

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER #226 November 2023**

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 7 December 2023 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

8 November; Combat Corps Training March Out 23/02. Congratulations to the nine soldiers of the regiment who were issued their red diamonds today on parade in Burnham. Way to go to all of the 45 graduates from QAMR, 1RNZIR and 2/1RNZIR.

11 November; The CO, RSM and members of WEC SQN represented QAMR at the 105th Armistice Day Commemoration in Hastings.



15 November; Over the last two weeks Bushmaster Squadron has trained sixteen of the units personnel to operate the Bushmaster Crew Procedural Simulator. The simulator enables training of vehicle crews and up to four vehicles to practice vehicle craft and section level operating procedures. Training can occur in a safe environment where multiple attempts and conditions can be generated.

The unit also received its first NZ Bushmaster 5.5 and has been allocated its stables. Additional vehicles will arrive in the coming weeks ready to begin conversion training in 2024.



16 November; NZSCOTS SQN conducted a ceremonial parade in order to unveil two 106mm recoilless rifles. The 106mm recoilless rifles are an identifiable piece of history for the NZ Scottish Regiment and its 2nd SQN. In 1981, the 2nd SQN became anti-armoured, mounting the recoilless rifles on land rovers. The 106mm recoilless rifles are now displayed in front of the SQN SQN HQ in Linton Camp - "Keeping Overwatch".



17 November; The Armoured Troop Leaders Course 2023 wrapped up at the Combat School. The course aim is to qualify personnel to fulfil the role of an Armoured Troop Leader or Troop Sergeant.

Well done to all the students on their efforts over the past 7 weeks. Congratulations to CPL Low who was awarded the Top Student Award and 2LT Abbari who was awarded the Top Officer Award for the coursing year of 2023. Special thanks to the MOW staff and, soldiers from QAMR and 1RNZIR who helped to make the course a success.



Also on 17 November members of the QAMR attended the Wellington Cambrai Service alongside current and ex serving RNZAC personnel. Thanks to WO1 Ropitini, NZ Scots Sqn Catafalque Guard and all personnel who supported or attended the service.



23 November; Members of the unit, corps and wider Army gathered for a luncheon to farewell SSGT Johnny Duncan who takes his release in December after serving 29 years in the Regular Force.

Johnny has been a long time and staunch supporter of QAMR and RNZAC, and will transfer to the Reserve Force to continue serving with Waikato Mounted Rifles (WMR). Thanks to WO2 Te Weehi and all the people who attended or sent messages. We wish Johnny all the best for the future and thank him for his service to the regiment, the corps and NZ Army.



26 November; Wellington East Coast Squadron had the privilege to parade at Ben Burn Park to unveil a new South African War plaque and Memorial Seats. Campbell's Farm in Karori (now Ben Burn Park) is where the first Mounted Rifles contingent trained prior to departing for South Africa.

WEC SQN would also like to acknowledge and congratulate LCPL Taru and LCPL Wescombe for successfully completing the All Arms Junior Non Commissioned Officers Course well done men.



Admin & Log

From the RNZAC Association

Meal at Thai Po Thong following our last Happy Hour for 2023

We intend to have a meal at Thai Po Thong, (The RSA already has a large group booked!), on Papanui Road, at 6.45pm following our December Happy Hour at the Papanui RSA. If you would like to come along, please contact the Treasurer, Mike Sheppard, at miksan@xtra.co.nz, or on 027 229 1776 so we can book for the correct numbers.

Fundraising Raffle for the History Project

Thanks to all who supported this fundraising initiative in support of the RNZAC History Project Charitable Trust. We managed to sell just over 1,000 tickets and once costs are deducted this will leave a sizable donation for the Trust. Below are the ticket numbers that won the particular prizes. All from the greater Christchurch area.

Prizes:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Signed 2023 Crusaders Jersey + CAT Cap. | Ticket # 157 |
| 2. Limited Edition M113 Diorama + CAT Cap. | Ticket # 081 |
| 3. Remote Control Cat Model + CAT Cap. | Ticket # 502 |
| 4. Crusaders Polo shirt + CAT Cap. | Ticket # 175 |
| 5. Australian Vietnam Armour Print + CAT Cap. | Ticket # 212 |

Cambrai 2023

Nearly 30 Members and guests turned out for our annual Cambrai celebration's, starting with the Church Service at St Pauls, and finishing with the Associations AGM at the Papanui RSA. In between there was lunch, a presentation on the RNZAC History Project by Ian Bolton, a raffle draw, and all sorts of tall stories featuring Black Hatters present and past.

Christmas wishes to all Black Hatters

The Committee would like to offer the very best of Christmas wishes to all Black Hatters, past and present and their families. We hop you all have a great Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. Roll on 2024 and the History launch!!





Cambrai 2023 – Minus the Newsletter Editor who managed to skip the photo!!

More Fundraising for the History Project

A limited edition (1 of 3) photo portraying 3 Centurion Tanks on exercise in Waiouru ATG with Maunga Ruapehu in the background has been donated as a raffle prize for the History Project. The original 3 photos were taken by David Harrison RNZAC (retired).

The photos were merged and edited by Sue Gullery (Daughter of Mike Gullery RNZAC (dec)). The photo is 1m long by 30cm high and has been professionally framed by Milford Print Photos.

This photo has been gifted to Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust Incorporated, to raffle for the purpose of raising funds in support of the production of the History of RNZAC. This very informative and interesting case bound hardback book with cover, and produced to the highest possible quality standard, will consist of 700 pages which includes maps, colour and black and white sketches and photographs. The raffle will be limited to 200 tickets and at a cost of \$20 each.

This is an exciting opportunity to own a limited edition with a small investment into a previously unwritten piece of New Zealand history. If you wish to participate, please contact smgullery@gmail.com . Include your name, and preferred number(s)
Your numbers will be confirmed after payment has been received.
This raffle is being overseen by Ginny Radford JP



Answer USA M88A2

US DoD awards \$36m modification to US Army's HERCULES programme

The M88A2 combat recovery vehicle is a mainstay of the US Army and is able to recover any armoured platform incapacitated through combat, accident or terrain. BAE Systems Land & Armaments has been awarded a \$36.4m modification to an earlier awarded contract for M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System (HERCULES) vehicles, destined for the US Army.

Awarded by the US Department of Defense on 22 November, the contract has an estimated completion date of Q4 2025 and is a rare mention of the M88 platform, which performs a vital battlefield role in recovering damaged or disabled armour.

In 2019, BAE Systems was awarded a \$148.3m contract by the US Army to upgrade 43 older M88A1 heavy-lift vehicles to the A2 HERCULES standard, part of a wider service acquisition objective to reach a total of 933 M88A2 variants. According to BAE Systems, the M88A2 is capable of towing, hoisting and winching 70-ton tracked vehicles used by the US Army's Armoured Brigade Combat Team.

The M88A2 variant has increased horsepower and upgraded armour protection including armoured track skirts and applique armour panels. The 2019 contract would increase the total procured quantity of the M88A2 capability to 914.

Ukraine war proving use of battlefield recovery vehicles

An often less well understood element of land warfare, the capability that a battlefield recovery vehicle can bring to a deployed ground force has been highlighted in the ongoing war in Ukraine, where thousands of Russian and Ukrainian tanks have been lost in combat. Both the UK and US packages, which saw Challenger 2 and M1A1 Abrams tanks, respectively, provided to Kyiv, included battlefield recovery vehicles. With the value of complexity of such modern main battle tanks, the ability to recover those immobilised through accident or combat and returned them to working order is critical.

wwwarmy-technology.com Richard Thomas 24 November 2023

Humour



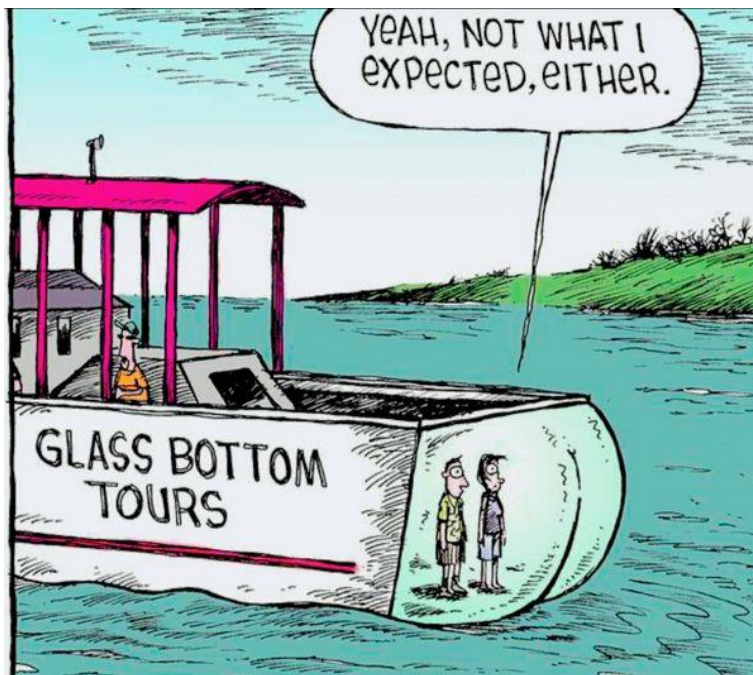
STUDIES HAVE PROVEN THAT USING ENGINE BRAKES
MAKES SIGNIFICANTLY LESS NOISE...



...THAN A TRUCK CRASHING INTO YOUR HOUSE



"Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor."





Reminders

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