

## RNZAC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER #237 November 2024

Meetings Happy Hour: Thursday 5 December 2024 at 1700 hrs at the Papanui RSA.

### Whose is it?



### QAMR

#### **4 November** Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS) Training

Personnel from the unit joined Navy and Air Force counterparts for a training activity evaluating shotgun effectiveness against drone threats.

Guided by MR Blue Freeman, an ex RNZAF and former World Champion, attendees honed their skills on clay bird targets.

Special mention to LCPL Wescombe for displaying high accuracy and proving to be the best shooter amongst the three services.



#### **14 November** JNCO Course Graduation 25/05

The unit congratulates LCPL's Partsch, Campbell, Viljoen and TPR Aylward on their successful completion of the Burnham JNCO Course today. We wish them ongoing success in their roles as we look forward to a busy 2025.



**14 November** NZ Scottish Squadron Range Week “Sending Rounds Down Range”

SCOTS Sqn spent the last four days on the Small Arms Retalitory Target (SART) Range in Waiouru.

Soldiers aimed to advance their individual shooting skills through repetitive drills, such as, instinctive, reaction, rapid realignment and deliberate shooting at varying distances.

Soldiers finished off today in three teams with a morning boot run through camp out to the range to test and confirm skills learnt. “Feed Confidence”



**19 November** Armoured Troop Leaders Course 2024

Congratulations are extended to the six students who successfully completed the course last week, demonstrating proficiency in commanding and coordinating a light armoured troop.

Notably, 2LT Harris achieved dual distinction as Top Student and Top Officer for the training year.

Appreciation is expressed to the staff, unit members, and 1RNZIR personnel for their invaluable support to the course.



#### **20 November** Cambrai Day 2024

The unit extends its appreciation and best wishes to all Armoured Corps members, past and present. Congratulations to LCPL Aylward from WEC Sqn on his promotion by the CO.

Happy Cambrai!



#### **28 November** JNCO Promotion Course 24/06

Congratulations are extended to LCPL's Wilbore, Dawson, Smith and McKenzie on their completion of the JNCO Course in Linton today. LCPL Dawson is recognised for his outstanding leadership, receiving the Leadership Award.

We wish the graduates continued success and growth in their leadership roles.



**29 November** Bushmaster Course 24/04

Seventeen soldiers have successfully completed the final NZ Bushmaster 5.5 Driver and Commander course for 2024, demonstrating proficiency in operating the Bushmaster vehicle.

The course was attended by personnel from QAMR, 16 Field Regt, and 1RNZIR, comprising of trades including Armoured, Infantry, Gunner, Combat Driver, and Logistics Specialist.

Throughout 2024, QAMR has conducted four courses, resulting in the qualification of 50 personnel on behalf of Capability Branch.

QAMR will continue to refine and enhance the Motorised Infantry capability in 2025.



## Cambrai 2024



**Wellington Cambrai Service**, held on the steps of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park 22 Nov 24.

Due to the earthquake strengthening work that is occurring, this year the service was unable to use the Hall of Memories. Work is not expected to be completed until late 2025.

The ceremony was attended by approx. 25 RNZAC members, including COL (Rtd) Trevor McComish, COL Comdt, BRIG Grant Motley, COL James Kaio, former CDF, LTGEN (Rtd) Rhys Jones, BRIG (Rtd) Ian Duthie and Col (Rtd) David Grant.

Uniquely, permission was given to fly the RNZAC flag during the ceremony. Afterwards, the attendees took the opportunity to catch up with old comrades, meet the young QAMR soldiers and share war stories.

Thanks is given to QAMR for providing the Cat Gd and Flag Bearers; Bugler support from SGT Rick Henderson and Chaplain Chris Purdie provided short notice chaplain support.

Ngā Mihi Nui | Best Regards, Tommo

**Warrant Officer Class One Mark Thompson**

**Christchurch;** Nearly 30 Members and guests turned out on Saturday 23rd November for the church parade at St Pauls, followed by lunch and the Association AGM at the Papanui RSA next door. After a great lunch, the AGM approved the update to the rules required by the new Incorporated Societies Act and saw the current Committee re-elected for another term.

## **Admin & Log**

### **Last Thursday Happy Hour - Thursday 5th December.**

After the happy hour we will be having a dinner at the Papanui RSA. (You can still attend the happy hour and not stay for dinner if you wish!). If you wish to attend the dinner, please contact Jan and David Harrison to get your name on the list: [jandavidharrison@gmail.com](mailto:jandavidharrison@gmail.com)

### **Hanmer Weekend and 4WD Trip**

Planning is well underway for a Hanmer weekend on January 25 and 26. 2025. The concept is that on the Saturday we will do a 4WD trip into St James as far as Scotties Hut for lunch, then back out to Hanmer. Those that wish to stay the night will have a meal out somewhere in Hanmer on the Saturday night. Potentially we will have 10 spare seats for those without a 4WD for the trip. Please let Mike Sheppard know, [miksan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:miksan@xtra.co.nz), if this "spins your wheels" or not, (Excuse the 4WD pun!!), Both 4WD owners who wish to tag along and those who would like a seat on the bus!!.

### **Bar B Q 2025**

After two failed attempts in two years to get our Bar B Q at the Halswell Quarry, (Bad weather year 1 and Port Hills fire year 2), we have taken the hint and returned to the old plan of meeting at a members' property!! The Bar B Q for 2025 is planned for Sunday 16th February at the Tweedies out Lincoln way. Note this in your diaries now.

### **Christmas Wishes**

The Committee of the RNZAC Association wishes all Black Hatters a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



## **Answer: North Korea Cheonma-2 (M2024)**

### **North Korea Unveils New Cheonma-2 Tank**

North Korea unveiled its new Cheonma-2 (M2024) main battle tank (MBT) at the *National Defense Development-2024* expo in Pyongyang, showcasing its growing ambitions in military technology. The Cheonma-2 features a 125mm main gun, active protection systems, and slat armour, drawing comparisons to Russia's T-14 Armata.

-However, its design appears rooted in older Soviet-era T-62 tanks, with no evidence of an autoloader.

-Likely developed as a response to South Korea's advanced K2 Black Panther MBT, the Cheonma-2 highlights North Korea's attempt to modernize its forces. However, limited production—just nine prototypes—suggests it won't significantly alter the balance of power on the peninsula.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un opened his nation's "National Defense Development-2024" expo in Pyongyang, highlighting North Korea's newest attack drones and mobile-launched missiles. The domestic trade show also saw the unveiling of the domestically-built M2020 next-generation tank.

Also known as the Cheonma-2, it is reported to be equipped with active protection systems (APS) mounted on its turret that could (at least in theory) counter incoming aerial threats. The North Korean MBT was noted by the Defence-Blog for its similarity to the Russian-made Armata T-14 – which does raise the question as to whether we can ever expect to see this vehicle enter service.

This is just the most recent spotting of the Cheonma-2 and follows its appearance earlier this year during a military exercise, which was attended by Kim, Defence Minister Kang Sunnam, and Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Ri Yong-gil. At the time, Kim joined troops training on the tank – which was likely carefully staged to put the tank in the spotlight.

The next-generation MBT was first unveiled during a military parade in 2020 that honored the 75th anniversary of the Worker's Party of Korea. As the initial model was described as the M2020, the improved version has been dubbed the M2024, although its official designation is now believed to be Cheonma-2.

There are reports that nine prototypes may have been built which tracks as six were spotted in the photos released by state media. While it has an appearance that is similar to the Russian T-14 Armata and Iranian Zulfiqar MBTs, it is believed to share some design features with the much older Soviet-designed T-62 which also is to be expected, as Pyongyang has a history of modifying the T-62. That includes a crew of four, which means it likely doesn't employ an autoloader.

The tank's hull is believed to feature armour plates on the sides, with slat armour on the rear of the hull protecting the engine while it is armed with a Soviet-designed 2A46 125mm main gun.

The capabilities of the Cheonma-2 would seem to be leaps and bounds over the Chonma-ho series of tanks that were based on the T-62, which North Korea began to produce in the 1970s and early 1980s. It is also far more advanced than the Songun-915 that Pyongyang was able to build with features taken from the Russian T-72 and Chinese Type 88 MBTs.

The Cheonma-2 was likely built in response to South Korea's K2 Black Panther, which is now seen as one of the best MBTs in the world today.

This further highlights the differences between two nations – South Korea is now able to export its K2 to partners including Poland and Peru, while North Korea likely won't produce many more Cheonma-2s than those nine prototypes.

Peter Suciu, National Interest, 26/11/2024

## Humour

**A man and a woman are sitting beside each other in the first class section of the plane. The woman sneezes, takes a tissue, gently wipes her nose, and shudders quite violently in her seat. The man isn't sure why she is shuddering and goes back to reading. A few minutes pass. The woman sneezes again. She takes a tissue, gently wipes her nose and shudders quite violently in her seat. He turns to the woman and says, "Twice you've sneezed and twice you've taken a tissue and wiped your nose then shuddered violently! Are you sending me signals, or are you going crazy?" The woman replies, "I'm sorry if I disturbed you. I have a rare condition and when I sneeze, I have an orgasm." The man, now feeling a little embarrassed but even more curious says, "I've never heard of that before. What are you taking for it?" The woman looks at him and says, "Pepper."**



**An older woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the new young Irish doctors. After about 4 minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. Another doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room. Then he marched down the hallway to where the Irish doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is 68 years old; she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The Irish doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up he asked, "Does she still have the hiccups?"**

**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](mailto:smithmd@xtra.co.nz)

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