

# CASCABEL

Journal of the  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
(VICTORIA) INCORPORATED  
ABN 22 850 898 908



ISSUE 109

Published Quarterly in  
Victoria Australia

NOVEMBER 2011



Afghanistan 2011 - Another never ending battle!!



Article	Pages
Assn Contacts, Conditions & Copyright	3
The President Writes - Membership Report	4
From The Colonel Commandant	5
CO 2/10 Fd Regt	6
<b>Editor's Indulgence</b>	7
Origins of the Tank - Part 2	8
Defence remains at site - Beefeaters	12
Customs and Traditions	13
Association AGM	15
I was only 19	16
Minenwerfer (Mine Launcher)	19
Does he have a vocabulary or what	21
Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System	22
GUNNER DINNER CANCELLED	23
A Pittance of Time	24
An Aussie Hero	25
The XM25 rifle	26
Sky high level of experience	28
World Trade Centre Memorial	28
Photographs from The Great War	29
<b>Combat fire arms "report card"</b>	31
Lizzie Palmer	33
90 Years of Royalty - Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels - Micro air vehicles	34
<b>Over at last for "Our three"</b>	39
Social Golf Day	40
VALE Sgt Todd Langley	41
VALE Pte Matthew Lambert	42
Parade Card/Changing your address? Details on our web site: <a href="http://www.artilleryvic.org.au">www.artilleryvic.org.au</a>	

### Current Postal Addresses

All mail for the Association, except matters concerning Cascabel, should be addressed to:  
The Secretary  
RAA Association (Vic) Inc.  
8 Alfada Street  
Caulfield South Vic. 3167

All mail for the Editor of Cascabel, including articles and letters submitted for publication, should be sent direct to:  
Alan Halbish  
115 Kearney Drive  
Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195  
(H) 9587 1676  
ahalbish@netspace.net.au

## RAA Association (VIC) Inc Committee

**President:** MAJ Neil Hamer RFD  
9702 2100

**Vice President:** Lt Col. Jason Cooke  
9705 1155

**Immediate Past President:**  
MAJ Merv Taggart RFD, ED  
9773 3730

**Secretary:** Rachel Decker  
9578 5205

**Assistant Secretary:** MAJ Robin Smith RFD  
9435 6352

**Treasurer:** SSGT Reg Morrell  
9562 9552

**Members:**  
CAPT. Peter Wertheimer OAM, RFD  
LT. Tom Mc Lean  
WO2 Lionel Foster  
SSGT Brian Cleeman  
SSGT Ernie Paddon

**Cascabel Editor:** WO2 Alan Halbish  
9587 1676

**Representatives:** WO2 Lionel Foster  
(10 Mdm Regt Assn)

**Honorary  
Auditor:** Major David J Osborne  
Shepard Webster & O'Neill Pty Ltd

## MUSEUM TRUST

**Curator:** SSGT Brian Cleeman  
9560 7116

## VIC REGT CONTACTS

**2/10 Fd Regt** 9526 4222  
8 Chapel St  
St Kilda

**22 Fd Bty** 8710 2407  
65 Princes Hwy  
Dandenong South

**38 Fd Bty** 5221 7666  
Myers St  
Geelong

## CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

The contents of CASCABEL Journal are determined by the editor. Articles or opinions of authors & contributors are their own, and do not necessarily represent or reflect the official position of the RAA Assn (Vic) Inc, Australian Army, the committee, the editor, staff or agents.

Article style, clarity and conciseness remain the responsibility of the article owner or author. Submissions for the **January 2012** issue are required no later than **24 December 2012** unless otherwise arranged with the Editor.

COPYRIGHT (C)  
RAA Association (Vic) Inc -2000  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
ISSN 1322-6282  
MEMBERS & KINDRED  
ORGANISATIONS ADF &  
ACCREDITED RESEARCH:

Only Members, Kindred Organisations, ADF and accredited researchers, may copy without prior approval, ORIGINAL articles or items of interest, within this Journal, if the source and author are acknowledged. Based on goodwill.

Where the word "Copyright" or "(C)" appear with an article or where the material has been reproduced from a designated source, permission to copy should be sought from the Author or Source given.

## COMMERCIAL USE/PRODUCTS & BOOKS

Apart from members/kindred organisations/ ADF and accredited research, no part of CASCABEL is to be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording by any storage or retrieval system without written permission from the RAA Assn (Vic) Inc, the authors or the referenced source. Reproduction in any manner in whole or part in English or any other language is prohibited.



As this is the last *Cascabel* for 2011, I would like to offer my best wishes to you and your family for the coming festive season. Make this a happy and safe occasion.

The only activity of any note during the last few months was the Reserve Forces Day March.

You may notice that we have reverted to the original name as we are now aligned with the New South Wales organisation.

The march itself went off quite well. I thought the organisers were a little ambitious in trying to make **the march into a “formal” military parade.** I noticed that the promulgated format was not strictly adhered to, but, nevertheless it went off quite well.

I am going to take this opportunity to remind you of the activities which will take place in the near future.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Caulfield RSL on Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

The golf day at Berwick Montuna will be held on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**The Bairnsdale/Gippsland/visit to Geoff Rebbechi's cave will be held on W/E 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> November**

The annual church parade, followed by the 2/10 St Barbara's Day parade, lunch and family day will be held on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> December.

A good turn-up at these activities would be great.

Please do not forget to notify me if you change your email address so that I can keep you informed about the Association.

I look forward to seeing you at the next Association function.

Regards to all

Neil Hamer

MAJ (Retd)

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current Membership as at 1 Oct 11

Life Members	197	(197)
Annual Members	46	(44)
Senior Annual Members	14	(13)
Affiliates	31	(31)
Others (CO/CI, Messes, etc.)	12	(12)
Libraries	5	(5)
<b>RSL's</b>	4	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>(304)</b>

## New Members

We welcome Maj C A (Carl) Sarelius as a Life Member and Sgt R (Roy) Hampton as an Annual Member to the Association. We also now have four RSL Sub-branches: Berwick, Caulfield, Box Hill and Wangaratta.

The usual reminder about the proforma on the last page below the Parade Card.

If you have not already done so, it would be appreciated if you would provide the information requested so that our files can be kept up to date. This proforma should also be used to notify us of any changes in the future.

Neil Hamer      Contact: Telephone: 9702 2100

MAJ (Retd) 0419 533 067

Membership Co-ordinator

Email [nhamer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nhamer@bigpond.net.au)

Karl Hansen

# From the Colonel Commandant



**You have the opportunity to help decide who are Australia's "Gunners of Renown".**

The History Sub-Committee of the RAA Regimental Committee is developing a hardcover book with the working title 'Gunners of Renown'. It will provide profiles of selected notable gunners from colonial times until the period shortly after World War II. Gunners included will be deceased. Entries will vary in length from about ½ page to 3 pages maximum, in a book with 100 to 130 individual entries.

John Whitelaw and Alan Smith started this project. Recently Bob Lowry agreed to edit the draft, and redraft some sections. While the first phase will produce a book, a second phase will continue the work, possibly taking an e-Book approach with 'print on demand' ability.

**The existing list may not be as good a representation of "Gunners of Renown" as it might be, so the project has decided to consult widely and provide us with the opportunity to nominate the most significant gunners from a Victorian perspective.**

**The Sub-Committee decided not to set precise rules for selection of "Gunners of Renown". A guide is that the potential subject should probably tick one or more of the following boxes:**

- displayed great courage
- demonstrated exceptional leadership in operational circumstances
- demonstrated great vision and/or innovation
- demonstrated considerable leadership in change and adaptation to circumstances
- demonstrated exceptional notoriety by contributing to Australia in any number of ways (e.g. culture, science, arts or business) in a clearly remarkable way
- provides for an intrinsically interesting story

**The existing list of potential "Gunners of Renown" has not been distributed. The intention of this consultation is to focus on the gunners who must be considered, not those who should be excluded. If you nominate a potential "Gunner of Renown" you need to provide a short justification as to why the subject must be included and be prepared to provide more detail if the entry is accepted.**

**Time is short, so don't wait to have your say. Please forward your nominations to Doug Perry and/or myself. Contact details:**

Doug Perry	mob 0419 355 675	email <a href="mailto:perry@shephard.com.au">perry@shephard.com.au</a>
Neil Graham	mob 0409 749 531	email <a href="mailto:ndgraham@bigpond.net.au">ndgraham@bigpond.net.au</a>

Best wishes

Brig Neil Graham

Colonel Commandant, Southern Region

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.



**MESSAGE FROM  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment RAA**



To all Gunners

There is much talk about the direction of Plan BEERSHEBA, the latest study into the restructure of the Army including Reserves, and what it all means noting the recent move towards rotating BDEs through stages of readiness, as the ADF responds to ongoing commitments to overseas operations. For a large organisation like the ADF in change management terms, this is a fairly major change to the way we do business and I support the integrated approach of Plan BEERSHEBA. It is being taken extremely serious as evident by senior commanders of the ADF attending the recent Annual Conference of the Defence Reserve Association held in Adelaide last month of which Plan BEERSEHBA was presented.

I would strongly support the reading of Senator **Feeney's speech which he gave at the conference**, which so happens to be in this edition of Cascabel. In his speech, he outlines the support of the Government seeking to optimise **the Reserve's contribution to capacity within Army's Total Force. I see no change in role than** what we are currently doing, 4 BDE is currently focusing on providing the next rotation for an overseas Stability style operation, whilst we also train for likely scenarios supporting the local community in times of need i.e bushfires and floods.

There are several options currently being worked through by the Plan BEERSEHBA Force Modernisation Workshops about how best to optimise an Army Reserve structure in supporting the ADF. This is where there is much speculation, especially for artillery units in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, about future structures.

All I can say is I am doing the best I can to influence those options going forward. But this is a major change to the way the Army does business, in an environment of fiscal challenges and focused outcomes. There is a long way to go

before any changes are applied and I dare say there will be several strange structural models presented, discussed and debated across the country. I would encourage all of us to embrace these discussions, challenge the logic behind them and openly discuss them a social events as the more we learn the more we understand. There is a long way to go before we see any real changes occurring – just keep that in mind.

**I promised the editor to keep it short so I'll stop** there but the Regiment is in a great place, morale is high, training is challenging, there are opportunities for deployments and 2/10 has recently provided EX TALISMAN SABRE with excellent service. I am extremely proud of the **Regiment's achievement this year – Well Done.**

Ubique

Jason Cooke

Lieutenant Colonel

Commanding Officer

2<sup>nd</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment



**WARNING**  
**ORDER**

The next RAA LUNCHEON will be held at the RACV Club, Melbourne on Tuesday the 13th. March, 2012.

Further information will be published in the next Cascabel.

## EDITORS INDULGENCE

I am pleased to announce that our association web site is now up and running. Please type in or copy/paste <http://artilleryvic.org.au> to view our site. It is in the very early stages of development, so be patient and give our webmaster time to continue his great work. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions re the site, please use the contact page to relay your thoughts to me. **Doesn't matter whether** they are re Cascabel or any other matter ; inclusions, exclusions, other links, articles etc.



My apologies for omitting text on page 40 in journal 108. Due to a technical error, it should have included another line after **"but there is massive"** at the end of para 3. If you wish to bring your printed copy up-to-date, please insert - *development underway to harvest the natural gas and oil in the South China Sea.*

I'm sure some of you have been on a cruise ship to wherever. May I suggest that you take great care in making any future booking. Opt for the time of the year when the weather is likely to be suitable for comfortable sailing. If you are unlucky with your timing, you may find yourself being rather nauseated and/or tossed around. Click on the following link to view the scenes inside a ship in rough seas. [http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=975\\_1283799588](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=975_1283799588)

If that doesn't convince you, click on this link to view the ship from a helicopter. *Happy sailing!!*  
[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/503533/rough\\_cruise/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/503533/rough_cruise/)

I have written before about the need to reduce our postage costs. This is now being achieved by 75 members electing to receive their copy of Cascabel via email. These are being added to by a further 32 members who, by their non-response to my requests, have opted for our default option of pdf by email. These 107 members are offset by 18 of them wishing to receive both the pdf and hard copy. 89 less journals to be posted ensure that these savings will contribute towards the cost of producing and maintaining our association web site. *Thanks to all who have let me know their desired option of receiving each journal and apologies to those who were inadvertently asked twice.*

Did you do National service? Did you do the 20km route march? Memories of it can be found at <http://amvif.com/ninth/Heartbreak%20Hill.htm>

*Courtesy 131 Div Loc Assoc "Eyes & Ears"*

I draw your attention to our AGM notice on [p16](#). Please make every endeavour to attend what will be a very interesting experiencing with Lt Col Jason Cooke bringing us up to date re 2/10 etc.

A must watch video made for 6RAR on the occasion of their 2011 parade in honour of fallen comrades in the 1966 Battle of Long Tan. This is essential viewing for all.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXrh0e4gSTI>

*Thanks to WO2 Max Murray for sending me the You Tube link.*

We currently have approximately 160 members and affiliated associations who are listed as having NO EMAIL address. If you are one of those & do have an email account, please advise us of the address as it will make it much easier to contact you as required from time to time. Thank you.

I wish to thank those who have provided positive comments (nil negative) re the content and layout of Cascabel. Much appreciated.

MERRY XMAS and a PROSPEROUS and HEALTHY NEW YEAR to all.

*SSgt Barry Irons series of articles on the development of the tank continues.*

## ORIGINS OF THE TANK Part 2

In the Beginning, Variations on a Theme.

From 1904 to 1909, David Roberts, the engineer and managing director of Hornsby & Sons of Grantham, built a series of tractors using his patented "chain-track" which were put through their paces by the British Army, a (small) section of which wanted to evaluate artillery tractors.

At one point, in 1908, a perceptive officer remarked to Roberts that he should design a new machine with armour, capable of carrying its own gun. But, disheartened by years of ultimately fruitless tinkering for the Army, Roberts failed to take up the idea.<sup>1</sup>



Hornsby Tractor towing wagons about 1912  
"Big" just doesn't cut it. ?

This steam-powered tractor has been in Canada since it was shipped as a new machine from England in 1910. Built by R. Hornsby & Sons of Grantham England, the crawler track principle was patented in 1904.

The following year, the device known as a "chain track" was fitted to a Hornsby oil tractor built in 1896. Several other Hornsby oil powered tractors were completed with crawler tracks, but despite energetic promotion, including the first film ever made for commercial purposes (1908)<sup>2</sup> and demonstrations for high-ranking military personnel, the idea did not catch on.

This machine was originally sold to the Northern Light Power & Coal Company for hauling coal to Klondike gold fields in the Yukon. After this lone sale, the Hornsby Company became disillusioned and sold the patent rights of the "chain track" to the Holt Manufacturing Company in 1914. Holt later combined with Best to become the Caterpillar

Tractor Company<sup>3</sup>. This was the only steam powered machine built and is the only steam crawler existing today.

An Austrian engineer, Gunther Burstyn, inspired by Holt tractors, designed a tracked armoured vehicle in 1911 carrying a light gun in a rotating turret; equipped also with hinged 'arms', two in front and two at the rear, carrying wheels on the ends to assist with obstacles and trenches, it was a very forward-looking design, if rather small.

The Austrian government said it would be interested in evaluating it if Burstyn could secure commercial backing to produce a prototype. Lacking the requisite contacts, he let it drop. An approach to the German government was similarly fruitless.

Before World War I, motorized vehicles were still relatively uncommon, and their use on the battlefield was initially limited, especially of heavier vehicles. Armoured cars soon became more commonplace with most belligerents, especially in more open terrain.

In fact, on August 23, 1914, the French Colonel Estienne, later a major proponent of tanks, declared: *Messieurs, la victoire appartiendra dans cette guerre à celui des deux belligérants qui parviendra le premier à placer un canon de 75 sur une voiture capable de se mouvoir en tout terrain* ("Gentlemen, the victory will belong, in this war, to the one of the two belligerents who will be the first to succeed in mounting a 75 mm gun on a vehicle capable of moving in all types of terrain")

*1 An all too familiar story – even today.*

*2 Has a copy survived? Trials featuring the Hornsby Tractor and the Rochet-Schneider were the subject of a film that was used in an attempt to promote sales and also shown in cinemas. Although cinema advertisements had been produced since the late 1890's, this is believed to be the first promotional film of appreciable length. There was also a screening in the presence of senior British officers and foreign military attachés.*

*3 Who would have known how this company would grow then?*

Armoured cars did indeed prove useful in open land such as in deserts, but were not very good at crossing obstacles (e.g. trenches, barriers) or in more challenging terrain. The other issue was that it was very hard to add much protection or

armament.

The main limitation was the wheels, which gave a high ground pressure for the vehicle's weight. This could be solved by adding more wheels, but unless they also were driven, the effect was to reduce traction on the powered wheels. Driving extra wheels meant more drive train weight; in turn requiring a larger and heavier engine to maintain performance. Even worse, none of this extra weight was put into an improvement of armour or armament carried, and the vehicles were still incapable of crossing very rough terrain.

The adoption of caterpillar tracks offered a new solution to the problem. The tracks spread the weight of the vehicles over a much greater area, which was all used for traction to move the vehicle. The limitation on armour and firepower was no longer ground pressure but the power and weight of the power-plant.

The remaining issue was how to utilise and configure a vehicle, which would be figured out first by what was to be known as the Landship Committee and Inventions Committee. A variety of other concepts would be combined, such as special steel for armour, a climbing face for the tracks, and weapons mounted in rotating turrets.

Before all this could happen someone would have to somehow set the entire process into motion. This someone turned out to be a Major Ernest Dunlop Swinton RE, British official war correspondent serving in France in 1914. Swinton recounts in his book *Eyewitness* how he first got the sudden idea to build a tank on October 19, 1914, while driving a car in northern France.

It is known however that he in July 1914 received a letter from a friend, the South-African engineer Hugh Merriot, asking his attention for the fact that armoured tractors might be very useful in warfare. November 1914 Swinton suggested the idea of an armoured tracked vehicle to the military authorities, by sending a proposal to Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Hankey.

Hankey in turn tried to interest Lord Kitchener in the idea; when this failed he sent in December a memorandum to the Committee of Imperial Defence, of which he was himself the secretary; First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill was one of the members.

Hankey proposed to build a gigantic steel roller,

pushed by tracked tractors, to shield the advancing infantry. Churchill in turn on January 5 wrote a note to Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, in which he warned that the Germans might any moment introduce a comparable system.

A worried Asquith now ordered Kitchener to form the Inventions Committee headed by General Scott-Moncrieff to study the development of armoured vehicles; this committee concluded however in February 1915 that such vehicles were wholly impractical and advised not to develop any<sup>4</sup>

Winston Churchill however decided that if the Army wouldn't take up the idea, the Navy should proceed independently, even if it were to exceed the limits of his competence<sup>5</sup>. He created, against the objections of his bewildered subordinates, a Landships Committee in February 1915, initially to investigate designs for a massive troop transporter.

Inconceivable as it may seem at the time, Churchill kept this committee from the high command knowing that it would be cancelled, by the blinkered thinking of the time<sup>6</sup>.

He was desperate to find any means, to break the stalemate of what the war had degenerated to. When the committee was showing results, it was then that Churchill revealed it to the General command. The fateful decision of the Dardanelles campaign was also in progress.

This committee came about when Colonel Maurice Hankey, (Secretary to the War Cabinet) took Colonel Ernest Swinton's proposals for an armoured trench-crossing vehicle to Churchill after they had been discounted by General French and other senior staff in the British Army<sup>7</sup>.

*4 Fortunately, history would decree otherwise.*

*5 Churchill as he became known during the Second War. Dogged determination in his belief.*

*6 Here Churchill had taken a massive gamble; it could have so easily gone all wrong.*

*7 It's easy to criticize now, but who would have known then.*

The committee was chaired by Eustace Tennyson d'Eyncourt, the **Director of Naval Construction** (and also responsible for airships) at the Admiralty. Among those who attended were Thomas Hetherington, Robert Francis Macfie and Colonel Rookes Evelyn Bell Crompton.

Many had been inspired by early ideas for from pre

-war years. Among these would be the armoured "war car" built in the early 1890s in Eastern Europe. The armoured car was already in use with the Royal Naval Air Service on the continent. Another inspiration was a 1903 short story by HG Wells, *The Land Ironclads*, and all but Winston Churchill was willing to borrow Wells' creation despite it being restricted under copyright law.

As early as the sketches by Leonardo da Vinci are, there have been thoughts and drawings of tanks and armoured vehicles. Sir Ernest Swinton is often cited as the tank inventor, but his input was a thought shared with Lord Kitchener during the First World War in December 1914. Major W G Wilson (an army Lieutenant at the time of invention) and Sir William Tritton are said to have invented the Mark I tank in 1915.

In May 1915, the War Office made new tests on a trench-crossing machine; the Tritton Trench-Crosser. The machine was equipped with large tractor wheels, 8 feet in diameter, and carried girders on an endless chain which were lowered above a trench so that the back wheels could roll over it.

#### Tritton Trench-Crosser, May 1915.

The machine would then drag the girder behind until on flat terrain, so that it could reverse over them and set them back in place in front of the vehicle. The machine during trials proved much too cumbersome and was reluctantly abandoned.

As a truer picture of front-line conditions was



developed, the aims of the investigation changed. Together with the older Inventions Committee, a requirement was formulated for an armoured vehicle capable of 4 mph (6 km/h), climbing a 5 feet (1.5 m) high parapet, crossing an 8 feet (2.4 m) wide gap, and armed with machine guns and a light artillery piece. A similar proposal was working its

way through the Army GHQ in France and in June the Landship Committee was made a joint service venture between the War Office and the Admiralty<sup>8</sup>.

The Naval involvement in Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFV) design had originally come about through the Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Car Division, the only British unit fielding AFVs in 1914; surprisingly until the end of the war most experimentation on heavy land vehicles would be done by Naval air service unit No 20.

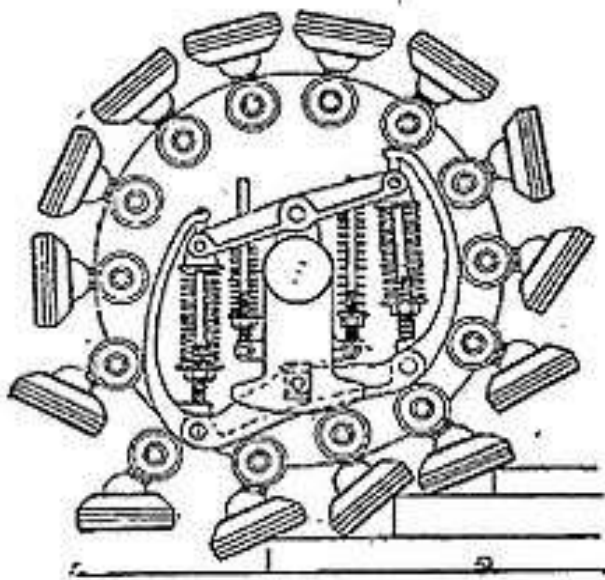
At first protecting heavy gun tractors with armour appeared the most promising line of development. Alternative early 'big wheel' designs on the lines of the Russian Czar tank of 1915 were soon understood to be impractical. However, adapting the existing Holt Company caterpillar designs, the only robust tracked tractors available in 1915 into a fighting machine, as France, Germany and the United States did, was decided against as Holt indicated to be unable to deliver a sufficient number for extended mass production.

While armour and weapon systems were easy to acquire, other existing caterpillar and suspension units were too weak, and existing engines were notably underpowered for the armoured behemoths that the designers had in mind. The Killen-Strait tractor with three tracks was used for the first experiments in June but was much too small to be developed further. The large British Pedrail monotrack vehicle proved to be unsuitable. Trials to couple two small American Bullock tractors also failed.

#### *8 Churchill's perseverance vindicated*

There also were considerable differences of opinion between the several committee members. Col R.E.B. Crompton, a veteran military engineer and electrical pioneer, drafted numerous designs with **Lucien Legros, Crompton's technical assistant**, for armoured troop carrying vehicles and gun-armed vehicles, to have used either Bullock tracks or variants of the Pedrail.

At the same time, Lt Robert Macfie, of the RNAS, and Albert Nesfield, an Ealing-based engineer, devised a number of armoured tracked vehicles, which incorporated an angled front 'climbing face' to the tracks. The two men were to fall out bitterly as their plans came to nothing, Macfie in particular



The 1903 Pedrail system was considered but turned out to be too fragile

pursuing a vendetta against the other members of the Landships Committee after the war.

To resolve the threatened dissipation of effort, it was ordered in late July that a contract was to be placed with William Foster & Co. Ltd, a company having done some prewar design work on heavy tractors, and known to Churchill from an earlier experiment with a trench-crossing supply vehicle, to produce a proof-of-concept vehicle with two tracks, based on a lengthened Bullock tractor chassis. Construction work began three weeks later.

Fosters of Lincoln built the 14 ton "Little Willie", which first ran on 8 September. Powered by a 105 hp (78 kW) Daimler engine, the ten-foot high armoured box was initially fitted with a low Bullock caterpillar.

A rotating top turret was planned with a 40 mm gun but abandoned due to weight problems, leaving the final vehicle unarmed and little more than a test-bed for the difficult track system. Difficulties with the commercial tracks supplied led to Tritton designing a completely new track system different from, and vastly more robust than, any other system then in use.

The next design by Lieutenant Walter Gordon Wilson RNAS, a pre-war motor engineer, added a larger track frame to the hull of "Little Willie". In order to achieve the demanded gap clearance a rhomboidal<sup>9</sup> shape was chosen—stretching the form to improve the track footprint and climbing

capacity.

To keep a low centre of gravity the rotating turret design was dropped in favour of sponsons on the sides of the hull fitted with naval 6-pounder (57 mm) guns. A final specification was agreed on in late September for trials in early 1916, and the resulting 30 ton "Big Willie" (later called "Mother") together with "Little Willie" underwent trials at Hatfield Park on 29 January and 2 February.

Attendees at the second trial included Lord Kitchener, Lloyd George, Reginald McKenna and other political luminaries. On 12 February an initial order for 100 "Mother" type vehicles was made, later expanded to 150.

Although Landship was a natural term coming from an Admiralty committee, it was considered too descriptive and could give away British intentions. The committee therefore looked for an appropriate code term for the vehicles. Factory workers assembling the vehicles had been told they were producing "mobile water tanks" for desert warfare in Mesopotamia.

Water Container was therefore considered but rejected because the committee would inevitably be known as the WC Committee (WC meaning water closet was a common British term for a toilet). The term tank, as in water tank, was in December 1915 finally accepted as its official designation.

*9 A squashed down rectangle to the right?*



From then on, the term "tank" was established among British and also German soldiers, but rejected by the French. While in German, Tank specifically refers to the World War I type (as opposed to modern Panzer), in English, Russian and other languages the name even for contemporary armoured vehicles is still based on the word tank.

Legend has it that after completion, the tanks were shipped to France in large wooden crates. For secrecy and in order to not arouse any curiosity, the crates and the tanks themselves were then each labelled with a destination in Russian for Petrograd. In fact the tanks were never shipped in crates; the inscription in Russian was applied on the hull for their transport from the factory to the first training centre at Thetford.

The first fifty had been delivered to France on 30 August. They were 'male' or 'female', depending

upon whether their armament was the 57 mm gun or only multiple smaller Hotchkiss or Vickers machine guns. The crew was eight, four of whom were needed to handle the steering and drive gears. The tanks were capable of 6 km/h (4 mph), matching the speed of marching infantry with whom they were to be integrated to aid in the destruction of enemy machine guns.

The tank was originally designed as a special weapon to solve an unusual tactical situation: the stalemate of the trenches. The problem of advancing to attack while under fire is as old as warfare itself. The idea of using some kind of moving construction for protection seems to be almost as old.

The tank was meant to bring the firepower of artillery and machine guns across the morass of no man's land, while providing more protection than a purely infantry unit could carry. The sole purpose of this weapon was to assist the infantry in creating a penetration so that the cavalry, which had been waiting for the opportunity since 1914, could exploit into the German rear.

Few recognized during World War I that the means for returning mobility and shock action to combat, was already present in a device destined to revolutionize warfare on the ground and in the air. This was the internal combustion engine, which had made possible the development of the tank and eventually would lead to the mechanized forces that were to assume the old roles of horse cavalry, and to loosen the grip of the machine gun on the battlefield. With increased firepower and protection, these mechanized forces would, only some 20 years later, become the armour of World War II.

Barry Irons

Armament Artificer (R)

References

The Internet if you have it and Wikipedia.

The History Chanel and sometimes the Discovery Chanel

Cambrai 1917 – Trial of the Tanks DVD Dist by MAGNA PACIFIC 2001

Concise Oxford English Dictionary – Online. (You can't always rely on the spell checker)

## Defence to remain at iconic Tasmanian sites

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, toured the Tasmanian Defence sites of Anglesea Barracks and Fort Direction today.

**"Anglesea Barracks and Fort Direction have a significant historical presence in Tasmania. Defence plans to maintain both locations for the foreseeable future," Senator Feeney said.**

Senator Feeney said that planning was already underway to celebrate Anglesea Barracks' 200th anniversary in December this year.

**"Anglesea Barracks is the oldest continuously-occupied Defence establishment in Australia, and these celebrations will recognise a milestone event in Australian and Tasmanian military and history.**

**"It is expected that the review will be completed later this year," Senator Feeney said.**

**"Following the review, a Government-appointed independent commission will consider Defence's recommendations, and undertake public consultation before reporting back to the Government."**

[View](#) some excellent historical photos or type

<http://militarymuseumtasmania.org.au/main/photo-gallery>

Perhaps you have heard about, or possibly seen the Beefeaters at the Tower of London.

The following link is a video of a Beefeater explaining various aspects of the Tower. It is hilarious.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWFq-v7TKdQ>

This link is to the 2nd of a series of 4 videos about the Tower and is the funniest. You will find links to the other 3 on that site.

*Well worth watching and thanks to WO2 Max Murray for sending me the link. Ed*

## CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

### SAINT BARBARA

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of most gunners throughout the world, however, like all mythology and traditions over time, the origins of the legend have become blurred between fact, fiction and rumour.

**Gunners celebrate Saint Barbara's Day annually on the 4th December, the day set aside by the Christian churches' Calendar of Saints; however,** the method of celebration varies significantly depending on the environment and situation, or circumstances in which the relevant artillery unit or association is placed-in at the time.

In May of 1969 newspapers throughout the world reported accounts of thirty saints being deleted from the Liturgical Calendar by Pope Paul VI, in the belief that they may never have existed. Whilst Saint Barbara was included in the group she was not banned; the deletion simply meant that she was displaced from the Catholic Universal Calendar of Saints and relegated to local devotion, but the reform of the Calendar was not intended to kill-off devotion to the many popular saints familiar to the Christian world over past centuries. Even though **Saint Barbara's name no longer appears in the newer Catholic calendars** she is still commemorated on definite days in Roman Martyrology, a liturgical book in its own right.

Saint Barbara is often depicted in art, and she always carries the palm of a martyr in her hand and, in most cases, she also carries a chalice and sacramental water. She has been represented standing by a tower with three widows; she is also often seen with fire, firearms and lightning beside her.

Listed here are the three most accepted versions of Saint Barbara and how she came to be the Patron Saint of Artillery.

#### Legend One

During military service in the East, Alypius, the father of Saint Barbara, became friendly with a certain Fakir from whom he learnt the marvellous secrets for the use of naphtha and saltpetre. From the same sources he also learnt the preparations for Bengal lights.

On his return to his native town of Hippo, Alypius devoted his life to the study of chemistry. Barbara

received a liberal education, spoke several languages and she became deeply interested in her **father's research work and by their united efforts** in the laboratory they discovered an explosive of extraordinary power. The beauty of Barbara attracted many suitors, but she rejected them all and instead entered the Convent of Saint Perpetua, which had been founded by Saint Augustine.

Africa was then a prey to invasion and one evening in the summer of 430 AD the Vandals arrived under the walls of Hippo; the town closed its gates and a siege was begun. The Barbarians dug wide trenches around the city walls and they threw into them the bodies of both men and animals slain in the conflict. In doing this they hoped to overcome the besieged city by causing death from fever and a plague.

Alypius, in this hour of need, summoned his daughter, Barbara, from the Convent to assist in the defence of the city. While they were placing large jars, full of a mysterious substance in position, Alypius was killed by an arrow. Barbara, **the sole possessor of her father's secrets, was** called upon to continue the heroic combat. She ordered the contents of the urns to be poured into **the enemy's trenches and, in an instant, the** substance ignited; the putrefied bodies were consumed and the pestilential miasmas were dispelled.

During the siege, which lasted for fourteen months, all the surprise attacks of the enemy were frustrated by the frequent use of Bengal lights, and at intervals incandescent globes of fire were hurled from catapults at the enemy. After a heroic struggle, the besiegers captured the city and, thirsting for revenge, they swarmed into the Convent where Barbara had returned to when the city was forced to surrender.

Barbara was prepared for emergencies and had accumulated a quantity of explosives in one of the subterranean passages within the Convent. At the crucial moment a deafening explosion was heard and both the conquerors and the vanquished were crushed beneath the debris of the masonry. By this action Barbara, along with her companions, escaped the outrages of a licentious soldiery.

#### Legend Two

Saint Barbara was the daughter of a rich nobleman of Heliopolis in Egypt and was martyred by her

father, in about 303 AD, for becoming a Christian. As he descended the mountain where he had cut-off her head with his own hands a **'fearful tempest** arose with thunder and lightning, and fire fell upon this cruel father and utterly consumed him, so that **not a vestige of him remained'**.

Barbara is invoked against thunder and lightning, and all accidents arising from explosions of gunpowder. It is thought possible that she was selected as a patron saint for artillery because in early days cannon usually blew-up on discharge and therefore gunners were always liable to sudden death from explosions of gunpowder.

### Legend Three (the most accepted legend)

There is no reference to Saint Barbara by early Christian authorities; neither does her name **appear in the original of Saint Herome's** Martyrology. Veneration of the Saint was common, however, from the seventh century onwards. About this time there were in existence legends of her martyrdom which were inserted in the writings of Symeon Metaphrastes, which were also used by such authors as Ado, Usordye, Boronius, Mombritus and others during the ninth century.

According to these narratives, which are essentially the same, Barbara was the beautiful daughter of a wealthy, bad tempered and heathen Greek named Dioscorus. Dioscorus, in his wicked and pagan mind, conceived the idea of using his beautiful daughter to increase his worldly wealth. For this purpose he allowed her very little liberty, so that she might grow-up free from worldly contamination. Barbara was only allowed to have her handmaiden, Juliana, with her, and to receive, at stated intervals, her tutors who were selected from old and repulsive looking men.

In her youth Barbara embraced Christianity, the teachings of which she no doubt obtained from the tutors who were provided for her. Amongst **Dioscorus' many friends was a magistrate named** Marcian, a wealthy and wicked man like Dioscorus. One day, Dioscorus, for the purpose of evading punishment for his many misdeeds, offered his beautiful daughter, Barbara, to Marcian.

Upon informing Barbara of his intentions to part with her to Marcian, she told her father that she had embraced Christianity and therefore could not consent to the arrangement, having devoted her virginity to God. This so enraged Dioscorus that he

imprisoned her in a very high tower which concealed her from the view of the outside world.

**Sometime after her imprisonment Barbara's father** was called away, but before his departure she persuaded him to gratify her wish for three windows to be constructed in the tower in order to **admit light. In reality, Barbara's intentions were** that the windows should be a symbol of the Trinity and the admission of light, the emblem of **Christianity. Barbara's desire was to make known** her conversion and this was her only way of showing it to the outside world.

On account of her open acknowledgement of Christianity Barbara received a Spiritual Blessing and this Blessing made her even more beautiful. She then prayed for a bathing pool in which to disport herself, and to while-away the tediousness of the long hours of her incarceration.

One day when Barbara was drawing her finger in the form of a cross on the floor of the tower, the rocks, that made-up the floor, parted and in the midst of a blaze of light through the three windows, a pool appeared and the cross remained **permanently furrowed in the stone at the pool's** edge. Upon returning from his journey her father discovered the great light coming through the windows onto the cross; this greatly angered him and he remonstrated with her.

Barbara took this occasion to preach to her father; she told him of the mystery of the Trinity and used her persuasion with a view to converting him to Christianity. Dioscorus became furious and on **account of Barbara's pleading, he drew his sword** and rushed upon her to kill her. Barbara avoided the attack and miraculously escaped from the tower, leaving him striking furiously on the flinty floor in an endeavour to obliterate the cross.

The enraged father, accompanied by his soldiers, scoured the near-by mountain side for his daughter; however, Barbara had taken refuge in a leafy glade some distance from the tower. Encountering two shepherds during his search Dioscorus asked them if they had seen his daughter; the first shepherd, being a godly man **and fearing for Barbara's safety, answered with a** lie and said that she was not in the forest. However, the second shepherd, being an evil man, told Dioscorus where his daughter was hiding. Dioscorus found Barbara and beat her unmercifully and then dragged her by her hair before the

Magistrate Marcian. When Marcian saw Barbara he was captivated by her beauty and did his utmost to persuade her to give-up Christianity and marry him. Barbara steadfastly refused and repulsed all his advances, whereupon Marcian ordered her to be stripped and beaten in front of him. Still resisting his entreaties Barbara was taken to prison, where a blaze of light streamed upon her and healed her wounds.

The next day Barbara was again taken before the Magistrate Marcian; she still refused his entreaties so he then ordered her to be torn with iron combs **and her saintly head to be hammered.** Barbara's handmaiden, Juliana, on witnessing the ordeal burst into tears and was promptly arrested, and treated in the same cruel manner. Marcian was now at a loss for further tortures to exercise on Barbara without destroying her beauty so, in revenge for having all his advances refused, he ordered her to be led naked around the town, accompanied by her handmaiden, Juliana.

**Notwithstanding the beating on her 'Venerable Head' Barbara preserved her faculties and was able** to address an eloquent prayer to Heaven. The prayer was answered and a mantle was cast around her body; this enabled her to lift herself and preach to the people, imploring them to embrace Christianity. Her father, so thoroughly enraged and in a fit of temper, then struck-off the heads of both his daughter and her handmaiden; at this moment a vivid flash of lightning fell upon Dioscorus, completely consuming him. A moment later a second flash appeared, reducing Marcian into a heap of smoking ashes. A pious man named Valentinus then buried the bodies of the two virgins.

**In time the sick were brought to Barbara's grave** site and to be healed, and pilgrims who came to pray received aid and consolation.

#### A Summary of the Legends

It is certain that before the 9th century Saint Barbara was publicly venerated both in the East and the West, and that she was very popular with the Christian populace, being called upon as intercessor to assure the receiving of the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist at the hour of death.

An occurrence in the year 1448 did much to spread the veneration of the Saint. A man named Henry

Kock was nearly burnt to death in a fire at Gorkum; he called on Saint Barbara, to whom he had always shown great devotion, and she aided him to escape from the burning building and kept him alive until he could receive the last sacrament. **A similar occurrence is related in the 'Legend Aurea'.**

In the Greek and Roman Calendars the Fest of Saint Barbara falls upon the 4th December, while martyrologies of the 9th century, with the exception of Robanus Maurus, place it on the 16th December, which is now the modern date for the festival. However, it is quite possible to suppose that the period from the 4th to the 16th December was the time of her escape from the tower until her death at the hand of her father, Dioscorus (Legend Three); hence the modern accepted date **for Saint Barbara's Day of 4th December.**

*Courtesy of The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery Web site and Mr Chris Jobson.*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(Royal Australian Artillery Association  
(Victoria) Inc.

Thursday, the 3rd of November, 2011 at  
1930 hours.

Caulfield RSL  
2 St. Georges Road,  
Elsternwick.  
(Melways 67 G3)

Bistro opens at 1800 hours.  
(Contact Reg Morrell on 9562 9552 for  
bookings by 01 Nov 11)

This is a great opportunity to know what  
your Association is doing and also to find  
out the current status on 2/10 Field  
**Regiment's training programme.**

Light refreshments will be provided after  
the meeting.

[Return to Ed's Indulgence page.](#)

## **"I WAS ONLY 19" – THE JOHN SCHUMANN STORY**

1968. I was in Year 10 at Blackfriars Prior School in South Australia, grappling with Latin and the Periodic Table. The war in Vietnam was escalating and more and more young Australian men were being shipped off to Asia. Jumpy, black and white television reports of the war were broadcast nightly to an increasingly agitated nation and Mum took to looking at me anxiously when she **thought I wasn't watching.**

**In truth, I hadn't really thought too much about** being sent to Vietnam but, as a naïve 15 year old with a penchant for camping and bushwalking, the idea was not entirely unattractive. And, besides, there was a history of war service in my family. Grand-dad had been a marksman on minesweepers in World War One. Dad was in the RAAF stationed in the Northern Territory during World War Two and most of his mates had seen active service in one theatre or another.

My mother, on the other hand, was far from comfortable with the idea of her boy going to Vietnam. I was asthmatic from the time I was about nine years old but after 1965 she insisted on taking me to the doctor after every attack. It **wasn't till much later that my mother told me she was laying a paper trail in the event my "marble came up".**

St Therese's Catholic parish in Colonel Light Gardens was the sort of close-knit community that is, lamentably, a thing of the past. When Private Robert Caston was killed in Vietnam in the February of 1968, the war crashed out of our **television sets and into our very lives. Robert's** younger brother, Phillip, was in my class at **St Therese's Primary School so this was close.** The parish went into deep shock and our mothers, red eyed and distracted for weeks, rallied around the Caston family with meals and deep sympathy. When my own brother died of leukaemia a couple of years later, Mrs Caston put her arms around **Mum at the graveside. Of all Mum's friends, only Robert's mother really understood.**



As we all did, I had a couple of mates, older boys, who did go to Vietnam. They left as wide-eyed, grinning Australian lads, pushing and

shoving and joking at their embarkation leave parties. They were returned to us as damaged goods - sullen, disconnected and with the trademark **"thousand yard stare". They were now in another, older, gang and I wasn't a member.** Some drank with a desperation that those of us **who stayed behind couldn't share. In the ensuing** years I watched alcoholism set in and I watched friendships and relationships fracture. Unemployment, too, set in.

One veteran mate explained this many years later:

**"Just imagine," he said. "One day you're helping** get your dying mate into a Huey, while your other mates are throwing out covering fire. Two weeks **later, you're in a public service office somewhere** being told by some pasty-faced, cardigan-wearing mincer not to put your lunch box on the middle **shelf of the staff fridge because that's where Mrs** Brown likes to put her cat food. Is it any wonder **we didn't slip back easily into civilian life? And lots** of people were deeply suspicious of us anyway – **as we were of them."**

One time a friend of a friend had signed up for a second tour of duty so he was granted some leave in Australia. For some reason the three of us went for a drive through the Adelaide Hills and the **young soldier insisted on taking the wheel. I'd** never been so scared in my entire life. Sitting in the back of the HK Holden while he thrashed up Upper Sturt Rd in second gear. I ventured that he was driving dangerously. He laughed, rather **nastily, and told me I didn't know what danger** was. All these things tend to stay with you. There but for the grace of God go I.

As the new decade warmed up, the popular movement against the Vietnam war gained **traction. It wasn't too long before a clear majority** of Australians, including me, opposed it. The Liberal Government started to wind back the military commitment and Australian soldiers came dribbling home. In the December of 1972 Gough Whitlam was elected and within days conscription **was abolished and Australia's military** commitment to the Vietnam war had been **terminated. Vietnam became yesterday's issue** and student activists cast around for other, more pressing causes.

In 1975, as part of my undergraduate degree in Philosophy and English at Flinders University, I enrolled in Politics and Art, a course that

examined the nature of the relationship between art, politics and society. Taught by a man who was to become a lifelong friend, Professor Brian Medlin, this course germinated the seedling that grew into Redgum. I learned that I could write songs and, for a committed student of the Left, I also learned there was much to write about.

By the late 1970s, the war in Vietnam had slipped well into the background. However, in 1979 I began to read of a group called the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

The VVAA was raising health issues on behalf of veterans, in the face of government intransigence and RSL antipathy. As the media coverage increased, so did my sympathy for these veterans. The songwriter in me could well imagine returning from an unpopular war, sick and confronting a **government and a society that didn't want to know.**

I entertained the idea of writing these blokes a song but, for me, there was one major stumbling block: Vietnam veterans were a notoriously closed circle. Approach a group of veterans having a drink **and a yarn and they'd clam up as soon as you drew near.** For my part, I was disinclined to write a song this important on the basis of my some media reports and my imagination.

In late 1981 I met Denny, the woman who was to become my wife, at a dinner party in Adelaide. As our relationship unfolded, we swapped family histories and stories. I discovered that her brother, **Mick, had been in Vietnam. Further, he'd been involved in a serious mine incident in 1969 in which a couple of his mates were killed and a**



**number seriously injured. In time I met Denny's family, including Mick. He and I seemed to get**

along pretty well but I avoided the issue of his Vietnam service until one night after a Redgum concert at the Oxford Theatre in suburban Unley.

This was shortly before Christmas 1981. After the gig we all went out for a drink and Mick and I were discussing songs and song writing. I confided in him my desire to write a song about Vietnam

**veterans and, on a whim, I asked Mick if he'd be prepared to talk to me and help with some of the detail. Given that Denny had told me several times that Mick didn't ever talk about Vietnam, I was quite surprised when he agreed. There were, however, two conditions. The first was that I didn't denigrate his mates. Easy. It was never my intention. Secondly, Mick insisted that I played any song I wrote to him first. If he didn't approve, the song was not to see the light of day. I agreed.**

In the January of 1982 Redgum went on tour. By **this time we'd moved camp to Melbourne,** however after two months or more on the road I was in need of some Adelaide respite. I went back **home and hid at Denny's place at Cherry Gardens** in the Adelaide Hills for a couple of weeks. It was during this little sabbatical that I invited Mick up to **Denny's place to see if we could have the yarn he'd promised me.**

It was a long night. Mick brought with him a carton of beer and a small cardboard box containing his Vietnam memorabilia - photographs, slides a couple of badges, a map and a few bits and pieces. We watched the slides, looked at the photos, drank the beer and talked: rather, I interviewed **him. Mick's story was graphic enough, all right, but** I pushed him for detail - sights, sounds, smells, feelings. Denny had set up her cassette recorder for me and I filled around nine 60-minute cassettes.

I had no idea what I was going to do with these tapes but I listened to them over and over for weeks and weeks on end - in cars, planes, hotel rooms and dressing rooms. Months later, one November Sunday morning, I took a cup of coffee, my guitar, a pad and a biro into the tiny backyard of the house in Carlton I shared with my friend, David Sier.

Sometimes songs take months to write. Sometimes **they just tumble out. I reckon I wrote "I Was Only 19" in 15 minutes. It was like it'd already been written. As proud as I am of "19", that morning I felt as if I was little more than a conduit.**

As agreed, I played the song to Mick first at a pre-**Christmas meal at his other sister's place in Belair. He didn't say much; just "You'd better go and see Frankie". I had to ask Mick several times if this meant I could present it to the band and start including it in the set list.**

The rest is well-documented history. On the

coastal tour of January 1983, I sought Frankie Hunt out in Bega. I played him the song over and over until my fingers were so sore that I begged to be allowed to sing it into his cassette player.

About a week later, in Sydney, I met a very intimidating Phil Thompson, VVAA President, along with Tim McCombe, Terry Loftus and Graham Walker. Sadly Phil is dead but the rest of the blokes are still good mates.

**The next day I played “19” to the then CEO of CBS Records, an American called Bob Jamieson. He and his executive team threw immense support and resources behind the project and facilitated my wish that the artist’s royalties be funnelled through to the VVAA. And after I recorded the song in Melbourne, Frank Hunt joined me in Sydney and he and I did endless media interviews together.**

In the months before its release in March 1983, many, many other people swung in behind the project, veterans and non-veterans alike. For the hundreds of thousands of Australians who bought the record, I suspect it was a way of saying sorry:

**“sorry we didn’t think how us marching down city streets protesting must have looked to you from the paddy-fields of Vietnam:**

**sorry we didn’t stop to ask you how you were feeling when you came home:**

**sorry we didn’t understand that this was a different war from the one our fathers fought:**

**sorry we didn’t pay attention when you tried to tell us you were crook:**

**sorry we let the government work you over.**

**Sorry.”**

The Hawke Government was elected in March 1983, and promised a Royal Commission into the effects of herbicides and insecticides on Vietnam veterans. In October 1987 Australia finally threw our Vietnam veterans a Welcome Home Parade.

**Any number of people will tell you that “I Was Only 19” was instrumental in these things. Maybe. Maybe not. It’s not for me to say. What the song did, in my view though, was demonstrate to Australians that you can oppose a war vigorously but still be supportive and respectful of the men and women the government sends to fight it. In this, I think Australia has changed quite dramatically.**

Over the years, Frankie Hunt has assumed a **prominence with regard to “I Was Only 19”** that is understandable, if not entirely justified. The fact is **that it’s Mick Storen’s story.**

**Over 20 years later, it’s easy to forget just what sort of courage and trust Mick Storen displayed when he told his story, outside the closed circle, to a songwriter in a politically outspoken band.**

**For me, “I Was Only 19” has been an amazing gift. You can’t imagine what a pleasure it is to be recognised out of the blue by a veteran or a veteran’s family member and be thanked so warmly and genuinely. You can’t imagine what it’s like to be an honorary part of the veteran community, knowing you have a bunch of mates who’ll be there for you when the wind’s blowing in the wrong direction.**

**There’s no amount of money or success that even comes close.**

Author - John Schumann August 2006

John at the War Memorial, Saigon.



The following film clip should be regarded as essential viewing. *Ed*

[Click here](#) to watch a film clip & hear the song

or type

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Urtiyp-G6jY>

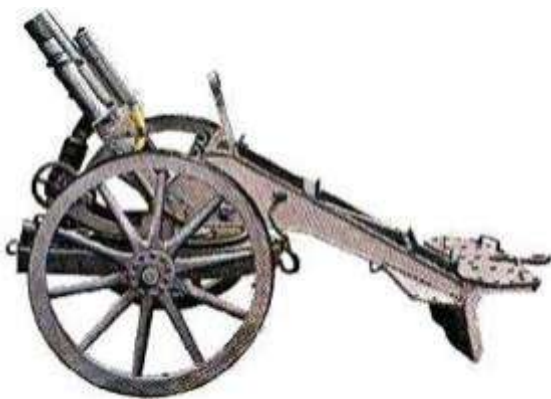
*This article courtesy of “The Eyes & Ears”, the official newsletter of the 131 Locators Assoc.*

*Relative to the picture from Maj Neil Hamer on the front cover of journal 104, the Trench Mortar has been further investigated & some interesting facts uncovered. It is in fact a German weapon used in WW1 called a Minenwerfer. Many thanks to Capt Don Taylor & SSgt Barry Irons for their research. Ed.*

Minenwerfer ("mine launcher") is the German name for a class of short range mortars used extensively during the First World War by the German Army. The weapons were intended to be used by engineers to clear obstacles including bunkers and barbed wire, that longer range artillery would not be able to accurately target.

#### Development

The Germans studied the Siege of Port Arthur, where heavy artillery had been unable to destroy defensive structures like barbed wire and bunkers. The German Military *Ingenieurkomitee* (Engineer committee) began working with Rheinmetall to study the problem in 1907.



The solution they developed was a short barrelled rifled muzzle loading mortar, built in three sizes. The largest of these was introduced first, in 1910 as the *25 CM schwerer Minenwerfer* (in English, the 25 CM large minelauncher) (sMW).

Despite weighing only 955 kg (2193 pounds) it had the same effect on targets as the 28 cm and 30.5 cm mortars, which weighed ten times as much. At the outbreak of the First World War 44 had been delivered. They were used successfully in Belgium at Liege and Namur, and against the French fortress of Maubeuge.

The weapon was developed for use by engineer troops after the Siege of Port Arthur during the Russo-Japanese War of 1905. It illustrated the usefulness of this type of weapon in destroying bunkers and field fortifications otherwise immune to normal artillery. It was a muzzle-loading, rifled mortar that had a standard hydro-spring recoil

system. It fired 50 kilogram (110 lb) HE shells, which contained far more explosive filler than ordinary artillery shells of the same calibre. The low muzzle velocity allowed for thinner shell walls, hence more space for filler. Furthermore the low velocity allowed for the use of explosives like Ammonium Nitrate-Carbon that were less shock-resistant than TNT, which was in short supply. This caused a large number of premature detonations that made crewing the minenwerfer riskier than normal artillery pieces.

A new version with a longer barrel was put into production at some point during the war. It was called the 17 CM mMW n/A (neuer Art) or new pattern while the older model was termed the a/A (alter Art) or old pattern. It is unclear what benefit this change had over the older version due to confusion in the sources.



In action the mMW was emplaced in a pit, after its wheels were removed, not less than 1.5 meters deep to protect it and its crew. It could be towed short distances by 4 men or carried by 17. Despite the extremely short range, the mMW proved to be very effective at destroying bunkers and other field fortifications. Consequently its numbers went from 116 in service when the war broke out to some 2,361 in 1918.

The light version of the weapon, the 7.58 cm *leichter Minenwerfer* (light mine launcher) (LMW) was still at the prototype stage when the war started, but rapidly entered production. The weapon was far more efficient than its artillery counterpart.

In comparison the 7.7 CM FK 96 n/A needed to be towed by a team of six horses, compared with a single horse for the LMW, additionally the LMW could be moved around the battlefield by four men.

The minenwerfer was cheaper, costing only one seventh of the price of the artillery gun, and the ammunition was cheaper.



*Note the apparent age of the soldier setting the fuze. 16!!!*

Since the muzzle velocity, and thus firing shock of the Minenwerfer was low, a variety of explosives that would usually be unsuitable for use in artillery were used to fill the shells. In any case, TNT explosive was reserved for use in artillery shells. Typically the explosives used in minenwerfers were Ammonium Nitrate-Carbon explosives. However the sensitivity of the explosives made them occasionally detonate in the tube, there were a large number of these incidents, one of which claimed the life of Karl Völler, head designer of Rheinmetall in 1916. These problems, however, were eventually overcome.

Recognizing the numerous advantages of the Minenwerfer in trench warfare, production was stepped up and by 1918 the numbers had increased dramatically to 1,234 heavy, 2,361 medium and 12,329 light Minenwerfer. A 38 cm calibre *sehr schwerer Minenwerfer* (ssMW) (in English, "very heavy mine launcher") was also developed.



## Specifications

Weight	147 kg (324 lbs)
Barrel length	23.5 centimetres (9.3 in) L/3.1
Crew	5-6
Shell	4.6 kg (10.14 lbs)
Calibre	75.8 mm (2.99 in)
Recoil	hydro-spring
Carriage	platform
Elevation	+45 to + 78 degrees
Traverse	7°
Rate of fire	6 rounds per minute
Muzzle velocity	90 m/s (259 ft/s)
Effective range	300 m (328 yds) minimum
Maximum range	1,300 m (1,421 yds)



**1910 German Large "Minenwerfer"**  
(Trench Mortar) 25 CM

## DOES HE HAVE A VOCABULARY OR WHAT....???

For the few of you who missed him, R. Lee Ermey is the host of The History Channel's "Mail Call" and played the Drill Instructor in the movie, "Full Metal Jacket." He is a retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant and a very plain speaker, as you will soon read. So, for your entertainment, here is Retired Marine Gunnery Sergeant R. Lee Ermey at his first press conference. The main topic of discussion is the Marine in Iraq who shot the Iraq insurgent to death.

We pick up as the reporter asks about how this potential war crime will affect our image in the world:

Ermey: "WHAT KIND OF A PANSY-ASSED QUESTION IS THAT?"

Reporter 1: "Well I think...."

Ermey: "THINK, FANCY BOY?! GET THIS THROUGH THAT SEPTIC TANK ON TOP OF YOUR SHOULDERS, MORON: I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU THINK, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? THAT MARINE SHOT AN ENEMY COMBATANT, SHITHEAD; SO GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS AND DEAL WITH IT BEFORE I MAKE YOU MY OWN PERSONAL PIN CUSHION!!! NEXT QUESTION: YOU IN THE BLUE SUIT."

Reporter 2: Don't you think that the world's opinion of our operations is important?

Ermey: "OH SURE! YOU DON'T KNOW THE TIMES I HAVE CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP WORRYING ABOUT WHAT SOME GODDAMNED FRENCH PANSY THINKS! OH THE DAYS I HAVE HAD TO WEEP BECAUSE SOME SHIT EATING TERRORIST SCUMBAG MIGHT BE MAD AT US, BECAUSE WE WENT INTO WHATEVER GOD FORSAKEN HOLE IN THE SHIT THAT HE LIVES IN AND KILLED HIM. WHAT THE HELL KIND OF DUMBASS QUESTION IS THAT YOU PETER-PUFFING JACKASS??"

WE ARE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA , AND WHEN YOU ATTACK US, WE ARE GOING TO COME TO YOUR HOUSE AND BLOW YOUR STINKING CAMEL-LICKING CARCASS INTO PIECES SO SMALL WE WILL BE ABLE TO BURY YOUR SORRY ASS IN A THIMBLE!!

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE THINKING. YOU ARE PROBABLY AFRAID, THINKING THAT I HAVE SUCH AN "EXTREME" ATTITUDE AND THAT I NEED TO BE MORE "SENSITIVE" TO OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. WELL LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING YOU POLE-SMOKING PANSY! I DON'T GIVE TWO SHITS WHAT YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE THINKS! THIS IS A DAMN WAR, AND IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND SUCK ON MAMMA'S TIT!! DO YOU HEAR ME YOU RUNT?? NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF MY

PRESS ROOM BEFORE I GO CRAZY AND BEAT THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF YOU!!!

NEXT QUESTION: YOU WITH THE UGLY-ASSED TIE. LOOK AT THAT THING! IT IS HIDEOUS!"

Reporter 3: "Aren't you going against the freedom of the press by.."

Ermey: "FREEDOM?? WHAT IN BLUE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FREEDOM? I HAVE SWEATED MY ASS OFF IN JUNGLES, WHILE BEING SHOT AT FOR THIS NATION!! WHAT IN THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE YOU LITTLE SHIT-SUCKING WEASEL? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PUT YOUR ASS ON THE LINE FOR ANYTHING? AND YET YOU HAVE THE UNMITIGATED TEMERITY TO SHOW UP HERE AND MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK THE ACTIONS OF A BRAVE MARINE, WHO WAS DEFENDING HIMSELF AND HIS UNIT FROM AN ATTACK BY SOME MURDEROUS AL-QUEDA SYMPATHIZER!!!

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT I AM CONCERNED ABOUT, NUMB-NUTS? I AM CONCERNED ABOUT A BUNCH OF GRABASSTIC, ORGANIZED MORONS WITH CAMERAS AND MICROPHONES DOING THEIR BEST TO PORTRAY OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN AS WAR CRIMINALS! I AM CONCERNED ABOUT CHICKEN-SHIT PANSIES THAT WANT US TO NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS AND WHINE ABOUT THEIR PISS-ANT "FREEDOMS"!!"

Reporter 3: "I ..."

Ermey: "DID YOU HAVE A BIG BOWL OF STUPID FOR BREAKFAST THIS MORNING, NUMBNUTS? I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER WORD OUT OF THAT COMMIE CRY HOLE IN THAT SHIT-PILE YOU CALL A HEAD! AND THAT GOES TRIPLE FOR THE REST OF YOU PANSY-ASSED MORONS! NOW GET THE HELL OUT OF MY PRESS ROOM BEFORE I SHOVE MY BOOT SO FAR UP YOUR ASS THAT YOU CHOKE TO DEATH ON MY SHOELACES!!!!"

Drill Instructors have such a way with words - God bless 'em all!

*Thanks to WO2 Craig Cooke for submitting this article.*

*I make no apologies for including this article "as is". Despite some of it being somewhat "over the top", I believe it is refreshing to hear some straight talking in lieu of "wishy-washy" comments by most politicians. Ed.*

## Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS)

*Major M. R Hartas SPM Battle Management System - Fires LAND 17*

### Introduction

Joint Project 2085 Phase 1 Bravo (JP 2085 Ph IB) will provide a limited introduction into service of the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS) in order to support of Army's introduction into service of XM982 Excalibur, Artillery Precision Guided Munitions (APGM) and Smart 155 Artillery Delivered High Precision Munitions (ADHPM) capabilities.

In mid 2011, Land 17 (Artillery Replacement) Project will introduce into service a digitised, automated and networked Battle Management System - Fires, Command & Control system (BMS-F (C2)). In June 2008 the Minister for Defence agreed to the pre-selection of the AFATDS as Army's solution for the BMS-F (C2).

Initially the RAA will see the AFATDS software hosted on the Version Two UNIX Laptops (V2) hardware (Figure 1-1), however, in the longer term it is envisaged that the AFATDS software will be hosted on the GETAC M230 rugged notebook (Figure 1-2).



Figure 1-1 V2 UNIX



Figure 1-2 GETAC M230

### AFATDS Overview

When introduced into service by Land 17, AFATDS will fill the BMS-F (C2) role for the land battle space. The BMS-F (C2) aids in managing operational and tactical fires in support of the Manoeuvre Arms Commander's (MAC) plan as well as providing a means of technical control of the fire platforms.

BMS-F (C2) is a fully automated fire support tool, which minimises the sensor-to-shooter timelines and accuracies normally associated with legacy systems, equipment and procedures. It provides fully automated support to fires planning,

coordination and control of but not limited to mortars, howitzers, close air support and naval surface fires.

AFATDS will be fielded by the RAA as the BMS-F (C2) solution for all fires echelons from Brigade Joint-Fires and Effects Coordination Centres (BDEJFECC) to Troop Command Post (TCP).

The system prioritises targets and pairs them with the optimal weapons platform for a given mission profile. It provides commander's with an accurate, timely and a coordinated approach to fires prosecution.

Although AFATDS is highly automated in process, it does allow human intervention at every phase of processing and should there be a requirement to intervene, options and recommendations are presented to the commander by AFATDS, based on the rule sets established initially by the commander in 'commanders' guidance. The Commander defined rule sets exist for target processing, weapon pairing, information distribution (different to mission processing) and communications redundancy to name but a few.

Unit command / support relationships are also flexible in nature to support the fires environment and to deal with real time changes in accordance with the evolving land battle space. The system functionality allows fires planners and commanders great agility in establishing and maintaining the sensor-to-shooter link while ensuring mission coordination needs are considered.

AFATDS and the joint Mapping Tool Kit (JMTK) software displays, potentially from a multitude of sources, friendly and enemy Situational Awareness (SA) graphics (map symbol) and information. From each respective AFATDS terminal in the fire network, the commander can filter the displayed information at his terminal through the use of overlays. This use of overlays allows local fires commander's to monitor and remain situationally aware of the dynamic **'current' situation, missions processing and target** updates from his focused perspective without being flooded with information overload.

Some of the fire support areas supported by AFATDS are as follows:

#### Fire Support Planning.

Fire support planning provides integration of howitzers, mortars, Naval Surface Fires Ships (NSFS) and both fixed and rotary winged air

support into the commander's scheme of manoeuvre. AFATDS can aid in the creation of a Fire Support Annex to the commander's Operation Order (OPORD) or implement and execute the direction provided in an OPORD.

#### Fire Execution.

Fire execution is guided by the fire support plan. It performs sensor employment, target processing, attack system analysis and technical fire direction for howitzer units.

#### Fire Direction Operations.

Fire direction operations include the collection and maintenance of weapon platform, fire unit and ammunition status data required for day to day Artillery operations. This information is readily available and visible at all Artillery echelons and can either be displayed in detailed or aggregate form and would be utilised to inform all echelons in support of planning and execution requirements.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, AFATDS is an agile fire support tool. It provides fires commanders' with selectable, detailed guidance's derived from the staff planning process, that provide AFATDS with the necessary 'RULES' to be utilised during the analysis and processing of fire missions. It is important however to realise that the computer possesses no intelligence and only implements the guidance provided. This allows decisions, arrived at in planning to be executed rapidly during the hectic periods of activity that characterise modern manoeuvre operations.

*Courtesy of RAA Liaison Letter 2009*

This is a late insertion that will not appear in the printed version.

## THE GUNNER DINNER IS CANCELLED.

This notice is included to express our disappointment in the lack of response from our members. Only 24 had indicated they would attend & approx 20 apologies were received. Your committee will need to consider the future of the dinner. If a decision is made to remove the dinner from our calendar of events, it will indeed be a tragedy as another of our **"traditional" functions disappears.**

It is up to you to prevent this occurring. If a survey is conducted, please give your full consideration to the association before replying negatively. Rather, be positive & indicate your willingness to attend future functions.

Ed

**On November 11, 1999** Terry Kelly was in a drug store in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. At 10:55am an announcement came over the stores PA asking customers who would still be on the premises at 11:00am to give two minutes of silence in respect to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for us.

Terry was impressed with the stores leadership role in adopting the Legions two minutes of silence initiative. He felt that the stores contribution of educating the public to the importance of remembering was commendable.

**When eleven o'clock arrived on that day, an** announcement was again made asking for the two minutes of silence to commence. All customers, with the exception of a man who was accompanied by his young child, showed their respect.

**Terry's anger towards the father for trying to** engage the stores clerk in conversation and for setting a bad example for his child was channelled into a beautiful piece of work called A Pittance of Time. Terry later recorded A Pittance of Time and included it on his full-length music CD, The Power of the Dream.

Thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion Todmorden Branch #10 and Woodbine Height Branch #2 for their participation in the Video.

Please visit [www.terry-kelly.com](http://www.terry-kelly.com)

### **Terry Kelly A Pittance Of Time lyrics**

They fought and some died for their homeland.  
They fought and some died, now it's our land.  
Look at his little child; there's no fear in her eyes.  
Could he not show respect for other dads who have died?

Take two minutes, would you mind?  
It's a pittance of time,  
For the boys and the girls who went over.  
In peace may they rest, may we never  
Forget why they died.  
It's a pittance of time.

God forgive me for wanting to strike him.  
Give me strength so as not to be like him.  
My heart pounds in my breast, fingers pressed to  
my lips,  
My throat wants to bawl out, my tongue barely  
resists.

But two minutes I will bide.  
It's a pittance of time,  
For the boys and the girls who went over.  
In peace may they rest.  
May we never forget why they died.  
It's a pittance of time.

Read the letters and poems of the heroes at home.  
They have casualties, battles, and fears of their  
own.  
There's a price to be paid if you go, if you stay.  
Freedom's fought for and won in numerous ways.

Take two minutes, would you mind?  
It's a pittance of time,  
For the boys and the girls all over.  
May we never forget, our young become vets.  
At the end of the line,  
It's a pittance of time.

It takes courage to fight in your own war.  
It takes courage to fight someone else's war.  
Our peacekeepers tell of their own living hell.  
They bring hope to foreign lands that hate  
mongers can't kill.

Take two minutes, would you mind?  
It's a pittance of time,  
For the boys and the girls who go over.  
In peacetime our best still don battle dress  
And lay their lives on the line.  
It's a pittance of time

In peace may they rest,  
Lest we forget why they died,  
Take a pittance of time.

*Please take the time to [Click here](#) or type the url below into your browser to see the live performance in the supermarket.*

*This is another clip that also should be regarded as essential viewing as it is a very moving experience, one that all will relate to. Ed.*

*[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kX\\_3y3u5Uo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kX_3y3u5Uo)*

## An Aussie hero Bayne Kelly's long wait for US medal worth it



BAYNE "Gus" Kelly was a 21-year-old conscript fighting in the Vietnam War when he became a hero during a bloody battle that left four Australians dead and six badly wounded.

But he was a 62-year-old husband and father of three before the US Medal for Valour he earned on that day was finally pinned on his chest this week.

An artillery observer attached to the 3rd Battalion, Gunner Kelly fought for nine hours against a determined enemy after his unit walked into an enemy bunker system in June 1971.

"It was a serious battle," Mr Kelly said.

The young man from Bellevue Hill in Sydney saved several badly wounded colleagues and, under intense enemy fire, tried to extract the crew of a downed Australian resupply helicopter - unaware that all of them were dead. "A shot-down chopper loaded with 200,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition is not a pretty sight," he said.

Mr Kelly, from the Townsville based "A" Field Battery, saw his commanding officer Lieutenant Ian Mathers shot dead right beside him.

The battle of Long Khanh was part of a US-led push called Operation Overlord that involved joint US-Australian battalion-sized elements.

A decade after the battle, Mr Kelly received a letter from the US Army telling him that he had been awarded the high-level US Army Commendation Medal for Valour. It would take 13

months for the Australian Army to extract the medal from a drawer in Canberra and post it to him and until 2008 before he was allowed to wear the foreign honour alongside his Australian awards.

At a low-key ceremony at the US Consulate in Sydney this week, US Ambassador Jeff Bleich finally pinned the medal on Mr Kelly's chest in front of his wife Margaret, their three sons and other family and friends including comrades from 1971.

"I am very pleased to finally receive it and it closes a chapter in my life," Mr Kelly said.

"I have no regrets, it was an incredibly interesting time and I was lucky to survive, marry a good woman, raise a family and run a successful business."

He was also impressed with the US government and how it managed the process.

Unfortunately Mr Kelly has no experience of the Australian system, because he was not even awarded a Mentioned In Dispatches (MID) let alone a gallantry award by his own government for his heroics on the battlefield.

*Courtesy Maj David Osborne  
and the Daily Telegraph*

*This article is a follow on from journal 108, p13. Ed*

### No hiding place from new U.S. Army rifles that use smart bullets

Weapon hailed as a game-changer that can fire up and over barriers and down into trenches. Soldiers will start using them in Afghanistan later this month

The U.S. army is to begin using a futuristic rifle that fires radio-controlled 'smart' bullets in Afghanistan for the first time, it has emerged.

The XM25 rifle uses bullets that be programmed to explode when they have travelled a set distance, allowing enemies to be targeted no matter where they are hiding. The rifle also has a range of 2,300 feet making it possible to hit targets which are well out of the reach of conventional rifles. The XM25 is being developed specially for the U.S. army and will be deployed with troops from later this month, it was revealed today.

The XM25 Counter Defilade Target Engagement System has a range of roughly 2,300 feet - and is to be deployed in Afghanistan this month

The rifle's gun sight uses a laser rangefinder to determine the exact distance to the obstruction, after which the soldier can add or subtract up to 3 metres from that distance to enable the bullets to clear the barrier and explode above or beside the target. Soldiers will be able to use them to target snipers hidden in trenches rather than calling in air strikes. The 25-millimetre round contains a chip that receives a radio signal from the gun sight as to the precise distance to the target. Lt. Col. Christopher **Lehner, project manager for the system, described the weapon as a 'game-changer' that other nations will try and copy.** He expects the Army to buy 12,500 of the XM25 rifles this year, enough for every member of the infantry and special forces.

**Lehner told FoxNews: 'With this weapon system, we take away cover from [enemy targets] forever. 'Tactics are going to have to be rewritten. The only thing we can see [enemies] being able to do is run away.'**

Experts say the rifle means that enemy troops will no longer be safe if they take cover

The XM25 appears a perfect weapon for street-to-street fighting that troops in Afghanistan have to engage in, with enemy fighters hiding behind walls and only breaking cover to fire occasionally. The weapon's laser finder would work out how far away the enemy was and then the U.S. soldier would add one metre using a button near the trigger. When fired, the explosive round would carry exactly one metre past the wall and explode with the force of a hand grenade above the Taliban fighter.

The army's project manager for new weapons, Douglas Tamilio, said: "This is the first leap-ahead technology for troops that we've been able to develop and deploy."

A patent granted to the bullet's maker, Alliant Techsystems, reveals that the chip can calculate how far it has travelled.

Mr Tamilio said: 'You could shoot a Javelin missile, and it would cost £43,000. These rounds will end up costing £15.50 apiece. They're relatively cheap.

**Lehner added: 'This is a game-changer. The enemy has learned to get cover, for hundreds if not thousands of years. 'Well, they can't do that anymore. We're taking that cover from them and there's only two outcomes: We're going to get you behind that cover or force you to flee.'**

The rifle will initially use high-explosive rounds, but its makers say that it might later use versions with smaller explosive charges that aim to stun rather than kill.

*Pictures next page. Ed*



## SKY HIGH LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE

**M**ANY soldiers have heard the story of how UK 2 Para's CO, Lt-Col 'H' Jones VC, was killed leading his battalion against Argentinean trenches in the 1982 Falklands War.

Not many know that the young para who took out the Argentinean bunker from where those fatal shots were possibly fired is now a captain in the Australian Army deployed to the Solomon Islands.

CTF 635 quartermaster Capt Dave Abols was a 24-year-old corporal in 1982 when he saw his CO hit during the Battle of Goose Green.

Standing up and exposing himself to withering fire, he fired a 66mm rocket into the Argentine command bunker, causing them to surrender shortly after.

He was credited with turning the tide of that battle, and later awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Capt Abols was much more modest when he spoke about it recently.

"It's like any soldier will tell you, the first thing you have to do is win the fire fight," he said.

"Winning the fire-fight means getting the enemies' heads down so they can't fire back at you and you can manoeuvre forward.

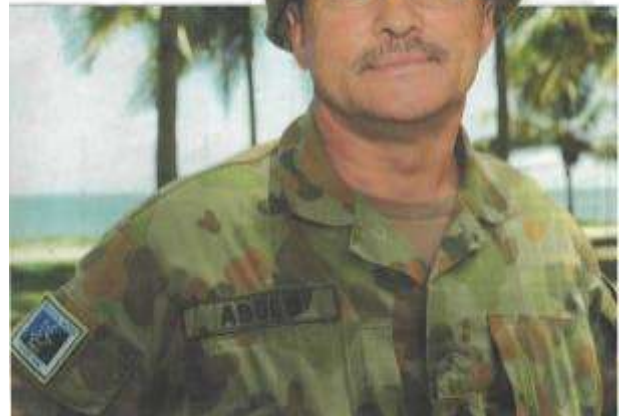
"The 66 actually got their heads down, which gave us a golden opportunity, albeit only for a few minutes, to move forward."

Another para who was there claimed in a recent book then-Cpl Abols should have been awarded the VC rather than Lt-Col Jones.

Capt Abols said everybody had their own perception of war.

"At the end of the day, the only people who deserve medals are the dead ones," he said. "I'll wear

Story: Sgt Dave Morley  
Photo: Cpl Janine Fabre



whatever I've got with pride." He has deployed with both 2 and 3 Para to Northern Ireland "six or seven times", with two of those tours stretching to two years each, Belize twice, and Iraq on Operation Telic3.

Capt Abols' father, Viktorus, who was born and bred in Latvia, was also a soldier.

"When the Russians came down they were taking all the Baltic states, and Latvians hated communism, so Dad joined the German Legionnaires when Adolf Hitler was raising some Baltic states battalions," he said.

"I presume he spent most of his time on the Russian Front, in the German Army, and finished up a sergeant in a reconnaissance battalion."

Capt Abols joined the Australian Army in May 2005.

"The instructor who took me through my jungle warfare instructor's course in Brunei was an Aussie Army senior NCO, so I had a good chat with him," he said.

"Joining the Aussie Army was a golden opportunity I just couldn't miss, it was a new challenge with a better quality of life." *Courtesy Army News*



This is very interesting to watch. WTC Memorial  
Get a first hand look at the new memorial to be dedicated on September 11, 2011  
click below:

[World Trade Center Memorial](#)

## Photographs from The Great War.

From Geoff Walker.

Following the death of my father, Alan Walker, in 1974, and the death of my mother shortly after, my brother, Alan and I had the unwelcome task of clearing out our parents home, prior to its sale.

During the clearing out, I accidentally came across an old book of photos apparently taken by my father during the Great War. Photos in the book had, in the main, been given a short title, but not a description. Neither my brother nor I had ever seen the book before, and my father had never given me any details of his army service during the war. Included in the photos were a number of my father in various locations. I understand that Army policy at that time discouraged the use of cameras by unauthorized personnel, but this may not be correct.

Following my own retirement, I became interested in family history, a hobby that has consumed countless hours of searching and recording. During **these enquiries, I obtained a copy of my father's Army Records from Canberra.**

These records show that Alan Walker had enlisted on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1915, aged twenty years six months, **and detail on his " Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad " showed previous army service as Senior Cadets and Field Artillery at Albert Park for eighteen months. Following duty with the Depot Battalion at Castlemaine Alan was transferred to the Army Medical Corps in 1916, then to Number 14 Army General Hospital, embarkation from Australia on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1916, and later again transfer to the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Field Ambulance, attached to the 12<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment. Dates of transfers had minor variations; it seems that the "Paper War" couldn't keep up with the main event. Both the 4<sup>th</sup>. Light Horse and the 12<sup>th</sup>Light Horse Regiments were units who took part in the now famous "Charge on Beersheba".**

A number of the photos in the book were noted as **"Captured Turkish General and Staff". This incident was described briefly at the end of chapter 33 of a book, titled "The Desert Column", written by the well known Australian author, Ion Idriess. Idriess was a Trooper in the 5<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, and his book records his time in the army from service on Gallipoli in May 1915 until his repatriation to Australia, as unfit for further service, early in 1918.**

Considering the numbers of casualties inflicted on the A.I.F, Idriess was a lucky man to survive those years.

Of general interest was a photo of a group, possibly Senior Cadets or Militia during compulsory training, taken at Site 17, Seymour. This site was still being used when I attended Annual CMF camps there from 1949 onwards. I do not think that any improvements had been made to facilities at that time, tents, rose bowls, and sanitary cans were still the order of the day.



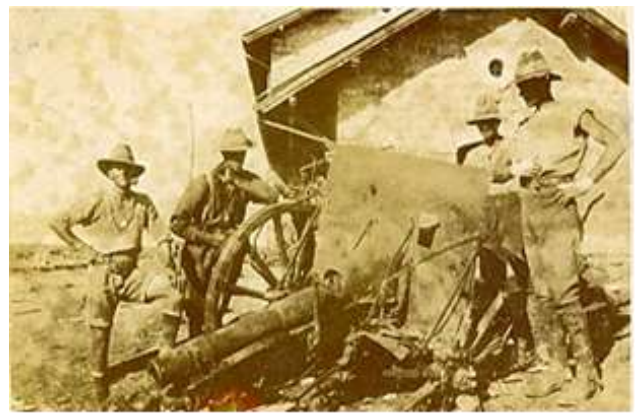
(Note variations of head wear and uniforms. Appears to be a mess parade. Type of leggings with wound strapping usually indicated Light Horse, Artillery, or in some cases, Signals. Different colours of puggarees possibly identify branch. Photo probably taken about 1912/1913.)

**Light Horse Trooper in usual dress.**





Armored Car near Abasia



After Beersheba.



Ambulance Convoy, Egypt.



Trophies Beersheba.

The following photo is NOT from my father's collection, but is taken from another source to add to my own collection. It may be of interest to all.



This photo of the charge at Beersheba was originally thought to be taken on the day of the charge, but later was thought to have been taken as a staged event on the day following the charge.

A note from Ion Idriess's book, "The Desert Column". When the captured Turk General was taken to the Australian Brigadier, he complained bitterly of disgusting coarseness of his captors, and demanded that some of them be shot. The Brigadier looked like he was going to explode, but saved himself and roared back, "Well it was damned funny, wasn't it ?

## Combat Firearms "Report Card" from Afghanistan

This email is from a Marine who's in Afghanistan; his buddy Jordan provides many of the details.

No politics here; just a Marine with a bird's eye view opinion.

### US Weapons:

1) The M-16 rifle: Thumbs down. Chronic jamming problems with the talcum powder like sand over there. The sand is everywhere. Jordan says you feel filthy 2 minutes after coming out of the shower. The M-4 carbine version is more popular because it's lighter and shorter, but it has jamming problems also. They lack the ability to mount the various optical gun sights and weapons lights on the pica tinny rails, but the weapon itself is not great in a desert environment.

They all hate the 5.56mm (.223) round. Poor penetration on the cinder block structure common over there and even torso hits can't be reliably counted on to put the enemy down.

Fun fact:

1) Random autopsies on dead insurgents show a high level of opiate use.

2) The M243 SAW (squad assault weapon): .223 cal. Drum fed light machine gun. Big thumbs down. Universally considered a piece of shit. Chronic jamming problems, most of which require partial dis-assembly (that's fun in the middle of a firefight).

3) The M9 Beretta 9mm: Mixed bag. Good gun performs well in desert environment; but they all hate the 9mm cartridge. The use of handguns for self-defense is actually fairly common. Same old story on the 9mm: Bad guys hit multiple times and still in the fight.

4) Mossberg 12ga. Military shotgun: Works well, used frequently for clearing houses to good effect. (Great weapon - I used these when transporting prisoners.

5) The M240 Machine Gun: 7.62 NATO (.308) cal. belt fed machine gun, developed to replace the old M-60 (what a beautiful weapon that was!!) Thumbs up. Accurate, reliable, and the 7.62 round puts 'em down. Originally developed as a vehicle mounted weapon, more and more are being dismounted and taken into the field by infantry.

The 7.62 round chews up the structure over there.

6) The M2 50 cal heavy machine gun: Thumbs way, way up. "Ma Deuce" is still worth her considerable weight in gold. The ultimate fight stopper - puts their dicks in the dirt every time. The most coveted weapon in-theater.

7) The .45 pistol: Thumbs up. Still the best pistol around out there. Everybody authorized to carry a sidearm is trying to get their hands on one. With few exceptions, one can reliably be expected to put 'em down with a torso hit. The special ops guys (who are doing most of the pistol work) use the HK military model and supposedly love it. The old government model .45's are being re-issued en masse.

8) The M-14: Thumbs up. They are being re-issued in bulk, mostly in a modified version to special ops guys. Modifications include lightweight Kevlar stocks and low power red dot or ACOG sights. Very reliable in the sandy environment, and they love the 7.62 round.

9) The Barrett .50 cal sniper rifle: Thumbs way up. Spectacular range and accuracy and hits like a freight train. Used frequently to take out vehicle suicide bombers (we actually stop a lot of them) and barricaded enemy. It is definitely here to stay.

10) The M24 sniper rifle: Thumbs up. Mostly in .308 but some in 300 win mag. Heavily modified Remington 700's. Great performance. Snipers have been used heavily to great effect. Rumour has it a marine sniper on his third tour in Anbar province has actually exceeded Carlos Hathcock's record for confirmed kills with OVER 100.

11) The new body armour: Thumbs up. Relatively light at approx. 6 lbs. and can reliably be expected to soak up small shrapnel and even will stop an AK-47 round.

The bad news: Hot as shit to wear, almost unbearable in the summer heat (which averages over 120 degrees). Also, the enemy now goes for head shots whenever possible. All the bullshit about the "old" body armour making our guys vulnerable to the IED's was a non-starter. The IED explosions are enormous and body armour doesn't make any difference at all in most cases.

12) Night Vision and Infrared Equipment: Thumbs way up. Spectacular performance. Our guys see in the dark and own the night, period. Very little enemy action after evening prayers. More and

more enemy being whacked at night during movement by our hunter-killer teams. We've all seen the videos.

13) Lights: Thumbs up. Most of the weapon mounted and personal lights are Surefire's, and the troops love 'em. Invaluable for night urban operations. Jordan carried a \$34 Surefire G2 on a neck lanyard and loved it. I can't help but notice that most of the good fighting weapons and ordnance are 50 or more years old!! With all our technology, it's the WWII and Vietnam era weapons that everybody wants!! The infantry fighting is frequent, up close and brutal. No quarter is given or shown.

### Bad guy weapons:

1) Mostly AK47's. The entire country is an arsenal. Works better in the desert than the M16 and the .308 Russian round kills reliably. PKM belt fed light machine guns are also common and effective. Luckily, the enemy mostly shoots like shit. Undisciplined "spray and pray" type fire. However, they are seeing more and more precision weapons, especially sniper rifles. ( Iran , again)

2) The RPG: Probably the infantry weapon most feared by our guys. Simple, reliable and as common as dog shit. The enemy responded to our up-armoured Humvees by aiming at the windshields, often at point blank range. Still killing a lot of our guys.

3) The IED: The biggest killer of all. Can be anything from old Soviet anti-armour mines to jury rigged artillery shells. A lot found in Jordan 's area were in abandoned cars. The enemy would take 2 or 3 155 mm artillery shells and wire them together. Most were detonated by cell phone and the explosions are enormous. You're not safe in any vehicle, even an M1 tank. Driving is by far the most dangerous thing our guys do over there. Lately, they are much more sophisticated shape charges (Iranian) specifically designed to penetrate armour.

Fact: Most of the ready made IED's are supplied by Iran , who is also providing terrorists (Hezbollah types) to train the insurgents in their use and tactics. That's why the attacks have been so deadly lately. Their concealment methods are ingenious, the latest being shape charges, in Styrofoam containers spray painted to look like the cinderblocks that litter all Iraqi roads. We find

about 40% before they detonate, and the bomb disposal guys are unsung heroes of this war.

4) Mortars and rockets: Very prevalent. The soviet era 122mm rockets (with an 18km range) are becoming more prevalent. One of Jordan 's NCO's lost a leg to one. These weapons cause a lot of damage "inside the wire". Jordan's base was hit almost daily his entire time there by mortar and rocket fire, often at night to disrupt sleep patterns and cause fatigue (it did). More of a psychological weapon than anything else. The enemy mortar teams would jump out of vehicles, fire a few rounds, and then haul ass in a matter of seconds.

Fun fact: Captured enemy have apparently marvelled at the marksmanship of our guys and how hard they fight. They are apparently told in Jihad school that the Americans rely solely on technology, and can be easily beaten in close quarters combat for their lack of toughness. Let's just say they know better now.

Bad guy technology: Simple yet effective. Most communication is by cell and satellite phones and also by email on laptops. They use handheld GPS units for navigation and "Google Earth" for overhead views of our positions. Their weapons are good, if not fancy, and prevalent. Their explosives and bomb technology is TOP OF THE LINE. Night vision is rare. They are very careless with their equipment and the GPS units and laptops are treasure troves of Intel when captured.

Who are the bad guys? These are mostly "foreigners", non-Afghan Arab Jihadists from all over the Muslim world (and Europe). Some are virtually untrained young Jihadists that often end up as suicide bombers or in various "sacrifice squads". Most, however, are hard core terrorists from all the usual suspects (Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas etc.). These are the guys running around murdering civilians en masse and cutting heads off.

The Chechens (many of whom are Caucasian) are supposedly the most ruthless and the best fighters. They have been fighting the Russians for years. The terrorists have been very adept at infiltrating the Afghan local govt.'s, the police forces and the Army. They have had a spy and agitator network there since the Iran-Iraq war in the early 80's.

Bad Guy Tactics: When they are engaged on an infantry level they get their asses kicked every time! Brave, but stupid. Suicidal Banzai-type charges were very common earlier in the war and

still occur. They will literally sacrifice 8-10 man teams in suicide squads by sending them screaming and firing AK's and RPG's directly at our bases just to probe the defenses. They get mowed down like grass every time (see the M2 and M240 above). **Jordan's base was hit like this often. When engaged, they have a tendency to flee to the same building, probably for what they think will be a glorious last stand. Instead, we call in air and that's the end of that more often than not. These hole-ups are referred to as Alpha Whiskey Romeo's (Allah's Waiting Room).**

We have the laser guided ground-air thing down to a science. The fast mover's, mostly Marine F-18's, are taking an ever increasing toll on the enemy. When caught out in the open, the helicopter gunships and AC-130 Spectre Gunships cut them to ribbons with cannon and rocket fire, especially at night. Interestingly, artillery is hardly used at all.

Fun facts: The enemy death toll is supposedly between 45-50 thousand. That is why we're seeing less and less infantry attacks and more IED, suicide bomber shit. The new strategy is just simple attrition. The insurgent tactic most frustrating is their use of civilian non-combatants as cover. They know we do all we can to avoid civilian casualties and therefore schools, hospitals and especially Mosques are locations where they meet, stage for attacks, cache weapons, and ammo and flee to when engaged. They have absolutely no regard whatsoever for inflicting civilian casualties. They will terrorize locals and murder without hesitation anyone believed to be sympathetic to the Americans. Kidnapping of family members, especially children, is common to influence people they are trying to influence but can't reach, such as local govt. officials, clerics, tribal leaders, etc. The first thing our guys are told is "don't get captured". They know that if captured they will be tortured and beheaded on the internet. They openly offer bounties for anyone who brings in a live American serviceman. This motivates the criminal element who otherwise don't give a shit about the war. A lot of the beheading victims were actually kidnapped by common criminals and sold to them. As such, for our guys, every fight is to the death. Surrender is not an option. The Afghani's are a mixed bag. Some fight well; others aren't worth a damn. Most do okay with American support.

Finding leaders is hard, but they are getting better. Many Afghani's were galvanized and the calibre of recruits in the Army and the police forces went right up, along with their motivation. It also led to an exponential increase in good intel because the Afghani's are sick of the insurgent attacks against civilians.

Morale: According to Jordan, morale among our guys is very high. They not only believe that they are winning, but that they are winning decisively. They are stunned and dismayed by what they see in the American press, whom they almost universally view as against them. The embedded reporters are despised and distrusted. They are inflicting casualties at a rate of 20-1 and then see shit like "Are we losing in Iraq" on TV and the print media. For the most part, they are satisfied with their equipment, food, and leadership. Bottom line though, and they all say this, is that there are not enough guys there to drive the final stake through the heart of the insurgency, primarily because there aren't enough troops in-theater to shut down the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Iranians and the Syrians just can't stand the thought of Afghanistan being an American ally (with, of course, permanent US bases there).

Anyway, that's it, hope you found it interesting.

*Thanks to SSgt Reg Morrell for this interesting article.*

---

*This puts to shame the output of a number of Hollywood producers and/or directors. All I can say is WOW!!!!!!*

*This film was made by a 15 year old girl. It is the hottest thing on the Internet and on Fox News today. Lizzie Palmer who put this YouTube program together, is 15 years old. There have been over 3,000,000 hits and .. In case you missed it, here it is. Watch all of it.....and, pass it on!!*

<http://www.youtube.com/v/ervaMPt4Ha0&autoplay=1>

## 90 Years of Royalty

*The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will tomorrow (13/8) mark 90 years since the title of 'Royal' was bestowed.*

*"The history of the RAAF's founding is quite interesting; it involves several dates that could be considered the RAAF's birthday," said RAAF historian Dr Chris Clark*

*"During World War I, the squadrons of the Australian Flying Corps (AFC) were part of the Australian Imperial Force and were attached to the larger British formations of the Royal Flying Corps and from 1918 the Royal Air Force.*

*"On 1 January 1920, the AFC was replaced by the Australian Air Corps, which was itself officially succeeded on 31 March 1921 by the 'Australian Air Force'.*

*"Although the RAAF celebrates its birthday on 31 March 1921, the date from which the service was officially known as the Australian Air Force, in February of the same year the decision had already been made to ask the King to grant the 'Royal' title.*

*"On 18 August 1921, the Commonwealth Gazette printed the order signed by the Governor-General on 13 August, approving of the 'Royal' title," Dr Clark said.*

The service was held at Bomana War Cemetery, a scenic and beautifully presented burial ground for more than 3500 Allied service members.

The tri-service AFG contingent conducted a flawless catafalque party.

Catafalque party commander (CPL Russell Cox-Brogan said "the members did us proud".

"It was a great privilege leading the members of the catafalque party" he said.

"They are a highly motivated and professional team who rehearsed to ensure they were perfect on the day. I couldn't have been more proud."

High Commissioner to PNG Ian Kemish, Defence Parliamentary Secretary David Feeney, senior PNG Defence personnel, fuzzy wuzzy angels and their families attended the ceremony.

Senator Feeney thanked the fuzzy wuzzy angels for their dedication and loyalty to the Australian soldiers.

"We are forever indebted to the kindness and the invaluable assistance they provided to Australians during World War II", he said.

Veterans' Affairs Commemorations Manager Tim Evans introduced the recipients

"This medallion is a symbol of Australia's appreciation for the care and assistance extended by the PNG civilians to Australian servicemen during World War II!" he said.

"Many Australians, wounded and suffering terrible illnesses, owe their lives to these civilians, who came known as fuzzy wuzzy angels", he said.

The fuzzy wuzzy angels were civilians employed by the Australian administration. "They carried supplies to the troops and helped evacuate the badly wounded and sick.

The tradition of the fuzzy wuzzy angel is synonymous with the infamous Kokoda I Trail.

*Courtesy of Defence Media Centre*

## TRIBUTE TO FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS



SACRIFICE HONOURED. ABBM Shane Chinnock, PTE Jessica Mather, Kokoda Village Cmsf Benjamin Ijurni, PTE Kyle Banfield and LAC Luke Greene in PNG. Photo and article: LAC Bill Sotomou

AUSTRALIA'S Federation Guard (AFG) participated in a fuzzy wuzzy angel commemorative medallion ceremony in Papua New Guinea (PNG) on July 24.

**Micro Air Vehicles (MAV's) are an amazing future technology that have been under development by the USAF for many years. Click the link for a look into the future (of war).**

<http://video.designworldonline.com/bugbots.html>

*The following is an edited transcript. ed*

SENATOR DAVID FEENEY  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE  
DEFENCE RESERVES ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
KESWICK BARRACKS  
20 AUGUST 2011  
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

### ADF RESERVES CAPABILITY: WHERE TO NOW?

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me very great pleasure to be here today. This is my second DRA conference as Parliamentary Secretary for Defence.

I would like to thank Rear Admiral Bennett for her presentation and contribution today which provides us with a greater understanding of how one of our closest allies and friends – Canada – approaches the issue of optimising Reserve capability.

I am proud to say that it has been my absolute privilege to visit Headquarters Second Division and each of the Brigade Headquarters during the past year to meet Commanders, RSMs, officers and soldiers. I have been fortunate enough to attend farewell and welcome home parades for Reserve contingents and meet soldiers, officers and their families. I have witnessed first hand Reserves on operation ANODE in the Solomon Islands, training at Canungra for Reserves deploying to East Timor on OP ASTUTE, and training at Irwin Barracks for CHOGM.

I have been impressed not only by the capability delivered by Reserve units but by the obvious camaraderie and mateship that exists in each of the Brigades, and the extension of this feeling of inclusiveness and belonging to the families and friends of Reservists, former Reservists, Employers and those organisations, like the DRA that support Reserves.

If I could single out one word which captures the qualities I have seen displayed in the Reserve community during the past year – I would single out TEAMWORK.

In late 2010, Minister Smith and I decided that the “**Rebalancing Army Review Implementation Plan,**” including the Army Reserve Approved Future Force

would not be progressed.

In the months since then Army and the Reserve community have approached the renewed and complex task of developing a modernisation plan **which would optimise the Reserves’ contribution** to capability within a Total Force construct with determination and collaboration. This sense of collaboration was embodied in the Reserve Modernisation Workshops and the open consultation process which has shaped and influenced PLAN BEERSHEBA.

At its core Plan BEERSHEBA seeks to optimise the **Reserve’s contribution to capability within Army’s Total Force** by incorporating the Reserve into **Army’s force generation cycle.**

This is to be achieved by first, clearly defining the tasks that the Army Reserve will undertake to deliver specified capability in order to support and sustain ADF preparedness and operations.

The Army Reserve is required to deliver four core tasks.

The first task and the main effort is to deliver specified war fighting capabilities with a strong emphasis on Stabilisation Operations. This is the type of operation which has a strong humanitarian element and has regrettably become the type of operation most common in our global and regional community. This type of operation is an essential capability the Government requires of the ADF and it is the type of operation that Reserves have proven to be highly adept at.

No less important is the second task required of the Army Reserve – providing domestic Humanitarian Aid and Domestic Response as part of a Whole of Government approach. We all know how invaluable this role has been, especially to those Australians affected by recent natural disasters.

The Reserve is also tasked with providing and maintaining individual capabilities and contributing to Army surge capabilities.

Clearly the Reserve has been entrusted with significant and important roles and tasks as part of a total force.

The Reserve Modernisation Workshops determined that these Reserve capabilities should be developed and generated through two primary mechanisms:

- First, through integrated effects generated from habitual partnerships that are to be developed between Regular and Reserve brigades. In essence, **it is proposed that each of the Army's three Regular Multi-Role Manoeuvre Brigades should develop a habitual relationship with, and be supported by, two of the Reserve's Multi-Role Brigades.** These two ARes brigades will be required to generate a battle group for a 12 month period each 36 months aligned to the multi-role manoeuvre brigade 'Ready Phase' of the Force Generation Cycle.

- Second, through increased structural integration of Reserve units and sub-units with the **Army's three Regular specialist brigades** – the 6th Brigade (which is responsible for Combat Support and ISTAR), the 16th Aviation Brigade, and the 17th Combat Services Support Brigade.

While the outcome has not been finalised, under Plan BEERSHEBA the Army Reserve will re-structure in order to generate these integrated capability outputs. For example, and again subject to finalisation, the 2nd Division may be required to generate for a particular task a collective of sub-units that approximate an enhanced battalion-sized battle group.

In addition, the 2nd Division will continue to provide Reserve Response Force companies and retain responsibility for the vast majority of the High Readiness Reserve. The success of the 'call for' provisions in attracting Army Reserve volunteers, demonstrated through the multiple tours to the Solomon Islands and East Timor, means that we need to consider further and refine the High Readiness Reserve concept. For the time being, the focus remains on the provision of six Combat Teams from within the 2nd Division, supplemented by specialist positions from the wider Reserve. Army is also investigating options for rewarding Reservists who meet readiness requirements as part of the 2nd Division's Plan BEERSHEBA outcomes.

**While I have mentioned Army's Plan BEERSHEBA,** Navy and Air Force have also progressed the integration of their Reserves into the Total force.

## NAVY

The Navy Reserve has been through a period of consolidation following a Whole of Capability Workforce Review. Prior to the Review, the Navy

Reserve enjoyed a number of years when it received supplementary funding from unspent Permanent Navy salaries. This bolstered the **Reserve's participation in Navy's day-to-day activities considerably.**

**More recently, following Navy's success in recruiting Permanent members and in conjunction with a dramatic reduction in the number of officers and sailors separating from the Service, Navy has now reached its manpower ceiling. This has significantly reduced Navy's ability to supplement its Reserve.** As a result, the Navy Reserve now operates within a less-flexible budget. The advantage to Navy has been that its Reserve workforce has been prioritised, to ensure that those positions that receive funding are those which deliver the greatest level of capability to the ADF.

The reduction in Reserve positions available has, to a degree, been offset by the significant number of Navy Reservists who are employed in Non Navy Groups and are self-funded by these groups.

Notably, Navy Reservists continue to work alongside their full-time counterparts as part of a totally integrated workforce. Almost 95% of Navy Reservists now have a Permanent Navy background, which ensures that the Navy Reserve **can make a significant contribution to Navy's capability output while reducing the perceived skills gap between Permanent and Reserve personnel.**

There have been considerable developments in other Reserve employment areas, including:

- Intelligence, where Reservists have now been incorporated into this new Navy specialisation;
- A remodelled and refocussed Maritime Trade Operations branch, which is a Reserve-only branch that allows Reservists both to deploy to the Middle East Area of Operations and to provide a watch-keeping capability in Border Protection Command.

Of particular significance is the imminent introduction into service of the new amphibious vessels. Navy is assessing where its Reservists can best be utilised within this formidable capability. Initial considerations suggest potential roles ashore in the sustainment of the ships, with the prospect of sea service for some Reservists a possibility. Indeed, the amphibious arm of the Navy is an area where I see significant opportunities for future Navy Reserve service, noting that there is much

work to be done in this area.

One other future development under consideration is the use of Reserve Divers, which is being considered under Project NEPTUNE.

## RAAF

In the Air Force, as in the Navy, Reservists are integrated into the overall Service structure. This integration provides Air Force with the capabilities **required of today's 'One Team' Air Force approach and the ADF's Total Force concept.**

An example of this successful integration was the **adaptation of the Air Force Reserve 'City Squadrons', to include responsibility for fixed airbase functions.** A pending review into Airbase Force Protection will further inform the refinement of the Reserve role. The integrated structure has required the expansion of the Active Air Force Reserve establishment to sustain specific specialist capabilities, and to supplement or complement the Permanent force. Such integration involves its own challenges, including ensuring a concerted effort at all levels and the availability of resources.

Air Force understands that an integrated structure with its geographical distribution, coupled with Reservist availability, presents a challenge for training delivery. To address this challenge, a proposal for an improved integrated training system is near completion.

Air Force also recognises that cultural issues are an important aspect of successful integration of the Reserve, including the acceptance by Permanent members of the level of commitment and ability among their Reserve counterparts. This issue will be addressed through strong and effective leadership and a clear demonstration of Reserve capability.

**Notwithstanding these challenges, the Air Force's integrated structure has been successful.** The Air Force continues to refine the roles and functions of its Reserve in order to ensure that its Reservists continue to contribute effectively to the operational capability of the ADF.

## Supporting Integration

I have just outlined some specific measures underway in each service with regard to integration, however these measures are not stand alone actions. The development of a contemporary employment model, that considers how the

Reserves as a group and Reservists as individuals are employed, how their work is structured and the conditions of service that support them, is essential if Defence is to continue to enhance its overall capability.

To assist with the shaping of this Total Force, I directed Army to develop a force rotation model that institutionalises the use of the Reserves – PLAN BEERSHEBA.

In parallel to this, I also directed Major General **Brereton to review the ADF's Conditions of Service**, in order to develop a model that optimises the Reserve component contribution to the Total Force – PLAN SUAKIN.

Plan SUAKIN is examining the Reserve employment model and associated constructs, including Conditions of Service, to better align capability requirements with employment conditions. Plan SUAKIN is being developed by Major General Brereton and his staff, particularly Jerome Reid, under the auspices of the Strategic Reform Program, Reserve Reform Stream.

Plan SUAKIN is developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders – both internal and external to Defence – including the three Services and the DRA. I am strongly supportive of the approach being taken and the options being considered, and commend to you the admirable intellectual rigour being applied. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by Major General Jim Barry to this work. I know he has been very busy advocating on your behalf and I know the CRESD team and the Service Directors General Reserve have valued his input.

Taking a slightly wider perspective, the Reserve Reform agenda seeks to deliver:

- a range of employment options to better match changing civilian-military work-life balance of the current and future Reserve force;
  - a simplified and streamlined full-time to part-time employment spectrum, matched to the ADF's capability requirements;
  - greater opportunities to use a range of military and non-military skills to enhance capability; and
  - as part of the Total Force, an optimised balance of full-time and part-time ADF personnel who provide integrated capability.
- From my perspective, the two key challenges

facing the Reserve Reform agenda are:

- identifying and dealing with the internal cultural barriers that potentially stand in the way of delivering integrated capability effects; and
- the development of a single point communication portal that will allow Reservists, their employers, industry and the community to engage and partner with Defence more efficiently.

As the two major bodies of work – BEERSHEBA and SUAKIN – progress, their confluence is likely to be seminal in shaping the future direction of the Reserves. I am optimistic that, at your 2012 Conference, I will be in a position to report positively on the impact both these Plans are having on Defence capability.

### Supporting Reservists

To me, the key to the ability of the individual Reservist to provide capability to the ADF is the provision of a supportive and reliable environment. This requires a supportive network including employers, family, friends and the broader community.

Support – for both the Reservist and the employer – is currently provided by a number of mechanisms, which will be improved, broadened and refined.

At present, Reservists are supported by a broad legislative framework. Central to this framework is the work undertaken by the Office of Reserve Service Protection, within Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division.

Last year I mentioned that Defence had implemented a series of Memorandums of Understanding with State and Territory police and emergency services. You will appreciate that the ADF shares the same skilled workforce, and it is therefore important that both parties have a formal guiding framework in which to operate, without detriment to either organisation. I am advised that apart from the Australian Federal Police, only one State police service is yet to sign a Memorandum – but at the risk of personal embarrassment, I will not mention which south-eastern State is taking its time to sign.

It is important to note that these Memorandums are not operational documents; rather, they are intended to facilitate Reserve service by addressing administrative issues relating to that service.

With regard to the *Defence Reserve Service (Protection)* Act 2001, we are proceeding with amendments to the Act. The proposed amendments will ensure that all Reservists performing Defence service receive employment and education protection.

The amendments will also include provisions which will: protect all Reservists from harassment or detriment in the workplace, protect from victimisation and provide that a Reservist is on leave from employment (rather than suspension of employment). In addition, the amendment will introduce civil penalties, clarify that mediation is not mandatory in all cases and extend protection to Reservists engaged in partnerships and private corporations.

Employer groups consulted during the review process, such as the Australian Industry Group, did not oppose extending protections to all Reserve service.

I have also asked Major General Brereton to consider what measures we might implement, in addition to Memorandums of Understanding, to ensure that employers are provided with reasonable notice of Reserve service. I refer here to the need for Reservists to deploy in support of disaster relief and domestic security tasks, often at very short notice.

In the area of employer engagement, I have instigated measures to engage the practical expertise of the Defence Reserve Support Council to further promote the benefits of Reserve service to industry, employers, educational institutions and the community.

Working with the National Chair, Mr Jack Smorgon, we have introduced business rules for the operation of the DRSC.

These documents will be supported by both a Memorandum of Understanding and a Service Level Agreement between Defence and the DRSC, to ensure that we work cooperatively together in support of our Reservists, their families and their employers.

**This year's** re-invigoration of the Prince of Wales Awards is reflective of the renewed energy being placed on supporting Reservists. These Awards are **an important element of the ADF's recognition and reward of Reservists for their dedication and commitment.**

The experience and knowledge gained from a successful Prince of Wales Award activity should provide on-going benefits to the employer and Reservist, while promoting cooperation and support between Defence and civilian employers. This year, 17 Reservists were presented with an Award. Of equal importance, the support provided by the civilian employer of these Reservists was also recognised through the awarding of Certificates of Appreciation.

Another re-invigoration has been the Tasman Scheme, with the Scheme developed into a formal activity between Defence and the DRA. Under the Scheme, Junior Non-Commissioned Officers of the ADF Reserves are attached for two weeks to a New Zealand Defence Force unit.

I consider it vitally important that we consider and involve all the principal elements that impact the lives of our Reservists and that have a direct bearing on their ability to serve, including their family and their employer.

It is therefore important that I create the opportunities to hear and discuss issues, in order to understand and appreciate first-hand how we might make it easier for our Reservists, their families and employer; so that the Reserves continue to contribute to the overall capability of the ADF.

Defence is a complex beast. It is also shaped by complex issues. Despite the challenges within this inherent complexity, I am pleased by the proactive approach taken by all three Services – Navy, Army and Air Force – in developing their Reserve **capability as part of the ADF's Total Force concept.**

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation/gratitude/thanks to all of the current and former Reservists and other members of the Reserve community who have welcomed me into the Reserve community and shared their thoughts and ideas with me. It has been a privilege to get to know you all and I believe that this collaborative spirit has resulted in some wonderful outcomes for the Reserve, and will continue to produce positive outcomes for the men and women who serve their country in the Reserve.

Thank you.

## OVER AT LAST FOR OUR THREE

General Courts Martial relating to charges against Australian defence force members relating to the 12 February 2009 CIVILIAN CASUALTY Incident.

The Director of Military Prosecutions applied formally to withdraw the charges before the Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate ordered that the charge sheet be withdrawn.

The legal processes as a result of the charges brought by the Director of Military Prosecutions in relation to the 12 February 2009 civilian casualty incident, involving the three ADF members, have now concluded.

**"Defence was committed to ensuring a proper legal process was observed throughout this matter so that the individuals charged received a fair trial and that the integrity of the military legal process was preserved," said the Chief of the Defence Force, General David Hurley.**

**"The legal processes that were adhered to in relation to this matter were independent of the chain of command.**

**"The Australian Defence Force has a reputation for being a highly disciplined and professional force. In order to maintain this reputation, it is important that all incidents leading to a civilian casualty are investigated thoroughly, comprehensively and transparently."**

Background:

On 12 February 2009, members of the Special Operations Task Group, conducted a compound clearance in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan. Tragically, six Afghans died and four sustained injuries during the operation.

The operation was the subject of an investigation which led to the Director of Military Prosecutions charging three Australian Defence Force personnel with alleged services offences. The Director of Military Prosecutions subsequently referred these charges for trial by general courts martial.

*Courtesy of Defence Media Operations*

# ***SOCIAL GOLF DAY***



To be held at the Berwick Montuna Golf Club  
Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Guy's Hill  
(Melways 212 C4)  
On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
Tee Time 0830 Hrs



This is the Tenth Annual Golf Day and we look forward to an even bigger and better field to compete

for the coveted RAA Association Perpetual Trophy.

Golfers at ALL levels of expertise are invited to attend (handicap not required).

Hire clubs, buggies and motorised carts are available from the Golf-Shop.

These items should be booked directly with the Golf shop on 9707 5226 at least ten days prior

The cost for golfers is \$28.00 which covers green fees for 18 holes and trophies.

Lunch will be available in the Clubhouse at very reasonable prices.

The competition of the day will be a stableford competition. Players who do not have a handicap **will be "allocated" a handicap on the day.**

Trophies will be awarded in the Clubhouse during lunch.

So that tee times and a number for lunch can be booked, please indicate if you will be attending, and the number of people in your group, by telephone, mail or e-mail to:

Maj Neil Hamer, 12 Marida Court, Berwick 3806;

Telephone, 9702 2100;

E-mail, [nhamer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nhamer@bigpond.net.au)

Not later than 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

Please include: Your name and handicap, (if you have one). The name and handicap of your guests.

The number of non-golfers who will be attending for lunch.

The name/s of your preferred group.

## **Change of Personal Details**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Surname and Post Nominals</b>	<b>DoB</b>
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Telephone Mobile Email</b>		
<b>Additional Information</b>		

# VALE to a tenacious leader

By Cpl Melanie Schinkel

TEARS streamed down the cheeks of about 350 family, friends and mourners as they farewelled fallen Commando Sgt Todd Matthew Langley in an intimate service on July 15.

Grievers gathered at Woronora Cemetery and Crematorium in Sutherland, Sydney, to remember and celebrate the life of Sgt Langley, who was described as a devoted and loving husband, brother, son and father of four.

The 35-year-old from Holsworthy-based 2 Cdo Regt was on his fifth deployment to Afghanistan when he was killed in action by insurgent small arms fire on July 4 during a SOTG operation in Helmand province.

Sgt Langley's wife, Reigan, addressed the congregation on behalf of his family, serving brother Cpl Warrick Langley, 10FSB, and parents, Val and Neville.

CO of 2 Cdo Regt Lt-Col C said Sgt Langley was a dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate warrior who "did not seek the limelight, preferring instead to let his actions speak for themselves". "Todd was a highly respected warrior who, at every stage, responded when the nation called," Lt-Col C said.

"He never stepped back from a challenge. He always sought to protect his mates. He always supported his family. "He gave up his tomorrow so that those in need could have today."

A good mate of several years, Cpl R, 2 Cdo Regt, said Sgt Langley's enthusiasm for the job was impressive. "He had the vigour of a kid in a toy shop and it was infectious," Cpl R said. "A trait of Todd's that stands alone was his tenacity - he'd bite off more



than he could chew and then he'd take another bite."

Cpl R said in his five tours of Afghanistan, Sgt Langley regularly clocked the most contacts of his rotation.

"Todd, you were an outstanding leader of men," Cpl R said. "You led from the front and your boys would have followed you anywhere.

"And follow you they did. Looking back it seems like you and your team were always in the thick of it."

Sgt Langley's journey back to Australia began on July 8 when he was farewelled by mates and colleagues during a memorial service and ramp ceremony at Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan.

Three days later, a ramp ceremony was held at RAAF Base Richmond to honour Sgt Langley's return to Australia. An honour guard and bearer party formed by 2 Cdo Regt soldiers escorted Sgt Langley's casket from the aircraft to his family.

Gen Hurley said it was appropriate that Australia

and the ADF recognised Sgt Langley as an outstanding Australian.

"Todd was a great family man, a great husband and father and, as a soldier, a great example to all those who knew him and had the chance to serve with him," Gen Hurley said.

Sgt Langley is Australia's 28th combat fatality, 15th Special Forces member and fifth 2 Cdo Regt soldier to be killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

*Courtesy Army News July 21, 2011*



Farewelled: Commandos carry Sgt Todd Langley into the Chapel at Woronora Cemetery in Sydney. Inset, a Special Forces long range patrol vehicle moves Sgt Todd Langley's casket through the honour guard to a Hercules at Tarin Kot airfield.

## VALE Private Matthew Lambert returns to Queensland

The soldiers of Mentoring Task Force – Three have quietly farewelled their mate, Private Matthew Lambert, from Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan after he was killed in an explosion on Monday morning 22 August 2011.

In a simple ceremony at Multi-National Base Tarin Kot, his mates gave their fallen colleague a fitting farewell.

The Commanding Officer of MTF-3, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Smith said Private Lambert was a highly professional and disciplined soldier.

**“As his Commanding Officer, Private Matthew Lambert never failed to impress me with his drive, personal philosophy and professionalism. The words which best describe Private Lambert are courageous, fit, strong, and disciplined.**

**“To all of us who shared this mission with him, his death was sudden and unexpected, but sadly that is the nature of war.**

**“As we farewell Matthew, our thoughts are with his family and his partner at this time,”** Lieutenant Colonel Smith said.

The Commander of Australian Defence Force personnel deployed to the Middle East, Major General Angus Campbell said Private Lambert was known as a physically and mentally tough soldier.

**“Private Lambert had forged an impressive reputation as decisive, dependable, focused on the mission, and ever protective of his mates. He was known for his even temperament and as a quiet performer but whose efforts did not go unnoticed.**

**“He was the quintessential soldier, a highly trained specialist who was admired and respected.**

**“His loss will not be deeply felt just because of what he did – but because of who he was. Private Lambert represents the best aspects of the Australian Army and our Defence Force,”** Major General Campbell said.

Private Lambert will be repatriated through RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland and will be buried with full military honours.

*Courtesy Defence Media*

