norfolk Hotel in Harrington Road, Kensington. In December that year, Tonia and her father travelled to Australia to see relatives as part of an extended touring holiday. During April 1949, they visited relatives in Ballina, on the NSW coast south of Byron Bay, while on their way to north Queensland.

When Eric returned to England in 1949, 23 year old Tonia chose to stay in Australia. Apparently Eric's marriage was failing, and in February 1953, he departed England to settle permanently in Australia, leaving Margaret and the two younger children in London. Eric subsequently purchased the sloop *Heartsease* in Sydney, sailing it on extended voyages along the east Australian coast. During the 1954 sailing season, he sailed as far north as Bowen, 200 kilometres south of Townsville, and toured the nearby islands and Barrier Reef. He evidently liked the area, returning there again the next year.

By the time Margaret died in London in April 1958, Eric was living in Campbell Parade, Bondi Beach. Around 1970, he moved to an apartment a few kilometres away in Old

South Head Road, Bondi Junction. Sometime in the early 1980s, Eric, now in his mid-80s, moved into the Carpentaria Freemasons Home in Cairns, North Queensland, possibly at the behest of his daughter Tonia who was then living with her husband William Gibbons at Tully, 140 kilometres further south.

Eric Purdy died of a heart attack at the Carpentaria Freemasons Home, Cairns, on 25 April 1984, aged 90 years, 7 months and 21 days. He was transported to the Woongarra Crematorium, Townsville, and cremated on 1 May.<sup>8</sup> No memorial plaque was dedicated to Eric at Woongarra as his ashes were provided to his daughter at Tully Heads. His final resting place is not known.<sup>9</sup>

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to several people for their assistance with this article. First and foremost, Stephen Pope, author of *The First Tank Crews – The Lives of the Tankmen Who Fought at the Battle of Fiers-Courcelette, 15 September 1916* for very generously allowing me to plunder his published research on Eric Purdy. His excellent, highly detailed biographical account of the first tank crews and their exploits has deservedly become the standard reference on the subject. British historian and friend Martin Pegler, until recently a resident of Combles, provided his insights into C16's battle, and provided both the images of C16 abandoned on the field and those of the site today. Liz Johnson at the Carpentaria Freemasons Home for the Aged in Cairns, Bridget Minatel, archivist at Sydney Grammar School, and Jo at the Woongarra Crematorium in Townsville all provided details of Eric's life and death.

## References

- Stephen Pope (2016) *The First Tank Crews*. Helion & Co Ltd, Solihull. ISBN 978-1-910777-77-0.
- Paul Reed (2002) *Combles, Somme*. Battleground Europe Series, Pen & Sword Books, ISBN0 85052 674 4



NSW Govt Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Eric Layton Purdy birth certificate registration no. 26797/1893

Queensland Govt. Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages: Eric Layton Purdy death certificate 1984/53026.

National Archives (UK) WO339/28556: EL Purdy Capt, Tank Corps. Record of Service

National Archives (UK) AIR 76/414/151 EL Purdy, Flying Officer, RAF, Record of Service.

National Library of Australia website at [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au): various newspaper articles relating to Eric Purdy's time in Australia.

Ancestry.com: various shipping records, passenger manifests, and census records relating to the Purdy family.

#### Endnotes

1 Newspapers included the *Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser*, Monday 29 January 1917, page 1 (quotes are from this article); the *Echuca and Moama Advertiser* and *Farmers Gazette*, 1 February 1917, page 4; the *Bendigo Advertiser*, Friday 26 January 1917, page 5, and the *Bendigonian*, Thursday 15 February, page 31.

2 Those from D Section mentioned were 2nd Lt Edward Carl Kestell Colle of D25, tank number 511, female; 2nd Lt Arthur Herbert Blowers of D5 'Dolphin', tank number 540, female; 2nd Lt Herbert George Feaver Brown of D8, tank number 720, male; 2nd Lt Leonard Charles Bond of D18, tank number 743, male; Lt Frederick Andrew Robinson of D22, tank number 756, male; 2nd Lt William Henry Sampson of D13 'Delilah', tank number 548, female; and Lt Arthur Edmund Arnold of D16 'Dracula', tank number 538, female.

3 The British rhomboidal-shaped tanks of the First World War were designated as either Male or Female depending upon the main armament. Males were equipped with 6-pounder QF guns, while Female tanks carried several .303-inch machine guns. Later, a version with a 6-pounder on one side, and machine guns on the other, was produced and designated an 'Hermaphrodite'.

4 Author Stephen Pope suspects that C16 was christened 'Corunna' after the Battle of Corunna fought between the French and British at the port of Corunna, Spain, in January 1809, but this is yet to be confirmed.

5 In fact, Eric, born well before Federation in 1901, was technically a British subject born in the Colony of New South Wales, rather than the nation of 'Australia'. However, even post-Federation, Australians still considered themselves British rather than 'Australian' – the answer to the nationality question on the AIF attestation papers of enlistees during the First World War was almost invariably answered 'Natural Born British Subject' rather than 'Australian'.

6 One reference has the approach march from further south behind Leuzenake Trench, but this seems improbable because much of it would be in view of German observers on the higher ground near Combles.

7 It has been suggested this was at Sydney Grammar School, however the school records only list an Edwin Arthur Purdy, born in 1910 and attending the school in the mid-1920s.

8 There is a discrepancy between his death certificate, which states the date of cremation was 30 April 1984, and the Woongarra Crematorium records, which state 1 May 1984.

9 Tonia died in 2014. Her younger sibling John Graham Purdy died in London in October 2004. Little sister Josephine migrated to Canada in the mid-1950s, and little is known of her subsequent life. Presumably, Eric Purdy had his medal group with him when he died, and these would have passed to his daughter Tonia, but what happened to the group after her death is unknown.



Another view of C16 in the slight depression, known locally as the pond. This is just short of the German trench line, the edge of which is visible in the lower left of frame. What remained of Leuze Wood can be seen on the ridgeline in the background. (Pegler Collection)



# “Black Beret”

## RAAC CORPORATION

In unitate est fortitudo (In unity there is strength)

By Noel McLaughlin - Chairman

### STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In this a very significant year in the RAAC's history, the RAAC Corporation acknowledges with great pride, respect and gratitude, the determination, bravery endurance and fortitude of the Australian Light Horse at the Battle of Beersheba 100 years ago on 31st October, 1917.

The Corporation also acknowledges with great pride, respect and gratitude, the determination, bravery and fortitude of the tank crews who took part in the decisive Battle of Cambrai 100 years ago on 20th November 1917.

The achievements in both battles by the soldiers who took part in them, are the glue that binds the fabric of the RAAC together from that time forward.

We are the direct military descendants of these wonderful men and the inheritors of their courage, camaraderie, endurance and resourcefulness.

We have learned our lessons well from these brave men and have carried and passed on their torch, along with their heritage and history, down through the years to the current 21st century Armoured Corps soldiers.

These same soldiers in all our RAAC units continue to pay homage to their mounted and armoured heritage by wearing the emu plumes of their military forbears on their ceremonial slouch hat headdress and on berets.

We also acknowledge the homage paid to our military ancestors by those RAAC soldiers past and present who wore and continue to wear, the silver RAAC and

1st Armoured Regiment Badge with the iconic WW1 tank as the centrepiece on that sacred black cloth – the Black Beret.

We entrust the traditions, heritage, history, can-do punch above our weight approach, and strong sense of camaraderie, to the new generation of Armoured Corps soldiers, and do so in the full knowledge and confidence that the RAAC as a battle-proven combat multiplier and leading exponent of mounted warfare, is in excellent hands.

### INTRODUCTION

The Operational Year has seen the Corporation continue to be very actively involved in many issues directly related to current and former RAAC members, including three appearances in conjunction with ADSO before the Senate Standing Committee into Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (FDAT) hearings into suicide of veterans and hearings related the passage of new legislation.

The Corporation was nominated by ADSO-DFWA to represent all 17 ADSO Member organisations to discuss the

introduction of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Legislation Amendment (Defence Force) Bill 2016* to be known as DRCA.

The Bill is designed to operate as an ADF-specific compensation Act separate from the SRCA 1988 but with all the rights and entitlements folded into the proposed DRCA including several improvements which will not be available to public sector employees.

The Corporation took a very strong leadership position to ensure the addition of a specific provisions known as the Henry VIII Clause, was retained. It was and the Bill was passed into law on

7 September 2017.

### GENERAL

The Corporation continues to take the lead on issues such as:

- After-hours mental health support for Darwin-based veterans;
- Advocating to have the definition of “**veteran**” widened to include all ADF members.
- Advocating strongly through DVA for enhanced and expanded support and counselling services to stave off suicides among serving members.
- Planning and coordination of DVA, DFRDB and Legacy support to the family of the former Honorary Colonel 12/16 HRL, Col Chris Donovan (ret'd), in the days prior to his death.

Other issues undertaken and achievements by the Corporation include:

- Lodging a formal submission on behalf of the Corporation through the Corps RSM, cc 2IC 1 AR, formalising our unconditional support and arguing for the emblazonment of the Battle Honour **Coral-Balmoral** on the Regiment's Standard.
- Approval for emblazoning was received on 28/3/17 from Army Office. This is excellent news leading up to the 50th anniversary of the battles in May 2018.
- Lodging a formal submission on behalf of the Corporation through the Corps RSM, setting out the case for awarding the *Vietnam Cross Of Gallantry With Palm Citation (CGWP)* to A Sqn 1st Armoured Regt, B Sqn 3rd Cavalry Regt and 1 Field Sqn RAE, for their part in the battle of Long Hai February 1970, during **Operation Hammersley**.



The submission also argued strongly for a Battle Streamer emblazoned “**Long Hai 1970**” to be awarded and affixed to the Regiment’s Standard, the 3 Cav Guidon, and the Corps Banner of the RAE.

- Lodging a formal submission through the Corps RSM, setting out the case for the emblazoning of the three remaining Battle Honours on the 3 Cav Regt Guidon for **Bien Hoa, Hat Dich** and **Binh Ba**.
- Lodging a formal submission on behalf of cavalry and tank veterans of the Battles of FSBs Coral and Balmoral, to the Defence Honours and awards Tribunal (DHAAT) sitting in Sydney on 8/11/17 *Inquiry into Unit Recognition for Service at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral Battle of Coral Balmoral Vietnam: 12 May to 06 June 1968* and to consider submissions for the approving the award of the Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) to members of both units who took part in those battles.
- The provision of assistance and guidance with proofing and settling media releases for DFWA/ADSO, on matters of importance.
- The preparation of additional submissions to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (FDAT) Committee.
- Undertaking at the request of the National President and the CEO of the RSL, a review and rewrite of the RSL’s National Constitution and By-laws.

I am pleased to report that in discussions with the National RSL President Robert Dick, concerning the Constitutional review, my representations relating to including a definition of “**veteran**” in the Draft National Constitution were agreed by him.

The definition will apply to all ADF members who have served a minimum period of six(6)months in uniform.

This accords with minimum membership criterion for Service Membership of the League.

While not a legislative inclusion it is nonetheless, a small but very significant step in establishing a precedent for legislating a definition of “**veteran**” in any forthcoming Omnibus legislation.

In August, the Corporation was invited by the Deputy Secretary DVA, Maj Gen Liz Cosson AM CSC, to represent not only its only its Member Assns and serving RAAC members, but also ADSO, to join the DVA Operational Working Group (OWG),

This is a significant and huge honour again for the Corporation, and it is hoped that one of the first items on the agenda will be the preparation by DVA of an Omnibus legislative package to replace all three pieces of current veteran-specific legislation and have the one Act to reduce duplication, stress and grief in navigating the compensation process for current and er members.

This duplication resulting in a very complex and adversarial process for veterans, was noted and commented on by the Senate standing Committee in its report on Suicide of Veterans (207pp).

The OWG convenes on 9/11/17 and its first order of business is to examine the three current tranches of veterans’ legislation – VEA 1986, MRCA 2004 and DRCA 1988 to consider having all three Acts harmonised to make them work more efficiently or, to consider having all three Acts repealed and replaced with new Omnibus act encompassing all the beneficial provisions enshrined from all three Acts, into one. The Corporation has made its position on repealing the Acts quite clear in its submission to the OWG.

Similarly, the Corporation has also argued very strongly in its submission for a legislative definition of “**veteran**”. as the current definition applies only up the end of 1945. This is not on any level, acceptable in this day and age.

At the recent AGM, the Corporation had a changing of the guard in the Advisory Board, with the Lt Colin Toll (Ret’d) stepping down at the end of his tenure and his place being taken by Brig Mark Holmes (Ret’d). Colin will continue over the next 12 months to remain on listening watch and act as an Honorary Advisory Board member.

The Corporation is now a member of the Coral-Balmoral Commemoration Committee (CBCC) chaired by

Maj Gen David Chalmers (ret’d) and is representing the interests the 3 Cav Regt (Vietnam) Association and the 1 Armoured Regt Association, to ensure cavalry and tank veterans of both battles are represented in the planning for the National Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battles to be held in Canberra on 13 May 2018. Association. Colin Toll is my proxy on the Committee.

The Corporation is playing the long game in respect of matters related to veterans’ rights and entitlements through changes to legislation and policy which is achieved through our own voice and through ADSO where we are very highly regarded for our input and involvement in this very important space.

It is common ground that these are issues which will take time to be addressed and resolved.

#### **RUOK????**

As stated in last year’s article, RUOK is 24/7. The Corporation has pushed DVA very hard this year for extra assistance with suicide prevention initiatives but the ground-level tactic of using mate-to-mate support remains the most critical aspect of suicide prevention.

Access by all current and former ADF members to **Non-liability mental health treatment and support** at public expense, is now available to all serving members who have a minimum of one day’s ADF service vide a Ministerial Statement dated 23/6/17; viz *“The Government will now pay for the treatment of all mental health conditions affecting anyone who has served one day in the full-time ADF. This program is fully funded and uncapped. If an eligible veteran needs treatment the Government will pay for it”*

See DVA **Fact Sheet HSV 109** for further information <https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-hsv109-non-liability-health-care>

It should be noted that a recent AIHW study found that between 2001 and 2015, a total of 325 certified suicide deaths were recorded.



These were from persons with a minimum of one day's ADF service since 2001 and of these, 51% of these suicides were from former ADF members.

The study also noted former serving males aged 18 to 24 were twice as likely to suicide as compared other Australian males in the same age cohort.

The study noted that characteristics which may be associated with the higher rate of suicide included forced discharge, particularly medical discharge, a short period of service and having a rank below commissioned officer  
**Source:** Vetaffairs Vol 34 No3, Spring 2017 at p.6. See also [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)

### **YOUR CORPS YOUR ASSOCIATIONS**

The Corporation remains committed to representing all RAAC veterans both current and former and urges members both serving and those considering discharge/retirement to consider joining their unit Associations.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Corps RSM WO1 Peter Swinfield completes his posting at year's end and will be replaced by WO1 James Carroll. WO1 Swinfield has been a tremendous asset to the RAAC in his capacity as the Delegate of the HOC to the Corporation and his advice guidance and wise counsel has always been most welcome. He has been a true friend to the Corporation and we have much to thank him for.

On behalf of all member Associations and the Advisory Board, I thank him most sincerely for all that he has done and wish him *bonne chance* in his future posting.

To WO1 Carroll I extend a very warm welcome to this new posting and look forward to doing business with him in his capacity as the new Delegate of the HOC to the Corporation.

Lastly, welcome home to both 1 Armd Regt and 2/14 LHR from Operation Taji. As always both units have acquitted themselves very well and have contributed significantly to the RAAC's and their own unit's very illustrious military history.

To the members of 2 Cav Regt due to deploy to Taji shortly, on behalf of all in the Corporation I extend our best wishes for a successful tour of duty and our prayers for your safe return.

### **B SQN 3rd/4th CAVALRY REGIMENT ASSN INC**

The association has had another quiet year. Behind the scenes has been a flurry of activities. The unit being renamed from Support SQN at the School of Armour to B Sqn and that day being a proud day for many. Work in under way to rename of the bars in the Waler club at the school to the "SCORPION BAR". This will keep the tradition of the old Scorpion alive. A visit was undertaken to the School in conjunction with the annual AGM of the Association's and I must commend the work that was undertaken by all for this to happen. It was good to talk to

and interact with current members of the Sqn and get a chance to look over under and in the platforms that they are working with at present.

From here the association will be calling for input from its members for a move forward.

A Shanks  
*President*

### **News from the West**

The Association provides on ground services for current and past ARMY members who have served with Armoured Corps units. With over 100 members participating in a wide range of commemorative and social events during the year our history, objectives and current activities are outlined on the web site [WWW.RAACAWA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.RAACAWA.ORG.AU)

### **Commemorative Services**

Members continue to support the Old Boys Parade held at the 10LH Regiment memorial in Kings Park the weekend prior to ANZAC Day, the Dawn Service and Perth Service and Parade, Beersheba and Cambrai events. This year being the centennial of Cambrai the event was upgraded and was held in Kings Park at the flame of remembrance followed by a luncheon at Frasers Restaurant.

### **Social Events**

Members have participated in a visit to the Leighton Battery, the ARMY Museum at Fremantle, Christmas in July and Christmas function.

### **Working with A SQN 10LH**

Association members strongly support the Officers and soldiers of the local Armoured Corps unit and have been privileged to attend a number of events held there at the invitation of OC MAJ Dan Wright. The unit is to be congratulated on its consistent performance over many years within 13 BDE and wider ARMY activities in the true tradition of the CORPS.

### **Advocacy and Welfare**

The Association supports activities in this area for members through experienced and trained personnel and through direct referral where required.

### **NATIONAL RAAC ESO SUPPORT**

Members of National RAAC ESO organisations are invited to use our facilities at Cambrai House located within Irwin Barracks for social events.

### **Contact Information**

Provided on the web site or direct to Secretary Noel Moyes on email [secretary.raacawa@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.raacawa@gmail.com)

John Dwyer  
**President**



## Victorian Branch News

The Annual General Meeting in February 2017 was not a happy affair as major committee positions of President and Vice President were not filled; combined with the illness of long serving Secretary John Paterson who was unable to continue, left us in a big hole. However there was one bright note when former 4/19PWLH WO2 Peter Axton put his hand up to be a temporary Secretary. This situation has developed very satisfactorily whereas Peter was elected by the committee mid-year to take over the Secretary position. A congratulatory letter was sent to John Paterson thanking him for his service as Secretary since mid 1984 when he replaced the late Peter Wren. Fortunately John Snelling has been able to continue on as Treasurer. IPP Daryl Pinner has been standing in as chairman at our monthly meetings. The reduced committee now features Ian Smith, Diesel Perkins, Trevor Watts, Rod Westgarth, Track Editor Peter Branagan, web master Lew Postlethwaite and two new boys David Finlayson and Robert Toy. Roy Arnott, OAM and Colman Moloney have continued in their roles as Auditor and Honorary Legal Officer respectively.

Since our previous report in 2015 we have welcomed a new patron in Brigadier Ted Acutt. Ted was primarily a tank officer who commanded 1st Armoured Regiment in 1999 – 2000. A very welcome addition to the Victorian Branch.

We have enjoyed good attendances at the majority of our social activities including March Autumn Picnic, Cambrai Dinner and Kid's Christmas Party.

Our Christmas hampers to elderly veterans have proven popular and we still offer assistance to any of our members who find themselves in necessitous circumstances.

### VALE

John Crossman	Brian 'Lucky' Leeder
Gordon Jones, AM	Ron Jacobs
Don Weedon	Doug Spinney

## Northern Territory News

### Introduction

I am pleased to present the RAACA- NT Branch contribution to the 2017 edition of the esteemed RAAC publication, 'Ironsides'.

Our objectives have not altered significantly over past years and we continue to:

- Support our current RAAC Units in whatever way we can
- Encourage new membership especially to the serving soldiers
- Take every opportunity to lobby organisations in order to improve service conditions for soldiers and ex members
- Maintain the camaraderie and customs and traditions of the RAAC

- Contribute to the running of the RAAC Corporation

An AGM was held on 31 Mar 2017 in the RSL Room at the Palmerston Sports Club. A quorum was in attendance and activities for 2017 were planned out and how we could contribute to RAAC ESO activities was discussed.

### The committee elected at the 2017 AGM is:

President	Peter Still ( 08-89259901)
Secretary	Rob Lewis(08- 89256332)
Treasurer	Paul Hanlon ( 08-8935 6128)
Committeeman	Neil McDade
Committeeman	John McCrystal
Social Member	Justin Dyer

President outlined the RAACA Federal is now dissolved and we are now affiliated with the RAAC Corporation. The President outlined who the key members are and explained about the advisory board. The President also outlined the current situation with the Hinton Scholarship. Paul Hanlon attended RAAC Corporation AGM last year and he outlined the events. The Corporation is doing good work at the Senate Committee Hearings into DVA matters on our behalf.

Activities this year have been limited and confined to trying assist the 1 Armd Regt Association with support to 1 Armd Regt as they deployed as the OP Taji HQ. We were also involved in then activities leading up to the departure of 1 Armed Regt from Robertson Barracks. A plaque was placed on the Leopard Tank. 27744, in Memorial Park Palmerston during a remembrance service on Friday 20 Oct. This was attended by 1 Armd Regt members, RAACA NT members, Palmerston RSL, the public and local Shire representatives.

Our newsletter, NT Armour, is being published. The December edition (No 40) will be the next one out for members and interested parties. If you wish to be on the mailing list please contact the Editor. Membership continues our major issue and we need to continue to grow our branch, and encourage younger members to get involved. Support for the RAAC Corporation, which is now the future of the RAACA is still our upward focus. When 1 Armd leave there are no longer any RAAC units in the Darwin area. This is the make-up beyond 2018 so gaining and maintaining members will be a significant challenge.

The NT Branch has had another quiet year due to operational tempo. The Committee and members thank the other Unit Associations and the RAAC Corporation. If anyone is seeking information about us or activities, please contact me or a committee member. We are trying to grow in what are difficult circumstances and looking forward to continuing on in 2018.

Peter Still  
*Branch President*





# Vale

## 38844 / 8240440 Brigadier Gordon Jones, AM

13 September 1948 - 23 September 2017

**G**ordon enlisted in the Australian Regular Army on 10th January 1966 and was allocated to the Royal Australian Infantry where he gave four years' service in the 9th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, including active service in South Vietnam in 1968/69. He rose to the rank of Sergeant before being selected for officer training in late 1970.

In 1971, Gordon attended the Officer Cadet School at Portsea where he excelled. He graduated top of his class taking out eight of the 10 major prizes, including the Sword of Honour, The Governor General's Medal, the Peter Stuckey Mitchell Award and the New Zealand Chief of the General Staff's Prize. He graduated into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and completed his Armour specialist training at Puckapunyal in 1972.

Gordon's first regimental appointment was as a Tank Troop Leader with 1st Armoured Regiment. Further regimental, staff and training appointments as a Lieutenant and Captain followed, including 12 months' technical training at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, in the United Kingdom.

In 1984, after project management training in the United States, he was promoted to Major and posted to Materiel Division as the Assistant Project Director on the Army's Small Arms Replacement Project. In 1986 Gordon attended the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. He didn't just excel here; his results were better than any other Australian before him. On graduation, Gordon received the Eisenhower Award as the Distinguished Allied Graduate and, for the first time by an overseas student, the top graduate award which included the Sword of Honour.

In 1988 and 1989, Gordon served as Second-in-Command of the 1st Armoured Regiment, before being promoted Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor of the Armoured Centre.

He was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional service to the Army in armoured regimental,

training and command appointments in the 1992 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Following service as an Instructor at the Army Command and Staff College at Fort Queenscliff, Gordon was promoted to Colonel and appointed as Director of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps and Army Area Representative (Puckapunyal).

Promoted to Brigadier in 1998, Gordon served in Washington DC as the Australian Army Attache to the United States of America where he was able to use his considerable skills and previous experience in the USA to the Army's benefit. He was awarded the US Legion of Merit for his services as Army Attache in Washington.

On return to Australia, Gordon was appointed Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy before retiring on 18th October 2002.

Gordon was a graduate of the University of New England and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. His many achievements were attained despite his long and valiant battles with Leukaemia and Mesothelioma.

On retirement and despite his illness, Gordon remained active in many pursuits. Initially, he retired to a small rural property outside Maleny where, with his wife Robyn, he pursued his love for learning and hard work, completing courses on plants and revegetation while developing an amazing rain forest on their property. He even worked for Bunnings for a while and was seen by many in their advertisements on television. In 2012, Gordon moved to a unit overlooking the Raby Bay marina where he developed a passion for cooking and his gym work before settling into a home at Cleveland in his final months. An exceptional and inspirational officer who will be sadly missed by all of us who knew him.

Gordon is survived by his beloved wife Robyn, his daughters Wendy and Stephanie, his sister Margaret, and grand children Damien, Jason and Sally. RIP Gordon.

Brig Maurie Meecham, AM, Retd



# 311480 Colonel Christopher Donovan

20 August 1939 – 22 January 2017

Colonel Christopher (Chris) David Donovan, retired armoured corps officer and grazier, passed away at Armidale on 22 January 2017.

An unabashed fan of rural life, Chris trod an unconventional path to wool and beef cattle production in Australia's New England region, via an extensive defence career during which his service spanned five countries.

Chris was born in the United Kingdom and spent much of his childhood and young adulthood cultivating a love of the countryside at Stratfield Saye in Hampshire. As a young man, he joined the Royal Horse Guards (the Blues) as a musician. He subsequently saw active service during the Cyprus Emergency in the second half of the 1950s, and was a member of one of the first patrols after the London-Zurich Peace Agreement - unarmed as required by that agreement - in a very volatile situation. In 1963, he joined the Australian Army and migrated to Australia. Assigned to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, he saw active service in Vietnam with 3 Cavalry Regiment. After extensive operations and rehabilitation to recover from significant combat injuries sustained there, Chris continued to serve in several positions, including as founding adjutant of the Second Cavalry Regiment - to which he later returned as Second in Command - and as a lecturer at the Papua New Guinea Joint Services College.

In 1984, after leaving the regular army for the Army Reserve, Chris began an association with the 12/16th Hunter River Lancers that was to last nearly 30 years; first as Second in Command, subsequently as Commanding Officer, and later as Honorary Colonel. Always mindful of the links between an Australian Army Reserve Unit and the community of which it is an integral part, his first



act as Commanding Officer was to authorise the regiment's participation in local bushfire fighting efforts. 12/16th's relationship with local communities in the upper Hunter Valley and New England continued to be prominent among his efforts. As was raising awareness of the regiment's history, particularly as the successor regiment to the 12th New England Light Horse - one of the two units which had participated in the Australian Light Horse's 31 October 1917 charge at Beersheba. He will be well-remembered for the presentation of the 12th New England Light Horse Guidon and the 75th anniversary of Beersheba ceremonies, both of which attracted representation from across Australia and the United

Kingdom. Strengthening the unit's relationship with its allied regiments, the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and the Queen's Royal Lancers, was also a focus of his efforts and he regularly visited these regiments and attended regimental events and hosted visiting officers and their families.

In private life, Chris was a successful grazier at his Ben Lomond property, breeding Merinos and Angus, and continuing his life-long love of the country. For several years, he served on the NSW Farmers' Association Executive Council and many other committees. He was a Patron of the Glen Innes branch of the National Servicemen's Association and a member of Legacy. And he maintained strong links with The Armidale School Cadet Unit. As a New England grazier, skills in the latter - first learned with the Blues Mounted Regiment - served him well. He became an avid fan of the Australian Stock Horse and was seemingly never happier than on horseback at home in the Australian bush or with his family.

He is survived by his much-loved wife of 45 years, Patricia, and son Mark.





## 8234605 Warrant Officer Class One

### Robert George Aboud

10 April 1963 – 28 May 2017

#### Service:

Enlisted	15 April 1980
Discharged	30 June 1986
Re-Enlisted	13 April 1987
Discharged	15 August 2010

#### Warrant Officer Class One

Robert (Bob) Aboud was born in Brisbane on 10 April 1963, into

a large family of five- three boys and two girls. His family had its share of challenges and tragedies, losing his mother to the same cancer that later claimed Bob. In the troubles that followed Bob was forced to leave Corinda High School before completing his senior year. After some jobs here and there, Bob joined the Army on 15 April 1980.

Following recruit training Bob was allocated to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps where he would wear the black beret with pride for the next 30 years. His first posting was as a young driver in the 4th Cavalry Regiment, at the time the largest armoured unit in the Army. During his time in Brisbane the unit changed from 4th Cavalry Regiment to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment and then 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment. Bob as a young M113A1 crew commander served with his brother David, who was his Squadron 2IC at the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. Bob would later serve as the Squadron Sergeant Major of the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment.

In 1986 Bob discharged for a short period of time (287 days) to backpack around Europe with a school friend. On return Bob continued with his military career as if there was no gap at all. In 1988 Bob was promoted to Corporal and was also appointed as the PMC of the 41 Club.

Bob was selected to be a recruit instructor at Kapooka and he served in this role for two years, 1988 and 1989, where his reputation started to grow. Following his time at Kapooka, Bob was posted into recon troop at 1st Armoured Regiment in Puckapunyal.

Bobs next posting was to the Royal Military College, Duntroon. It was while posted to the Royal Military College Bob deployed as part of the Multinational Force Observer Group in the Sinai. On his return to the Royal Military College, he was again rapidly promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and selected for the iconic role as Drill Wing Sergeant Major.

Bob was briefly posted to 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment before taking up his position as the Squadron Sergeant Major of the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment in Townsville. During his time in 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment Bob deployed to East Timor on OP WARDEN.

After his tenure at the 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment Bob and the family departed Australia for the highly sort after posting to the US Army Sergeants Major Academy located at Fort

Bliss, El Paso, Texas. Bob was awarded the United States Army Meritorious Medal for his services to the Sergeants Major Academy – he was an excellent ambassador for our Army and the country.

Following his two year posting to the US, Bob was posted as the Regimental Sergeant Major to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Darwin. During this posting, he deployed with the Regiment to Southern Iraq as part of the Al Muthanna Task Group.

Bob was once again posted to the Royal Military College where he completed the final chapter of his regular military career as the Regimental Sergeant Major.

#### Comments from some staff and cadets at RMC:

*He was tower of strength to the cadets, instructors and the staff – regardless of rank. His family flourished on the grounds of RMC and although this would be his last posting in the military, his drive and enthusiasm was unchecked. His friendship and willingness to provide advice and council was valued by all and more than most he was a great bloke, family man and friend. May he rest in peace and his family remember him for the proud soldier and father he was – he will be dearly missed.*

It was this period and throughout his long service at Duntroon that highlighted the legacy and influence he has gifted to the Army in shaping and instilling fundamental values and role model examples for generations of the Army Officer cohort.

*WO1 Aboud has left a lasting legacy in the Army – his leadership and his example endures. Not only in the Cavalry, but across the Army. I first came across Bob at RMC when he was the DWSM. He was a tremendous role model for staff cadets and one of the reasons I joined the Corps.*

From RSM-A Warrant Officer Don Spinks:

*Bob was many things to many people and he left Jo, family, his mates and the world way too early. He should be remembered for his love of his family & his mates, his professionalism and the enduring legacy he has left the Army, his wry smile, his rapier like sense of humour and his humility. His only fault was that he was a mad, dyed in the wool QLD supporter... nobody's perfect.*

After his discharge, Bob continued his career in the defence industry as National Learning and Development Manager for Raytheon Australia. In this role, Bob was able to put to good use his Degree in Bachelor of Management – Administrative Leadership, focusing on mentoring and training. His successes during this time in making the lives of soldiers better were points of great pride.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife Joanne (Jo), his children Emily, Lachlan, Grace and Lucy.



# 1811830 Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Nolan Christie

7 May 1980 - 16 August 2017

A funeral service was held at the Royal Military College Chapel on Friday 25 August 2017 to mark the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Nolan Christie. Eulogies by family, friends from the Special Operations community and by Brigadier Anthony 'Changi' Rawlins, reflected Lieutenant Colonel Christie's life and service within the RAAC. The funeral was attended by former and current serving ADF members including the CDF. RAAC crewmen from across Australia swelled the gathered throng.

Born in Brisbane on the 7th of May 1980 to John and Rose Christie, Andrew was educated at St Joseph's Nudgee College where he excelled in academic, sporting and musical pursuits. Of particular prominence were his leadership and sporting abilities which saw him Captain the Queensland Schoolboys Rugby Team, Vice-Captain the Australian Schoolboys Rugby team, and then train at the Queensland Academy of Sport, representing Queensland at the U19 and U21 level.

In 1999, then Officer Cadet Christie was appointed to commence his military training at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Excelling in military and academic study, he soon earned the moniker 'The Roc' on account of his imposing presence and strength of character. He completed his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2001 before entering the Royal Military College in 2002. There, his leadership qualities raised him above his peers as he was selected as the Company Sergeant Major for Long Tan Company within the cadet hierarchy. On graduation, then Lieutenant Christie was awarded the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Cambrai Trophy, the Duntroon Society Award for extraordinary commitment and dedication to training, the Peter Stuckey Mitchell Trust Award for commendable leadership, military ability and physical fitness, the New Zealand Army Chief of the General Staff Prize for consistency in effective leadership, and the ADI Limited Prize for graduating first in military skills and field leadership. Lieutenant Christie received his first Corps preference, Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

Posted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in January 2003, Lieutenant Christie commenced his RAAC career as Liaison Officer B Squadron before attending the Cavalry Regimental Officer Basic Course (ROBC) at the School of Armour, Puckapunyal. Crushing his hand during an armoured vehicle accident, Lieutenant Christie completed an assessed battle run with an unattached thumb prior to being removed from course due to injury, completing his ROBC in 2004. Returning to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 2005, Lieutenant Christie served as a Troop Leader in C Squadron, and on promotion to Captain, as a Current Operations Officer in Regimental Headquarters. He also served briefly as the Armoured Personnel Carrier Troop Leader within 1st Command Support Regiment.

Desiring service within Special Operations, then Captain Christie commenced the Special Air Service Selection

Course in 2010 being medically withdrawn at the end of the course having sustained a fractured spine. Recovering and training over the next twelve months, Captain Christie again commenced Selection in 2011 before again being withdrawn due to injury. Whilst the inner workings of the selection course are not well understood by outsiders, trusted former members of the Special Air Service Regiment have shared that; *Andrew's performance on the course was exemplary, and his inability to complete the course was lamented as a lost opportunity for the Regiment.*

Captain and then Major Christie served with other ADF units including Defence Force Recruiting - Melbourne, the Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force and Headquarters Forces Command. Major Christie, transferred to the Army Reserve in 2012 and served with the 2nd Commando Regiment whilst pursuing other opportunities within Australia's National Security Community.

Lieutenant Colonel Christie's operational service includes two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. In 2005, as Troop Leader of V33 with the Al Muthanna Task Group, he was selected to command the largest Australian armoured vehicle convey since the Vietnam War, leading the convoy across the Kuwait/Iraq border to the new home of the AMTG at Camp Smitty in Samawah, Iraq. In 2006 he deployed again to Iraq as an Operations Captain with the Overwatch Battlegroup (West) – 2. During this deployment he was awarded a JTF633 Commander's Silver Commendation for his coordination of Battlegroup actions during and enemy IED strike that had resulted in Australian casualties. In 2012, he served with the Special Operations Task Group as a Liaison Officer within the ISAF Special Operations Headquarters at Camp Bastion, Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. For his service within that Headquarters he was awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Unit Citation – Task Force 66.

Lieutenant Colonel Christie is remembered by his wife Kathryn, two-year-old daughter Imogen and by scores of RAAC members with whom he served and influenced during his time within the Corps all of whom he has left an indelible mark.

RIP Roc.



Lieutenant Christie with Courage II





## 325808 / 8242440 Warrant Officer Class Two Lucas James Entink

8 February 1966 – 20 November 2017

A true character of our Corps and beloved mate to many. Luke epitomised what it meant to be a cavalry soldier in the eighties & early nineties, serving in B Sqn 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment as a driver and a crew commander. He was an outstanding bush soldier

and a loveable larrikin barracks soldier. He was a great mentor to junior members and consummate professional with his technical knowledge and vehicle craft.

Luke was also posted to School of Armour and Range Control Puckapunyal.

Luke deployed to Somalia in 1993 with B Sqn 3/4 Cav Regt as part of Operation Solace, Luke commanded Callsign 61 (pic below) with his great mate as his driver "Kinky" (RIP Kinky). Luke would often say Somalia was the highlight of his career.

Luke Corps transferred to Engineers/Survey in the mid nineties and continued to have a distinguished career, reaching the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2, discharging in 2006. On behalf of all serving and former members of the RAAC our sincere heartfelt condolences to Luke's wife Tess, & his boys Corey and Harley.

He Shall Grow Not Old  
As we that are left grow old  
Age shall not weary him, nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
we will remember him.  
Lest we forget, Luke Entink

*R&T mate Preeds*



## 223059 Lance Corporal Shane Leonard Fernie

Enlisted 27 March 1973

Shane was one of the genuine characters in 2 Cav Regt. He was a Nowra boy born and bred and married his childhood sweetheart Debbie..

He was a forthright and plain-spoken JNCO who because of his very wiry red hair was affectionately known by his mates as the Red-Headed Dunny Brush. There were

no airs and graces - what you saw was what you got.

Shane will also be best known for his work as Cpl Courage's handler and was one of the most photographed soldiers in the Regiment in that role.

### Service:

Australian Regular Army Supplement (O)  
11 May 1983 to 30 June 1988

Australian Regular Army  
1 July 1988 to 12 January 2006

### Units:

1 Recruit Training Battalion	11 May 1983
Armoured Centre	26 July 1983
B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment	13 March 1984
District Support Unit Puckapunyal	13 December 1989
School of Armour	8 January 1992
B Squadron 3/4 Cavalry Regiment	16 December 1992
Army Survey Regiment	22 August 1994
1 Topographic Survey Squadron	7 June 1995
School of Military Engineering	10 July 2000
1 Command Support Unit, Headquarters 1 Brigade	20 January 2003
Combined Arms Training Centre	17 January 2005

### Promotions:

Lance Corporal	6 May 1987
Corporal	19 October 1989
Reduced to Sapper on request on transfer to RA Survey	22 August 1994
Corporal	25 July 1996
Sergeant	10 July 2000
Warrant Officer Class Two	12 December 2003

### Operational Service:

Somalia 18 January 1993 to 16 May 1993

### Honours and Awards:

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp Somalia  
Defence Force Service Medal with First Clasp  
Australian Defence Medal  
Soldier's Medallion for Exemplary Service  
Returned from Active Service Badge

Shane passed away on the 10th October 2017.

### Service

Australian Regular Army  
27 March 1973 to 12 December 1981

### Units:

1 Recruit Training Battalion	27 March 1973
Armoured Centre	5 June 1973
A Squadron 2 Cavalry Regiment	28 September 1973
B Squadron 2 Cavalry Regiment	4 October 1973
2 Cavalry Regiment	23 May 1977

### Promotions:

Lance Corporal	2 June 1977
----------------	-------------



## 8261634 W02 John Adrian Ferguson

5 March 1966 - 27 July 2017

### Service:

Australian Army Reserve  
6 December 1986 to 26 January 1988  
Australian Regular Army  
27 January 1988 to 01 June 2009

### Units:

1st Recruit Training Battalion  
Armoured Centre  
2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI)  
2nd Cavalry Regiment  
A Squadron 10th Light Horse  
School of Armour  
2nd Cavalry Regiment  
Royal Military College  
12th/16th Hunter River Lancers  
2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI)

### Operational Service:

Operation TANAGER East Timor  
24 October 2001 to 17 April 2002  
Operation Catalyst Iraq  
24 May 2006 to 25 November 2006  
21 November 2007 to 21 June 2008

### Awards:

AASMET Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp  
EAST TIMOR  
AASM Clasp IRAQ 2003 to the Australian Active Service  
Medal  
IRAQCAMMED Iraq Medal  
DLSM First Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal  
ADM Australian Defence Medal  
UNTAET United Nations Medal with Ribbon UNTAET

John Ferguson died suddenly on 27 July 2017. He was 51 years old. John was riding his push bike at the time, an activity he had done for most of his life and in which he took great pleasure.

John was born at Subiaco, Western Australia in 1966 and grew up in Wanneroo, Perth. After leaving school, he worked at a number of jobs before enlisting in the Australian Regular Army in 1988 at the age of 21.

John's military service spanned over two decades. After completing recruit and initial employment training, he was posted to the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (QMI). His service in the Regular Army concluded 21 years later at the regiment where his career had begun. He served in appointments as a Squadron Sergeant Major, which included operational service in Iraq with Al Muthanna Task Group 3/Overwatch Battle Group (West) 1 in 2006 and with Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 in 2007-2008. John was a very capable professional soldier whose character and style of leadership endeared him to soldiers and officers alike.

John settled in Brisbane after leaving the Army and gained employment in the defence industry. Outside of work he enjoyed bike riding, camping, cars, and liked to work with his hands. He was a devoted family man who enjoyed the simple pleasures of life.

John's funeral service was well attended by current and ex-serving members of the RAAC, family, work colleagues and friends. John is survived by his partner, son, mother and sisters.



## MB289 W01 Courage II

15 October 1987 – 16 October 2017

**W**arrant Officer Class One Courage II was born on 14 of August 1987 at Taronga Zoo. He was gifted to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment on 15 October 1987. Courage, a Wedge-Tailed Eagle, was adopted as the mascot for his keen eyesight and the ability to cover large areas. Courage spent his first five years of service at Holsworthy Barracks. During this time he was part of the guard for the Prince Charles during his visit to Australia in 1988 for the bicentennial celebrations.

In 1992 he relocated with the Regiment to Darwin. Here, he spent the next 22 years with the Regiment and the 1st Brigade before relocating to Lavarack Barracks in Townsville in 2014.

Throughout Courage's service he progressed through the soldier ranks. Courage was promoted to Lance Corporal on 25 November 1994. He was then promoted to Corporal on 28 November 1996. Courage was then reduced in rank

to Trooper on 13 November 1997, due to flying away from his handler. Courage was then promoted back to Corporal on 02 July 1998. He was promoted to Sergeant on 31 October 2002. He was then promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 on 19 November 2010.

Courage sadly passed away on 16 October 2017, ending his 30 year service with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Courage was posthumously promoted to the rank of Warrant Class One on 28 October 2017. Courage was loved by all soldiers and officers in the Regiment. He demonstrated excellent soldier qualities through discipline, loyalty and respect. Like a thunderbolt, he strikes.



# 8607473 Trooper Stuart Reddan

Enlisted 15 September 2014

**T**rooper Stuart Reddan died during a training accident at Shoalwater Bay Training Area on 4 May 2017 whilst driving an M113AS4. He leaves behind his mother Laura and his father Brad, step parents Allan and Janet and his siblings Tom and Erin and step siblings Aaron, Rebecca and Jack.

The Army and 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) and was just a small component of Stuart's life, having enlisted on the 15th of September 2014, but the passion he had for Army was evident. A passion drawn from a rich family history in the military, including his great great uncle MAJGEN Sir Thomas Glasgow, a former Commanding Officer of his Regiment. Perhaps 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) was always meant to be his home.

This enthusiasm for Service would see Stuart complete his initial employment training at the School of Armour as an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle Driver before being posted to the Regiment in September 2015. Whilst in the Regiment Stuart immersed himself in training. This included being part of the first Armoured Battle Group to transit by Sea aboard the new Landing Helicopter Dock Ship. After passing through the Bass Strait to arrive in South Australia, Stuart fought with his other Spartan mates from B Squadron as part of Exercise HAMEL 16. On this exercise - like the others - he performed exceptionally well. The conclusion of 2016 would see Stuart qualify as a driver onto the M113 AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier. He was immensely proud to be an Armoured Corps driver and it was always apparent he looked forward to go to the field to master his trade.

His passion for the regiment extended beyond his daily driving role. He was heavily involved in the soldiers club and was also learning to conduct traditional cavalry skills of horseback as part of the Queensland Mounted Infantry Historic Troop.

He proved to be an outstanding cavalry soldier, good at his trade but always striving to improve, having a laugh with his mates but always there to lend them a hand, and an infectious grin that could always be relied upon to lift the team. He was selfless, hardworking and professional – the type of guy you want next to you in your armoured vehicle crew. He was one of our best.

It is a reflection of his character that the tragic events of 4 May 2017 had such a profound impact on his unit, and that Stuart had touched so many people. You often hear people say that the bonds and relationships formed in the Army are unbreakable. This was evident with Stuart when you look at the impact he has had on his fellow soldiers.

It was clear the love and admiration his mates held for Stuart and this was never more evident that during the memorial Service held by the Regiment in Shoalwater Bay Training Area on the 6th of May.

It is about a chair. For those who don't know the bush chair to the cavalry crew is a sacred piece of equipment – loved and only grudgingly shared. One of Stuart's mates left his chair at the site of Stuart's accident and having scrubbed out his name he replaced his name with a message, it simply reads...

*A chair for anyone that wants to sit with Red.*

Whenever the Regiment gets a moment to pause in the future, regardless of where they are, they will take a moment to sit with Red.

*Light horsemen never truly die; they just dismount and walk in greener pastures.*

*Lest we forget.*



Trooper Reddan an outstanding cavalry soldier

# YOU'LL FIND US BEHIND THE TECHNOLOGY THAT SUPPORTS YOU

**Are you mission ready? With Thales Australia training, you'll know the answer.**

At Thales Australia, we believe that technology should be as supportive as it is innovative. That's why we design our simulation systems to be as reliable as they are realistic. In 12 years of operation, Thales Australia's ASLAV Crew Procedural Trainer has clocked over 110,000 hours and helped over 6,500 trainees and qualified crewmen to prepare for the challenges of live fire and tactical manoeuvre – all without the loss of a single training hour. Results have shown that skills acquired through the use of the CPT by RAAC crewmen have immediately transferred to the open range. With tangible benefits including quicker reaction times and more hits on target, the CPT ensures that lessons learnt in the training environment can be called upon when it really counts.

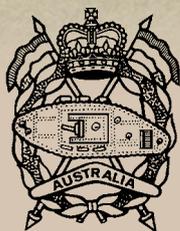


This Year we farewell Mr Paul (Hap) Hanlon from the Team after 12 years with ASLAV due to the 1st Armoured Regiments move to Adelaide, he will remain in Darwin and has transited to the Tiger Helicopter Site, Hap was a stalwart of the TLS Team and will be missed. We welcome Mr Aydan Corrie to the Team and he will be the Adelaide OSR, he is already settling in, so get to know your OSR, he will help facilitate your training.

**THALES**  
AUSTRALIA

The world is safer with Thales

# **WO1 Courage** **Mascot of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment**



**15 Oct 1987 to 16 Oct 2017**

