

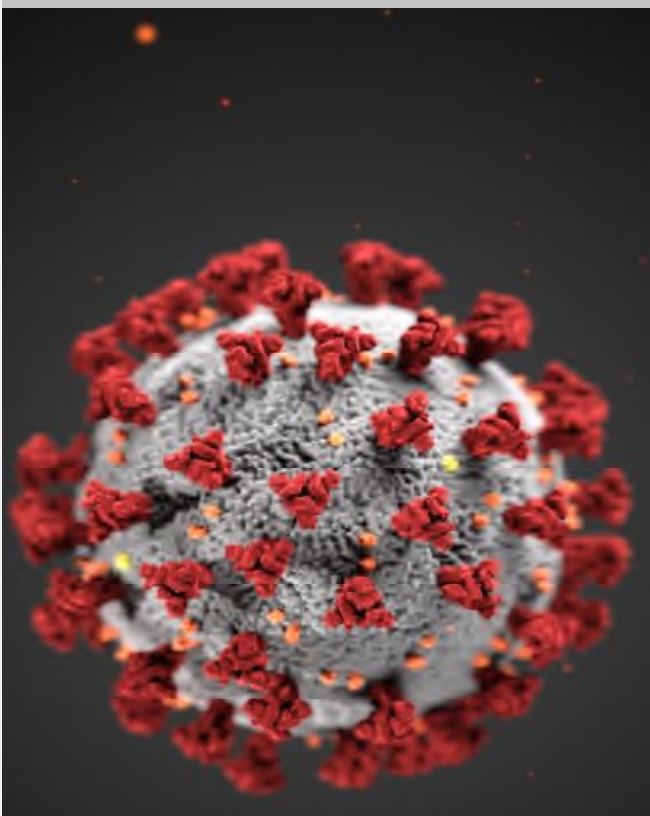
Veterans Support Centre



CONTACT FRONT

3rd Edition August 2020

Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Association (NSW)
Hastings Manning Macleay Branch Inc.



GO AWAY, LEAVE US ALONE



Recruitment - World War 1	pgs 8, 9	Korean War	pgs 26, 27, 28, 29
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There are NO COSTS to access the services such as Pensions, Welfare and advice provided by Veterans Support Centre, Port Macquarie

"The Commonwealth has not participated in the research, production or exercised editorial control over the Activity or its contents. The views expressed and conclusions reached herein do not necessarily represent those of the Commonwealth, which expressly disclaims any responsibility for the content or the accuracy of the Activity".

Mental health - Who do I contact if I, or someone I know, needs help now?



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY000

Port Macquarie Base Hospital.....5524 2000

Wauchope District Hospital.....6580 8000

Kempsey District Hospital.....6561 2600

VVCS (Veteran's 24/7 crisis line).....1800 011 046

Lifeline.....13 11 14

Every veteran, ex-Service person who deploys or not, or is injured, deserves a lifestyle and better treatment than is currently available.

Every veteran should be able to successfully attain their rights to pensions with a simple expedient system through DVA. Yet we still have veterans unaware of their rights and entitlements about what they may be entitled to and where and how to apply or file a claim.

Through your will, you have the power to make a difference. Any gift you bequest to our Sub-Branch, HMMVPPAA, no matter how small, can and will assist a fellow veteran by assisting us to continue our services.

DVA Media Releases and Ministerial Speeches

A large number of DVA Media Releases and other publications are available for your information.

A copy of the full text and other less topical releases may be obtained by visiting

<http://minister.dva.gov.au/media.releases.htm>

You can also subscribe to receive all releases to your computer

or Email a request to us at hmmvppaa@bigpond.com

or Phone us on 6581 5230

or visit our office at **Veterans Support Centre** if you require assistance

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From the Editor's Desk

PLEASE complete and return the enclosed voting paper in the stamped envelope as soon as you can to decide the future of Vietnam Veterans Peacekeepers & Peacemakers Assn (NSW) Hastings Manning Macleay Branch

**Jill Opie, Editor**

Hello,

I hope that you and your loved ones are well and safe. I had hoped to write that we are all through the nasty coronavirus time but it does look like we have a way to go yet - hence the front page! Hope it made you smile.

I have included some more reports of what our ADF members are doing as a continuation of when someone asked me 'What do they all do when there is no war to fight?'. As we know, our military have been busy helping their community (all of us) in every way that they are needed. We all remember the terrible floods, the droughts, the fires and now the dreadful virus that has caused worldwide problems. Our ADF have been on the frontline again helping out the police force and the health services so that the mammoth task of caring and keeping people safe is carried out. I am grateful to each and every one of them. (see pgs 12 and 13)

As you will be aware, during our virus crisis, we had a time of dissent and disruption over what came to be called "Black Lives Matter". This prompted me to research how our indigenous Australians have been treated in the military. I would like to say as equals but sadly that was not the case. Aboriginal Australians were only recruited for World War 1 when numbers of recruits fell, they were not afforded the same treatment and they were most certainly not given the same rights and entitlements upon discharge. (see pgs 9 and 10)

I am pleased that Defence now gives a better deal to indigenous Australian recruits and has respect and inclusion well and truly in their recruiting and training processes. (see pg 17)

See pg 4 for car buying tips, a vet asked for some guidance on this.

You may need to use the new DVA website, it is a "new, easier to use" style. My cynical self wonders if that makes anything a quicker, easier process when dealing with the long, unnecessary delays to veteran's claims and payments? For our mature Vietnam Veterans, long delays are unacceptable and some DVA staff should maybe stop and think if they can do better.

(this is my personal opinion)

Last issue our President issued a challenge - who do you recognise in this photo - I can confirm it is our very own Welfare Officer, Peter Millen, a member of Clearance Dive Team 1, pulling from the front! And far left on the group photo. Well done if you picked him out.



Economic Support Payments -If you qualified for the first payment of \$750 from the Government's stimulus package, the second payment of the same amount will start to be paid from 13 July onwards. If you have not received it by the time you read this, you can log into MyService to check that your bank details are correct, call DVA on 1800 555 254 or call the Welfare Officer on Tuesdays at VSC 6581 5509.

There are lots of things to consider when looking at a new car.

New cars can offer peace of mind

New cars are less likely to break down than used cars, and are likely to remain mechanically sound for many years after purchase if serviced correctly. They are also covered by a warranty which provides some certainty about future operating costs. New car warranties typically provide cover for 3 to 5 years and 60,000 to 100,000km.

Get the latest features

If features are important to you then a new car could be a better choice as they tend to come with the latest technology. For example, later models are more likely to have the latest safety and fuel efficiency technologies, driver aids and infotainment features.

Fuel economy

Every year car makers aim to improve fuel efficiency. This can translate to savings for those that buy a new car as they tend to be more fuel efficient.

Depreciation

New cars are more exposed to depreciation which typically occurs more rapidly in the years immediately after purchase. For example, new cars can lose about 40 per cent of their value within the first three years.

Superseded and Old Stock

Vehicles with the previous year's build date (or earlier) can also be a good buy, as can a superseded model (one that's been replaced by a new model). In determining if these vehicles are a good buy and what is an appropriate price for them, you will need to consider things like:

- when the vehicle was built

- how significant the change is in the new model's price and equipment levels

- how long you intend to keep it

Tips when considering superseded or old stock vehicles:

Generally, the longer you keep a car the less impact the earlier build date has on its value.

If you regularly change cars, make sure the discounted price for buying superseded stock sufficiently offsets the lower trade-in or sale price you can expect when it comes time to sell.

Consider a car history check.

Buying a used car

There are a lot of pros and cons for buying a used car.

It might not seem as glamorous as a new car, but there are thousands of well maintained and serviced used cars available. If you do your research and negotiate well, it could save you a lot of money. You might even find that the new car you have been considering is available as a used car at a much cheaper price, with only a handful of kilometres on the odometer.

Do your research

There is plenty of information available. Use this site, search the web for cars you're interested in.

Demonstrators are cars the dealer uses to show the model to customers. They are usually kept for a short time and may only travel a few thousand kilometres before they are sold. Demonstrators can be an acceptable buy provided the price is right. Things to think about:

You will in effect be buying a used car. It will have been first registered to the dealer.

You won't get the full new car warranty term as it will have started when the vehicle was first registered.

Consider the risks of private sale

Private sales are high risk and unregulated. As such, you must be extra vigilant with your checks

Be sure to complete aPPSR check (formally REVS check) to help identify if a car has money owing on it or if it has been stolen

To protect yourself we suggest buying from a licensed motor dealer.

Be aware of bargains and consider on-going costs

New cars often use the latest technology to save on costs such as maintenance and fuel so keep the age of the vehicle in mind as this can impact on the cost of servicing and maintenance.

Check your features

A used vehicle may also lack some of the features you require. Modern safety features such as airbags and anti-lock brakes are less common in older vehicles.

YOU CAN ALSO READ THE ARTICLE BY NATIONAL CAR BROKERS IN YOUR MONTHLY "VIETNAM VETERANS' NEWSLETTER' FROM GRANVILLE pg 58/59 ABOUT THEIR FREE SERVICE FOR VETS.



Recognition for veterans and their families as Parliament has passed the Australian Veterans' Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Bill 2019.

For those who have applied for the Covenant, DVA will mail out Covenant packs with the Oath and Pin. Arrangements are also being finalised to launch the Veteran Card business benefits component of the package soon – watch this space!

If you have not already applied for the Covenant, you can do so online using MyService. For more information, visit: <https://www.dva.gov.au/benefits-and-payments/australian-defence-veterans-covenant>

One year I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift... The next year I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year"

A couple is lying in bed. The man says "I am going to make you the happiest woman in the world"

The woman replies "I'll miss you"

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds. I bought her a bathroom scale.

"It's just too hot to wear clothes today" Jack says as he steps out of the shower. "Honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?"

"Probably that I married you for your money," she replied

GOLD CARD

The Gold Card - 'DVA Health Card – All Conditions within Australia' and 'DVA Health Card – Totally & Permanently Incapacitated' gives you access to a wide range of public and private health care services, for the treatment, at the department's expense, of all your health care conditions whether war or service related or not.

Aged 70 + ?

You are entitled to a Gold Card even if you have never made a claim for your war or service related health condition if you have qualifying service.

Apply to DVA or talk to Compensation Advocate Mike or Welfare Officer Peter

Ring for an appointment - 6581 5230



The DVA website has Fact Sheets about a huge range of benefits that may be available to you or your partner.

One recent fact sheet is **IS45 - Partner Service Pension** and tells of when a partner may be eligible for a pension income based on your qualifying service. It is income and asset tested for those on low income.

If you need help accessing DVA's website, call the VSC for help



The **VPPAA** is dedicated to the welfare of all Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers, ex-service and serving personnel and their families. If you, or someone you know, is ill and you suspect the illness may be a result of military service, please do not hesitate to consult one of our trained volunteers.

We are here to help you and there is no cost associated with our services.



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Store 119 Horton St Port Macquarie Super Store Phone:

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Shop 8, 100 Ocean Drive, Lighthouse Plaza Port Macquarie

(02) 6582 0914

Shop 3-5, 88 Bold St Haven Plaza Corner of Bold St & Tunis St, Laurieton

(02) 6559 9700

Shop 1, Lakewood Shopping Centre Corner of Ocean Dr & Sirius Drive Lakewood.

(02) 6559 9104



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General Business– Your Office



Our office is open weekdays - phone or call in 10am - 2pm

Committee Meetings:

Second Thursday every month held at Unit 30, 35 Merrigal Road, Port Macquarie, immediately following the Luncheon Clean up. However the Committee may determine an alternative location and day from time to time.

Annual General Meeting Minutes and Financial Statements are available at the office.

Thank you:

To all donors, supporters and advertisers: Your continued support helps us to keep our doors open for veterans, serving and ex-serving personnel who need our help. Members are encouraged to support businesses whose advertisements appear in this newsletter.

Contributions Welcome:

Please send any letters, stories, questions, comments, poems, jokes, photos etc to The Editor, Contact Front, PO Box 5330, Port Macquarie NSW 2444. All such submissions are subject to copyright laws, may be edited and remain the property of VPPAA Sub-Branch unless otherwise agreed. All submissions received will be considered for publication, but will not necessarily be accepted. No correspondence regarding acceptance or otherwise will be entered into.

Take a break



THURSDAYS - ON AGAIN

Join us on Thursday mornings from about 10am for an informal get together. Find out what's happening with veteran's issues, catch up with old and new friends or just have a chat over a cup of coffee or tea.

These informal mornings are followed by **OUR FAMOUS \$5 LUNCH**

HELP SUPPORT US to keep a candle in the window burning, to help someone just like you, as we have helped so many in the past.

PLEASE if you go into hospital, ring us or have someone ring us and let us know.

Even though we do a ring around at least 3 times a year, we have members go into hospital and we don't know. Even if it is an out of town hospitalisation like Sydney we can organise a visit.



**Listen to Community Radio 2 WAY FM
103.9 every Wednesday morning
9am to 10.30am for our weekly "Contact
Front" program, keeping you entertained
and up-to-date.**

**Port Macquarie Soldier On veteran having fun
running the "Contact Front" radio show -
Paul Davey - left**

RECRUITMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS FOR WORLD WAR I

During World War I, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) reflected Australia's ethnic make-up.

More than 420,000 men volunteered for the AIF during the war. Most of them were of British origin. But just as men of other nationalities could be found across the country, so too could they be found in the AIF. Culturally diverse people brought their own accents, cultures and habits to a predominantly Anglo-Saxon force. Being mostly European, they blended in.

Discriminatory enlistment standards

When the war began in 1914, the Defence Act 1903 (Cwith) prevented Indigenous Australians from entering military service. Most recruiters rigidly stuck to the rule in their military recruiting handbook:

Aborigines and half-castes are not to be enlisted. This restriction is to be interpreted as applying to all coloured men.

But over the years of war, many Indigenous men were accepted into the AIF. Fewer and fewer Australians were willing to enlist as war went on and casualty lists lengthened. This widespread view was reflected in the defeat of conscription referendums in 1916 and 1917.

Faced with rapidly declining numbers, the Australian Government began to relax the conditions for enlistment. First, it changed the physical requirements (age, height, chest measurement) to broaden eligibility. Then it introduced legislation to accept enrolments from Indigenous Australians of mixed race.

The new standard for enlistment in the 1917 Military Order 200(2) was:

Half-castes may be enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force provided that the examining Medical Officers are satisfied that one of the parents is of European origin. NOTE – All previous instructions on this subject are cancelled

The relaxed standard made it easier for Indigenous Australians and people from other cultural groups to enlist in the AIF.

Some freedom in service

Hundreds of Indigenous Australians - and perhaps several thousand - enlisted in the AIF. For the only time in their lives, many men found themselves free from the discrimination that affected their everyday civilian lives. In 1919, a Queensland nurse recalled that there was: "no discrimination on the battlefield and certainly none in the military hospitals

More than a decade after the war, another veteran wrote of 'a Queensland aborigine' who had "become his brother, and was his brother still"

Reasons for joining up

Some people might have seen enlistment as an opportunity to prove themselves the equal of Europeans. Perhaps they hoped for improved treatment and equality after the war. We can only assume that like many soldiers, they seized the opportunity to earn extra money, travel overseas and do their duty for the country.

Brave men recognised on their merit

We have many examples of outstanding combat bravery that Indigenous members of the AIF brought to the battlefield.

Private Albert Knight was a farm hand from Brewarrina in New South Wales. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the attack on the village of Bony in September 1918. Two of Knight's brothers also enlisted in the AIF.

Private William Rawlings was a horse-breaker from Framlingham in Victoria. He was awarded the Military Medal for leading a bayonet charge at Morlancourt in July 1918. He was killed in action on 9 August 1918 and buried at Heath Cemetery, Harbonnières.

Private Harry Murray was a stock and station hand from Taroom in Queensland. He was assigned to the 11th Light Horse Regiment with many other Indigenous men. Murray served in the victorious Battle of Samakh in 1918 and returned home a veteran in 1919.

Such bravery was judged on the merit of these brave diggers' actions and not the colour of their skin.

Research into Indigenous service

We are working towards finding out more about the contributions of Indigenous men and women, but it remains a difficult task. Different social norms and discrimination against Indigenous peoples throughout our history has left an incomplete historical record. This is why the full contribution of Australian Indigenous soldiers may never be completely understood.

Thankfully, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in World War I and later conflicts now receive the recognition they always deserved.

RECRUITMENT OF AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS FOR WORLD WAR I pt 2

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who served with Australian forces in the first World War is estimated to be in the range of 1,000-1,200. But the precise figure will never be known, because a number of those who served changed their names and birthplaces when they enrolled to get around racist enlistment practices.

Despite fighting and dying for Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders still weren't considered upon their return from the war. Many of these veterans were also denied repatriation benefits, and excluded from returned services clubs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have long sought to gain recognition for the service and sacrifices of their men and women. Some do this by telling stories in their families and local communities about the military careers of their forebears.

These stories often take the form of oral histories. Oral history projects by groups of Aboriginal people have proven valuable for redressing the unrecognised service and racist treatment of their ancestors who served in the Australian Light Horse during the Sinai-Palestine Campaign of 1916-18

Commemorating the Battle of Beersheba

Although most Australians know little or nothing about the Battle of Beersheba, the Australian government funded its centennial commemoration at Beersheba (now in southern Israel) in October 2017.

One hundred Australian and a few New Zealand military history reenactors attended the joint service as part of a commercial tour, during which they rode in period military outfits along the route of their ancestors.

A group of Aboriginal men and women, who were descended from some of the estimated 100 Aboriginal members of the Australian Light Horse, also participated in the tour. Several had ancestors who were in the "Queensland Black Watch", a predominantly Aboriginal reinforcement unit. .

The group's participation was enabled by a transnational network of organisations, but the key driver was Rona Tranby Trust, which funds projects to record and preserve Aboriginal oral histories. In 2017, it took a group of Aboriginal men and women to complete 11 histories of their ancestors who fought and died in the Sinai-Palestine Campaign.

Like the other re-enactors, Aboriginal participants were honouring their ancestors' courage and sacrifice. But they also wanted to document the neglected stories of their service, and the racial discrimination their forebears experienced.

Here we share, with permission, one of the stories that came from the trip, and from the family history projects the group members continue to work on.

Ricky Morris

Gunditjmarra man and retired Army Sergeant Ricky Morris was officially invited to lay a wreath on behalf of all Indigenous veterans at the service in Beersheba. Morris is the 19th of an astonishing 21 men and women Anzacs in his family. He served in a progeny of the Light Horse unit of his grandfather, Frederick Amos Lovett.

At a time when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were neither citizens nor counted in the census, Frederick and his four brothers left the Lake Condah Aboriginal Mission, 300 km west of Melbourne, to sign up. But their service counted for nothing. Gunditjmarra people were subjected to a "second dispossession" when they were forced off Lake Condah under the Soldier Settlement Scheme. The scheme granted land to returning soldiers, but like almost all Aboriginal applicants, the brothers were denied soldier settlement blocks.

Morris is a member of the Victorian Indigenous Veterans Association Remembrance Committee and gives talks at schools about Aboriginal culture and his family. He interviewed two elderly aunts for his family history project, which he described as: *...a unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of those who fought and died for Australia, and the diversity of Australians who put their hands up to answer the call.*

Descendants of soldiers who fought in the Australian Light Horse Brigade took part in a re-enactment to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the battle of Beersheba in Israel in October 2017



Telling the forgotten stories of Indigenous servicemen in the first world war



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289-293 Gregory Street

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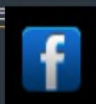
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OP COVID ASSIST - ADF to send personnel to assist Victoria in coronavirus response

"Only a few months after returning from Operation Bushfire Assist, 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, has deployed once again in response to support authorities with the recent COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria.

At the request of the NSW Government, 120 unit soldiers were recalled from leave – many of whom travelled back to Gallipoli Barracks overnight – to quickly deploy and support NSW Police with virus containment and vehicle checkpoints on the Victorian border.

Within 12 hours of receiving the request, Bravo Company was en route to RAAF Base Amberley to fly to Victoria, stocked with ration packs and enough kit to sustain them at a series of remote border checkpoints.

Commander of the 7th Combat Brigade Brigadier Jason Blain gave encouraging words before the departure, reinforcing the importance of this kind of service to the Australian community.

"The ADF exists to protect the nation, and what you're about to do is protect the nation," Brigadier Blain said.

"When our citizens get to those border checkpoints they are going to see police, they're going to see you, and they'll know that you're there to protect them.

"They know what you've done previously in supporting Victoria through this year's bushfires."

Brigadier Blain was also impressed with Bravo Company's urgent and professional response to a last-minute national emergency request.

"I want to commend this battalion, and commend all of you on the way you have responded to this urgent task given to us by our government," Brigadier Blain said.

"I know some of you drove eight hours overnight to get here when you were recalled to move out this morning, you left what you were doing on leave and with your families to now take on this important task.

"You come from a fine battalion with a fine tradition, and an amazing heritage, you wear on your sleeve a path that represents a history of what this battalion has done in service to the nation.

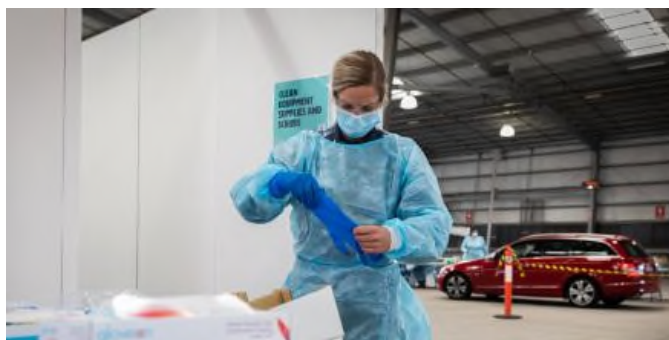
"This is another chapter in that service to the nation."

The 120 members of 8/9 RAR landed at RAAF Base Richmond that afternoon, and deployed to a series of border checkpoints the next morning, where they will stay in support of NSW Police for at least a month.



Above - Private Joshua Perske from 8th/9th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, deploying on Operation COVID-19 Assist at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

Photo: Corporal Nicole Dorrett



Above - Air Force personnel have deployed to Melbourne to assist the Department of Health and Human Services test for COVID-19.



Lieutenant Brendan Dumbrell, of Joint Task Group 629.3, at the 25th/49th Battalion, Royal Queensland Regiment, during Operation COVID-19 Assist. Photo: Stephen Bergin



Leading Aircraftwoman Reaksmei Sophea, from No. 2 Expeditionary Health Squadron, is deployed to the Casey Fields testing site in Victoria on Operation COVID-19 Assist. Photo: Leading Aircraftman John Solomon

OP COVID ASSIST - ADF to send personnel to assist Victoria in coronavirus response

The Australian Defence Force will provide more than 1,000 personnel to help with the coronavirus response in Victoria. The bulk of the ADF personnel will help with hotel quarantine. Others will assist with logistics and testing. The assistance was requested by Victoria following a spike in the number of new cases

The Federal Government received the request from Victoria overnight. Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said the 1,000 troops would include roughly 850 people to help with planning and assisting with the enforcement of hotel quarantine.

"Our soldiers are not law enforcement personnel ... they are not security guards, but they are assisting those locations to make sure quarantine requirements are met," she said. "What we have been doing for many months now is assisting states and territories with a wide range of tasks."

On Tuesday, 21,000 tests were carried out in Victoria, the highest number in a single day this year.

The Minister said about 200 medical personnel would work with Victorian authorities to speed up testing processes. Victoria's health department said there has been "extremely high demand" for drive through coronavirus testing this week. (ABC News: Gemma Hall)

"What we're doing is, we're not doing testing ourselves, but we will be assisting the Victorian authorities at their 90 testing sites across the state," she said. "We will provide logistics and also a range of medical staff to actually help speed up the processing time."

Assistance has also been sought from New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland.

Health Minister Greg Hunt, speaking in Melbourne, said the Government had responded to Victoria's request for help in the same way it had done for other states, like Tasmania and New South Wales. "Whilst we expect there will be more cases today ... the Chief Medical Officer's view is that the number of cases are contained, but there is a risk," Mr Hunt said.

The Minister said the extra support for Victoria would "help keep Victoria safe and help address this particular outbreak." "Clearly the hotel quarantine structure in Victoria could be improved. We're stepping in at Victoria's request to assist them as we would any other state," he said.

The ABC understands the Victorian Government requested 300 ADF personnel for logistical support, including assistance in six designated hotspots and for help in dealing with hotel quarantine.



Victoria requested logistical support and help from other states to battle a spike in cases. (AAP: Danny Casey) - above

Australian Defence Force (ADF) medical personnel are supporting the Victorian Government's enhanced COVID-19 testing regime at multiple locations around Melbourne. The support is at the request of the Victorian Government, following a significant increase in coronavirus cases in the city.

Photo by LAC John Solomon



Following a request from the New South Wales Government on July 6, 2020, Defence is deploying up to 500 ADF personnel to support New South Wales Police Force border control checkpoints on the New South Wales-Victoria border as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo right by CPL David Cotton



source - ABC net au 25 June 20

WORK OF ART FOR A SQUADRON BREAK ROOM

A life-size mural of a Belgian Shepherd Malinois and a German Shepherd bursting through a wall jumps at you when walking into No. 1 Security Forces Squadron Williamstown's military working dog section.

Military police Corporal Zarah Goldski designed the 2m-wide mural, which was painted on the break room wall in June. A graphic designer before enlisting, Corporal Goldski has created coin designs, exercise patches and artwork for the RAAF Alpine, Ski and Snowboard Association's equipment. Leading Aircraftwoman Lauren Rouse-Upjohn helped paint the mural and it took them 12 hours to complete.

Corporal Goldski said it was her first time painting at work. "I think it's cool they let me take a paintbrush to a wall when they'd never seen anything I'd done before - they were very trusting," Corporal Goldski said.

A drawing of two dogs was lost after the section was repainted during a COVID-19 stimulus project, so kennel manager Sergeant Tony Weiler decided to revamp the wall. "I asked Corporal Zarah if she could throw something together," Sergeant Weiler said.

Leading Aircraftwoman Rouse-Upjohn said it was going to be similar to the previous artwork but grew bigger as they added more elements, starting with grey scale and ending up with jets flying through storm clouds. "Each time we added something to it we'd hear how much better it looked," Leading Aircraftwoman Rouse-Upjohn said.

It had had a positive effect on colleagues. "It's been a nice boost of morale in the section; having freshly painted walls and a new cool design helps make them feel better about coming to work," Leading Aircraftwoman Rouse-Upjohn said.

Sergeant Weiler said everyone was impressed with the detail of the dogs. "It really lifts the place up," Sergeant Weiler said. "We are lucky to have two artistically talented people, because a stick figure is about all I can draw."



Left - the life size mural as described above, painted by MP Cpl Zarah Goldski (left) and LACW Lauren Rouse-Upjohn

Right -
Cpl Levi Winman
and the team from
1 CSSB



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CYCLING FOR CHARITY

Some of Darwin's fittest soldiers will push their legs to the limit as they cycle 1,200 km to help Australians affected by cancer. 10 soldiers from 1st Combat Service Support Battalion (1 CSSB) will pedal from Darwin to Kakadu, Pine Creek, Litchfield and Berry Springs, returning to Darwin after a week. Additionally, the team will seek to raise awareness and funds for the Cancer Council.

Team leader and event organiser Corporal Levi Winman said this initiative was close to his heart, with his mother diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2019. "My mother had always been my rock and number one supporter," Corporal Winman said. "When this happened I felt helpless and lost. I wanted to make a difference and raise awareness for such a great organisation that helps our community."

Commanding Officer 1 CSSB Lieutenant Colonel Kane Wright said this great initiative demonstrates how the Army is constantly looking to support the community. "Our people are encouraged to look for opportunities to support the community and find ways to give back," Lieutenant Colonel Wright said. With Lieutenant Colonel Wright's mother currently fighting breast cancer, he acknowledged how the Cancer Council provides invaluable support to individuals and their families affected by the disease.

Cancer Council CEO Tanya Izod said all donations and greater awareness of cancer issues goes a long way to supporting those with cancer. "Having the support of the Australian Army is amazing," Ms Izod said. "All funds raised will be used in the Northern Territory to support families affected by cancer."

Lorraine Currie, Corporal Winman's mother, said the last few years have been tough but the support she received from the Cancer Council has been wonderful. "I was so proud to hear what Levi was doing to support such a great organisation and raise awareness in honour of me and other people who have suffered from cancer," Mrs Currie said.

Corporal Winman and his team have begun preparing and fundraising for the gruelling ride in July. "Any donation, no matter how small goes a long way to raising awareness and support to the local community and all those who have been affected by cancer," Corporal Winman said.

To help their cycling comrades, 1 CSSB soldiers will hold a series of fundraising efforts in the Darwin local community during the weeks leading up to the event. The team will continue to train six days a week to be ready for the ride and will be seeking donations for the Cancer Council through a GoFundMe page.

Sources - DoD People and News - with permission

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VETERANS SUPPORTING FARMERS

Veterans, your friends the farmers and their families are in trouble and they need your support and they need it now. So I am calling upon you to once again to *“heed the call”* to help your fellow Australians and Australia in a time of great need. Former Army Major Keith Wilkinson (retired) with assistance from the office of the Member for Cowper; Pat Conaghan and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) has launched a national project titled “Veterans Supporting Farmers”. Keith said, “due to the horrific effects of the droughts and bush fires, farmers and their families are at their breaking point, physically, financially and psychologically. “Right now, today, they need help and support. In order to support our famers, we need to *“put some rounds down range”*, Keith said.

“My attention was drawn to the plight of farmers when I noticed that farmer suicide rates were similar to veteran suicide rates. Approximately 47 veterans per year (Sunday Telegraph 14 August 2016 p10-11) are committing suicide”. “In order to support famers, I am asking all veterans, their partners, families and friends to do the following”. Keith said. I am asking that you, your partners, families and friends travel to a country town that has been devastated by drought, bush fires and Covid 19 whereby their communities have been shut down and been deprived of the tourism dollar. This act of compassion will inject much needed capital into the local economy.

“It is estimated that there are approximately 641,000 veterans in Australia but just over 300,000 veterans are registered with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA).” Keith said. “It is estimated that if only 150,000 veterans plus their partners with their children and or a friend and their partner take a 5 day trip and spend around \$500 per person on accommodation, food, petrol and entertainment that a minimum of around \$300 million dollars could be injected into the rural economies”. Keith suggests that when planning your next trip you should contact the RSL, Vietnam Veterans, Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association, Local Tourist Association or the Local Council etc.

If veterans are unable to travel they can make a financial donation. “I have been assured that the recipients of donations will know it came from veterans and that every cent received will be distributed to those farmers in need.” Keith said.

To make a donation and register your trip, I ask that you visit the VETERANS SUPPORTING FARMERS web site at www.veteranssupportingfarmers.net.au or you can post a comment and pictures of your trip on our face book page “Veterans Supporting Farmers”.

The “make a donation” portal has a direct link to the Country Women’s Association (CWA) Disaster Relief Fund. The CWA will administer and distribute the funds directly to the farmers. “I have been assured by the CWA that every cent received will be distributed to those farmers in need.” Keith said.

“Why veterans you ask, because veterans have gone through and in some case are still going through their own “Living Hell” with significant challenges and *veterans get it done*. “Veterans, because of their experiences are well placed to possibly understand the stress, trauma and psychological “Hell” (although different circumstances) that farmers and their families are facing.” Keith stated.

He said, “veterans and their families will have a chance to sit down with farmers and their families, share a drink and a meal and talk about their challenges, provide support and understanding”. Right now, as well as financial assistance, fodder and water, farmers “NEED HOPE” and to know that they are “NOT ALONE” and that Australians are behind them and supporting them.

“Farmers need to know that they will never be alone – “NOT ON OUR WATCH”, Keith said. “This message can be carried by veterans who have an understanding of what it means and takes to face great adversity”, Keith asserted.



(L to R) Bob Hunter and Keith Wilkinson on Bob’s farm “Nindethana” at Byabarra. Photo by Ly Wilkinson
Major Keith Wilkinson (retired) has served in both the Australian Regular Army and Australian Army Reserves as an Officer and Digger. Keith has deployed on operations to IRAQ (2 x tours) and East Timor. prorec@optusnet.com.au

Rationing in Great Britain in World War II

During World War II, a key aspect of almost every country's wartime strategy focused heavily on limiting domestic consumption. One method governments employed to enforce control was to forcibly reduce their citizens' consumption through the implementation of rationing, a tactic that allowed governments to equally apportion a certain amount of a particular resource to many people, rather than allowing a free-for-all atmosphere when resources were limited. An Economic Intelligence Service of the League of Nations publication from 1942 details the importance of rationing during wartime, stating, "the control of consumption is a necessary condition...[for] the effective mobilization of resources for war purposes." Governments who effectively employed rationing programs domestically were better able to manage resources for their war efforts abroad.

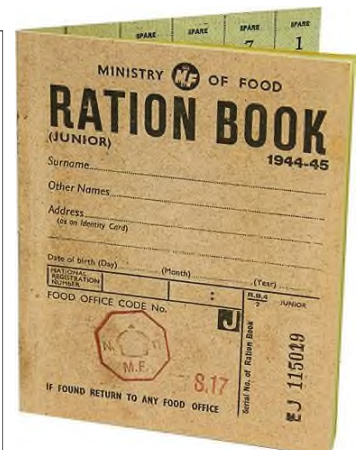
Rationing became a key part of war efforts on both sides of World War II. In Great Britain, the strains of a massive war effort and severe cutbacks in trade due to enemy naval forces pushed politicians to implement elaborate rationing systems to distribute resources. On the Axis side, the German occupation of Austria forcibly restrained the availability of goods to Austrians in favour allocating resources for the German war effort. However with these cuts in consumption came social unrest; citizens had mixed views of the cuts in consumption that their governments forced upon them. In short the strains caused by World War II caused citizens on both sides, in this case Great Britain and Austria, to make major cuts in consumption as a result of rationing; simultaneously, governments were forced to consider and react to public opinion of rationing policy.

The Second World War forced the British Government to make drastic cuts in consumption. British Citizens were placed under enormous strain during this time; British policymakers subjected many facets of normal everyday life to cuts and quotas. In the beginning stages of the war, Great Britain was blockaded by German U-boats, which created a huge barrier to trade. As a result, Great Britain had to find a way to equally distribute limited domestic resources to its population; the solution to this problem was widespread rationing. In 1940 the British Government began to ration foods, a policy that would continue through the end of the war. The Government categorized different foods into three categories: the first was guaranteed rationed food, comprised of rare and scarce items, the second included foods like milk, eggs, fish, fruits, and vegetables whose availability fluctuated, and the third encompassed staple foods such as bread and potatoes, which remained uncontrolled, a policy designed to stave off widespread hunger. Evidently British legislators found it necessary to impose harsh restrictions on wartime food consumption to maintain a successful war effort.



This photograph shows the amounts of of butter, milk, bacon, lard, sugar, cheese, tea and jam received by two people per week in Britain.

Photo by Jim Sharp, rare historical photos UK



Rationing in Austria in World War II

Unlike Great Britain, Austria had to deal with rationing implemented by an occupying nation – Germany. The fact that Austria was an occupied nation during wartime somewhat dampens the effect of public opinion on public policy; the Nazis ruled Austria authoritatively and, to an extent, gave little thought to Austrian opinion.

The Nazis began their control of Austria after annexing it to little protest in the Anschluss of 1938. As with its own wartime economy, the Germans imposed cuts in consumption on the Austrians during the war, introducing rationing programs shortly after the establishment of the Anschluss. The Germans established these programs to seize more resources for German citizens – Austrian historian Fritz Keller notes that in Austria “the sight of shelves that had been cleared even of staples was unknown.” In short, an examination of the German economic policy for Austria reveals that the policy was designed to take advantage of the Austrian economy for German gain. Furthermore Radomir Luza, notes that the German integration of occupied countries, known as Gleichschaltung, exposed new economies to Reich and party control. In Austria the Reich installed methods of controlling consumption, by placing limitations on the amounts of butter, flour, and fresh fruit that Austrians had access to. The Germans considered the Austrian popular opinion – with the introduction of rationing came the introduction of hotchpotch, a recipe introduced by the Germans during the war due to its ease in being made from limited resources. Fritz notes that the Germans held a ceremony to make hotchpotch seem more appealing to the public, indicating that they did consider Austrian public opinion before they implemented rationing. However, although the Germans chose to try to improve public opinion through propaganda, they failed to modify their consumption policy.

Controlling consumption was fundamental to successful war efforts during World War II. It was understood that citizens had to make significant sacrifices domestically to help their soldiers abroad. In Great Britain, the British population accepted these sacrifices during wartime, however unhappily. On the other hand, in Nazi-occupied Austria, Austrians voiced malcontent with the rationing policy implemented by the Nazis during the war. In both cases, public opinion was largely negative, but they differ in their respective government’s handling of public response to policy. The British government – specifically the Labour Party – dealt with little significant controversy toward rationing policy during the war. As a result, they fell into a state of complacency, allowing rationing policy to continue in the postwar period, and thereby losing their prominence in government to the Conservative Party, who considered public opinion. Conversely, the Germans, who tried to consider Austrian opinion, maintained their authoritarian rule and gave up trying to appease the Austrians – the German war effort took precedence over Austrian satisfaction. Evidently, a complex balance exists between maintaining a successful wartime effort through consumption control and maintaining the happiness of a nation’s people.



Photos - Food rationing in UK (previous page) meant limits on basic foods, grow your own veg and long queues, rationing in Austria under German occupation meant little to no food for many groups of society - a topic not covered by this article - above shows an Austrian ration card, chickens at a farm, little food for this Jewish man, ice cream for soldiers in Paris

For more of this article go to - http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/339/wartime-rationing-during-world-war-ii-and-the-effect-of-public-opinion-in-great-britain-and-austria#_ftn1

Source - article - Inquiries Journal, 2010 Vol 2 by Sujay Kulshresta Photos from Jim Sharp, Pinterest various

World War II Recipes and Dishes



Egg and sausage pie courtesy of Farmers Girl



Sausage roll courtesy of Lavender and Lovage

Lord Woolton Pie

1lb cauliflower
1lb parsnips
1lb carrots
1lb potatoes
Bunch of spring onions chopped
2 teaspoons of Marmite
(yeast extract – or a stock cube)
Tablespoon of rolled oats
Salt and pepper to taste once cooked.
Parsley (fresh or dried)

For the pastry

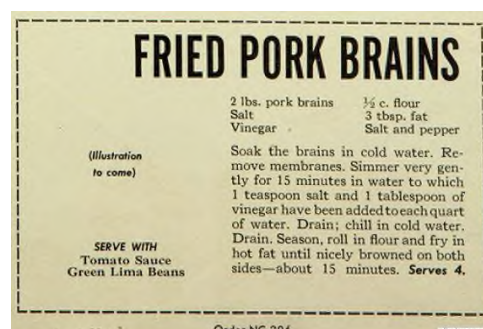
8oz wholemeal/wholewheat flour
4oz mashed potato
3oz margarine or lard
2 tsp of baking powder
couple large pinches of salt
Dash of water if needed.



Method

Chop up the vegetables into chunks with those that take longest to cook into smaller pieces.
Place in pot and bring to simmer with just enough water to reach 3/4 of the way up the veg in the pot.
Add in Marmite and rolled oats, salt and pepper and cook until tender and most of the water has been absorbed.

Place mixture in deep pie dish and sprinkle with fresh parsley (or add dry parsley to mixture and mix in)
Make the pastry by mixing the flour with the baking powder and salt and then rubbing in the margarine.
Mix the mashed potato in to form a dough and knead (add a little water to the mixture if too dry)
Roll out to form pie crust and place on top and decorate then brush with milk.
Place in oven at 200C for 30 minutes or so until top is firm and browned.



Rationing of food and clothing during the Second World War

Rationing regulations for food and clothing were gazetted on 14 May 1942. Rationing was introduced to manage shortages and control civilian consumption. It aimed to curb inflation, reduce total consumer spending, and limit impending shortages of essential goods. The broad reasoning behind the introduction of rationing was to ensure the equitable distribution of food and clothing. It was also hoped that a cut on consumer spending would lead to an increase in savings, which in turn could be invested in war loans.

Australians were never as short of food nor rationed as heavily as civilians in the United Kingdom. Rationing was enforced by the use of coupons and was limited to clothing, tea, sugar, butter, and meat. From time to time, eggs and milk were also rationed under a system of priority for vulnerable groups during periods of shortage.

Rationing was administered by the Rationing Commission. The basis for policing food rationing was through the surrender of coupons before rationed goods could be supplied. This had to occur between traders as well as consumers. Coupons were passed back from consumers to retailers, from retailers to wholesalers, and in many cases from wholesalers to producers, who were requested to return them to the commission.

Breaches of rationing regulations were punishable under the general provisions of National Security Regulations by fines of to £100 or up to six-months imprisonment. Responding to the complaint that these penalties were inadequate, the government passed the Black Marketing Act at the end of 1942. This Act was for more serious cases and could carry a minimum penalty of £1,000.

Carrots were used a lot in wartime cooking and baking. They were home-grown and very versatile, so versatile in fact, that they often found their way into desserts, cakes and puddings.

These delicious low-fat scones use grated carrot, creating a sort of a carrot cake scone if you will!

The recipe is from the late, great Marguerite Patten OBE, who shared the recipe in her compilation book, *The Victory Cookbook*.

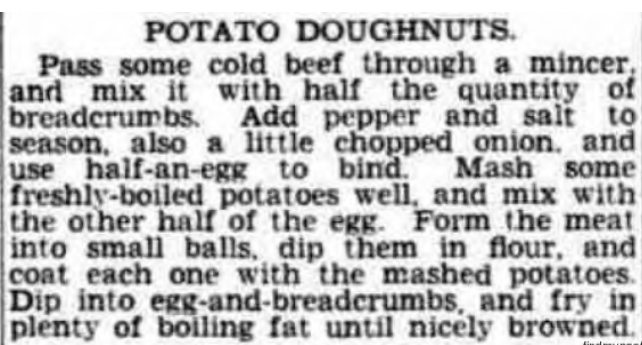


At the outbreak of World War II when food was rationed and even basic items were scarce, the ladies of the house had to be quite inventive when it came to cooking nourishing, interesting food.

Let's put the emphasis on 'interesting' here. Fried pork brains anyone? How about brain soufflé? The kitchen was a place where people really got creative in the face of hardship.

In Australia, rationing regulations for food and clothing were introduced on 14 May 1942, in a bid to manage shortages and control civilian consumption. Ration coupons was limited to clothing, tea, sugar, butter, and meat. Every now and then, eggs and milk were also rationed under a system of priority for vulnerable groups. But Aussies were not rationed as heavily as people in the UK because Australia was not as short of food.

The British housewives really felt the impact of food shortages. There was a sense of pride in being able to create weird and wonderful dishes with only a limited supply of food. Recipes were shared in magazines and newspapers as a way to entice people to eat the less popular cuts from the local butcher.



Contd next page

Sources - Farmers Girl; Lavender & Lovage; FindmyPast;
The Victory Cookbook by Marguerite Patten OBE;
the40sExperiment.com

Rationing of food and clothing during the Second World War - contd

Let's take a look at some of the most popular dishes during war time, that perhaps wouldn't have seen the light of day pre-and-post WWII. Many of these recipes were created in a bid to entice people to choose the cheaper, less-popular cuts at the butcher.

Nutritionist and author Karen Fischer said the obvious problems with this diet is that it was high in sugar and unhealthy – especially with the dripping.

"The sugar is often necessary to preserve the food so, in the lean times, there's really not much choice. The milkless, eggless, butterless cake is all sugar. Thank goodness there were spices! So it's quite nutritional, supplying anti-oxidants. I imagine their teeth rotting from all of this. Looking at this diet, it's clear their overall dental health would be shocking. There could have been a risk of birth defects too as the diet was very low in folic acid," Fischer said.

"The Potato Doughnut is quite nutritious. Luckily potatoes were plentiful as it's high in vitamin C, to protect against scurvy, which is a common disease from not eating enough fruit and vegetables. But potassium is the saving grace, so at least they were getting some vitamin C."

As for the Chocolate Potato Cake, Fischer told Huffington Post Australia it is probably more nutritious than the gluten-free cakes that are popular today.

"Potato gets a bad rap but, during WWII, that was one of the most nutritious ingredients. When you compare it to the gluten-free cakes, the current ones are loaded with sugar. I suggest making cakes that are virtually sugar free, with grated carrot. Gluten free is just as unhealthy as with gluten, because they have plenty of sugar to make it taste good. But if you add a carrot or any vegetable to a cake, it makes it more nutritious."

"Also you get your protein with the whites. There's none of this modern method, where the yolk is removed and you only use the white. The yolk is the nutritious part, so this is somewhere the cooks in WWII are doing it better than some of today's cooks."

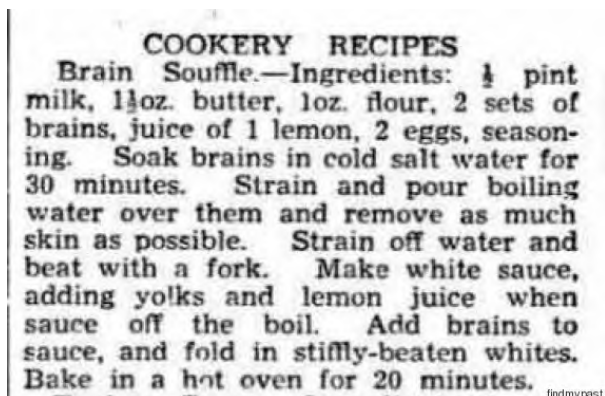
Fischer said the 'pink and green puree' wins the prize for the healthiest meal, due to its inclusion of carrot and watercress.

"Watercress is very rich in B Vitamins and Potassium and Calcium. It's also made with potato so you've got Vitamin C covered as well as carrots which are rich in beta carotene and anti-oxidants. If they had been able to add protein-rich beans, it would have been a cheap alternative to meat," Fischer said.

"One thing that would have been great is making a traditional broth. All you need to do is boil vegetable scraps and bones for six hours, let it set, cool overnight, then skim off the fat. The broth is a good source of magnesium and calcium."

As for the Spam, Fischer had little to say, apart from, "At least there is some protein there!"

BRAIN SOUFFLE



The brains behind this recipe supposed that using a fancy word like soufflé might make it taste better!

CAKE - Milkless, Eggless and Butterless



This cake might be more appetising and nutritious than today's 'gluten-free' cakes

VETERANS

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Port Macquarie HASTINGS GROUP

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Partners of Veterans from all conflicts are always welcome.

For any further information contact
Tineke Dalton on 6586 3461

PLEASE read carefully the loose document enclosed with this Newsletter. It is important that you help us to decide the length of future that our Vietnam Veterans Branch and Support Centre has and how we operate until then. There is a form for your vote and/or opinions and a stamped addressed envelope for your reply. PLEASE return this to us as soon as possible.

Mr William Wagner
President



President - Bill Wagner

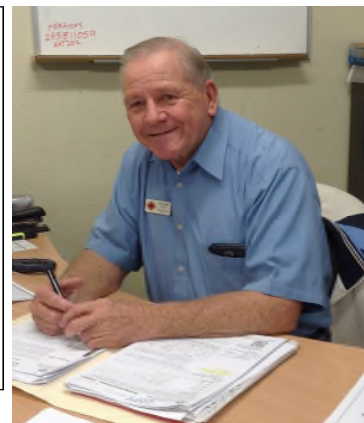


Compensation Advocate's Report

The advocacy work has continued during the coronavirus lockdown. We are now back in the office on Tuesdays on reduced hours (10-1230 currently). We have been successful with several claims including a high profile case requested by Senator Lambie and several other claims are ongoing.

Mike Opie

Compensation Advocate
Mike Opie



Welfare Officer
Peter Millen

Membership Officer
Trevor Morrow

There have been reports that current and former serving members of the ADF have raised concerns about their past use of Mefloquine and Tafenoquine - anti-malarial medications and possible long term health effects. If anyone believes they have been prescribed either of these medications during their service, please contact us.

Peter Millen, Welfare Officer

Treasurer
Peter Dorman



Membership Report

This is a short report for the Monthly Meeting. as at 8 July 2020 we have 102 financial members for this year. Membership numbers are down (approx 40) on the number as at the same time last year.

Trevor Morrow
Membership Officer



Lyn Handcock
Assistant Secretary



Assistant Treasurer
Jan Hawkins



Korean War, 1950-53

Introduction

Only five years after the end of the Second World War, Australia became involved in the Korean War. Personnel from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and the Australian Regular Army (ARA) were committed soon after the war began and would serve for the next three years in the defence of South Korea.

Prelude to war

The origins of the Korean War can be traced back to the end of the Second World War, when the Allies were entrusted with control of the Korean peninsula following 35 years of Japanese occupation. The United States and the Soviet Union accepted mutual responsibility for the country, with the Soviets taking control of the country to the north of the 38th Parallel and the Americans taking the south. Over the next few years, the Soviet Union fostered a communist government under Kim Il-Sung and the US supported the provisional government in the south, headed by Syngman Rhee. By 1950 tensions between the two zones had risen to the point that two increasingly hostile armies had built up along the 38th Parallel.

In the pre-dawn hours of 25 June 1950 the Korean People's Army (KPA) launched a massive offensive across the 38th Parallel into South Korea. They drove the Republic of South Korea's (ROK) forces down the peninsula, capturing the capital, Seoul, within a week. South Korean and hastily deployed United States Army units fought delaying actions as they were forced further down the Korean peninsula, which allowed defensive positions to be set up around the port city of Pusan.

Australia commits

Within two days of the war's beginning, US President Harry S. Truman committed US navy and air force units to aid South Korea. By the end of the month, he had authorised US ground forces to be deployed to the peninsula. The United Nations Security Council asked its members to assist in repelling the North Korean invasion. The Security Council was aided by Russia boycotting the UN over its lack of recognition of the communist Chinese government. With the Russian delegate absent and unable to veto any resolution, the UN was able to act decisively and commit forces from willing nations to the aid of South Korea. In all, 21 nations committed troops, ships, aircraft, and medical units to the defence of South Korea. Australia became the second nation, behind the United States, to commit personnel from all three armed services to the war.

Australia, with its commitment to the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, had two readily deployable RAN vessels, HMAS *Shoalhaven* and HMAS *Bataan* (which was on its way to Japan to relieve *Shoalhaven*), as well as No. 77 Squadron, RAAF. The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) was also available, but it was understrength and ill prepared for a combat deployment.

On 28 June Prime Minister Robert Menzies committed Australia's RAN assets to the Korean War, followed several days later by No. 77 Squadron. It wasn't until 26 July that 3RAR was committed to ground operations in Korea.



Australian soldiers firing the Vickers machine gun



Troops from C Company, 3RAR, watch for the enemy while a village in the valley below burns in November 1950

Korean War, 1950-53 pg 2

First to fight

On 1 July HMAS *Bataan* and HMAS *Shoalhaven* left Japanese waters escorting US troop ships to Pusan. The following day, No. 77 Squadron, led by Wing Commander Lou Spence, flew the first ground support operations over Korea, becoming the first British Commonwealth and United Nations unit to see action in the Korean War. Over the next few weeks, No. 77 Squadron flew numerous sorties against KPA forces and, along with other allied air units, greatly assisted in slowing the North Koreans' advance.

3RAR deploys

In mid-July General Douglas MacArthur was appointed Supreme Commander of United Nations forces in Korea and wasted no time in requesting the deployment of 3RAR to the peninsula. The Australian government agreed, but stipulated that the battalion would deploy only when fully ready. The battalion was brought up to strength over the next month and a half with reinforcements from K Force, an Australian government initiative calling for volunteers to serve a three-year period in the army, including a year in Korea. In early September, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green took command of the battalion and put his men through an intensive training program.

In a brilliant master stroke, General MacArthur landed marines of the 1st Marine Division at Inchon on 15 September. Two days later, ROK, US, and British troops took part in the breakout from the Pusan perimeter. One week later, Seoul had been recaptured and UN units began their advance towards the North Korean border.

On 27 September 3RAR embarked from Kure, Japan, and arrived at Pusan the following morning. The Australian battalion was taken on strength of the British 27th Brigade, joining the 1st Battalion, Argyll and Southerland Highlanders, and 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. The brigade was renamed the 27th Commonwealth Brigade to reflect its Antipodean addition.

3RAR's first battle

As UN forces neared the North Korean border, China warned them not to cross into North Korean territory, and that such an incursion would not be tolerated. General MacArthur received permission to pursue the fleeing North Korean forces and shortly after crossed into North Korea. The capital, Pyongyang, fell soon after.

As part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade 3RAR advanced north of Pyongyang to assist the US 187th Regimental Combat Team, which had encountered heavy resistance after being dropped behind enemy lines in an attempt to rescue American prisoners of war. On the morning of 22 October 1950, 3RAR was the lead battalion leaving the town of Yongju when it came under fire from enemy troops within a nearby apple orchard. The ensuing fight was swift and brutal, with the Australians routing a numerically superior force and suffering only seven wounded. It was the first combat action fought by a battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment and the men of 3RAR had acquitted themselves well. In the following week those men would fight two more battles - at Kujin, known as the battle of the broken bridge, and Chongju.

At the beginning of November, 3RAR's commanding officer, the indomitable Lieutenant Colonel Charles Green DSO, was mortally wounded by shrapnel as he rested in his tent. Several North Korean artillery rounds had been fired into 3RAR's position but Green was the only casualty. He died of his wounds two days later.



Members of 3 RAR move forward in 1951



Men from the Royal Australian Regiment, June 1953.

Korean War, 1950-53 pg 3

China enters the war

The battle of Pakchon marked the furthest point that the Australians reached into North Korea. It was also the first time Chinese forces were encountered in large numbers. Unbeknownst to UN intelligence sources, Chinese troops had been infiltrating North Korea across the Yalu River, and in late October they began an offensive against, annihilating several UN divisions and badly mauling others before seeming to melt away. The ensuing weeks saw an eerie quiet settle over the battlefield.

In November, buoyed with a false sense of security, UN forces under MacArthur's direction once again began to advance north towards the Yalu River. On 25 November the Chinese launched the next phase of their offensive and by January 1951 had pushed the UN forces back across the 38th Parallel. During the retreat, the 27th Commonwealth Brigade had fought many rear-guard actions, allowing formations from the US and South Korea to pass through their positions. The brigade was the last formation out of Seoul before the city once again fell to Communist forces in January 1951.

At the UN headquarters in New York ceasefire negotiations between the UN and the Communist coalition broke down before any real progress could be made.

The Chinese sought to renew their advance in February, but were halted and forced to retreat by UN troops. Seoul was recaptured by UN forces in March and the Chinese were pushed back towards the 38th Parallel. Opinions were divided amongst the UN commanders whether to pursue Chinese forces across the 38th Parallel or to push for a ceasefire at the border. General MacArthur pushed for the advance to continue and on 11 April 1951 he was relieved of command by President Truman.

A new warhorse

No. 77 Squadron, RAAF, flew their last operations in Mustangs in early April, after which they returned to Japan to begin conversion to the Gloster Meteor F8. Four RAF pilots had been sent to Japan to train the Australians and were taken on strength of the squadron. In all, 37 RAF pilots would fly on operations with the squadron, six of whom were killed and another of whom was shot down and taken prisoner. The squadron returned to combat operations in July and after some disastrous air-to-air battles with MiGs the squadron reverted to its former role of ground attack, carrying out many successful operations during the next two years.

Kapyong

On 22 April, the Chinese launched their spring offensive, routing the South Korean 6th Division and driving them back down the Kapyong Valley. The 27th Commonwealth Brigade advanced forward of the town of Kapyong. The 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and 3RAR dug in on the high ground on either side of a seven-kilometre wide valley. The following day, the Chinese were engaged by the Australians and Canadians as well as a troop of US Army Sherman tanks and New Zealand Artillery. Two nights and days of close fighting followed and on the evening of 24 April the Australians were forced to withdraw from their positions and, with the support of the Canadians and New Zealand artillery, fought their way down a ridge, rejoining the majority of the brigade in the Kapyong valley. The Chinese were stopped in their tracks and Seoul was saved from being attacked once more. The men of 3RAR suffered heavy casualties, with 32 killed, 53 wounded, and three taken prisoner.

Following the battle, the 27th Brigade was withdrawn from Korea and 3RAR was taken on strength of the 28th British Commonwealth Brigade, part of the newly formed 1st Commonwealth Division.



US General James Van Fleet inspects members of 3 RAR after awarding a Presidential Unit Citation to the Battalion in December 1952



No. 77 Squadron pilots and Meteor aircraft in Korea

Korean War, 1950-53 pg 4

Negotiating the peace

On 10 July peace negotiations began between the warring powers in the town of Kaesong. Negotiations were suspended in August after the building used was reportedly bombed. Talks did not resume until October, and from then on were held in the village of Panmunjom.

Maryang San

On 3 October, as a part of Operation Commando, a large UN offensive against a Chinese salient, 3RAR advanced north of the Imjin River, attacking two key high points: hills 317 and 355. After five days of heavy fighting the Chinese were forced to withdraw off both objectives, and on repulsing several counter-attacks the men of 3RAR were firmly in control of Hill 355, known as Maryang San. The Australians suffered 20 men killed and a further 89 wounded during the fighting.

HMAS Sydney commences operations

HMAS Sydney arrived in Korean waters in early October and began operations immediately. On board the carrier were three squadrons of the RAN Fleet Air Arm, Nos 805 and 808 squadrons, flying Hawker Sea Furies, and No. 817 Squadron, flying Fairey Firefly aircraft. The Sydney undertook numerous patrols in Korean waters during its deployment and its aircraft flew over 2,000 sorties, including ground attacks, artillery spotting, and escort missions. It incurred the loss of three crew and 13 aircraft. The Sydney returned to Australia in January 1952.

Static war

Following the Chinese retaking of Maryang San in a bitter encounter with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, the fighting became static. Trenches, tunnels, and redoubts reminiscent of the Western Front became the norm. Patrols and trench raids became commonplace, as did set-piece artillery battles.

In April 1952, 1RAR arrived in Korea and joined 3RAR as part of the 28th Brigade. During its service, 1RAR took part in many patrols of no-man's land and several operations against Chinese positions. The Australians' reputation for patrolling and raiding from both the First and Second World Wars was further enhanced by the efforts of the men of 1RAR and 3RAR during 1952. 1RAR was replaced by 2RAR in April 1953 and quickly established itself as a formidable patrolling and raiding force.

An armistice at last?

On 19 July an agreement for an armistice between the UN and the Communists was reached. The date for the signing was set for the 27th of July.

The Samichon

The last three days of the Korean War saw the Chinese mount one last offensive on Australian and US Marine positions in the Samichon Valley. The Chinese attacked in waves with heavy artillery support. However, the combined arms of the US and Commonwealth forces halted the Chinese attacks with heavy losses. This final battle cost 2RAR six killed and 24 wounded. The Marines suffered 43 killed and 316 wounded.

Is it really over?

The armistice was signed at 10 am on 27 July 1953. Sporadic fighting continued throughout the day, but as evening fell the guns fell silent. The armistice came into effect at 10 pm, ending three years, one month, and two days of war in Korea. The end came so suddenly that some soldiers took some convincing that the fighting was really over. The former belligerent nations each withdrew two kilometres in accordance with the armistice agreement, forming the Demilitarized Zone which still exists today. Australian Forces remained in Korea as part of the multi-national peacekeeping force until 1957.

Over 17,000 Australians served during the Korean War, of which 340 were killed and over 1,216 wounded. A further 30 had become prisoners of war.

Right - RAN Firefly aircraft on board HMAS Sydney off Korea

Far Right - HMAS Sydney which served off Korea during 1951



RAN Helicopter Flight

As the name suggests, the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHfV) was specially formed for service in support of allied forces during the Vietnam War. Mr Allen Fairhall, Minister for Defence, announced the formation of this unit on July 14, 1967. The new flight was to be integrated with the United States Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) flying the ubiquitous Iroquois helicopters in both the utility and gun-ship configurations.



The first contingent

The first contingent of pilots, observers, naval airmen and support staff was assigned to 723 Squadron Naval Air Station (NAS) Nowra in July 1967 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Neil Ralph, RAN. The flight consisted of eight pilots, four observers, four aircrewmen, 24 technical sailors and six support staff comprising of cooks, stewards, writers (clerks), medics and storemen.

Following an eight week period of training, the first contingent arrived in Vietnam on 16 October 1967 and was quickly integrated with the 330 personnel of the 135th AHC. As a result of this unique relationship between the RAN and the US Army, the unit was officially designated 'EMU', for Experimental Military Unit. This was fitting, given that the Emu is a native Australian bird, and in some ways comical as the Emu cannot fly.

The 135th AHC was based at Vung Tau and organised to operate two troop lift ('slick') platoons, each with eleven UH-1Ds, a gunship platoon with eight UH-1Cs, a maintenance platoon with a single UH-1D and a headquarters platoon. Six of the gunships were equipped with mini guns, rockets and machine guns. The remaining two were fitted with the XM-5 40mm grenade launcher system (mounted in a ball turret under the nose of the helicopter) rockets and machine guns.

The role of the 135th AHC was to provide tactical air movement of combat troops, supplies and equipment in air-mobile operations. This included augmentation of army medical services, search and rescue and the provision of a command and control aircraft capability to supported units.

First operations

Having established their camp, and with a full complement, the 135th AHC become fully operational and flew its first mission on 3 November 1967. By the end of November the company had flown 3182 hours in support of the US Army 9th Infantry and the 1st Australian Task Force based at Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy province. The usual daily commitment was one UH1H command and control helicopter, four UH1C gunships and ten slicks.

The company's first major operation, Operation SANTA FE, was a lift of 9th Infantry Division troops into northeast Phuoc Tuy in early November 1967. This operation involved more than 80 helicopters from a number of helicopter companies flying in support of a combined allied sweep against the 5th Viet Cong Division. It was also one of the largest operations any RANHfV contingent participated in. Operation TIGER CORONADO followed and it was during this operation that helicopters of the AHC were first hit by enemy fire.

First helicopter shot down

The first EMU aircraft to be shot down (and the first with an Australian pilot to be hit) was a gunship piloted by Lieutenant Anthony Casadio, RAN. This occurred on 19 November 1967, during an attack on Viet Cong positions in the Rung Sat Special Zone near Saigon. After his gunship was hit by ground fire several times Lieutenant Casadio force landed near the enemy. Once on the ground the Viet Cong immediately attacked the helicopter crew. Despite their relative inexperience, the young American soldiers and their Australian Navy captain maintained control of the situation and set up a defensive perimeter using the helicopter's door mounted M60 machine guns. The M60s combined with the small arms they all carried afforded the crew a degree of self-protection. Meanwhile Lieutenant John Leek, RAN, in an accompanying gunship circled overhead until his fuel ran dangerously low and he was forced to leave the scene.



Left -
Noel Shipp
Right -
Slick in LZ

Camp Blackhorse

In December 1967 the company experienced its first night combat operations and Lieutenant Commander Ralph experienced his first assignment as air mission commander. In late December the company moved from the secure base at Vung Tau to Camp Blackhorse, thirty five miles away and on a main road five miles south of Xuan Loc, Long Khanh province. Blackhorse, in the middle of rubber plantations and jungle, was dependent on convoys from Long Binh to bring food, ammunition and fuel to it. It was also dangerously vulnerable to rocket and mortar attack. Its unsealed runways caused it to be extremely dusty in the 'dry' and, conversely, a sea of mud in the 'wet' so that take offs and landings required more than the usual exercise of caution.

The shift to Blackhorse committed the 135th to the support of more units over a greater area. On January 8, 1968, eight EMU helicopters were hit by enemy ground fire while supporting elements of the 9th Infantry Division's 3/39th Infantry Battalion outside Saigon. On this occasion the insertion and extraction of troops that went on well into the night was led by Lieutenant BC Crawford, RAN.

First RAN sailors injured

On January 12 1968 the RANHFV suffered its first casualties when Leading Seaman Kevin French and Naval Airman Keith Wardle of the maintenance platoon were injured when the gunship in which they were travelling was forced down in jungle some miles north of Baria, Phuoc Tuy province. The men scrambled clear as the wreck caught fire, detonating ammunition and rockets. A RAAF helicopter from 9 Squadron was soon on the scene and the downed aviators were winched from the jungle and evacuated to hospital. Leading Seaman French soon recovered from this ordeal but Able Seaman Wardle suffered very severe injuries, necessitating his evacuation to Australia.

The 135th's relationship with 9 Squadron, RAAF, was first established when both units shared the tarmac at Vung Tau, this relationship was further strengthened early in 1968 when 9 Squadron began to replace its UH-1Bs with larger and more powerful UH-1Hs. To help the RAAF Squadron achieve an easy transition it was arranged that a number of its pilots would be attached to the 135th's slick platoons for conversion training. Subsequently, RAAF and RNZAF pilots saw action with the EMUs for several months. It should be noted that RAN pilots also augmented the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) No. 9 Squadron RAAF in Vung Tau through the RAN Detachment, 9 Squadron Vietnam.

Operations continued throughout January 1968 during which Lieutenant Commander Ralph and the crew of the command and control helicopter survived three mortar attacks on the ground during a vigorous fire fight between a Viet Cong force and elements of the US 25th Infantry Division at Duc Hoa west of Saigon. Two company gunships were hit by enemy fire and during the widespread Tet offensive of February 1968, the increasing Viet Cong activity in III Corps emphasised the vulnerability of Blackhorse. Skirmishes on the boundaries became frequent and the enemy mining of the road from Long Binh to Baria, via Xuan Loc disrupted supply convoys causing shortages of spare parts.

This is an excerpt from 'RAN Naval Helicopter Flight Vietnam taken (with permission) from the RAN official website, for the rest of this document go to www.navy.gov.au/history



Top L - Approaching LZ
Left - Sub Lieutenant Crawford
Top R - Company lift
Right - Taipan gunship



Royal Australian Navy official website (permission given)

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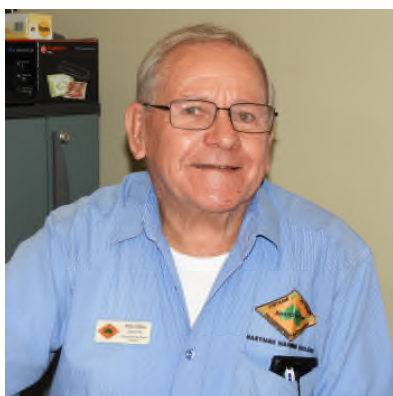
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New captain blazes trail in Middle East

By Flight Lieutenant Chloe Stevenson

29 May 2020

Sunshine Coast local Flight Lieutenant Hayley Moulds has soared into the history books becoming the first female pilot to captain an Air Force No. 33 Squadron KC-30A multi-role tanker transport while on deployment in the Middle East.

Flight Lieutenant Moulds recently completed her deployment on Operation Okra, which is the Defence Force's contribution to the international coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria.

"My role was to operate the KC-30A through the Arabian Gulf into Iraq to provide air-to-air refuelling to coalition aircraft," Flight Lieutenant Moulds said.

"We work with our own E7-A Wedgetail aircraft and provide fuel to the United States, France, Germany and other nations to help them achieve their mission in the Middle East.

"We are one tanker in a sky of multiple, but you are given the opportunity to work with numerous countries on a daily basis, all contributing to changing the outcome of the flight.

"It's rewarding as a pilot to be given that opportunity and especially as a captain."

The COVID-19 pandemic had changed the operating environment.

"COVID-19 has crumpled the aviation industry and the route we usually follow up the Gulf has become quiet," Flight Lieutenant Moulds said.

Flight Lieutenant Moulds' deployment was memorable in ways she didn't expect.

"It has highlighted the power of people banding together when times are tougher than expected and the resilience in individuals," she said.

The KC-30A aircraft plays an important role in military operations. It can remain 1800km from its home base, with 50 tonnes of fuel available to offload for up to four hours.

In its transport role, the KC-30A is capable of carrying 270 passengers. It comes with under-floor cargo compartments, which can accommodate 34,000kg of military and civilian cargo pallets and containers.



Lieutenant Hayley Moulds behind a KC-30A multi-role tanker transport at an airbase in the Middle East.

Photo: Petty Officer Yuri Ramsey

source - Defence News - with permission

Reflecting on Wagga's 80 years of service

Over the past 80 years, thousands of Defence Force members have passed through the gates of RAAF Base Wagga in preparation for military service. The base marked its birthday on Wednesday, July 1, reflecting on its evolution; from preparing Air Force personnel for the battlefields of World War II, to the challenges faced by the modern force.

RAAF Base Wagga, originally RAAF Station Forest Hill until December 1952, was first established as a flying training base in 1940, primarily to introduce junior pilots to the complexities of advanced flying.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger, then a wing commander, was the first commanding officer and station commander at RAAF Station Forest Hill from 1940-1941. Wing Commander Scherger was strict with discipline, an approach which quickly earned the station the nickname 'Scherger's Concentration Camp'. He ensured pilots were trained to a high standard, which saved many a life in battle. According to locals, most mornings he took to the skies and entertained the town with his stunt flying.

Following WWII, due to the large number of vacant engineering and administrative facilities, the base reinvented itself as a training facility for many of Air Force's ground-based trades in aviation maintenance, logistics, supply, movements, and administration, as well as initial military training.

Today, RAAF Base Wagga continues to prepare ADF personnel for military service in challenging environments; from supporting military commitments across the globe, including a continuing presence in the Middle East, to humanitarian aid missions in our near region and to increasingly frequent responses to natural disasters on home soil. At its heart, RAAF Base Wagga's mission has been the same since the beginning, which is reflected in its motto 'We Prepare'.

Currently at the helm is Senior Australian Defence Force Officer Group Captain Chris Ellison, who has served many years at Wagga and highlighted the importance of the relationship with the local community.

"I am extraordinarily pleased to have been selected to lead RAAF Base Wagga as its Senior ADF Officer and I am extremely proud of the work this base does in generating personnel to start and continue a career in the Australian Defence Force," Group Captain Ellison said.

"These are challenging times. Although it seems a world away now, the base stood up in the first week of January 2020 in response to Operation Bushfire Assist. The base housed, fed, and cared for a number of evacuees whose homes and lives were threatened by the fires.

"RAAF Wagga and its personnel stood as a solid, reliable and safe presence in the Wagga community in a time of great turmoil, just as we have in other disasters which have affected the region and I trust we remain so."

With much of the physical nature of the base largely unchanged from its early years, all of the base's wartime hangars still stand and continue to echo to the sounds of those learning their craft.

Other key structures, such as the Officers' Mess, guardhouse and parade ground provide clear physical links to the base's past.

There is a rich and unique history to be explored at the base's front gate, with a Canberra, Meteor, F-111C, Macchi and Mirage aircraft acting as gate guards.

To learn more about the base, visit the RAAF Base Wagga Aviation Heritage Centre website
www.raafbasewagga.com.au/raaf-base-wagga-heritage-centre



Bristol Beaufighter aircraft lined up on the airfield with RAAF fitters doing their daily inspections at the then RAAF Station Forest Hill, now RAAF Base Wagga, on December 11, 1942.

Photo: Australian War Memorial

Source - Photo - AWM

Article by Flt Lt Courtney Jay

Courtesy Australian Government DoD

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British Army Tanks - Modern Day

The post-1990 era: New challenges.

Like other NATO members, UK saw the end of the Soviet empire and dislocation of the Warsaw pact as a benediction (on political view) and a curse (on army staff view) since with the disappearance of a conventional war threat, budget cuts would further curtail the ground forces program, perhaps as those that hit the Royal Navy hard. Nevertheless, it coincided with the introduction of the latest main battle tank, the Challenger 2. This crown jewel shares a very few parts despite obvious similarities with the Challenger 1, now retired from service. New important AFVs (Armoured Fighting Vehicles) joined the fray like the BAE AS.90 Braveheart SPG (1992), the Alvis FV 510 Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle (1988) production was already in full swing (780+ delivered), and the Alvis/BAE Stormer specialized vehicle series (1990) was also being introduced.



Challenger 2 in BATUS firing training exercise in Canada.

The 1st Gulf War: Operation Granby

The first large conventional war for many European nations since WW2 came not from the ex-USSR, now collapsed, but Iraq. The press will rapidly turn it as the “fourth world’s largest army”, to boost sales. Indeed on the paper, both in the number of men under arms and tanks or all types, it was quite impressive and well experienced by ten years of war with Iran. Fearing to be embroiled in a long protracted war, General Schwarzkopf at the head of the coalition defined a masterfully planned deception, and the ground assault came long after the air war, to get supremacy in the air. A large percentage of Iraqi forces were destroyed this way, however Operation Desert Saber (the ground assault phase of Desert Storm) saw the British Armoured forces committed in full force since WW2 or the 1956 Suez crisis: The entire 1st Armoured Division was deployed on the breach zone, west of the supposed attack direction, together with the US “Armoured Fist” formed by the 1st and 3rd US Armoured Division, the “Big Red One” (1st Infantry Division), 1st US Cavalry Division, 2nd US Armoured Cavalry Regiment, which formed the VIIth corps.



Challenger 1 ODS (tropicalized) of the Royal Scots Dragons, Iraq, 1991.



Challenger 2 outside Basra (Iraq), Operation Telic, 2008.

UK had the honour to make the opening for the ground assault phase, with the British Special Air Service’s B Squadron making an advance recon mission and surgical strikes. Later on, the thrust of the 1st British Armoured Division was faultless and lightning fast, completely cutting off Iraqi Forces stationed around Kuwait in dug-in positions and out on the open. It showed the excellent combination of the Challenger with the new Warrior IFV, both capable to sustain high speeds on flat with excellent reliability. These vehicles were all modified by REME with sand filters and climatizers, additional Chobham armour blocks and ERA bricks, external fuel drums and a smoke generator. However spare parts supplies meant they suffer from a 22% attrition rate on arrival.

Most Challengers available were sent (4th brigade: 14th/20th King's Hussars, Life Guards Squadron), but less well known is the fact that the 1st Armoured Division still also counted many Chieftains, much slower. As the easternmost unit in the VII Corps, the 1st Armoured Division made its way straight into Kuwait and spear-headed the 350 km/97 hours advance. In doing so, they butchered the Iraqi 46th Mechanised Brigade, 52nd Armoured Brigade and parts of three infantry divisions from the 7th Corps, capturing or destroying around 200 tanks and as many AFVs. Many fights occurred in sandstorms and low visibility, where TOGS and IR vision systems were proven invaluable, as well as the customary flair for long-range gunnery marksmanship. The ultimate result was 300 kills for no loss.

Afghanistan

UK was also part of the new coalition that took on to invade Iraq to expel Saddam Hussein from power on assumptions of large "mass destruction weapons" stockpiles hidden from the UN inspection teams. Whatever the reason, it gave the opportunity to the British 1st Armoured Division once again to test its metal, in particular, the newly introduced the Challenger 2 main battle tank.



The FRES Scout SV is a new family of tracked specialized vehicle that is replacing the Saxon, FV432 and CVR(T)

Two of the British Army's latest Armoured Engineering Vehicles. The Trojan (top) and the Terrier Below. These photos were taken at Tankfest 2018, at the Bovington Tank Museum, by Mark Nash



Future plans for the Royal Armoured Corps

For main battle tanks, only upgrades for the Challenger 2 are planned. No new model known is being studied. Upgrades also concerned the Warrior IFV, while the old CRV(T) series built by Alvis in the 1970-1980s are scheduled for replacement. However, the FV430 series IFV, are currently completely overhauled and improved with better engines and armour, renamed FV430 Mk.3 Bulldog (2006).

However, efforts have been put into smaller size AFVs. One of the most promising is the Future Rapid Effect System. This is a family of medium-weight armoured vehicles intended to replace the Saxon, FV432 and CVR(T). Eventually, the FRES Scout SV and variants took over, while the ABSV is planning to replace mortar carriers.

The MAN Support vehicle, a £1.3Bn Support Vehicle (SV) procurement program, is aimed at giving the Army's logistical corps backbone - some 7,285 new trucks and utility vehicles, all based on a common platform for better cost efficiency. This fleet, later reduced to 6,800 includes 288 recovery vehicles and 69 recovery trailers. The first already has entered service since 2014.

Long-term vision includes the Future Integrated Soldier Technology infantrymen suite, part of the Future Soldier programme, the Vitrus advanced body armour, and unmanned "Future Protected Vehicle concept".

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