

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #246 September 2025

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 2 October 2025 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

04/09 Support Squadron Promotions. Today the OC had the privilege of promoting two deserving soldiers: PTE Birnie-Selwyn was promoted to LCPL and LCPL Oltaches was promoted to CPL.



16/09 WEC Squadron Promotions. The OC and SSM are pleased to announce the promotion of TPR's Cook, Holloway and Talagi to LCPL.



16/09 Happy Birthday. Pictures from today's parade celebrating the Regiment's 161st Birthday. The parade was reviewed by the RNZAC Colonel Commandant and proudly showcased each Squadron wearing their respective dress distinctions. Following the parade, the unit enjoyed a drive through camp, an inter-squadron sports competition, and a family function. Congratulations to NZ Scottish Squadron for winning this year's Champion Squadron Competition.





19/09 Unit Professional Development Day.

The day included Career Management briefs, a series of Professional Development sessions, and concluded with a Training Formal Dinner.

We were honoured to host guests at the dinner including the RNZAC Colonel Commandant, Deputy Chief of Army, RNZAC Regimental Colonel and Warrant Officer, former unit members, as well as others who have supported the Regiment.

The dinner also provided an opportunity to learn about the various formalities and traditions of a formal dinner, reinforcing the importance of customs and heritage within the unit.



Admin & Log

RNZAC Association Subscriptions

A big thank you to all the Members for paying their subscription. The subscription helps us to keep the website running and support good causes like the RNZAC History project. The current level of subscription provides enough income to meet our normal outgoings, so it is likely that at the AGM the Committee will recommend that the subscription remains the same.

Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

Cambrai 2025

The Association will be commemorating Cambrai on Saturday 22nd November. Note it in your diaries now. (Church Parade, lunch and Association AGM). We will be asking for a donation of \$10.00 per person to offset the cost of the lunch.

Last Thursday Happy Hour for 2025

The last Thursday happy Hour for 2025 will be on Thursday 4th December. As in previous years we will be staying for a meal at the RSA after the happy hour. Please let Jan Harrison know if you wish to attend the meal.

Communications

From Bruce Tweedy. Congratulations to Alan Baker on his 80th Birthday. 'A few of us were able to call in and celebrate with him.'



From David Harrison.

Where do we go from Here.

The Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps was established during WW2 to fill a huge gap within the NZ Army and to provide tank support to the infantry. Approximately 55 years ago the RNZAC received the M113 APC to provide armoured mobility to the infantry. In 1975 I wrote an article for the RNZAC Directorate newsletter titled, "Where do we go from here." This questioned the use of the APC by the Armoured Corps. Today, equipment may have changed but the requirement remains.

Recently we were told that QAMR and 1 RNZIR were to amalgamate to establish a Mechanised Infantry Battalion. I personally have no problem with this. The only way for the infantry (1 RNZIR) to learn and operate in their new role is to own, manage and use the armoured vehicles they have been allocated. This, I believe, should have happened 55 years ago.

So where does this leave the NZ Army. Presumably the rationale for mechanising the battalion is to provide armoured protection and mobility to the mounted infantry. I repeat I have no problems with this.

If we are mechanising the infantry, then artillery must also have good armour protection. What is the sense of having an artillery unit in support that lacks armoured protection and mobility? Both units are fighting on the same battle ground, and both need good armour protection.

So where does this leave the RNZAC.

At a minimum the NZ army must have a squadron of tanks in support of the battalion. For training, these tanks do not need to be MBTs, as conversion to heavy tanks is only a conversion. Learning to use tanks and armoured vehicles is what takes the time. This applies to all commanders and all soldiers on the modern battlefield.

I hark back to why the RNZAC was formed. British tank support did not arrive in time to avoid a humiliating defeat by the division and the resulting heavy casualties. As a result of this lesson 3 infantry battalions were converted to tanks and eventually the formation of the RNZAC took place.

We must be very careful. The Australian Army, we are told, for integration reasons, will provide heavy support to our infantry. Train with foreign countries, yes, but never totally rely on their support. That is why we are an independent country. Also, if in the horrible event we must expand our army, and we have relied too much on an ally, we will lack the competence and skills at all levels to fight effectively.

Defence must never be done on the cheap.

So, where do we go from here?

David Harrison



Answer: Taiwan CM-12 MBT

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — The Army is dismantling CM-12 tanks for parts as it prepares to retire the aging vehicles and replace the unit with drones, reports said Saturday.

The CM-12s are upgraded versions of the US M48 tank, but they are scheduled to be decommissioned by 2026. Defence Minister Wellington Koo recently said the unit would be replaced with drones, which are better suited to Taiwan's operational environment.

The military's policy is to phase out outdated equipment that has outlived its usefulness or become too costly to repair or upgrade. The CM-12s have been sent to a specialized facility for dismantling, with only parts compatible with other armoured vehicles being retained.

While the Army shifts focus to drone warfare, Taiwan is also acquiring 108 M1A2T tanks from the United States. The first batch of 38 arrived in December. Meanwhile, the Army is upgrading its fleet of M60A3 tanks, which were also imported from the US more than two decades ago.

Technical specifications

Crew	4 personnel
Range	450 km
Mass	57.3 tons
Height	3.84 m (12.6 ft)
Width	3.96 m (13.0 ft)
Length	9.75 m (32.0 ft)
Max. speed	48 km/h (30 mph)
Engine	Continental AVDS 1790-2 V-12 Diesel Engine with 750 hp
Weapon 1	1 M68 105mm rifled barrel (63 shells) gun
Weapon 2	1 M85 12.7mm machine gun (3000 rounds)
Weapon 3	1 7.62mm M-240 coaxial machine gun (10,000 rounds)

Humour

You will not believe what just happened...

I pulled in to a gas station to get some petrol, when I got out I noticed two policemen watching a woman who was smoking while pumping gas...

I saw her and thought, "Is this lady stupid or crazy?!! With the police right there too?!"

But anyway, as I was paying inside, I heard screaming... I looked and the woman's arm was on fire! She was swinging her arm and running around going crazy!

I ran outside and the policeman had put her on the ground and were putting the fire out with their coffees!!

Then they put handcuffs on her and threw her in the police car...

I was thinking "what kind of person smokes near a gas pump?!"

But being nose, I asked the policemen what they were arresting her for...

The policeman looked me square in the eyes and said ... "WAVING A FIREARM!"

There were two old guys, Abe and Sol, sitting on a bench in a park feeding pigeons and talking about cricket, just like they did every day. Abe turns to Sol and says, "Do you think there's cricket in heaven?"

Sol thinks about it for a minute and replies, "I dunno, Abe. But let's make a deal: If I die first, I will come back and tell you, and if you die first, you come back and tell me, if there is cricket in heaven."

They shake on it and, sadly, a few months later poor Abe passes on.

One day soon afterward, Sol is sitting there feeding the pigeons by himself when he hears a voice whisper, "Sol... Sol..."

Sol responds, "Abe! Is that you?"

"Yes it is Sol," whispers the spirit of Abe.

Sol, still amazed, asks, "So, is there cricket in heaven?"

"Well," says Abe says, "I got good news and I got bad news."

"Gimme the good news first," says Sol.

Abe says, "Well... there is cricket in heaven."

Sol says, "That's great! What news could be bad enough to ruin that!?"

Abe sighs and whispers, "You're bowling on Friday."

Reminders

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

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.

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