

RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #218 March 2023

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 6 April 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

Last week the NZLAV Driver (Tactical) Course 23/01 wrapped up at Combat School. The 5 week course tested student's ability to drive NZLAV cross country, over varying terrain in the Waiouru Military Training Area. The on-road phase saw the course travel the Ruapehu, Waikato, Manawatu and Wairarapa regions. 11 students from QAMR qualified. Congratulations to TPR Partsch who was awarded Top Student for the course.





CPL McAnnalley and CPL Caulfield lending a hand in Fiji to support the upcoming Republic of Fiji Military Forces Basic Recruit Course.

Admin & Log

RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2022/23 are now due - (\$30.00)

A big thank you to those members who have already paid their subscription. For those that haven't yet, 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 like the RNZAC History Project. Your continued support of the RNZAC Association is much appreciated.
Mike Sheppard, Treasurer, RNZAC Association

The RNZAC History Project – Chair Update 31 March 2023

Attached is a letter with an update on Trust activities.

From Bruce Keddie



Can anyone put a name to the person in the background attempting a “photo bomb”?

Answer: UKRAINE Leopard 2

Germany's Leopard 2 Tank: An Ace-In-The-Hole For Ukraine?

The third generation Leopard 2 tank was developed by manufacturer Krauss-Maffei in the 1970's to replace its Leopard 1 predecessor. The German-made armoured vehicle incorporated more capabilities and improvements than its predecessor. In fact, almost as soon as the Leopard 1 entered service in the mid-1960's, the German government set its eyes on a new-generation tank.

Poland delivered its first batch of Leopard 2 Main Battle Tanks (MBT) to Ukraine around the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion in late February. While several Western nations have promised to secure a variety of advanced armoured vehicles to aid Ukraine defensive efforts over the last year, the shipment of Leopard 2A4 tanks represented the first foreign tanks actually delivered. Widely considered to be one of the best MBTs in service today, the Leopard 2 tank could be the game changer Ukraine is hoping for at this point in the invasion.

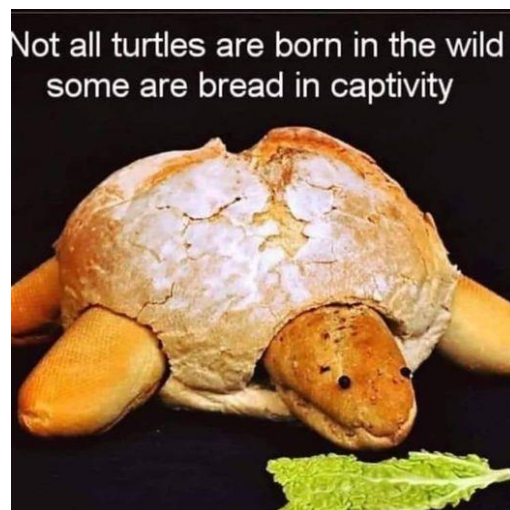
Since the Leopard was initially designed to counter some of the most formidable armoured vehicles the Soviet Union produced, the influx of these variants to Ukraine will be paramount to the country's success. Overall, the Leopard 2 was more mobile, better armoured and equipped with a larger, more powerful gun. The fully-stabilized Rheinmetall RH-M-120 120 mm smoothbore gun is accompanied by 42 rounds in the tank. Additionally, 15 ready-to-use rounds are stored in the turret bustle, while the remaining rounds are positioned by the driver.

As explained by Popular Mechanics, “The Rh-120 is highly accurate while shooting on the move due to a two-axis stabilization system that counteracts the tank’s movement against the position of the Rh-120 gun barrel. Older tanks need to come to a halt to fire accurately at enemy targets, an action that collectively slows an attacking force’s momentum. The Leopard 2’s stabilization system allows the main gun to remain oriented against a target even while the tank is manoeuvring over rough terrain. This gives the Leopard 2 a high level of accuracy while shooting on the move, or a spill-free delivery of a stein filled with beer.”

Last week, the Ukrainian tank crews sent to Spain to undergo a series of trainings to properly use the Leopard 2 armoured vehicles returned home. A total of 40 crew members and 15 mechanics spent four weeks learning the ins and outs of the German-tank, according to Reuters. This training trip followed announcements made by Poland, Sweden and Germany late last month that additional Leopard 2 tanks will be shipped to support Ukraine. The U.S. Defence Department also revealed that 21 M1 Abrams tanks would be delivered to Ukraine by the fall. Tank warfare has played a significant role in Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine, making the influx of powerful Western tanks a potential tipping point in the conflict.

By *Maya Carlin*, Senior Editor with 19FortyFive, analyst with the Centre for Security Policy and a former Anna Sobol Levy Fellow at IDC Herzliya in Israel.

Humour



People are shocked when they
find out I’m not a very good
electrician.



The end of the Great Wall of China.



Obviously, it has to end *somewhere*. But it seems like the Mongols could have gotten a little boat and just gone round.

OCD NIGHTMARE



PUNNY PICTURES OR POTO.COM

Reminders

RNZAC Association Web site: www.rnzac.co.nz
Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.
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Mike Smith, Editor