

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #201 August 2021

Meetings Happy Hour: Cancelled Thursday 2 September due to Level 3 restrictions.

Whose is it?



Last Post: It is with great sadness we report the death of 7815068 Athol John King who died peacefully in his 89th year on Monday 16 August at Anthony Wilding Retirement Village in Christchurch.



Athol's military career started in November 1949 when like others of that era such as Jack Brunton and Val Lord joined the RNZAC. And, like them he served in Korea in 1953 with 5 RTR on Centurions. He served with QAR as a troop sergeant, NZ Scots, was cadre staff, an RNZAC Depot instructor and rose to the rank of WO2 at HQ Army Schools before being Q commissioned in the early 1970's.



Athol, who was also known as John, was a very active member of the RNZAC Association. He attended the monthly happy hours and always made sure he and Betty were at the mid-winter dinners and Cambrai Services. John was a lovely quiet gentleman who was in possession of a wonderful smile, good sense of humour and was always very easy to talk with. John you will be missed.

A private cremation has been held with the possibility of a memorial service at a later date. Messages can be sent to: The King Family, c/- P O Box 11104, Christchurch 8443.

Our condolences go to John's wife Betty, his family, friends, and comrades. **Rest in Peace.**

Answer: USA M8

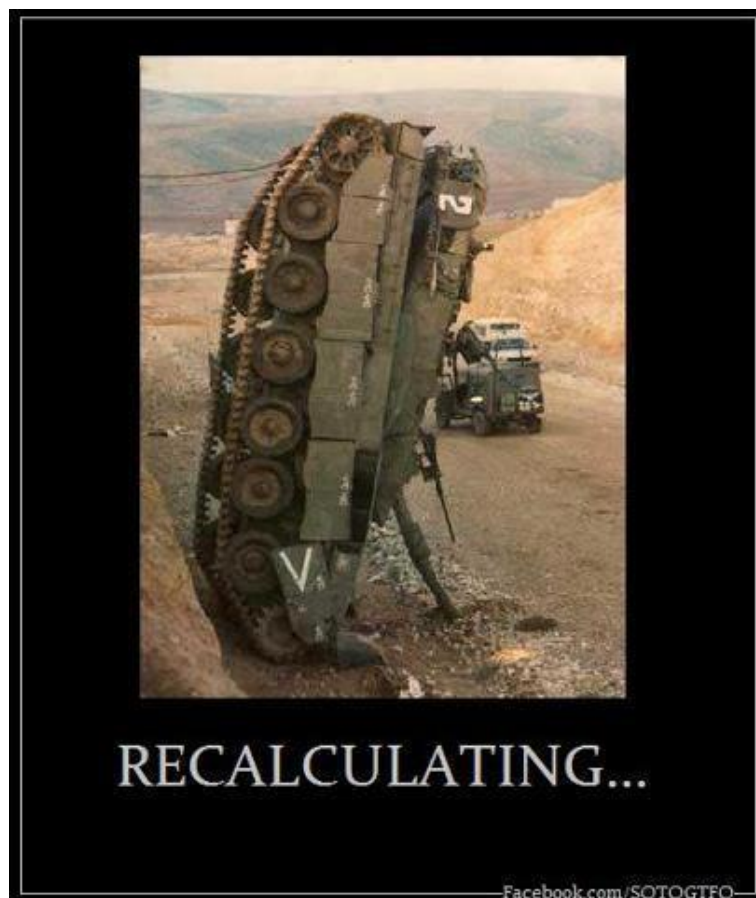
BAE Systems was awarded a contract, along with General Dynamics, by the US Army as part of the Mobile Protected Firepower programme on 17 December 2018 to create an air transportable light tank to assist infantry brigades in forced entry operations. BAE submitted an updated M8 design with new capabilities and components. Requirements called for a tracked vehicle armed with a 105 mm or 120 mm cannon, which would not need to be air-droppable, but two would fit in a C-17 Globemaster and land on an airfield secured by infantry. The two companies built 12 prototypes each and began delivering them for testing in spring 2020. A winner will be selected in 2022 and begin fielding the first of 504 vehicles by 2025.

The basic hull of the M8 is made of welded aluminium alloy, with a modular armouring system that allows the vehicle to be equipped according to requirements. The Level I (basic) armour package is designed for the rapid deployment role and can be airdropped from a C-130 Hercules and protects the vehicle against small-arms fire and shell splinters. The Level II armour package can still be carried by C-130 but must be airlanded and is designed for use by light forces in a more serious threat environment, while level III armour is designed for contingency operations and is supposed to provide protection against light handheld anti-tank weapons. Level III armour cannot be carried by C-130. All versions are air-transportable by C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III (five and three respectively).

The M8 is armed with the M35 rifled autoloading 105 mm cannon main gun with an M240 7.62 mm machine-gun mounted coaxially. The M35 has a rate of fire of approximately 12 rounds per minute, with a ready capacity of 21 rounds and 24 more in hull stowage. A Browning M2 12.7 mm (.50) calibre heavy machine gun is mounted in a manually operated pintle on the commander's hatch. Power is provided by a Detroit Diesel 6V-92TIA diesel developing 550 hp.

Humour







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

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