

The North Western Ranger



8th/7th BATTALION – 2RVR ASSOCIATION Inc.
VICTORIA'S OWN COUNTRY BATTALION
(Including the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum Newsletter)



Patron: The Commanding Officer 8th/7th Battalion The Royal Victoria Regiment
Lieutenant Colonel Shaun Richards CSM

Vol 25 No2

JUNE 2021



INDEX

ANZAC day
President's report
Notice Board
Vale
Leading the way
Suicide Royal Commission
Bn training activity
Purchase of new tanks
M4 84mm Carl – Gustaf

Museum matters
Pentropic Div. Part 2
Museum AGM
Museum's newest member
Museum's new medal
display.



Three of our members including the President Dick Wilkie took in the meaning ANZAC DAY celebrations at the Ballarat Cemetery

“Absolutely unbelievable, bloody magnificent – all those flags – just a fantastic special memory of this Ballarat ANZAC DAY!”

These were the words of the 8/7th-2RVR Association President Dick Wilkie as he undertook stage one of a return journey to Williamstown from the Ballarat RSL via the Ballarat new cemetery with an Aussie flag at every grave of a deceased person with ADF service history of some type.

Dick Wilkie and Ian Nunn climbed into Chris Liston's Pre WWII 1927 rag top Dodge tourer "Listo's Limo – 'Blueberry' which was to be the taxi ride to the train station (and half the city) for stage two of the journey home. Ian just couldn't resist and came to get a special ride much closer to home and (closer to his other love of trains)

A town tour followed the cemetery with a drive past the POW memorial, Weeping Mother memorial under the Arch past tree number one and dozens more up to the 8/7th RVR HQ where the security guard was locking the gate (spent too much time at the RSL to get there in time!) A fast, high powered wheel spinning "err" (Na not really- 27 hp and turns like a bullet wagon road-train) and back past the Night turns like a bullet wagon road-train) and back past the N

Night Navigation training area in Victoria Park, Cont:



Eyes Right past cenotaph (NB FYI trivia – a Latin Greek word with the literal meaning – Empty Tomb!) Left into Lydiard Street, and a few handshakes, “ See Yaa Later.”

A little more subdued, quicker and quieter than other years. A few beers and cheers with several members and a look in at (two up), Dick was NOT going to catch the **last** train home (as has happened at other ANZAC days when led a little astray, this year the walking stick needed a driver.

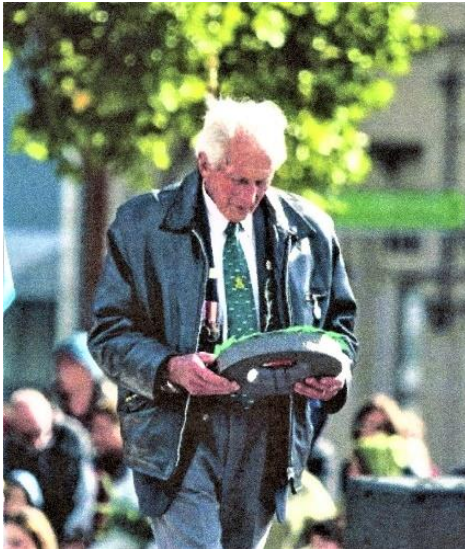
With the sound of the 6v klaxon horn going berserk to let everyone know of past eras and a royal wave, the 8/7th Bn Association’s Day was done for some in the city.

For freedom, mate - ship and laughs!
Lest we forget.

Chris Liston

Further Afield

ANZAC at Camperdown



Brian Driscoll Laying a wreath at the Camperdown Shrine, ANZAC Day.

Warrnambool Cenotaph



Chris Rantall, Blue Parsons, Dean Brunt and Sheldon Brunt. Warrnambool shrine after the service.



Reserve Forces Day Ceremony

Sunday 4th July 2021

A 10.00 hrs Shrine Of Remembrance

To be held with a short march to the Shrine forecourt and a short service.

Dress: Beret, jacket with medals, trousers or suit, black shoes.

Wet weather plan – Ceremony to move Shrine Sanctuary.

Bus will be supplied on the day if there is sufficient interest.

For bookings contact Tom.

COMMITTEE

President Dick Wilkie
Vice Pres Bruce McKinnon
Secretary Tom Chambers
Treasurer Barbara Birthisel
Brian Driscoll **Warrnambool**
Welfare
Lindsay Govan
Ian Nunn
Les Taylor
Greg Code
Allan Wettenhall **For**

Warrnambool Hospital Visitations

Bluey Frank

Newsletter / vale

Tom Chambers as above or
email; tjchambers@iinet.net.au



PRESIDENTS REPORT.

Greetings and salutations Members

The times are changing, the 8th/7th Battalion roles have escalated to involvement along with other Reserve units answering the order for disaster relief within

communities in which they serve.

Well documented reports, acknowledge exemplary leadership and professional excellence in the strong traditions of Australian soldiering, congratulations!

Anzac commemorations in Ballarat 2021 in spite of COVID considerations demonstrated outstanding presentation including brass bands providing music enhancing marching and background for wreath laying a spectacular release of pigeons symbolised the roles of birds and other animals of war.

Anzac remembrance is strong and requires our continued support.

Let us reflect on our Association core values and charter mission of service support and comradeship for members now and into the future.

The North Western Ranger is our most important link within our Association, probably the best publication of its type in this area, I particularly thank our talented secretary Tom and Lorraine Chambers in the detailed preparation and delivery of the Ranger, thank you to all the other contributors to the content of the magazine.

On behalf of the members, we commend the ongoing work of the committee in their consistent regular input, thank you members for your consistent membership together we can make a difference .

Good health, good luck ,keep "Soldiering "on.



ANZAC Day Ballarat.

Due to all of the uncertainty, compared with other years, only a small contingent was there to march this year. We look to a better roll up next year.

Photo Courtesy: Edwina Williams of the Ballarat Times





NOTICE BOARD



Welcome to new member.

Jeff Harding Wendouree



Sausage Sizzle at the Ranger Museum

Thursday 15th July 2021

Due to all the COVID restrictions in the past and problems catching up, your committee has decided to organised a casual get together at the Ranger Museum. Come at any time.

This is open to all past and serving members of the Battalion, so come along and catch up with your mates again.

Open Between 11.00 to 3.00 Entrance and COVID check-in via Museum entrance.

\$5.00 charge for the BBQ under cover at the Barracks, liquid refreshments will be available.

The museum will be open for these hours. This would be good time to show your support for the museum.

Please, note this event was planned for Thursday 10 June, however due to COVID it has been postponed and to July.



Fellow members! A day at Puckapunyal

Dust of your **Jungle Greens** and your **kaki webbing** and polish your boots, the Commanding Officer of the 8/7th Bn invites you to attend a training weekend at **Puckapunyal. Sunday 17 October 2021.**

Departure time **0830hrs** at the Ranger Museum Car Park.

Photo ID required, drivers' licence , passport etc. Bring your own lunch and weather proof clothing Names to the **Secretary Tom_Chambers** on or email by the **23 November 2021**



Warrnambool Annual Dinner 2021

The Annual Dinner is to be held 16 October 2021 at the Warrnambool RSL.

Dress Casual - Cost \$35.00 – 6.00 for 7.00 Start.

For bookings Contact Lyndon King

32nd Eureka Arms and Militaria Fair



Saturday 10th July 9 – 4 pm Sunday 11th July 9 – 3pm

Ballarat Sports and events Centre Norman street.

Enquiries

The Avalon Air Show November 2021



The Air Show has now been confirmed (proving COVIT doesn't interfere) for **23 to 28 November 2021**.

I will endeavour to keep you up to date in the next issue. Ed
Could be a good bus trip if there is enough interest.

Ballarat Annual Dinner, 13 November 2021.



Time: 6.30 For 7.00

Dress : Semi Formal – Neat casual. Miniatures may be worn. Cost: \$40.

Location: Sebastopol Bowling Club

For Bookings contact the Secretary on

Annual General Meeting



Date: 14 November 2021

Time: 10.30

Location: **Ballarat RSL**

Refreshments available after the meeting at the bar.

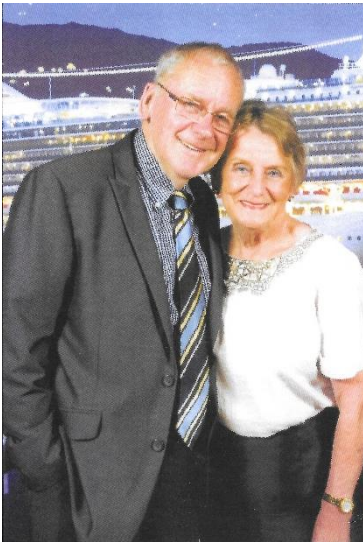
VALES



Mack James (Jim)

24 August 1937 - 11 March 2021.

James Nicol Despard 'Jim' Mack completed his schooling at Geelong Grammar and was hoping for career in Aeronautical Engineering. However, his father, Victorian Legislative Council Member Ronald Mack (Warrnambool, 13 May 1950 – 5 December 1952 and Western, 18 June 1955 – 12 February 1968 on death) was away from home for long periods so Jim found a job in the ANZ Bank to remain closer to home. He remained working in the 'financial sector' for most of his working career. Jim was called in to the Army for his National Service as 3/727321 on 7 August 1956. Cont.;



Jim married Iris Ross in February 1960. Shortly afterwards, on 1 July 1960, the Pentropic system was introduced into the Australian Army. The country infantry battalions were combined to form the Second Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment (2 RVR) and the city battalions formed 1 RVR. Changes were also made to the supporting arms and services and the artillery in Warrnambool now became a part of 10th Medium Regiment, so Jim transferred to the 10th Medium Regiment.

On 2 December 1964 Jim, along with fellow Warrnambool RAA member Frank Norton, was commissioned as a Lieutenant. On 9 February 1965, when the Pentropic system was disbanded, the Warrnambool artillery unit transferred to the infantry with 2 RVR. Now serving with the infantry Jim was one of the CMF officers who were fortunate to be able to do a CMF 'Tour' in Vietnam. He served with 5 RAR in Vietnam from 29 October to 12 November 1969. Jim rose through the ranks and from 12 February 1975 until 6 June 1976 was attached

to Command and Staff Training Unit of 3 Training Group. He then returned to 2 RVR. The Mack family moved to Ballarat with Jim's work in 1977 where Jim would take over the Manager's Role at Victorian Savings & Loan Credit Union. On 24 January 1979 he returned to CSTU where he completed his promotion course for Lieutenant Colonel. He returned again to 2 RVR on 31 October 1980 and took over as Battalion 2IC (now Executive Officer). At the end of the tenure of his good friend Lieutenant Colonel E. T. 'Ted' Lynes as CO 2 RVR, Jim was handed the Commanding Officer's Cane for 2 RVR on 1 July 1981, a position he held until 16 August 1984. Jim in turn handed command of the battalion to a former ARA member Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Skardon. Jim retired from the Army 15 days later. Lieutenant Colonel Skardon was responsible for the change of number of 2 RVR to 8/7 RVR to align with the battalion's historical roots.



Jim's last work saw him as the owner of the 917 Gymnasium in Ballarat. On retirement, Jim and Iris became heavily involved in Probus from 2000, with Jim taking on the Presidency in 2004. This involvement saw them take a number of overseas cruises (photo above). They also enjoyed caravanning around Australia. Jim went into care in 2018. He passed away on 11 March 2021.

Jim and Iris have four children: Heather, Lenore, Elizabeth and Ross, nine grandchildren and their second great-grandchild is due soon.

COULL John

31 October 1948 - 7 May 2021

John Coull was born in South Australia on 31 October 1948, but was educated in Ballarat. In his late teens he met the love of his life, Irene (or 'Rene'). The couple married about a year after their meeting. They would have twin girls, Elisa and Narelle, and a son, Scott.

John had several occupations during his working life that included the railways, carpet and vinyl laying, as a Security Guard and a Nurse, with some of his Nursing being at Ballarat's Lakeside Mental Hospital.

John enlisted in the CMF's 4 Field Ambulance on 31 August 1964 and trained as a Medic, transferring to 2 RVR on 29 January 1965. He discharged on 12 June 1968, but re-enlisted on 2 August 1971 with 2 RVR. He rose to the rank of Corporal by the time he discharged again on 20 November 1972.

John was the member of the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum for many years and was the Membership Officer for the museum. Until he undertook the role of President for the Sebastopol RSL, he was invariably at the museum whenever it was open.



As he read numerous newspapers front to back and missed nothing, he would keep the museum members up to date on all the military related matters, along with some non-military matters.

In 2019, when Sebastopol RSL sub-branch had trouble finding a President, John took on the challenging position with gusto, making many changes to the Sub-branch, including the clubrooms. His leadership at the sub-branch will be missed.

John had a lengthy struggle with his health, particularly his breathing. On Friday 7 May John left the RSL early in the afternoon and was in high spirits. However, when Rene returned home later in the afternoon, John had passed away. He is now at peace.

The 8/7th Battalion – 2 RVR Association and the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum thank John for all his hard work over the years, most of which was in the background and seldom seen by the membership of the association and the museum.

John leaves behind his wife, Rene, eight grandchildren, 4 Great-Grandchildren with three more on the way, and his dogs, whom he loved. RIP John, your work is done!

SMITH Peter

Peter passed April 2021; he was the RSM for the Battalion from 1985 -1988.



Peter is seen left next to CO Lt Col Doug Ball

He enlisted in the CMF 1966, transferring to the ARA 1967 he was posted to the 8th Battalion RAR in Vietnam from Nov 1969 – Nov 1970

After his initial training his postings consisted of; 1st RTB (staff), Infantry Centre, 8th RAR, 8/9th Bn RAR, 10 Ind Rifle Coy, Inf Centre. 3 Trg. Group, 2RVR, LWC, HQ 1 DIV. 1 Trg. Group.

LEST WE FORGET

RSM Peter Smith, CO Lt Col Douglas Ball,
Adjutant Capt Paul Prickett, QM Capt Bill Akell
Maj David Lewien.

This was interesting times as the Battalion was renamed back to the 8/7th Bn and as the picture depicts the interest in the re-introduction of the Colour Patch. Note also the twin lanyards of brown and white and was worn until the introduction of the new woven lanyard as worn today.

Did you attend the 3RVR exercise at Puckapunyal?

It was very ironic that I should be sent this article just before Jim's passing.

Ken Anderson Ex 5RVR read in the last newsletter that Jim Mack was not well, (Sick Parade) he kindly sent me an email with a photo hoping I could get it to Jim, I had pencilled in the article for the next newsletter.

Ken told me that he received our newsletter through the RVR Association via email.

Note, if my memory serves me right, it was the only composite exercise under the mantel of **3RVR**. Ed

Memories of 3RVR, Hmm

Ken wrote: Firstly, I was still a 2nd Lieutenant, this was my first camp after graduation, I had been appointed as RSO at 5RVR only weeks before the camp, but 5 had been given the honour to provide SPT Coy to 3RVR, which Jim took very graciously, and during the camp he dropped in to see how I was going, which I appreciated.

My biggest memory of the camp was probably the fact that the CO Lt Col Barry Ingram made it known that he wanted to do an air Recce of the exercise area, and I had a not so nice experience with Helicopters whilst at 5 Bn with which I had sworn I would never get in one again... so, when the chopper arrived, I duly hid behind a tree near the Sig Centre, which was very cunning, so I thought!! I heard the chopper take off so stepped out from behind my tree and straight into, guess who, "Oh hello Ken, I sent the other Helicopter off because I was looking for you", oh well here we go- I am so glad I did go because I came to enjoy them very much over the years since.

I thought Jim might like a copy of the attached photo, as it brings back fond memories.

I moved to Queensland and 9 Bn the following year and had the pleasure of serving with Ivan Close who was ex 2RVR.

I retired compulsorily in 1987 having had a strong association with John Leyden over the years who arranged for me to get news etc from the RVR Association which I appreciate greatly.

Anyway, kind regards to you and your association, and to Jim Mack.

Ken Anderson.



Jim and Ken at the Sig Centre

Leading the way for younger soldiers

Over his 29-year career, **Warrant Officer Class One Mick Carroll** from Wauchope, NSW, has accumulated a wealth of experience.

He joined the RAN in 1992, then later transferred to the Army and never looked back. Warrant Officer Carroll served in the Western Pacific, North America and South-East Asia while in the Navy, and Northern Australia, US, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and East Timor three times with the Army.

Even after 29 years and a deployment history few can match, Warrant Officer Carroll's enthusiasm for guiding the troops of 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australia Regiment, where he is the regimental sergeant major (RSM), is as strong as ever.



CAPTION: Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One Michael Carroll demonstrates urban clearing techniques to medical personnel during a visit to Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane in 2020. Photo by Trooper Jonathan Goedhart.

“My advice to soldiers is always give everything a red-hot go,” Warrant Officer Carroll said.

“I never thought that I would be a paratrooper, an acting platoon commander, teach English to young Timorese kids, command reconnaissance patrols, a Company Sergeant Major in Afghanistan, host US Generals at the Australian Embassy, conduct Anzac Day services in Baghdad, or stand in front of an Infantry battalion as the RSM.

“You always have to back yourself because if you aim at nothing, you’ll hit nothing every time.”

Warrant Officer Carroll said his aspirations evolved over time and shifted focus by incorporating others into his goals, including his wife, children, other soldiers and officers.

“Sometimes people just need a small nudge in the right direction before they start to achieve big things,” he said.

“Being the senior soldier of a battalion is quite special to me. “The things I disliked as a digger I no longer do as an RSM, so I try to get as close to the diggers as possible to see the issues they face through their eyes.”



CAPTION: Then Warrant Officer Class Two Mick Carroll of 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment, Royal Australian Engineers, at Patrol Base Chakjoy in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, as part of Mentoring Task Force 4 in 2012.

He said he greatly appreciated the broad experiences the organisation had given him.

“I have had the good fortune to see other cultures, religions,

coupled with professional and personal challenges,” he said.

“It’s allowed me to appreciate my own world views and appreciate our differences while remaining true to my own beliefs.”

Throughout his time, Warrant Officer Carroll said he saw the organisation evolve in the way it operated and was optimistic about the future.

“Combat has become more complex, but soldiers still have to seek out the enemy and close with them,” he said.

“There are skills that aided us in Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, Kokoda, Tobruk, Amiens and Gallipoli which have not changed.

“Today we are more enabled to take advantage of the enemy, so while current operators fulfil the same tasks, they are much smarter than I ever was and that makes us better overall.”

Looking to the future, Warrant Officer Carroll said he wanted to enjoy being the RSM at 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australia Regiment, and eventually move into an instructional role at the Warrant Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

“I would really enjoy a posting as an instructor for young soldiers,” he said.

“The most important rank I have ever held was lance corporal, alongside mates like Paul Dehnert and Adam West who are also RSMs today.

“I had great instructors who taught me back then and I sincerely hope to be the same.”

From Contact.

P.S. RSM WO1 Mick Carroll was posted to 8/7th 2018/2019

When will Government learn to support our defence force In need!



Suicide Royal Commission motion passed in Parliament

The Senate motion that called “on the Morrison Government to establish a Royal Commission into the rate of suicide among current and former serving Australian Defence

Force personnel” passed the Lower House this evening, unopposed.

‘Debate’ on the issue was long and passionate – though ‘debate’ was almost a misnomer, given that every member spoke in favour of the motion.

Suicide Royal Commission campaigner Julie-Ann Finney was in the public gallery to witness the debate and the eventual vote.

The debate began before noon today, was adjourned at 1.30pm to allow question time to proceed as scheduled, and resumed again shortly after 3pm.

The vote – which, frankly, came and went as somewhat of an anti-climax, which CONTACT almost missed – was held shortly before 6pm.

“All those in favour say aye, all those against say no – I think the ayes have it. The ayes have it,” the acting Deputy Speaker of the House said, without pause, before calling on the Clerk of the House to proceed to the next order of business.

And just like that, it was over – except, we’re sure, for much celebrating – and asking “now what”.

The passage of this motion through both houses of parliament is very symbolic, but not binding.

Today’s vote only means that The House acknowledged The Senates motion – it is now up to the government (i.e., Prime Minister) to say **yes or no** to actually establishing the Royal Commission.

One would have to think it will now happen, given that The Senate and The House passed the motion unopposed – including by the PM.

Brian Harrigan

The motion has passed in Parliament now we need our political leaders to step up and make it happen to aid in the healing process. Ed



Saturday 24 April 2021, members from the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment (8/7RVR) took part in the **Walking Off The War Within** in Ballarat.

Participants could do a variety of lengths; however, these members took on the 20km walk with 20kgs on their backs.

The event is held in memory of Nathan Shanahan, a returned soldier and firefighter, and other fallen Service Men and Women who have taken their own lives after battling mental health issues.

Congratulations to LCPL Jack Terrill, CAPT Elizabeth Normand & CPL Shaun Brown on completing the 20kms, for a very worthy cause.

A worthy cause supported by members of the Battalion. Well done.

RVRA.



A FOCUS ON A 8/7TH BATTALION TRAINING ACTIVITY.

The technology used to fight wars has changed dramatically over the last century. While the modern soldier has access to numerous technologically advanced tools to help fight these wars, there is one aspect of war that has not and will not change – hand to hand combat. Whilst a soldier’s primary weapon from the 19th century until now has been the firearm, the Army is now working towards enhancing that firearm capability. This has led to a critical re-think of the former Military Self Defence (MSD) course and the emergence of the Army Combatives Program (ACP) which was first introduced to 8/7 Bn RVR in mid-2020. **Army**

Combatives Program (ACP)

The ACP will enhance individual and collective combat skills, and it is intended that all Army personnel will receive some level of the training in the near future.

The ACP is not a ‘martial art’ or solely concerned with self-defence: it is combat-focused and will teach lethal and non-lethal techniques relevant to soldiers. Together with the new combat marksmanship practices, it will support the development of a combat mindset (a state of mind that prepares soldiers to kill the enemy, survive, then continue the fight). The program will consist of four levels of training that gradually increase in skills requirement.

Combatives 1 (**ACP-1**)– *Survive a physical encounter and retain the weapon.*

This has been designed as an all-corps skill and will be integrated into ab initio training throughout 2018. ACP is a one-day course and will consist of foundation techniques common to more advanced levels of the program. It is aimed at teaching personnel how to survive a physical encounter and retain their weapon. It will provide simple, easy to maintain and, most importantly, useful techniques relevant to all Army soldiers. ACP 1 will be mandatory for all personnel in the Army and will provide simple, easy to maintain and, most importantly, useful techniques relevant to all Army soldiers. ACP 1 will be mandatory for all personnel in Army.

Combatives 2 (**ACP2**)– *Apply lethal and non-lethal techniques in an operational environment.*

his level is designed for any-corps. It could be conducted as unit training or may be required as part of Operational Generation (OPGEN) training for some deployments. Level two will include lethal and non-lethal techniques and will replace the MSD course.



Combatives 3 (**ACP3**)– *Apply lethal and non-lethal Infantry Integrated Combat (IIC) techniques as part of an infantry section. ACP3 (IIC) will continue to be taught at the School of Infantry (SOI) and will remain infantry specific to support their role of closing with the enemy.*

Combatives 4 (**ACP4**)– *Apply lethal and non-lethal techniques as part of a Special Forces (SF) team, known as Special Forces Close Quarter fighting (SF CQF). SF CQF will continue to be taught as part of the respective SF reinforcement cycles. Whilst the new ACP framework is designed to be combat focused, contain*



common material and leverage existing courses, there are a number of other advantages: a simplified instructor qualification where those already qualified as exponents or instructors under either SF CQF or IIC will have their qualifications recognised on PMKeys as part of the new program and there will also be no need for ongoing re-certification requirements (although refresher training is encouraged and will be at unit discretion). The ACP is an opportunity for Army to contemporise, simplify and make relevant, hand to hand combat techniques. All Army personnel will benefit from this training and will, at a minimum, be in a better position to survive a physical encounter with the enemy and retain their weapon.



The program will also contribute to the development of a combat mindset which will prepare soldiers for war and maximise their lethality and survivability on the battlefield.

The ACP is an opportunity for Army to contemporise, simplify and make relevant, hand to hand combat techniques. All Army personnel will benefit from this training and will, at a minimum, be in a better position to survive a physical encounter with the enemy and retain their weapon.

The program will also contribute to the development of a combat mindset which will prepare soldiers for war and maximise their lethality and survivability on the battlefield.

Photoes and breifing supplied by Sgt Benjamin Meagan A Coy 8/7th Bn RVR

Army chooses tank replacement – adds new armoured capabilities



01/05/2021 Brian Hartigan

The US has approved the sale of 75 M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tanks to Australia – plus other systems not fielded by the Australian Army before.

FILE PHOTO (August 2020): A US Army 1st Cavalry Division Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 sends its first round downrange at Fort Hood, Texas. Photo by Sergeant Calab Franklin.

US State Department approved the possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Australia of Heavy Armoured Combat Systems and related equipment for an estimated cost of US\$1.685 billion.

Australia requested to buy 160 M1A1 tank structures/hulls provided from stock in order to produce the following end items and spares:

-
- 75 M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams main battle tanks;
 - 29 M1150 assault breacher vehicles;
 - 18 M1074 joint assault bridges;
 - 6 M88A2 Hercules combat recovery vehicles; and,
 - 122 AGT1500 gas turbine engines.

Also included is development of a unique armour package, common remotely operated weapon station low profile (CROWS-LP), driver's vision enhancer, mission equipment, special tools and test equipment, ground support equipment, system and engine spare parts, technical data and publications, US government and contractor technical and logistics assistance, quality assurance teams, transportation services, program management, new-equipment training, and other related elements of logistic and program support.

The US State Department said the proposed sale would improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the lethality, survivability, and interoperability of the Australian Army.

"Australia will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defence and deter regional threats.

"The M1A2 SEPv3 will upgrade the current Australian fleet of M1A1 SA tanks with no changes to Royal Australian Armoured Corps force structure."

Additional M88A2 vehicles provide de-processing and combat-vehicle-recovery support for the Australian tank fleet.

New, lighter 84mm coming down range.

04/05/2021 Brian Hartigan



Carrying an 84mm Carl-Gustaf is set to become easier with the introduction of the weapon's modern M4 variant in coming years.

Weighing 7.4kg and measuring 99.9cm long, the new weapon is 2.6kg lighter and 6.6cm shorter than the M3 variant it will replace.

The M4 84mm also features an adjustable shoulder rest and grip, along with a "transport safety" position for the cocking lever, enabling it to be carried more safely while loaded.

CAPTION: *Sergeant Bryan DeVall carries the new M4 Carl-Gustaf 84mm recoilless rifle at the School of Infantry. Story by WO2 Max Bree. Photo by Corporal Shane Kelly.*

It can be fired via iron, telescopic or thermal sights or alternatively fitted with a high-tech fire control system (FCS).

The weapon comes with an interface for programming smart rounds when a smart-capable sight, such as the FCS, is attached.

Despite the shorter barrel length, the weapon's range remains the same.

A built-in counter keeps track of the full-calibre rounds fired through the weapon, and the read-out accessed by armourers after connecting to a maintenance computer.

The full capability of the shortrange, direct-fire support weapon, which includes the use of the FCS, smart rounds and travel safety, will be released as part of Tranche 2 of the Land 159 Lethality Program.

SO2 Lethality–DFSW at AHQ Major Aaron Deans said it was unlikely soldiers would need to requalify on the new variant.

"That's at least until the new capabilities are introduced," Major Deans said.

"For now, the recommendation from the DFSW master at SOI would be for a familiarisation lesson only, much like when the EF88 came in."

The first of up to 600 M4 84mm planned for acquisition were delivered in January with the remainder intended for rollout during the next five years.

Operational test and evaluation of the weapon is planned for May.

"It's lighter, shorter, easy to carry and use," Major Deans said.

"With the advent of the fire control system, there will be no need to judge range and, once the red dot is on the target, it tracks speed for a first-round hit.

"It also brings exciting future capabilities such as programmable ammunition."

The M3 84mm will be totally replaced by the M4 as the M3s will reach their 10-year lifespan.

The older and much heavier M2 84mm variant is expected to remain in use at training establishments because of its heavier steel body, which means there is no limit on the number of rounds it can fire.

First published in ARMY Newspaper, 29 April 2021

Rouges Gallery



The Bn. Anti -tank crew at Puckapunyal 1960 - 1962

The Ordnance Quick-Firing 6-pounder 7 cwt, or just 6-pounder, was a British 57 mm gun, serving during the Second World War as a primary anti-tank gun of the British, Australian and United States Army (as the 57 mm Gun M1). It was also used as the main armament for a number of armoured fighting vehicles.

This weapon was displaced by the M40 105mm recoilless rifle that had a 50cal. spotting rifle, firing a tracer round used to sight the weapon.



Left; Frank Hoagney
Right; Bob Chiltenden.

Note; ref the Landrover. left 3Div tac sign and on the right the # 56 allotted to 2RVR for a number of years.

This photo was taken at one of the Ballarat Airport exercises when finances were tough and accommodation was available. I believe these diggers where in the Sig Platoon.

A fond farewell from Kie

Matanship.

That's what Kie Tinker is going to miss most when he retires from the Army Reserve after more than 30 years service next month.

"I think there's a comradeship you can't experience outside the Army Reserve," he said yesterday.

Mr Tinker, 56, joined what was then the Warrnambool branch of Citizens Military Forces in 1949 at the age of 17.

He spent six years there until he had to leave because of his father's bad health after serving in World War Two.

He joined again in 1965, and is now a Warrant Officer for the Warrnambool division.

Mr Tinker said he is retiring because he "can't keep up" with the pace set for younger members.

"It's going to be very, very hard to fill that large gap. When you become involved you tend, as a soldier, to spend Monday nights and some weekends (at activities).

As you get up the ranks you can spend anything up to an extra two days a week planning and that sort of thing."

"Friendship is the thing you miss most."

Mr Tinker believes the Army Reserve once again has a high profile in the community, particularly because it now has a definite role in the defence of the country in case of war.

Mr Tinker said Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War led to a public backlash against the armed forces which is now being reversed.

The Army Reserve has been allocated the Katherine Gorge in the Northern Territory as its defence zone.

He said the army attracted young people who were looking for adventure and an opportunity to travel.

It was not, he said, somewhere for the trigger happy. He said if a firearm was discharged involuntarily there was an immediate \$40 fine.

He said 60 per cent of firearm training was safety.

Mr Tinker said there were areas that needed improvement within the reserve. Government rules protecting members from discrimination at work should be expanded, and a superannuation or retirement scheme for long serving members should be introduced.

Mr Tinker said the highlight of his years' service would have to be the parade at the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebration in Canberra in 1977. "It was the first time all the active colors of the whole Australian forces were on parade together."

The parade was held in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Another highlight of his career was when he received the British Empire Medal, which he said was not for him but for all the mates he had served with over the years.



Kie Tinker tips his hat in farewell to the CMF after 30 years service.

IN MEMORY OF
KIE TINKER

Warrnambool

The
Warrnambool
Standard
30.3.1988



The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

Historical Collection of the 8th/7th Battalion Royal Victoria Regiment



MUSEUM OPEN HOURS

Open Thursday afternoons
1 – 4pm,

Fourth Sunday of the
Month, 9am – 12noon

Or by appointment.

Phone
Neil Leckie,
0400 573 802

Museum Matters

Neil Leckie Manager

We are now back to COVID normal and are open as per usual.

Museum Members and Friends

A good Working Bee today with 6 members in attendance. It was good to see Graeme Lawrence, a new member from just a few weeks ago, attend his first Working Bee and 'get stuck in' to some good old-fashioned pen and paper 'hack work'!

We also welcome another new member, Noel Justice, a former 6 RVR member (we won't hold that against him) who joined last week. Noel will be in on Thursday week.

Danny Williams and David Dew were apologies a Danny is recovering from a small 'op'. With David, Danny is looking forward to returning to the fold in full health this Thursday.

Rupert Dalley was unavoidably detained at home today and sent his apologies.

My diary shows that the fourth Sunday in June is 27 June, so that will be our next Working Bee.

The **AGM will be held in July**. As I am unavailable, and as the battalion has someone who can attend on that date, the AGM will be held on the **third Sunday, 18 July 2021, at 10pm in the barracks**.

Entry will be via the museum gate and the gate into the barracks from the museum. Please put that date in your diary.

For the former officers of the battalion, the battalion plans on holding a dinner later in the year to which past officers are invited. However, Rupert and I believe that we should continue the tradition and still hold a Past Officers Dinner on **Saturday 7 August** (just two days before the Battalion Birthday). We will contact the Ballarat Golf Club and see of its availability. The evening could start with a visit to the museum and a walk or drive around the corner to the BGC. Please also place this date in your diaries.

Continuing from the February issue:

The Pentropic Division 1960 – 65 Part 2

The merging of the CMF Battalions for the Pentropic Divisions excluded the University Regiments and the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles which remained unchanged. There was a similar effect on the other CMF units, with most being merged into new, larger units. The other regular infantry battalion remained on the previous tropical establishment as it formed part of the 28th Commonwealth Brigade in Malaysia. As part of this reorganisation the Army replaced its outdated weapons with more modern weapons, most of which were supplied from the United States. It was believed that these new weapons would further improve the Army's combat power and the ability of sub-units to operate independently.

The Pentropic organisation was trialled during exercises in 1962 and 1963. These exercises revealed that the battle groups' command and control arrangements were unsatisfactory, as battalion headquarters were too small to command such large units in combat situations. While the large Pentropic infantry battalions were found to have some operational advantages over the old tropical establishment battalions, the divisions' large number of vehicles resulted in traffic jams when operating in tropical conditions.

The experience gained from exercises and changes in Australia's strategic environment led to the decision to move away from the Pentropic organisation in 1964. During the early 1960s a number of small counter-insurgency wars broke out in South East Asia, and the large Pentropic infantry battalions were ill-suited to these sorts of operations. As the US Army had abandoned its pentomic structure in 1962 and the British Army remained on the tropical establishment, the Australian Army was unable to provide forces which were suited for the forms of warfare it was likely to experience or which were organised along the same lines as units from Australia's main allies. In addition, concentrating the Army's limited manpower into a small number of large battalions was found to be undesirable as it reduced the number of deployable units in the Army. As a result of these factors the Australian Government decided to return the Army to the tropical establishment in November 1964 as part of a wide-ranging package of reforms to the Australian military, which included increasing the size of the Army.^[4] The Army returned to the tropical establishment in 1965, and many of the CMF battalions were re-established as independent units.

The main elements of the Pentropic divisions were:

- Divisional Headquarters
 - Reconnaissance Squadron
 - Administration Troop, Survey Troop, 5 Recce troops
 - Armoured Regiment
 - Three tank squadrons
 - Artillery Headquarters
 - Five field artillery regiments
 - Field engineer regiment
 - Five field squadrons
 - Five infantry battalions
 - Administration Company
 - Support Company
 - Five rifle companies (Four Rifle & a Weapons Platoons)
- Light aviation company
- Signals Regiment
- Supply, transport, ordnance and other services



Some of the museum members at the funeral of John Coull .
Left to right, Bill Akell, Mark Broemmer, Tom Chambers, Neil Leckie, David Drew.



Tyler is the Museum's newest member.

Young Tyler is learning about this units' rich history, perhaps he might follow his grandfather, MAJ Bill Akell's footsteps and join the military.

Tyler Lee-Quinlan aged 10 is the newest and youngest member to join The Ranger Museum as a financial member.

He has visited the Museum on several occasions and each time has been most interested in the exhibitions on display.

At left, Tyler in Sturt Street at Pompey Elliot's statue.

Thanks Bill.

NEW MEDAL DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM



Gordon Hunt from Ballarat's VVAA Sub-branch contacted the museum and advised that he had been given the Medals from a Nasho's estate, along with the Nasho's grandfather's Memorial Plaque (known as a "Dead Man's Penny"). He asked if the museum would like to be donated the medals and plaque. As both men lived in the 'Ballarat & District' area, the museum's 'Charter' of looking after the military history and memorabilia of the Battalion, along with 'Ballarat & District', the museum gladly accepted the offer. Shown are Neil Leckie (left) and Gordon Hunt at the handover at the Ballarat East Men's Shed on 24 March 2021.

October 1959. He transferred to the 8/7th Battalion, The North Western Victorian Regiment, to complete his commitment. However, on 30 June 1960, when the old 8/7th Battalion ceased as a battalion, to become A Company and a part of Support Company of the 8/7th Battalion, Alan opted to take discharge. Alans's grandfather was Walter George Waldron (right), who enlisted in Ararat on 14 February 1916. At this time the AIF in Egypt was being 'doubled' by splitting in half the first four brigades, who had all been to Gallipoli, and forming four new brigades that would have many of Gallipolis experienced men in them. Along with the original battalions and the 8th Brigade that had been raised in Egypt, there was now the revamped 1st Division, the 2nd Division, which also had been to Gallipoli, and the new 4th and 5th Divisions. At the same time, a 3rd Division, under Major-General Monash was being raised in Australia. Walter was originally a member of the 39th Battalion in Ballarat (10th Brigade, 3rd Division), before transferring to the 14 Depot Battalion, also in Ballarat. On 3 April 1916 Walter became 1786, 2nd Reinforcements, 57th Battalion, 15th Brigade ('Pompey Elliott's Brigade). On finally reaching France, Walter was 'Taken on Strength' of the 58th Battalion. After the usual run of illness, leave and 'dose' of VD, Walter finally returned to his battalion. Sadly, less than a fortnight after returning, he was killed. The 58th Battalion War Diary for 15 October 1917 at West Hoek Ridge in Belgium stated: 'Enemy shelling overnight and again at mid-day'. Walter was among those killed

The Nasho was 3/728932 Alan Edward Waldron, who undertook his three-months of training with the 20th

National Service Battalion at Puckapunyal from 15 August until 30



that day. Walter was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His family received the Memorial Plaque.

It is very seldom that such items come to the attention of the museum members. The museum wishes to thank Gordon Hunt and the VVAA for passing them on. They are now in one of the Medal Display Cabinet (presented to the museum some years ago by the Margoneet Correctional Centre, where the prisoners manufactured the cabinets). The display is shown at right.



Don't forget the AGM for the museum.

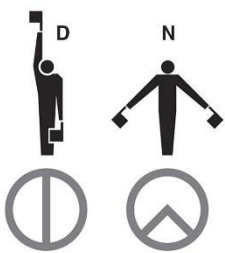
To be held in the Ranger Barracks on the 3rd Sunday, 18 July at 10 am.

Could you please be at the Museum by 9.40, where we will follow normal COVID protocol and sign in. Tea and coffee at the completion of the meeting. Thankyou.

Sick Parade. Museum member and supporter, John Dellaca is in the Geelong Hospital recovering from heart surgery. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

Did You Know!

Birth of the Peace Symbol



Its history begins in Britain, where it was designed by graphic artist Gerald Holtom in February 1958 to be used as a symbol against nuclear arms. The peace symbol debuted on April 4, 1958, Easter weekend that year, at a rally of the Direct-Action Committee Against Nuclear War, which included a march from London to Aldermaston. The marchers carried 500 of Holtom's peace symbols on sticks, with half of the signs black on a white background and the other half white on a green background. In Britain, the symbol became the emblem for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, thus causing the design to become synonymous with that Cold War cause. Interestingly, Holtom was a conscientious objector during World War II and thus a likely supporter of its message.



The Design

Holtom drew a very simple design, a circle with three lines inside. The lines inside the circle represent the simplified positions of two semaphore letters — the system of using flags to send information great distances, such as from ship to ship). The letters "N" and "D" were used to represent "nuclear disarmament." The "N" is formed by a person holding a flag in each hand and then pointing them toward the ground at a 45-degree angle. The "D" is formed by holding one flag straight down and one straight.

Brothers Meet on the way to London in 1917

During 'The Great War' two brothers, one who was serving in Ballarat's 39th Battalion AIF, having not seen each other for 14 years, met on an English Channel ferry and were in London on 4th July 1917. The meeting was arranged by a third brother who lived in Field's Corner, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

John Henry Coombes was born Montreal, Canada, in May 1876, although other information suggests he was born in London, Ontario, Canada. In 1915 he was a 39-year-old single Labourer of the Methodist religious persuasion. His Next of Kin was his sister Fanny Trenouth of Neponset, Boston. John's previous experience was three years with the Canadian Militia. By 1904 he had settled at Ingham, Queensland.

On 6 December 1915 John signed his Enlistment Application at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, signing his Enlistment Papers the following day. On 27 January 1916 he was allocated to the 10th Reinforcements for the NSW 19th Battalion as number 4097. On 16 February he had been Absent Without Leave for 2 days and listed as a Deserter, and transferred to E Company, 19th Battalion. Then on 29 March a Warrant was issued for his apprehension and conveyance to the Infantry Depot at Liverpool.

On 22 March John enlisted in D Company of Ballarat's 39th Battalion as Henry Coombes, listing his employment as a Seaman with his NOK now living at Quincy, Massachusetts. He was allocated number 1254. He now claimed his previous experience as 6 years with the Canadian Permanent Forces.

On 27 May Henry embarked on the HMAT A11 Ascanius and during the voyage found himself charged with Insolence to an NCO. He was awarded 7 days detention. The battalion disembarked in Devonport, England, on 18 July. Henry was promoted to Acting Corporal 5 days later. On 14 August Henry was admitted to a Military Hospital with a 'Disordered Action of the Heart'. The battalion embarked for France from Southampton on 23 November. Henry was then promoted to Temporary Corporal.

30 March 1917 saw Henry promoted to Corporal and on 24 June was awarded the Military Medal.

Recommendation for MM: (3rd Division recommendations for Honours and Awards, 7 to 12 Jun 1917): On 7th, 8th and 9th June 1917 during operations south of Messines for his untiring energy, and his coolness. When the stretcher bearers of his Battalion became casualties, this NCO organised and conducted parties to the advanced front line and supervised the evacuation of wounded to the Regimental Aid Post. From the commencement of the action in the early morning of the 7th until the morning of the 9th he worked almost ceaselessly under fire and exhibited great coolness and courage.

Although his records do not show that he had been allocated leave to England The Dorchester Beacon reported that on 4th July 1917 John Henry Coombes met up with his brother Sergeant Forbes Coombes on a Channel Boat from where they went on to London.


On 3 August, John Henry Coombes was killed in action near Messines and buried at Kandahar Farm, Ploegsteert, near Messines. There is no information on any activity on that date in the battalion's War Diary.

On 30 January 1919 the Warrant for John's arrest was withdrawn as the 'member re-enlisted in Ballarat and Killed in Action, Belgium.'

THE DORCHESTER BEACON

Brothers Are United After A Separation Of 14 Years

Through the faithful correspondence of a brother living in Dorchester, two brothers, one fighting "somewhere in France," the other "somewhere in Belgium," met for the first time in 14 years and held a Fourth of July celebration in London during a lull in the fighting. The two warriors were Sergt. out. George tried by a series of letters to arrange a meeting of his two brothers. The last letter to his brothers was to suggest that they both get a furlough in order to be in London July 4, 1917. The attempt was successful. For the first time in 14 years, Brother Forbes met Brother John.



Corp. John H. Coombes, left, and Sergt. Forbes Coombes, right.

Forbes Coombes of the Canadian Foresters and Corp John H. Coombes of the 19th Australian Infantry, recently honored by the "war-cross" for valor on the field of battle. The Dorchester brother is George Coombes of 4 Harbell terrace, Field's Corner. For two years after the war broke

The meeting took place on a Channel boat and brothers went to London, where they celebrated the American holiday when the above photograph was taken. The photo was passed by the censor and arrived in Dorchester this week, and used in this paper, through courtesy of the Boston Evening Record.

Any member needing to change their contact details by way of email may do so using the email addresses; Bill Akell yank1200@bigpond.com

Or fill in your detail's information below.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE #	
MOBILE	
EMAIL	
NEXT OF KIN	
DETAILS	

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

\$10.00 PER YEAR due on 1st July

WILLIAM AKELL
 14 Limetree Way
 LAKE GARDENS VIC 3355

Please use Block Letters	
NAME	AMOUNT
	\$

IF YOU WISH TO USE DIRECT CREDIT, PLEASE ENSURE YOU MARK YOUR PAYMENT SO WE KNOW WHO HAS PAID.

BANK DETAILS. CBA. BSB 063 507 Acc No 00902285
 BALLARAT RANGER MILITARY MUSEUM INC

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE	MEMBERS	FINANCIAL	
ADJUSTED	REGISTER	FILE	REC #

Privacy Statement

This organisation respects your right to information privacy. Information we collect and hold on members is kept in accordance with information privacy laws.

Editor: Tom Chambers. All members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter by email or surface mail.

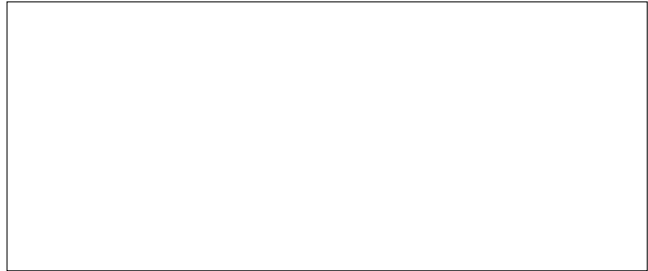
Disclaimer: The Editor does not accept any liability whatsoever for the contents of this members' newsletter. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, or the Editor. Anything in this newsletter may be reproduced with the acknowledgement of the source. Items submitted by individual authors will require permission from the author for any usage.

If undelivered please return to;

WILLIAM AKELL

14 Limetree Way
LAKE GARDENS VIC 3355

Post print approved
pp: 100019194



Sponsors Wanted

If you are able to help, please contact Tom
Please support our members

IMPACT TEAMWEAR

147 Learmonth Street, Alfredton
Next to MEGA MERCH

**Suppliers to the Ranger Museum and
the 8/7-2RVR Assoc.**



58/32 Infantry Battalion Association
VICE PRESIDENT

Major Robert Prewett RFD (Retd)

Mobile: 0427 671 677
Email: prewettb@bigpond.com
www.58th32nd.com.au

Dave Wright Militaria and Collectables

ABN 91 412 736 306

DAVID WRIGHT
EX-ARMY
PROFESSIONAL MEDAL MOUNTER

SHOP LOCATION:
6a SHEPPERD ST
BALLARAT 3350
VICTORIA
AUSTRALIA

Phone : 03 5338 4377
Email : djwright@ncable.net.au

MEDALS - BADGES - UNIFORMS - BAYONETS - COLLECTABLES

Facebook Page

Catch-up with your mates on

Bravo Coy Diggers

(2 RVR and 8/7 RVR)