

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #241 April 2025

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 1 May 2025 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

3/04 Linton JNCO Promotion Course 25/02

LCPLs Atkinson, Pene, Rothwell, and Bateson are commended for their successful completion of the JNCO Course today.

The "Juniors" course provides a comprehensive development program, focusing on the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for a JNCO, while cultivating leadership abilities.

QAMR personnel demonstrated exceptional performance, receiving four of the five awards presented at today's parade, including: Top Student, Instructional Excellence, Regimental, and Peers.

Congratulations are extended to all award winners and graduating students on their efforts and development throughout the course.



4/04 Acknowledging 50 Years of Service.

On behalf of QAMR and the RNZAC, we extend our sincerest congratulations to MAJ Napier on achieving 50 years of service. The accomplishment was formally acknowledged today in a ceremony at Defence House attended by the Chief of Army with past and present members of the corps, and included a letter from the Governor General.

MAJ Napier has held a diverse range of appointments across the corps and Army, including key postings associated with the introduction into service of NZLAV and Bushmaster. Furthermore, he has undertaken operational deployments to Bougainville and East Timor, and has been honoured with the British Empire Medal and NZ Order of Merit.

We express our deepest gratitude to MAJ Napier and his family for his unwavering dedication, commitment, and sacrifice to service.





11/04 Wellington East Coast Squadron Change of Command

Today, WEC Sqn farewelled MAJ Josh Ritchie as OC and welcomed MAJ James Dunningham. MAJ Ritchie has led WEC Sqn for the previous 18 months honourably and with the focus of generating individuals and armoured crews that can contribute to QAMRs outputs. He has been a great advocate for the soldiers and officers in the Sqn.

MAJ Ritchie now takes the position as the Regimental Second in Command. Before his departure, he was able to present a number of defence service medals and promote both TPRs McGivor and Balck to LCPL. Well done gentlemen, on this significant milestone, and best of luck in your leadership journey.



19/04 Service Milestone

On behalf of QAMR and the RNZAC, we would like to acknowledge the RSM and SGT Culver on the occasion of their thirty years service.

Throughout their careers, they have held various postings at QAMR, 1RNZIR, Combat School and other out of corps positions including OCS, TAD and MCTC.

We would also like to acknowledge SGT Culver's contribution to Army Hockey, both as a player and within the management team.

We extend our sincerest appreciation to both gentlemen and their families for their dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to serve.

Congrats fellas.

25/04



Waikato Mounted Rifles - ANZAC Day 2025. Dawn and Civic Services supported by WMR at Hamilton and Cambridge.



Wellington East Coast Squadron - ANZAC Day 2025.

The squadron participated in parades at Hastings, Parongahau, and Tinui, all of which have historical connections to the Squadron and QAMR.

Maintaining relationships with our communities and reflecting on the sacrifices made by individuals from these areas are of utmost importance to the Squadron.

If you are in Hastings, please visit the council chamber at the Hastings District Council to view the WEC Squadron guidon on display.

Admin & Log

Christchurch ANZAC Day



Alan West, Ian Bolton, David & Jan Harrison

The ANZAC Day 8 a.m. service at the 19th Battalion and Armoured Regiment memorial, Victoria Park, Christchurch Port Hills was sunny but chilly. There was a good attendance of several hundred people. Master of Ceremonies was retired-Col. Paul Koorey (2 Cants) and retired-Captain Wayne Hutchinson (Vietnam Veteran) gave an informative address. Our President Lenny Haines and his wife Shirley placed a wreath on behalf of the Association on the memorial.



RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2024/25 are now due - (\$30.00)

At the AGM in November the members voted to retain the same subscription for the 2024/25 year. The subscription of \$30.00 can be paid by internet banking direct to the RNZAC Association:

Account number: 03 0566 0209452 001 (Please include your surname and initials in the details field.)

The subscription helps the Association to maintain the RNZAC Association Website and to support important projects. Your continued support of the RNZAC Association is much appreciated. The subscription must be paid by 31st August 2025.

Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

Answer: Ukraine Leopard 2

Germany's Leopard 2 tanks have 'failed on Ukraine's battlefields'

Germany's Leopard 2 tanks are said to have been a failure on the frontline in Ukraine and Kyiv's soldiers prefer using German tanks from the 1960s, according to a damning assessment by Ukraine's military.

Ukrainian soldiers also named a string of other high-end German military equipment, including howitzers and air defence systems, that they said were too fragile to function properly on the battlefield.

The shocking revelation was made by the Deputy Military Attaché at the German Embassy in Kyiv, who in January met with 200 German army soldiers at a military base in Saxony to provide them with feedback from their Ukrainian counterparts.

German media outlet Sueddeutsche Zeitung obtained a copy of the lecture transcript and discovered that Ukrainian soldiers were dissatisfied with much of the state-of-the-art German kit they were afforded.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz shipped 18 of Germany's Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine in 2023 after allies, including the US and UK, agreed to send their Abrams and Challenger 2 tanks.

Berlin has since become one of the foremost providers of military aid to Kyiv, but Ukrainian soldiers say that 60-year-old German tanks have proven more capable in fighting Russia's forces than their modern replacements.

'Hardly any large German piece of equipment is fully suitable for war,' the document concluded.

The feedback said the Leopard 2A6 - pride of place in Germany's lineup of modern war machines - was too complex and expensive to repair, and almost impossible to repair in the field if it sustained damage near or on the frontlines.

The Leopard 2's predecessor, which entered service in 1965, is considered more reliable, while Ukrainian soldiers reported that Germany's Gepard anti-aircraft tank - a derivative of the Leopard 1 that began service in 1976 - is 'the most popular, most efficient, and most reliable weapon system' Berlin has provided to Kyiv.

'Too expensive' and 'hard to repair' were the central complaints in Ukrainian feedback regarding modern German weapons systems.

Another German product, the Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzer, reportedly suffered from such a 'high technical vulnerability' that its 'combat capability is seriously questioned'.

Having delivered the Ukrainian feedback to the German troops in Saxony, the defence attaché ultimately concluded: 'Complicated equipment remains unused... The operational value of ultra-modern and complex large-scale equipment is low if troops cannot carry out repairs on site.'

Managing Director of the European Resilience Initiative Centre Sergej Sumlenny explained why the Leopard 2 appears to be struggling in Ukraine, despite being considered as one of the world's top-line battle tanks.

'They were designed by a generation of German manufacturers that hadn't seen war, and so tended to overcomplicate the system.

'Older systems, designed in the 1960s by those who actually saw war, are far more useful on the battlefield but have weaker armour,' Sumlenny told The Telegraph.

'Leopard 2s were also not designed for the Ukrainian battlefield. They function well when they have good air support, but Ukraine is short on this.'

Such revelations will be unwelcome news for the new German government, particularly after Parliament passed a measure tabled by Chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz to lift Germany's so-called 'debt brake' and boost defence spending.

Merz has said the government will ramp up defence spending 'significantly' over the next four years to meet NATO targets for troops and weapons.

Germany will introduce a new military service, for now on a voluntary basis, after suspending conscription in 2011, the readiness of forces will be stepped up, and they will be fully equipped with weapons and other equipment.

Within the first six months in office, the coalition will pass a law to speed up defence procurement and simplify procedures.

Germany's moves reflect a wider sentiment across the continent that defence spending and procurement must be made a priority as the European Union prepares for a scenario in which the bloc comes under attack from Russia and must respond without support from the United States.

Under its ReArm Europe plan, the EU is looking to boost military spending by 800 billion euros (\$876 billion) over the next four years, loosening fiscal rules on defence investment and joint borrowing for large defence projects against the EU budget.

But ministers are also considering a plan set forth by the Bruegel think tank which advocates for the creation of a specialist fund called the European Defence Mechanism (EDM).

Bruegel said the EDM fund could focus on the manufacture and procurement of 'strategic enablers' - costly military infrastructure and equipment armies need to operate - now often provided by the United States.

These include joint command and control systems, satellite-based intelligence and communication and development of expensive new weapon systems such as fifth- or sixth-generation fighter jet.

It also includes integrated weapon systems needed by multiple countries like strategic air defence, strategic large-scale air transport and maritime logistics, missiles and nuclear deterrence.

The EDM would also promote a single European market for defence equipment to lower costs, pool resources and improve interoperability.

Defence production in the 27-nation EU is currently highly fragmented with at least seven different types of tanks, nine types of self-propelled howitzers and seven types of infantry fighting vehicles.

This has caused problems for Ukrainian units who have complained that ammunition for Western military equipment is not interchangeable, dramatically reducing frontline capabilities and increasing costs to replace munitions.

David Averre, Daily Mail, 14/04/2025

Humour

The Recruit

The Marine Drill Sergeant noticed a new recruit and barked at him, 'Get your ass over here! What's your name?'

"Paul" the new recruit replied.

"Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart pansy bullshit they're teaching in boot camp today, but I don't call anyone by his first name," the sergeant scowled. "It breeds familiarity, and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my recruits by their last names only --- Smith, Jones, Baker. I am to be referred to only as 'Sergeant.' Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, sir, Sergeant!"

"Now that we've got that straight, what's your last name?"

The recruit sighed "Darling, My name is Paul Darling."

"Okay, Paul, here's what I want you to do"

If Trump were captain of the RMS Titanic

Captain Trump of the RMS Titanic:

There isn't any iceberg.

There was an iceberg but it's in a totally different ocean.

The iceberg is in this ocean but it will melt very soon.

There is an iceberg but we didn't hit the iceberg.

We hit the iceberg, but the damage will be repaired very shortly.

The iceberg is a Chinese iceberg.

We are taking on water but every passenger who wants a lifeboat can get a lifeboat, and they are beautiful lifeboats.

Look, passengers need to ask nicely for the lifeboats if they want them.

We don't have any lifeboats, we're not lifeboat distributors.

Passengers should have planned for icebergs and brought their own lifeboats.

I really don't think we need that many lifeboats.

We have lifeboats and they're supposed to be our lifeboats, not the passengers' lifeboats.

The lifeboats were left on shore by the last captain of this ship.

Nobody could have foreseen the iceberg.

Reminders

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

Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.

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Mike Smith, Editor