

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER #227 December 2023**

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 1 February 2024 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

7 December. This week SCOTS SQN volunteered for community charity work, helping the local Mānawatu Riding for Disabled organisation with some needed maintenance and repairs to their facility.



Year in review Waikato Mounted Rifles

2023 for WMR. From attending training weekends, exercises and courses, to supporting the NZDF response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Big shout out to all WMR personnel for their efforts throughout the year. Best wishes for the holiday season to you and your families.



Year in review for Wellington East Coast Squadron 2023.

WEC SQN has had a very busy 2023. From supporting NZDF response to Cyclone Gabrielle, conducting multiple exercises, deploying a Combat Team to Australia, deploying personnel on operations and qualifying soldiers on promotion and trade coursing.

Thank you to the soldiers of WEC SQN for your effort this year. Thank you to the families for your continued support to our soldiers without you they would not have been able to achieve all that we have this year. Merry Christmas, stay safe.

SSM WEC

Fortes Fortuna Juvat



Year in review New Zealand Scottish Squadron
That's a wrap for SCOTS SQN 2023. Soldiers luncheon was done this week to show our appreciation for all the hard work that our soldiers in the unit have put in this year, now it's out the door for a well-deserved Christmas break. SCOTS SQN would like to take this early opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.
Looking forward to 2024.
See you all in the New Year.

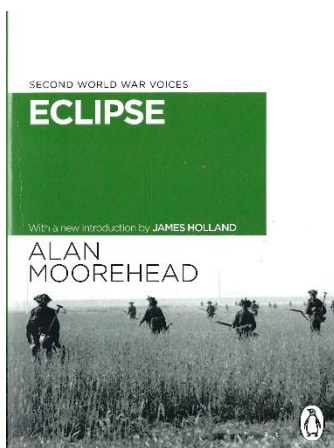


20 December Training Team Returns Home

Welcome home to our personnel who have returned from deployment to the United Kingdom.
Our appreciation for your efforts and to your families for their support and sacrifice whilst you have been away.



Book Review



ECLIPSE by Alan Moorehead. Reviewed by David Harrison

Alan Moorehead, the author, was a renowned war correspondent who covered allied actions during WW2. What makes this book particularly interesting is that it covers not only the military struggle, Alan's personal thoughts, and emotions, but the effects of occupation and war on countries. One word that repeatedly came to me reading this book was "consequences". This word came up time and time again as I journeyed with Alan Moorehead through Europe.

His journey starts with the invasion of Sicily, followed by the occupation of Italy. He covers the attitude, morals of the Italians,

what they did, and their behaviour, not only to the occupation troops, but to their own countrymen. Italians, because of the cultural effect caused by the fascist government, were completely disorganised, totally unmotivated and had lost that Italian pleasure of life. They were fine when winning but unshakably demoralised when defeated.

Moorehead then covered the D-Day invasion and liberation of France. He covers the reaction of the troops and the hardship of combat, but also highlights the humour and pleasures of occupation. On a personal note, he was not able to land on day one because of unexpected events and he is somewhat annoyed that this did not happen. He does cover the destruction on the beaches and the effect of war on the French and their property.

He then explains in detail the huge differences between the Italians and the French and how the French quickly took control once liberated. Much of this was because Charles de Gaulle took control very quickly, but also because the French felt such a pure hatred toward the Germans. They had not only inflicted pain and suffering, but hurt the French so much by denying them freedom of individual thought. Once liberated this freedom was a catalyst for the French to work together for France.

Again, that word, consequences.

Then the invasion and occupation of Germany. He covers the fighting and the effects on tired soldiers and that they knew that it was only a matter of time before it was all over. Unfortunately, the Germans were fighting for their country and being Germans excelled at defending it. The Germans had a pathological fear of Russians because of information they had been given and did all they could delay the Russians, hoping the Americans would take over most of Germany. The author explains the German "difference". Germans expected all things must be done in an organised, disciplined, and correct manner. And how, once occupied, civilians did all they could to obey, even offering help. A consequence of the Nazi regime requirement of absolute compliance and obedience.

Consequences.

Moorehead wrote this book soon after the war and covers his subject with feeling and in depth. This book is well worth reading as it covers in powerful detail the impact of war on soldiers, civilians, and countries. For the reader, the lessons to be learnt are the consequences of politics and war.

Admin & Log

Please read the attached letter from the RNZAC History Project Chair.

Answer Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV)

Australian Army to U-turn on multi-role brigade restructure

Australia will restructure its three regular force combat brigades with new designations, only a decade after assigning multi-role functions.

Australia appears to be reversing some of the changes it made to its army defence posture in 2012, when it restructured three of its brigades into multi-role formations, and is now assigning specialist roles to the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades, the Australian Government announced 28 September, 2023.

Until Plan Beersheba, announced in 2011, the Australian Army's three regular force brigades had been a mechanised brigade (1st Brigade), a light infantry brigade (3rd Brigade) and motorised infantry formation (7th Brigade), but were restructured into multi-role manoeuvre brigades that were fundamentally alike in structure.

The announcement from the Australian Government today indicates that the generalist profile will be abandoned, and each brigade will move to a specialist function: 1st Brigade will become a light combat brigade; 3rd Brigade will be an armoured brigade; and 7th Brigade will return to being a motorised combat brigade.

The announcement also included a decision to re-raise the 10th Brigade, previously disbanded in 1942, to serve as a fires brigade.

The changes will also mean a set of new changes for Army equipment locations, notably to include a conversion for Adelaide's Army presence, which will become 'future-focused' consolidating future long range strike capabilities including High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) air defence missile capabilities.

Restructured by the Defence Strategic Review

The move follows from direction set forth in Australia's Defence Strategic Review, with force structure design principles intended to move Australia from a balanced force to a focused force. The document set forth the basis for previously holding a balanced force structure, making the defence of Australia the principal contingency the armed forces were built around. The Defence Strategic Review goes on to state that the new focused force is designed to deal with a range of contingencies.

While it may appear counter-intuitive to design a focused force with the aim of countering a broader range of contingencies, it may signal an expectation of greater integration with allies and partners in joint task forces, and follow from the example of other nations that have directed their individual services into specific roles, for example, the specialist role the UK Royal Navy take in submarine hunting.

A close reading of Australia's Defence Strategic Review suggests that the intention for the Australian Army is to focus on combat in the littoral with long range fire support, calling for the Army to 're-posture key capabilities'.

The Defence Strategic Review called for the immediate acceleration of Army Littoral Manoeuvre Vessels programmes and the acquisition of HIMARS and cancelled the self-propelled howitzers of the Protected Mobile Fires programme, as well as making a reduction in the size of the Land Combat Vehicle System.

Andrew Salerno-Garthwaite September 29, 2023 (Global Defence Technology)

Humour



Most successful rugby nation?



*When she let's you make the
centerpiece for Christmas Dinner*

"single use impact hammer,
Mint condition, unused"





**When I was a baby
my parents used to
bath me in cheap
Australian lager. It
wasn't until I was 18
that I realised I'd
been fostered.**

Reminders

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