

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER #225 October 2023**

**Meetings** Happy Hour: Thursday 2 November 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

**Whose is it?**



**QAMR**

5 October, 11 QAMR personnel completed the NZ Bushmaster 5.5 Operator, Train the Trainer course. This has been facilitated by Thales Australia and the Protected Mobility Capability Project. This team will begin to train QAMR personnel from November. Next on the training programme is the Bushmaster Crew Procedural Simulator Course.





Congratulations to SSGT Maw on completing the Warrant Officers Promotion Course. James with his wife in support, received the Sergeant Major of the Army Trophy - Top Student and the Commanding Officer The Army Depot - Leadership Awards at the graduation dinner on 5 October.

21 October, congratulations to all students who qualified on the unit run gunners course. Special shout out to Troopers Anderson & Simpson for their efforts, with both being recognised with the Top Student Award.

Meanwhile, NZ Scots Squadron has been on exercise Black Bayonet in the South Island with 2/1RNZIR



## **Admin & Log**

### **From the RNZAC Association Fundraising Raffle for the History Project**

Last chance to get tickets in our History project Fundraising raffle at the November Happy Hour. Limited to 1500 \$2.00 tickets the raffle will be drawn at our Cambrai Commemoration in November. If you cannot make the Happy Hour, but wish to get some tickets please contact the Association Secretary – Bruce Tweedy on 021 174 7232.

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

Prizes:

1. Signed 2023 Crusaders Jersey + CAT Cap.
2. Limited Edition M113 Diorama + CAT Cap.
3. Remote Control Cat Model + CAT Cap.
4. Crusaders Polo shirt + CAT Cap.
5. Australian Vietnam Armour Print + CAT Cap.

## **Cambrai 2023**

Our Cambrai Commemorations will be on Saturday the 25th of November. Church parade at 12 mid-day then afterwards at the Papanui RSA, lunch at 12.45. Fundraising raffle drawn at 1.00pm. Association AGM at 2.30pm.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps Association will be held on Saturday 25th November 2023 in the Charles Upham Room at the Papanui RSA, (55 Bellvue Avenue, Papanui, Christchurch) at 14:30hours.

Please contact the Treasurer, Mike Sheppard, at [miksan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:miksan@xtra.co.nz), or on 027 229 1776, if you are planning to attend the Cambrai Commemorations so we can get the correct numbers for catering purposes.



Centurion at Waiouru

QAMR Squadron is organising a get together and open day for 17 and 18 November. RSVP to [cambraiday2023@gmail.com](mailto:cambraiday2023@gmail.com)

### **Static Displays**

- Bushmaster
- NZLAV
- M113
- CVR(T) Scorpion
- Soldier Systems Equipment

### **Vehicle Rides**

- Bushmaster
- NZLAV

Tidy dress attire required at the WOs' & SGTs' Mess – Collar / female equivalent minimum

### **Fri 17 Nov:-**

(QAMR Hangars)

- 1700 Happy Hour / Meet & Greet

### **Sat 18 Nov:-**

(QAMR Hangars)

- 1100 Memorial Service
- 1130 Static Displays
- 1200 Vehicle Rides

(Linton WOs' & SGTs' Mess)

- 1300 RNZAC History Project Update
- 1600 Pub Games
- 1800 Function

## **RNZAC History Project**

The Trust is in the last eight weeks of the publication phase of the Corps History. They have announced that there will be 'early bird' sales for ex-RNZAC members. The retail price is expected to be just under \$100.00. They are offering a discounted price of between \$85.00-\$90.00 (Including handling and posting charges of \$20.00-for all of New Zealand) per book. Payment is not required until March 2024 but they are seeking confirmed orders now. Please email Ian Bolton: - ian.bolton@xtra.co.nz with your name, shipping address including postcode, contact phone number and number of books required.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the Trusts letter with further details about the publication

## **Answer Israel IDF NAMER Armoured Personnel Carrier**

### **TANKS, IFVs and APCs**

Since the establishment of the state of Israel, the country's military has used a broad variety of tanks, including both domestic and foreign-made models.

While it has been provided with several different models of foreign-made machines by its allies throughout its history, Israel's military began research and development work on a domestically produced tank in the mid-1960s.

While there have been various Israeli-made tanks, the IDF's main battle tank today is the domestically made Merkava, the latest version of which is the Merkava Mark 5 'Barak' (Lightning), which entered service this year.

The IDF spent decades perfecting the state-of-the-art war machines, which are specifically designed to excel in an urban warfare environment.

Dating all the way back to the Mark 1 in the 1970s, Merkava models have made up the backbone of the IDF's ground forces, with around 490 in service today.

As with the Mark 4, the Merkava 5 features a 120mm main gun that can fire a variety of ammunition up to 4,000 meters, while also being equipped with a machine gun.

It is also equipped with a 'Trophy' active protection system (APS) designed to protect vehicles from anti-tank missiles, a 360-degree day/night camera coverage for increased situational awareness as well as a fighter jet-style helmet-mounted display for the tank's commander that provides the operator with a host of information.

For example, the helmet can provide the driver with a 3D view of the battlefield around the tank, as well as information about potential targets, which ammunition should be fired, and visual signals for damage to the tank.

The Merkava 5 also has a host of new sensors that enable it to independently acquire targets and strike them quickly, electronic war capabilities and a direct energy system capable of intercepting drones and cruise missiles.

Exact details of these state-of-the-art features are highly classified.

While the Israeli army relies heavily on the Merkava tank, it boasts more variety in the armoured infantry fighting vehicles that it has in its arsenal.

Of its roughly 1,360 available, the country has around 500 US-Israeli M113s, around 215 IDF Achzarits and around 120 Namer.

The US-built M113 APC was first introduced in the early 1960s and has since become one of the most widely used armoured vehicles globally. Its tracks enable it to traverse rough terrain and provide better traction than wheeled vehicles - it also has amphibious capabilities and can swim at a slow speed in water, using its tracks for propulsion.

The M113's armour is designed to protect its occupants from small arms fire and shell splinters. but like most other APCs it is not considered to be heavily armoured like main battle tanks.

Various upgrades and modifications have been made over the years to enhance the vehicle's protection.

Meanwhile, the IDF's own Azcharit APC is derived from the chassis of decommissioned Soviet T-54/T-55 tanks, but can still carry up to eight infantrymen, plus three crew members, making it well-suited for urban combat scenarios.

The Namer APC is based around the chassis of the Merkava tank, meaning it and the Azcharit are more heavily armoured than the likes of the M113 APC, but are ultimately less manoeuvrable.

Should Israel launch a ground invasion into Gaza, such vehicles will likely carry IDF troops who are not part of tank squads through dangerous zones of the enclave, protecting them from Hamas attacks from the surrounding buildings.

However, they are not indestructible.

In 2014, an M113 was involved in an infamous attack against Israeli forces in what became known as the Battle of Shuja'iyya.

The conflict occurred during the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, with Shuja'iyya being a neighbourhood in the Gaza strip. With 92,000 people in a 2.3 square mile area, it is one of the most densely populated communities in the enclave.

On July 20, Hamas fighters sprung an attack on the M113 which had stalled while driving through one of the neighbourhood's narrow streets, launching an RPG anti-tank rocket at the vehicle.

The rocket struck the vehicle and caused it to explode, killing all seven soldiers inside.

Israel appears to be moving towards increasing its numbers of Namers, a heavy armoured personnel carrier based on the Merkava tank chassis.

By 2027, it is planned that 531 (up from the current 120) will be in service.

The IDF also has a variety of utility vehicles in its service, such as the Wolf, the AIL Storm and the HMMWV, as well as various trucks and engineering vehicles that it uses to demolish buildings, clear blockades and deploy temporary bridges.

(Part Article from [How Israel's arsenal of tanks, jets and drones measures up against the lethal urban combat weaponry of Hamas terrorists as IDF gears up for huge ground invasion](#) | [Daily Mail Online](#) by David Averre and Chris Jewers, Published 23 October 2023 )

## Humour

My dad quit his job to pursue his dream in archeology.

His career is now in ruins.



Boss told me that as a security guard, it's my job to watch the office.

I'm on season 6 but I'm not really sure what it's got to do with security.



**No bragging but I made six figures last year.**

**So they named me the worst employee at the toy factory**

Interviewer: How do you explain this 4 year gap on your resume?

Me: That's when I went to Yale...

Interviewer: That's impressive. You are hired.

Me: Thanks. I really need this job.

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### **Reminders**

RNZAC Association Web site: [www.rnzac.co.nz](http://www.rnzac.co.nz)  
Contributions to this newsletter are gratefully accepted.  
Email: smithmd@xtra.co.nz Phone 02108049178.

**Mike Smith, Editor**