

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #190 August 2020

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 3 September 2020 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA
Next Happy Hour: Thursday 1 October 2020 at 1700 hrs, Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



Social Events

Mid-Winter Lunch: The lunch held on Sunday 23 August at the Papanui RSA was a great opportunity for all who attended to enjoy a very pleasant catch up. The meal, a main and dessert, was excellent and well presented.



Our guest speaker Jeremy Hopson, a policeman at Selwyn district, talked about his service with the Army Air Corps (United Kingdom).

Originally Jeremy joined the RAC in the early 80's and at 16 attended their Cadet School at Bovington. However, he saw a helicopter land at the school and decided that was

what he wanted to do and eventually became a helicopter crewman.



Jeremy was employed as a helicopter gunner and was trained to use the TOW missile and what proved to be very interesting M3M .50 MG <https://www.eliteukforces.info/weapons/HMG/> fitted to the Westland Lynx. The accuracy achieved using laser, good pilot and gunner co-ordination and a special mount was something special to hear. The Joint Special Forces Aviation Wing is very much part of the Army Air Corps and subsequently Jeremy worked closely with the SAS and SBS.

Jeremy went on to cover the Westland Lynx and the Chinook helicopters and how they were used, the role of the corps, area of operation and stories about where he served which included Northern Island, Iraq, Kenya, Sierra Leone. He also explained in detail he explained in some detail Operation Barras: [Operation Barras](#).

A huge thank you to Jeremy: everyone enjoyed the presentation. He has been invited to attend future happy hours.

Events Past and Future



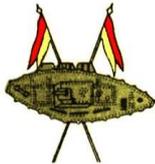
**SITREP from CPL Clem Williams, QAMR,
QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S MOUNTED RIFLES, RNZAC
CLEM.WILLIAMS@nzdf.mil.nz**



From us: no, nothing has changed, still battling the Covid front.

[Certainly, from what we have all be hearing the army is now very much involved in border and isolation control. I am sure all members of the RNZAC Association and Black Hatters thank all members of QAMR for what they are doing and a safe deployment. Editor]

From the RNZAC Association Treasurer:



A big thank you to all who have paid their RNZAC Association subscriptions for the 2019/20 financial year. The subscriptions allow us to keep the RNZAC Association website operating with a little bit left over to support branch activities. If you haven't paid your subscription yet, then please do so before 30th September, (the end of our financial year).

Subscriptions (\$30.00) can be internet banked direct to our account: 03 0566 0209452 01, or posted the old fashioned way by cheque to "The RNZAC Association, C/- 9 Greenfield Place, Mairehau, Christchurch 8052".

If you are unsure if you have paid, then please contact the Treasurer at: miksan@xtra.co.nz

Many thanks and kind regards,
Mike

Radio Check:

From Gay Balance

Hi David- Thanks for your email re RNZAC HISTORY PROJECT.

Roger is in care now, very sick. Due to the current virus situation visitors are not allowed at Rest Homes. It is unlikely Roger would know anyone now!! He is being well looked after anyway.

Regards
Gay Ballance

Last Post: We record the recent death of David John Brunton (Jack) on 31 July 2020 at Christchurch. The funeral was attended by many black hatters and other ex-military people who had met Jack during his army career. Jack joined the RNZAC in 1949 and served in many armoured and training units; QAMR, 3 Armoured Regiment, the NZ Scottish Regiment to name just a few.



He was attached to the Royal Tank Regiment in Korea in 1952 and as well as enjoying driving their centurion tanks, gained much experience which he passed on to armoured crews on his return to NZ.



Jack was a great storyteller. Stories were interestingly not so much about himself but what just seemed to happen around him. His grin was infectious.

On one subject he was profoundly serious. This was the loss of the black beret from the RNZAC. To him the black beret was the Armoured Corps

Jack was a pleasure to know and to be with and will be greatly missed.



Our deepest sympathy goes to Jack's family, friends, and comrades

REST IN PEACE

Humour:

Yesterday, I wore my Vietnam Veteran's cap to Wal-Mart. There was nothing I really needed at the world's largest retailer; but, since I retired, trips to "Wally World" is always good for some comic relief. Besides, I always feel normal after seeing some of the people that are there. But I digress, enough of my psychological fixations. While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?"

"No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812 . . ." I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried, "When was that?"

God forgive me, but I couldn't pass up such an opportunity. "1946", I answered, as straight-faced as possible.

He pondered my response for a moment and responded, "Why do they call it the War of 1812 if it was in 1946?"

"It was a Black Op Mission. No one is supposed to know about it." This was beginning to become fun!

"Dude! Really?" he exclaimed. "How did you get to do something that COOOOL?"

"Dude," he was really getting excited about what he was hearing, "that is seriously awesome! But didn't you kind of stand out?"

"Not really. The other guys were wearing white camouflage." The moron nodded knowingly.

"Listen man," I said in a very serious tone, "You can't tell anyone about this. It's still classified 'Top Secret' and I shouldn't have said anything".

"Oh yeah?" he gave me the 'don't threaten me look. "Like, what's gonna' happen if I do?"

With a really hard look I said, "You have a family, don't you? We wouldn't want anything to happen to them, would we?" The guy gulped, left his basket where it was and fled through the door. The lady behind me started laughing so hard I thought she was about to have a heart attack. I just grinned at her.

After checking out and going to the parking lot, I saw dimwit leaning in a car window talking to a young woman. Upon catching sight of me, he started pointing excitedly in my direction. Giving him another 'deadly' serious look, I made the 'I see you' gesture. He turned kind of pale, jumped in the car, and sped out of the parking lot.

What a great time! Tomorrow I'm going back, wearing my Homeland Security cap. Then the next day I will go to the driver's license bureau wearing my Border Patrol hat and see how long it takes to empty the place.

Whoever said retirement is boring? You just need to wear the right kind of cap!

Answer: China VT4 MBT-3000 MBT was intended primarily for export markets and is used by Nigeria, Pakistan, and Thailand. The VT4 tank integrates advanced armour and fire control capabilities and offers increased firepower and protection to combat forces in the battlefield. Gross vehicle weight of the tank is approximately 52,000 kg.

The tank is manned by a 3-man crew and is armed with a 125mm smoothbore cannon which fires APFSDS, HEAT, HE rounds and guided missiles. The maximum range of the anti-tank missile is 5km. The MBT is also equipped with a remotely controlled 12.7mm MG and coaxial 7.62mm MG. It has an active protection system with a detection range of approximately 100m. The active protection system is linked to laser threat warning to the smoke launchers. An NBC protection system is fitted. The gunner and commander are provided with stabilised thermal imaging sights and IFF (Identification, friend or foe) system for identification and recognition of targets.

The VT4 MBT is powered by a 1,300hp turbocharged diesel engine coupled to an automatic transmission. The tank has a maximum highway speed of 70km/h and a speed of 50km/h in cross country conditions. Range is 500km. GL5 active protection system, fire extinguisher feature, air-conditioning system, and explosion suppression system. The driver position is also equipped with a rear camera and monitor fitted for use whilst driving.

Reminders; RNZAC Association Web site: www.rnzac.co.nz

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.

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