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Afghanistan: a brief history of recent land invasions

by Bruce Short

(Reprinted from United Services September 2010)



Increasing mob agitation in Kabul forced the 10,000 persons under British protection to quit the city mid-winter on 6 January 1842. The Pathans systematically over-whelmed the column in seven days before the British had reached the Khyber Pass. A wounded Surgeon Brydon reached Jalalabad, the only survivor of the First Afghan War. A fresh Company force was immediately assembled - the Army of Retribution - which seized Kabul in May 1842.

An uninvited Russian mission to Kabul in 1878, plus a failure of local tribes to allow British entry to the Khyber Pass, triggered the Second Afghan War. By 1879, Afghanistan sued for peace permitting Britain to control its foreign relations. British vulnerabilities on the North West Frontier in 1919

The current conflict in Afghanistan needs to be understood against a background of five recent attempts by foreign powers to impose their will on Afghanistan, starting with Britain's invasion of Afghanistan in 1839.

By 1837, The Honourable East India Company had resolved to make

Afghanistan the centre of a new Central Asian political system controlled by Britain. Russia formed an alliance with the Afghan king, Dost Muhammad, stimulating Britain to seek a similar agreement. This failed, and Britain resolved to replace Muhammad with its own king.

The Army of the Indus assembled at Quetta in 1839, advanced into Afghanistan via Kandahar and occupied Kabul where an unpopular Shah Shujah was installed as king. Erroneously, the Company then reduced the garrisons and failed to keep the Pathan chiefs in the Khyber bribed.

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Coming Events



7 - 9 October 2011	RAACA Congress	Armoured School, Puckapunyal
26 November 2011	RFD Launch– with Boer War Theme	Parliament House, Sydney
26 November 2011	Annual Cambrai Day Dinner	Royal Automobile Club Inc



MOST OF ALL, COME TO THE CAMBRAI DINNER ON 26 NOV AND BRING SOME FRIENDS!

Our Design for the National Boer War Memorial was submitted the National Capital Authority in Oct 2010. At last it has been cleared by them and placed on the Agenda for the Canberra National Memorials Committee which is chaired by the Prime Minister. We are hoping that committee will meet soon and accept our Design. This will then give us something to –sell in our fundraising efforts

Further to the above we have initiated a Petition to go to Government asking it to take immediate step to fund the construction of the National Boer War Memorial. If any one would like to assist in obtaining signatures for this would they please contact the office for copies of the Petition or use the pro-forma at Page 11.

Our quest to gain the Veterans' Gold Card is reaching a critical stage. We are most disappointed with the latest reply from the Prime Minister. As a result we have decided to initiate a Class Action against the Government on the basis of DISCRIMINATION. You see, the WW1 veterans without over seas service were awarded the Gold Card 57 years after that War's end. It is now 66 years after the end of WW11. This exemplifies the Government's non adherence to its promise to treat all Service people equally.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Haynes'.

John Haynes, President



(Continued from page 1)

tempted Afghanistan to launch an invasion of India. This Third Afghan War lasted three months, ending after British planes bombed Kabul. The 1919 Treaty of Rawalpindi proclaimed Afghan independence. The Soviet Union continued to occupy Afghanistan's immediate northern neighbour, Turkistan, and split the area into five ethnically based Soviet Socialist Republics in 1924. The year 1979 was a defining moment in contemporary Middle East history: an Islamic revolution swept away the Shah of Iran, Saddam Hussein seized the presidency of Iraq, and Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan and assassinated its president.

A civil war had earlier broken out in Afghanistan in 1974 leading to a military coup in 1978 bringing to power the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) which embarked on a programme of radical reform. The Soviet Union, initially sympathetic but later concerned with PDPA radicalism, in December 1979 invaded Afghanistan, killed President Amin and installed another faction of the PDPA led by Babrak Karmal. Karmal failed in government and seeded the disintegration of the army.

Local resistance to the new government strengthened. The resistance, the mujahideen, were rebel tribesmen, villagers and soldiers who fought independently in different areas usually under local warlords or tribal chiefs. By the early 1980s, the PDPA government ruled in the main cities of Kabul, Herat and Kandahar and large

towns, but the mujahideen commanded the countryside. Soviet response to this stalemate was the introduction of more air power, especially the Mt-24 Hind armoured helicopter gunship.

By 1985, the United States (US) Central Intelligence Agency began covertly arming the mujahideen with weapons that would neutralise the helicopter threat with Blowpipe and Stinger shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles. These were effective and, after suffering a total of 64,000 casualties, the last Soviet troops were evacuated in February 1989.

The years after the Soviet withdrawal were marked by incessant fighting among mujahideen warlords. In response, the Pashtun (Pathan) majority turned to a new force composed of religious 'students', the Taliban Sunnis, predominantly Durrani Pashtun, from south-eastern Afghanistan. The Taliban seized Kabul in September 1996, murdered President Najibullah and imposed a regime characterised by the strictest interpretation of Sharia law within the Islamic world. The new government provided a sanctuary for the Al-Qa'ida international terrorist organisation led by Osama bin Laden, which bombed the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998. In response, the US attacked suspected terrorist camps within Afghanistan with cruise missiles.



The Al-Qa'ida attack on America on 11 September 2001 precipitated a US demand on the Taliban to deliver the leaders of Al-Qa'ida. Their refusal to do so initiated military action on 7 October 2001. A US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation force, assisted by the anti-Taliban Afghan Northern Alliance, by December 2001 had driven the Taliban from Afghanistan, but neither Osama bin Laden or the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, were captured. Hamid Karzai, a Pashtun tribal leader, in December 2001 became chairman of the new Afghan Transitional Administration.

From Pakistani sanctuaries, the Taliban have regrouped and retrained and in the past three years have launched an increasingly successful insurgency war in southern and eastern Afghanistan. The insurgency is opposed by an International Security Assistance Force (including some 1550 Australian troops) which is supporting the Karzai government, training its army and police force, providing security and reconstruction in the provinces, and taking the battle to Al-Qa'ida and the Taliban, including their safe havens in Pakistan. The conflict currently is in the balance and its outcome unpredictable.

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“The Russians are Coming”

The 1991 Gulf War left the Russian defence sector reeling, after the American military's Abrams M1A1 Main Battle Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles left the battlefield littered with literally hundreds of burnt-out and charred carcasses of once mighty Russian-72 and T-80 tanks.

As if the Russian's weren't already in bad enough shape after the collapse of the Soviet Union, now the international image of their largest defense export, the T-72 tank, and their newest model, the T-80, as no more than a hulk of metal on the battlefield: not good for the second largest weapons exporter in the world!

By combining elements of the T-72 and T-80 together, the Russians were able to create the T-90.

Despite the fact that the T-90 design aspects are nothing new, the newest production models do include some major upgrades to the existing designs. A new gun being one of the biggest improvements, the newest T-90 coming off the lines can be fitted with Explosive Reactive Armour, laser rangefinders, an electromagnetic pulse generator to combat magnetic mines, and laser warning receivers. There is also a new type of radar jamming system to scramble the guidance of incoming radar-guided anti-tank missiles. Basically, you get early 70's mechanics with 90's electronics.



It is manufactured by the Uralvagonzavod Plant in Nizhniy Tagil (Potkin's bureau) of the Russian Federation.

The T-90S is in service with the Russian Army and the Indian Army. In February 2001, the Indian Army signed a contract for 310 T-90S tanks. 124 were completed in Russia and the rest are being delivered in "knocked down/semi-

knocked down" form for final assembly in India. The first of these was delivered in January 2004. The locally-assembled tanks are christened "Bhishma". The tanks are fitted with the Shtora self-protection system and thermal imagers from Thales of France and Peleng of Belarus.

US Army to Use New Stryker Vehicles in Afghanistan



US Army soldiers will begin to receive 150 new Stryker armoured combat vehicles with a double-V hull (DVH) design in the coming weeks for use in Afghanistan.

The Stryker DVH, with enhanced armour, wider tyres and blast-attenuating seats has been designed to protect the soldiers and the vehicle from improvised explosive devices and roadside mines threats.

The DVH design is a proven technology and is similar to that on mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP), vehicles currently used in Afghanistan.

The new vehicles were put through live-fire, developmental and operational testing for force protection, safety, performance, reliability and durability.

Currently the army has about 140 Strykers and plans to field a total of 450 vehicles.

Technical Notes & News

Rheinmetall unveils new HE DM11



Rheinmetall recently revealed a new 120mm HE round to a group of international experts at its proving ground in Unterlüß, Germany. It can be fired from any in-service 120mm smoothbore gun (L44 and L55). Dubbed the DM11, the new ammunition was developed on behalf of the German Ministry of Defence. It enables main battle tanks to respond more effectively to a variety of contemporary threats.

The round has already been fielded by the US Marine Corps, which refers to it as the Multipurpose (MP) DM11. The Marines use it primarily for engaging non-armoured and lightly armoured targets in asymmetric encounters. Its long range makes a significant contribution to protecting friendly forces from attack by enemy combatants armed with short- and medium-range weapons.

From the technical standpoint, the HE DM11 stands out in two ways: it is programmable when loaded and features an airburst detonation capability.

Modularly designed, the 120mm x 570 HE Temp DM11 consists of an IHE (Insensitive High Explosive) warhead with a programmable fuse and ballistic cap, a tail unit, driving band, a combustible case with a propelling charge, a newly designed stub case with primer and an integrated data link cable for programming.

Interfaces between the propulsion system and the warhead and between the propulsion system and the fuse ensure that the propulsion system can be exchanged once its service life expires; it will also be possible to exchange the fuse in future at reasonable cost. A further unique feature of the DM11 is that it safe to fire in all climate zones (-46°C to +71°C).

The HE DM11 is principally used for engaging non-armoured and lightly armoured vehicles,

antitank positions (both dug-in and in the open) and field fortifications. Furthermore, it can be employed – thanks in part to its high precision and long range – for penetrating walls and taking out targets in buildings, as well as for creating breaches and avenues of approach in built-up areas to support dismounted troops. To enable optimum exploitation of the new ammunition's full tactical potential, it features three different fuse modes:

Impact fuse mode/point detonation: the warhead detonates when it hits the target surface, creating a large breach;

Programmable delay/point detonation with delay: the warhead detonates after penetrating the target;

Programmable airburst mode: here, at ranges of up to 5,000 metres, the warhead detonates in front of, or above, the selected target.

A further design imperative was the ability to program the ammunition without altering the fire control unit. (In the Leopard 2A4, most of these are still analogue; in subsequent versions of the vehicle they are already partly digital.) This ensures that the ammunition can be fired from any Leopard 2 tank gun.

In addition, the necessary programming kit – developed by Rheinmetall at its own expense – had to be easy to install in existing tanks, with the need for new components, special tools or testing equipment kept to a minimum. After all, it was important for the crew to be able to engage targets without having to change well-rehearsed operating procedures.

To make sure that the ammunition and programming kit could be used in other MBT with the same main armament, the developers adhered to the internationally agreed interface control documents for 120mm tank main armament.

The programming kit comprises an ammunition communication module (ACM) for programming the fuses; an interface box between the ACM and the fire control unit that generates all relevant data for the ACM; and an add-on control box/ACM for the gunner/loader control console. The kit can be retrofitted into existing systems without major modification.

IN THE NEWS

Pumas let loose in Germany

Rheinmetall and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) have handed over the first two PUMA infantry fighting vehicles to the Federal Office of Defence Technology and Procurement (BWB) in Kassel, Germany for verification tests. This marks the start for the contractual delivery of 405 ordered vehicles to the German Armed Forces. The contract with a volume of roughly €3.1 billion was signed in July 2009. The vehicles will now undergo a range of testing in extreme environmental conditions.



Additional Bushmasters for Afghanistan

The Australian Government has given approval for the purchase of an additional 101 Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles to support Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations in Afghanistan, Defence Minister Stephen Smith has said.



The Defence Ministry is also assessing a range of enhancements to the Bushmaster vehicle for providing enhanced protection to ADF personnel which, if approved, would be applied to the additional 101 vehicles.

The financial details will be disclosed upon finalisation of the contract, until then the cost

of repair of damaged Bushmasters will be supplemented by defence with the remainder from the Defence Capability Plan.

The Bushmaster combat vehicle has proved to be effective in providing protection to Australian troops against improvised explosive devices.

Photo of the month



Veterans' Compo Fallout

Just 15 veterans of British nuclear testing have been granted disability and war widow pensions under a much hyped compensation package.

Australian veterans of Maralinga, Monte Bello Islands and Emu Field fear they will die before much of the \$24.2 million announced in last year's Federal Budget can be shared.

More than 15,000 people served at the sites and at least 11,000 are already dead – mostly from cancers.

A recent study found those present were 23% more likely to get a cancer than the general population.



Ex-serviceman John Hutton, 74, said compensation was welcome, but was too little, too late.

Until recently the tests were shrouded in such secrecy, participants were told it was not dangerous and were unable to claim from the department because they had not served in a theatre of war. This changed with the Clarke Review which brought veterans under the Veterans' Entitlement Act. –We blew up atomic bombs in shorts and shirts and they said that's not dangerous! Mr Hutton said.

A spokesman for the Department of Veterans' Affairs said 131 people had made a claim, with 32 determined so far.

The spokesman said secrecy and poor record-keeping meant processing the claims was a slow process.

–A number of claimants either do not have eligible service or there is no link between their claimed condition and their eligible service, the statement said. But claimants say it is not only proving they were present which poses a problem, but that many cancers were yet to be recognised as being linked to radiation exposure.

A member of the Atomic Ex-Servicemen's Association said it was sad that of the thousands who served, most had died. Of the 15 successful claims, four were for widows' pensions, meaning the husbands were already dead.

–They were left behind, said Mr Toon, who spent 11 months at Maralinga in 1956. –When the explosions occurred we had to face the opposite direction and got the blast on the back of our necks. We had not protective clothing, and now they won't recognise my vertebrae (deterioration) problem.

Lack of published evidence linking ionising radiation and some illnesses is a massive stumbling block, veterans say.

Message Board

Certificates of Appreciation.

Certificates of Appreciation are now available for all veterans of the following deployments involving overseas service in conflicts or peace operations:-

1. Second World War
2. BCOF (Japan).
3. Korean War.
4. Malayan Emergency.
5. Indonesian Confrontation.
6. Vietnam War.
7. Gulf War and Peace Operations.

Certificates are also available for those who served on the home front in Australia.

All veterans who served in any of these conflicts and operations are eligible to apply, as are family members of deceased eligible persons.

Applications are to be submitted to the Applicant's Federal Member of Parliament. More information about these certificates and how to apply can be obtained from www.dva.gov.au/factsheets or by contacting DVA on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for regional callers.

Letters Received

Uniform Differences By Cate Clark

Shortly after completing the book 'To Fight and Do Our Best' (about the 1st Australian Armoured Division and the time they spent in the North West of NSW) I received a letter from Sid Aitken. Sid joined the 16th Hunter River Lancers (now the 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers) and then to the AIF's 2/7th Armoured Regiment on 7th October 1941 - in time to take part in training exercises near Tamworth, connected to the 1st Australian Armoured Brigade, during late 1941/early 1942.

In his letter Sid detailed an incident that occurred whilst he was stationed in the region and wondered if anyone might recall it and offer an explanation. The letter bothered me for a day or two until I realised that I had heard a similar story from another veteran of the 1st Australian Armoured Brigade, Norman McMaster, who kindly agreed to shed some light on the episode.

Norm explained that as the hostilities broke out in World War 2 there were two distinct groups of the military; the Australian Infantry Force (AIF) and the Citizen's Military Force (CMF or Militia). The AIF was comprised strictly of volunteers available to serve their country both at home and abroad. The CMF were conscripted and as such were not permitted to fight outside of Australian shores. (Of course these regulations went 'by the by' in August 1942 when Militia Battalions were sent to the Owen Stanley Ranges to stave off the advancing Japanese division.)

Because of the discord between the AIF and the CMF (Militia) the Army, in its wisdom, decided to level the playing field by removing one of the sources of contention – the key difference in uniform – in the hopes that the two forces could meld. The first step was to remove the 'Australias'.

Both the AIF and the Militia wore colour patches- the AIF with a grey background and the Militia without a grey background – individual colours for different units. The AIF also had, in full field service dress, a metal 'Australia' on each shoulder – it was this that the Army ordered removed, and Norm was one of those who were instructed to 'make it happen'.

Sid remembered being outraged and refusing to comply. Norm McMaster recalled the high level of discontent in the troops with one trooper, braving the ire of the Army, walking behind Brigadier 'Lucy' Hinton and kicking him in the backside as he tried to explain, with very limited success, why the orders should be honoured

. Other troopers settled for wearing full length 'Great Coats' in the heat of the summer in order to avoid censure when they went on leave – Great Coats hiding the fact that they had not in fact removed their 'Australias'.

The entire affair only lasted about two months with the policy eventually being discarded. It was an interesting snippet in Army history that unfortunately I didn't have the answer to in time for Sid – who passed away a week after he wrote me.

So this one is for you Sid! (And thanks Norm for your assistance.)

TO FIGHT AND DO OUR BEST: THE 1ST AUSTRALIAN ARMoured DIVISION IN GUNNEDAH: 1942-1943

BY GATE CLARK

For around six months in 1942-1943 the 1st Australian Armoured Division was located in the Gunnedah/Narrabri region of NSW. The troops were participating in military exercises in preparation for taking on Rommel in the Middle East.

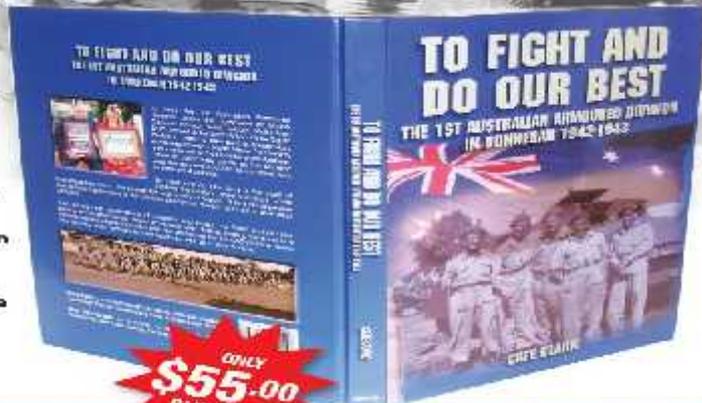
These soldiers – some of the fittest and most well trained personnel in Australian military history – appear to have been almost lost to living memory.

The 1st Australian Armoured Division's story had never been told; in part because the Division never went to Africa. They were instead re-organised with the main body of troops sent to Western Australia to guard against the threat of invasion from the Japanese. In the end being left to stew in primitive conditions for nearly two years.

To Fight and Do Our Best is a small part of the Division's history. Focusing from 1941 through to early 1943, *To Fight and Do Our Best* includes cartoons, photographs, poems, maps and the recollections of veterans and local residents who remember the time our our came to town.

Dedicated in part to the Division the publication is ready in time to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the creation of the Armoured Corps in Australia ... and to say a long overdue "Thank you" to those men who faithfully served without ever receiving the recognition of having done so.

Sneak
Preview
Chapter 2 at:
[www.writerright
media.com.au](http://www.writerrightmedia.com.au)



Enquiries: 0408 425564 or info@writerrightmedia.com.au To Fight and Do Our Best is a 203pp hardcover publication.

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NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL PROGRESS



We still await the acceptance of the Design for the National Boer War Memorial. Consideration by the Canberra National Memorials Committee is expected any day now . Here's hoping the Prime Minister as Chairman of the that Committee will make a well publicised announcement of acceptance. If anyone wishes to comment on the Design, please feel free to contact me as I am totally responsible for the Design which was forwarded to the Government" *The adjacent picture is of the dedication of the memorial at the Elands River site.*

John Haynes

HISTORIC FEATURE....."The Battle of Cambai November 1917"

Background

This was to be a one-day, tank-led raid on the Hindenburg Line near Cambrai, where the ground was considered suitable for tracked vehicles but in the planning stage it developed into a full scale attack on a two-corps front (10km). There was to be no preliminary bombardment and strict secrecy was to be maintained during the preparatory stage. The operation was to be called off after 48 hours if the situation did not look promising.



Order of Battle

The operation was conducted by 3rd Army with IV Corps on the left of the line, III Corps on the right and V Corps in reserve. Within IV Corps, 36 Div were on the left to secure the left flank of the advance, 62 Div were in the centre facing Havrincourt and 51 Div on the right facing Flesquières.

Day 1 – 20/11/1917

62 Div broke through both the Hindenburg Main and Support Lines, occupying Havrincourt and Graincourt, and by the end of the day had crossed the Bapaume to Cambrai road. This represented an advance of 7 km in one day, an outstanding achievement at that time.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)



Day 2 – 21/11/1917

The division took Anneux and the tanks entered Bourlon Wood, but the infantry were too exhausted to follow them. That night the 48 hour review point was reached and III Corps were ordered to establish a defensive front while IV Corps attacked Bourlon Wood and village. Most of the remaining serviceable tanks were now with IV Corps.

Day 3 – 22/11/1917

The German counter attacks drove the front line back south of the Bapaume to Cambrai road, but later that day 62 Div attacks restored the front to that reached on 21st. During the night 62 Div was relieved by 40 Div and moved back to the area Neuville - Ruyaulcourt - Havrincourt Wood - Bertincourt for rest and recuperation.

Day 4 & 5 - 23/11/1917 to 24/11/1917

40 Div captured most of Bourlon Wood and entered Bourlon village, though without capturing it.

Day 6 – 25/11/1917

62 Div relieved 40 Div in the line. The next day a high level conference was held, the C in C Sir Douglas Haig presiding, to decide the next moves. The front line in the IV Corps sector now lay



Two tanks believed to be in Bourlon Wood after the Battle of Cambrai.

Picture courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](#)

in the low ground between Flesquières Ridge and Bourlon Ridge to the north, a bad position in which to overwinter. So either Bourlon Ridge including the village and wood, must be taken and held, or the British line must be pulled back to Flesquières Ridge. It was decided to attempt the former.

Day 8 – 27/11/1917

62 Div led the attack, with the Guards Div on their right attacking Fontaine. 62 Div completed the capture of the wood and about half of the village, but a counter attack later the same day forced them back to their start line of that morning.

At this point the British offensive was virtually at an end, and it was decided to withdraw the line to Flesquières Ridge for the winter.

Day 9 – 28/11/1917

A quiet day except for artillery exchanges and on the night of 28-29.11.17 62 Div was relieved by 47 Div and moved to the Beaumetz - Lebuquière - Bertincourt area for rest. This marked the end of 62 Div's active participation in the battle.

On 30.11.17 the main German counter attack began.

On this Day

31 Jul 1962 Australia's Commitment to the Vietnam War Starts in Saigon, SVN

Col F.P. Serong (Ted), the first CO of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, arrived in Tan Son Nhut airport, Saigon to oversee the final arrangements for the reception of the main body of the Team at midday on 3 August.

Many RAAC officers and soldiers were subsequently to serve with the AATTV

15 Aug 1900 QMI. as Part of Garrison at Elands River Post, Survived the Seige. Boer War. Day 11.

"They had been outnumbered by four or five to one, they had been massively out-gunned but had not shown the slightest sound of surrendering. They had lost heavily in horses, over 1400 of the 1550 in the post were killed. Among the men the casualties had been amazingly light; of the seventy five wounded only five had died. Describing battle at Elands River, a Boer wrote:

-For the first time in the war we were fighting men who used our own tactics against us. They were Australian volunteers and although small in number we could not take their position. They were the only troops who could scout into our lines at night and kill our sentries. Our men admitted that the Australians were more formidable and far more dangerous than any British troops"

18 August 1966 3 Tp (-) Plus Sect of 2 Tp 1 APC Sqn and The Battle of Long Tan, South Vietnam

Battle of Long Tan, D. Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, supported by artillery and armoured personnel carriers beat off attacks by a combined enemy main force regiment and provincial battalion.

The timely arrival of APCs and the reinforcements they were carrying and the breaking up of an outflanking attack on D Company during Operation Smithfield, Long Tan, South Vietnam

"The surprise achieved by the APCs of 3 Tp 1 APC Sqn which broke up the movement of an estimated two companies of VC to the rear of D Coy, undoubtedly saved the day.....3 Tp 1 APC Sqn deserves the highest praise for gallantry"....After Action Report 6 RAR Nui Dat Sep 66

Lt F A Roberts of 1 APC Troop was awarded an MID for his personal conduct in commanding and controlling his troop

Trooper (T/CPL) John Carter awarded the DCM for his actions as a crew commander at the Battle of Long Tan during which he engaged a 57mm recoilless rifle crew with his .50 cal and then with an Owen Machine Carbine

Cpl Peter Clements of 1 APC Troop's Callsign 23B was mortally wounded.

Books for Sale

The following can be purchased from our library at Victoria Barracks

- To fight and do our best, 1st Australian armoured division in Gunnedah 1942-1943 (Cade Clarke)
- More bang for no bucks
- Armoured fighting vehicles (Jack Livesey)
- The great tanks (Hamlyn)
- World War II Tanks
- Mega Book of tanks (Lyne Gibbs)
- Tank versus tank (Kenneth Macksey)
- The 7th light horse regiment 1914-1919
- Just soldiers (Darryl Kelly)
- Good bye cobber, good bless you (John Hamilton)
- Citizen and soldier (Kevin Baker)
- Darwin 1942 Australia's darkest hour (timothy Hall)
- Modern tanks (Ray Bonds)
- Westralian Calvary in the war (Colonel Olden)
- The miraculous "fires" of a man called jack (John Cox)
- A Tankie's travels (Jock Watt)
- Boer War Men of the Queanbeyan-Braidwood Region (John Cope)

All above items can be purchased for \$30

- HISTORY OF THE RAAC by GENERAL HOPKINS \$100



Our latest recruit for the national BWMA office at Victoria Barracks is slowly turning our group into an international Brigade!

Welcome Marcel Krug



While specifically only referring to US Veterans it never-the-less makes interesting reading! (Editor)

"Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran's age approximated to be 54 years old."

So, if you're alive, served in Vietnam and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last 1/3rd of all the U.S. vets who served in Vietnam?

I don't know about you guys, but kinda gives me the chills, considering the following is the kind of information I'm used to reading about WWII and Korean War vets, and certainly NOT about Vietnam vets.

Only a few will survive by 2015, if any. If true, 390 VN vets die a day. So, in 1,405 days from today, if you're a live Vietnam veteran, you are lucky... but only for the next 4 years.

These statistics were taken from a variety of sources to include: The VFW Magazine, the Public Information Office, and the HQ CP Forward Observer - 1st Recon April 12, 1997.

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

Ballard, E.T.H	Sharp, E.W
Collins, Peggy	Davis, HEJ
Baylis, Keith	Roughton, D.R
Boys , R.J	Thomas, A
Bennett, L.H	Fitzhardinge-Seton, P.C
Crane, Raymond	Waterworth, J

HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS
SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Murdoch, Michael MAJ James, Dick

We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations
to the National Boer War Memorial project between 1 February to June

J.S. Haynes	M R Evans	P Watson	B Ellis
R J Burrows	Berwick RSL	I M Anderson	D O McMillan
Laurieton RSL	E L Hollway		C Fenwick
Sherwood Services Club	Toowooba & Darling Downs Hist Soc	M Farmer	K C Swan
V O'Donaghue	K Jeffery	J W Leslie	AMP Retired Persons Assn
C E Hughes	L McIntyre	D Holloway	J F Lynch
Box Hill Uniting Church Friendly	E & M Tremewn	Scouts Assn Sale Scout Group	Glenloch Homes
P Rayson	C S & J R Lloyd	M Dorney	SE Vic Sub-Branch NSA
J Heraud	Bendigo Pinewood Branch	Pratt Foundation	T K Hallam
TLJ Consulting	A Burgess	A Fazio	P Cameron
M Andrews	P Beveridge	P Gibbons	P Montfort
Brisbane Nth District RSL	CMDR R A Osborn	A Hardy	S Collins
K Linfoot	COL G O Thompson	COL D M Ramsay	Pymble Diggers Club
J Gowers	V Little	B J Page	G Willan
J Bainton	G Pagden	A Ryan	M Bartlett
Forestville RSL	City of Lismore RSL	B N Flowers	W Gall
R. Edwards	D E Hollway	K J Hill	J Hitchen
R J Mercer	D Supple	TE Hunt	S Adamson
M Carlisle	M B T Dorney	C Dawson	LTCOL D Deasey
B Moran			

Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat

Enjoy and share the memories of your service with other veterans and family members. Service personnel, their partners and widows (if no children or pets). There is no charge but a donation if we could be assisted in the upkeep.



22 "take all" courses, with to play for those who are quick to take all 50 any other people who are just doing the area. Clubs, balls, suggestions available.

Other activities include: Tennis, walking in the 27 ponds, lakes and fish. Woodland garden, playing with the bees, flower farm, bush walk to the general building.



When I finally took and saw the place to start some time.



Good beds and 2 convenient bathrooms.

5 minutes from RAAC (RAAC) From the Great Alpine Rd

Bookings essential tel Greg or Anne 0409418332

INTERESTING US CENSUS STATISTICS from Vietnam War

WINNING and LOSING:

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.

Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

MEMORABILIA	Cost
AFV CREWMAN'S BADGE	\$20
TIE DECALS	\$35
POCKET	\$3
LAPEL BADGE	\$15
STUBBY HOLDER	\$15
ARMOURED ANTICS BOOKLET	\$7
TIE CLIPS	\$10
CUFF LINKS	\$20
VIETNAM VIDEO—FRAGMENTS OF WAR	\$30
ARMY COMBAT BADGE SILVER LARGE	\$20
ARMY COMBAT BADGE SILVER SMALL	\$20
ARMY COMBAT BADGE S AS A PAIR	\$20
HISTORY OF THE RAAC GENERAL HOPKINS	\$30
BOER WAR MEMORIAL TEE SHIRT	\$100
BOER WAR MEMORIAL LAPEL BADGE	\$50
	\$15

Lost Souls

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

NAME	LAST ADDRESS
Boss, M.J	15 Morcombe Place, Port Macquarie 2444
Costigan, P.K	7 Park Street, Bahrs Scrub, QLD 4207
Cunich, D.J	3/23 Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800
Dodman, R	Younghusband Caravan Pk, RMB Mannum 5238.
Ellis. E. J.	PO Box 66, Bungendore, NSW 2621
Ford. B.	PO Box 166, Northmead, NSW2152
Harris. Capt D.W. (Donald)	4/25 Alfred St, Ramsgate, NSW, 2217
Herps, J.P	PO Box 12, New Farm, QLD 4005
Hicks, T	PO Box 542, Orange, NSW 2800
Kennedy. Mr. J. (John)	30 Osbourne St, Umina, NSW, 2257
Martlew. MR. R.	PO Box 265, Millicent, SA 5240
McRoberts. D.	PO Box 421, Croydon Hills, Vic. 3136
Paton. G.M.	9 Violet Ave. Forrestville, NSW 2087
Pengilley. Mr C.M.	POBox 842, Orange, NSW, 2800
Pentland. Mr. N.	6/3 Redcliffe Street, Palmenston, ACT,2913
Roach. R.	1039 Birthamba Road, Bucca, Qld 4670
Rodd. M.H.	27/17 Oaks Village, Tarraganda In, Bega, NSW 2550
Roughton. Mr. D.R.	12 Burrawong Pde, Urunga, NSW, 2455
Sheppard. G.	9 Furphy Close, Romsey, Vic 3434
Souter. Capt. P.A. (Peter)	2 Cav, Darwin NT 0820
Storer. W.J.	PO Box 798, Charlestown, NSW 2290.
Thorncraft, A.F	18 Casuarina Drive, Orange, NSW 2800
Waterworth. J	29 Como Road, Oyster Bay, NSW 2225
Yabsley. G.M.	18 Shirley Street, Epping, NSW 2121

If you would like your Armour via email please contact this office.

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.:

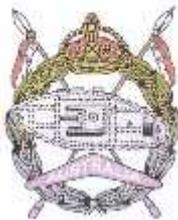
Phone No.:

Email:.....

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS FOR ALL EXCEPT FOR EMAIL



Photo taken on the 50th Anniversary of
IAR Association



You're Invited to Cambrai Dinner 2011 (and bring some friends)

COL John Haynes OAM
President of the RAAC Association (NSW)
cordially invites you to celebrate with fellow Black Hats
the annual NSW Cambrai Dinner in the company of our Patron
MAJGEN Kevin Latchford AO
with Guest Speaker, RAAC Head of Corps*

The Dinner will be held at
The Royal Automobile Club, 89 Macquarie Street, Sydney
on Saturday 26th November, 2011.

*Pre-dinner drinks from 1830 hrs for Dinner 1900 hrs (till 2230 hrs)
these drinks are included in the \$85 cost of the dinner.*

Dress: Black Tie, Mess Kit or Coat & Tie, Miniatures to be worn
RSVP: nlr 18 NOV 11 to
RAACA, Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington NSW 2021

Please include your payment of \$85 per head (payable to RAAC Association)

*** Our Guest Speaker**

Head of Corps (tbc) or a recently returned Black Hat from
overseas duty to bring us up to date on events within the Corps.