

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER #223 August 2023**

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 7 September 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.
To be followed by a committee meeting.

Whose is it?



QAMR



On 4 August members of QAMR not on exercise Talisman Sabre held a memorial service for A1016393 LCPL Pralli Durrer. LCPL Durrer was involved in the battle of Baghak, Afghanistan, on 04 August 2012 where he was mortally wounded during an insurgent attack.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 23 came to a close in Townsville Australia. The NZLAV Combat Team successfully executed its mission under Battle Group Ram, 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Numerous mounted enemy were destroyed by LAV troop ambushes, advances to contact, and indirect fire missions called by G21.



Territorial Force Junior Non Commissioned Officer Course. Congratulations to LCPL Roma Shearer on successfully completing the course today [27th] with a graduation ceremony at the Linton Cultural Centre.

Admin & Log

Spring Lunch – Sunday 10th September – Papanui RSA

Sunday the 10th of September, in the Upham Room at the Papanui RSA 12 Mid-day onwards. Cost is being subsidised by the Association so will be \$25.00 per head, payable to the Association. Bookings to Mike Sheppard please, miksan@xtra.co.nz

RNZAC History Project Charitable Trust

The finishing line is in sight, however, like all of us, the History Project is struggling to get funds to cross the final hurdles through to getting the book published/printed. The title of the history is “Those Who Have Courage”, so if you can contribute to the Trust please dig deep. At this stage every little bit counts and we are all keen to see this worthwhile project completed. The account details for the Trust are: Bank - Westpac Account - RNZAC HPCT Account number -03-0631-0030863-000

Attached to the Association Newsletter email is a copy of the RNZAC History Project -Chair Update To All - 21 August 2023. Please take the time to read it.

Fundraising Raffle for the History Project

To help with fundraising for the History project the Association is running a fundraising raffle with some great prizes. Limited to 1500 \$2.00 tickets the raffle will go on sale in early September and will be drawn at our Cambrai Commemoration in November. Tickets must be purchased face-to-face, with the full details at the point of sale. Tickets will be available at the Papanui RSA at our September, October and November Happy Hours, as well as at the Spring Lunch. We will be canvassing other RSA's in the region and will advise where tickets will be available.

Please support the RNZAC Association and the RNZAC Trust in this raffle.
Prizes:

1. Signed 2023 Crusaders Jersey + CAT Cap. Value: \$ 2000.00
2. Limited Edition M113 Diorama + CAT Cap. Value: \$ 900.00
3. Remote Control Cat Model + CAT Cap. Value: \$ 500.00
4. Crusaders Polo shirt + CAT Cap. Value: \$ 120.00
5. Australian Vietnam Armour Print + CAT Cap. Value: \$ 100.00

Cambrai 2023

Our Cambrai Commemorations will be on Saturday the 25th of November. Church parade, lunch and the Association AGM.



A scene from a war movie? No, Annual Camp at Tekapo in the Eighties.

Answer: Australia M1A1 Abrams

Australia transports M1A1 Abrams MBTs to Indonesia for exercise

The logistical challenge of transporting tanks demonstrates the ADF's ability to deploy large-scale land forces across the Indo-Pacific in the future.

Logistical challenges will prove to be a considerable obstacle as tensions grow in the Indo-Pacific.

Undaunted by the prospect, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has proven its ability to deploy large-scale land forces across the Indo-Pacific, as the 1st Armoured Regiment prepared for exercise Super Garuda Shield in Indonesia.

Starting at their home at RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia, the Army transported more than a dozen M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks (MBTs) – that is around a fifth of its entire MBT fleet – across the continent by road on heavy trucks to Darwin Harbour, Northern Territory.

From there, the Army loaded the vehicles onto an American vessel, the USAV *SSGT Robert T. Kuroda* and shipped to the Tanjung Perak Port in Surabaya, Indonesia for transport by road to the training area in East Java.

Commander of the regiment Lieutenant Colonel Michael Henderson explained that the transportation of the whole contingent “will demonstrate our ability to meet the most demanding land challenges in the future and to effectively deploy significant land forces, including armour, across the Indo-Pacific region.”

Australia's MBTs – now and in the near future

According to GlobalData intelligence in Australia's Equipment Inventory, the Army currently operates 59 active M1A1 units, which the country originally acquired between 2003 and 2007 from the US.

The ADF's vehicle transportation catered for M1A1 MBT units weighing 67.6 tonnes each, according to US Army specifications.

In late April 2021, the US Department of State approved the Foreign Military Sale of 160 M1A1 tank hulls to Australia from stock. The Army will use those frames to produce the ADF's next tank fleet including around 75 M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams main battle tanks.

Once the ADF upgrades its 15-year-old fleet, each unit will come to measure 9.7m-long, 3.7m-wide, 2.4m-high and weigh 73.6t. A four-man crew will operate the M1A2 SEPv3 including the driver, commander, loader, and gunner.

Working alongside America and Indonesia

Henderson also pointed out that Super Garuda Shield will also provide “the opportunity to conduct joint interoperable operations and train with partners and allies in the region.”

While there is a lot of room for overlap with the US Army’s fleet of upgraded Abrams MBTs, of which GlobalData accounts for 973 units, Indonesia is a fellow Indo-Pacific ally that operates different MBTs.

Indonesia currently operates 275 AMX-13 75mm units (acquired in 1961) as well as 41 Leopard 2A4 units and 61 Leopard 2RI units (procured since 2013).

By John Hill, August 29, 2023, www.army-technology.com

Humour

An elderly man walks into a barbershop for a shave and a haircut.

He tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age.

The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old man to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old man tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he'd had in years but he wanted to know what would have happened if he had accidentally swallowed the little ball.

The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does".

And along the same lines - it was a cold winter day.

An old man walked out onto a frozen lake for fishing, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line, and waited patiently for a bite.

He was there for almost an hour, without even a nibble, when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice next to him. The young boy dropped his fishing line and minutes later he hooked a Largemouth Bass.

The old man couldn't believe his eyes but chalked it up to plain luck. Shortly thereafter, the young boy pulled in another large catch. The young boy kept catching fish after fish.

Finally, the old man couldn't take it any longer. "Son," he said, "I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You've been here only a few minutes and have caught a half dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rram."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rarm."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you're saying."

The boy spat the bait into his hand and said... "You have to keep the worms warm!"

Reminders

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