

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #197 April 2021

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 6 May 2021 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA

Whose is it?



Admin & Log

From Ian Bolton:

Graeme Ready, Chairperson RNZACHPCT is going to be in Christchurch, late afternoon **Friday 23rd April**. Both he and his wife will be on a bus tour of the South Island overnighiting at the Elms Hotel, Papanui Road.

He is keen to meet up with as many as possible ex RNZAC personnel on the Friday afternoon and talk informally on the project.

I am planning a gathering of personnel to meet up with Graeme at the **Papanui RSA, 4.00 - 6.00pm on Friday 23rd April**.

I encourage as many as possible to attend and hear first-hand up to date progress on the RNZAC History Project. Info me if you can attend ian.bolton@xtra.co.nz

ANZAC Day 2021:

19th Armoured Regiment memorial, Victoria Park Christchurch. Service commences at 08.00

The Porirua RSA extends a warm welcome for all Black hatters to attend their ANZAC civic service commemorations on Sunday 11.30am 25 April 2021.

Last Post

It is with regret that we have been informed of the passing of WO1 (rtd) Raymond (Waka) Johnston.

Waka served with the Regular Force RNZAC from October 1950 to December 1981. He was posted to Kay Force and served on active service in Korea from October 1953 to February 1955. This included an attachment with the 5th Royal Tank Regiment during 1954.

On return to New Zealand, Waka was posted to the Central Districts Training Depot as an Instructor. From 1956-59 he was posted to the RNZAC Depot and then to the 4th Armoured Regiment until 1962. Waka then joined the School of Armour, Waiouru, as an Instructor. In 1969 he was posted to the Regular Force Depot. Waka ended his Army career as the RSM Services Correctional Establishment. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1981.



We extend our condolences and sympathy to Waka Johnston's family. He will be missed by the association members.

Answer: USA.

The M1A2 SEP is a successor to the M1A2 Abrams. It has seen combat and is one of the most feared MBTs.

This tank has incredible technology and armour. It offers significant protection against all well-known anti-tank weapons and uses advanced armour, reinforced with depleted uranium layers.

Its firepower and accuracy are slightly inferior to that of the Leopard 2A7 or the South Korean K2 Black Panther due to a shorter 120 mm/L44 smoothbore gun. Yet it still packs a formidable punch.

Its complex gas turbine engine offers good performance, but requires a tremendous amount of maintenance, logistical support and is thirsty on fuel.

A number of older M1, M1A1 and M1A2 tanks were upgraded to this standard. The tank can be fitted with a Tank Urban Survival Kit (TUSK) that improves survivability in an urban environment. To date very few Abrams tanks have been destroyed in combat.

At least 900 M1A2 SEP are in service with the United States Army. It is planned that this tank will remain in service beyond 2050. The M1A2 SEP has not been exported yet. However the previous M1A2 has been supplied to Kuwait (218) and Saudi Arabia (373).

Humour

From Bruce Keddie...

THE RULES OF COMBAT (they never taught you)

1. You are not Superman
2. If it's stupid, but it works, it's not stupid.
3. Never draw fire, it irritates everyone around you.
4. When in doubt, empty the magazine.
5. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you.
6. Your weapon was made by the lowest bidder.
7. If you can't remember, the claymore is pointed towards you.
8. All five-second grenade fuses last three seconds.
9. Try to look unimportant, they may be low on ammunition.
10. The enemy diversion you are ignoring is the main attack.
11. If you're short on everything except enemy, you are in combat.
12. Incoming fire has the right of way.
13. No combat ready unit ever passed inspection.
14. No inspection ready unit ever passed combat.
15. Teamwork is essential, it gives them other people to fire at.
16. If the enemy is in range, so are you.
17. Tracers work both ways.
18. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
19. Radios will fail as soon as you need fire support.
20. Intelligence is always wrong.

Reminders; RNZAC Association Web site: www.rnzac.co.nz Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted. Email: smithmd@xtra.co.nz Phone 02108049178.

Mike Smith, Editor