

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #198 May 2021

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 3 June 2021 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA

Whose is it?



Admin & Log

RNZAC Association Subscriptions

From the RNZAC Association Treasurer - A big thank you to all those who have paid their subscriptions this year. The income allows the Association to function and in particular to maintain the website which has a surprising number of views, a good number of them from overseas. For those that have not paid as yet there will be a reminder e-mail going out next month, but only to those who haven't paid yet. Mike Sheppard - Association Treasurer

RNZAC Association Early Winter Lunch

No point in waiting for mid-winter, the Committee has decided to get in early this year. To be held at the Papanui RSA on Sunday 20th June from mid-day, (12.30pm dining). Set menu

for \$32.00 per head. All welcome. Please contact Mike Sheppard at miksan@xtra.co.nz , with the numbers attending by Friday 11th June so we can let the RSA know.

There will be a raffle as usual, with the proceeds going to the RNZAC HPCT, same as last year! With fundraising efforts slowed by COVID we all need to do what we can to support this worthwhile project!

RNZAC History Project

The RNZAC History Project is continuing to seek funds for 2022 (the last “writing” year of the project), as well as publishing expenses through to November 2023. If you are able to assist the account details are: Bank – Westpac, Account - RNZAC HPCT, Account number 03-0631-0030863-000

Last Post

Our sympathies to Ron Cone, whose wife Heather passed away on 8 April.

On 13 April Mike Sheppard wrote on the online memorial book for HRH Prince Phillip: From all members of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps to her Majesty the Queen and all members of the Royal Family. Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences on the sad loss of HRH Prince Phillip. He set a shining example of duty, devotion and a desire to leave the world a better place. Truly an Officer and a Gentleman. He will be greatly missed.

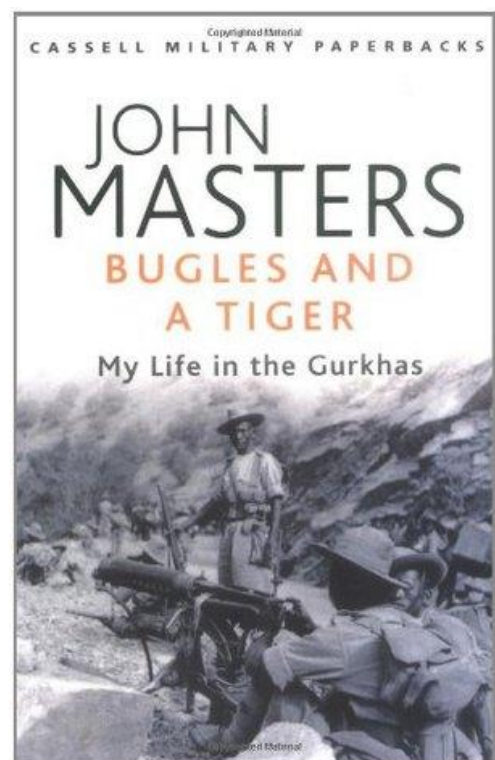
Book review

BUGLES AND A TIGER by John Masters.

Some time ago I asked an officer who had served with the Gurkhas why he had not written a book about his experiences. He then loaned me the book “Bugles and a Tiger” written by John Masters and explained this was why he would not write one. Having read the book, I can understand why. This book is an autobiography about a young man who became a professional soldier. His story begins with his time at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, his subsequent commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1934 and posting into the Old Indian Army, and to the 4th Prince of Wales Own Gurkha Rifles in northern India.

The reader then learns about his experiences of life, comradeship, discomfort and joys, and his love of the Gurkha. You learn about the history of the Gurkhas and the incredibly special, almost family relationship between the English officers and the Gurkha. Evidence of this is the wonderful, almost disrespectful way Gurkha humour is played out, whatever the rank.

John Masters also covers his war in northern India in a very graphic manner and does not pull any punches. His love of things Indian, the people, the country, the huge geological differences, the good and bad and the huge dichotomy encountered in India are all



magnificently woven into his story.

This is a book that beautifully covers the challenges and experiences a young man encounters when growing up, learning about himself and the skills his chosen profession requires. It has everything: mistakes, successes, wonderful soldier humour and plenty of life's experiences.

I highly recommend this book. I found it easy to read and very absorbing, and it has something for everyone, especially soldiers.

David Harrison

Answer: Iran

The Karrar (Striker in English) main battle tank (MBT) is an indigenous combat vehicle developed in-house by Iran's Defence Industries Organisation (DIO). Crewed by three personnel, it has a length of 9.6m. The tank underwent rigorous tests by the Iran Army and was declared combat-ready in November 2017. Deliveries began in 2018.

The Karrar battle tank shares a striking resemblance with the Russian T-90MS battle tank. Its hull is divided into three major compartments, with the driver's cab in front, turret in the centre and power pack at the rear.

The vehicle is equipped with a laser rangefinder to track targets with a high degree of accuracy. It features an advanced battlefield management system (BMS) supported by digital panels fitted inside the hull. The BMS integrates data from the sensor systems, other tanks, and digital maps.

The tank is equipped with an electro-optical fire control system and embedded night vision systems for the onboard crew members. The thermal imaging system aboard the tank enables the gunner to fire at the targets with high precision in all weather conditions during the day and night.

The vehicle is also fitted with advanced observation systems aided by a rear-mounted digital camera near the periscope. Other standard equipment aboard the vehicle includes a ballistic computer, a nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) protection system, and LED headlights.

The main gun fitted to the Karrar MBT is a 125mm calibre coaxial smoothbore gun. The secondary weapon includes a remote weapon system (RWS) mounted with a 7.62mm machine gun. The 125mm gun can fire armour-piercing fin-stabilised discarding sabot (APFSDS), high-explosive fragmentation (HEF), and armour-piercing fin-stabilised discarding sabot (APFSDS) rounds. It is also equipped with a fume extractor and a thermal sleeve.

The Karrar MBT incorporates a dynamic self-protection system supported by explosive reactive armour (ERA) at the forward hull. The sides of the turret are attached with spaced composite armour, while the roof is fitted with add-on armour for additional protection. The protection system enables the turret to withstand chemical and kinetic energy impact.

The rear part of the hull and turret are hinged with cage armour for protection against rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attacks. The vehicle is also fitted with two banks of three smoke grenade dischargers.

The Karrar battle tank is powered by a rear-mounted diesel engine with a rated power output of up to 1,200hp. The rear hull has a provision to carry two diesel tanks with the capacity of 200l each to extend the operational range of the tank. The tank can travel at a maximum speed of 70km/h, while the maximum operational range of the vehicle is 550km.

The vehicle is equipped with torsion bar suspension including six road wheels on either side of the hull. Each track includes an idler at the forward wheel station, drive sprocket at the rear, and three return rollers.

Humour

From David Harrison

Ponderisms.....Some new ones, and some old ones..



We just had a guy come into our auto parts store asking if we sold longer dipsticks, because his doesn't reach his oil anymore.



**How do you milk
sheep?**

**Bring out a new
iPhone and charge
\$1000 for it.**

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