

**RNZAC ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER #228 February 2024**

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 7 March 2024 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

Whose is it?



QAMR

27 January QAMR NZ Scottish Squadron sent a team to participate in the 159th Turakina Highland Games, which started with a team march past, flags flying alongside Scottish Clans from across New Zealand.

This gave our soldiers a chance to participate in classic highland games and also provided a bit of PR with NZLAV and Crews on display.

The squadron team was also presented with a QAMR Sparrow that was gifted from a local Scottish Clan for the squadron's continued participation at the Turakina Highland games. NZ Scottish Squadron, kick-starting 2024.



22 February Scots Sqn participated in the 22 press ups for Mental Health. With representatives from each unit in 1NZ Brigade completing 22 Synchronized Press ups followed by the Optional Challenge, which has LCPL M smashing 22 one armed press ups with the rest in support.

Admin & Log

First Function for 2024 – Picnic Lunch

Well, the Port Hills fires put paid to the Halswell Quarry as a location, but a big thanks to the Treasurer who offered his back lawn as an alternative. More than a dozen members and partners had a very enjoyable afternoon on the back lawn with many a club sandwich eaten and many a fanta downed. After two years attempting to get to the Halswell Quarry, who knows, we may just make it in 2025!!

RNZAC Association Subscriptions for 2023/24 are now due - (\$30.00)

A big thank you to those members who have already heeded the call and deposited their subscription to our account. The early payment of subscriptions makes it much easier for the Committee to budget.

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.

RNZAC History Project Charitable Trust



The Chairperson and Trustees of The Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps History Project Charitable Trust cordially invite:

Serving, ex members of the RNZAC and members of
their family
to the launch of the book
“Those Who Have the Courage”
The History of the Royal New Zealand Armoured Corps
and its predecessor forces
Friday 5 April 2024, 9.30 - 12.00
at the Cosmopolitan Club
22 Linton St, Palmerston North Central
Dress: Suit/Jacket & Tie (with medals)
NZDF Military Personnel: Dress 1A (with medals)
Please RSVP: ian.bolton@xtra.co.nz by midday, Friday 15 March 2024

Attached to the newsletter is a letter from the History Committee regarding orders for the book.



Answer UK Challenger 3

Challenger 3: The U.K.'s Newest Tank Is Finally Here, But There Won't Be Very Many of Them

Only one-third of the British Army's tanks will be upgraded to the new standard, meaning the service will soon have one of the smallest tank inventories in the world.

The British Army has received its first pre-production Challenger 3 tank. Essentially a rebuilt Challenger 2, the new main battle tank brings it fully into the 21st century with a new gun, armour, and power pack. Unfortunately, the British Army will only upgrade just over one-third of the original tank fleet to the new standard, leaving the service with one of the smallest tank inventories in the world.

Here's everything we know so far about the Challenger 3 tank.

Great Britain invented the tank in the 1910s as a means of breaking the deadlock on the Western Front in World War I. The U.K. has remained a major tank power ever since, designing and building its own tanks, all of which start with the letter C: Crusader, Comet, Cromwell, Centurion, Chieftain, Challenger, Challenger 2, and now Challenger 3.

Introduced in 1994, Challenger 2 was a rapid replacement for the mediocre, 1980s-era Challenger 1. The tanks were delivered between 1994 and 2002, and included a rifled 120mm main gun, British-designed Chobham armour, and a power pack built around a Perkins Condor V12 diesel engine delivering 1,200 horsepower.

For a time, Challenger 2 was one of the best tanks in the NATO alliance. It was well protected, featuring the excellent L30 main gun and thermal sights that gave it a commanding view of the battlefield both at night and even while obscured by smoke. The only real drawback was that the tank suffered from a lack of upgrades during its time in service, meaning its early 1990s technology has essentially remained unchanged.

Firepower

Challenger 3 will replace its U.K.-designed 120mm L30A1 main gun with a German-designed 120mm L55A1 gun. Unlike other NATO armies that standardized on one version or another of the smoothbore German gun, the Brits stuck with rifled barrel guns. Rifled and smoothbore tank ammunition are incompatible with one another; this not only locked out British tanks from borrowing tank ammunition from their allies, but it also left "Chally 2" unable to take advantage of ammunition developments elsewhere in NATO.

The new L55A1 gun is very similar to the American M256 tank gun but features a longer barrel. This will generate higher muzzle velocities, giving Challenger 3 the ability to penetrate heavier armour at greater distances. The only drawback is that it increases the overall length of the tank and can be a bit of a hassle when traveling through forests, where it can catch on trees.

Protection

The turret is home to the main protection changes in Challenger 3. The turret is about the same size and shape as Challenger 2, though there *are* some key changes. The frontal turret armour is now of uniform slope, and there are bolts across the turret, hull, and flanks. This is likely used to secure the new "U.K.-sovereign modular armour," and the modular

nature of the protection suggests it could be easily repaired in wartime or upgraded to exceed upcoming anti-armour threats. The London-based think tank International Institute of Strategic Studies states it's likely the tank will feature "blowout panels" designed to vent catastrophic ammunition detonations outward, instead of containing explosions inside the tank to the crew's detriment.

A major new addition to the tank is the Trophy Medium Variant Active Protection System. Developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence systems, Trophy consists of a ring of outward-facing sensors positioned to detect incoming rockets and anti-tank missiles. As the anti-armour weapon nears the tank, Trophy fires explosively formed penetrators designed to destroy the weapons in mid-flight. Trophy is also fitted to European Leopard 2 tanks and a handful of American M1A2 Abrams tanks.

Mobility and Sensors

Challenger 3 will benefit from an improved, third-generation hydrogas suspension system, which uses pressurized gas (nitrogen) and fluid to cushion the vehicle and crew from a bumpy ride. The engine is upgraded but will apparently remain at the same 1,200-horsepower level. The addition of improved armour and the Trophy system, which weighs about 2.5 tons, without an increase in engine power could make the tank slower and more sluggish on the battlefield.

The Challenger platform hasn't had a sensor upgrade in 30 years, so the addition of third-generation thermal sights will itself be a major improvement. The tank commander and gunner will have stabilized thermal sights, while the commander will have a Thales Orion thermal panoramic sight for situational awareness and picking out targets. The driver will have front and rear thermal sights.

The Takeaway

Challenger 3 is a long-awaited upgrade for the British Army, but the service will only buy 148 of them. That's less than one-tenth the number of tanks the Russian army has lost in Ukraine. While their numbers may be small, British tankers will have the confidence of knowing their tanks and training are much better than their Russian counterparts—and that will make all the difference on the battlefield.

BY KYLE MIZOKAMI POPULAR MECHANICS, PUBLISHED: JAN 31, 2024

Humour

A Different Pet...

A man walks into a pet shop and says to the owner. "Ok I want to buy a pet, but I don't want a boring or normal pet - no cats, dogs, or birds - I want something different." The pet shop owner informs him that he has a talking centipede. "Really?," the man replied, "How much?" The owner informs him that the talking centipede is \$50. Happy with the unusual offering, the man pays the money and takes his new pet home.

On getting home he lays the match box with the centipede in it on the table, opens it and says "Hello Mr. Centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks?" The centipede says nothing. Figuring it must be tired from the journey, he decides to leave it for an hour and try

again later.

An hour later he opens the match box and says "Hello mr centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks?" The centipede again says nothing. Starting to get suspicious, the man decides he will give it one more hour, and if the centipede doesn't talk, he will take it back to the shop for a refund.

An hour later the man opens the match box and says "Hello Mr centipede, fancy going to the pub for a few drinks!?" The centipede says "I heard you the first time!!! I'm just putting my shoes on!"

Hear the Cannon's Roar...

An out-of-work actor gets a call from his agent one day. "I've got you a job," says his agent. "That's great," says the actor, what is it?" "Well," says his agent, "it's a one-liner" "That's okay," replies the actor, "I've been out of work for so long I'll take anything. What's the line?" "Hark, I hear the cannons roar" says the agent. "I love it" says the actor "When's the audition?" "Wednesday" says the agent.

Wednesday comes and the actor arrives at the audition. He marches on stage and shouts: "Hark, I hear the cannons roar". "Brilliant," says the director, "you've got the job. Be here 9 o'clock Saturday evening."

The actor is so happy he got the job that he goes on a major bender. He wakes up at 8:30 Saturday evening and runs to the theatre continually repeating his line; "Hark, I hear the cannons roar, hark, I hear the cannons roar, hark, I hear the cannons roar."

He arrives at the stage entrance, out of breath and is stopped by the guard. "Who the hell are you?" asks the guard. "I'm "hark, I hear the cannons roar." "If you're "hark I hear the cannons roar", you're late. Get up to makeup right now!"

So, he runs up to makeup. "Who the hell are you" asks the makeup girl. "I'm "hark I hear the cannons roar."" "If you're hark I hear the cannons roar", you're late. Sit down here." And she applies the makeup. "Now quick, get down to the stage, you're about to go on."

He dashes down to the stage. "Who the hell are you?" asks the stage manager. "I'm "hark, I hear the cannons roar."" "You're "hark, I hear the cannons roar?" Get out there, the curtain's about to go up."

He tears onto the stage. The curtains rise, the house is full. Suddenly there is an almighty bang behind him, and the actor shouts "WHAT THE F*** WAS THAT!

What I had to do in Texas...

One more. A rough and tough cowboy finishes his drink at a bar and gets up to leave. A minute later, he comes back in saying with a mean look in his eye "I'm going to sit down and have one more drink, and if my horse isn't back where I left it, I'm gonna have to do what I done in Texas, And I really don't wanna have to do what I done back in Texas!"

True to his word, he sits down, orders another drink, sits in the [silent] bar and finishes his drink. He then gets up and walks outside and sure enough, his horse is back tied up where he left it. As he's just about to ride off, one of the other patrons timidly asks, "mister? What was it you had to do in Texas?" The cowboy gets a far off look in his eyes and says sadly, "I had to walk home."

Reminders

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