Task Force Uruzgan (TFU) was set up as part of NATO's Regional Command South of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), in Afghanistan. The Dutch lead one of the four Provincial Reconstruction Teams in the southern region of the country. 1,200 to 1,400 Dutch military, mandated by the Dutch Parliament in February 2006, were tasked to maintain order in Uruzgan province. In addition they were to develop political and economic infrastructure and to train the Afghan police.

The Main Operating Base (MOB) was Kamp Holland in Tarin Kowt the capital of Uruzgan province and a few smaller Forward Operating Bases (FOB): Camp Hadrian 60 kilometres west of Tarin Kowt near a town called Deh Rahwod, FOB Coyote north of Deh Rawod near a place called Chutu and FOB Phoenix on the west bank of the Helmand river near the town of Tor Nasser.

The TFU under the command of Colonel Kees Matthijssen consisted of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), a battlegroup and an air detachment. The battlegroup consisted of infantry with armoured vehicles and artillery. If needed, support in the form of F-16's, six AH-64D Apache and five Eurocopter AS 532 helicopters of the Royal Netherlands Air Force were available.

Australian troops and soldiers of the Afghan National Army plus Afghan police officers were included as part of this PRT. During June 2007 a Taliban offensive and a Dutch counterattack proved to be the heaviest fighting in Uruzgan province since ISAF extended its Area of Responsibility to the south of Afghanistan. A large part of Task Force Uruzgan's battlegroup took part in the Battle of Chora.

The Battle of Chora

The Battle of Chora took place in and around the town of Chora (3,000 inhabitants), in Afghanistan's Oruzgan Province, during June 15–19, 2007. The fighting was between ISAF and Afghan forces on one side and Taliban forces on the other, for the control of the Chora District centre, regarded by the Taliban as a tactical target because it provided ground access from the unsecured Gizab district in the north to the provincial capital of Tarin Kowt. According to press reports, the fighting was the largest Taliban offensive of 2007 in Afghanistan, and resulted in the death of one American, one Australian, two Dutch and 16 Afghan soldiers, as well as approximately 58 civilians and an unknown number of Taliban.

Oruzgan province, along with neighboring Kandahar and Helmand provinces in southern Afghanistan, is part of the Taliban's traditional Pashtun tribal stronghold. In Oruzgan, NATO's ISAF mission took over authority for Afghanistan from the US-led coalition in August 2006, resulting in 1,400 Dutch soldiers replacing some 150 US troops at the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Oruzgan's provincial capital, Tarin Kowt, and other bases. In addition to co-located Afghan battalions, there was an Australian element under Dutch command and contributions from other NATO allies. When faced with the security challenge, the Dutch focused their attention only on Oruzgan's three population centres, leaving other areas to Taliban control. Dutch activities included setting up checkpoints, some of which were near the town of Chora. At the time, there were 100 Afghan police in Chora.

Task Force troops were working in Chora on projects such as a school, a mosque and a bridge, following up on civilian construction projects initiated by the US. 60 Dutch troops were deployed in Chora, led by Captain Larry Hamers of the Regiment Stoottroepen Prins Bernhard.

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All members are welcome, afterwards we usually adjourn to the Officers’ Mess for a luncheon.

CAMBRAI DINNER 2013

Cambrai Dinner 16 November 2013. Please note this in your diaries and plan to support this commemoration which is our principal annual social activity. This year we will gather in the Victoria Barracks Officer's Mess. Our guest speaker will be our new RAAC Head of Corps Brigadier John MacKenzie.

Vale

General Pearson, General Latchford and Major Gilchrist. Both of the Generals' funerals were Military with all the dignity and precision we would expect. A number of Committee members and ordinary members represented all the RAACA at those funerals. Joffre's funeral was in East Victoria.

Our soldiers deployed on border protection with the Navy now have a new medal, the Operational Service Medal (OSM), it replaces the AASM&ASM. (see page 9 for more information). The RAACA has been lobbying for the issue of this medal from the moment the first RAAC troopers became involved.

Interestingly the Returned from Active Service Badge (RASB) will be replaced with the OSM. The RASB will continue to be issued to Afghanistan and East Timor veterans.

John Haynes, President
The Battle

June 15
On Friday evening June 15 there was shooting near Chora. Earlier that day, a Dutch convoy in Tarin Kowt was attacked by a suicide bomber, killing a Dutch soldier several Afghan civilians.

June 16
A U.S. A-10 Thunderbolt II spotted a group of 60 persons moving toward Chora. Troops at Chora were informed, but the A-10 did not engage the group, due to uncertainty over identity and intentions. Shortly after, three Afghan police posts (Kala Kala, Nyazi and Sarab), on the road linking Chora to Tarin Kowt came under coordinated attack by a large number of Taliban fighters (the press claimed 800 men, although this number could not be verified). Coalition troops in Chora moved to support the Kala Kala and Nyazi Afghan police posts.

The Taliban captured Sarab police post, killing two brothers of the commander of the post. They also cut off the hands of the wife of a captured policeman who was forced to watch her mutilation before being beheaded himself. That afternoon, the Dutch withdrew from the Kala Kala and Nyazi checkpoints, allowing the Taliban to capture these posts as well.

The Dutch troops reassembled near the Chora awaiting instructions from their commander, Colonel Hans van Griensven in Kamp Holland near Tarin Kowt. Griensven ordered them to stay and fight. ISAF aircraft provided support and attacked the Taliban, scouts reported that 30 Taliban volunteers led by individuals nicknamed Kaka and Sadam, were gathered inside a farm at the village of Qal Eh-Ye-Ragh. An Apache helicopter fired two Hellfire-missiles at the farm, killing the Bosnians and civilians inside.

Rozi Khan, a local tribal militia leader with shifting loyalties (who was himself killed during October 2008 fighting in the area), offered 150-200 of his fighters to support the defense of Chora. The Dutch and Chora village leaders accepted Khan's offer reluctantly as the village leaders had to arm Khan's fighters (aware that Khan might later change sides again and turn the weapons on them). A group of Dutch and Australian troops at Kamp Holland near Tarin Kowt moved to Chora, commanded by LTC Rob Querido. The Australian troops deployed in Baluchi valley, between Tarin Kowt and Chora, to secure the key road.

Also on Saturday June 16 US Staff Sergeant Roy P. Lewsader was killed when his vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Tarin Kowt.

June 17–18
On Sunday June 17 and Monday June 18 reinforcements arrived from Kamp Holland and the base in Deh Rahwod, increasing the number of allied troops at Chora to 500. Fifty Afghan Army reinforcements also arrived in Chinook helicopters. Taliban fighters, who had gained control of most of the residential areas, forced civilians to fight with them or face execution. The Taliban also used civilian homes as shelter, but were still attacked by NATO aircraft, causing civilian casualties. As the fighting continued, many Taliban fighters were killed.

On the night of Sunday, June 17 to the morning of Monday, June 18, during the loading of an 81-mm mortar, deployed in the courtyard of the Chora district government building, the bomb exploded inside the launch tube, killing Sergeant-Major Jos Leunissen and wounding three other Dutch soldiers.

June 19
At 0930h, NATO briefly withdrew the aircraft supporting the fighting at Chora, but air support was restored at 0940h when Col. Van Griensven reportedly threatened to withdraw the six Dutch F-16s from NATO command.

At 1000h allied troops, together with Rozi Khan's militia, made a push called "Operation Troy", in which they recaptured the three lost checkpoints.

In July 2010 Dutch troops began to withdraw from Uruzgan, and were replaced by an American-led coalition force including Australian, Slovak and Singaporean soldiers. Command was transferred to the US and Australia on August 1, 2010. The Dutch Foreign Affairs Ministry stated that the security situation in central Uruzgan province had improved "considerably" since the beginning of the Dutch operations. With this withdrawal, the Netherlands became the first NATO country to end its combat mission in Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadij congratulated the citizens and government of the Netherlands for this independent decision.

Australian Reconstruction Task Force

Mentoring Task Force One (MTF-1) was an Australian Army unit created for deployment during the War in Afghanistan. Formed predominantly from the 7th Brigade, the battle group comprised personnel of 55 different units, and was based on the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) and comprised approximately 750 men. The unit was initially commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jason Blain, who subsequently handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings on 21 June 2010.

The unit was deployed in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper, the Australian Defence Force contribution to the War in Afghanistan. It served in Afghanistan from January to October 2010 and formally handed over responsibility for operations in the area to Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force Two in February 2010. During its deployment, the unit was partnered with the 4th Brigade, Afghanistan National Army.

The unit suffered almost 40 casualties during its eight-month deployment, including six deaths. While attached to MTF-1, soldiers from 6 RAR took part in the Battle of Derapet, sustaining one killed. Corporal Daniel Keighran was awarded the Victoria Cross for his role in that battle.

(Continued on page 8)
**Technical Notes & News**

**Australian Army orders additional Bushmasters from Thales**

Thales Australia has been awarded a $205m contract for the production and supply of 214 additional Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles (PMVs) to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to help support its operations in Afghanistan. Defence minister Stephen Smith said that the new contract would bring the army's Bushmasters fleet to around 1,000.

"The Bushmaster has been a most effective piece of equipment and it's saved lives in Afghanistan," he said. "So it's been a most successful piece of kit, designed and built in Australia, in Bendigo."

The new award follows approval of funding worth $15.5m by the federal government in March, for the production of long lead components for the next batch of Bushmasters at Bendigo factory by Thales, which is also the preferred manufacturer of the Hawkei vehicle, slated for production in 2016.

In addition to providing ongoing protected mobility for the command and control of its artillery, the new vehicles are expected to gradually replace the ageing Bushmasters in the army's existing fleet.

Manufacturing work in successive batches of 50 vehicles is scheduled to start in October and will depend on the performance of Thales in development of Hawkei into a suitable vehicle for $1.5bn project LAND 121 phase 4, according to the defence minister.

The Bushmaster PMV is a 4×4 armoured vehicle for a range of uses, including troop transport, ambulance, direct fire, mortar, engineer and command for deployment in combat and combat support missions. Powered by a Caterpillar 3126E ATAAC turbocharged engine, the vehicle can carry up to nine soldiers along with their equipment, fuel and supplies for three days, depending on the type of variant.

Since 2005, the vehicles have been providing Australian troops with mobility and protection, particularly against improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Afghanistan.

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**Hawkei on show in Paris**

Thales Australia’s Hawkei vehicle is currently on display for the first time in Europe at the Eurosatory exhibition in Paris. One interesting aspect of the exhibit is the Vehicle Electronic Architecture (VEA) that is the result of an extensive joint development program between Thales in France, the UK, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Australia. This allows the vehicle to be mission systems configurable, with surveillance, communications and battle management system able to be displayed on a single screen and out to meet rapid re-tasking at minimal cost and effort.

The vehicle will also be displaying Thales’s SOTAS vehicle communications system, Sophie thermal imager, MBITR radios, as well as Polaris GPS. The crew will also benefit from the vehicle’s Health and Usage Monitoring System (HUMS) which uses touch screens to display vehicle performance data on engine status, systems, power management, weapons and sensors.

Thales Australia’s CEO Chris Jenkins said Hawkei had been future proofed regarding the increased use of networked technologies on operations, and this had driven development of a supplier-agnostic VEA that can be used to integrate an array of third-party equipment, giving users genuine choice when deciding which technologies to deploy for any given task.

As Australian Defence Media noted recently the Government allocated just over $38 million to further develop and test the next generation Hawkei, as part of which Thales Australia will deliver six prototypes under Land 121 Phase 4, which will acquire 1,300 new light protected vehicles to replace the current Land Rover fleet.
Boeing to support Thales Hawkei bid

Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) will provide Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) during the next stage of development of Thales Australia’s Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light prototypes. The contract will be delivered under Stage 2 of the Manufactured and Supported in Australia (MSA) option for the Land 121 Phase 4 program. Under the $3.5 million contract, BDA will deliver ILS services to the Thales team for six Hawkei prototypes and a trailer that will be delivered to the Commonwealth for further testing. During the 16-month prototype production and testing phase, BDA will work with Thales Australia to help increase the vehicles’ long-term availability and maintainability, with a view to reducing future support costs. This includes delivering development and training to operators, conducting logistics support analysis and providing logistic engineering support to the Thales design team.

Plasan’s RPG defeat system for Bushmasters?

By Tom Muir

Over the past 18 months Thales Australia and Plasan, already cooperating in the development of protection systems for the Bushmaster family of vehicles and the Hawkei, (preferred contender for the Land 121 PMV-L MSA option) have added Plasan’s lightweight Flex Fence 2 rocket propelled grenade (RPG) defeat system to the protective systems now available for these vehicles—should Defence want them?

The company believes it needs to be one step ahead of what the customer is requiring so that if the operational environment changes in Afghanistan to a more increased RPG threat then Thales has a highly effective solution already designed for Bushmaster which will see a significant reduction in the operational user requirements timetable, rapid deployment and ultimately reduced threat exposure to ADF personnel.

Whilst there are various types of RPG defeat systems on the market including lightweight net, bar armour (aluminium and the much heavier steel) and even active defence systems, Thales has selected Light Fence from the Plasan Ultra FlexFence Family (UFF) of RPG defeat solutions comprise. Developed in consultation with potential customers, with more than 100 tests carried out during the trials program, FlexFence has been designed to defeat the Russian RPG-7 RPG fitted with a high explosive anti-tank warhead. According to Plasan, its FlexFence system is not only lighter than the widely deployed bar armour, but is more effective and cheaper, noting that bar armour is effective against about 60 per cent of incoming RPGs.

ADM Defence Weekly issue 227 18/10/2012

Armoured Vehicles Market to Shrink by one Billion US$ over the next Decade

Market research company ICD predicts the global market for armored and counter IED vehicles which was valued at US$25.1 billion in 2011 will decline during the next nine years, as global operations in Afghanistan and Iraq drawing down toward the second half of the decade. As a result, the global AFV market is expected to register a negative combined annual growth rate of -0.43% during the 2011-2021 period, to reach US$24.1 billion by 2021. Nevertheless, the cumulative market value for armored vehicles and counter IED vehicles acquisition during the forecast period is estimated at US$265 billion.

ASLAV surveillance variants boost Beersheba capability

With the delivery of 14 ASLAV surveillance variants (ASLAV-S) scheduled for next year (2013), surveillance operations under Plan Beersheba will have more eyes and ears with armoured cavalry regiments in each multi-role combat brigade, being equipped with a surveillance troop comprising two ASLAV 25s, four ASLAV surveillance variants and 20 trained surveillance operators.

Combat Development Officer LTCOL Collingburn said the primary mission of the ASLAV-S was to provide the reconnaissance commander with a surveillance capability. “The commander may use the surveillance information to move other reconnaissance force assets towards enemy targets,” he said. “A secondary mission of ASLAV-S is to call, observe and correct indirect fire support onto enemy targets.”

This new capability could be deployed as part of a reconnaissance squadron conducting screening or covering force operations in support of a larger land force. The reconnaissance commander would likely deploy his surveillance assets in a line to provide early detection and warning of enemy activity. The ASLAV-S capability will perform surveillance operations while stationary and they will usually be employed in pairs.

Surveillance capability

The vehicles will be fitted with the Multi-Spectral Surveillance Suite (MSSS) and comprise surveillance, navigation, targeting and communications subsystems that will provide the ground manoeuvre commander with better situational awareness.

The combination of sensor array and data fusion has proved to be a uniquely Australian Army requirement. Attempts to obtain an ASLAV surveillance capability between 1997 and 2005 were unsuccessful, none of the capabilities under consideration were assessed to be viable, mature technological solutions and therefore they carried significant engineering risk.”

The MSSS can accept a wide variety of modern sensors tailored to the warfighter’s specific requirements. The sensors are mounted on a heavy-duty stabilised support on a telescopic mast. It can also be mounted on a tripod if required. The multiple sensors that make up the MSSS include day/night electro optic, laser and RF/radar-based systems with integral “slew-to-cue” target hand-off functionality.

These sensors combine to enable the commander to locate and track threats at extended ranges, under any condition and provide the means necessary for timely and effective targeting by direct and indirect fire assets — ArmyNews

Russia Plans to Field the T-99, a Radically New Main Battle Tank by 2015

The Russian Army is planning to begin modernize its armored and mechanized forces beginning in 2015, fielding a new family of vehicles comprising a new main battle tank, armored infantry fighting vehicles, and various support platforms. The MBT will be based on the new Armata, the prototype is scheduled to enter field trials in 2013, about 10 months ahead of schedule. First Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Sukhorukov said. The new tank is under development at Uralvagonzavod in Omsk. The first deliveries of the tank to the Russian Armed Forces are scheduled for 2015. A total of 2,300 MBTs are expected to be supplied by 2020.

It should be remembered that the Russians are building their fighting forces not only against NATO, but more importantly, to protect their long southern borders with radical Islamic countries that may be gathering military power, and the growing dominance of China in the east. Armored and mechanized forces are key to maintaining military superiority or parity against such threats. The level of sophistication in meeting such threats is not as demanding as meeting the advanced technology fielded by US and NATO forces.

According to preliminary reports, the new tank designated T-99 will be less radical and ambitious than the failed ‘Object 195’ or T-95, it will weigh less, therefore, become more agile and will be more affordable, compared to its more ambitious predecessors.
The **Armoured Vehicles UAE 2013** conference and exhibition will be held 20-22 May 2013, Abu Dhabi, UAE). This year's conference will continue to provide an exceptionally rare opportunity to learn, share and connect with armoured vehicle procurers and operators responsible for some of the most important contracts in the region.

More information can be obtained

www.armouredvehiclesuae.com

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1. All Boer War descendants are invited to march with the Boer War descendants section of the descendants group in the Anzac Day March 2013. Check with the RSL or newspapers for the assembly point.

2. This year's Boer War day commemoration in Sydney will take place on Sunday 26th of May 2013, at the ANZAC Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney, at 11 AM. All are welcome. What is happening in your town locality? Please involve yourself in any ceremony which is taking place in your area and let us know about it.

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From: Bob Ferrari [mailto: bob@bellinger.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 October 2012 15:15
Subject: FW: Sandy Pearson

Afternoon Gentlemen,

John Haynes and myself visited Sandy this morning at the War Vets Narrabeen where is currently under treatment in Peter Cosgrove House. We had a "Kodak Moment" and did a presentation of Bruce's book, "Canister On Fire". His copy had already arrived courtesy of the Army History Unit. The staff asked us not to stay too long and tire him out. Although he was frail and on oxygen, he was in excellent spirits and extremely mentally alert. He insisted that we have a beer that the staff magically produced but he didn't join us. He still has respiratory problems and some infection but all in all isn't too bad in my opinion. He has regular visits from family and plans to scatter Marjorie's ashes on her favourite golf course in November. I have another photo that I will send in a separate email and hopefully one of these will be suitable for "Ironsides" and "Armour".

Best regards,

Bob
MTF-1 was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for "sustained outstanding service in warlike operations on Operation Slipper in Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, between 20 January and 30 October 2010".

ADF Mentoring Task Force (RTF) in Uruzgan Province forms part of the United States-led Provincial Reconstruction Team. In May 2006 the Australian government announced the deployment of the Australian 1st Reconstruction Task Force (RTF) as part of the Netherlands-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Uruzgan province. In April 2007 the government announced that the deployment of the existing RTF Protection Company Group will be extended and will continue to provide close protection to RTF personnel until August 2008, and would be supported by the Special Operations Task Group being redeployed to Uruzgan Province.

Subsequently, the RTF was re-named the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 1 (MRTF1). Based in the provincial capital Tarin Kowt, the MRTF worked originally from the Dutch base of Kamp Holland. The Second MRTF (MRTF-2) was deployed in 2009. Another re-naming followed as the MRTF became Mentoring Task Force (MTF). (Continued from page 3)

Task Force rotations
Reconstruction Task Force 2 (RTF 2) 4.2007 – 10.2007
Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force 2 (MRTF 2), 5.2009 – 2.2010
Mentoring Task Force 1 (MTF 1), 14.2.2010 -

RTF/MRTF/MTF commanders
Lieutenant Colonel Harry Jarvie, 4/2007 -
Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Yeaman, 4/2008 – 10/2008
Lieutenant Colonel Shane Gabriel, 10/2008 – 9/2009
Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hocking, 12/2009 -2/2010
Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings, 6/2010 -

After more than eight months of intense operations in Afghanistan, the 730 members of MRTF-2 have officially transferred authority for security, mentoring and reconstruction to the Brisbane-based Mentoring Task Force (MTF-1) on 14 February 2010. The 1st Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force (MRTF 1), formed by the Darwin-based 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battle Group, took over from the 4th Reconstruction Task Force (RTF 4) in Tarin Kowt on 16 October 2008.

When deployed in 2006, the Reconstruction Task Force had three components: an engineering and indigenous capacity building group, a protective force, and command, logistics and support elements.

Capacity-building component (carpenters, plumbers, electricians and plant operators) composed of elements of:
1st Combat Engineer Regiment.

Protection Company Group of motorised infantry drawn from:
6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (6 RAR)
7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, (7 RAR)
2nd Cavalry Regiment

Command, logistics and support elements from:
1st Brigade

Mentoring Task Force
First Mentoring Task Force (MTF-1), Force Elements Currently Deployed as part of JTF633, Australian Operations in Afghanistan Fact Sheet, Department of Defence [accessed 14 August 2010]

Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings, the bulk of the MTF is comprised of elements from the Australian Army’s 7th Brigade (Brisbane), with support elements drawn from the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force. MTF-1 includes five Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLTs), and one Combat Team (CT). These teams are structured to best support the mission of ongoing assistance in the development of the 4th Brigade of the Afghan National Army. Australian soldiers that operate in the OMLTs live with, train and provide support to their Afghan National Army colleagues at patrol bases in Uruzgan Province. The Trade Training School, run by MTF-1, conducts fixed steel and concreting, plumbing and basic construction skills courses. There is also a mobile training school, offering courses to local nationals in specific areas.

(Continued on page 14)
Australian Operational Service Medal (OSM)

The Australian Operational Service Medal (OSM) recognises Defence people, both Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and Defence Civilians, who willingly and ably perform their work as part of an operation or within other specific hazardous environments and conditions that has been recommended by the Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) and approved by the Governor General for declaration as an operation warranting recognition through a medal.

The OSM will replace the Australian Active Service Medal and the Australian Service Medal for future operations. For ADF members the OSM will be awarded as the standard medal with a unique ribbon for each operation, similar to the practice in place for the United Nations Medal. Provision also exists for the award of an accumulated service device to denote those who undertake multiple tours on a particular operation. Those operations currently recognised by the AASM or ASM will continue to be recognised with those medals while the operations are active, for example Operation SLIPPER.

Her Majesty the Queen approved the OSM on 22 May 2012.

Details of the medal design and ribbon colours will be released after manufacturing contracting arrangements have been completed. Work is underway to commence the manufacturing process and it is anticipated that initial stocks of the medal will be available in the coming months.

ADF members who undertake operational service will receive an OSM with a unique ribbon for each new operation. ADF members who undertake additional periods of qualifying service on the same operation will, where appropriate, receive an accumulated service device - in the form of a numeral similar to those issued by the United Nations.

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, and the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, AO, CSC, publicly announced the OSM on Thursday 19 July 2012.

Civilian recognition

The OSM also includes a variant that will be available to recognise those Defence Civilians and other classes of civilian who are employed on ADF operations under the provisions of the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982. No recognition of civilians has been given since the end of the INTERFET operation in 2000, accordingly those who have been employed on operations since that time may be entitled to receive the civilian OSM. The Civilian OSM is in the form of the standard medal with a unique civilian service ribbon. Each operation will be denoted by a clasp to the medal.

The eligibility criteria for the Civilian OSM are currently being developed and will be announced when the Governor-General has approved the determinations for the respective operations. This will be widely publicised.

Operational Service Medal – Border Protection

The first service declared for the OSM is the range of border protection operations conducted since 1997. The basic qualifying criteria for the OSM – Border Protection require members of the ADF to have been deployed or force assigned for duty as a member of a declared operation:

a. for a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days; or
b. completed 30 sorties from a unit assigned to a declared operation, provided that those sorties were conducted over a period of not less than an aggregate of 30 days at a rate of one sortie per day.

More detailed criteria are contained in the Governor-General’s Determination dated 18 July 2012.

How is it awarded

Defence requests that ADF personnel who feel they may be eligible for the OSM – Border Protection as a result of their involvement in border protection operations or Defence Civilians who have been awaiting recognition since 2000 for their employment as part of a declared operation do not apply for recognition at this time.

The Directorate of Honours and Awards is still working through the administrative aspects associated with the OSM and will be providing further information as soon as it becomes available.

Phone the free-call number 1800 111 321 for further guidance, noting its operating hours are: 10.00am - 4.00pm AEST /AEDST, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No S 67
UNCLASSIFIED

George,

Just reading the October 2012 issue of armour. Great article on Battle of Kursk. In the Lost Souls Section it says you are looking for Mr Wayne Clarke PO Box 1309 etc etc. That's me.

As you see by the signature block below I am still serving. The PO Box is no longer in existence though I still live in Tamworth.

Yours in Armour,

Wayne Clarke

W.S. CLARKE
MAJOR
12/16th Hunter River Lancers

VIRTUTIS FORTUNA COMES

Extract of a letter from Werner Golla to Colonel Haynes (date)

“I particularly enjoyed the most recent Armour and the history of the tank battle between the Germans and the Russians forces. My Dad fought on the Eastern Front and was taken prisoner but escaped. One of my uncles likewise, but the Russians incarcerated him until early 1950’s when upon his release he was subjected to a rigorous debrief by the Americans. My uncle received financial compensation, enough to start his own business. Upon his return to Germany his wife had remarried presuming her husband had been killed in action.”

John Haynes notes that he served with Werner for many years and with him was part of a winning inter service Badminton team at one stage. He also advised Werner that the RAACA NSW has an ex German Leopard II crewman, Marcel Krug, who has proudly retained his tank driver’s licence.

From: P&C Macmichael
Subject: Armour Newsletter

G’day Armour
I would like to draw your attention to a minor mistake in the October 2012 issue No.466, page 15 “The Battle of Long Tan” Cpl Peter Clements callsign was 23Alpha not 23 Bravo as shown. I have noticed this mistake in other writings.

Regards
Paul Macmichael

The Lancer Museum at Parramatta has been lucky enough to find a Matilda Tank! It is well on the way to having its engine back to running order but there is a small problem as they do not have a turret. Would everyone please keep their eye out for a Tilly Turret please and advice the office when you have found one.
NATIONAL BOER WAR MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

We need your help urgently

The Federal Government has now approved our Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) which means that we can campaign strongly in industry for donations which will attract tax deductibility. Like all of our supporters you have been extremely generous over the time that the project has been running. However there is still a long way to go. If the project is to be completed within the next few years, before the centenary of ANZAC 2015 we will need a significant injection of government funds. The Federal Government has committed a seed grant of $200,000 to the project. The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Mr. Snowden, has indicated that further funds might be able to be allocated in the 2013 – 2014 Budget.

To ensure that this happens we would like you to write to your local Federal member, requesting that funds are made available in the budget. If there are other members in your family and they could each write a letter that would be terrific. (The statisticians tell us that politicians regard one letter as representing 200 votes.) It would be even more effective if you could seek an interview with your local member to hand deliver your letter and discussed the project with him or her. Form letters are generally not as effective as a personal letter but here are some ideas that you might care to use.

- This was the first war Australia fought in as a nation, bridging the process of nationhood.
- It was the first war that Australian women and Australian aborigines took part in.
- 23,000 Australian men and women served.
- On many occasions they fought alongside New Zealanders making them the first ANZACs.
- Over 16,000 served in official contingents and up to 7,000 in British or irregular units.
- The first Australian servicewoman died on active service.
- Approximately 1,000 Australians died in this war making it still the third most costly war in human losses after World War I and World War II.
- The memorial is being built in ANZAC Parade to remember those who served in this war.
- The veterans and their families were given little financial or welfare support

Tony Larnach Jones
Deputy National President NBWMA

1st March 2013

Patron-in-Chief: Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
National Patron: General David Hurley AC DSC, Chief of the Defence Force

National Boer War Memorial Association Inc. –
Victoria Barracks, Building 96, Paddington NSW 2021 • ABN 29 293 433 202 • Web: www.bwm.org.au
The war we have chosen to forget

By NATALIE O’BRIEN

FOR Barbara Horgan, the push for a national memorial to commemorate the Australians who fought and died in the Boer War is extremely personal. Both her father, Alured Kelly, pictured, and her maternal grandfather, William Newman, fought in the battle with 16,000 others, but their efforts have never been formally recognised in Canberra’s military memorial precinct, Anzac Parade. “They would have wanted it,” Ms Horgan said. “Not a lot is known about many Australians who fought and died there and they were responsible for some remarkable feats.

The only thing people really remember about the Boer War is the execution of soldier Breaker Morant.”

The three-year conflict is the only major battle that does not have a memorial in the precinct. The National Boer War Memorial Association was allocated a site in 2006 by the National Capital Authority, but it has not been able to raise enough funds to build a memorial. The national president of the association, John Haynes, said they had asked the federal government for funds but despite having donated to memorials for the other conflicts they “had not contributed one cent” to the Boer War Memorial. A design has already been approved and the association needs to raise $150,000 by the end of November so it can be completed in time for the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

The Boer War was fought from 1899 to 1902 and was responsible for the third largest loss of Australian life in conflict. Six Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross and almost 1000 – all volunteers – were killed.

Mr Kelly’s memoirs are kept at the Australian War Memorial library. He wrote that he “took no more than a passing interest” in the war between England and the South African Republic. He decided to enlist after a visit to a tailor who “casually” asked him if he would mind going to the South African war. “I just as casually replied that I would not mind” Mr Kelly returned home. Now his daughter, Ms Horgan, will join hundreds of others on Friday at a rally at NSW Parliament House to draw attention to the situation. “We should remember the contribution made, especially by Australian horsemen who in that war showed their true talents to the rest of the world.”
Major General K W Latchford AO

Major General Kevin Latchford was born in Sydney in 1927, the son of Colonel EW Latchford MBE MC, a well known and respected Regular Army officer whose service at the Small Arms School Randwick and later at Bonegilla, Victoria has been recognized by the naming of the Latchford Barracks – the present home of the Army’s Logistic Training Centre.

General Latchford was educated at Cleveland Street and Sydney Boys High Schools and Albury High School before entering the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1945. He graduated in 1947 and was allotted to Armour.

He served in 1st Australian Armoured Car Squadron in BCOF as a Recce Troop Leader and on return to Australia was a founding member of 1st Armoured Regiment. In 1949 he was attached to the British Army for armoured training in BAOR – initially as a Crew Commander and then as a Tank Troop Leader in 5th Dragoon Guards serving in 7th Armoured Division. This began a long association with the Centurion tank.

On his return to Australia he served as Adjutant Armoured School and then as Officer Instructor when the Centurion Tank Mk3 was introduced into the RAAC. During this time he conducted the Tropic Trials on a UK Centurion Mk3 on Manus Island.

Following a posting as Adjutant/Quartermaster with 10 WAMI (later 10 LH) in Western Australia he returned to Puckapunyal and 1st Armoured Regiment as Regimental Technical Adjutant and later commanded A Squadron. After attending the Australian Staff College at Queenscliff he was posted to Army Headquarters in Canberra where he served as a General Staff officer and then as Military Assistant to the CGS.

Selected for advanced armoured training in 1962 he was posted as an Exchange Officer to Rhine Army and served as a Tank Squadron Leader in 10th Hussars which was equipped with later models of the Centurion tank.

Returning to Australia in 1964 he served at Army Headquarters and later as SORAC 1 on Headquarters 1st Division in Sydney. In 1968 he was appointed Commanding Officer 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit and served in Vietnam in 1968/69. He was awarded MID for his services in this new area of soldiering. He returned to 1st Armoured Regiment as Commanding Officer in 1969 and was responsible for the preparation and training of A and C Squadrons for operational service in Vietnam.

Following his RAAC service General Latchford was commander 6th Task Force at Enoggera and then Director General of Recruiting for the ADF, Director General Coordination and Organisation at Army Headquarters and finally Director General Natural Disasters Organisation in Defence. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia in 1978 for distinguished service in the development of the Australian Army. He retired in 1984 after 39 years service.

He was appointed Honorary Colonel of 2nd Cavalry Regiment in 1986 and served in that role until the Regiment was relo-
RTF bases

Tarin Kowt, Camp Russell  Fire Base Tycz*
FOB Chora (ANA)  FOB Davis (aka FOB Ripley)
FOB Khyber-Lyddiard  FOB Locke (ANA)
FOB Lyddiard (ANA)  FOB Mashal
FOB Phoenix  FOB Poentjak*
FOB Qudus  FOB Ripley (aka FOB Davis)
FOB Worsley

Current order of battle

As of March 2011 approximately 1,550 Australians were deployed to Afghanistan.

National Command Element

Mentoring Task Force 2 (MTF-2)
   Headquarters, 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR)
   4 x Combat Teams including infantry, cavalry, engineers and offensive support
   5 x Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams
   Force Communications Unit IV (1st Combat Signal Regiment)

Logistics and support units
   Detachment, 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment, Royal Australian
   Artillery (operates ScanEagle UAVs)

Special Operations Task Group
   Elements of the SASR, 1 CDO, 2 CDO and the Incident Response Regiment
   Rotary Wing Group (including two CH-47D Chinooks helicopters).
   Detachment, 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (16 gunners attached to the British Army)
   RAAF Control and Reporting Centre (Kandahar International Airport)
   Two AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft and three C-130 Hercules transports
   Personnel embedded with various coalition units

Force Level Logistic Asset (Kandahar International Airport)

References

♦ (Dutch) Uruzgan Weblog: Uruzgan: Het gevecht om Chora
♦ (Dutch) Infanteristen, commando's: iedereen vecht tegen Taliban - Binnenland - de Volkskrant
♦ Operation Enduring Freedom: Coalition Deaths
♦ Operation Enduring Freedom: Coalition Fatalities
♦ (Dutch) Ze schoten een magazijn op me leeg' - Binnenland - de Volkskrant
♦ Wikileaks
♦ Wikipedia

Got a Story to Share?

Do you have a story to share with your fellow troopers. We are always on the look out for new writers and new material for our newsletter.

At the moment we are looking for:
   • personal experiences with your life in an armoured or cavalry unit.
   • Stories and photos from our recent overseas operations in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan
   • Technical articles on vehicles and equipment used .

Everyone who has served in the army has at least one story that would be of interest to RAACA Members, so get in touch with us and get it into print for posterity. We can provide help and advice if you are not confident of your writing ability. Email raacansw@defence.gov.au or ring on 02 8335 5209
Lest we Forget

We regret to advise the passing of the following members

Harlow, J (1 AR LAD)
Lewis, G,H
Peters, K.T
Gebhardt, John.A
Farthing, P.H
Thomas, G.M
Watkins, D.J
Colonel Dr A.J. Hull CSV
MAJ Forbes, Angus.E
Wieland, Leslie J
MAJ Gilchrist, J.J

Head, James
Pennicook, George MBE (1AR)
McMillan, D
Lenehan, M.B (2/6 AR)
Dumont, George
LT COL Hull A.Jim
Simmons, R.J
Hayes, H.D (Bully)
Weedon, Don
GEN Pearson, C.M.I
MAJGEN Latchford, K.W

We are extremely grateful for the following individuals and associations for their donations to the National Boer War Memorial project between July 2012 to December 2012

J. Haynes
C Robson
K Fitzgerald
Betty Ellis

Henty Lodge Social Club
G P Sutherland
V E & B D Werner
G C & H M Silver

CR CE Price
Maroubra RSL Sub Br
Diana Holloway
Peter Lamprey

Joan Pecover
Mary Williams
Ian Sayers
Douglas James

Mary Tom
Colin Partington
David Neenan
Colin Heggen

Mary Sadler
Gweneth Brooks
David Deasey
Sid Lewis

John Balling
Peter Morrow
J Allard
P Mountfort

Jennifer Bull
John Overton
Anne Lipple
Sandra Adamson

J N Looney
S M Lamb
D Tydeman
Trish Woodman

Munwimbah RSL
City of Sydney RSL
K B McClure
NBWMA Vic Br

Mittagong RSL
Leslie Williams
Horrie Cross
Chester Hill-Carrimar RSL

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FFFAIF
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Bathurst Family History Gp
J Webb
Lindsay Horden
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KC & SM Ashman
Howlong RSL Sub Br
Glenorie RSL Sub Br
Smithfield RSL Sub Br

RLS Veterans Ret Village Sub Br
Betty Salter
Chatswood RSL Sub Br
J K Doherty

Penshurst RSL Sub Br
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GoulburnRSL Sub Br
B J Waverley RSL Sub Br

Epping RSL Sub Br
Harold Langford
Curtis Hill
Mary Dorney

Hornsby RSL Sub Br
Nelson Bay RSL Sub Br
British Sub Br RSL ACT
Patricia Watson

Judith Emmett
South Hurstville RSL Sub Br
NSW Masonic RSL Sub Br
Thirroul RSL Sub Br

RLS Belfield Sub Br
Dennis Weatherall
Redfern RSL Sub Br
Callala Beach RSL Sub Br

T G Tait
Kimbelli RSL Sub Br
Enfield Croydon Park RSL Sub Br
R J Mercer

M Banning-Taylor
Gerringong RSL Sub Br
Burwood RSL Sub Br
Narooma RSL Sub Br

Frank Jackson
C L Raymond
Duncan Spencer
Cobodolin RSL Sub Br

Dubbo RSL Sub Br
Wellington RSL Sub Br
James Lee
City of Greater Wollongong RSL Sub Br

WA & D Durant
Dr PD Byrne
Belconnen RSL Sub Br
Rod Milton

Ballina RSL Sub Br
Kathleen Swan
Rose Bay RSL Sub Br
Boorowa RSL SubBr

Greg Lawrence
Tilligery RSL Sub Br
James & Cheryl Robinson
Entrance Long Jetty RSL S/B

Adamstown RSL Sub Br
Naval Assoc of Aust GI Sub Sect
Concord District RSL Sub Br
Hilda S. Bartley

GR Lovegrove
Bundanoon History Group
HA Langford
Stephen Saywell

Tomakin RSL Sub Br
Boggabri RSL Sub Br
Raymond Terrace RSL Sub Br
Wagga Wagga RSL Sub Br

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Shirley Teague
Woolgoolga RSL Sub Br
Carole Robson

Dungog RSL Sub Br
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Cootamundra RSL Sub Br
Estate of Valkerie M. Howse

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Brian G. Vernon
Tea Gardens RSL Sub Br

Marguerite Andrews
Botany RSL Sub Br
Wallace Allan
Brian Openshaw

Alison Flanagan
J.G. Hitchen
City of Liverpool RSL Sub Br
HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS
SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE

Greg Darcy
Camilleri, J, 4/19 PWLH
Kelly, P,J
Kendall, E.G, 7/21 ALH
Maxwell, E
McDonald, C
Parker, R.H, 4/19 PWLH, 8/13 VMR.
Stenhouse, A.J, 1/15 RNSWL
Hull, D

Vale

Major General Cedric Maudsley Ingram “Sandy” Pearson AO, DSO, OBE, MC (24 August 1918 – 7 Nov 2012) was a retired Australian Army officer. He served during WW2 finishing the war as a Lt Col and later commanded the Australian Forces during the Vietnam War, (1ATF 1968~69). He was Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon and retired as Chief of Personnel (Army) in 1975.

Following his retirement, Sandy was appointed the Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Holsworthy. He was a very well-respected Hon Colonel and had a very welcome presence at all Regimental parades. Without fail, he would always stop and talk to soldiers when inspecting the unit on parade.

Sandy was part of a long line of Honorary Colonels that served in that role at 2 Cav Regt with great distinction.

In October 1987, as Patron of the Welcome Home March, Sandy led a huge contingent of Vietnam veterans through the streets of Sydney. His involvement in assisting with the planning of that event with the RSM Army, WO1 Kevin ‘Lofty’ Wendt and the Organising Committee, will never be forgotten by those who marched on that day. He will be sadly missed.

First Half of C Sqn I Armd Regt Tanks Arrived in South Vietnam on 24-28 Feb 1968

The first consignment of ‘gun’ tanks (A half squadron of nine, plus six Forward Delivery Troop tanks) arrived at Vung Tau on 24 Feb 68. Seven were off loaded at the Song Dinh hard on 27 Feb 68; the remaining eight, on 28 Feb 68.

Courtesy—RAAC Homepage Defence Intranet
Members are thanked for their response to the request to receive Armour by email. Due to that response with this issue we have sent Armour by email to all email addresses we hold. If this doesn't suit anyone please contact the office and we will cross you off the email list and send a paper copy.

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<td>7, Tandara Court, Black Rock Vic. 3193</td>
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<td>Mr. A.J. Brown</td>
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<td>Mr. D.A. Coleman</td>
<td>PO Box 1049, Murwillumbah NSW 2484</td>
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<td>Lt. Col. F. Danger</td>
<td>School of Armour, Puckapunyal Vic.3662</td>
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<td>Mr. B. Golding</td>
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From 1st Armoured Brigade to 1st Australian Task Force - A Journey in Armour

By Major John Baines, RFD

Tucked away in the East Gippsland hamlet of Eagle Point is a living legend of Australian Armour. Retired Major Joffre James (Gillie) Gilchrist is justifiably proud of his 34 years of military service in Australia and overseas, spanning many ranks, units, postings and varied roles. His service included pre World War Two with Militia and PMF artillery units, 1st Armoured Brigade, BCOF, the introduction of Centurion and culminated in Vietnam War service as OC Forward Delivery Troop, 1969-70.

As work was almost impossible to find in Melbourne through the Great Depression, Gillie moved to a family property near Gilgandra, NSW where as a battling rouseabout and general hand he would regularly send money home to help support his mother and sister. His country experience with the land and machinery stood him in good stead, when in 1936, on his 21st birthday; he returned to Melbourne and soon after enlisted in the CMF and was posted to the 10th Field Battery RAA. Enjoying his part time service as a driver, he transferred to the PMF in February 1939 serving with the 3 M.D. Motor Transport unit and 13th Heavy Battery, RAA.

Seeing an opportunity to go to New Guinea in 1939, in a highly prized posting as a tractor operator installing guns from the original HMAS Sydney in ground mounts at Port Moresby, he applied his initiative and arranged an impromptu familiarisation and training session as a “Defence Representative” from the tractor distributor and gained the position.

This interest in driving and vehicles became a focus of his life and as the driver to Brigadier F.B. Hinton, Commander 1st Armoured Brigade, was encouraged to join the 2nd AIF and the Australian Armoured Corps (AAC) in July 1941.

Like many of his comrades, he was bitterly disappointed that after training for three years in NSW and WA on AFV platforms including Vickers Medium Mk II, M3-Light Stuart, M3-Medium Grant, Bren Gun Carrier, Dingo Light Armoured Car, Rover Heavy Armoured Car, Armoured Command Vehicle and the White APC to fight overseas, the 1st Armoured Brigade was not to see operational service. As a regular NCO this was a lingering but powerful influence on his continuing service.

Following WWII he was posted as an Australian Armoured Corps (AAC) WO2 with the 65th Infantry Battalion, British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) and in 1947 after his return from Japan immersed himself in the RAAC at the Armoured Fighting Vehicle (AFV) School. This was followed by a series of instructor and cadre postings including 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers and Royal Military College Duntroon followed by Centurion Tank Driving and Maintenance, Gunnery and Wireless studies at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington in the United Kingdom in preparation for the tanks introduction into Australian service.

Subsequently he joined the staff of the AFV School in 1952 and was appointed RSM of 1st Armoured Regiment from 1954 - 1957 and later RSM to 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles and 2nd/14th Queensland Mounted Infantry. During this time he keenly sought and was posted to the Maralinga Support Unit at the Atomic Testing Ground in February 1959, where his duties ranged across military and civil responsibilities.

In 1963 his career path changed when he completed the ARA QM course at the Jungle Training Centre (JTC) and was

(Continued on page 19)
promoted to Lieutenant (QM) and allotted to the RAAC serving with 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles with a promotion to Temporary Captain (QM) in 1965 and Captain (QM) on Cambrai Day 1968.

With this background, it was therefore inevitable that at the age of 52 years and 10 months he fought hard to be accepted for operational service in Vietnam and completed the physically demanding Battle Efficiency Course at the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra in July 1968. On 21 January 1969 he deplaned in Saigon finally achieving the operational posting he had craved since enlistment and was posted as Officer Commanding, Detachment 1st Forward Delivery Troop.

During his time in Vietnam, “Di We” Gilllie applied his civil and military skills across many a varied task including forward delivery, pay officer and civil support to villages such as Binh Ba, before and after the battle in June 1969. He celebrated his 54th birthday whilst in country, probably the oldest armoured corps soldier to do so. He and a select few humorously recall the “lost safe key incident” in which having lost the key to the safe, an access hole was cut in its rear and the safe placed against the wall for the remainder of the deployment.

Having achieved his ultimate quest of war service after a lifetime of living in barracks with his caravans and boat dedicated to the army, he retired in 1971, married Sylvia, and settled into his current home on the Gippsland Lakes.

Remembering “Gillie” as the exacting QM of 8/13 VMR in 1968 from the perspective of a CMF trooper, it was a humbling personal experience to have him share the recollection of his journey in armour and ponder the value of lessons learnt. So after 34 years of service and 37 years of retirement, his humble message to today’s soldiers are to be proficient in all matters, apply fairness in your dealings, loyal to all ranks and above all - be committed.

(Extract from Ironsides 2008 courtesy of MAJ P. Branagan, OAM)
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The Battlefield - 1966  
announces the  
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OF THE 3 VIET NAM WARS  
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