

ISSUE 56 – OUR 14<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!

# CNTACT

AIR LAND & SEA

DEC 2017

THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



# 2RAR AMPHIBIOUS



# SAVE 20%

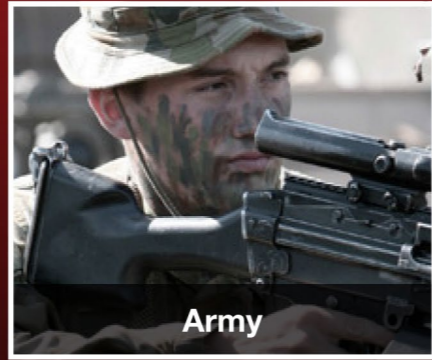
# ON EVERYTHING!\*



ADF



Navy



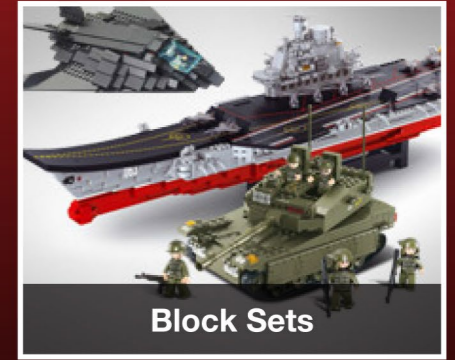
Army



Two-up Sets



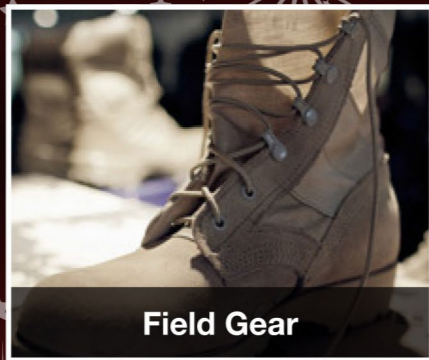
Pennies



Block Sets



Air Force



Field Gear



Collectables



Purple Poppy



G-Shock Watches



Models



Medals



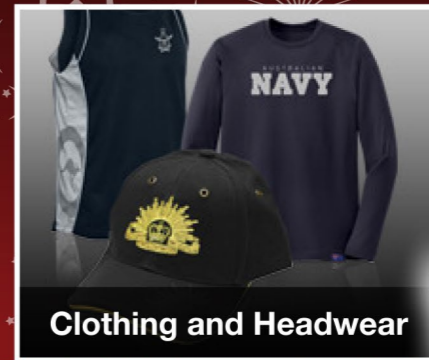
Poppy Recollections



Afghanistan Collections



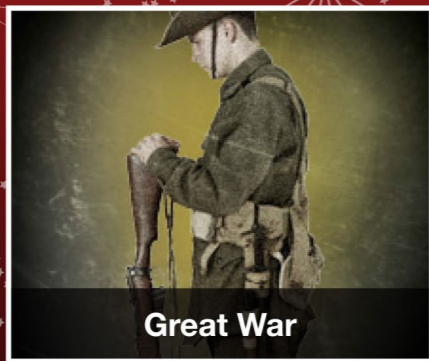
Insignia Rings



Clothing and Headwear



Vietnam Collections



Great War



Sands of Gallipoli



**MILITARY SHOP**  
 Use PromoCode **CONTACT** at checkout for 20% discount.  
[www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer](http://www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer)

## December 1 to December 24

\*20% discount does not apply to limited edition collectables (proof medallions, figurines, Great War teddy bears), legal tender commemorative coins, artworks, GPS units, gift vouchers and ceremonial swords. These products are subject to a Free Freight offer.

ISSUE 56 – DECEMBER 2017

Exclusive AU/NZ distributors of:

- Rock Face FR Undergarments
- RolaTube Masts & Antenna
- Crye Precision clothing
- Pure Hydration Filters
- CORE Helstar strobes
- Force Protector Gear
- Darn Tough socks
- SERE Technologies

AND MORE!



Crye Adaptive Vest System



Ops-Core FAST SF Helmet



MOHOC Tactical Camera



FPG FOR98 SOF Survivor Shelter System

- Thermal / Solar Reflective / heat retention
- Thermal Image Signature Management
- Self Supporting Structure
- Incl Super Hootchie, Groundsheet, Smartframe, Mossie Net and Multicam Camouflage Net



PowerFilm Solar Panels



FPG FOR65 Deployer



Brite-Strike APALS



34



16



20



26



60



52

- 12** The Big Picture  
MRTT in Canada
- 14** Big Picture 2  
Fonz retires
- 16** NZDF's new weapons  
Steyr dropped
- 20** DSEI  
Big guns in London
- 26** School of Armour  
Behold the RAAC ROBC
- 34** **2RAR (Amphib)**  
Enthusiasm abounds
- 44** Somalia Update  
Irishman in charge
- 50** RIP – Sergeant  
Wayne Taylor
- 52** PTSD Unmasked  
Powerful private photo project
- 58** HARS get Orion
- 60** War Animal Memorial
- 64** CONTACT's Patron Army
- 66** Don's last run
- 72** Back Dock  
Giveaway
- 76** Not close enough  
Up for VC but not awarded
- 82** Cadet Corner

**SAVE 20%  
ON EVERYTHING!\***



**Offer from  
12 November to  
24 December!**

**Use PromoCode CONTACT at checkout for 20% discount.**

**www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer**

\*20% discount does not apply to limited edition collectables (proof medallions, figurines, Great War teddy bears), legal tender commemorative coins, artworks, GPS units, gift vouchers and ceremonial swords. These products are subject to a Free Freight offer.

Issue 56 – December 2017

**CONTACT**  
AIR, LAND & SEA



<b>Editor</b>	<b>Brian Hartigan</b> editor@militarycontact.com ph: 0408 496 664 fax: (02) 4293 1010
<b>Art/Design</b>	<b>Brian Hartigan</b>
<b>Advertising</b>	<b>Brian Hartigan</b> advertising@militarycontact.com
<b>Business Manager</b>	<b>Rosie Hartigan</b> accounts@militarycontact.com ph/fax: (02) 4293 1010

**CONTACT Air Land & Sea** magazine is Published by Contact Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 3091, Minnamurra, NSW 2533, AUST

[www.militarycontact.com](http://www.militarycontact.com) (all info)  
[www.aussiecombat.com](http://www.aussiecombat.com) (free subs)  
[www.issuu.com/contactpublishing](http://www.issuu.com/contactpublishing) (archives)  
[www.facebook.com/CONTACTmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/CONTACTmagazine)  
[www.youtube.com/CONTACTpublishing](http://www.youtube.com/CONTACTpublishing)  
[www.pinterest.com/CONTACTmagazine](http://www.pinterest.com/CONTACTmagazine)  
[www.twitter.com/aussiecontact](http://www.twitter.com/aussiecontact)  
[www.patreon.com/contactmagazine](http://www.patreon.com/contactmagazine)

**CONTACT Air Land & Sea** is published on 1 March, June, September and December. It is only published electronically on the Internet and is available by FREE subscription via [www.aussiecombat.com](http://www.aussiecombat.com)

All editorial, advertising and general enquiries should be addressed to the editor.

All material appearing in this magazine is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from the copyright owner (which may not be Contact Publishing). The views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or the editor. The publisher does not accept responsibility for any claim made by any author or advertiser – readers are encouraged to seek professional advice where appropriate.

WE'RE NOW RAISING AN ARMY HERE AT CONTACT.

That's right – facing down the barrel of an unhealthy financial future, CONTACT is fighting back, recruiting (or at least trying to recruit) a whole Army of CONTACT Patrons.

But before you call the National Security Hotline, rest assured there's nothing subversive or dangerous going on here.

CONTACT recently signed up to an Internet platform called [Patreon](https://www.patreon.com), which is sort of like a 'kick-starter' or 'go-fund-me' for creatives.

The basic premise is, if you like what we do here at CONTACT and like all the stuff we publish (daily news, Facebook feeds, fortnightly newsletter, quarterly magazine, YouTube videos etc etc – all FREE, and will remain so) and you would like to support us directly to keep doing what we do, and maybe attain the financial freedom to do even more and better stuff, then Patreon is an opportunity for you to volunteer to do just that. And we've designed the inbuilt rewards system to reflect a military rank structure – just for shits and giggles.

To enrol in our 'Patron Army', you have to pledge a little (or a large) amount of money to our cause each month [*please be aware it is a monthly commitment and is also in US\$ – but you can opt out any time*].

Starting at US\$2 per month, you can enrol as a CONTACT Private, with occasional ad-hoc rewards, or for pledging \$5 a month, you will be sent a CONTACT pen and get to be known as a CONTACT Corporal.

As a CONTACT Sergeant, you really are showing yourself to be an outstanding human being, and your rewards will be just that little bit better – and better again as a CONTACT Warrant Officer, Lieutenant etc.

While we have designed the more senior ranks, from Captain and above, specifically with advertising rewards for companies rather than individuals, I am astounded to note that one true gentleman already gets to be known as a CONTACT Captain, pledging US\$30 a month, with no company to advertise. This gentleman officer (plus one CONTACT Sergeant) are publically named as part of their reward, on page 64 of this and future magazines and on the "OUR PATRONS" page on our web site.

As I said, the more expensive senior ranks are designed with advertising rewards built in – including the extra cudos of being promoted through our CONTACT Patron Army rank system – and any potential advertiser reading this who wants to try something a little less traditional can rest assured that these rewards are also designed with built-in cost savings on our more 'traditional' advertising, which you can still sign up to too if you aren't quite as 'with it' in this progressive Internet age.

Getting back to the grass roots, though, I just want to say to the CONTACT Privates and Corporals that, while you will not be singled out for glory (isn't it always the way?) on page 64 or on 'OUR PATRONS' web page, I do want you to know that your name and your contribution is known to me as an admin on the Patreon system, and I am very very grateful to you too for your support. While financial contributions may be smaller at the lower ranks, the mere fact that you would make an actual financial commitment to me of any size is a very humbling thing that is very very much appreciated. So thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan, Managing Editor

# CARINTHIA<sup>®</sup>

GO PROFESSIONAL



G-Loft ISG Hybrid



G-Loft Ultra



NEW! MIG 3.0



VISIT [www.premierdefence.com.au](http://www.premierdefence.com.au)

Sole importer and distributor  
Premier Defence Agencies Pty Ltd  
[info@premierdefence.com.au](mailto:info@premierdefence.com.au)  
02 9708 2475

# SAVE 20% ON MEDALS AND MEDAL MOUNTING!



Use PromoCode **CONTACT** at checkout for 20% discount.

[www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer](http://www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer)



Got something to say?  
E-mail: [editor@militarycontact.com](mailto:editor@militarycontact.com)

**INCOMING**

## AFTER THE FIGHT

I just read your reply to [Chris B's question on placement services for ex-ADF](#).

I can commend both WithYouWithMe and AgriVets, as they are both supporters of another great organisation, Defence In Business (DiB).

DiB has been running for almost 10 years now and is a membership-based (read NFP) networking organisation which connects serving, ex-serving and the wider business community.

We hold regular networking events around the country.

I am a member of the Queensland State Committee and we hold around five to six events each year.

The most recent event was held on 15 November 2017 and focused on "Transition and Connection". We held a very interesting panel discussion with four members of our community who have either experience in transition or working with people to make the best of their military skills.

DiB NSW recently held a similar event in Sydney.

While there have been times when each State chapter waxes and wanes, DiB is still going strong, especially here in Queensland.

DiB is committed to helping military members create robust networks outside the military so that, when the time comes, members already have a community around them to help with the transition process.

We do not conduct 'placements' in the same manner as AgriVets or WYWM, but we do work hard to make sure the transfer of military skills to the business community is facilitated to the advantage of the member and the community.

If you have any questions about this, or would like to discuss it further, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone, or our Queensland State President, Blake Barrett. Regards

**Tim Keefe, DiB Queensland**

[TimKeefe22@gmail.com](mailto:TimKeefe22@gmail.com)

## WE'RE NO CHARITY

Firstly I hope your recovery will be full and speedy.

I read with sadness your latest editorial, but had seen the writing on the wall with the unfortunate withdrawal of the printed edition and the frustration of CONTACT's Youtube channel.

I would like to say whichever path you choose that you have done a great service to Australia and its current, past and future ADF personnel, as well as the general public that can read informative articles to spread the word of our ADF achievements in particular.

It's a great pity that the ADF can't step up and support your publication. Their own press releases go unnoticed as if they have no care for showing pride in our heritage. I am sure more people have been helped to enlist through CONTACT than their resources. One less shit TV ad they produce could go a long way for CONTACT.

If I had the ability to sponsor CONTACT I would. I can't say that for any other publication. If CONTACT was able to make itself a charity then I would have it on top of my list, as it spreads an important message. And I would still pay if online subscriptions were the option, as would many colleagues I've spoken with.

## BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD BE

Wishing you the best in the future and the future of CONTACT. You should be proud of your work and remember to look after yourself. Regards,

**Charles F, via email**

*Aw Charles - you are too kind. Awesome feedback mate. Surgery recovery is slow but sure, thank you.*

*I've had at least two blokes over the years tell me straight out they joined - and heaps more made up their minds - because of CONTACT.*

*Funny you should mention Defence Force Recruiting. I've asked them to advertise - I've asked them to support me just in terms of access etc - I've threatened to shut down if they don't buy me out. But nothing works. I've even been told by a mate on the inside that their attitude is, "He's already doing our job for us, so why would we bother paying him". Short sighted but sadly true.*

*Your 'charity' suggestion, in conjunction with mentioning on-line subscriptions - plus some other ideas from other fans, has inspired and given me fresh adrenaline - and thus CONTACT Patron Army, as discussed in this issue's editorial, is born.*

*I'll turn this business into an overnight success yet! Or die trying - Ed*

## TARGETS UP!

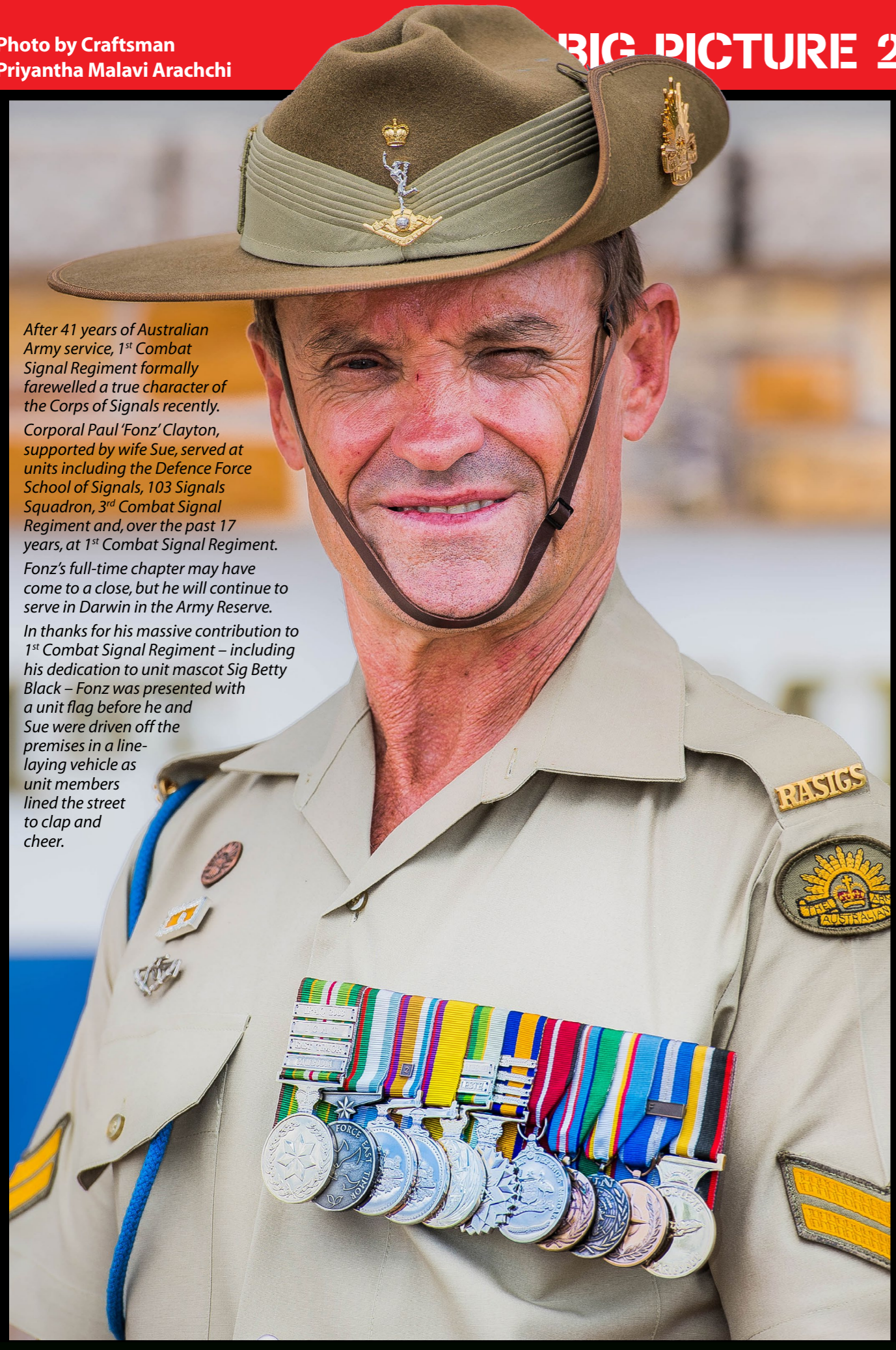
This page is a great outlet for fans to vent or to praise. Please, let us know what you think of our magazines and Internet sites so we can deliver more of what you want. Feel free to write to [editor@militarycontact.com](mailto:editor@militarycontact.com) about CONTACT or on any military topic - Ed



A Royal Australian Air Force KC-30A MRTT sits on the tarmac in London, Ontario, Canada, participating in a local air show while its passengers, Australia's Invictus Games athletes did their thing in Toronto, in September.

# MRTT IN CANADA

After 41 years of Australian Army service, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Signal Regiment formally farewelled a true character of the Corps of Signals recently. Corporal Paul 'Fonz' Clayton, supported by wife Sue, served at units including the Defence Force School of Signals, 103 Signals Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup> Combat Signal Regiment and, over the past 17 years, at 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Signal Regiment. Fonz's full-time chapter may have come to a close, but he will continue to serve in Darwin in the Army Reserve. In thanks for his massive contribution to 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Signal Regiment – including his dedication to unit mascot Sig Betty Black – Fonz was presented with a unit flag before he and Sue were driven off the premises in a line-laying vehicle as unit members lined the street to clap and cheer.



TM26GT QUADRAY



## NITECORE

MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT GRADE  
FLASHLIGHTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT  
RETAILERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

FIND A STORE AT [NITECORE.COM.AU](http://NITECORE.COM.AU)



# ARMY CAPABILITY

## BARRETT M107A1 ANTI-MATERIEL RIFLE



The M107A1 anti-materiel rifle is a new capability providing soldiers with the ability to identify and effectively engage materiel targets with precision out to 1500m.

The M107A1 is a semi-automatic platform designed to fire a range of 0.50 calibre projectiles. The 0.50 calibre projectile is the primary calibre utilised by ABCA nations for anti-materiel rifles due to the projectile's ability to penetrate, disable and/or destroy unarmoured and light armoured vehicles.

The high powered optics mounted on the M107A1 provide weapon operators with improved targeting capabilities as well as enhanced situational awareness. At approximately 13 kgs, the M107A1 is easily portable and can be carried by a single weapon operator. A bespoke carry bag has been designed allowing soldiers to ergonomically carry the weapon considerable distances into the field.



The semi-auto M107A1 platform is fed by a 10 round magazine. User feedback during trials noted a significant reduction in recoil compared to previous bolt action anti-materiel rifles some users had been exposed to. As result, rapid engagement of multiple targets is more easily achieved. The M107A1 will provide task elements not only greater protection but also rapid fire power with precision reducing the risk of potential collateral damage.

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Model:</b>	M107A1
<b>Caliber:</b>	.50 BMG
<b>Operation:</b>	Semi-Automatic
<b>Barrel Lengths:</b>	20" (50.80 cm) 29" (73.70 cm)
<b>Barrel Twist Rate:</b>	1 turn in 15" (38.1 cm)
<b>Overall Length:</b>	48" (122 cm) 57" (145 cm)
<b>Rail Length/MOA:</b>	18" (45.72 cm) 27 MOA
<b>Weight:</b>	27.4 lbs (12.4 kg) 28.7 lbs (13.0 kg)
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b>	10 Rounds
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Barrett Firearms

# ARMY CAPABILITY

## BARRETT MRAD (MULTI ROLE, ADAPTIVE DESIGN) SNIPER RIFLE



NZ Army will be purchasing the MRAD sniper rifle system in 2017. The MRAD is .338 Lapua Magnum accurate out to 1500m targets, making it superior to the current 7.62mm calibre rifle that was effective to 800m. The rifle comes with suppressor which screws onto the muzzle brake, it has a fully adjustable match grade 2 stage trigger, folding stock with adjustable cheekpad and butt stock. It uses an innovative bolt mechanism that runs in a polymer sleeve which reduces the need for lubrication and is less prone to fouling. Operators have the ability to change calibres in less than 3 minutes from .338" to 7.62mm with a single tool.

The MRAD rifle can be fired from standing, sitting, kneeling and prone positions with a new tripod system being introduced as part of the package.

The integration of a ballistic computer to the optic sight enable the engagement of multiple targets at various ranges in varying



weather conditions to provide quick and accurate fire onto materiel targets.

The MRAD provides an overmatch capability to meet any current battlefield scenario NZDF snipers are likely to be involved in.

Snipers provide the ability to apply precision fire on high-value targets and reduce the risk of collateral damage in many battlefield scenarios. They are highly trained marksmen who can be effectively deployed across the full spectrum of conflict.

### SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Model:</b>	MRAD
<b>Operation:</b>	Bolt Action Repeater
<b>Caliber and Barrel Length:</b>	.338 Lapua Magnum 26" (66 cm)
<b>Barrel Twist Rate:</b>	.338 LM – 1 in 9.35" (24 cm) .308 Win – 1 in 10" (25 cm)
<b>Maximum Length:</b>	26" Barrel – 49.4" (125.5 cm)
<b>Minimum Folded Length:</b>	26" Barrel – 40.75" (103.5cm)
<b>Rail Length/MOA:</b>	21.75" (55.24 cm) 20 MOA
<b>Weight:</b>	Min 11.7 lbs (5.3 kg) Max 13.10 lbs (5.94 kg)
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b>	10 Rounds



# NEW SERVICE RIFLE

After extensive trials, the New Zealand Defence Force has dumped the Australian-made Steyr in favour of an AR-15-type service rifle – the MARS-I 5.56mm assault rifle, made in the USA by Lewis Machine & Tool Co. Lewis Machine & Tool was officially named the preferred tenderer in the New Zealand Defence Programme, which evaluated suitable weapons from eight different companies. At the time of the announcement, the new rifle, announced with very little detail, was not indicated to be exactly the same as the one rolled out across the NZDF two years ago. The MARS-I is a 5.56mm rifle for

issue across the services, or further 3472 held in pool for spares, repairs and deployments – as well as a range of associated ancillary equipment including 4x ACOG sights, night sights, laser ranging equipment, 40mm grenade launchers and torches. The transition from the Steyr, which has been in service since 1987, started in earnest in April this year and is expected to take about 18 months to fully complete. MARS-I – or Modular Assault Rifle System – features adjustable butstock length and four Piccatinny rails for accessories. The New Zealand Defence Force claims the MARS-I is 600m effective range and in conjunction with the 4xACOG Light – the official effective range is 800m. The MARS-I is 600m effective range and in conjunction with the 4xACOG Light – the official effective range is 800m. The MARS-I is 600m effective range and in conjunction with the 4xACOG Light – the official effective range is 800m.

## MILITARY SHOP

# BOOT UP BEFORE THEY RUN OUT!

# SAVE 20% ON ALL ADF APPROVED BOOTS!



Use PromoCode **CONTACT** at checkout for 20% discount.  
[www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer](http://www.militaryshop.com.au/Cheer)

# THE INNER SANCTUM

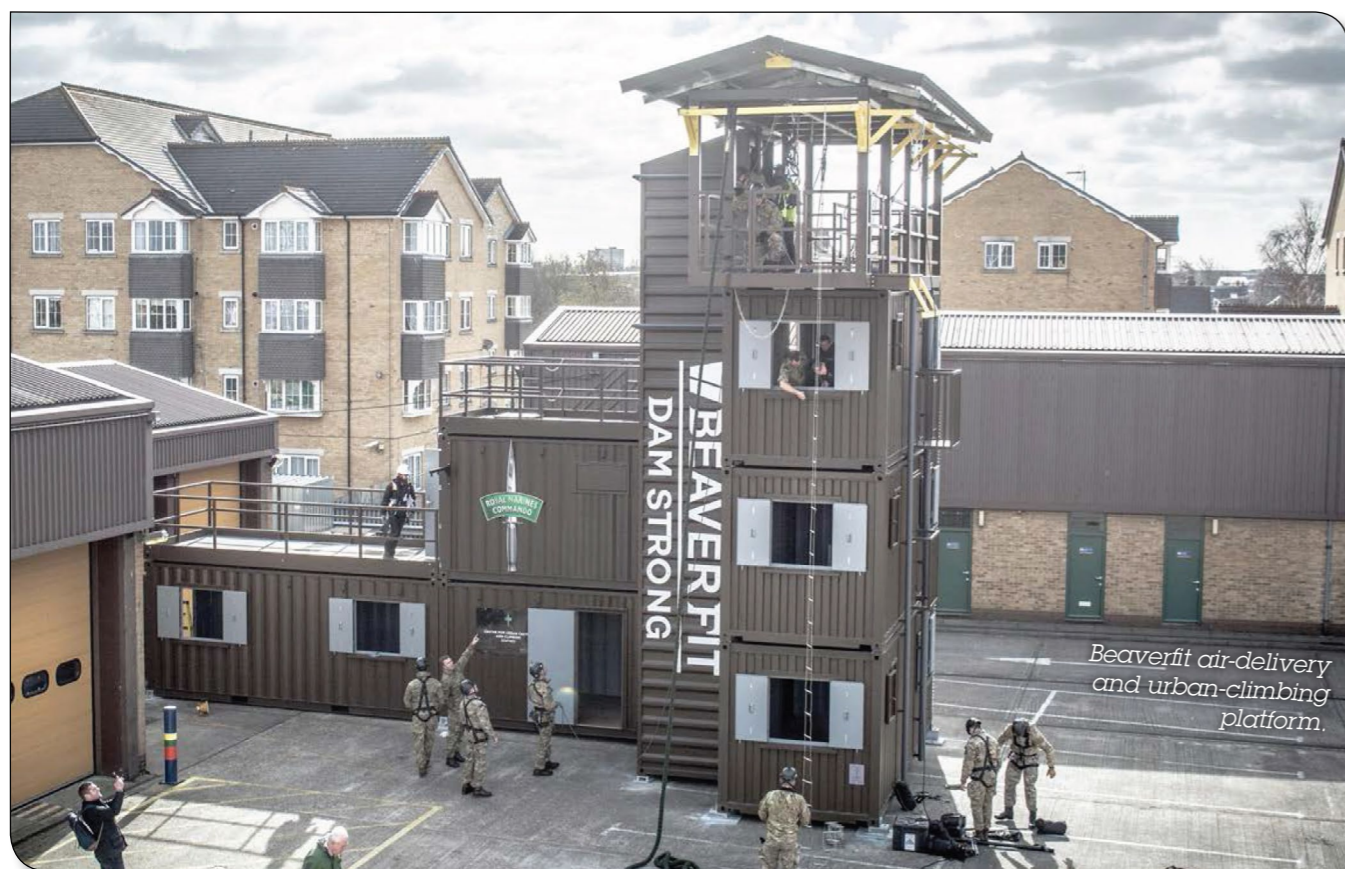
## OF AN AUSTRALIAN POLICE SNIPER

BY JASON SEMPLE

# DIFFERENT KIND OF JUNGLE



From left: ADA rep Alvaro Carvajal, Mark Donaldson VC, ADA CEO Matt Graham, CONTACT sniper contributor Jason Semple, Daniel Keighran VC and Managing Director LE Gear Mark Foote.



London is as busy as one would expect for a major city, and my quintessential London cab driver is doing his best to navigate the traffic between my hotel on the river Thames and a nearby train station, so I can hit the tube system and on to Heathrow Airport.

It's one of the few times I am in a cab or taxi these days, with Uber being my preferred form of urban transport by a country mile. Today however, the short walk from hotel to taxi rank was too irresistible – a bird in the hand scenario in practice.

My driver is very much the typical London cabby, amicable and talkative with a hint of Steptoe and Son, where you feel on the verge of being conned into a tourist trip of some kind.

"You're from Australia are you mate? Geez what do they feed you guys over there? I went to Brisbane once, proper nice weather over there mate. The missus wants to move there."

We go through some minor banter until both our interests wane. I'm thinking how much I'd prefer an Uber. But the London Cab experience is cool too.

The driver has been listening to the radio while battling the vehicular congestion and he starts

his banter again. "Hey big fella. Someone just tried to blow up a train on the tube! You still want me to drop you off at the station?"

If someone had made that comment 10 years ago I would have been more shocked than I was today, and that is sad really. We are that desensitised to these violent incidents that we seem disturbed about them for a few days, then it's business as usual. I actually said to a mate before leaving for London that I would not be surprised if there was an incident while I was there, purely because it had been a few months since there had been an attack.

I replied to my driver, "WTF. Are there any details mate? Anyone hurt?"

"Looks like some people might have been burnt, but no deaths reported yet"

There's no way I'm going to attempt travel on a Tube system that's just experienced a terrorist attack. Hell, they'll shut the whole system down. As it was, I could see the police response on the street as things were quickly being locked down with numerous armed police pulling up in many key intersections and places of interest.

The driver does a deal with me for 65pounds and delivers me safely to the airport with no

further issues, my thoughts preoccupied with those on the train whose day was not so lucky.

After a busy week at the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) expo, where one of the driving forces for the show's existence is prevention and aftermath of such attacks, this experience was surreal.

Thankfully, on this occasion, the device was an amateur attempt at making a home-made binary-style explosive device, in a bucket of all things, and the attempt at causing significant damage and terror was diluted by incompetence.

DSEI is a military and security trade show hosting more than 1600 exhibitors from around the world. The exhibition is no Shot Show as seen in the USA, and it does not boast the same attendance as in Las Vegas either. However, the 34,000 plus security-vetted people who do attend DSEI are more likely to hold a much more significant status, either from prime global companies or direct procurement into government agencies, police forces or a multitude of military organisations. DSEI showcases the latest equipment and systems across five sectors – air, land, naval, security and joint – covering the entire supply chain.

One thing I did notice about DSEI was that everyone was in a suit, including me! I saw so many people from the industry who were dressed up rather than the usual blend of casual tactical wear and jeans that is more obvious at regular military and security shows around the globe. But hey, this is England and there are elevated standards, I suppose.

Australia had a good presence at the show, primarily under the umbrella of Team Defence Australia.

Team Defence Australia DSEI 2017 was headed by retired Air Marshall John Harvey as part of a Department of Defence initiative to support Australian business that supports our ADF.

This year, Team Defence Australia was made up of 45 companies from around Australia, including;

**Armor Australia** – ballistic-resistant armour solutions for military, law enforcement and civil markets using materials such as advanced composites, ceramics, specialty steels, aluminium and ballistic glass.

**BMT** – Ballistic Mechanical Testing – Australian-Defence-recognised supplier and industry-recognised leader in testing of armour.

**ADA** – Australian Defence Apparel – responsible for the manufacture and supply of uniforms and equipment to Australia's fighting forces through two world wars and many other conflicts, playing an instrumental role in creating what has become the iconic visual image of the Australian 'digger'.

**Drone Shield** – offering a complete system of products and services to help security teams defend against threats made possible by drone technology.

**Marathon Targets** – autonomous robotic targets for live-fire target training. The benchmark in realistic combative training targetry, currently being rolled out in the ADF.

**EOS Defence Systems** – remote weapon systems that can be operated by military crews while protected in their vehicles. Also sensor units using thermal imagery and laser rangefinder.

**Zone Products Australia** – technology products to protect against drone threats including the ArbitorShield and C2 COTS platform.



Thales Australia's F90

Team Defence Australia (TDA) operates the pavilion that hosts the Australian companies and basically covers much of the significant costs involved in showcasing a company at a show such as DSEI. Visiting dignitaries and VIPs are regularly walked through and introduced at the pavilion for exposure to Australian ingenuity and manufacturing.

Marathon Targets CEO Alex Brooks said, "Europe is a big market and DSEI is a big show that attracts people from all over Europe, as well as representatives from the United States, offering opportunities for exports".

Personally, I was really impressed by the support TDA gave the companies in attendance. The day before opening, TDA hosted the 45 company delegations at Australia House and ran a comprehensive brief for all involved to ensure maximum success at the show.

TDA is another example of how Australian DoD are running some very innovative concepts to assist Australian companies. Another example is Army Innovation Day (AID), which aims at getting access to new technologies quickly and without the stifling effects of bureaucracy.

Representatives from Austrade were also present to provide assistance to Australian

companies for export opportunities and the promotion of Australian trade in the global setting.

Another function at Australia House for all attendees was the ultimate in networking opportunities.

Interestingly, Australia House is the oldest Australian diplomatic mission and it is the longest continuously occupied foreign mission in London.

No doubt the true stars of the Australian contingent were Mark Donaldson VC and Dan Keighran VC who were at DSEI as brand ambassadors for Australian Defence Apparel (ADA). CEO Matt Graham definitely had all eyes on ADA with two Victoria Cross recipients available to talk about their products and meet with customers.

Both of these men are clearly very serious about ensuring that the ADF has the best equipment provided to its soldiers and that passion was evident watching them interact with all manner of people at the show, both VIP and not. Dan and Mark are very humble guys and readily show the aspects of their personalities that you'd expect from the calibre of a VC winner.

Even though brand ambassadors for ADA, both men made sure they spent time with various



companies of TDA in general, and were sought after by the many VIPs coming through the pavilion.

As well as being decorated war hero's, both men also bring an obvious formidable experience to bear when explaining various aspects of the equipment at hand. Credibility is everything in this industry, and you don't get much better than Mark and Dan.

I also spent some time with Mark Foote from LEGEAR Australia – the leading supplier of law-enforcement, military, public-safety and outdoor products in Australia and New Zealand – checking out a few products when we could spare time.

There is never enough time at these exhibitions to see all of the gear on display. Like Shot Show, you need to make a list and stick with it lest you be lost in the masses.

Some of the standout companies and products at the show for me were:

**BeaverFit UK** and their bespoke equipment, especially their new Advanced Shooting Platform.

**Aimpoint's** new CompM5 red-dot sight and FCS13RE Dynamic Universal Reflex Sight (DURS).

**Equival Black Ghost** personnel monitoring system.

**Marwashi's** Passive Exoskeleton.

**Sig Sauer's** new MCX Rattler discreet carbine option.

**Thales Australia's** F90 carbine.

And various unmanned aerial/land/underwater systems.

Myself, Mark Donaldson and Mark Foote attended the BeaverFit demo held at the Royal Marines barracks in central London.

BeaverFit provide bespoke functional fitness and training facilities to the military, uniformed services, professional sports clubs, educational establishments and more, globally. They also design and manufacture specialised Tactical Training facilities, which essentially are retrofitted shipping-container style configurations such as the Air Delivery Platform, Urban Assault Rig, Urban Climbing Rig, Method Of Entry Rig, Shoot Houses and mobile Advanced Shooting Platforms.

BeaverFit equipment is cleverly made, high quality construction and gives the end user the ability to have transportable training structures of all sizes and configurations.

One of their latest innovative designs that caught our eye was the Advanced Shooting Platform, which is basically a specialised shooting trailer configuration that allows numerous shooting conditions to be employed on any range with complete portability. The platform is mounted on a trailer and can be towed using regular vehicles.

The Advanced Shooting Platform allows for a range of combative shooting techniques to be honed and tested, along with specialised sniping activities, and would definitely be a great range addition for police and military units here in Australia. BeaverFit gear was super impressive.

The development of exoskeletons for soldiers has been amazing over the last few years. The exoskeleton from Marwashi (sister company to Canadian giant Logistik) looks very impressive. And, while I got to manhandle the system on display, unfortunately it was configured for a smaller person than myself. But I was still very happy to get my hands on a tangible setup rather than what I'd previously only seen on-line.

The Marwashi system is a passive exoskeleton, which means it does not rely on a power source to work effectively, and is designed purely to reduce metabolic expenditure and strain when carrying heavy loads. The system is known as UPRISE™ and transfers the load carried by the dismounted soldier from the upper vertebra to the lower limbs and ultimately to the ground. Along with heavy packs and equipment in conventional use, the system will also enable CT operators of the future to carry more personal armour protection without adding to their physical burden. DSTO has been looking at this system and no doubt value adding to its design.

Human physical performance in the armed services and tactical world has always been of paramount importance to successful operational objectives and long-term functionality of personnel. Significant resources are now being provided to ensure these performance measures are continually maximised.

Enter Black Ghost from equival.

I had an in depth look at the Black Ghost human monitoring systems in a live demo at the exhibition. The system provides an immediate insight into the performance and welfare of all personnel during a training or operational deployment. When tracked against baseline values, this data can be used to help monitor for heat stress and fatigue, highlight areas that need further development and contribute to longevity in operators. The system even

highlights if the user is upright or prone, which works in conjunction with a fall alert.

Each operator's data is streamed to a central location such as a command post, and is also stored on the wearable device. I especially liked this equipment and the performance and training potential it provides. I will look at discussing related outcomes and the excellent results from Dr Rob Orr (ex ADF PTI) and his team at the Tactical Conditioning Unit (TRU) at Bond University in a future article.

The new amendments to the F90 rifle system look good. Thales are continuously making amendments to make the weapon system as good as it can be. The forward magazine gravity release system is an excellent addition to the rifle configuration. I spoke with Thales Director Integrated Weapons and Sensors Graham Evenden at the show and was given a full explanation of the new rifle. Graham and his team are committed to their products and it is great to see the rifle constantly evolving.

If you truly want to get lost at a military show these days, go and look at all of the unmanned systems that are now available for literally every task you can devise. Prepare yourself for overload though as the development of airborne, land-based and underwater drones is evolving at an exponential rate and is not slowing down. Hopefully their use will be judicious and save many lives both on and off the battlefield.

At the end of the day though, nothing beats boots on the ground, as we all know, so there definitely needs to be a careful balance of technology and human interaction on the battlefield and for security responses.

DSEI will return to Docklands in London in 2019.

**ADVANCED SHOOTING PLATFORM**

**FEATURES & OPTIONS**

**OVERVIEW**

- BUILT AND DESIGNED TO SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE SHOOTING RANGES AND LIVE FIRE TRAINING AREAS
- HIGHLY MOBILE UNIT, 5FT CONTAINER ON TRAILER
- UP TO 6 FIRING POSITIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY
- INCLUDES PREMIUM STEEL-TARGETRY

**ROOF**

- LEANING ROOF
- MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS

**CURTAINS**

- X3 FLAME RETARDANT CURTAINS
- DETACHABLE VELCRO PATCHES

**SUPPORTS**

- WOODEN SUPPORTS
- DETACHABLE WITH STEEL BRACKETS - MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS

**SWINGS**

- TWO ADJUSTABLE SWINGS PROVIDING UNSTABLE PLATFORMS

**LADDER & WINDOW**

- FIRING FROM LADDER, MULTIPLE POSITIONS
- WINDOW/AREA FRAME

**INTERNALS**

- LEANING WALLS - CONFINED SPACE IN MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS & FLAME RETARDANT FURNITURE

**WE CREATE WHAT DOES NOT YET EXIST.**

**BEAVERFIT**  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS EQUIPMENT



# BEHOLD THE...

**Each year, the School of Armour at Puckapunyal, Victoria, trains more than 1300 soldiers, NCOs and officers in the art of armoured warfare.**

One of the many courses run at the school is the RAAC ROBC – Royal Australian Armoured Corps Regimental Officers Basic Course.

Tank instructor on the Regimental Officers Basic Course Warrant Officer Class Two Shaun Clements says the tactical training delivered on this course is first rate and Exercise Reaper's Run – the field finale of the ROBC – is an unashamedly comprehensive and intensive live-fire combined-arms spectacle.

"Reaper's Run is a combined-arms exercise that assesses both cavalry and tank troops within a realistic combat-team construct, representing true job standard," WO Clements says.

"This year's activity incorporated a platoon of infantry from 7RAR, dismounted scouts from 4<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment (4/19 PWLHR) and a fire-support officer from the 8<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> Regiment (artillery) to represent the real complexity of the roles."

Commanding Officer of the School of Armour Lieutenant Colonel Josh Gillman explains that the 6-month long ROBC and the impressive effort that goes into coordinating Exercise Reaper's Run is a requirement for the standard of excellence that the school produces.

"We invest heavily into our ROBC students so that our graduates capably meet the rigorous demands and standards placed on them by the Australian Army," Lieutenant Colonel Gillman says.

"It's a building block for their entire career."

"Trainees move through the technical stove-pipes of communications, driving and servicing as well as gunnery to gain essential skills and qualifications before tying this all together in a tactical setting.

"This builds in complexity from individual vehicles, through patrols, to troop-level tactical competence."

"When they leave the School of Armour, ROBC graduates become efficient and effective troop leaders of the Australian Army's Armoured Cavalry Regiments.

"As troop leaders, they operate some of the most complex and capable equipment in Army, under some of the most stressful conditions."

Officer commanding B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment – only recently re-raised and moved to Puckapunyal (see separate story) – at the School of Armour and combat-team commander during Exercise Reaper's Run Major Aaron Cimbaljevic says each troop leader commands four Armoured Fighting Vehicles – M1A1 Abrams or ASLAV – worth millions of dollars.

"They are also responsible for the command and welfare of 16 to 20 RAAC soldiers and NCOs – arguably our greatest asset of all," Major Cimbaljevic says.

Cavalry Lieutenant Alex Dawe says most ROBC students arrive at the School of Armour straight out of RMC – the Royal Military College-Duntroon.

"For many of us, this has been our first ever experience applying our lessons in a combined-arms environment," Lieutenant Dawe says.

"Working with tanks, infantry and a JFT is invaluable in setting us up for success as troop leaders."

Tank Lieutenant Natasha James says that the balance between the technical and the tactical is what makes the ROBC so rewarding.

"I've honed my gunnery skills to the point where I am confidently engaging all three weapon system on the tank simultaneously, which is pretty awesome," Lieutenant Natasha James says.

"But, having the crew with me during the training has taught me more than just technique.

"They've also taught me so much about how to conduct myself as their commander.

"It's this applied learning in a controlled environment that we haven't had anywhere else and that will set us up for success when we go to our respective troop-leader positions after ROBC."

Lieutenant Colonel Gillman explains that the school is adapting its course content and format

in preparation for the new platforms Army will acquire under LAND 400.

"The School of Armour is constantly changing to better support a new generation of Army's foundation war-fighting capabilities," Lieutenant Colonel Gillman says.

"We welcome the Army's forecasted modernisation plan that will see increasing numbers of infantry trained at the school, in M113AS4 APC crew skills and mechanised tactics.

"Our courses will continue to produce the best fighting-vehicle crews, regardless of hat-badge."

**WORDS CAPTAIN LUCY SAARONI  
PICS SAPPER DAVID NEWBERRY**

# RAAC ROBC

# MAKING NEW TRACKS WITH PLAN BEERSHEBA

The School of Armour recently trained and graduated the first ever tank-troop leader of 2<sup>nd</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, Queensland Mounted Infantry.

When Lieutenant Tony Mahoney takes up this position in the oldest regular-army unit of the Australian Army, it will symbolically mark a final phase in the application of Plan Beersheba.

"Being part of the new armoured-cavalry regiment in 7 Brigade feels like we are the last piece of a much bigger puzzle," Lieutenant Mahoney, who has the honour of making history as the regiment's first tank-troop leader, said.

Announced in 2011, Plan Beersheba proposed the restructure of Army's combat brigades into multi-role formations, which sees each combat brigade containing a tank squadron.

"We have worked tirelessly under Plan Beersheba to ensure that the Army is equipped with a reconnaissance, lift and tank capability – on track and on time," says WO2 Shaun Clements, School of Armour, said.

By bolstering each combat Brigade with armour power, Plan Beersheba recognises the niche

capability of armour in the spectrum of modern operations, from major combat, to peacetime military engagement.

Wing Sergeant Major of Tactics Wing, WO2 Jason Mackay said it would be fantastic to see 7 Brigade's capability complete with the M1A1 assets.

"Armoured Corps units provide shock action, versatility and adaptability to the brigade commander that no other formation in Army can provide," WO2 Mackay said.

Lieutenant Mahoney and his troop had less than 12 months to prepare themselves to enter into the 'ready' year of the Army's Force Generation Cycle with the rest of 7 Bde, where they will provide short-notice contingency response capabilities in Australia and overseas.

WO2 Mackay said the School of Armour delivered employment-ready personnel to support the next generation of Army's foundation warfighting capability and looked forward to training all future tank-troop leaders for 2/14LHR (QMI) and other RAAC members who will contribute to the ever-increasing capacity of the Australian Army.

Lieutenant Tony Mahoney



# STINGERPUNYAL

Words have meaning, but names have power

BY CORPORAL MATHEW ASH  
B SQUADRON, 3<sup>RD</sup>/4<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY REGIMENT

The re-naming of B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment in May 2017 was a momentous occasion for the Royal Australian Armoured Corps – reviving the prestige of a past proud squadron and breathing new history and pride into the important work that the squadron conducts at the School of Armour.

In April 2017, Head of Corps Royal Australian Armoured Corps wrote to the Chief of Army requesting to rename Support Squadron at the School of Armour as B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.

Historically, B Squadron has had a strong linkage to the School of Armour, with the nucleus of the unit being raised at Puckapunyal for service in Vietnam in 1966.

The regiment was disbanded in 2014 and its personnel merged into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, with custodianship of the Regiment's guidons and historical collection entrusted to the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, Head of Corps cell, at the School of Armour.

The re-naming was strongly supported by the Royal Australian Armoured Corps, by former members of the squadron and by the B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association.

After official endorsement by the Chief of Army, the renaming occurred in conjunction with Royal Australian Armoured Corps birthday celebrations on 15 May 2017.

The wintry winds of Puckapunyal could not dampen the re-naming parade, which took place in the 'Bopper' hangar.

Official guests, families and veterans congregated within the confines of the hangar, which quickly filled to capacity.

Support Squadron formed up on the parade for the last time and, after a series of speeches and an inspection from the Head of Corps, Support Squadron was marched off.

Out of sight from the audience, a quick change saw the Royal Australian Armoured Corps beret badges replaced with the B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Scorpion badges.

The newly badged 'Stingers' then marched on as B Squadron, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.

After the parade, attendees moved to the Sergeants' Mess to celebrate, with the soldiers and officers of the squadron now proudly wearing the 'Stinger' hat badge.

With the renaming official, the squadron was also honoured to take custodianship of the customs and traditions of B Squadron 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.

Practically, despite Support Squadron being renamed, the squadron's mission remains the same – B Squadron continues to provide personnel, equipment and resources to a high standard to support the delivery of training conducted by the School of Armour.

The squadron's support to the School Of Armour remains vital as the Army and the RAAC move into the future – trials for LAND 400 Phase 2, Royal Australian Armoured Corps Regimental Officers Basic Courses as well as support to Plan Keogh, are keeping the Squadron busier than ever as it heads towards 2018.

# Bilateral ties strengthened through the School of Armour

When the most powerful military in the world looks to the Australian School of Armour for a benchmark of best practice it is a measure of quiet confidence for the Australian Defence Force and the School of Armour.

Master Sergeant Shawn McCormick is a US Marine Corps instructor currently on a three-year exchange with the Australian Army School of Armour in Puckapunyal, Victoria.

"It's a privilege to be able to share my experience as a US Marine with the next generation of Australian Army Armoured Corps leaders," Master Sergeant McCormick says.

"I'm very impressed by the way in which the Australian Army teaches and trains its people.

"There's a level of investment in the students that is unparalleled," he says.

Master Sergeant McCormick is referring to the six-month Regimental Officers Basic Course, which employs hundreds of support staff each year to teach specialist tank and cavalry skills to junior officers of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

"The amount of time the school invests in its students is enviable.

"I feel that these junior officers have an extensive amount of time to practice and perfect their skills."

As a foreign military instructor embedded within the School of Armour, the Colorado native is required to use Australian doctrine and training-management plans with the students here, but, he is able to draw from his extensive operational experience in Iraq and Afghanistan to contextualise lessons and impart practical knowledge that will place Australian troops in excellent stead for future deployments.

"I share the successes and failures we have had as Marines, so that lessons can be learnt isomorphically in Australia," he says.

Master Sergeant McCormick says there's a level of US interest in his desire to impart as much operational knowledge as he can to the young Australian junior officers.

From enemy TTPs on mine drills and IEDs, to the culture of practice in command-post communications, the master sergeant believes that what helps Australia will benefit the US in the field too.

"There may come a time soon where these Australian troop leaders deploy to fight side-by-side the United States.

"Their ability to command effectively is very important for the US and the quality and quantity of training provided to them here at the School of Armour fills me with great confidence."

Master Sergeant Shawn McCormick





## BE PREPARED

FOR



## Military Security Disaster Relief

# ANYWHERE



45 L COMBAT Pack  
in KHAKI and AUSCAM



PATROL MK IV  
Sleeping Bag



Top Loader  
in MULTICAM



1206 Pack  
in KHAKI



Leg Holster  
in CAM




Bivvy Bag  
in AUSCAM



1198 Pack in  
MULTICAM

Available at your nearest **AUSSIE DISPOSALS** store.  
 Distributed by: TI TRADING Pty Ltd Ph: 07 5563 8585 Fax: 07 5563 8520 Email: abc38263@bigpond.net.au


NA CONTACT 0317



NAKEDARMY®

**‘BULL’**  
**STRETCHER BEARER**  
**BULL ALLEN, 2/5 BATTALION**  
**MT TAMBU NEW GUINEA 1943**

**MATESHIP - VALOUR - ENDURANCE**  
**FOR YOUR MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE & TROPHY REQUIREMENTS**  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.naked-army.com](http://www.naked-army.com) CALL US TOLL FREE 1800 731 490**



DEFENCE RECOGNISED SUPPLIER  
Department of Defence



# TULUGAL PROGRAM

WORDS CAPTAIN LUCY SAARONI  
PICS SAPPER DAVID NEWBERRY

## OPTOMISED CAVALRY SCOUTS



**The Australian Army is drawing on the knowledge and experience of Aboriginal people to develop the professional skills of its soldiers in a new initiative called The Tulugal Program.**

Designed by the 4<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment in Victoria, the Tulugal Program combines Aboriginal field craft with the conventional fighting techniques of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps cavalry scouts.

Indigenous tracking and survival skills are taught to participants of the program, who must then demonstrate these competencies in the field, proving their ability to combine contemporary and traditional tactics, techniques and procedures to understand terrain and weather effects, and navigate and track with stealth and cunning.

Successful participants of the Tulugal Program qualify as optimised cavalry scouts – brilliant at the traditional basics, yet armed with the contemporary skills and assets to provide an enhanced capability in the Australian Army.

The Tulugal Program recognises and values the rich history, culture and knowledge of Indigenous Australians, drawing from their experience over thousands of years, to generate a tactical advantage for Australian soldiers conducting warlike operations.

The program takes its name from the chilling and formidable spirit Tulugal of the Dreamtime stories from the Yuin tribe in south-east Australia.

Tulugal materialises like a ghost or shadow, emerging from the natural landscape to haunt and wreak havoc on those who have done wrong.

Creator of the Tulugal Program Lieutenant Colonel John Molnar said cavalry scouts of the Australian Army embodied the qualities of this haunting shadow – Tulugal.

"Cavalry scouts are trained to observe without being seen, operating as one with the natural environment and capable of coordinating firepower to break contact or enable freedom of troop movement, before disappearing without leaving a trace," Lieutenant Colonel Molnar said.

"The program aims to recognise, respect and value the relationship that Aboriginal people have with the natural environment, which takes a unique approach of embracing field and tracking skills developed over thousands of years to build capability within a modern defence force.

"Without an understanding and appreciation of the land, we are blind to the opportunities and threats that may surround us, so it is important we learn how to read the land and the secrets and stories it holds."

Aboriginal bush craft, tracking, navigation and surveillance skills are integrated with lessons on cultural competence, teaching Australian Army soldiers not only how to learn from the natural environment, but how to engage better with people from different cultures.

Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson Jr was invited by the Army to present the Tulugal pin to the participants.

Trooper Luke Green said having Uncle Bill present participants with the Tulugal pin was meaningful.

"It was a great way to finish the program, which was all about our respect and recognition of Indigenous knowledge and connection with the land," Trooper Green said.

"This kind of knowledge can help us to read and interpret the information we are gathering on the battlefield.

"We've learnt that every blade of grass has a story to tell."

# 2RAR AMPHIB

BY LANCE CORPORAL MCLOUGHLIN-WILDEN  
SMALL BOAT PLATOON  
SECURITY COMPANY  
2RAR AMPHIB



## WHAT'S IN A NAME? SECOND BATTALION AMPHIBIOUS AND THE PIONEERING OF A CAPABILITY

CONTACT published an article titled "2RAR will cease to exist as a light infantry battalion" on 8 August 17 that described the Second Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR), transitioning from a standard infantry battalion (SIB) to a training organisation. This is incorrect. As a serving soldier in 2 RAR (Amphibious) I have decided to take this opportunity to articulate to the readers of CONTACT what is happening in the unit and within the broader Australian Amphibious Force. The soldiers of 2 RAR (Amphibious) have been quietly working to build a world-class amphibious capability for the Australian Army, and I would like to explain that development, and what the Battalion is like today.



2 RAR (Amphibious) has a proud history as one of the premier warfighting organisations in the country, and as a highly capable infantry battalion. The unit will continue to operate as an infantry battalion, and is not disbanding. We will remain in Townsville, and will continue to be one of the founding battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment. We continue to train the skills required to operate as an SIB, and indeed are required to be able to operate as an SIB for Army should that be required. The unit's ability to perform as highly capable infantry soldiers is prided in the battalion, and was evident in a number of achievements this year, including winning the Duke of Gloucester Cup and achieving silver at the Cambrian Patrol in the UK. These competitions were conducted during a very busy year, which also included the Sea Series of exercises held with the Royal Australian Navy, the road to Talisman Sabre 2017, and the demonstration of the ANZAC Amphibious Ready Group, which was the largest Australian amphibious landing since World War Two. 2 RAR (Amphibious) has a culture of developing quiet professionals, and the achievements of the battalion this year in both amphibious and SIB roles are a reflection of the quiet, consistent hard work of its soldiers.

The Second Battalion (Amphibious) has a standing mission to generate a combined-arms battle group that is capable of manoeuvring from the sea, as part of the Australian Amphibious Force (AAF). We achieve this by operating as the pre-landing force (PLF) for the ADF, setting the conditions to allow follow-on forces to come ashore and then fight and win the land battle. We set those conditions by mastering four core amphibious tasks

– demonstrations, raids, assaults and withdrawals. This is demanding, as the soldiers of 2 RAR have been required to develop a new capability for the ADF. As a result of the previous five-year amphibious trial, we now have a world-class amphibious PLF that is interoperable with other elements of Army, Special Operations Command, the RAN and our international allies.

While the battalion is not physically moving, it has changed in a number of ways. For most of its history, 2 RAR has been under the command of the 3rd Brigade and, as of 16 October 2017, 2 RAR is now under the command of the Amphibious Task Group (ATG) within the 1st Division. ATG is a tri-service organisation, and is uniquely commanded by a Navy captain as the Commander Amphibious Task Group, and an Army colonel as the Commander Landing Forces. As a unit optimised for amphibious operations, we have a close working relationship with the amphibious ships of the RAN, namely HMAS Canberra, Adelaide and Choules. Ship life is similar to regular barracks life, but with some significant advantages – soldiers are given additional situational awareness and exposure during mission planning, while also having the opportunity to train and rehearse while afloat on route to the area of operations.

During Exercise Talisman Sabre this year, the unit was required to conduct a joint-force entry operation to seize a beach landing site for follow-





on forces. My platoon was tasked to secure a helicopter-landing zone before D-day. The battalion's reconnaissance platoon, specially trained in amphibious recon and deep battlespace shaping, was able to identify an enemy armour force of T-80 tanks defending it. Because of the high level of communications available on this ship, we were able to get very detailed information on the enemy and study the terrain in detail before going ashore. We were also able to seek subject-matter experts to help train us on enemy armour capabilities, vehicle recognition, anti-armour weapon drills and calling for fire support, all from the safety of the ship sitting over the horizon. We were then able to launch to conduct the mission from the sea, inserting soldiers who were not fatigued, had prepared their equipment specifically for the task, and were supported by joint assets within the AAF.

Following the joint-force entry operation, we were regrouped under the command of 3rd Brigade, and performed joint land combat as an SIB. We conducted a number of combat-team and battle-group attacks, air-mobile operations with 5th Aviation Regiment and the US Marine Corps, urban clearances with 2nd Cavalry Regiment, and a combined-arms brigade attack. It demonstrated the battalion's agility in moving from specialised amphibious actions, to deep reconnaissance to support the brigade or division, to close combat as an infantry battle group.

From 2018, 2 RAR will adopt a new structure that reflects our role as an optimised pre-landing force. The new order of battle will see the establishment of a rifle company with integral small-boat insertion capability, who will have additional skills to support their likely missions including direct fire support weapons, helicopter insertion and extraction techniques, and advanced small-craft operating techniques. The battalion will also establish an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) company which will have dedicated reconnaissance patrols and sniper detachments who are highly trained for amphibious recon and precision strike, small boat operators, signallers, and

a joint-fires team to coordinate ground and air fires in the amphibious operating area. These elements will be supported by an administration company and battalion headquarters, similar to the other battalions of the RAR. In addition, 2 RAR will see a reinforcement from an army reserve company that will specialise in riverine operations, and provide training support to specialist courses.

The new structure gives flexibility to task-organise the PLF depending on mission and threat, and enables rapid movement and decision-making. The PLF typically consists of a command node, a number of rifle platoons, amphibious reconnaissance patrols, snipers, small boats, a joint-fires team and signals detachment. All of these elements are organic to 2 RAR, and will be supported by electronic-warfare teams, clearance divers, amphibious beach teams and naval hydrographic survey teams. The PLF will take over from special forces and provide reconnaissance and shaping of the battlespace, to introduce a landing force ashore.

The transition of 2 RAR to an optimised amphibious unit requires specialist skills, expertise and personnel. Soldiers in 2 RAR (Amphibious) need to be fit, composed, innovative and willing to do what is required to achieve the mission. We don't have the luxury of 'crawl' and 'walk' phases – the tempo is high and we need to seek excellence in everything we do from our first day of service in the unit. We will also need to have a range of specialist skills to support the unique and often demanding requirements of the PLF role.

A perfect illustration of this is the small boats capability, with 2 RAR set to maintain a fleet of 36 small-boat systems (FC-470s, multi-fuel engines, associated specialist equipment). Designed to enable the undetected insertion of PLF elements, 2 RAR small boats require specialist training, expertise and techniques to be employed safely and effectively. To operate small boats, soldiers need to complete the advanced small craft operations (ASCO) course, a challenging course that was originally inherited from SOCOMD but



has been tailored specifically for the PLF role. Upon completion, soldiers will be expert in the preparation, operation and maintenance of 2 RAR small-boat systems in the surf zone, rocky ledges and riverine environments, by day and night and in a range of sea conditions. They will be capable of planning and executing over-the-horizon insertion/extraction by night, parent-craft operations and limited-scale raids. Each ASCO course culminates with several demanding full-mission profiles by

night, bringing all these skills together.

2 RAR (Amphibious) personnel will also need to be qualified in advanced helicopter-underwater-escape training and helicopter-insertion and -extraction techniques (HIET). In addition to this, 2018 will see all members of the unit become helicopter-casting qualified. This involves the insertion of swimmers from the back of a CH-47 rotary-winged platform. This capability will evolve into the insertion of FC-470 Zodiacs and troops from

the back of the rotary-winged platform, which will create significant flexibility in the way we insert our troops to land.

As an infantry battalion, manned by RAINF personnel, 2 RAR (Amphibious) will also conduct the normal suite of support-company specialist courses that are the hallmark of all RAR battalions. However, the unit will seek to take these specialist capabilities to the next level, ensuring that they reflect the additional demands and complexity

requirements associated with delivering world-class PLF effects. This will ensure that the AAF has a highly trained and capable PLF that is able to set the conditions for the landing force to come ashore and complete their tasks. It also ensures 2 RAR (Amphibious) retains the ability to force concentrate to conduct high-intensity war fighting as a light-infantry battle group.





During Exercise Talisman Sabre 2017 a gap in the ISR space was identified between the special-forces reconnaissance and regular-battalion reconnaissance. The Second Battalion will look to bridge that gap, by conducting divisional reconnaissance tasks, with the battalion moving deeper into the land-force area of operations in support of deep ground reconnaissance. There will be no conventional unit more capable of conducting multi domain operations than 2 RAR, and we will do this while maintaining a state of constant high readiness.

A bright future lies ahead for the Second Battalion (Amphibious). We have reached many milestones and have succeeded in delivering a world-class PLF. To be a soldier who is part of something this size instils a phenomenal feeling that far outweighs any challenges that come with the change in the role.

To be able to see your inputs being implemented and, as your influence on the capability unfolds, it fills you with a strong sense of pride and satisfaction. After a year of really strong performances from the soldiers of 2 RAR this year, the morale and culture in the battalion is healthy and the soldiers have the quiet confidence and determination necessary take this capability to the next level. As anyone who has served in 2 RAR knows well, the unit's true identity remains constant and unwavering. 2 RAR is comprised of quiet, composed, fit, adaptable and humble men and women who let their actions speak louder than their words and who get the job done. 2 RAR will be there to deliver either a pre-landing force or an infantry battalion when the Army requires that will always remain Second to None.



# REBUILDING SOMALIA “THE SEA IS OUR FUTURE”

WORDS RUAIRÍ DE BARRA  
PICS ADF AND EUCAP-SOM

The horn of Africa for decades has been a location that has suffered from seemingly never-ending strife. The ADF has had a long history with the conflict in this torn and troubled land, beginning with ‘Operation Solace’ where almost 1500 Australians served in Somalia from 1992-94 on a United Nations-sanctioned mission. The Aussies served in that country when the rule of law was virtually non-existent and warlords, with their clan-based militias had dominance, wreaking havoc on the country. Nearly 200,000 people were estimated to have died from hunger and a further 30,000 from violence.

The initial United Nations Operation in Somalia – UNOSOM – was overwhelmed and the United States announced it would lead a new force to enable the aid agencies to do their work. Unified Task Force-Somalia (UNITAF) was ultimately mandated to use “all necessary means” to carry out the task.

Australia’s commitment rose from 30 movement-control-unit personnel to a 990-strong fighting force based largely around the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in the 37,000-strong, 28-nation mission.

While Australians are rightly proud of their participation in Somalia, and good work was done by those who were there, while they were

there – the overall mission eventually fizzled out and, unable to restore order or peace, the last UN troops were withdrawn from Somalia in March 1995.

In recent years, new efforts by many nations, lead in large part by the European Union, has sought to bring about a rebuilding of Somalia. As always such efforts can be severely hampered and frightfully challenged – resurgent Islamic militants have in recent months sought to undermine the fragile peace and to tear down the progress made. Lasting peace will be built not only by the absence of conflict but by resetting the foundations of the state – bringing together many different, interconnected parts to provide a place where a functioning government can use its natural resources for the benefit of all its citizens.

Easier said than done.

One of the greatest resources open to Somalia is the sea. They have the longest coastline on mainland Africa or the Middle East, at 3025km. The waters off Somalia have become synonymous with piracy and lawlessness, yet this will be one of the key areas where economic activity is brought back to the impoverished country, which is balanced on a knife-edge with regards to its own security and stability.

FILE PHOTO (11 MARCH 1993):  
HMAS TOBRUK AT MOGADISHU  
BY CORPORAL GARY RAMAGE

As Australians know very well, the ocean harbours great rewards – if it can be fished or farmed and traded across with certainty, safety and creativity. However, to be able to protect the ocean’s wealth, the state must be able to project its authority out onto the sea. This is no easy thing to achieve in the complex political climate of Somalia.

Federal Somalia, in theory, consists of the states of Puntland, Glamudug, Jubaland, South West State, Hir-Shabelle and Somaliland. A prime example of the difficulty in creating a federal government is that Somaliland declared independence in 1991 – which is not recognised by the international community – and has no relations

countering piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The EU has a comprehensive approach in Somalia based on active diplomacy and support to the political process, security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid. It aims to tackle both the symptoms and root causes of piracy.

Irish Defence Forces served side-by-side with Australia during UNOSOM – and today, another Irishman is playing a key part in the important work in the country. Chris Reynolds, on secondment from the Irish Coast Guard, is leading the mission to build an indigenous Somali Coast Guard. The former Irish Navy officer and recent Director of the

“We also have to ensure that the laws are in place – the right piracy, transnational crime, fisheries laws – to exercise good governance.

“I also have three field offices, in Mogadishu, Garoowe in Puntland, and Hargeisa in Somaliland.”

Mr Reynolds is very positive about the progress that’s been made in a relatively short time.

“It is hard to overstate how far they have come. They are really at the very beginning of creating a state – and problems come with that.

Somalian politics are nearly inseparable from its clans, and clan-based politics are the root of many problems.

## Somalian politics are nearly inseparable from its clans, and clan-based politics are the root of many problems

atmosphere in which it is very hard to create a climate for investment and growth.

Chris Reynolds said that to actually create business in Somalia was very difficult, especially for people from the outside who want to have transparency in the banking, legal or policing systems.

“There is an agricultural capacity in Somalia, mainly to the south in Jubaland, which is heavily influenced by ‘al Shabaab’.

“The army and the police tend to try and control the towns and cities, while Al Shabaab have a lot of sway in the countryside.

“Farming is very difficult and there are reports of farmers paying Al Shabaab ‘taxation’.

“The people want to move on but it is a challenge, because it has been 25 years of people fending for themselves.”

However, efforts are under way to create the infrastructure needed to facilitate industry growth, especially maritime.

“A key problem with fisheries at is that the licensing system

in Somalia isn’t the best it could be – there’s a lot of abuse of the system,” Mr Reynolds said.

“That then leads to a lot of crime on the sea, which leads to vigilante-type activity, which is not in anybody’s interest.”

This abuse of the fisheries industry was highlighted in the first comprehensive report carried out since the 1980s, released in September 2015, which shows that foreign illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Somali waters was reducing fish stocks, and caused widespread resentment among Somali coastal communities, threatening renewed maritime insecurity.

Entitled ‘Securing Somali Fisheries’, the report shows that



with the recognised government of Somalia.

In support of the federal government there are three separate EU missions – EU Naval Force Somalia-Operation Atalanta, the military training mission EUTM and the civilian capacity-building mission EUCAP – the latter two both with mandates extended until 31 December 2018.

With 17 participating nations and a planned capacity of nearly 180 staff, EUCAP’s aim is to assist Somalia in strengthening its maritime security capacity, so that maritime law is enforced more effectively – bolstered by EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta,

Irish Coast Guard is well qualified for the job.

The enormity of his undertaking is abundantly clear when you speak to him. I began by asking about his main duties.

“My role is head of operations, which is divided into three sections. The first is maritime capacity building, the second is policing and institution building and the third is national policy,” Mr Reynolds said.

“We have policing and legal advisors who work with the Somali system to try and improve that, within the concept of ‘crime-to-court’, trying to develop the Somalia capacity to interdict maritime crime.

Claude Gonot, a senior international security advisor for Scandinavian company Risk Solutions has a great knowledge of the security situation in Somalia.

“Rebuilding Somalia will be huge – and hard work. Clans and sub-clans are ancestral and omnipresent,” Mr Gonot said.

“Somalia remains in a condition of internal conflict and fragmentation, and is complex politically.

“The partial exceptions are Somaliland and Puntland in the north.”

This fractured nature of politics and the lasting affects of 25 years of civil war present an



Former Irish Navy officer and recent Director of the Irish Coast Guard Chris Reynolds, on secondment is now leading the mission to build an indigenous Somali Coast Guard.



IUU fishing vessels catch more than 130,000 metric tons of fish each year, while the local Somali fleet catches only 40,000 tons.

The report also shows IUU fishing has been a problem for decades and was a key contributor to the rise of the now-infamous pirate 'trade', which quickly shifted focus toward more lucrative vessels as piracy actually appears to have caused many foreign fishing vessels to leave the area.

Recently, however, this trend has reversed. According to John Steed, Secure Fisheries Regional Manager for the Horn of Africa, "Illegal fishing was the pretext used by gangs to shift from protectionism to armed robbery and piracy".

"Since the fish are drained by foreigners, my colleagues plan to go into the ocean to hijack other ships," a fisherman told reporters.

"We have no government to speak on our behalf."

Given this hugely complex landscape, EUCAP and Chris Reynolds are trying to draw together the various maritime actors in Somalia to steer a new course with varying baselines to start from.

"Somaliland has a coastguard and some basic boats for day patrolling, but they are without overnight- or stay-at-sea capacity," Mr Reynolds said.

"Another port has maritime or port police who only patrol in the immediate area of the port

vice-admirals but they have absolutely nothing in place."

Mr Reynolds said getting international players to donate money and boats was one thing, but the Somalis haven't really decided yet if it's a navy or a coast guard they really need – and when they do get the right boats for the job, they have no training facilities, crew accommodation or basic support infrastructure.

"The easiest thing is go out and buy ships. The hardest part is the ability to maintain a ship at sea, to be able to maintain its engines, having somewhere to train its staff and for crews to sleep.

"Then you need an officer corps who can manage it and



"Now the situation is back where it was, with large numbers of foreign vessels fishing in Somali waters again – and the real danger that the whole piracy cycle starts over," Mr Steed said.

A recent report by Abdiqani Hassan of Reuters news agency seems to back this up – "A volatile build-up of weapons and resentment along the northern Somali coast culminated in the hijack of an oil freighter this March 2017, the first such seizure since 2012".

Locals say attacks will continue, and blame their government in the semi-autonomous Puntland region for granting permits to foreigners to fish in Somali waters.

in small skiffs, while Puntland, for example, the Maritime Police Force, who are probably the most developed maritime security agency, supported by the Puntland president and funded by the UAE, have decent boats, decent facilities and have been known to conduct search-and-rescue, fisheries-enforcement and migration-interdiction missions.

"Yet this is only a part of their job. They are also directly involved in the fight against Al Shabaab and, more frequently, Deash, who have developed a stronghold in the mountains above Bosaso.

"In Mogadishu they have an admiral of the navy and two

a maintenance corps to keep it running.

"It's a mammoth task."

I finished by asking Mr Reynolds if he felt this project could succeed – and how did the Somalis he works with view the prospects.

His answer was swift and positive.

"Yes it can, and absolutely they want this to work.

"They have an ambition for their country.

"I have talked to their deputy prime minister and many others – they all say exactly the same thing...

**"The sea is our future"**



**LIGHTER,  
BETTER,  
FASTER**

CARL-GUSTAF M4

For dismounted infantry on the modern battlefield, speed can be the difference between life and death. To be effective, soldiers need to react quick—the operation's success depends on it.

The new Carl Gustaf M4 multi-role weapon system won't slow you down. Building on its predecessor's success; it's shorter and lighter at less than seven kilos. The M4 keeps troops agile.

Saab's *thinking edge* technology spans an 80 year heritage with innovation at its core.

With the Carl-Gustaf M4, smart just got smarter.

SAAB.COM.AU

**CARINTHIA**  
GO PROFESSIONAL

SLEEPING BAGS  
BIVOUAC BAGS  
CLOTHING



**USED BY PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE**

Download a catalogue at: [www.premierdefence.com.au](http://www.premierdefence.com.au)  
Distributed by: Premier Defence Agencies  
[info@premierdefence.com.au](mailto:info@premierdefence.com.au)  
02 9708 2475



## SERGEANT WAYNE 'TAILS' TAYLOR



**New Zealand lost one of its best soldiers in a training accident on Friday 13 October 2017.**

Sergeant Wayne 'Tails' Taylor was killed during a maritime counter-terrorism training exercise off the Coromandel Peninsula

Sergeant Taylor joined the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment as a member of the Army Reserve in 1993 and join the full-time Army four years later.

He served in East Timor and Afghanistan and was awarded the NZDSM (TF), East Timor Medal, UNTAET (East Timor), NZOSM, NZGSM, NZDSM (RF) and NATO ISAF (Afghanistan) medals.

Sergeant Taylor is survived by his wife and four children.

New Zealand's Chief of Army Major General Peter Kelly said many of the Regiment, both RNZIR and NZSAS, would remember Sergeant Taylor as an outstanding soldier, leader, father, family man and friend, as well as being an all-round top bloke.

"He was a consummate professional, who was known for his dedication and reliability – always upholding our core values in every endeavour," Major General Kelly said.

"I know his family, friends and workmates will be keenly feeling the loss of a husband, father and friend."

Family, friends and colleagues of Sergeant Taylor bid the warrior farewell on 19 October in a private service held at Papakura Military Camp in Auckland.

Deputy Chief of Army Brigadier Chris Parsons said Tails and he served together in Afghanistan.

"He was an outstanding family man and a skilled operator," Brigadier Parsons said.

"It hurts when we lose one of our own."

"Tails served his country with honour and to a professional standard only few attain."

"It is a deeply sad privilege to be at Papakura, to pay our respects to his family and see him join New Zealand's pantheon of warriors who shall never grow old."

A spokesperson for the family said Wayne Taylor was an all-round, genuine top bloke.

"He was a loving husband, a devoted father, a loyal friend and a trustworthy colleague."

"He loved his Army life, and worked hard to get where he was – but he also loved a good family adventure, not only with his immediate family but with the extended whanau of friends."

"His untimely passing has left a huge hole."

"He will be sorely missed."

GENUINE  
TOP  
BLOKE

Sergeant Wayne Taylor  
New Zealand Special Air  
Service Regiment

Known to his friends as Tails  
– killed in a training accident,  
Friday 13 October 2017



**Wandering Warriors** is a charity dedicated to providing care, support and opportunities to veterans and their families through mentoring, education, employment, events and other services.

To keep our programs running we need your help! To assist us you can donate, purchase our merchandise, volunteer or become a corporate sponsor. To find out more, please go to:

**wanderingwarriors**

saluting their sacrifice



[www.wanderingwarriors.org](http://www.wanderingwarriors.org)





# PTSD

# WAR

If a picture paints a thousand words, these pictures speak volumes for our veterans suffering from PTSD, according to the subject of the powerful images, Trooper David Nicholson.

"For those of you who don't know, a lot of our service people wear a mask to cover our PTSD," Trooper Nicholson said.

"Wearing the mask and having a fake smile hides, but doesn't heal, the pain.

"Behind the mask you hide anger, pain, anxiety, nightmares and depression.

"People don't see it, hear it or know about it.

"But, being alone, it will tear at you, consume you and rip you to pieces.

"You'll fall into a dark hole that reveals no way out.

"When you get so deep it will not only affect you, but your love life, family and friends too.

"The hardest part of PTSD isn't how you got it, or even how you try to hide it – it's when you ask for help.

"Asking for help is scary.

"Yes you may feel weak – but trust me when I say, take the mask off, ask for help, speak to your loved ones and family about it.

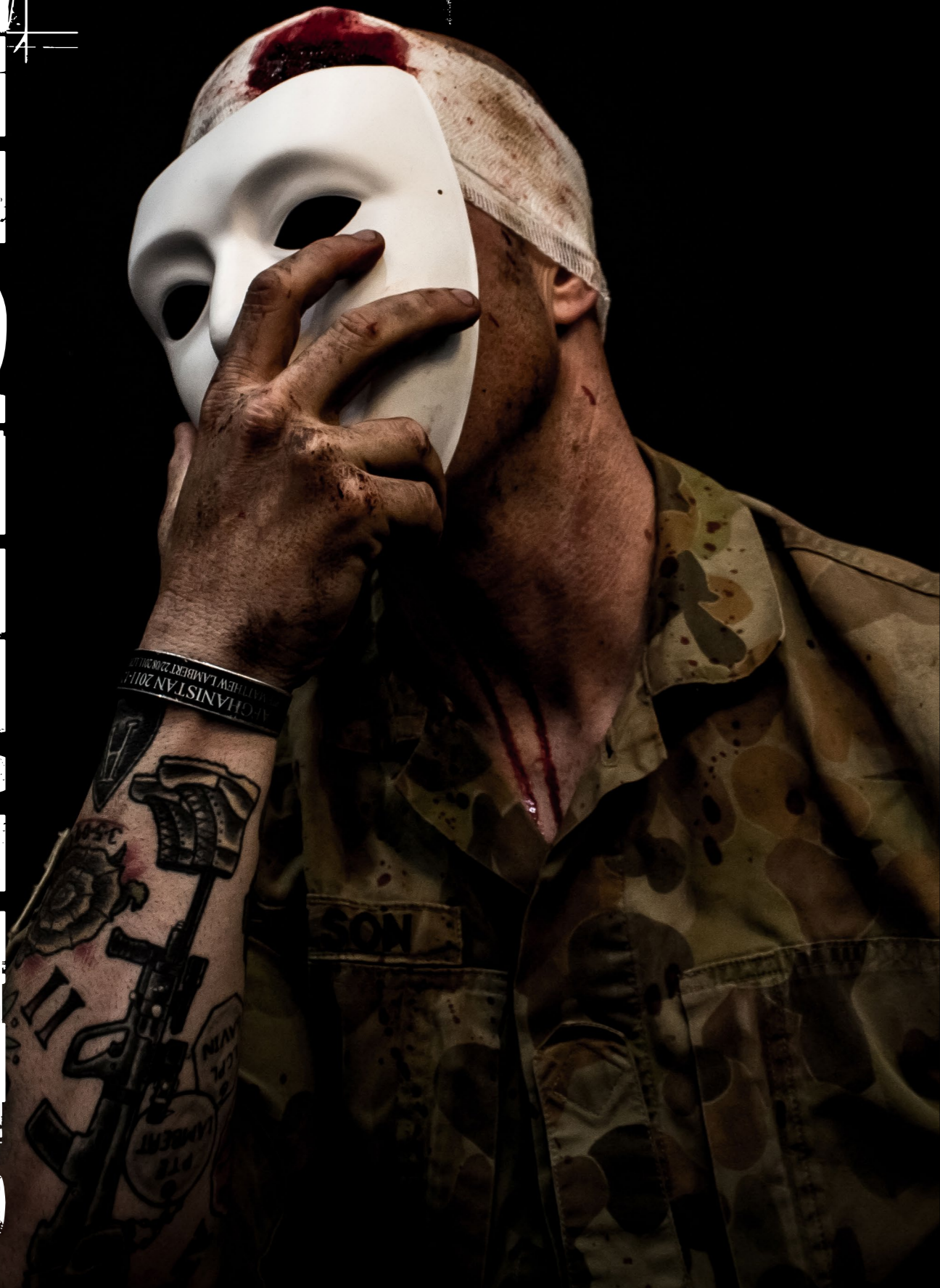
"And...

"...prepare for the weight to be lifted off your shoulders.

"Reach out. Your brothers and sisters are there for you."

PTSD  
UNMASKED

PTSD



PTSD unmasked  
Subject Trooper David Nicholson  
Makeup by Ambah de Smet  
Photography by Justin Marshall –  
JM Photography

If you, or someone you know  
needs help, please contact:

LIFELINE on 13 11 14  
VVCS on 1800 011 046 or  
BEYOND BLUE on 1300 22 4636

# Angels in Armour



WORDS AND PICS CORPORAL MAX BREE



Corporal Daniel Lewis



Lieutenant Ian Beeton



Private Michael Fowler



Private Michael Fowler



Private Javier Battle

**Travelling the streets of Kabul can be daunting, however Australian troops serving in the city have their own dedicated protection force of angles and armour to keep the risk manageable.**

The soldiers of Force Protection Element 8 (FPE-8) and their protected vehicles have the job of moving people safely around town where they then maintain an overwatch role while specialist personnel undertake their work.

The team is based on 3RAR's B Company and consists of about 150 soldiers who are tasked with protecting Australian advisors and mentors working for the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

On the way to a task, you might be taken in an up-armoured 4WD or a Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle (PMV) driven by an infantryman like Private Javier Battle.

"Kabul is like any major city, the traffic can be pretty full-on," he said.

"People tend to let us through places first though, they think of us as being a small tank, so people generally get out of the way.

"No-one really tries to take on a 15-tonne PMV." Private Battle and his fellow drivers are trained in tactical driving to deal with other cars, however often it is people on foot that can be the danger.

"You have to watch out for people getting out in front of you as pedestrians tend to have right of way in their culture," he said.

Passengers in the back of a Bushmaster don't enjoy the best view, but the crew have a 360-degree field of vision thanks to a remote controlled protected weapons station on top of the vehicle.

"When you first drive in Kabul you have to take it easy," Private Battle said.

"Other cars will always try to creep up on the inside as you're turning.

"They sometimes don't appreciate how big and bulky a PMV is and what it could do to a normal car."

Once you arrive in location, a guardian angel like Lance Corporal Mark Schure will keep an eye out for threats while you go about your business.

"You have to stay on the ball all the time, it's that moment of complacency where things can go wrong," Lance Corporal Schure said.

"You can do a four-hour stint and nothing happens, but you have to make sure you're always ready to deal with anything."

The guardian angels will be with you when you're working outside at an Afghan base or in a meeting.

"You're constantly scanning the room," Lance Corporal Schure said.

"You have a plan if you have to get out of a building quickly.

"You're thinking about where your mentor is, how you would best grab him, and different scenarios.

"Apart from windows, you're also keeping an eye on apertures like gaps in the walls."

Major Sam Thackray, the Officer Commanding FPE-8, said the professional standard of his team was well known among the Coalition partners.

"We're often approached by other nations to get support from our team," he said.

"The reputation of the Australian Force Protection Element over here is exceptional.

"It's due to the quality of the training we receive in Australia and our outstanding junior leadership."

The Bushmasters also proved a hit with coalition soldiers who had the chance to ride in one.

"They say they're comfortable and the professionalism of the crews impresses them as well," Major Thackray said.

ADF has almost 1800 personnel in the Middle East.

# AP-3C Orion

## HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT RESTORATION SOCIETY COUP

On December 12, 2016, the Lockheed AP-3C Orion A9-753 was delivered to HARS Headquarters at Albion Park, New South Wales, Australia.

Almost 11 months later and, with a mountain of paperwork signed and red tape cut through, the 'keys' to the aircraft were formally handed over at a well-attended ceremony at the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society Museum on 3 November 2017.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies flew in from Canberra on a RAAF VIP Fleet CL-604 Challenger aircraft to do the honours.

President and Chief Pilot of HARS Bob De La Hunty was joined by Mayor of Shellharbour Marianne

Saliba and Aboriginal Elder Aunty Lindy for the official signing and hand-over ceremony.

It was mentioned a couple of times at the handover ceremony [unless I misheard] that the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society made it's own history that day by becoming the first civilian aircraft museum in the world to take ownership of a military aircraft while the type was still in service. This was disputed by one eagle-eyed CONTACT fan – see below.

Orions first entered RAAF service in 1968 as the P-3B model, with the P-3C variant introduced in 1978.

Following several modification projects, the significantly upgraded current AP-3C Orions were introduced into service in 2002.

The AP-3C in service is fitted with a variety of sensors, including digital multi-mode radar, electronic support measures, electro-optics detectors (infra-red and visual), magnetic anomaly detectors, friend-or-foe identification systems and acoustic detectors – all of which were removed before delivery to HARS.

In 2012 the AP-3C Orion ceased 10 years of operational service in the Middle East – the HARS airframe, A9-753, among the aircraft rotated

through the theatre – completing 2400 missions with more than 3500 personnel deployed throughout the period.

The AP-3C Orion is in the process of a graduated draw down to retirement with the final aircraft planned withdrawal date in 2021.

The AP-3C will be replaced by the P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton – with four Poseidons already delivered to the RAAF and a fifth expected before the end of this year.

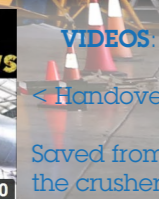
The RAAF has already ordered eight MQ-4C Tritons, with the first aircraft to be delivered soon, with all eight aircraft fully operational by 2021.

**AHEM!!!**

I'm afraid I must dispute the claim about it being the "first civilian aircraft museum in the world to take ownership of a military aircraft while the type is still in service". Countless Canadair CT-133 Silver Stars were in civilian ownership, as both flyable and static display aircraft, long before the Canadian Armed Forces finally retired the type. The Collings Foundation started flying their F-4D Phantom II well before the last F-4 left USAF service, and Phantoms remain in service in South Korea, Japan, Iran and others.

However, the fact that HARS has been reported as saying they hope to operate A9-753 as a flyable warbird while the RAAF continues to fly active-service Orions is certainly noteworthy.

Jeff, via CONTACT web-site comments



# WAR ANIMAL



Top left: WWI re-enactor with Nigel Allsopp. Above left: Dr Brendan Nelson, Dr Harry Cooper, Pozieres Mayor Bernard Delattre, Major Kendall Crocker, Mr and Mrs Barry Gracey and Nigel Allsopp. Right: WWI re-enactors. Far right: 'Emerging Spirit' sculpted by Susan Bahary.

## A new memorial to the memory of war animals was dedicated at Pozieres, France, this year.

On 21 July, in cooperation with the people of Pozieres, the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) proudly dedicated the first war-animal memorial on the Western Front, to recognise all animals from all nations that were involved in the Great War.

It is estimated that more than 9,000,000 serving animals perished or were wounded throughout the Great War and Pozieres – the scene of some of the most bitter and costly fighting for Australian troops, which was also a place of untold losses in animal lives.

The new memorial at Pozieres was conceived and designed by AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp.

"We should never forget that not only two-legged but four-legged diggers served our nation and many others, and continue to do so today," Mr Allsopp said.

"These animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership with humans, and they will now be honoured with this beautiful new memorial and rose garden."

Dedicated to all animals regardless of which side they served on is reflected in a wooden sign at the approach that reads, 'WWI War Animal Memorial'.

To the left of this entrance is a statue of St Francis – patron saint of animals – beneath which is a stone of remembrance for the Australian Army Veterinary Corps.

Either side of Saint Francis are two standard roses – one called Rosie the other Sniff – named on behalf of Dr Harry Cooper's and Dr Brendan Nelson's favourite dogs.

Proceeding towards the main centre monument to the left and right are the first of four cast-iron seats – this first two called 'Autumn Leaves'.

Next on the left is the New Zealand War Animal Memorial – and, directly opposite, the war animal memorial for all nations.

A second pair of seats – called the 'Tree of Life' – precede the main monument, dedicated to Australian War animals.

Called 'Emerging Spirit', the main sculpture features a horse's head and neck within whose mane can be seen a mule, donkey, pigeon and dog – all part of the war-animal story.



Internationally renowned Artist Susan Bahary produced the two main sculptures and Mr Allsopp thanked her for "bringing the story and life into the memorial that the war animals deserve".

"Flanking the main sculpture are two more rose standards, named Bernard and Barry in honour of Pozieres Mayor Bernard Delattre and Barry Garcey, Chevalier de Légion d'Honneur, without whose support and generosity the memorial would not have had a home," Mr Allsopp said.

"All three plinths are surrounded by purple war animal roses – The Charles de Gaulle rose – duplicates of which can be bought in Australia from Treloar Roses."

Several hundred people attended the memorial dedication including official representatives from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, India, the USA and Canada, as well as Mayor Delattre, Mr Garcey, local townspeople, Australian War Memorial Director Brendan Nelson, celebrity vet Dr Cooper and a number of Australian tourists lucky enough to encounter the opening while coincidentally touring the battlefields of the Somme.

During the dedication ceremony, Dr Nelson and Dr Cooper told touching stories of war victims both human and animal, invoking many tears. ADF veterinarian Major Kendall Crocker talked of the people who cared for and looked after the war animals – the various Veterinary Corps who saved many thousands of lives, especially of horses.

Mr Allsopp said a war-animal memorial could not have been opened without animals being present.

"I would like to thank the Royal Army Veterinary Corps who sent 20 military working dogs and their handlers to the event.

"They even loaned a military working dog to ADF dog handler Corporal Young who was there too.

"Ian Grey, Vice President of Redland RSL, had made several contacts that resulted in local horses and donkeys also being on parade and many re-enactors and visitors brought their pets along."

Mr Allsopp said there were many people who made the memorial dedication possible and he humbly thanked all for their time, passion and commitment.

"Together we have made a lasting memorial to honour the winged and four-legged soldiers of World War 1."

# A mere wallet



# filled with

**It was just an empty wallet, but for New Zealand soldier Private Hayden Cullen, no price could be put on reuniting it with the family of the German officer who saved his great grandfather's life in WWI.**

It would also bring a sense of closure on a remarkable battlefield story.

Private Cullen, a member of the New Zealand Army Band with the NZDF contingent in Belgium to commemorate the Battle of Passchendaele centenary on 12 October, was under no illusion about the enormity of the task.

"I know it's a long shot but if one miracle can happen – why can't another?"

In November 1918 Private Ray Cullen was serving in the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps during the liberation of the French township of Le Quesnoy, which had been in German hands since 1914.

According to letters he sent home, Private Cullen was badly wounded during a German artillery barrage and was saved, miraculously, when a German officer and his men, who were coming to surrender, stumbled across him and took him with them to Allied lines.

Before being marched off to captivity, the German officer is said to have given his wallet to Private Cullen, which he took back to the family farm outside Te Awamutu after the war.

Over the years, the family has attempted to identify the family of the wallet's owner, but to no avail.

"They're pinning their hopes on me now, so in a last-ditch effort I've brought the wallet back to Europe," Private Cullen said.

"You never know who you might meet over here – even 99 years later!

"Failing that, I'm hoping the power of the media and social media will connect our family with the family of the German officer – Herr H. Held, of Hannover.

"We owe them a great deal for what their ancestor did for ours."

And so it happened – one German news site based in Hanover saw this story on the CONTACT web site and contacted us, believing they had found the German. Two other news outlets also had their journalists working the case.

In the end, the Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper broke the news that the German officer was Heinrich Held, from Eppensen in Lower Saxony, and they had located and spoken to his great-niece, Anja Rabe, now 74.

Mrs Rabe lives in a small town not far from Mr Held's birthplace and was overjoyed to hear about her connection with Private Cullen and his family and said she would love the opportunity to meet.

Private Cullen was blown away.

"I'm guessing this is the power of media and the reach of social media," he said.

"It has achieved something in 10 days that our family have been unable to achieve in 99 years."



Private Hayden Cullen

# family history



Anja Rabe and her husband Wilhelm



The only known photo of Heinrich Held (second from left) with his family, in 1911, aged 13.

However, the discovery of Heinrich Held's family has been bitter-sweet.

Mr Held died in 1929, without marrying and without children, and Mrs Rabe, while married, does not have children either.

"I'm the last in my family line," she said.

"I never knew much about Heinrich. He died before I was born and, for whatever reason, my mother never talked of him – and I regret not asking."

Even more disappointing was that when her grandmother (Mr Held's sister, above right) died, the

house was cleaned out and most family photos and details of Mr Held's military record were lost.

But for now, Private Cullen and his family are just delighted to be able to finally put a name, a family and a town to the wallet – until next year.

"My aunt is travelling to Le Quesnoy next November to celebrate the centenary of the liberation of the town by the New Zealand Division," Private Cullen said.

"She'll definitely be making a side trip to a small town in Germany to give thanks to a family for effectively saving ours."



# CONTACT

## ● PATRON ARMY

### CONTACT Private

As a CONTACT Private you are doing your duty, happy in the knowledge you are contributing to the long-term survival of your favourite magazine. You will receive various little rewards over time (we don't want to spoil you).

We currently have 5 CONTACT Privates

### CONTACT Sergeant

As a CONTACT Sergeant, you are obviously an outstanding human being, a cut above the rest, and deserve great rewards – a CONTACT pen upon enlistment + a free back issue of CONTACT magazine from our archives four times per year + your name listed here.

**David Read** is our first CONTACT Sergeant and is the dedicated CONTACT fan who encouraged us to start this [Patreon campaign](#).

### CONTACT Lieutenant

CONTACT Lieutenants will receive a CONTACT pen + a CONTACT magazine back issue 12 times per year + your name listed here.

Recruiting now

### CONTACT Major

CONTACT Majors get a CONTACT pen + company name and logo listed and linked on our web site.

Recruiting now

### CONTACT Corporal

As a CONTACT Corporal you are a leader in your field and very happy knowing that you are contributing to the long-term survival of your favourite magazine. To help you with the admin that comes with leadership, we'll send you a CONTACT pen.

We currently have 1 CONTACT Corporal

### CONTACT Warrant Officer

As a CONTACT Warrant Officer, you are god-like and will receive the following sacrifices – CONTACT pen on enlistment + four free CONTACT magazine back issues per year + a copy of CONTACT 2015 Yearbook on the first anniversary of your enlistment + a copy of CONTACT 2016 Yearbook on the second anniversary of your enlistment + your name listed here.

Recruiting now

### CONTACT Captain

CONTACT Captains get a CONTACT pen + company name and logo listed and hyperlinked here.

**David Tatler** is our first CONTACT Captain and, incredibly, is not looking for advertiser rewards. *"I'm doing this as an interested citizen. Both my brothers were Nasho's (John, my eldest brother, did Vietnam) and my dad served in the Royal Navy during WW2. Keep up the great work."*

### CONTACT Lieutenant Colonel

CONTACT pen + name listed here + company logo listed and linked on our web site + footer advertisement on every post on CONTACT web site.

Recruiting now

All CONTACT Patrons – in fact, only our CONTACT Patrons – can now access our **Weapons of the ADF** quick reference guide, formatted to print back-to-back on plain A4 paper – very convenient for fitting into your viewee twee. Download it via the third post on our Patreon page, [here](#)

*We thank all our Patrons most sincerely!*  


**Patreon** is a platform where fans can support what we do – kind of like an ongoing 'kick-starter' or 'go-fund-me' for creators. In return, **CONTACT** will continue to deliver what we already deliver + extra rewards exclusive to Patrons – from a simple thank you to "CONTACT Privates" – right up to serious advertising packages, with built-in savings, in the officer ranks.

If you love **CONTACT** and want it to stick around – even get back to printing magazines (on actual paper) again – then please consider joining the **CONTACT Patron Army**. While your **DFSW** – **D**irect **F**inancial **S**upport for our **W**ork – will be greatly appreciated, the implied vote of confidence in your patronage will also be worth a lot to us.

Your patronage will help sustain **CONTACT** long term and help us deliver even more value to you.

Find more details about ranks and rewards at [www.patreon.com/contactmagazine](http://www.patreon.com/contactmagazine)

## DFSW – DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

### CONTACT Chief of the General Staff There can be only one – RECRUITING NOW

Company name and logo here and on web + sidebar and footer ads on every post on web site + banner ad in newsletter + double-page ad in CONTACT magazine + strip ad on front cover of CONTACT magazine.

### CONTACT Lieutenant General Limit of 3 at this rank – RECRUITING NOW

Company name and logo here and on web + sidebar and footer ads on every post on web site + double-page ad in CONTACT magazine + banner ad in newsletter.

### CONTACT Major General Limit of 9 at this rank – RECRUITING NOW

Company name and logo listed here and on web site + sidebar ad on every post on web site + double-page ad in CONTACT magazine.

## NEW ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

### CONTACT Brigadier Limit of 18 at this rank – RECRUITING NOW

Company name and logo listed here and on our web site + sidebar advertisement on every post on web site + full-page ad in CONTACT magazine.

## Pay via Patreon and \$ave

### CONTACT Colonel RECRUITING NOW

Company name and logo listed here and on our web site + footer advertisement on every post on web site + half-page ad in CONTACT magazine.

There are real opportunities here for serious advertisers – not only to save on 'normal advertising' costs, but also to benefit from the significant intrinsic value in being seen and hailed as a CONTACT Patron. Find details [here](#) or contact Brian Hartigan on 0408 496 664 or email [advertising@militarycontact.com](mailto:advertising@militarycontact.com)

## LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

In the first two parts of this series I looked at the considerations for beginning running and then how to structure a basic program for distances up to 5 or 10km. In this final instalment I want to cover some further advice for running longer distances and for staying healthy in the long term.

### Beyond 10k

If you are a heavier athlete you may still perform relatively well at distances of up to 5 or even 10km without suffering too much loss of strength or muscle mass.

However, once you start to contemplate distances longer than 10km you must be aware that you will start to see conflict between your strength and endurance training. This occurs because of structural and physiological factors as well as the need to prioritise limited training and recovery time.

A basic law of fitness and skill development is the law of diminishing returns. Put simply, early progress comes with a small investment in training time – but, as you improve, each increment of improvement requires disproportionately larger inputs of time and effort. It may take one extra 15 minute session per week to reduce your 2.4km time from 14 to 12 minutes but the jump from 12 to 10 minutes may be an hour and from 10 to eight minutes may require four or more extra hours of training per week.

If you are already spending several hours a week on strength training, the additional hours of running and conditioning (and the associated recovery cost) required to increase your capacity from 5km to say half marathon distance will start to reduce your ability to do strength training.

As a personal example, I find it impossible to complete an effective running session 24 hours before or after a heavy squat session, as the two sessions interfere with each other and whichever is performed second suffers horribly.

Therefore, if you are determined to run a longer distance, such as a half marathon, or you need to be able to run 12 to 15km distances as part of SF training, for example, then you just need to accept that you are not going to be winning any powerlifting competitions at the same time.



### Training for long haul

So, let's say that for whatever reason you have decided that you want to run a 21km half or, in a fit of insanity, a 42km marathon. So far my advice on training has been to include training at various paces and distances, including runs that are longer than your chosen 'race' distance.

This is fine when we are talking about 'race' distances of 2.4km, 5km or even 10km, because a 'long' training run would be 4, 8 or 12-15km.

With anything of half marathon distance or further, however, you run into some big problems.

Recovering from a marathon can take a week or more, so it is simply not practical to run 50+km in training!

Fortunately, it is not necessary to run ultra-long distances to prepare for a half or full marathon. Most of your runs can be completed as intervals from 800 to 1600m, fast paced runs of 5 to 10km and a once-weekly long run starting at 10km and working up to 28 or 30km.

As with all training programs, I recommend four to five weeks of increasing volume followed by a back-off week (but not complete rest).

A typical long-run progression might be from 12 up to 20km over five weeks followed by a week where the longest run is 8km and recommencing the build up from 16 to 24km then 20 to 28km over successive cycles.

One final point is that at around the 30km mark, it is common to experience a sharp drop in energy known as "hitting the wall" where your body's stores of carbs are depleted.

The aim of at least one long run in your program should be to get to this point so you can experience the sensation and understand when you may need to consume an energy gel or additional sports drink.

### Training for long term

Ultimately, if you decide you want to keep on running in the long term there are going to be two key drivers of your success.

The first is attention to recovery and having a smart training plan that allows for rest and for niggling injuries to heal.

Developing a relationship with a good sports physio and a remedial massage therapist is an investment in the longevity of your athletic career for anyone, but increases in proportion to the pounding you receive as a heavier runner.

The second driver is motivation. You will only stick with things that are hard if you have a good reason to do so. That reason can be external, such as a job requirement, or it can be an internal desire to master running.

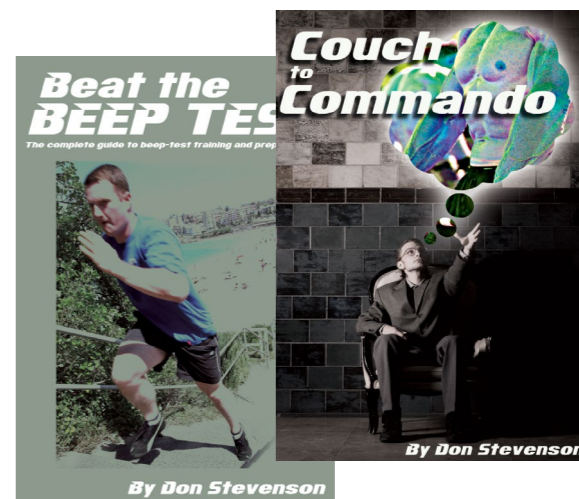
When I set out to improve my running I had contemplated training for a half marathon but, even though I was able to stick with the training and was seeing progress, I have to admit that I just don't love running and it was severely limiting my progress in my true fitness love – powerlifting.

THE END!



## MILITARY FITNESS

TWO POPULAR FITNESS E-BOOKS BY DON STEVENSON AVAILABLE FROM THE MILITARY FITNESS PAGE ON OUR WEB SITE



With 20% of proceeds donated to Soldier On

*These are honest, real-world observations of a watch I bought from my own hard-earned coin. This watch was definitely not a freebie and I am not being paid for these reviews.*

**AN ONGOING PRODUCT REVIEW**

# GARMIN FENIX® 5X

As a device for developing military fitness the Fenix 5X is a fantastic choice.

Some of the highlights that I tested include the ability to step out the front door and within a minute or so have the watch generate a round trip running route to fit my chosen distance.

Once you start running the watch displays a map and provides visual directions as well as buzzes as you approach turns to warn you to check the watch and see which way to go.

While on the run, you can scroll through screens that show your heart rate, running pace, time and other data fields, all of which are customisable through the watch menus and via downloadable apps from the Garmin store.

At the end of the run it notes your personal bests for speed and distance and gives you a measure of the effectiveness of your training session on your aerobic and anaerobic fitness.

It also advises on how long to rest before another hard session.

After a series of outdoor runs the watch automatically begins to measure your physical fitness with approximations of VO2max and tells you between workouts if your condition is improving, maintaining or declining, so you can schedule workouts appropriately.

While these measures are not exact, they do provide pretty good guidance, and it is like having a coach with you all the time!

The watch has wrist-based heart rate, but for the most accurate heart-rate tracking and for heart-rate variability measurements (a key indicator of training stress) it also pairs with Garmin and Polar chest straps.

The watch has preloaded profiles for a huge number of common fitness activities from running and hiking to indoor rowing and cycling as well as the option to make custom profiles to display the info you want during a session.

Day-to-day the watch tracks heart rate, steps, flights of stairs climbed, tracks your



sleep (if you wear it at night) and can receive notifications from your phone, which I thought was silly until I realised it allowed me to read text messages and filter notifications without constantly having to pull out my phone or break the law while driving.

So, that's my comprehensive review of the Garmin Fenix 5X. It's a great watch and a great training tool – and I'm pleased with my purchase.

This has been my open and honest assessment of a watch I bought for personal use – I was not paid or sponsored to write this.

**austax**  
(QLD) PTY LTD | PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## INCOME TAX RETURNS NATIONWIDE

SPECIALISING IN DEFENCE  
PERSONNEL INCOME TAX  
RETURNS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

CALL US TODAY FOR  
expert assistance with all your  
accounting & taxation needs.

**1300 36 65 29**

4/438 SAMFORD ROAD, GAYTHORNE QLD 4051  
WWW.AUSTAXQLD.COM.AU

**INFORCE.**

**APL Compact**  
Weapon Light

Designed from inception  
for compact service pistols



Enquire now;

**360DEFENCE**  
.COM.AU

**20% OFF**  
On purchases over \$100  
Use Promo code **CONTACT20**



# Q STORE

## BOLT GETS THE JOB DONE



The Bolt 12 from High Range Outdoors is a small but practical pack.

Sized at 12 litres, it comfortably fits the short 3L hydration bladders and daily essentials, be it for a range day or direct assault.

Using the included straps, the Bolt 12 can be attached to a field pack to serve as a grab bag.

Constructed from premium materials and top-class Australian workmanship, the Bolt consists of 500 denier Cordura fabric inside and out, beefy #10 YKK zip for the primary opening and heavy-duty buckles –and, backed by a lifetime warranty on workmanship, Bolt will get the done.

Features include adjustable shoulder straps, hydration sleeve, hydration port, removable frame sheet, internal and external zip pocket, side-sleeve pockets and molle/pals on the front and sides to increase capacity.

For a limited time get 20% off with promo code [contact20](http://contact20) at [www.highrangeoutdoors.com.au](http://www.highrangeoutdoors.com.au)

## UF PRO IN OZ

Europe's leading tactical and combat uniform manufacturer, UF Pro, is coming to Australia this summer.

Designed by and for professional users, UF Pro brings leading technical fabrics and design together in their wholly owned European factory, to make the most functional and comfortable clothing in the industry.

Suiting everyone from those who just like the look to the tactical team members to team leaders, UF Pro will soon become the Aussie professionals' first choice.

And, with the introduction of their new Urban Line, undercover police work is covered too.

Starting with a soft-launch of their technical summer shorts and t-shirt, the UF Pro range will grow to include trousers and jackets from the P-40 classic up to the Striker Gen II Combat Uniform for law-enforcement and special-forces customers.



UF Pro will be distributed in Australia by Premier Defence Agencies [www.premierdefence.com.au](http://www.premierdefence.com.au)  
See the full range at [www.ufpro.si](http://www.ufpro.si)

# 25 FOR 25 FOR 25 SALE

ORDER HERE

CONTACT's own viewee-twoee-sized **Weapons of the ADF** pocket guide has proved very popular, whether for personal use/edification or as a gift for that special someone who's just mad about CONTACT, the ADF and/or weapons.

Now, and only for as long as stocks last, we have 25 40-page viewee twoees, pre-loaded with Part 1 and Part 2 of our **Weapons of the ADF** pocket guide on sale for \$25 including postage (normally \$34).

And if you order straight away, you have a good chance of receiving them in time to hand out as Christmas pressies.

So – that's 25 viewee twoees for \$25 each in time for the 25<sup>th</sup> – or, as the headline says, 25 for 25 for 25 sale.

This 40-page viewee-twoee with sturdy green PVC covers contains enough transparent plastic sleeves to load the CONTACT Weapons of the ADF Part 1 and Part 2 – and still have room for other important field notes.

If you want to print your own copies of our ADF Weapons' Guides yourself, you can download [Part 1](#) here and [Part 2](#) here (both free).

But, if you need a viewee twoee to put them in, that will cost you \$15 from our shop (\$16 almost everywhere else) + \$9 postage = \$24.

Our **Weapons of the ADF** pocket guide is designed to print on 6x4 glossy photo paper – the perfect size for inserting into a viewee twoee.

However, while a 6x4 photo doesn't feel particularly 'fat', 52 of them loaded together into a viewee twoee certainly does.

So, for that reason, we've designed a third version of our **Weapons of the ADF** pocket guide that combines both parts and easily prints on plain A4 paper, double sided (which we're using from now on).

Not only is the resulting double-loaded viewee twoee much 'skinnier', but printing on A4 plain paper is much more convenient on most home printers.

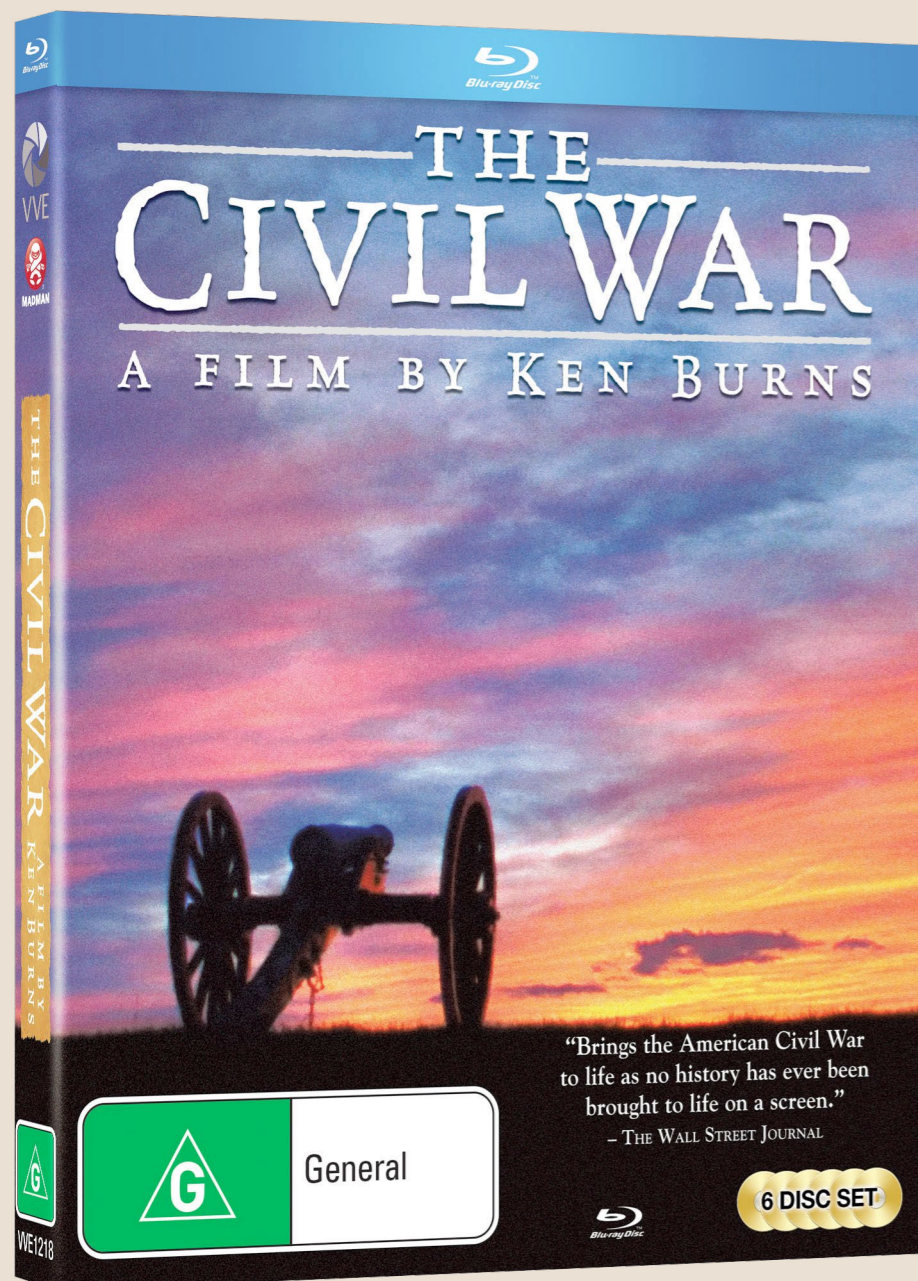
One snag though, our specially designed A4 back-to-back **Weapons of the ADF** pocket guide is only available (free) to members of the [CONTACT Patron Army](#).



**ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:** Q Store is a bonus advertising opportunity open to all 'current advertisers' to highlight individual products in Australia's best boots-on-the-ground military magazine. CONTACT is sent to more than 10,000+ registered email subscribers four times per year, on the first of March, June, September and December – so put a reminder in your diary for 60 days ahead of each issue to remind yourself to submit an entry. For details, write to [editor@militarycontact.com](mailto:editor@militarycontact.com)

# BACK DOCK GIVEAWAYS

Four copies to be won



Ken Burns' Emmy Award-winning documentary **The Civil War** brings to life America's most destructive – and defining – conflict.

The Civil War is the saga of celebrated generals and ordinary soldiers, a heroic and transcendent president and a country that had to divide itself in two in order to become one.

This original Emmy® Award-winning nine-part series is now digitally restored to archive the highest definition for optimal picture quality.

This six-disc Blu-ray set includes more than two hours of new bonus materials including Making the Civil War: 25 Years Later, Complete High Definition Shelby Foote Interviews, Restoring The Civil War, Additional Interviews, and more.

"Brings the American Civil War to life as no history has ever been brought to life on a screen."  
— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Tell us in 25 words or less why we should pick you to be one of four lucky winners of this excellent box set. To be eligible, you must include your postal address (and keep your answer to 25 words or less). **COMPETITION CLOSSES AT 5PM ON 10 DECEMBER 2017.** Send entries to [editor@militarycontact.com](mailto:editor@militarycontact.com). No guarantees, but we will try to deliver the prizes before Christmas.



**SOLDIER ON**  
HELPING OUR  
WOUNDED  
WARRIORS



**SOLDIER ON** IS ABOUT AUSTRALIANS COMING TOGETHER TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR WOUNDED. IT'S ABOUT TELLING OUR DIGGERS THAT WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE THEIR BACKS; THAT WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE COME HOME, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT HAVE DIED. IT'S ABOUT GIVING THE WOUNDED THE DIGNITY THEY DESERVE AND THE CHANCE TO DO AND BE WHATEVER THEY CHOOSE.

**SOLDIER ON** IS ABOUT THE ANZAC SPIRIT, AND MATESHIP AND ALL AUSTRALIANS KEEPING THEIR PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS.



**INSPIRE, ENHANCE AND EMPOWER**

Our wounded have done their part for Australia, they have given their best. Thousands have wounds, some you can see and some you can't. It is now Australia's turn to look after them, please give generously and make a difference in our wounded warriors lives.



IF YOU ENJOY THIS GREAT FREE E-MAGAZINE PLEASE

**TELL YOUR**

**FRIENDS**

TO SUBSCRIBE FREE VIA  
**AUSSIECOMBAT.COM**

... AND WE'LL SEND THEM THESE  
**TWO FREE VIEWEE TWOOE-SIZED ADF  
WEAPONS GUIDES BY RETURN EMAIL**



If you haven't got a copy of both our free viewee-twoee-sized "Weapons of the ADF" printable .pdfs yet, you can download them free from - [www.contactairlandandsea.com/2016/02/03/viewee-twoee/](http://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2016/02/03/viewee-twoee/)



### Private Harold William Wilson Riddell DCM 6<sup>th</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery

# BRAVE BOMBER

Harry Riddell's eyes were darting around the crowd, ever conscious of the slightest movement. He indicated every gesture, wink, sway of the hand and nod to the older man standing beside him. To miss something would cost him dearly – it was his livelihood and reputation at stake. All of a sudden it was down to two, for they were the keenest of the buyers. "Going Once.....Twice...Sold!" "Good spotting on that last bloke Harry, I nearly missed him," the auctioneer said, turning to his young clerk. "I'll shout you a beer for that." Harry looked at the old man and winked. "You're on" he eagerly replied

Harry Riddell was born in the central Victorian hamlet of Violet Town, on 23 July 1890<sup>1</sup>. At an early age his family moved to the tiny seaside community of Port Fairy. He attended the Port Fairy State School, where his father was the local schoolmaster. Harry suffered from a mild case of stuttering, especially when he got excited. He was taunted by some of the other kids but rest assured, the lad could handle himself pretty well when push came to shove. He finished his schooling at Warrambool Academy, where he had also undertaken compulsory military training with the school's cadet unit<sup>1</sup>.

On leaving school, he knocked about in a few jobs, until he was able to secure a position as an auctioneer's clerk with a local company. He relished the excitement of the sale yard. The speed of the bidding, the rivalry and the cutthroat manoeuvring of the clients, all bent on securing stock at the best price, had his blood to near boiling point.

In the latter half of 1914 he read of the growing concerns in Europe. It seemed to him that the countries of the civilised world were hell bent on tearing each other's throats out.

When it came, the flurry of war fever spread across Australia like wildfire. The outposts of the empire rallied to the cause of freedom. In the words of the Australian Prime Minister, "Australia would defend the motherland to the last man and the last shilling"<sup>2</sup>.

Harry presented himself for enlistment in the AIF on 13 July 1915. "Do you tttthink my ssstutter will matter sergeant?" Harry nervously asked. "Not unless you plan to talk the enemy to death, son!" the sergeant jokingly replied.

After being sworn in, Harry entered the AIF Training Camp at Broadmeadows. He was first allocated to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Training Company, where he was instructed in the basic arts of soldiering. Later he was allocated as a reinforcement to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division's 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion<sup>1</sup>.

The battalion had embarked some months earlier and was already in action on Gallipoli but only after their troopship, the Southland, was torpedoed<sup>3</sup> from under them on their way to ANZAC Cove.

Embarking in Melbourne, Harry sailed for Egypt on the Osterley on 7 October 1915<sup>4</sup>. He was keen to round out his training as soon as possible and join his battalion in battle against the Turk.

On his arrival in Egypt, Harry found that his plans and that of the Army were somewhat different. Instead of going straight into action, he was kept busy at the firing range, standing guard duty and odd jobbing around Mena Camp, south of Cairo.

On local leave in Cairo, Harry spoke to his mate over a beer. "Wwhat do you reckon about this mate? I thought that ww'e'd be in action for sure by now. They must need every bloke that can hold a rifle on Gggallipoli and we're sitting on our arses here!"

"Look Harry, the brass know what they're doing. If they need us they know where to find us," his mate replied. "Now make yourself useful and get us another one of these Gypo beers."

Unbeknown to the pair, the brass had been planning the withdrawal of the ANZAC forces from Gallipoli. Their view was, no more of this back door to Germany nonsense, they planned to go through the front door – France. The only problem was that about a million Germans were between them and Berlin.

Harry and his mates were hard at work, preparing the new AIF camp close to the Suez Canal at Tel el Kebir. The 'Furphy' was that the AIF divisions returning from Gallipoli were to occupy the camp in the next few weeks.

On Valentines Day 1916, Harry Riddell was finally taken on strength with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion<sup>1</sup>.

Following its withdrawal from ANZAC, the AIF went through a radical re-organisation. Plans were made for the formation of two new divisions, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division was being formed and trained back in Australia.



Australian soldiers with Stokes Mortar at Bullecourt, 8 May 1917. The gun is at the left of the picture covered by a German groundsheet. The soldiers are Private A A McTaggart and Private ER Carey, both members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. AWM photo E00457.

Calls went out throughout the units for volunteers to form the nucleus of new units to fight in France. Artillerymen, medics, pioneers and mortarmen were all needed and eager Diggers stepped forward to fill the ranks.

When the call went out for mortarmen, Harry thought about it for a minute and stepped forward. He was transferred on temporary duty to the 6<sup>th</sup> Light Trench Mortar Battery, where he and his mates were introduced to the new and deadly Stokes mortar.

There was no time to waste, the ANZAC forces were sorely needed in France, so the training came down hard and fast – and Harry loved it. It was just like the old sale yards, intricate attention to detail, rapid exact calculations and a great mixture of hard work. It was everything he had hoped for. Now all he wanted to do was to put it to practice.

Embarkation orders came down in mid March and the unit moved to board the waiting troopships at Alexandria. As the ship pulled away from the wharf, Harry knew his next stop was France and, finally, the front.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Battery took its turn in the 'Nursery Sector'<sup>5</sup> and fired a few missions from their mortar tubes, just to get them used to the real thing.

Harry's permanent transfer to the unit was finalised on 15 April 1916 – he was now a mortarmen, in every sense of the word.

The 6<sup>th</sup>'s first major action was scheduled for July 1916. The Diggers were briefed on every detail of the action and, as they walked away, one bloke turned to Harry and asked, "What's the name of that village we're going to take?"

"I tttthink the boss called it Pozieres or something like tttthat?" Harry replied.

It wasn't the walkover they expected. In fact, it was worse than any sane man could imagine. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions each took their turn in the meat mincer, on the Pozieres front line.

It was now the evening of 4 August and a major assault was planned for the next morning against the Pozieres Heights. As the infantry units manoeuvred to their jumping off points, the men of the supporting artillery and mortar units were firing, firstly to register targets for the main assault and secondly to keep the Hun guns busy, to allow our infantry to move up.

Harry's blokes had worked hard to get the ammo ready for the following morning's attack. They had prepared more than 380, 3-inch rounds for their mortar pit alone. They paid particular attention to each and every round. As they removed the safety wire, they carefully stacked the rounds in the dugout ammunition shelter.

As they placed the last round, the sergeant gave the order for the men to get some sleep while they had the chance. "Harry, you've got first go on picket. Wake the next bloke in two hours," the sergeant said. Harry picked up his rifle and slammed a round into the breech, took his place on the rim of the mortar pit and stared out into the inky darkness.

He closed his eyes for a second and woke with a start as he heard a faint whizzing sound. At first he thought he was dreaming, but the sound continued. Then his mind shocked into gear – it's a round fusing<sup>6</sup>.

"Ssssstand To – Ssssstand To" he yelled as he charged into the ammo shelter. It was like looking for a needle in a haystack, but he knew the consequences if the round detonated. The whole lot would go up, destroying everything in a 300 metre radius.

His mates milled around the front of the bay, all wanting to see the reason for being woken. Harry started to throw rounds to the side, in a vain attempt to find the round responsible and then he had it, the tell-tailed hint of white smoke coming from the fuse giving it away.

"As he ran out from the bay, Harry yelled to his mates – "Get out of the way – get out of the way – it's going to blow!"

# CLOSE BUT NOT CLOSE ENOUGH

## Australians recommended for the VC but not awarded



H06779 Portrait of Private H. Riddell, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery. Courtesy Australian War Memorial



### NOTES:

1. National Archives of Australia: B2445, WWI Service Records, 2371, PTE H.W.W. Riddell DCM.
2. Contained in a speech by Australian Prime Minister Andrew Fisher, 1914.
3. Southland was torpedoed by the German submarine UB14, on 2 September 1915.
4. AWM 8, Unit Embarkation Nominal Rolls, 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion AIF, 1914-1918 War.
5. The 'Nursery Sector' was a quiet part of the front line near Armentieres. It was used by both sides as a battle inoculation area for newly arrived units and formations.
6. Fusing is where a round has somehow commenced its arming action and is in danger of detonating.
7. AWM 28, Recommendation for the Victoria Cross, 2371 PTE H.W.W. Riddell, 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Trench Mortar Battery (21<sup>st</sup> Battalion).

The men in the pit scurried in all directions as they realised the seriousness of the situation.

Harry ran straight at the parapet with the bomb and, as he reached the wall, threw it over the side. Diving to the ground, Harry felt the earth shudder and an ear splitting explosion rang in his ears, as the round exploded in mid air.

Rushing back into pit, the Diggers searched for their mate. They feared the worst as they looked through the smoke. Then they saw Harry, holding his ears as he emerged from the smoke.

As they crowded around their reluctant hero, they slapped his back, hugged him and shook his hand all at once. Just as Harry was handed a steaming mug of tea, the Officer Commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> rushed into the pit. Shaking Harry's hand the officer said, "Deserves more than that mate, we would have been stuffed if this lot went up".

Due to Harry's heroic actions, he not only saved the lives of 13 of his mates and saved the battery from destruction, but he'd saved the remaining rounds for use in the coming attack. Private Harry Riddell was recommended for the coveted Victoria Cross<sup>7</sup> but, unfortunately, the recommendation was reduced to the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Harry went on to other battles after Pozieres, Passchendaele, Ypres, Flanders and Broodseinde Ridge, names that were paid for in blood, in tears and in Australian lives.

Then came the worst winter for more than 50 years. For many of the Diggers the end came quickly, either by bullet

or shell. Those who were less fortunate either endured, froze or worse still, drowned, when they fell into a water-filled shell hole. But the Australian's held their part of the line, against all comers.

Fortunately for Harry, he was spared the worst of the winter, when he was struck down with influenza. Evacuated to hospital on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1917, he did not re-join the unit until the following May<sup>1</sup>. He fought throughout 1917 and helped stall the savage German offensive of April 1918, where the allies snatched victory, from the jaws of defeat.

On the morning of 22 July 1918 the battery was deployed outside Villers Bretonneux. Harry sat against the wall of his mortar pit. He and his mates had just finished cleaning the tube and were having a brew of tea to wash down their breakfast. Harry was just about to take a sip from the mug when he heard the scream of an incoming shell. As he went to dive for cover, the round burst on the parapet, directly above him. The red-hot splinters slammed into nearly every part of his body. His mates did all they could to stem the bleeding but it seemed to be coming from everywhere. Stretcher-bearers hurriedly rushed him to the Casualty Clearing Station near Crouy.

He held on for about 24 hours, lingering between life and death, but it was all in vain. Harry Riddell, the young auctioneer clerk with the impatient stutter, died of wounds without regaining consciousness and is today buried in the British War Cemetery outside Crouy.

# LEGACY



Since 1923, Legacy has kept their promise to Australian veterans and taken care of the families of those who have died or given their health as a result of their service



Show your support and donate at:  
[legacy.com.au](http://legacy.com.au)



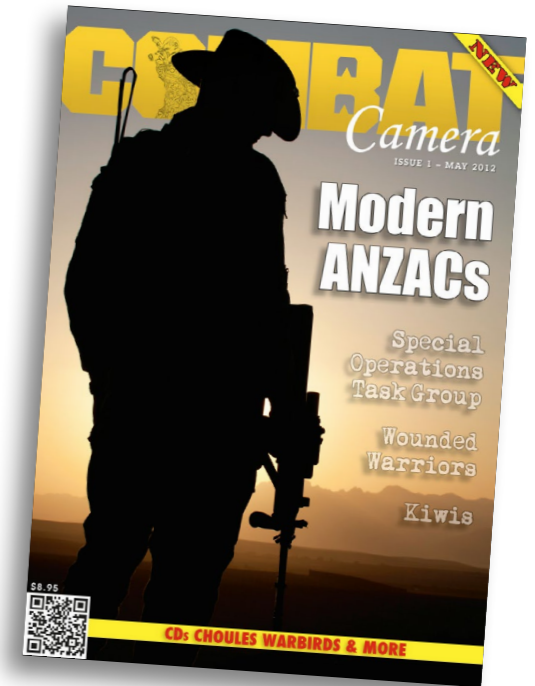
# CONTACT

AIR LAND & SEA

THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



This 'Infantry Special Issue' was produced to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.



COMBAT Camera Issue 01 is available as a print magazine.

That's 42 paper-based magazines to collect and treasure!!!

OFFER

★★★★★

**6**

MAGAZINES

**\$40**

BUY NOW

OFFER

★★★★★

**15**

MAGAZINES

**\$87**

BUY NOW

OFFER

★★★★★

**42**

MAGAZINES

**\$197**

BUY NOW

ALL PRINTED  
MAGAZINES  
\$8 EACH  
or buy in bulk to save \$\$\$

MAIL INCLUDED

# How to get pilots licence before drivers

**Two South Australian Air Force cadets spoke on the 'Service Voices' radio program on Radio Adelaide about their aviation experiences through the AAFC.**

Cadet Corporal Tomasz Kocimski of No 604 Squadron recently went solo in a DG-1000S glider. He had previously completed aviation subjects through the AAFC home training curriculum and then completed the Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA) training syllabus, and a solo assessment flight with 6 Wing's Chief Flying Instructor-Gliding.

This qualified Tomasz for the AAFC First Solo Badge (Gliding).

Earlier this year, Tomasz also privately completed his first solo flight in a powered aircraft, making him eligible to also receive the AAFC First Solo Badge (Powered) – just after his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday!

You can listen to Tomasz's interview with Radio Adelaide's Fiona White, [here](#).

Leading Cadet Tharane Thamodarar spoke about how she received the Bronze badge of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award earlier this year.

She had counted her aviation studies and flying training conducted through the Air Force Cadets towards the skills component of her Award.

Now Tharane, aged 16, is very close to qualifying as a solo glider pilot, and is currently a participant in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Leading Cadet Thamodarar spoke to Service Voices about how she got into flying and her progress to date, how her involvement with Air Force Cadets had opened up a whole new friendship group for her, and the different sort of work pressures and environment they go through as young pilots.

You can listen to Leading Cadet Thamodarar's interview [here](#).

Pilot Officer (AAFC) Dennis Medlow, Chief Flying Instructor-Gliding for 6 Wing, flew with each of these cadets as their instructor in the air.

He joined the cadets on air to talk about the range of flying opportunities the AAFC offers.

He also took the opportunity to present Cadet Corporal Tomasz Kocimski with his AAFC Solo Pilot Badge, 'live on air'.

Hear that presentation [here](#).

'Service Voices' is broadcast on Radio Adelaide 101.5 FM in and around the Adelaide metropolitan area and nationally via the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, with the archived stories also available online.



Leading Cadet Tharane Thamodarar, 604 Squadron, AAFC, prepares for takeoff



**For several years, No 604 Sqn AAFC (Hampstead Barracks) has supported Remembrance Day ceremonies at Modbury High School.**

Students and the Australian Air Force Cadets are all very aware of the significance of Remembrance Day as an occasion to remember and commemorate the fallen from all wars, but the cadets of 604 Squadron also understand that remembrance and commemoration can be very personal things – recalling a family member who served.

No 604 Squadron has also had a long association with the SA & NT Branch of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans' Association Australia Inc.

This year, the squadron arranged for two very special guests to attend the Modbury High School ceremony – Branch President and Vice-President Brian Selby and Don Cameron.

Mr Selby was the guest speaker, and recited the Ode of Remembrance. He had served with the Royal Australian Artillery during the Indonesian Confrontation, at RAAF Base Butterworth, and then in counter-insurgency patrols along the Thai-Malay Border with infantry units of the 17<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Division.

Mr Cameron served as a corporal in three battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment between 1962 and 1968, notably at Terendak Garrison in Malacca, Malaysia, and during the Confrontation in counter-insurgency patrols along the Thai-Malay Border and in Sarawak, Borneo.

In an ANZAC connection, one cadet in this year's Catafalque Party was Leading Cadet Zain Carse, on duty to honour his grandfather Corporal Dave Carse of the New Zealand Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, New Zealand Regiment, who, thankfully, lived to the ripe old age of 90.

## RSL dining in

No 622 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets, supported the RSL Murray Bridge Sub-Branch annual dining-in night in October.

On this occasion, a dedicated team of cadets even had to double up from duties at the Murray Bridge Show to help out their veteran community.

Cadets supported the sub-branch by performing the 'March-in of the Colours' ceremony, acted as food waiting staff and collected the crockery during the course of the night.

Guests from around the region had a chance to talk to the Cadets and learn more about their local AAFC squadron.



LCDT Jacob Lavery, CUO Samuel Mach and CCPL Tegan Thomas.

The experience introduced cadets to the concept of a formal 'dining in' and reinforced knowledge and skills that will be of ongoing benefit to the squadron.

It was also an opportunity to build on the solid relationship between the AAFC and the veteran community.

Commanding Officer No 622 Squadron Flying Officer (AAFC) Paul Lemar said, "Our relationship with the RSL is now the strongest it has ever been".

# THE MULTI-TOOL JUST GOT A **REALITY CHECK**

It's not an act. It's not a fashion statement. A multi-tool should be built for real challenges — and work like the real thing. No matter what.

See the full story at [center-drive.com](http://center-drive.com)

+



NEW

## CENTER-DRIVE™

Experience uncompromising performance through revolutionary design. Innovative Center Axis Tech™ aligns the driver to work like the real thing, yielding maximum torque and rotation. No productivity is sacrificed with the addition of a 30% larger outboard blade and one-thumb opening sliding jaws. 14 carefully chosen tools give you everything you need, and nothing you don't.



UNSTOPPABLE  GERBER®

GERBERGEAR.COM

AVAILABLE AT



PLATATAC