

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #202 September 2021

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 7 October 2021 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



Admin & Log

Last opportunity to submit suggestions for the main title of the Corps History. The Trust will donate a copy of the published history to the submitter of the winning entry or that entry that is closest to the Main Title finally decided on by the RNZAC HPCT according to these parameters:

- a. The Main Title captures the key essence of mounted/armoured operations.
- b. The Main Title "immediately attracts attention" of everyone seeing it.
- c. The Main Title should not contain too many words.
- d. The Main Title must be compatible with the Sub-Title underneath which will read- "The History of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps and its Predecessor Armoured, Mounted Rifles and Cavalry Units"

Please email your ideas for the Main Title to the newsletter editor no later than 30 September 2021.

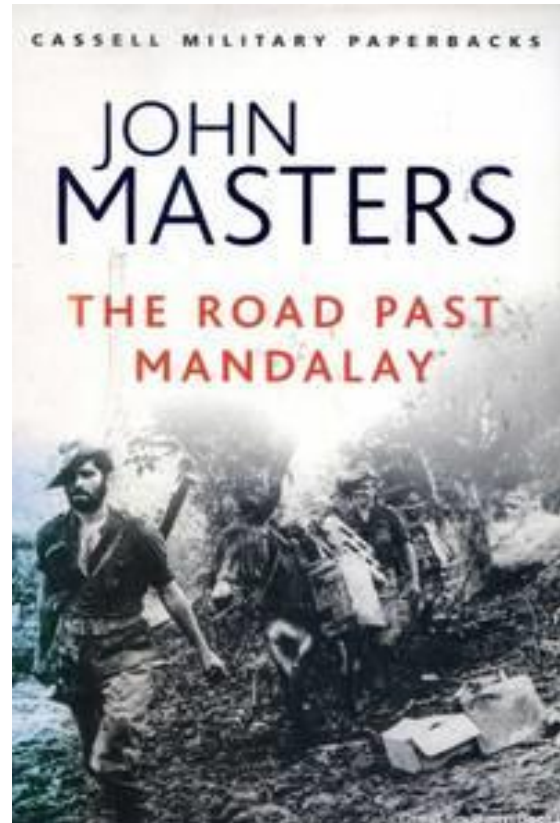
Book review

THE ROAD PAST MANDALAY by John Masters.

This book continues John Masters autobiography only this time he writes about his experiences in the Indian Army during WW2. His story starts with his war in Iraq Syria and Persia and his adventures in this area. John has a great ability to paint wonderfully accurate and descriptive words the conflict, of life and death, the country, and the people.

John was then posted to the Staff College in Quetta, India where he learnt the especially important skills of planning essential for the deployment of troops and their equipment. It was at Quetta that he also fell in love and his story quite softly describes the huge challenges facing soldiers who are separated from their loved ones. Especially during war.

After Staff College he was posted to the Chindits in Burma where he remained until conflict in Burma finished. On arrival in Burma, he was a Brigade Major as such was able to give his views on the use of the Chindits, and senior officers involved in the Burma War. Names such as, Wingate, Slim, Stillwell, Mountbatten are mentioned, and he describes his impressions of them, their strengths and weaknesses and how the soldiers in Burma felt about them. Phillip Cochran , Commander of No1 Air Commando USAAC (air support for the Chindits) and the men of this formation come in for much praise for their courage and magnificent support.



His description of the battles the Chindit, British and Indian units is absolutely vivid. All units were involved in savage fighting under extremely harsh conditions from Broadway, Blackpool to the end. How they survived is testament to their "We will not give in" attitude. He has nothing but admiration for those who served. He tells of the total annihilation defeat of the Japanese Army in Burma but equally he has great respect for the Japanese soldier, their bravery and fighting spirit.

His story is full of information about how the army operates, the bravery, the frailty of soldier and units. He tells of misery, love, the food, culture, people, frustrations, responsibilities, the huge weight of command, failures, sacrifices, joy, and huge amount about life.

This is a magnificently written book that has lessons for all of us. Well worth the read.

David Harrison

Answer: Israel Eitan

The Eitan (Hebrew for persistent) is a new Israeli APC. It was developed to meet requirements of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) and it is the first wheeled 8x8 APC to be developed in Israel. A prototype of the Eitan was first publicly revealed in 2016. After testing,

the Eitan was approved for procurement and mass production commenced in 2020. It became operational with the IDF in 2021.

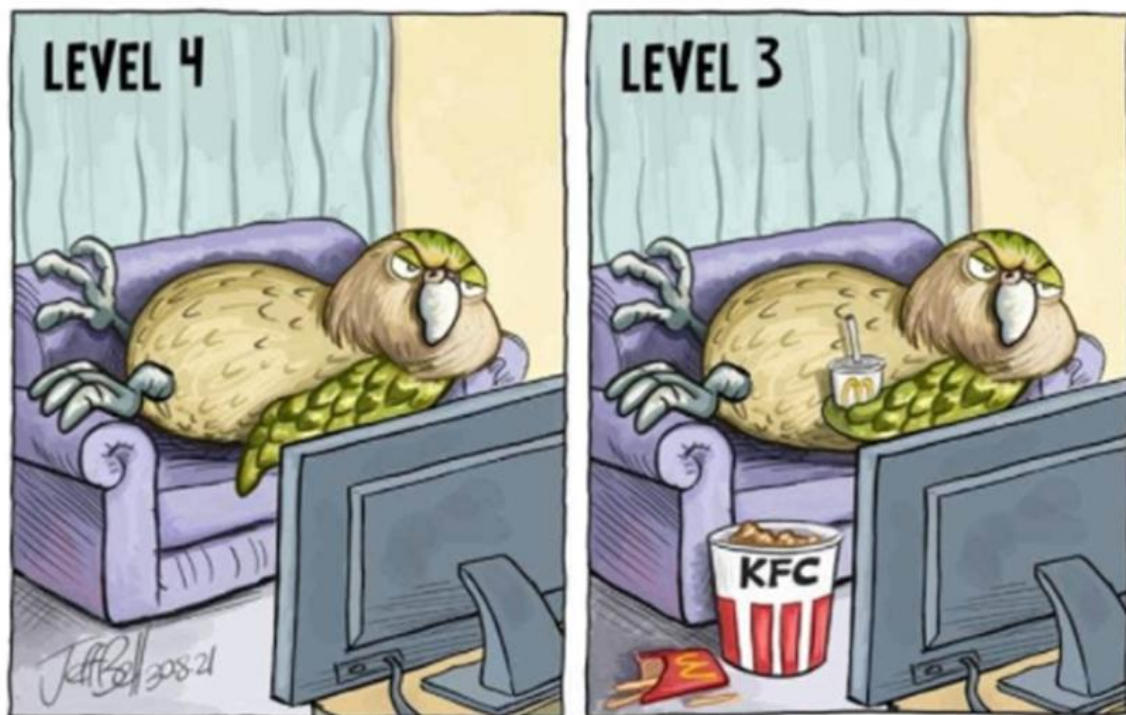
The Eitan has a typical layout for a modern APC. It weights around 30-35 tonne and could be one of the most protected wheeled APCs in the world. The vehicle has a V-shaped hull for improved protection against mines and improvised explosive devices. However so far there were no official data regarding its ballistic and mine protection.

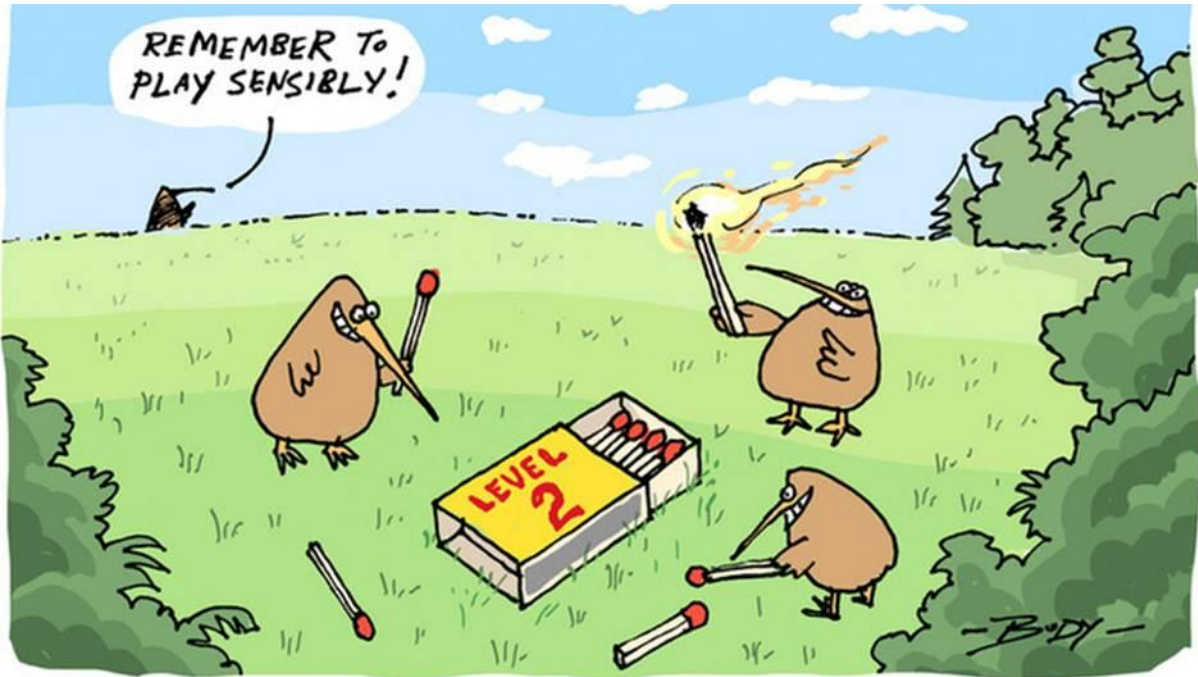
Most likely the front arc withstands hits from 25-30 mm cannons and all-round protection is against 12.7 mm or 14.5 mm armour-piercing rounds. In terms of mine protection it is likely that this vehicle was designed to withstand blasts equivalent to 10 kg of TNT. The Eitan will be fitted with an Iron Fist advanced active protection system.

The prototype of the Eitan is fitted with a remotely controlled weapon station, armed with a 12.7 mm machine gun. Other weapons, such as 30 mm or 40 mm automatic cannons, are also available on production versions of the Eitan. At least part of the IDF's Eitans are fitted with unmanned turrets.

This APC is powered by a turbocharged diesel engine, developing 750 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.

Mike Smith, Editor