



ESTABLISHED 1946

June 2013
Issue No. 468

ARMOUR

Patron: Lieutenant General Laurie O'Donnell AC
President: COLONEL John Haynes OAM . Editor George Baczocha

SPONSORING THE NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION INC.



email: george.baczocha@defence.gov.au . Tel: (02) 8335 5209 . fax: 8335 5357 .
www.bwm.org.au . ABN 29 293 433 202

Securing Afghanistan's future: Reconstruction Task Force operations in Uruzgan Province

*an address to the RUSI on 31 March 2009 by
Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Yeaman*

*Commander, Australian Reconstruction Task Force – Rotation 4, Afghanistan
April – October 2008*



In his essay on what must be done to win the war in Afghanistan, Major General Jim Molan observes that it is inevitable that the military will have to deliver reconstruction in the early stages of a counter insurgency campaign; and that this is now happening in Afghanistan. In this paper, Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Yeaman reports on the Australian reconstruction operations in Uruzgan Province in 2008 and their increasing success in winning 'the battle for the hearts and minds' of the local population.

The Australian reconstruction task force (RTF) is one of a number of commitments Australia has made to stabilise Afghanistan and prevent it from again becoming a haven for terrorist organisations. It is deployed to Uruzgan, a poor, remote province in the nation's troublesome south. Its 300,000 inhabitants live in river valleys and the Tarin Kowt Bowl in the centre of the province, which is ringed by massive mountains. The bowl accommodates perhaps 150,000 Afghans. Its key towns are Tarin Kowt and Chora. Two major rivers cut through the bowl and sustain the valleys' people and agriculture – fruit, nuts, grain crops such as wheat, and the notorious opium poppy. Predominantly Pashtuns, the people are religiously conservative, very insular, and split 50:50 between the politically dominant Durrani set of tribes and the often excluded Ghilzai tribes. Taliban insurgents are very active in Uruzgan. The insurgency is based in Quetta in North West Frontier Province, Pakistan, and retains close links with the Al Qaeda of Osama bin Laden. The insurgents enter Afghanistan through Zabul province and spread out into Uruzgan, Kandahar and Helmand provinces. They base themselves in local communities, some of which agree with the extreme Taliban policies, but most of which are coerced with threats and intimidation to provide food, money and support. The Taliban usually deploy in units of up to 30-40 fighters for local defence, although they can muster 100-200 fighters when required.

They have cells that specialise in improvised explosive devices (IED) and suicide bombing. Almost everywhere you drive will be 'spotted' by an observer who is in the paid employ of the Taliban, whose funding comes largely from opium sales and donations made by sympathetic foreigners.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) operations in Uruzgan are conducted under Royal Netherlands Army leadership. The Dutch have a commander (at Colonel level), with a battle group, a provincial reconstruction team, special forces, self propelled artillery, Apache helicopters, logistics, psychological operations, military police, mentoring teams and combat engineers. As well as Australians, there are commitments from the French (largely responsible for the western part of the province), Czech, Slovak and Hungarian armed forces; and the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Agency for International Development.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan also has a small presence in Tarin Kowt.

Inside this Issue

Securing Afghanistan's Future	1
Technical Notes & News	4
Message Board	7
Operation Ivanhoe	10
Boer War Memorial	11

(Continued on page 3)

Coming Events



1 August 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs
3 October 2013	AGM	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs
6 December 2013	Committee Meeting	B11, Victoria Barracks, 1130hrs

All members are welcome, afterwards we usually adjourn to the Officers' Mess for a luncheon snack.

CAMBRAI DINNER 2013

Members are cordially invited to attend a formal dinner
To celebrate Cambrai Day at the Royal Automobile Club Of Australia
Macquarie Street, Sydney
On Saturday 23 November 2013, 1830 for 1900 hrs

Guest Speaker Brigadier John Mackenzie
Head of Corps Royal Australian Armoured Corps

Dress Black Tie or Lounge Suit with miniatures
(Go to page 20 for more details)



Royal Automobile Club Incorporating the Imperial Service Club

After some years of lobbying we have managed to get this Club provide attractive membership to both serving and ex service members. Entrance fee has been waived and annual fees are half the normal. Also membership bring free road side service for you no matter what car you are driving, even a hire car.

Look at the web for details of the superb facilities, best spot in Sydney, valet parking etc. www.raca.org

The RAACA NSW has established an arrangement with Invocare for special reductions for our members. It's just a matter of you deciding to take it up. Several other Ex Service Organisations have taken advantage of this

NSW Military Historical Society

This group conducts excellent monthly activities in Victoria Barracks. First class speakers on Military history present each month. Come a visitor at first and then join if it suits.

DVD of the "Fragments of War Vietnam" narrated by Jack Thompson are being snapped up by our members. Should any other RAAC association require copies we will make bulk order available at discount.

Your Association has developed a list of advice to widows of members. This list is sent to widows the moment we hear of a member death. If you are aware of any widow who has not received this list please advise the office.

Failure to advise change of address results in our "losing" many members each year. As an example, we sent out receipts for three year subscriptions to five members recently, all were "returned to sender".

John Haynes, President

Does anyone know where the following now live?

E. Keet, P.J. Morrison, W.J. Marr, A.A. McArthur, and J. Paton.

(Continued from page 1)

Australian Reconstruction Task Force

The overall mission for Australian forces in Afghanistan is, as part of the ISAF deployment, to stabilize the Government of Afghanistan in order to deny the use of Afghanistan to terrorist groups. To this end, the 420-personnel Australian RTF operates to a reconstruction plan determined by the Afghan Government and coordinated with the Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team. Dutch security elements provide a security framework. The RTF is a small, highly capable team, which provides engineering design, contract management and construction support, and is able to deploy to contested areas. It has:

- an **engineer task group**, with construction and combat engineer components and a trade training team;
- a **specialist technical works team**;
- a **security task group** consisting of an infantry company mounted in Bushmaster vehicles, supported by a troop of nine light armoured vehicles (ASLAVs) – three of them personnel carriers and six reconnaissance vehicles, a section of mortars and fire support coordination personnel; and
- a **logistic support group** consisting of a small medical team, stores group and repair workshop.

Australian RTF Achievements

To date, the RTF focus has been on securing the Tarin Kowt Bowl from the west of the bowl to the township of Chora. RTF1 commenced operations in the main township and to the west; RTF2 continued engagement in Tarin Kowt and expanded operations to the north-east; RTF3 secured Chora and commenced operations in Sorkh Margab on the east bank of the Dorafshan; and RTF4 consolidated at Sorkh Margab⁶. Collectively, the RTFs have re-built Tarin Kowt Hospital; built one and commenced building a second basic health centre; rebuilt and enhanced a health training centre for the Afghan Health Development Service; rebuilt schools, police checkpoints and Afghan Army patrol bases; and constructed many causeways, crossings and bridges.

RFT4 Operations

I will now describe four operations that RTF4 conducted. RTFs 1-3 performed the same or similar operations in different parts of the country.

Operation Baray Pul was a 2 ½-month deployment to the village of Sajawul to construct a patrol base for the Afghan National Army (ANA) and a river crossing for the local community, rebuild a local school, construct wells and build a small community bakery. This deployment severed insurgent lines of communication and, despite the insurgents repeatedly posturing to attack the RTF, only resulted in indiscriminate rocket and IED attacks. The deployment saw Afghan companies for the first time employed well beyond the usual boundaries of the Tarin Kowt city to assist in the transport of stores, well-drilling and construction of buildings and the crossing. ANA engineers also assisted with building the patrol base. The ANA took control of the patrol base when the RTF departed and still occupy it.

Operation Ubor– E – Janubi was a 2-week operation to the eastern provinces of Zabul and Ghazni during which Combat Team Dagger drove 400 km to re-build two bridges along the vital Highway 1 and return.

Operation Pindz Psha was a 3-week operation in Sorkh Margab, initiating the building of a health clinic, school and bazaar. It was very important as it delivered on promises made to that community by RTF3 and changed the nature of the area, effectively winning the ‘hearts and minds’ of the locals to the government.

Operation Takht was the ongoing engagement with the city of Tarin Kowt in which, over four rotations, the RTF has rebuilt the city hospital, the primary school and the high school; improved the city’s defences; completed a causeway to improve local access; enlarged the Afghan Health Development Service training site; and rebuilt the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development compound. In the process, the RTF developed good relationships with local government officials and contractors, resulting in improved construction, oversight, project management, financial accountability and technical standards; introduced systems of open, transparent tendering; and enforced realistic costing of delivered works. RTF engineers negotiated with local contractors to employ youth trained by Australian engineers at the RTF’s Trade Training School. To date, the RTF has invested over \$20 million in Tarin Kowt, resulting in its re-birth as a provincial city with a highly active economy, a palpable sense of confidence, and virtually no security issues. RTF engineers imparted sufficient knowledge and experience that not only was the RTF able to contract local companies to build quite complex bridges and buildings outside the city where previously no companies had felt safe to go, they inspired the local Ministries to undertake their own contracted works to build two bridges, one in Tarin Kowt and one in Chora, without RTF support.

Lessons Learned

The RTF is involved in both a stability operation and the counter-insurgency fight which extends across the south and east of the country. The two types of operation mutually support each other – a major lesson in itself. The RTF experience has reinforced, or at times required relearning of, lessons from other earlier conflicts – Malaya, Vietnam, Algeria and recently Iraq – and have validated contemporary United States and Australian doctrine on stability operations conducted alongside a counterinsurgent war. Australian doctrine on ‘adaptive campaigning’ describes five mutually re-enforcing lines of operation – joint land combat, population protection, information actions, population support and indigenous capacity building. These are being delivered by the RTF in conjunction with Dutch and other Australian forces. Our experience is that these are, indeed, the important lines of operation and, when conducted properly, will position political decision-makers to successfully conclude the war. Australia has developed a comprehensive campaign plan⁸, which enunciates the steps that will lead to control of the province. To date, this approach has brought stability to a little over half the population in the province and led to government/NATO control over the key areas of the Tarin Kowt Bowl, Chora and Dehrawud, with a key presence in the outlying towns of Shahidi Hassas and Chas Uruzgan. Ten key lessons that have been reinforced by our RTF experience are described below.

‘Hearts and minds’

The Afghanistan insurgency is not as coherent as is often portrayed. There are key radical groups based around Pashtu leaders, most of whom live in Quetta, but many local supporters are insurgents more by circumstance than commitment. Many issues drive local communities to take up arms against the central government, but the more important ones are economic necessity, intimidation, and desire for revenge for personal sleight or injury. Lack of employment, absence of government authority, injuries perceived or real done by ISAF, and absence of development, are touchstones used by insurgent groups to seek support. Insurgents pay individuals a pittance

(Continued on page 8)

Technical Notes & News

The ADF's cunning antiarmour Rounds

Anti-armour shells are set to return to the Australian gun-line after a successful test firing of new artillery rounds. The new top-attack anti-armour rounds, known as SMARt 155, deploy two sub-munitions in flight that independently target and attack heavy or light armoured vehicles in an area up to 35sq km.

Once fired, the German-designed round releases submunitions at heights up to 1500m, which descend under parachute and use infrared sensors and radar to scan for targets. When a target is located the sub-munition fires an explosively formed projectile at the softer armour on top of the vehicle.

Gunners from 102 'Coral' Bty assisted in the firing of nine of the new rounds from M777A2 155mm Howitzers at the Proof and Experimental Establishment, at Port Wakefield near Adelaide from August 27-31. DMO personnel collected data on barrel pressure, muzzle velocity, flight trajectory and submunition performance. The trial also included ammunition inspection and fitment of electronic time M762A1 fusing. The data collected will allow the new rounds to be introduced into service in 2013.

Establishment OC MAJ Mike Hartas said it was one of the more complex trials the unit had completed this year. "The data collection requirements and ensuring that all the questions that needed to be answered could be answered from the one trial has meant my staff have worked hard for a number of months," he said. "A trial such as this one needs to be done right the first time due to complexity and cost."

Once a fire mission is called with the SMARt 155, the gun-line only needs targeting information and to set the fuse before firing. "SMARt 155 will add to the capability offered by gunners through a highly advanced munition," he said. "The ammunition is simple to employ but intelligent enough to know which targets are not operational or have been hit through previous fire missions, and therefore keep scanning for a new target"

— Andrew Shipton/ArmyNews

ADM's Defence Week Premium Edition -
ISSUE No. 234 | 6 DECEMBER 2012



Role for Bushmaster post Afghanistan



According to Defence, the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) will provide an enduring protected mobility capability for Army as operations draw down in Afghanistan. Drawing from its experience over the past decade – a period of high operational tempo – the Army is currently reviewing its force structure and equipment provisioning as part of Plan Beersheba, with the aim of establishing a more capable army for the future. Plan Beersheba involves, in the first instance, the development of Multi-role Combat Brigades, based on the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades, which have fundamentally common structures containing all elements of the combined arms team. Defence says the Bushmaster will be an integral component of the Plan, particularly within the Multi-role Combat

Brigades, and with Bushmaster more widely distributed across Army.

Looking at potential future roles for the Bushmaster PMV the Land 400 Concept of Operations provides further Defence thinking on the provisioning of the three Beersheba manoeuvre brigades, and discusses the roles of combat support (CS) and combat service support (CSS) assets within the close combat zone. Within the direct fire zone, there will be the combatants and enablers required to win the close battle. Those enablers that transit the direct fire zone will be mounted in protected mobility platforms provided by Land 121 and legacy fleets. There will be an increased reliance on Land 121, legacy fleet protected mobility and rotary wing assets to transport dismounted systems (e.g. personnel, weapons, sensors) to support LCVS-based Schemes of Manoeuvre.

Due to the high level of protection the Bushmaster PMV and its family of single and dual cab vehicles offers over Land 121 logistics vehicles, where protection is focussed on the cabin, it may make sense to acquire a number of these combat service support-style vehicles for the transport/resupply of ammunition, weapons and sensors, close to and within the direct fire zone, especially in urban terrain where mines/IEDs and small arms fire may predominate.

For more on the Bushmaster fleet, keep an eye out for the upcoming September edition of ADM. Australian Defence Magazine issue 218, 16th August 2012

Russian armoured vehicles to roll on single platform

By Ilya Kramnik



T-90. Photo: EPA

Russia is the first to be switching to a uniform combat platform in three major types of ground vehicles, which will presumably make them easier and cheaper to build and maintain, while their modular design will allow to develop different

systems, depending on their purpose. The first platforms of this kind of modular design will be produced in two to three years.

Russia's Defense Ministry has approved the design of a new heavy crawler platform for the Russian armed forces, says Major General Alexander Shevchenko, Chief of General Tank

Automotive Directorate. The development of "perspective technologies" for the Russian military is now going through a major transformation. What comes out of this can forever change the country's army.

"Standardization can simplify both the maintenance and

combat application of the military hardware, increase modularity in its design, including possible usage of versatile target modules on chassis to meet different objectives. All platforms have the so-called "open architecture" avionics to make it easier to add new systems," says Viktor Murakhovsky, an expert on armoured vehicles. "Different hardware complexes can be built on the basis of a single sighting-system node by adjusting the number of various observation channels to create a system for a combat, reconnaissance or a command vehicle."

A new versatile armoured platform, "Armata," is expected to "set to rights" the Russian armoured forces, plagued by chassis and components of every stripe. The most popular tank, the T-72, and its upgrade, the T-90, will be revamped to stay in the Russian army, except for its first-line units, which are to be equipped with the cutting-edge "Armata" by 2015 to 2025. But the T-90 won't disappear for good as its recent modification, known as the T-90S, is in fact set to keep its export market. It was announced that the T-90S will make its reappearance at the Defexpo-2012 show in India.

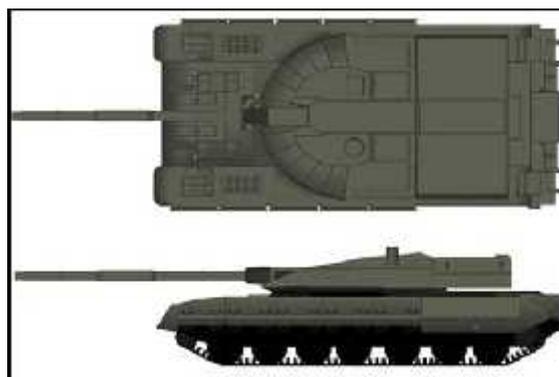
The Russian armed forces will have as many as four versatile base platforms: the "Armata" crawler platform for heavy tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and other types of motorized infantry brigades weighing up to 65 tons. Among other projects are the "Kurganets-25" medium crawler platform in the 25-ton range and two wheeled platforms – a medium 25-ton and a light 10-ton platform of the "Bumerang" family.

The idea to build modular-design platforms was up in the air for quite a while. The collapse of the Soviet Union crippled the production of already existing hardware and stalled its further development. The West was the next in line to dip its toes in this water, with the American line of the "Stryker" wheeled combat vehicles and a whole family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) clearly coming off the charts.

Still, no Western army ever considered bringing all vehicles of all weight classes onto a single, unified platform. The US tried to grapple with this task in its modernization program called Future Combat Systems (FCS), which was cancelled after over-ambitious plans of the US military command to outfit its vehicles with cutting-edge equipment threatened to drain its funds.

Russia had it easier, having had to learn from the FCS example, which proved that any sweeping modernization can only bust the budget. In this sense, Russian armoured vehicles, which are capable of employing both the existing equipment and systems that are still under development, have much more chances to come off the blueprints and into reality.

Source: Defence Update Military Technology and News



So how fares the Army's ASLAV upgrade?

Upgrading the Army's Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) has not gone quite as smoothly as hoped. Back in June 2010 Land 112 Phase 4 ASLAV upgrade, received second pass approval when Armatec Survivability Corporation and General Dynamics Land Systems - Australia (GDLS-A) were awarded a contract to provide survivability enhancements and refurbishment to 113 ASLAV.

These improvements were to extend the service life of the vehicles and provide increased crew protection against a wide range of threats, including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), landmines, bullets, shrapnel, and explosive blast. The enhanced-survivability kits were said to represent world-leading, combat-proven, advanced, composite armour technology developed and produced by Armatec Survivability in Canada. The pre-modification, refurbishment, automotive upgrades, and installation of the enhanced-survivability kits would be done by GDLS-A in Adelaide SA. Scheduled to have begun in 2012, the combined value of the project was A\$302.8 million.

But it seems that Armatec 'oversold' its solution with the DMO's Warren King telling a Parliamentary Inquiry that while Armatec had represented its upgrade as a low risk, off-the-shelf solution, it was found to be technically risky, involving modifications to the vast majority of ASLAVs in one form or another. While the Armatec solution was dropped, the upgrade to the ASLAV fleet is said to continue as a priority project, with other solutions under consideration, but there is a paucity of information about its progress.

According to official sources as of May last year, the DMO has acquired 144 additional ASLAVs, 59 remote weapon stations capability, nine Crew Procedural Trainers and conducted an automotive standardisation program for the Phase 2 vehicle. The project is currently acquiring Multi Spectral Surveillance Suites for integration on the ASLAV through the ASLAV Surveillance Project. Minor facility upgrades in the three units that operate the ASLAV fleet are also occurring. The ASLAV Surveillance Project will provide an integrated sensor-based surveillance capability for ASLAV Surveillance variants operated in the Australian Army's Cavalry units. The Multi Spectral Surveillance Suites is a mast mounted radar and electro-optic surveillance system to be fully integrated on the ASLAV Surveillance variant. The contractor for the delivery and integration of the Multi Spectral Surveillance Suites is US company DRS Sustainment Systems. The project has reached the stage concerned with the production, testing and delivery of 18 Multi Spectral Surveillance Suites units. Initial materiel release of the Multi Spectral Surveillance Suites has occurred.

In related news **General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada** (GDLS-C) has been awarded a contract modification for upgrade of the Canadian Army's 66 additional LAV III combat vehicles. The latest US\$133.25 million contract modifies the previous US\$1.05 billion award secured by GDLS-C for modernisation of a total of 550 LAV III vehicles in October 2011. Under the new contract, GDLS-C will upgrade the additional 66 vehicles by improving their survivability, mobility and firepower, with an aim to eventually extend the fleet's service life to 2035.

ADM understands the upgraded vehicles will provide the Canadian Army with one of the most advanced and modern vehicles of its type in the world. Survivability improvements include integration of double-V-hull technology and add-on armour protection, as well as energy-attenuating seats to help boost the vehicle's crew protection against mine blasts, IED attacks and other threats.

A powerful engine, robust driveline and suspension and a Height Management System (HMS) will be incorporated as part of mobility system upgrades to optimise the vehicle's automotive performance, handling characteristics and payload capacity.

In addition, the company will enhance the 25mm turret's crew ergonomics and its capabilities by integrating larger hatches, and advanced technologies, including improved fire control, thermal, day and low-light sights and data displays.

Upgrade work under the contract is scheduled to be carried out at the company's facilities in London, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, as well as at its Canada-wide supplier base; it is expected to be complete in 2017. The LAV III is a derivative of the **MOWAG Piranha IIIH 8x8** vehicle, and 651 are currently operational with the Canadian Army as its primary mechanised infantry vehicle.

Australian Defence Magazine's Defence Week Premium Edition
ISSUE NO. 231 – THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2012



Copies of Ironsides are available on request from the RAACA NSW Office post free

Message Board

On This Day 16th April 1865

**General Sir Harry Chauvel. Commander Desert Mounted Corps Birthday.
Australia's First Corps Commander.**

“General Sir Harry Chauvel GCMG, KCB, Commanded Desert Mounted Corps [1917/19](#). Inspector General in Australia [1919/30](#). CGS 1922/30. Born Tabulan, 16 April 1865. Died 4 March 1945”



From: Light Horse [mailto:plumes.newsletter@gmail.com]
Subject: Stamp Issue!
From LTC John Boyce
Hello,

In case you haven't seen this yet, I thought you might be interested to know that Australia Post will issue two postage stamps about the Light Horse, including a First Day Cover on 10 May 2013 that shows the 4 LH badge.

It's a joint release with the Israeli postal service, timed for the World Stamp Expo here in Melbourne.

Cheers,

John Boyce
Ich Dien

From: Graham Ware [mailto:gbware2@bigpond.com]
Sent: Sunday, 5 May 2013 17:44
To: VBS RAACANSW
Subject: Combat tank models 1939-1999

My son-in-law has recently passed away (51 yr) and we have found his tank collection .. 86 models in scale {1 to 70 approx }.. up to yr 2003 model... all in hard case, clear plastic containers {17cm long/ 7cm high/ 7.5cm wide} plus folders re military history and technical data plus shelving {same plastic} to display them. As new condition. Models/ cases/ shelving originally costing \$2000.00 +. Willing to let them go for \$1500.00 or near reasonable offer. If you think any tankies would be interested would you display in next Edition of Combat { advert. costs accepted}. Models can be inspected at my home in Blaxland.

Graham B. Ware Member RAACANSW

From: Burke, Lindsay SGT
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2013 11:51
To: VBS RAACANSW
Cc: Baczocha, George TPR
Subject: Error in March edition of Armour

Sir,
I write with some disappointment regarding the vale notice of our member Don Weedon in the March edition of Armour. Don claims to be alive. In future if you have reports of the death of one of our members could you contact me for confirmation prior to going to print. Please feel free to contact me on any matter of mutual interest. Yours in Armour

Regards
Lindsay Burke Secretary
4/19 PWLH Association
Simpson Bks Vic 3085
lindsay.burke@defence.gov.au

Please accept our sincere apologies Ed

(Continued from page 3)

to report on movements of government or ISAF forces, transport weapons or ammunition, emplace bombs or fire rockets. Nevertheless, seldom are these things done for hatred or desire to see the Taliban returned – the need for cash often outweighs the potential danger of the task. The first major lesson we learnt, then, was that it was this group we had to separate from the Taliban by winning them over with definable improvements in their living standard, access to education, health, or economic improvement.

Reconstruction

There are no greater weapons for an insurgency than a government's broken promises. We learnt that the reconstruction of key infrastructure was the lynchpin in convincing local communities of government sincerity and commitment. The construction of hospitals, schools, bridges and health clinics improved the life of the local community and demonstrated the presence of the provincial government whose leaders we involved publicly at every opportunity. These attempts to win local 'hearts and minds' for the government are being successful; and by winning back the people of Uruzgan, village by village, we expect to marginalize the more extreme Taliban elements and bring the incidental Taliban back into the community. This was experienced on a small scale in Sorkh Margab where we were able to use the routes through the village almost with impunity and on a number of occasions locals actually identified IEDs or handed them in to us.

Capacity building

The RTF also has been successful in building the capacity of local communities. It established a trade training school in Tarin Kowt in which local youth are given basic skills in carpentry, plumbing, block work, generator maintenance and so on. The youth are paid a good wage, achieve a basic standard of skills, learn teaching methods and develop a work ethic. To facilitate skills transfer, Army instructors are understudied by previous graduates who have been working with us for about two years. The RTF guarantees work for its graduates in local firms and, to improve the course, seeks feedback on course content from their employers. The works team invested many hours mentoring the local government engineers and contractors to improve their technical standards of inspection and quality of work, including teaching how to tender and contract works and how to manage those in construction. This has improved the capacity and technical competence of firms; and introduced work practices designed to extend the life of newly constructed buildings in the town to the extent that local engineers have undertaken to build two bridges and a new headquarters building on their own initiative without ISAF help. Lastly, the injection of capital directly into a series of towns has re-juvenated the local economies. Tarin Kowt has gone from a lawless broken-down place to a vibrant community with a large number of merchants and people trading about the city. This effect has also been felt in Dehrawud in the west and up in Chora in the north-east. The works team even convinced local contractors to go beyond Tarin Kowt to Baluchi, Sorkh Margab and Kotwal to deliver on works in those communities, where previously it had been considered too unsafe to do this. This was so successful that a local contractor was employed to construct the 145-metre Kotwal river crossing and the Sorkh Margab health centre and local school.

Tribal structures

Tribes in Afghanistan have been the guarantors of security and wealth for individual Afghans for centuries. One reason the Taliban was able to impose itself successfully on the Afghan people was that tribal structures had been decimated by the long war with the Russians and subsequent civil wars. Surviving tribal leaders had lost much of their status. We learnt to deal with the local tribal leaders and enhance their position within their local community. This made it harder for the Taliban to insert itself into the community – it became the outsider. In Uruzgan, which is very insular, life could be made harder for Pakistani Taliban insurgents simply by enhancing the local leadership.

Size and duration of presence

The size and duration of your tactical footprint is important. The insurgents faced by the RTF were not the fanatical insurgents sometimes encountered in the western and southern provinces, although that was the group we faced when employed in Ghazni, Zabul and Kandahar. The Afghan insurgents in the bowl followed the tactical playbook pretty well, fading away in the presence of superior forces and only grouping where they sensed a weakness or an opportunity. There were zones that they would choose to defend and sometimes defend vigorously, particularly if their leadership was threatened. However, the RTF seldom deployed outside of Tarin Kowt in anything less than a reinforced platoon size and usually I had the entire RTF forward deployed with 190 or more personnel and the ability to reinforce with strength at any point. This meant we were hardly challenged by the Taliban – we were simply too big. Our platoon commanders and company commanders also made excellent use of their assets and on one of the few occasions where the Taliban shaped to fight, we employed tactical manoeuvre to occupy key positions that made their position untenable and the group faded away. Insurgents, therefore, dropped back to attempts to rocket our positions and use IEDs. The length of time in location was a second vital consideration. We stayed in our forward operating base at Baluchi for 2½ months and then handed over to the Afghan Army. The positions in Sorkh Margab and Chora were occupied for 2–3 months before we arrived and are still maintained. All this has meant that there has been a continual presence in these areas and the effects are palpable, with the insurgent presence curtailed and attacks becoming negligible. This, however, is merely a relearning of the same lesson from Iraq and Vietnam, and earlier in Malaya, where bases in the insurgent heartland were occupied to deny enemy access to the area.

Simultaneity matters

One of the methods NATO uses at the operational level is the clear-hold-build concept. The linear aspect of this activity – finishing one stage before moving to the next – is the problem with this description and is not what we did. We did all three things simultaneously. We deployed to a site, conducted initial meetings with the local leaders and then stayed. In doing so, we conducted the phases – clear, hold and build – concurrently. We established a basic patrol base and commenced community engagement and in-depth patrolling to interdict insurgents moving in the area. We then constructed a long term patrol base with the support of the Afghan Army and to their specifications as they would later occupy it. At the same time we also began work on a bazaar, school and crossing point for the local community. We supplied some food and aid to the local community and also helped out with some medical emergencies and in one case diffused a rocket that had been fired at us and landed in a mosque.

Surprise and manoeuvre

Local communities gain no sense of improved security when counter-insurgent forces simply move on after conducting a clearance, particularly where there has been no challenge to the insurgents' sanctuary areas. The clearance causes the insurgent little concern. Rather, it often gives him the initiative, allowing him to fade away in one area only to strike in a previously cleared one. RTF4 occupied a key location at Baluchi that directly impacted the lines of communication between three insurgent strongholds – we did it unannounced and stayed.

(Continued on page 13)

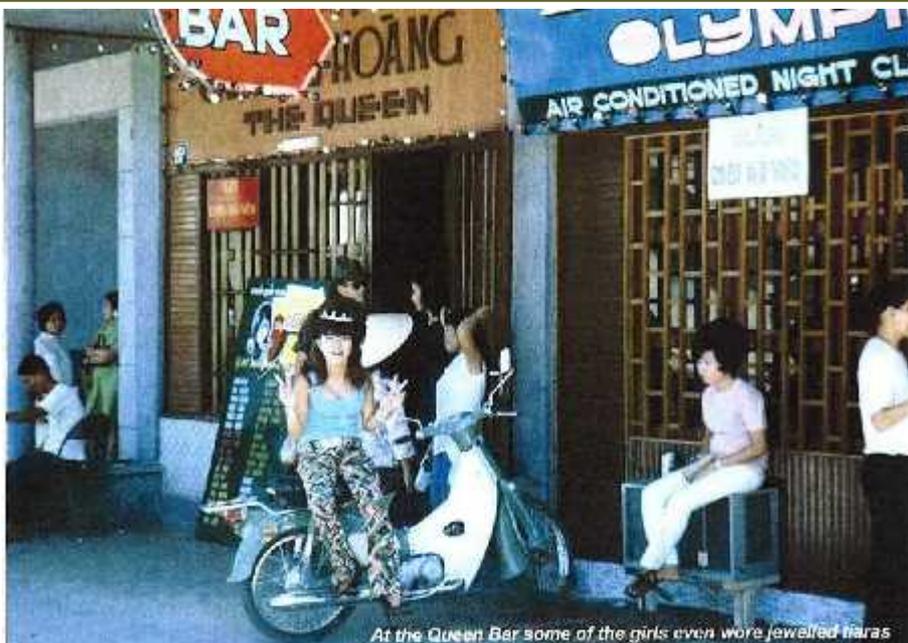
The letter below was received from General Latchford's son, Mark

Flat A 36th Floor
3 Renwick Rd,
Hong Kong. SAR
10th March 2013

Dear Colonel + Mrs Haines.

A belated thank you, from my brothers and I, for the words in your card, after Dad's death. Moreover, thank you for your magnificent counsel + support to us, as we dealt with Dad's passing + in particular, helping arrange the Army's participation. Most importantly, thank you for many, many years of friendship, help and support our father. It made a world of difference for Dad to know you were at his side. As you know, the Armed Brotherhood was a central pillar of his life. Dad admired your insight, your enthusiasm + ability to handle so much, on top of your distinguished military career. Your friendship was greatly cherished by Dad + thus my brothers + I.

I would like to write to the RASC Association + the 1st Armoured Reg. Assoc. to thank them for their flowers. Would you have a address. Thanks as always
Yours sincerely, Mark Latchford.



At the Queen Bar some of the girls even wore jewelled tiaras

Sapper Bob's guide to the best bars in Vung Tau

A Bit of nostalgia here, borrowed from the Tunnel Rat's magazine. We tankies never got the experiences enjoyed by the Vung Tau warriors so our morals were preserved

(Received in an email from Mike Butler)

Op Ivanhoe: the last battle



The map showing the engagement of Australian and NZ units with the NVA

WO2 Warren Dowell recalls the final battle in Vietnam as Cpl Cameron Jameison of the Army Newspaper reports.



WO2 Warren Dowell retired after 20 years in the Infantry
Photo by Cpl Cameron Jameison

In 1969 there weren't too many delays once you decided to join the Army. The need for soldiers was so great that you were off to recruit training almost as soon as you had signed on the dotted line.

Warren Dowell was a 17 year-old lad, not long out of high school, when he marched into Kapooka in January that year.

After his recruit and infantry training he found himself posted to 4RAR, and in May 1971 Cpl Dowell marched through the streets of Townsville with the men of D Coy 4RAR to board HMAS Sydney for the trip to Vietnam.

On August 18, 1971 the Australian Government announced that the 1st Australian Task Force would be withdrawn by late December, with logistics units to follow soon after.

Exactly one month later 4RAR, with an attached company of New Zealand

infantry, began Operation Ivanhoe, which was designed to destroy the

enemy who were moving south back into the Phuoc Tuy province from the Long Khanh province. Unfortunately for the diggers of 4RAR/NZ, a command decision had been made to withdraw the Centurion tanks of C Sqn 1 Armd Regt from Vietnam prior to the cessation of the task force's field operations, so the infantry were left to carry on without support from their armoured comrades.

(Continued on page 12)



Fragments of War—VIETNAM

Members will recall that we had copies of the Tape of this video, which is narrated by Jack Thompson, for sale some years ago. We still have one or two of those tapes left at \$25 each.

Now we have had the Tape converted to DVD for sale at \$10 with postage free.

It is an excellent résumé of the War.

Please contact the office for your copy



Statement by Mr Tim Fischer

In a vibrant nation, the past and present counts a great deal in shaping the best way forward and the very best future.

On the occasion of the very birth of the Commonwealth of Australia, Australian soldiers and support unit personnel were risking life and limb in fierce action in the Boer War in South Africa and yet no memorial exists in the Nation's capital to honour the Boer War veterans, although space has been set aside in Anzac Parade. This missing memorial renders asunder the core fabric of the nation and can and must be rectified by the raising of sufficient funds to get the brilliant design already agreed proceeded with, as soon as possible.

We need a Boer War memorial for completeness with regard to our vital military heritage and it is with this thought in mind that I urge your taking up the cudgels and give, to help bring it about.

THE FUTURE OF THE NBWM

We need to be drip fed \$180,000 per month from Oct to have chance of completing the NBWM by the ANZAC Centenary. You see the sculptor will be ready to start on mounted trooper number two by then and it doesn't look as if we will be able to fund that at this stage.

We want the Government to be fair for example; the ANZAC Centenary which we hoped would fund the NBWM has been just recently closed off at a total of no less than \$140,000,000., yes \$140M. That works out at roughly \$3,000,000 per thousand soldiers KIA in WW1. We lost 1,000 soldiers in the Boer War so where is our \$3M?

If anyone knows of a company with deep pockets please advise the office so we can make an approach for assistance.



Vale

Corporal Richard Kerry BROWN
Service No: 2786511
Service: Army
Service Between: 12/02/1968 and 25/02/1969
Total Days: 380
Unit: A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment

Returned & Services League of Australia
WWW.RSLANGELESCITY.COM
<http://www.facebook.com/rslacity>

(Continued from page 10)

Op Ivanhoe was only a day old when the enemy showed they were looking for a fight. On the night of September 19, North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops fired rockets and mortars against a South Vietnamese Regional Force outpost located at Cam My on Route 2, which connected the Australian base with the Americans at Black Horse camp.

A relief force of Australian APCs was ambushed as it approached the outpost, by a strong force of enemy firing RPGs and small arms.

The next day, the men of 11 Pl from D Coy 4RAR/NZ contacted an enemy platoon, which resulted in four dead enemy soldiers being left on the battlefield. Inspection of their dress and equipment, coupled with the tactics used by the enemy soldiers, indicated they were from a well-trained and supplied NVA unit.

On the morning of September 21, following the discovery of well-worn tracks that indicated the presence of hundreds of enemy soldiers, the OC D Coy made the

decision to draw the company's platoons together to prevent them from being overrun should they run into a superior number of enemy troops. But while 12 and 10 platoons moved towards 11 Pl, an enemy force of more than 60 soldiers tried their best to eliminate 11 Pl. Twelve Platoon were still about two kilometers away when they ran into an enemy bunker system. The opening bursts of fire left the lead Australian scout dead and several of his mates wounded. The Battle of Nui Le had begun – the last major battle for Australian troops in the Vietnam War.

Bunker battle

The bunker system was hammered by airpower and artillery for a number of hours before the Forward Air Controller reported the enemy was pulling out and moving north.

A decision was made for 4RAR/NZ to enter the system and clear it before nightfall, and D Coy was to take the lead. Their hopes of finding no one at home were shattered as a wall of small-arms fire burst on them, and more Australians fell.

At the time of the battle, Warren Dowell was attached to Company

Headquarters' (CHQ) support section. His ability to move around the battlefield gave him a good opportunity to observe the flow of the battle and the mayhem that ensued as the Australians fought for their lives against the 2nd Battalion of the NVA's 33 Regt.

"At about 3pm, the company moved off again, back into the bunker system and that's when things really started to hot up," recalls Dowell.

"We had thought the enemy had withdrawn, at least that's what we were led to believe by the aircraft overhead, but no – they'd stayed to fight and within

minutes 11 Pl had suffered four losses and a number wounded. That's when I found myself with 11 Pl, acting as a section commander at different times, trying to do what I could.

"Relaying orders around the place was a big problem because there was so much noise, it was very hard for anybody to actually hear orders above the sounds of battle."

Extraction nightmare

The fight lasted for several hours and the light was fading, so the company commander made the decision to break contact and move back 300 metres to form a secure company harbour position for the night.

"Ten Pl was given the task of moving first," remembers Dowell. "They hadn't gone too far when they ran straight into another bunker system where the RHQ of the 33 NVA Regt was located. "So while they were fighting to the company's rear, 11 Pl and 12 Pl were trying to extract themselves from the system.

"We had them all around us, but we did get back into a semblance of all-round defence. "It wasn't the classical all-round defence, but certainly we were linked-up, which was excellent because our spirits lifted once we were all together. "We were in

(Continued on page 16)

Continued from page 8

This had an immediate impact on Taliban leadership and operations and caused him concern over which location would be targeted next. Tarin Kowt, which had for long been the obvious insurgent target, was now too difficult to get to. The insurgents were clearly frustrated by this direct challenge on areas they considered heartland and this operation contributed to the Taliban calling off the summer offensive which it had heralded last year.

Insurgent sanctuaries

Insurgent sanctuaries must be sealed off. The RTF4 operation at Baluchi demonstrated that the insurgent capacity is like a fish that needs the sea of the people to survive. Insurgents must undertake logistic, recruiting and financing operations. These can be targeted and disrupted fairly easily if they can be identified. Cutting off the insurgent from sanctuaries hurts his practical capability, but also affects his will. The capture of Baluchi by RTF4 meant that the Taliban could not move his casualties from adjoining areas to safer zones without being interdicted and the implication for his local fighters was that even a wound could be a death sentence. However, the one issue that continues to plague the Afghan situation is the presence of Taliban sanctuaries in Pakistan. Whilst RTF4 could do many things, it could not deal with those sanctuaries. While they are an exceptionally difficult issue to deal with, the problem in Afghanistan would disappear overnight if the sanctuaries in Pakistan were closed.

Information operations – the ‘vital ground’

To the Taliban, information operations are the number one priority over all other lines of operation. Taliban activities are all aimed at presenting the Taliban viewpoint to the world and driving home the key themes in local communities. Where basic information does not cover their requirements, fabrication and lies will suffice and, if they fail, intimidation and murder will be used. Taliban night letters are infamous for warning locals that they are being watched and any effort to aid NATO will result in instant death. Do not doubt how quickly the insurgent is able to pass information through the tribal network on how well they are doing and how badly NATO is going. And do not underestimate how much interest there is even in rudimentary parts of Uruzgan as to what the Dutch and Australian public think of operations by their soldiers. Every Australian casualty is claimed and reported within Uruzgan as well as comments made by our senior generals and politicians. Thought pieces in Australian papers very quickly become major evidence used by Taliban insurgents to demonstrate at grass roots level that Australia, or the west, does not have the commitment to stay the distance. There has been a lot of speculation in the Australian press about how things are faring. I have read a wide variety of opinion on the present situation in Afghanistan that describes itself as informed but is surprisingly unaware of what Australian forces have been doing. Part of my intention today is to overcome that ignorance. What much of this commentary proves to me is there is a wide disjunction between what is happening in the field and what is being portrayed in the newspapers.

Operational plan

I was very surprised when, on my arrival in Tarin Kowt, General Hindmarsh gave me a campaign plan which told me where I was to operate and what to achieve. Commanders are taught that they should make their own plan, putting into practice all their brilliant ideas. I was, however, being told what to do! It is vital in an insurgency with long delivery times, though, that each piece of the puzzle fits into the others over a number of troop rotations. Having worked with the plan for six months, I now think it is absolutely the right plan and is a vital part of the way Australia links the tactical effort with the strategic outcomes. I have no doubt that, if we follow it until 2012, we will have won in Uruzgan.

Additional Observations

Combined arms operations work, yet we do not train in combining arms at a low enough level currently. The combined arms capability of a counter-insurgency-trained platoon commander must exceed that of a conventionally trained platoon commander enormously. Our platoon commanders deployed organisations in the ‘three-block’ war that were exceedingly complex and highly powered. A usual platoon team included infantry, Bushmaster and ASLAV combat arms, supported where necessary by Apache gunships, 155mm self-propelled howitzers, mortars and a range of aircraft from A10 harriers to B1 bombers. He also usually had an unmanned aerial vehicle, and human and signals intelligence teams or access to them. He had at least one section of engineers, a team of dog handlers and often explosive ordnance destruction assets. The public affairs team was often part of his patrol and sometime he had Australian electronic and print media journalists within his team. He was operating often in built up areas against an enemy that disguised himself as local people and had no hesitation in

(Continued on page 14)

Got a Story to Share?

Do you have a story to share with your fellow troopers. We are always on the look out for new writers and new material for our newsletter.

At the moment we are looking for:

- personal experiences with your life in an armoured corps unit.
- Stories and photos from our recent overseas operations in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan
- Technical articles on vehicles and equipment used .

Everyone who has served in the Army has at least one story that would be of interest to RAACA Members, so get in touch with us and get it into print for posterity. We can provide help and advice if you are not confident of your writing ability. Email raacansw@defence.gov.au or ring on 02 8335 5209

causing indiscriminate damage using rockets, bombs or IEDs. Counter-insurgency is often thought of as a slow 'hearts and minds' issue that happens with lots of touchyfeely activities and little actual combat. Far from it – counter-insurgency is an extremely high tempo mix of charged issues and is a far more complex and vibrant scenario for a newly-graduated lieutenant than any in a conventional landscape.

Bushmaster is an excellent piece of equipment; almost perfect for this conflict. It has won the admiration of those who use it and is far more capable of a wide variety of roles than previously acknowledged. Our convoys were led by two or three Bushmasters with ASLAVs ready in support. Soldiers were confident in the ability of the Bushmaster to protect against IEDs and felt sorry for other nations who had to deploy 'outside the wire' in less capable vehicles. We used the Bushmaster extensively in overwatch and fire support roles and at the centre of most road blocks. Logistically it works well and we even replaced an engine pack in the field after it was flown in by Chinook.

ASLAVs, now venerable, performed sterling service, although mechanical difficulties are developing, particularly with the fuel pump. We did not fit rocket screens to our vehicles.

Human intelligence is a vital component of counter insurgency. Given another 30 people, I would have made them all human intelligence operators so as to better understand the province and what is going on threat-wise and community-wise.

Engineer route clearance is never rapid. It has to be done by brave individuals going over ground slowly trying to come to grips with a well-prepared and dedicated enemy. Our vehicles enabled us to avoid IEDs by using unlikely routes, but where we had no choice of route, the route had to be checked.

Women's roles in combat and perceptions related to them have changed. There is no frontline in an operation like this. All soldiers, male and female, in the RTF shared the same risks and threats as each other. Females were expected to be shooter on vehicles, man vehicle checkpoints and do sentry duty behind 0.50 calibre machine guns and Mark 19 grenade launchers. The days of arguing about what women can or cannot do in the Army are over.

Conclusion

We are making a real change in Uruzgan. The improved construction standards, employment opportunities, stimulated economies and rebuilt tribal structures will remain long after we have departed. Indeed, we are winning in Uruzgan and, ultimately, the international community will win in Afghanistan. You are part of Afghanistan's information war, so thank you for the opportunity to explain what is happening in Uruzgan and why it is going so well.

The Author: Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Yeaman graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1990 into the Royal Australian Engineers. He has served with 17th Construction Squadron, 1st and 3rd Combat Engineer Regiments, and 6th Engineer Support Regiment (as commanding officer, 2007-08); on Headquarters 1st Division and Army Headquarters; and in the Department of Defence. He graduated from Australian Command and Staff College in 2001 with the Blamey Prize; and was Director of Coordination for Army in 2006. From April to October 2008, he led Reconstruction Task Force – Rotation 4 to Afghanistan.

Notes:

1 Attended by 101 members and guests

2 E-mail: stuart.yeaman@defence.gov.au

3 Australia deployed a special operations task group (SOTG) into Uruzgan in 2002. A reconstruction task force (RTF) replaced it in 2006. Since then the RTF has been joined by unmanned aerial vehicle and Chinook medium-lift helicopter detachments and the SOTG has returned.

4 Some 20 million Pashtuns inhabit southern Afghanistan and northwest Pakistan. The Afghanistan-Pakistan border, the Durrand Line, is a long-standing source of contention.

5 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

6 RTF4 was replaced by a mentoring and reconstruction task force with an additional task – the formal training of Afghan Army elements.

7 In the process, the Combat Team passed through Alexander the Great's major campsite on the southern Afghan plain (now Kandahar) and his forward fortress at the foot of the mountains at Qalat.

8 OPLAN 2012, for which the credit must go to Major General Mike Hindmarsh, recently our commander in the Middle East. Its details are classified. United Service 60 (2) June 2009 Page 23 Dutch and Australian soldiers conducting a joint patrol in Baluchi, Uruzgan Province, on 23 September 2008 preparatory to the 'hand over' of Patrol Base Qudus, which was built in Baluchi by the Australian Reconstruction Task Force.

The following was received from Ron Baikie, previous editor of *Armour*

Anzac service at Clarke Cemetery, Angeles City. The US vets always support the service. The key speaker was Paul Baker, Security Manager at the Australian Embassy, ex B Sqn 1AR Cheers, Ron



Left to Right
David Baikie (8/9 RAR), Ron Baikie, Lee Townsend
(PWLH Vietnam 1965-66)



Flags, Aust, NZ, US, Philippines

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

COL McLean, G.B

Tun Tin, J (Jeffery) ex 3 Cav

Dutton, J.H

Corbett, John Mathew (Shorty)

Farthing, P.H

Clabby, T

Thomas, J.L (ex 2/6 AR)

Lamb, J (Jack)

S/SGT Vickery, K.V (ex 12/16 HRL)

CPL Brown, Richard (ex 3 Cav)

SGT Stringall, T.D

MAJ Gilchrist, J (Fwd Del Tp SVN)

We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their
donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between
January 2013 to April 2013

J. Haynes	Mortdale RSL Sub Br.	RNSWL Association	Betty Flowers
Callala Beach RSL Sub Br	Marie Filmer	Trevor Bail RFD	Joyce Morris RFD
John May RFD	Norman Treganza RFD	Gwenda Dillon RFD	Michael Doyle RFD
Judith Yorston RFD	Richard Jones RFD	M. McGovern RFD	Manila RSL Sub Br.
Stuarts Point RSL Sub Br	Iris Edge	Barbara Clarke	Julie White
Harry Learoyd	Batlow RSL Sub Br.	Gunddagai RSL Sub Br.	Bermagui RSL Sub Br
Henty RSL Sub Br.	Crookwell RSL Sub Br.	James Looney	Laurie Wright
Karen Oliver	John Riddington	James Lutz	John & BA Sandilands
Col A. Bewley	Laurence Martins	Malcom Bullus	National Service Assoc ACT
Fred Blatchford	Diana Holloway	John Merritt	Robin Dodd
Patricia Watson	Geoff Baker	Charles Cornell	Phil Thompson
Guy Griffiths	Elizabeth Anne Humphreys	Dr. PCM Wilson	Bill Ford
Leila Cassady	Maureen Holz	Joseph Lewis Hughes	Camberwell RSL
Hilda Bartley	John C Davies	Pamela Delasey	Nancy Bradshaw
RAE Assoc WA Inc	Helen Wynd	John c Morrison	Bexley RSL Sub Br
Ian A Surplice	Thomas Tait	Ian Hutchinson	Rosemary Taffijn
Stuart Haynes	Janice Winter	Colin McRae	National Service Assoc NSW
Betty Forsyth	BF Castellari	Beryl Harris	Raymond Mercer
EJ Hart Group PTY	Judith Emmett	Jim Poyner	John Morkham
Shirley Teaque	Dianne Prince	Sandra Murray	Brett Courtenay
John Payne	AJ Hutton	Roy Davis	ET Hunter
Sandra Adamson	Lynne Damaschun	GR Wilson	Hilda Bartley
Mary Carter	RT & RM Middleton	Graham Templeton	Gwen Dundon
John Molloy	P George	National Service Ass Syd Nth Sub	Balrarnald RSL Sub Br
C Robson	Dr Allan Johnson	Kevin B Collins	Bondi Jct RSL Sub Br
EJ Keogh	Charles Walsh	David Sheekey	Catherine O'Donnell
Antony Larnach-Jones	Roy Davis	Vern Judd	Horace Cross
David Leece	Bridgetown RSL Sub Br	Nyngan RSL Sub Br	Wilma McCubbin
John Bell	Mason Murtagh	Braidwood RSL	Robert Talbot
Leigh Shearwin	Ken Short	Mary Dorney	Randolph Cass-Dunbar
Sophie Haynes	GJ Leis	Merv G Mills	John Hitchen
Terry Nixon	JT & MP Belling	Louis Horsburgh	Jennifer Anderson RFD
Gwenyth Lodge RFD	Dawn Williamson RFD	Three Springs Arrino RSL	Margaret White
Dave Ferguson	Lockhart RSL	Robin Ferenezi	City of Sth Perth RSL
William Burger	Aj Chanter	Faith Bell	G T Murphy

(Continued from page 12)

contact all the way around and the NVA from RHQ had observation posts in the trees, which were directing fire into us. "In the end we didn't extract ourselves – we had to stay because it was last light and we couldn't move." "Then, at around about midnight, enemy activity seemed to slacken off and things started to go quiet.

"We dropped the artillery back and we put in a very, very long night. "There were wounded within our position that had to stay there because they couldn't get them out.

"As it started to get a bit darker and a bit quieter, it became a bit spooky as well. "At that stage we didn't think the enemy had pulled back, as they'd shown during the day that they'd wanted to have a go. "The thought in my mind was that the enemy wanted to knock us over to prove they'd pushed the Australians out.

"During the night, as the adrenalin started to wear off, that's when your thoughts start to wander. "You think 'maybe I should have done something different years ago,' and 'am I going to get through this?'"

Personal reflections

Warren remembers how his training took over from the natural instinct to flee. "While you were scared, I don't think there was anybody so scared that they couldn't perform their tasks." "You also didn't want to let your mates down," he says. But the determination of the enemy to close with the Australians was unnerving. Dowell remembers how it put the men on edge because there was no indication during the day that the enemy would give up. "We knew we were up against a determined, courageous enemy, so you started to think 'have I got it what it takes?', but again I had confidence in my training and especially in my mates around me.

"Another thing that comes vividly to mind was when I realised that one of my friends, a national serviceman named Private Ralph Niblett, had been shot. "Ralph was the heart of the platoon – the joker – and when he got shot that really brought it home to me.

"I was in the process of losing a good mate, and that was just the way things were." Ralph Niblett, who had marched behind Dowell through Townsville to board HMAS Sydney, died after he was loaded onto a medical evacuation helicopter at Nui Le. He was due to return to Australia in a few weeks time.

Searching for the dead

"The hardest thing I had to do was to go back in to the system with members of the company and the Kiwis to retrieve the dead. "We had to leave the bodies there during the battle, we would have taken more casualties if we had tried to get them out. "As you can appreciate, in a hot tropical environment bodies tend to decompose quickly, but we had to get our fellows out so we went back and got them."

Retirement

WO2 Warren Dowell retired from the Army in 1990, ending a twenty-year career as an infantryman.

His last posting was to the School of Infantry, the school that had taught him the basic skills he needed to survive on the battlefield in Vietnam. He still keeps in touch with friends in the Army, and is pleased to see that the Army's infantry training is still world-class.



Cpl Dowell (centre) marches through Townsville to HAMS Sydney, immediately behind him is PTE Ralph Niblett who died of wound only weeks short of returning to

Source: www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/editions/1108/topstories/story21.htm

HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

**Lewis, P (Mrs)
Darcy, G
Britten, M.E. (Mrs)
Simmons, V (Mrs)
Terry Moore**

Apr 2000 – 5 Apr 2002 2 Cav Regt Part of United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET)

“Under the terms of the 5 May Agreements, on 19 October 1999, the Indonesian People’s Consultative Assembly (MPR) repealed the law integrating East Timor with Indonesia. On 25 October, the security Council adopted resolution 1272 by which it established the United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET) to administer East Timor during a two to three year period of transition to independence.

In early 2000 Australia’s commitment to East Timor was reduced to a Battalion Group and other smaller elements within UNTAET. Part of each Bn Gp was a troop of ASLAV from 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

Each Tp Gp that deployed to East Timor in support of a Bn Gp was made up of around 36 soldiers and had to be self-sufficient. The troops that deployed to Timor were structured to give support to a light infantry battalion. The ASLAV-25 were used primarily as a show of force and area domination, as well as provide additional night observation capability. The ASLAV-PCs were used to provide up to a platoon lift. The ASLAV-S provided a surveillance detachment. The ASLAV-A was to provide the BN with an ambulance and the echelon was structured to support the troop in its normal capacity.

It quickly became evident during pre deployment training and initial operations that the troops could operate independently or in cooperation with the infantry. As a result they were more independent and often tasked directly either by the OPSO or the CO. When scouts were employed they conducted numerous dismounted OPs by day and night, dismounted patrols away from the vehicles, intercepting and searching of IDPs, building clearances by day and night and acted as the dismounted element for the TP when on standby as BN or COY QRF. The vehicles in the TP conducted show of force patrols, route reconnaissance, area domination, battalion quick reaction, company ready reaction, route clearance, route denial, VCPs, mounted OPs, supported dismounted OPs, a convoy escort and acted as firm base during a contact. On occasions the ASLAVs within the echelon were used for patrols, reaction tasks, insertions and extractions of Recon Platoon and SASR elements. The surveillance detachments were tasked to watch the coast and sea approaches for infiltration. When the priority changed to the border region the limitations of not having a mast became evident although some sites provided good electronic line of sight along a significant stretches of the border. These proved very successful initially and keyed many reactions to detected crossings.

The last ASLAV Troop (V13) was withdrawn from East Timor.

The Regiment also provided personnel to other INTERFET and UNTAET units. “ Ref No 90 p11-12 Nov 08

Reference: RAAC Homepage Defence Intranet

<http://intranet.defence.gov.au/armyweb/sites/RAAC/comweb.asp?page=143239&Title=Corps%20History>



Lost Souls

If anyone knows the where-abouts of the following members would they please contact the RAACA Office

Members Name	Last Address
Mrs. S.R. Barrett	Po Box 848, Gordonvale Qld 4865
Mr. L.S. Black	7, Tandara Court, Black Rock Vic. 3193
Mr. A.J. Brown	86, Griffin Ave., Tamworth NSW 2340
Mr. D.A. Coleman	PO Box 1049, Murwillumbah NSW 2484
Lt. Col. F. Danger	School of Armour, Puckapunyal Vic.3662
Mr. B. Golding	Box 6061, Kincumber NSW 2251
Mr.M.J. Hayes	1 Shamrock Pl., Orange NSW 2800
Mr. D. McRoberts	PO Box 421,Croydon Hills Vic. 3136
Col. R.J.H. Noble	6, Piper St.,Ainsley ACT 2692
Mr. S.K. Porto	PO Box 602,Cowra NSW 2794
S/Sgt K.V. Vickery	15/243 Donelly St., Armidale NSW 2350

Change of Address

To change your mailing address, please fill in the new address below and return **the complete page** to: RAACA (NSW Branch) Membership Officer, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021

Name:

.....

Address:

.....Post Code:.....

Mobile No.:

Phone No.:

Email:.....

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS FOR ALL EXCEPT FOR EMAIL

Members are thanked for their response to the request to receive
Armour by email.

Due to that response with this issue we have sent Armour by
email to all who have requested it.

If this doesn't suit anyone or you would like to receive Armour by
email please contact the office and we will adjust the list and send a
paper copy.

2 Cav News

By TPR Gaut-Tye



This year is looking to be another busy year for the 2nd Cavalry Regiment with the Regiment taking on a large number of commitments outside of its conventional role. The unit is now utilising multiple vehicle platforms including the ASLAV, M113AS4 and the Bushmaster. To facilitate this expanded capability, the Regiment has been restructured in several areas.

A Squadron has been re-tasked as an APC Squadron, which is now detached to the 1st Armoured Regiment in order to provide an APC capability for the 1st Armoured Cavalry Regiment (1ACR) trial. With this has come the challenge of taking on a new vehicle, the M113AS4, and learning a new role.

C Squadron is continuing to train within its conventional reconnaissance role. The addition of a new surveillance troop will provide a new and enhanced capability to the Squadron through the use of the surveillance variant of the ASLAV. C SQN is also manning the reconnaissance squadron mounted in the ASLAV family on vehicles for the ACR trials in addition to their other commitments.

So as to better facilitate 2 Cav's commitments for the year, RHQ has been divided into RHQ deployed and 2 Cav Rear. RHQ Main will deploy as the command element of Advisory Task Force 2 (ATF-2), while 2 Cav Rear will remain behind to ensure that the regiment continues to move forward during this busy time.

RHQ and elements of B Squadron (Bushmasters), along with a Company from 7 RAR, have formed (ATF-2). Their role will be to advise the Afghan National Army's 4th Brigade as well as assisting with the withdrawal of coalition troops from Uruzgan Province.

Support Squadron will retain its role in supporting the Regiment, including the continued maintenance of A and B Squadron's vehicles as part of rear details within the unit. Some of its members will also be deploying with FSU to Afghanistan.



Soldiers of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment on patrol in the streets of Dili, East Timor (1999)
Photograph by Corporal Darren Hilder

Additionally, the Regiment remains dedicated to various charities and public events, continuing its involvement with events and organizations such as Legacy, ANZAC day as well as the unit's birthday later in the year, to name a few.

Reprinted from NT ARMOUR, Newsletter of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Incorporated (NT Branch) ISSUE NO 27 May 2013

Much hype was given to the agreement by Defence for homosexual members of the ADF to march in the Gay Mardi Gras in Sydney, **in uniform**. We were told by Defence leaders that this was a policy change that needed to occur and it was the modern approach to accepting diversity in the ADF. I just found it an inconsistent approach to the wearing of uniform in public. When I am reminded of the numerous times and locations, including ANZAC Day, around the country when soldiers who wanted to go into public places in uniform were told, by some of the same superiors now advocating this current policy, that they could not. I find it an interesting approach to being part of the “**team**”, spending so much time and effort identifying yourself as different to the rest of the team? What’s next, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs?

Reprinted from the RAACA NT newsletter no.27 May 2013



Cambrai Dinner for 2013



After missing out due to lack of numbers in 2011, It was felt that by securing a smaller venue and making sure we had a full table, 2012 was a very convivial dinner and got a good bunch of Black Hats together for Cambrai Day celebration.

A couple of members missed out as we had limited space, so this year we have secured a slightly larger area without going back to the very spacious and rather oversized room used previously. I felt that the ability for everyone at the table to engage with each other made the night and we will make sure that a similar arrangement is made for November.

We need those of you who joined us last year to get the message across to other members and encourage them to make it for this year. Let them know that the dinner in 2012 was a success, get them to set aside the date early, tell them about others who were there and that they know, and make arrangements if it is appropriate to come to dinner together – share a cab perhaps. The team of Bob Ferrari, Mike Butler, Mike Phillips and Neville Pinkham want to see you and other Black Hat members that you know on Saturday 23 November this year.

Cost: \$95.00 per head

Payment: Cheque made to RAAC Association and sent to COL John Haynes at Victoria Barracks OR

EFT transfer to Def Credit BSB 803205 A/c 20539747 indicating Dinner payment

Please note that payment MUST be made by NLT 23 October 2013 as no monies will be handled at the dinner

Cambrai Dinner November 2012



Left to Right
Mike Butler, COL John Haynes, Bob Ferrari



Knight of the Oval Table