

FORWARD

Newsletter #15, November 2016



The official newsletter of the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association

Greetings and welcome to the final Newsletter for 2016. Where has the year gone? I do hope it has been a good one for you.

Much has happened since our last Newsletter including the "Black Hats" and Friends Dinner on 28th August and the Beersheba Day parade at the Regiment on 28th October. The Regiment has also been busy with its conversion to an Armoured Cavalry Regiment under Plan BEERSHEBA and celebrated a milestone with a parade for the change of B Squadron from reconnaissance to an armoured lift role. As well as introducing the new equipment and skills for this role, the Regiment was also heavily involved in Ex HAMEL in South Australia. On behalf of the Association, I congratulate our Regimental members for their achievements in 2016 and wish them well as they take a short break over Christmas.

The Association was pleased to announce and award TPR Paul Turner The Association Prize for 2016 (see separate article) and we also congratulate CPL D Meadows, CPL E Howson and CPL S Barber as recipients of the Army's 2016 Soldiers Medallion for exemplary service.

Many of us will gather on 12th November for the annual Black Hat BBQ and Drinks at the 41 Club and I hope you will also consider coming along for Christmas drinks at the Fox Hotel on 6th December (see the separate notice).

As the year winds down I take this opportunity to wish all our members and your loved ones a happy Christmas and a healthy and fulfilling 2017.

Maurie Meecham AM
President



In this issue

	Page
President's Update	1
Notices	1
Beersheba Day	3
Interviews with From and Tweedale	4
BG Warhorse on EX HAMEL 16	5
LHR trots into ACR	6
RAAC Corporation AGM	7
Black Hats Dinner	7
Membership Application	8

NOTICES

Christmas Drinks at The Fox

All members and friends are invited to join the Management Committee for Christmas drinks at The Fox Hotel, 71-73 Melbourne Street, South Brisbane at 5pm on Tuesday 6th December. Meet in the main bar. Some members may wish to stay on for a bar meal or have dinner in the adjacent restaurant after drinks. No need to advise attendance - just turn up. Note that the South Brisbane bus and train stations are very close by.



Lapel Badges

The Management Committee has now produced a lapel badge for each member. One badge will be issued to each financial member, starting with distribution at the Black Hat BBQ and Drinks on Sat 12th November. Those who are not at this function will receive their badge by mail in due course.

Association Stickers

The Management Committee has decided that each member will also receive a sticker to promote the Association for their car bumper or other place. These will be distributed when they are produced.



Events Program for 2017

The Events Program for 2017 will be distributed in the first Newsletter in the New Year. If any member knows of an event which should be included, please advise a member of the Management Committee asap.

New Web Site

The new web site being developed by Graeme Brown is progressing. Once it is approved by the Management Committee you will be advised of the details.

Patrick O'Loughlin

Bethmay advises that on 18th October, Patrick was moved from Algester Lodge to Carrington RSL Care, Parkinson – just down the road from their home. Patrick is not at all well and Bethmay has been staying overnight to care for him. Our thoughts are with Patrick and Bethmay at this difficult time.



Photo of Patrick two days before his accident

TPR Matt McQuillan Soldiers' Representative on our Management Committee

Our current actively serving Soldiers' Rep, TPR Matt McQuillan, has been absent as of late due to varying work commitments. From the beginning of August last year Matt spent just over 3 months in Malaysia and Thailand as part of the Rifle Company Butterworth 111 rotation with the rest of B SQN, returning early in November.

After a brief Christmas break, Matt began 2016 in Puckapunyal, completing his Subject 4 for Corporal, ASLAV Crew Commanders course before returning to Brisbane around ANZAC Day and almost immediately back onto course for another 2 months, finishing the Subject 1 for Corporal course in late June.

With the remainder of the Regiment returning from Exercise Hamel in South Australia a couple of weeks later and having some normality return to barracks life, Matt looks forward to being able to play a more active role as the 2/14 LHR (QMI) Association's Soldiers' Rep. We are delighted to get his soldier's perspective on Association matters.



Beersheba Day

By Major Craig Malcolm



Marking the 99th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, 2/14 LHR (QMI) held a Parade on 28 Oct 16 to honour the achievements of Lighthorsemen both past and present. Supported by the Australian Army Band Brisbane and mounted riders of the Queensland Mounted Infantry Historical Troop, the parade also recognised the contributions of the iconic Australian warhorse, the Waler. The Australian War Animals Memorial Organisation presented the Regiment with a significant sculpture of horse and rider, while Veterinary Officer MAJ Kendall Crocker, presented the AWAMO Mounted Troop with a Troop Flag.

The day would also mark an official entrusting of the history and Battle Honours of the 2nd/7th Divisional Cavalry Regiment to the 2/14 LHR (QMI) through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the serving veterans of the 2/7 Div Cav Regt, Commanding Officer 2nd/14th LHR (QMI) LTCOL Andrew Moss and Head of Corps RAAC, BRIG Mark Brewer. LTCOL Andrew Moss reflected on the significance of the occasion, stating the attendance of Cavalrymen both past and present, as well as several civilian organisations committed to keeping the legacy of service and sacrifice alive, was testament to the Army's strong links with the Australian community and its importance to our national identity.

Two veterans of the 2/7 Div Cav Regt, Mr Frederick From, AM and Mr Graham Tweedale attended the ceremony. Mr From has a strong link to 2/14 LHR (QMI), with his father serving as the Commanding Officer of the Regiment between the First and Second World Wars, despite the loss of an arm in France in 1917, while serving with the 1/25 Infantry Battalion. Fred joined the Army at the start of the Second World War, serving in the 2nd/7th Divisional Cavalry Regiment in Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus and Syria. When the Division was recalled for the Defence of Australia, the Regiment served as dismounted cavalrymen in hard fighting on the Sanananda Road and Buna-Gona. After the war he returned to farming and on the outbreak of the Korean War volunteered for service with K Force, serving with 3RAR for three years. He would return to farming, specializing in crop propagation in the grain industry for which he was

awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM). When asked if he had any advice for today's soldiers, Mr From said 'just supporting one another, that's the main thing, to know the other blokes there. I think reliability is the big thing. Being able to depend on your cobbers and know that your cobbers will support you is the big thing.'

Mr Tweedale, who also served in the Middle East and New Guinea with 2/7 Div Cav Regt, and also serve with the 2/6 Cav (Cdo) Sqn, participating in the fighting on Balikpapan, Borneo. When asked what got him through his experiences he stated 'positiveness I think, it seemed to save me more than anything else when it should have knocked me out. One thing is be lucky, well good men died all around me. I was looked after and I was saved many times by them. All I can say is I had a wonderful unit.' The Regiment supported several local events to commemorate the occasion, participating in community events across the Sunshine Coast communities of Noosa, Maleny and Woombye.



Photo of Shayne Burley, Treasurer of the 2/14 LHR(QMI) Association presenting TPR Paul Turner with The Association Prize for 2016

INTERVIEW with Fred From AO

The significance of the occasion

My father was one of the early colonels of the Second-Fourteen after they were amalgamated, so I grew up with them. I knew all the friends of my district were in the second fourteenth and (when) I joined up. And there was a local troop and I didn't join up because of my father (initially), I was too busy farming.

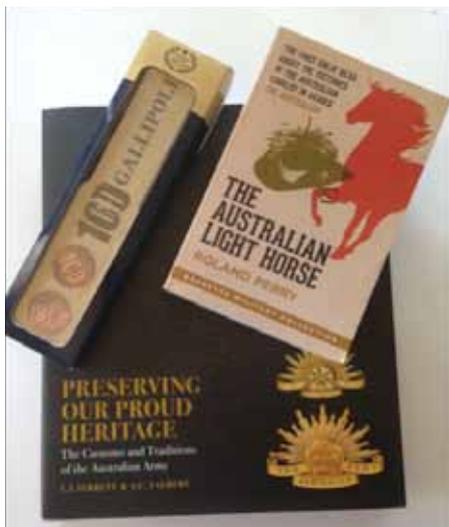
Most of the Seventh Cav were country people, then in the Light Horse there was a Boonah Troop, a Lowood Troop a Gatton Troop and when they joined up it was quite a big country community.

Advice to soldiers

Oh, no, just supporting one another, that's the main thing, to know the other blokes there. I think reliability is the big thing. Being able to depend on your cobbers and know that your cobbers will support you is the big thing.

The Association Prize for 2016

The 2/14 LHR(QMI) Association Prize for 2016 was presented to TPR Paul Turner by the Association Treasurer Shayne Burley on the Beersheba Parade at the Regiment on 28th October. TPR Turner was Student of Merit on his SUBJ 1 CPL and SUBJ 4 CPL courses. As the troop leader's gunner he performed to an exceptional standard. He has an excellent attitude that embodies the values of the Australia soldier by looking after his mates, leading by example and acting with integrity. He has consistently mentored and developed junior soldiers despite being a TPR himself. We congratulate TPR Turner on his award.



INTERVIEW with Graham Tweedale

In the Ramu Valley they gave us sprigs on our feet about that (an inch) long, and I still kept falling down the mud.

When we were in the Middle East there was a very big show that the armoured div, not the Second-Fourteenth, but the whole armoured div was coming over and was going to take us in. By the way the only way I could get into a Bren Gun Carrier was to become the signaller, so I had the gun and a 'four-inch sky whip/pointed skyward' and the engine along side. I always seemed to be in the right place at the right time and they were coming over to the Middle East and they came and saw us in the Middle East and they were going to join us into a great armoured division, and this is really what all of this is part of, but Japan come into the war and that was it.

Advice to soldiers

No, I was never really a soldier, I was seventeen when I joined up, I put my age up two years, actually I was 18, and I was the youngest bloke in the Regiment, so I was looked after and I was saved many times by them. All I can say is I had a wonderful unit. I only joined for the war and we were in Borneo at the finish of it and I went there to get the prisoners of war back. We were there for four months and come home, I was out of the Army immediately.

What got you through

I don't know, positiveness I think, it seemed to save me more than anything else when it should have knocked me out. For example when you hear a bullet in this ear, I'm talking about a Jap bullet, and you don't hear it in that (other) ear, you know its pretty close. Because I was the fittest man in the Regiment I was made the Runner, so I had a lot poured at me, but I'm here, I can't say anymore.

One thing is be lucky, well good men died all around me and I was in the group that was running to their deaths and they were knocked out til me to a man, and a bloke said 'stay here you're the runner, tell this to Johnno. Johnno was the 2IC and so therefore I stayed there while they all got killed, luck played a very big part, because I could do in cypher, when we were cut off by the Japs for ten days, I had to come in and do cipher. I was stupid enough to follow the same tracks in and out, the Japs got onto me, they put a machine gun waiting for me, everybody yelled at me to go down, so down I went, I watch them (bullets) come under here (in front of him) and that was the last bullet, two more bullets and I would have been gone. I still say luck.

BG Warhorse on Ex HAMEL 16

By Lieutenant J E Bedogni

Throughout June and July, the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) along with B Company, 8th/9th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment; elements of the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment and 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery formed Battle Group Warhorse. The Battle Group successfully executed its task of providing a thoroughly realistic and unforgiving opposing force (OPFOR) for the 1st Brigade at their home-ground, the newly expanded Cultana Training Area, South Australia.

Army's flagship exercise not only provided an outstanding training opportunity for the Battle Group's soldiers and officers in combined-arms foundation war fighting, but allowed the Regiment to test capabilities as wide ranging as the utility of the Multi-Spectral Surveillance Suite in unfamiliar terrain, re-establishing the value of a second cavalry squadron per armoured cavalry regiment (ACR); and confirming the ability for an armoured battle group to deploy aboard Navy's newest LHD, HMAS Adelaide.

With B Squadron transitioning to M113 AS4 throughout FY16/17, HAMEL 16 provided the Squadron's last major activity in its cavalry role prior to transition to combat lift. The presence, therefore, of two fully-fledged cavalry squadrons furnished the 7th Combat Brigade with the ability to assess the benefits of an additional ISR sub-unit at formation level as a possible future modification to force structure envisaged under Plan BEERSHEBA.

Both A and B Squadrons were employed on two different axes, providing a layered reconnaissance screen. B Squadron, as Brigade Reserve inserted H-10 days and were particularly impressive in the discipline and field craft displayed generating the ability to remain undetected for two weeks, before raiding in depth. A Squadron inserted into the AO, established a screen line and conducted a very successful counter-reconnaissance battle against a range of BLUFOR units and platforms. The ability for the Brigade to transition between diverse tasks on multiple fronts was a significant advantage as against 1st Armoured Regiment, running the single Cavalry Squadron under the ACR construct. The adaptability provided by the two cavalry squadrons addressed the all-too-common issues associated with overstretching of a single combat team tasked as formation reconnaissance.

Perhaps the greatest surprise for both the Battle Group and the Brigade was the success of Surveillance Troop during the activity. The sparse and open terrain of Cultana lent itself to the MSSS capability in a way the Regiment hasn't experienced in the densely vegetated Queensland training areas since introduction into service.

The ASLAV-S, operating in small two vehicle detachments had significant and regular successes in early identification of targets and for subsequent cueing and battlefield commentary for the reconnaissance troops. The ability for MSSS

to saturate, identify and quickly react tanks and cavalry onto targets at ranges out to 20 km placed BLUFOR under significant pressure particularly during its lodgement and breakout.

As stated, one of the greatest training benefits of this year's Ex HAMEL was the Battle Group's exposure to a new and unfamiliar environment – reinforcing the requirement to be able to conduct our business in diverse terrain. Cultana, with its recent expansion and its proximity to the civilian townships of Port Augusta, Iron Knob and Whyalla provides Army (and particularly armoured vehicles) with unique opportunities for TTP development.

A Squadron, for example, conducted mission profiles that are simply not available in other training areas; departing from Whyalla township, moving on a mixture of high speed public roads and cross country into the training area, observing targets at maximum weapons range and raiding onto key urban infrastructure at Iron Knob all on a single night. B Squadron on the other hand conducted an urban defence both mounted and dismounted in the town of Iron Knob. The diversity of the terrain and tasks conducted by Battle Group Warhorse also highlighted a general lack of confidence in AFV combat amongst complex urban terrain.

Ultimately, across the six-weeks both at sea and on the exercise in South Australia, Battle Group Warhorse achieved its mission of testing 1st Brigade's operational readiness against a peer enemy. However, more importantly for us, the exercise provided the opportunity for our junior commanders and soldiers to exercise and develop themselves in a free-play environment, testing themselves against their peers and holding our sister-Brigade to account by making sure they are the best that they can be before taking over responsibility for Army's operational commitments.



Invite your Black Hat mates to join the Association. Give them a copy of the Membership Application (see Page 8).

Light Horse Regiment trots into ACR construction

By Major Nick Rutten

2/14 LHR (QMI) recently marked its first official milestone on the path to becoming a multi-platform Armoured Cavalry Regiment (ACR). Whilst 1st Armoured and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment are well into their transition to the Plan BEERSHEBA construct, 2/14 LHR (QMI) has been the final RAAC unit to make the switch from a pure cavalry organisation to multi-platform ACR.

To mark the occasion of B Squadron's change in role from reconnaissance to combat lift the unit conducted a short ceremony and a mounted parade attended by the Commander 7 Cbt Bde, BRIG Anthony Rawlins. The first of the M113AS4s to be delivered to the unit was named Beersheba in honour of the unit's history, commissioned and 'wished luck' by BRIG Rawlins through the breaking of a magnum of champagne to the frontal armour.

2/14 LHR (QMI) will continue to receipt M113AS4s for the remainder of 2016 with the M1A1 MBT capability of the ACR scheduled for South-East Queensland in 2018.



RAAC Corporation AGM

By Darren Brown



I was very honoured to represent the Association at the Annual General Meeting of the RAAC Corporation held in Adelaide recently.

The activities commenced on Friday afternoon with a visit to Edinburgh Defence Precinct and A Squadron First Armoured Regiment. MAJ A Charry provided an excellent display of the M113 AS4 variants and an opportunity to mix and mingle with some of today's current crop of service men and women.

Saturday saw the AGM itself, hosted at 3rd/9th South Australia Mounted Rifles. Thanks to MAJ M Harris for the provision of his depot for the meeting.

The business of the meeting itself will be covered by the minutes, but it was very encouraging to see representatives from RAAC associations from around the country. Each Association provided an update on its activities and I am happy to report that our Association report was well received and we seem to be progressing well.

The Corps RSM WO1 P Swinfield and SO2 HOC MAJ G Hooper delivered an update of Corps progress on subjects ranging from Plan BEERSHEBA to the change of ECNs for RAAC Crewmen.

Saturday evening was the culminating activity of an informal dinner held at Mawson Lakes. This reinforced the new friendships and re-energised the longer friendships of the weekend.

On Sunday, prior to departure I took the opportunity to visit the Army Museum of South Australia at Keswick Barracks. It was a pleasant surprise not to have to negotiate the dreaded gate access procedure to visit an on-barracks museum. The museum holds a wonderful collection of artefacts and displays of local and national military history. It is highly recommended.

*Photos above left:
M113 at Army Museum of South Australia
Group shot of delegates and A Sqn 1 Armd Regt
MAJ Charry briefing the guests*

The Black Hats Dinner

There was a good turn out for a great annual Black Hats and Friends Dinner at the Kedron Wavell RSL Club on Friday 26th August. A wonderful concert private was performed for all by the wonderful "Mon Cher" Quartet.





2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry) Association Inc

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<http://www.2-14lhrqmi.asn.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/483155655155253/>

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP		
Surname		
Christian Names		
Preferred Name		
Postal Address		
Residential Address		
Telephone Numbers	Home	
	Work	
	Mobile	
Email Address		
Date of Application		
Class of Membership requested (tick appropriate one)	Ordinary	
	Service Associate	
	Associate	
Relevant Regimental Service (incl dates)		
Applicant's Signature		

For Management Committee Use: Approved on:

Membership and Folio No: