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ISSUE #9



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EDITORIAL

Issue 09 – August 2014

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RIMPAC
5RAR burn it up
Page 48

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Since we stopped printing **CONTACT Air Land & Sea** and made both our publications on-line-only e-magazines, we have won a lot of support from a lot of new fans who had never seen the magazine in newsagents.

Of course, we have also heard much disappointment voiced by fans of the paper-based magazine, and we certainly sympathise with that. We too would love to print magazines again. But the cost is just too high.

At least that's the case under the old model, where we printed 7000 copies and then hoped enough people would buy them to cover our very high production costs.

But, what if we knew exactly how many people wanted a paper-based magazine and only printed enough to cover that demand?

Well, we are already thinking along those lines.

Recently, we were introduced to a t-shirt company teespring.com who take orders first, then print the shirts on a set date – but only if enough shirts are ordered – then send the shirts directly to those who ordered them.

What we need to find is a company that will do similar for magazine printing. Take pre orders and subscriptions, then print just enough to fulfil those orders, then send the printed magazines directly to the customer.

It's technically possible to do this for magazines right now – but the cost is not viable just yet. But, as technology and competition align, we think we can get back into the paper-based-mag-printing business again.

What we need you to do in the mean time is to help us get stronger – help us to recruit more (free) electronic subscribers – via www.combatcamera.com.au

Numbers make us strong. Numbers help us to sell ads. Numbers will help us generate demand for printed mags. And, demand will bring the printed magazine back.

So, tell all your friends and colleagues and share the link on Facebook etc to help us get our numbers up.

Sincerely,

Brian Hartigan
Managing Editor

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UK NEWS BITS

Duty swap

In the waters off the south coast of England in July, HMS *Illustrious* and HMS *Ocean* met and, symbolically passed the baton of succession as the UK's sole helicopter landing platform.

The two ships steamed side by side, in company with the frigate HMS *Lancaster*, to conduct a ceremonial handing over of duties before *Illustrious* peeled away for her final entry into Portsmouth and retirement after 32 years of service.

As the sole member of her class, the *Mighty O* is designed to support amphibious landing operations, delivering troops to the centre of action by helicopter or landing craft.

Launched in 1995, the 21,500 tonne ship has just emerged from a 15-month £65 million refit which saw more than 60 upgrades to her flightdeck, hangar and aviation facilities.

Her engines, propellers, shafts, rudders and stabilisers also got a thorough going over.



LA(PHOT) IGGY ROBERTS
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HMS Ocean (foreground) succeeds HMS Illustrious.

Big Bessy floats free

HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, the UK's largest ever warship, was successfully floated out of the Scottish dock in which she was assembled, on 17 July.

In an operation that started days earlier, the drydock near Edinburgh was flooded to allow the 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier to float and be manoeuvred to a nearby berth.

Teams will now continue to outfit the ship and steadily bring her systems to life for sea trials scheduled for 2016.

The dock she vacated will be used for final assembly of her sister ship, HMS *Prince of Wales*.

The float out of HMS *Queen Elizabeth* came just 13 days after the vessel was christened by Her Majesty the Queen in a spectacular ceremony.



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Representing the pride of Western Australia at this year's Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting was the team from 13th Brigade, who took home, among other team and individual awards, The ADARA Service Rifle 500 Unit Teams Championship.

Left to right, back, standing; Trooper Cullen Barrow, Lance Corporal Trenten Troiano and Sapper Glenn McDonald – centre, kneeling; Trooper Scott Hewson, Lance Corporal Ashleigh Trew, Corporal Greg Hughan and Lance Corporal Michael Troiano – and, front, lying; Private Steven Davies and Lance Corporal Stuart Mack.





Calm, relaxed and focused – Sergeant Daniel Brassington, 23 Squadron, RAAF, poses for a portrait during the Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting 2014.



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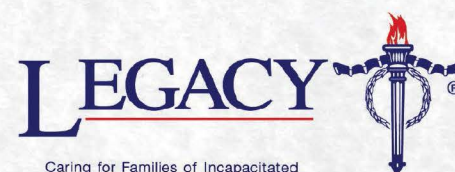
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AUSSIE NEWS BITS

Defence Minister David Johnston (centre) formally opens **Airbus Group Australia Pacific's** new Canberra headquarters, accompanied (l-r) by board member John Sharpe, Managing Director Jens Goennemann, and board members Lieutenant General (retd) Ken Gillespie, and Laurie Brereton.
Photo by Paul Sadler, Aircservices Australia



New Aussie named

The now-former Australian Aerospace Limited – manufacturer of Tiger and MH-90 helicopters in Brisbane – has been rebranded as **Airbus Group Australia Pacific**.

The company marked the occasion by formally opening a new headquarters in Canberra on 16 July, with Defence Minister David Johnston doing the honours.

The name change follows a similar rebranding/restructure of the former European Aeronautics Defence and

Space (EADS) to 'Airbus Group' incorporating the three divisions of 'Airbus' (civil aircraft), 'Airbus Helicopters' (formerly Eurocopter) and 'Airbus Defence and Space'.

Airbus Group Australia Pacific, wholly owned by Airbus Helicopters, will represent all three branches of the Airbus Group.

Managing Director Jens Goennemann said Airbus was a strong brand and this move strengthened his company's position in the market.

"Airbus Group Australia Pacific seeks to grow the business within the region where we have identified a range of opportunities to expand our portfolio of products" Dr Goennemann said.

Senator Johnston said Airbus Group Australia Pacific had support and sustainment contracts with the ADF totalling "hundreds of millions of dollars" covering Tiger and MRH-90 helicopters, KC-30 MRTT, C-130J and AP-3C.

An export version of Thales' Hawkei light protected vehicle was displayed at Eurosatory, a major defence and security exhibition, in Paris in June.

CEO Thales Australia Chris Jenkins said Hawkei was developed to appeal to the global market from the outset.

The 7-tonne, 4x4 Hawkei is designed for rapid air-mobile deployment and will be available in many variants.

Thales delivered six Hawkei to the ADF last year for evaluation.

Copyright J. Byron, Thales



Hawkei for export?

NZ NEWS BITS

NZ MEA OPS

Chief of the New Zealand Air Force Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley, families and friends farewelled the first group of Operation Tiki VII contingent from Auckland on 24 July.

Tiki VII is a five-month New Zealand operation supporting maritime security patrols in the Middle East and follows Operation Tiki VI in 2013-14 conducted by the frigate HMNZS Te Mana.

The initial contingent will be joined in August by a P-3K2 Orion aircraft and crew.



Photo from NZAF Facebook page

Engineers blow stuff up

New Zealand Army engineers got a rare opportunity in early June to increase their skills in an activity they don't often get the chance to practise – blowing things up.

The demolition training was held at Waiouru to ensure the engineers are adept at structural and mobility demolitions.

Plant operators focused on route clearance and route denial, including cratering roads and clearing obstacles, with the Army's new combat tractor (HMEE) used to dig holes for cratering charges.

Electricians, carpenters and plumbers focused on vertical targets such as bridge structures.

The exercise ended with the deliberate demolition of an enemy forward operating base and the roads and bridges leading to it.



Before – during – after!
Photos from NZDF Facebook

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AUSTRALIAN ARMY
SKILL AT ARMS
MEETING



PUTTING AT CORE SOLDIER SKILLS

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 2014

WORDS SERGEANT BRIAN HARTIGAN
PHOTOS SERGEANT BRIAN HARTIGAN
AND SERGEANT JOHN WADDELL

The Australian Army Skill at Arms Meeting in Puckapunyal again attracted an almost-capacity field of shooters from around Australia and the world for its 30th anniversary.

This year, the competition hosted teams from Brunei, Canada, France (FFNC), Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, the UK and the US.

Held from 5-16 May this year, AASAM is an annual soldiers' core-skills meeting using current in-service small-arms weapons.

The purpose of the meeting is to improve ADF operational capability through rigorous, challenging and combat-focused skill-at-arms competition.

Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Warrant Officer Dave Ashley said a personal weapon was to a soldier as a hammer to a carpenter or a paintbrush to an artist, and AASAM was a key environment for honing the skills required.

"Our primary core behaviour is, 'every soldier an expert in close combat' – and there is nothing more fundamental to that than proficiency with a personal weapon," Warrant Officer Ashley said.

"There's not a soldier on the planet who would disagree with that, and training such as that which AASAM can provide is fundamental to achieving that level of expertise."

One soldier who agreed that AASAM was a good place to improve shooting ability was New Zealand Army Combat Shooting Team member Private Travis Sherriff.

"You can see how other countries operate and handle themselves with weapons and the competition aspect really adds to the learning," Private Sherriff said.



CLICK HERE TO SEE VIDEO
OF MACHINE GUN MATCH 41

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diver/Able Seaman Matt Deloraine, Australian Clearance Diving Team One, composes his thoughts before shooting.

A French Forces New Caledonia (FFNC) team member fires during a machine gun match.

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force sniper team Sergeants First Class Yasufumi Suzuki and Takayuki Ishi thank Australian support staff after a match.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SKILL AT ARMS MEETING 2014



"It's quite enjoyable as well – the culture of shooting and everybody coming together just to shoot.

"We're all shooters and we're all here for the same thing, so it's really easy to get along with everyone.

"The language barrier can be difficult at times but we have managed to overcome it surprisingly well.

"It can even be a lot of fun trying to communicate across the language barrier, especially when multiple nations are involved in the same conversation.

"Everyone is a little shy at first, but when you ask about their day or their last shoot they really open up and real bonds are made quickly."

Half-way through the meeting Private Sherri said he and his teammates had one key goal in mind – to beat the Australians.

"I don't want to sound cocky, but I think it's looking good so far."

And good it was – for the Kiwis – who took a swag of medals and trophies in several disciplines. Most important among them was the Anzac Trophy, representing the competition and camaraderie between the two neighbouring countries.

More coverage and more photos from AASAM 2014 in the next issue of CONTACT Air Land & Sea – out 1 September



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

Private Ryan Johnstone from 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, walks to another range between shoots.

US Marine Corps Sergeant Julio Alvaradoguevare fires in a close-quarter practice.

New Zealand sniper pair Lance Corporal Joe McCann and Corporal Paris Harrison dry-fire practice between sniper matches.

An Australian Defence Force member fires an Austeyr rifle during competition.

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SOUTHERN JACKAROO

More than 60 Australian, US and Japanese soldiers came together under the leadership of the School of Armour at Puckapunyal at the end of May for a week of team bonding and cooperation in the name of regional defence-relationship building.

Now in its second year, Exercise Southern Jackaroo saw soldiers from all three nations training shoulder to shoulder for six adrenaline-filled days.

The exercise started on a friendship-making note with a full day of sports, which tested skills and built mixed-nation team bonds that were built upon throughout the exercise.

Day two took participants to the

edge of their comfort zones with abseil training and participation on relatively low vertical faces.

Day three took participants to the edge of their comfort zones – and pushed them over.

On this day, it was all about overcoming personal fears as the soldiers abseiled from 75m office blocks in the World Trade Centre precinct of Melbourne's CBD – but only after crossing from the roof of one tower to the roof of another, 35m away, by a horizontal tyrolean traverse.

Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Cree, Commanding Officer of the School of Armour said adventurous training put people outside their comfort

zones and made them confront risk and uncertainty.

"Activities such as this helps build confidence – confidence in themselves, confidence in their team and confidence in their equipment – all of which are important foundations for combat," he said.

The sentiment was echoed by Private First Class Tyler Patterson of the 520th Area Support Medical Company, Joint Base Myers-Henderson, Washington.

"Getting over that ledge is the difficult part, but once you get going it gets easier," he said.

By day four of the exercise it was down to the serious business of combined-arms – and combined

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SERGEANT BRIAN HARTIGAN

TRI-NATION PATROLS

armies – basic warfighting training, with each country contributing soldiers to traditional infantry sections.

The live-fire phase of the exercise had fire teams and sections made up from each of the three nations.

Starting with basic patrolling and fire-and-movement drills on foot, it built to a climax far beyond what was achieved with the inaugural Exercise Southern Jackaroo, last year.

Lieutenant Colonel Cree said that while the physical mechanics of battle may be straightforward in planning and concept, in combat even the simple things could be hard, so it was vital to build a sense of unity and purpose before going 'red'.

To that end, the soldiers conducted dismounted, fire-team and section-level patrols with blank ammunition before advancing, on the fifth day, to a mounted platoon attack supported by armoured fighting vehicles.

"And the ASLAVs also live fired, adding to the realism and training value of the activity," Lieutenant Colonel Cree said.

"Exercise Southern Jackaroo 2014 was a great success and I hope that the work put in by the School of Armour both this year and last, will help deepen the tri-lateral defence relationship.





"This is our second time hosting Southern Jackaroo and it's plain to see that all three nations really got along together both personally and professionally."

"Whether it be dangling off a high-rise building in Melbourne, putting rounds down range or just socialising in barracks at the end of a good day's training – there is great rapport across the nations that cuts through language barriers."

"We all share the common culture of professional soldiering."



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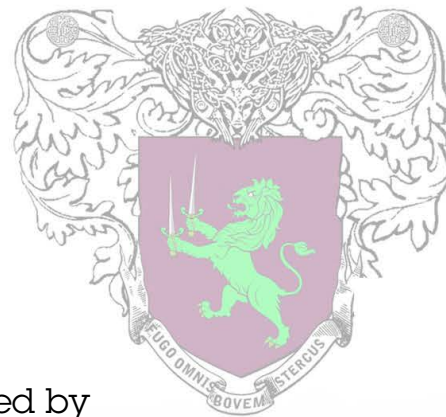
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On 1 July, the ADF put out a press release, accompanied by a set of photos (one included below), announcing that "HMAS Darwin strikes again against drug smugglers".

Ten days later, using the same set of photos, the British Ministry of Defence proudly trumpeted,

"UK LEADS FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS IN GULF WITH £18M SEIZURE".

The Pommy press release goes on...
"A **British-led task force has seized** more than six thousand kilos of cannabis resin from a dhow in the Indian Ocean with an estimated UK street value of around £18m.

Australian ship HMAS Darwin made the bust **under the UK-led Combined Task Force 150** following a 12-hour operation in which boarding teams found the drugs hidden in the hull...

...Minister for the [British] Armed Forces, Mark Francois said: "As the son

of a naval veteran, I am **proud of the work the Royal Navy does around the world combating the global trade in illicit narcotics.** The hard work and determination **of our** personnel on these international operations **have yielded valuable results** with millions of pounds worth of drugs taken off our streets".

HMAS Darwin gets two more mentions before the press release craps on for more than two-thirds of its entire length about a totally unrelated seizure in the Caribbean involving a British ship.

Not only that, but the attached photos, which were taken by Royal Australian Navy photographer Able Seaman Sarah Williams, had their embedded file information altered to read in part, "The drug runners were intercepted on **HMS Argyll's** first day on counter-narcotic operations **in the Caribbean** ... a 15-nation collaborative effort to deny trans-national criminal organisations air and maritime access to the littoral regions of **Central America**, and focus on putting a stop to the illegal movement of drugs **from South America** to the western world".

To prove that such errors cause mass confusion and polute official histories, the Royal Navy published the offending press release on its official web page alongside a photo of **HMS Argyll**.

Go the Poms – taking credit for Aussie effort – and stuffing it up in the process.



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WORDS & PHOTOS BY CORPORAL JAMES GULLIVER USMC

Explosions echoed through the tree line, competing with the shouts of section leaders hurrying each member of his squad to perform his task as fast as possible.

This was just the first day of the crew-served weapons competition designed to test the Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, and push them to their limits.

The week-long competition in June included weapons systems ranging from the M240 machine-gun, to the 81mm mortar system. Staff Sergeant Habacuc Cornejo, platoon

sergeant, Weapons Company, said the competition gave his guys a chance to develop their skills.

"They've done a lot of training and practice, now it is time to put them to the test and see what they are capable of," Staff Sergeant Cornejo said.

"They are graded on their abilities to operate their weapon systems efficiently, their orders process, weapon deployment and tactical knowledge.

"This shows that our small-unit leaders have the capability to properly employ their teams.



"Without this capability there is not a mission you can accomplish."

Staff Sergeant Cornejo said he believed that because the event was a competition, it drove his Marines to perform at their best.

"Weapons company Marines have a specific weapons system they're assigned to during training. They must learn it's capabilities and how to properly employ it."

Weapons Platoon, Alpha Company commander 1st Lieutenant Sean McDonnell said Mount Bundey Training Area gave the Marines a unique benefit not afforded to them back in US.

"We have permission to come out here and actually set up our own ranges and can adjust the training area to fit our needs," he said.

"This allows us to set up more realistic training scenarios than those we would encounter back home."

The Marines finished this day exhausted but also confident in their abilities and ready for future challenges – which will soon include Exercises Hamel and Koolendong, working alongside and against their Australian counterparts.



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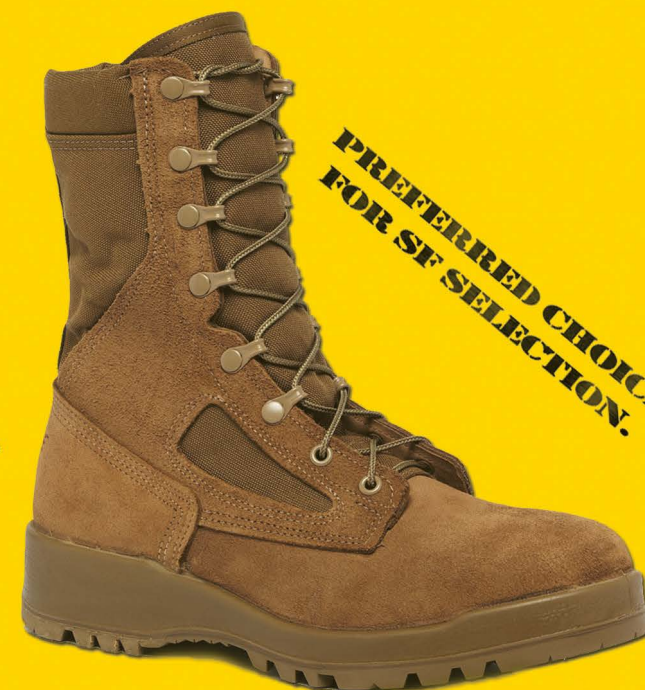
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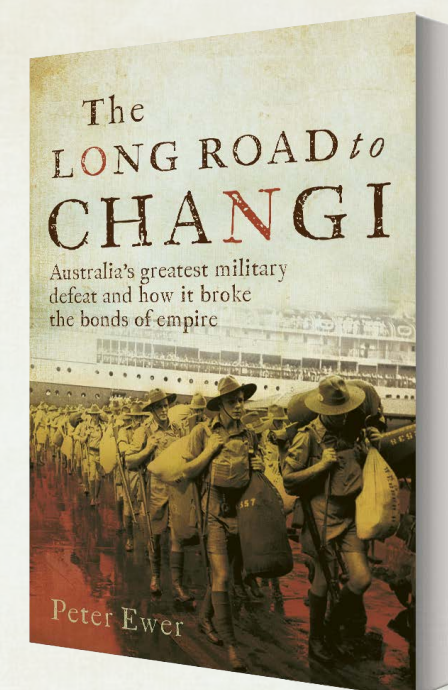
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VIEW OF HMS MONTROSE FROM HER LYNX HELICOPTER

Royal Navy Photographic Competition 2014

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from 15 professional and 3 amateur categories

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR
LEADING AIRMAN ALEX KNOTT



Damage-control exercise, HMS Montrose

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Photos by:
Chief Petty Officer Airman Thomas McDonald



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment head towards Cormorant Airfield at Townsville Field Training Area for a ride home after completing the 3rd Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity. The CATA was designed to certify the Ready Battle Group with 3RAR as the Army's new Ready Combat Team. Photo by Sergeant Ray Vance



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CATA

COMBINED-ARMS TRAINING ACTIVITY

The Australian Army demonstrated its potency in mid June during the 3rd Brigade Combined Arms Training Activity (CATA) at Townsville Field Training Area.

A diverse range of enablers massed at 'High Range' from 6 to 20 June to conduct a full mission rehearsal for Exercise Hamel 2014 and to certify the Ready Battle Group with 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, as the Army's new Ready Combat Team.

The exercise involved more than 2300 troops from across Australia and validated the adaptability and effectiveness of the 'Plan Beersheba' combat brigade.

CATA focused on the conduct of high-end mid-intensity conventional warfighting with battlegroup manoeuvre activities and concluded with a brigade-level live-fire exercise.

Commander 3rd Brigade Brigadier Roger Noble said it took a lot of time, effort and resources to put all the pieces of the combat brigade together and to test them in realistic scenarios.

"Plan Beersheba has allowed us to put together a first world combat brigade.

"We have capabilities now I never thought would be in Army, let alone available at formation or unit level, to help us train and prepare," Brigadier Noble said.



Photos by Corporal David Cotton and Lance Corporal Kyle Genner

World's biggest maritime exercise

RIMPAC

CREWMEMBERS ON HMAS SUCCESS CONDUCT WINCHING
PRACTICE WITH THE SHIP'S EMBARKED SEAHAWK
ENROUTE TO HAWAII FOR EXERCISE RIMPAC 2014.
PHOTO BY LEADING SEAMAN BRENTON FREIND
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Rim of the Pacific

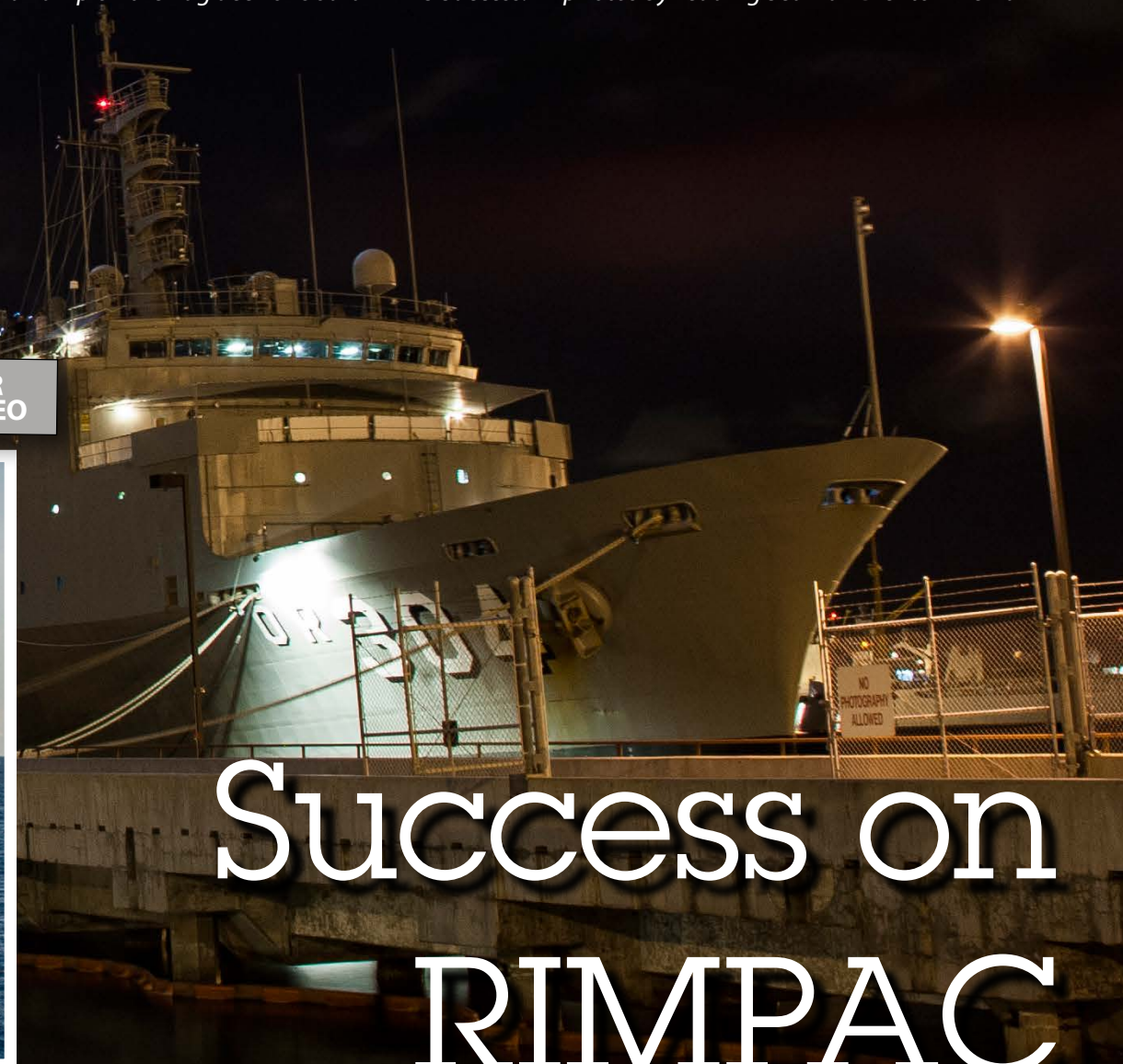
SEE THE FIREWORKS AND
OPEN DAY ON VIDEO



Clockwise from top left: Line handlers heave in a messenger line during a replenishment at sea; Commanding Officer HMAS Success Captain Allison Norris observes helicopter operations above her ship's forecastle; Helicopter Control Officer Lieutenant Kedar Shah, maintains radio contact with HMAS Success' Seahawk during flight operations around the ship; The embarked flight, from HMAS Albatross' 816 Squadron, prepare for night flight operations; Fireworks light up HMAS Success in Pearl Harbor during 4th of July celebrations; HMAS Success (centre) conducts a dual replenishment at sea with USS Sampson (left) and USS Lake Champlain during the sea phase of Exercise RIMPAC 2014; Leading Seaman Reannon Johnson conducts continuation training with the 10-inch signal lamp on the flag deck onboard HMAS Success. All photos by Leading Seaman Brenton Freind



CREW SHARE THEIR
EXCITEMENT ON VIDEO



Exercise Rim of the Pacific is a major United States Pacific Fleet-hosted biennial exercise involving forces from 23 countries including Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Tonga, UK and USA.

RIMPAC 14 saw 48 surface ships, six submarines and more than 200 aircraft, as well as around 25,000 personnel, taking part.

Australian Defence Force participation included nearly 1000 personnel from Navy, Army and Air Force, with HMAS Sheean (Collins-class submarine), HMAS Success (auxiliary oiler replenishment vessel), clearance divers, a rifle company from 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5RAR) and three AP-3C Orions.

During the exercise, participating personnel and assets conducted gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air-defence exercises, as well as maritime interdiction and vessel boardings, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations, infantry manoeuvres, mine-clearance operations and an amphibious landing.

The exercise was held around the Hawaiian Islands from 26 June until 1 August.

Photos by Corporal Matthew Callahan, Lance Corporal Wesley Timm, Sergeant Sarah Dietz, Petty Officer 3rd Class Corey Todd Jones, Mass Communications Specialist Class 2 Amanda R. Gray and Petty Officer 3rd Class Manda Emery



VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH
SOLDIERS INVOLVED IN
URBAN ASSAULT



Private Ryan Flecter-Dutton, with the 4th Combat Landing Team for Exercise RIMPAC, walks up Pyramid Beach, US Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, after completing amphibious-assault-vehicle embus/debus training with US Marines and Mexican Naval Infantry Force.
Photo by Lieutenant Sarah West, Royal Australian Navy



BEACH ASSAULT
EXPLAINED ON VIDEO

VIEW AMPHIBIOUS
ASSAULT TRAINING



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on RIMPAC

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Australian soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, fire an 84 mm M3 Carl Gustav rocket launcher during a live-fire platoon assault.
Photo by Lance Corporal Wesley Timm, US Marine Corps



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on RIMPAC

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EXERCISE HAMEL 2014



Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, plan their next move during a raid on an 'enemy' camp at the Tully Training Area during Exercise Hamel 2014. Photo by Corporal Max Bree, digitally altered by COMBAT Camera

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Exercise Hamel 2014 (7 July to 1 August) is the Australian Army's annual foundation war-fighting exercise designed to assess and certify both the front-line formations as having the necessary skills to conduct future operations.

Around 5000 personnel were involved, including troops from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the USA.

Exercise Hamel was over wide areas of north Queensland, including various Defence training areas and civilian area of the Atherton Tablelands.

This year's exercise was designed primarily to test the Australian Army's capability and understanding of the link between intelligence gathering and action on the ground – and to evaluate 3 Brigade's and the 6th Combat Support Brigade's capability and adaptability across a range of tactical scenarios.

Director General Training Brigadier Mark Brewer said the exercise had been a great success.

"Exercise Hamel 2014 aimed to evaluate the Army's reconnaissance, surveillance and intelligence capability as an enabler to our combat force, and this was accomplished," Brigadier Brewer said.

"I am thoroughly impressed with the professionalism demonstrated by our soldiers in both the planning and conduct of the exercise.

"Also, the support from the people of north Queensland has been tremendous and I would like to thank them for allowing us to train in their communities, to spend time with them and for helping the Army achieve its training objectives.

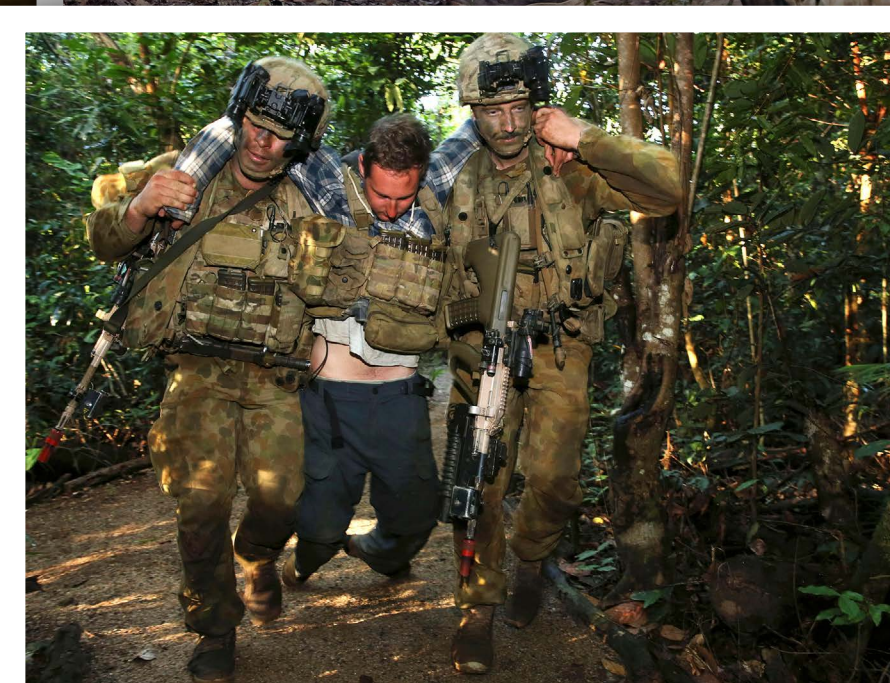
"The 3rd Brigade, with its assigned 6th Brigade combat-support force elements, has been evaluated ready and capable to conduct future operations."

Left: A propaganda leaflet found at an insurgent camp raided by a combat team from the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, at Tully.

Right from top: An Australian soldier from 3RAR prepares to raid a suspected insurgent position.

Soldiers from 3RAR move a 'dead' enemy after a raid on a camp at Tully. Photo by Corporal Max Bree

EXERCISE HAMIEL 2014



EXERCISE HAMIEL 2014



Anti-clockwise from left:

Australian Army Sergeant Nathan Lissing, 3RAR, provides security for 5th Aviation Regiment helicopters at Tolga Turf Club near Atherton, north Queensland.

Soldiers from 3RAR deplane from 5th Aviation Regiment MRH-90 Taipans at Tolga Turf Club.

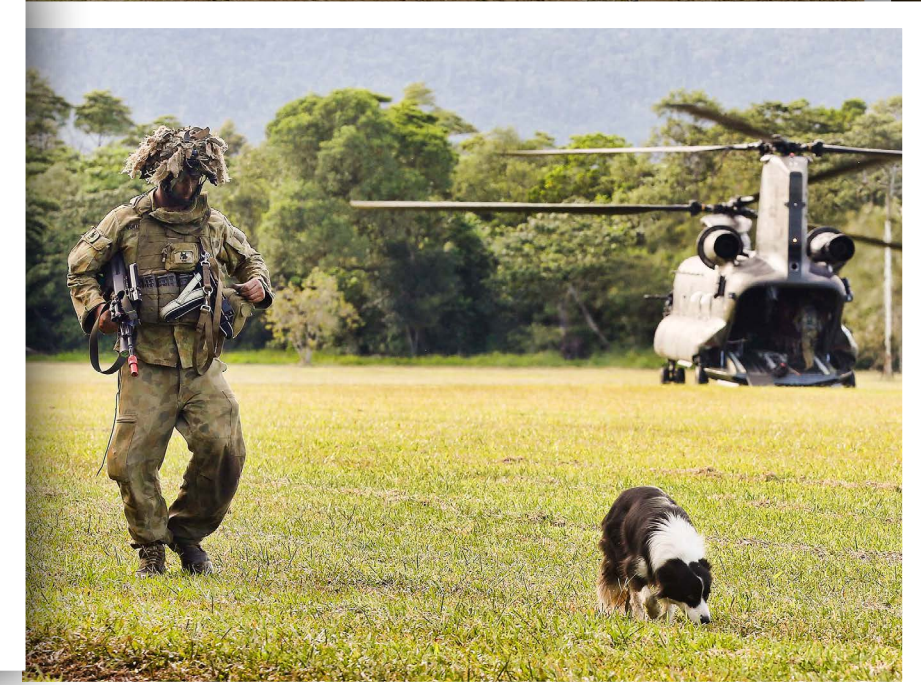
Soldiers from 3RAR sort their gear after disembarking from 5th Aviation Regiment CH-47 Chinooks.

Bushmasters from 3rd Brigade manoeuvre during Exercise Hamiel at the Townsville Field Training Area, High Range.

Corporal Ian Moss from the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment and his explosive detection dog Skye set off on patrol.

A 5th Aviation Regiment MRH-90 Taipan loadmaster checks for obstacles during takeoff from the Tolga Turf Club.

Photos by Corporal Mark Doran



Photos by Corporal
Matthew Bickerton

BG CANNAN EXPLAINED
IN VIDEO



Right: Privates
Jordan Puccio
(left) and Chris
Hargreaves from
the 11th/28th
Battalion, Royal
Western Australia
Regiment,
maintain security
at the Townsville
Field Training
Area, High Range.
Below: Australian
soldiers walk across
a defensive position
to attend rehearsals
for a mission, at
High Range.

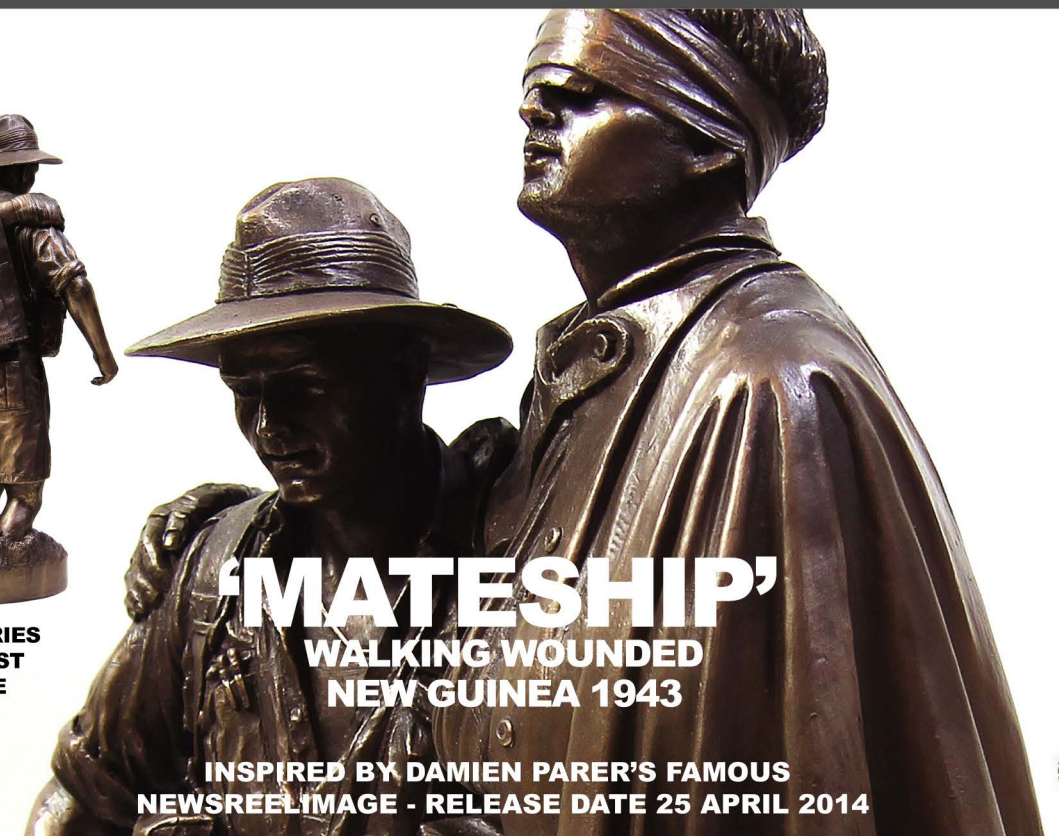


EXERCISE HAMIEL 2014

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Good for CATs



LEFT: 'Guardian Angels' Private Daniel Horrigan and Private David Oliver stand guard as members of the 205th Corps Coalition Advisory Team.

INSETS FROM TOP: Trooper Samuel Perkins acts as a vehicle guide in Camp Baker.

Corporal Matthew Pippin in the commander's position of a Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle.

Corporal Matthew Pippin on guard in the vehicle-commander's position of a Bushmaster as a convoy passes through a market area while on a task in Kandahar.

A Bushmaster from the 205 Coalition Advisory Team passes through an Afghan checkpoint while on a task in Kandahar.

Australia's 205th Corps Coalition Advisory Team (205 CAT) Force Protection Platoon is deployed to Camp Baker, Kandahar Air Field (KAF), Afghanistan, to provide force protection, protected mobility lift and battlefield circulation for key personnel.

Australian personnel, ISAF partners and Afghan stakeholders benefit from this protected mobility to enable key leadership engagement outside the bounds of KAF and other bases.

205 CAT Force Protection Platoon is made up of 50 personnel from Townsville, drawn from B Squadron, 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment and 7 Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

Approximately 400 Australian Defence Force personnel are deployed on Operation Slipper in Kabul and Kandahar to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces.

COMBAT TRAINING

NZDF personnel continue to train hard – here taking part in close-combat training to prepare them for operational deployments.

Despite New Zealand having no current land operations, soldiers enhance and maintain the skills they might need if called upon, and train in realistic scenarios based on lessons learnt in Afghanistan, East Timor and elsewhere.



PHOTOS BY CORPORAL AMANDA MCERLICH



These photos are from the last phase of a training programme at Linton Camp to give soldiers a realistic taste of scenarios they may face in a theatre such as Afghanistan.

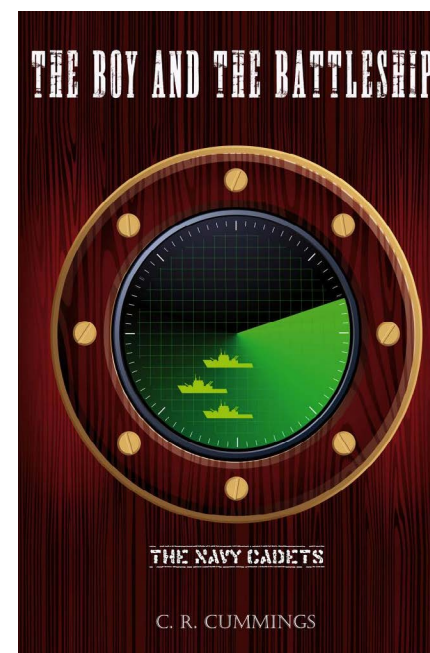
The objective was to deliver mission-specific training to prepare New Zealand personnel who may be called upon to deploy to any land operational environment.

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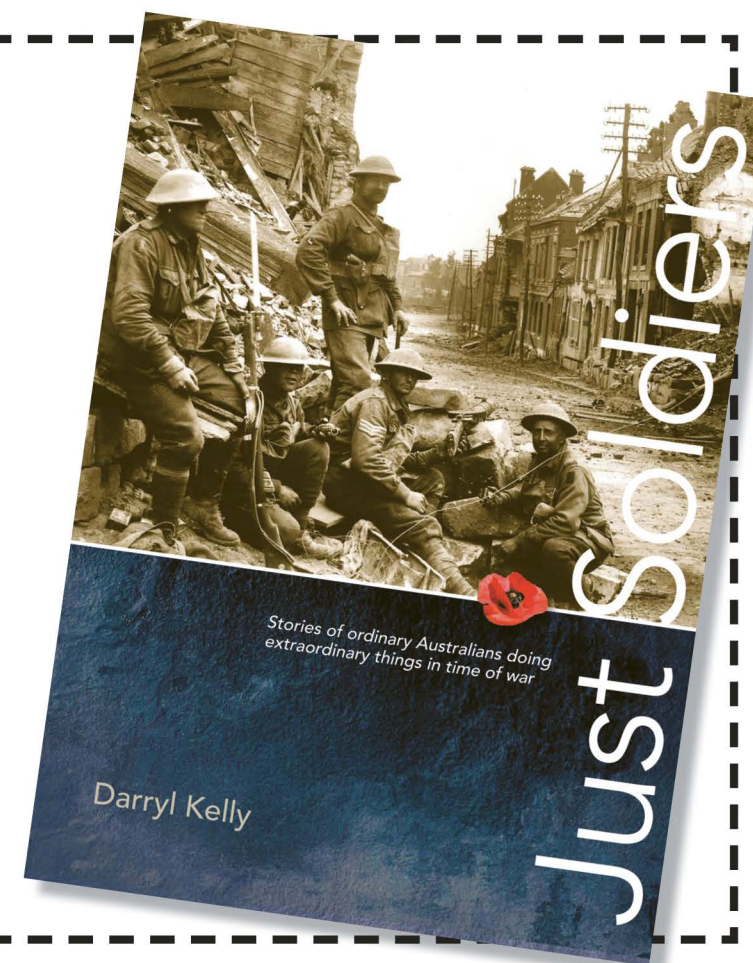
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by Darryl Kelly

In 1914, Australia had a population of fewer than 5 million, yet 300,000 from all walks of life volunteered to fight. More than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. This book of WW1 stories, based on fact, portray the human tragedy of war. Many confirm the reputation of Australians as fearless fighting men. Yet, as in life, not all were heroes.

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Alam Halfa



NUMBER 1 GUN GROUP WATCH THE FALL OF ROUNDS FROM THEIR GMG (GRENADE MACHINE GUN) DURING A LIVE-FIRE ATTACK. PHOTO BY SERGEANT LUCY JORDAN



NUMBER 2 GUNGROUP DISMANTLE THEIR 40MM GRENADE MACHINE GUN AFTER A LIVE-FIRE ASSAULT. PHOTO BY SERGEANT LUCY JORDAN



A LAV ON THE CHARGE AT WAIOURU MILITARY CAMP. PHOTO BY LAC MARIA OOSTERBAAN

CLICK CHAIN SYMBOL TO WATCH VIDEO COMPILE

With all guns blazing the New Zealand Army embarked on one of its biggest exercises of the year at Waiouru Military Camp in May. Exercise Alam Halfa involved artillery, gunnery and engineers plus combat support units to train jointly with the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

While the New Zealand Defence Force has withdrawn from its major commitments in Afghanistan and Timor Leste, it must still maintain a well trained, agile and capable Defence Force.

Ex Alam Halfa 2014 was an essential part of an ongoing and sustained training program, testing personnel and equipment under a variety of simulated conflict scenarios. More than 600 soldiers and 60 officers took part.

Exercise commander Lieutenant Colonel Sholto Stephens said there was a lot of focus on individual soldier training.

He said the soldiers enjoyed being challenged with more realistic hurdles each day.

The list of tasks was extensive with the troops and equipment being put through their paces in gruelling battle simulations that test agility and capability in life-like scenarios.

The exercise was observed by US Marines and US Army personnel who debriefed command each day and advised on things they thought could be done better.

Lieutenant Colonel Stephens said the advice was invaluable.

"We can all learn from each other and they are in a good position to be able to advise us on how to do things better. It's really good to work with them."

As well as testing soldiers' stamina and brains, new equipment was also put through its paces, with Medium Heavy Operational Vehicles working alongside the well-used Light Armoured Vehicles.



LCPL C PERANA
CALLS OUT FIRE
INSTRUCTIONS
DURING THE LIVE
FIRE ATTACK.
PHOTO BY SERGEANT
LUCY JORDAN

SOLDIERS LISTEN TO
A BRIEFING DURING
EXERCISE ALAM
HALFA AT WAIOURU
MILITARY CAMP.
PHOTO BY LAC MARIA
OOSTERBAAN



A UNIMOG IS
DIRECTED OVER THE
MOBILE BRIDGE GAP
CROSSING SYSTEM.
PHOTO BY SGT LUCY
JORDAN

LAV CREWS DO A
QUICK CHECK BEFORE
ROLLING OUT.
PHOTO BY
LAC MARIA
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D-DAY LANDINGS



6th JUNE - 2014



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Previous page: Members of a Spanish re-enactment group, dressed as Royal Marine Commandos, storm 'Gold Beach' in Arramanches after disembarking from a Royal Navy landing craft. Photo Richard Watt, 6 June

Clockwise from below:

Royal Marines storm a beach, modern style. Photo L(Phot) Will Haigh, 5 June

More than 300 troops, including one D-Day veteran, took part in a parachute drop to commemorate the involvement of airborne forces in the 'D-Day' invasion of northern France. Photo Corporal Barry Lloyd, 5 June

Veterans take time to themselves on 'Sword Beach' to reminisce about their actions 70 years earlier. Photo Corporal Richard Cave, 5 June

Gary Morton (66) leads a D Day tribute parade in Dunblane, Scotland, wearing WWII battledress. Photo Mark Owens, 6 June

A Typhoon sporting black and white 'D-Day stripes' as worn by Allied aircraft from 5 June 1944. Photo Corporal Phil Major, 30 April

Members of the Army's 16 Air Assault Brigade jump from the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Dakota over Ranville, Normandy. Photo SAC Helen Farrer, 5 June

[Note: While 'D-Day' actually occurred on 6 June 1944, many D-Day commemorative activities, ceremonies and re-enactments were held on 5 June 2014]



RECCE FLIGHT

WWII MISSION REPLICATED

Seventy years after their forebears swooped to take reconnaissance photos over the D-Day beaches in France, RAF Tornado jets from II (Army Co-operation) Squadron used today's technology to emulate their WWII counterparts.

Flying at 400mph at 20,000 feet over Gold, Juno, Utah and Sword beaches, the two Tornados, from RAF Marham, Norfolk, replicated the D-Day images taken by their counterparts.

On D-Day itself, 6 June 1944, a Mustang from the same squadron, piloted by Air Commodore Andrew Geddes, brought back the first pictures of the Normandy landings.

Wing Commander Jez Holmes, Officer Commanding II (AC) Squadron, who piloted one of the Tornados in June this year, said that after imaging the D-Day beaches from 20,000ft, using the same type of reconnaissance pod the squadron was using in Afghanistan only a fortnight earlier, he flew down the beaches at 1000ft, replicating Air Commodore Geddes' flight.

"Today, our technology allows us to fulfil the same missions further, faster and with stand-off and precision," Wing Commander Holmes said.

"Whilst the fortifications at Pont Du Hoc and the remains of the Mulberry Harbour are visual reminders of the events of 70 years ago, it is difficult to imagine the apocalyptic vision that he was faced with."

In 1944, getting a wide, panoramic image of the beaches took more than 30 sorties – while the Tornado completed the same task in one pass.



A blue cross marks the same road junction, 70 years apart.

This image, prepared by intelligence specialists from the Royal Air Force's Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing compares modern imagery taken from a Tornado with a photo-montage, hand assembled by their WWII counterparts from multiple photographs taken by Mustangs over several sorties.

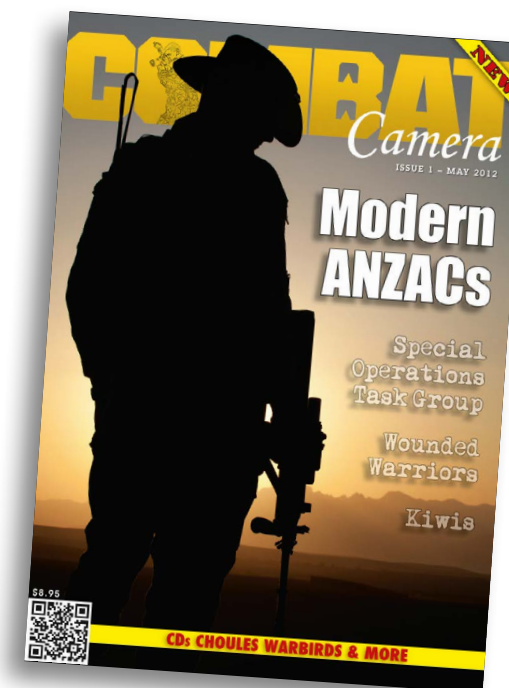
Tractor with empty boat trailer

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IN FOCUS

WITH BRIAN HARTIGAN, MANAGING EDITOR

COMBAT CAMERA IS ALL ABOUT PHOTOS - SO WHERE BETTER TO GET TIPS ON TAKING PHOTOS THAT GET PUBLISHED?

Believe it or not, I got the first feedback about this column after issue #8 – just as I was about to give up writing it.

So, thanks to Leigh Atkinson in Redland Bay, Queensland, I actually have a reader's question to answer in this instalment.

Leigh said that, "While I have what can only be described as an addiction to photographing military aircraft (particularly jets) I'm realising that publications seem to need 'human content' in images and that is something I am going to have to work on. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated".

Well Leigh, the first thing I'll say is that there's nothing wrong with photographing jets or planes. What you may be missing is variety.

You see it's not just editors who want that 'human connection' – the audience want it too, and the editor is just trying to give his audience what he knows they want.

The audience may not consciously know that that's what they want, but the editor does. He knows because he was either trained to know or, much like me, found out the hard way by trial and error.

This was especially true when our magazines were printed and sold in shops. I/we were always experimenting with front-cover images. And the right choice v the wrong choice could make a difference measurable in thousands of dollars.

Human factor

Unless you capture 'a screamer' or a 'real beauty' – which is not easy to do – pictures of just aircraft are unlikely to 'tell a story' in isolation.

For most people (hard as it is to believe), an airplane is just a machine, and 'relating to' machinery can be difficult for some.

But people do relate to people and to 'human endeavour'.

So, including something that says 'human endeavour' – for example, a pilot, maintainer, refueller etc – puts the aircraft in the context of that human's efforts.

The audience at an airshow interact with the aircraft too. So, including audience members not only adds a human factor, but also puts the aircraft into a context.

In context

In our sphere of interest, warplanes were built for fighting, shooting, flying super fast, lifting heavy loads and so on.

Entertaining crowds or scaring kids at an airshow is not their natural habitat, so including the audience helps to put the airplane in context.

After all, if your assignment is to 'photograph the airshow' then putting the story into context must, in at least some photos, include audience participation (climbing a ladder to look into a cockpit, talking to a pilot in uniform) or watching (many heads or cameras tilted

upwards in unison, kids covering their ears, arms in the air waving at a pilot and so on). Of course, including the aircraft to which they are reacting, adds to the narrative.

Think of it another way. If you photograph an F/A-18 at a V8 Supercar race and you don't include a V8 Supercar or hundreds of petrolheads or flags/signs that say V8 Supercars, then how is that F/A-18 any different to the one you photographed at the Australia Day fireworks or the footy grand final?

On assignment

If an editor says, 'go to Avalon and photograph the airshow', you should (after kissing his feet and thanking him profusely) ask him, "What do you want out of it?"

At the end of the day, the editor is the man with his finger on the 'go button', the man who ultimately decides which photos get published, how big, how many pages etc – so it is in your best interest to find out what he wants/likes/needs.

If you think about it, what the editor of *Australian Aviation* will want out of the Avalon Airshow will differ greatly to what the editor of **CONTACT Air Land & Sea** wants, and differ even more from what the editor of the Qantas in-flight magazine wants from the same show.

Essentially, every editor needs/wants to tell a different story.



Photo by Brian Hartigan – Nikon D100, 200mm focal length, shutter speed 1/250th of a second, shutter priority, aperture f11.

As an editor, this is a great shot because the jet is doing something awesome, but also because the heads put it in some context. Also, using a long lens emphasises/exaggerates just how close the audience is to the action and a magazine reader who has never been to Avalon might have some human emotions (such as jealousy or desire) stirred by this shot.

As a human being, this is also a great shot because I took it. I'm not being smug or anything. What I mean is, someone else is going to have to deliver something very special to make me choose his over mine to fill the limited space I have available. Of course, if I'm not shooting at the same event, the assigned photographer stands a better chance – especially when he takes note of what I or any other editor likes.

And he wants that story to be as unique and different from every other magazine as possible. He (unreasonably?) wants you to bring back stuff that looks nothing like the stuff taken by 300 or more other photographers on the fence at Avalon – but, at the same time he doesn't want it to be so different as to be weird or unconventional or radical (in other words, he does, in fact, want it to 'conform').

Most editors will also at least try to be fair and balanced and truthful from a journalism/reporting point of view, while also trying to avoid upsetting current or potential advertisers

or the 'average' reader (that is, applying 'political correctness').

But, at the end of the day, from your perspective, it all comes down to delivering 'great photos'.

Once you know what the editor 'wants', you can then go into the field and 'shoot to order'.

Of course I know it's not that easy – so I'll muse more on this topic in the next issue.

If you have any particular questions about taking photos to improve your chances of getting published in **COMBAT Camera** or **CONTACT Air Land & Sea** (or any other magazine), I'd be happy to try and answer them, either here or privately. Write to me at editor@militarycontact.com or PO Box 3091, Minnamurra, NSW 2533.

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