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E-VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 – WINTER 06

In This Issue

- "Dismount Left"
- Roll em', first Aussie Abrams produced
- Social Calendar
- New Era for Reservists
- R A P
- Contact Details
- 2/9 AARGA Plaque Dedication
- Links

ABOUT SAMRA:

SAMRA was formed over eighteen years ago. It has been the main point of contact for ex members of the Regiment, Corps and other interested military associations e.g. The RSL and the Federal body of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association. SAMRA became an incorporated body on 13th July 1988.

Objects

- To perpetuate the close bonds of comradeship, and esprit de corps created by past and present members of the Regiment and the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.
- To guard the good name and preserve the interests of the Regiment and Corps.
- To foster the interests of the Regiment by:
 - Providing assistance for Regimental activities outside the scope of normal entitlement from Army sources, and
 - Encouraging those suitable to serve with the Regiment, to so serve.
 - To assist in researching, recording, and preserving the history, traditions and customs of the Regiment and also its predecessor Regiments.

Presidents

Ron Hoey (1987 - 1989)
 Chris Hill (1989 - 1991)
 Clarrie Mitchell (1991 - 1993)
 Glenys Litchfield (1993 - 1998)
 Dave Griffiths (1998 - 2005)
 Ron Teusner (2005 - Present)

President Ron Teusner



May 2006

The ceremony at the Light Horse Memorial was very well attended with an increase of numbers again this year. A SQN 3/9th LH, the Barossa Light Horse and many SAMRA members supported it. Wreaths were laid by the President 2/9th, the Hon Colonel, the OC A SQN 3/9TH and myself. This is the last year the ceremony was organized and conducted by the 2/9th AARGA as SAMRA will take on the responsibility for conducting and maintaining the tradition in future years.

Another record turnout for the Anzac Day march with over 50 SAMRA members marching. The contingent formed up to acknowledge the last mounted parade of the 3rd and 9th guidons in M113s as all the APCs are being withdrawn from the squadron in June this year.

Since my last report I have attended several meetings, including the last 2/9th AARGA Annual General Meeting, and a reception at Government House for the launch of this year's Reserve Forces Day, which will be held on Sunday 2nd July.

Finally I sadly advise the passing of two well known ex 3/9th members, Bert Pryce and Bill Carmichael.....Ron T

YES, IT'S A TRUE STORY

DISMOUNT LEFT



Do you remember this incident? Thanks to MAJ Malcolm Haynes who bumped into a WO who took this very much talked about demonstration of how infantry dismount from an M113, we now have pictorial evidence that it happened.

DVA Contacts:

By Phone:

Local Call: 133 254
 Country Freecall: 1800 555 254

In Person:

Office open: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm (no appointment necessary)
 Blackburn House, 199 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

DVA's website: <http://www.dva.gov.au>

Fact Sheets on various subjects, forms and other information.

Do you have a Gold Card? Unsure of your entitlements? A Gold Card Kit is available from the DVA.



Click on badge for
History of Regt

Social Calendar

[\(Social page on website\)](#)

- Sun 2 Jul: Reserve Forces Day, activities TBA.
- Wed 5 Jul: Committee Meeting at Keswick Barracks Sgt's Mess 1900 hrs.
- Fri 28 Jul – Black Hat Function, Naval & Military Club.
- **Wed 16 Aug: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Keswick Barracks Sgt's Mess 1900 for 1930 hrs.**
- Sat 16 Sep: Past Presidents Dinner at Keswick Barracks Sergeants Mess.
- Wed 13 Sep: Committee Meeting at Keswick Barracks Sgt's Mess 1900 hrs.
- Sat 4 Nov: Beersheba Parade at ETD.

R A P

The following members have not been feeling very well just lately. Maybe you could cheer up their day by giving them a call.

- Ken Ruddock
Home: 8449 5636
- Bob Ireland
Home: 8447 6183

Editor: All hyperlinks are live, to activate CTRL + click mouse to follow link

ROLL 'EM

First Aussie Abrams produced

THE first five of the Army's 59 Abrams M1A1 AIM tanks have rolled off the production line in the US.

This is the first major delivery under Australia's Foreign Military Sales program with the US. The five tanks will now be transported to Fort Hood, Texas, in preparation for the training of armoured corps soldiers and maintainers as they convert to the new vehicle.

The Abrams, which will replace the Leopard AS1s, will be introduced into Army training schools in Australia later this year and will be fielded in Darwin by mid-2007.

CA Lt-Gen Leahy said the Abrams, purchased from the US. Army inventory would provide "increased firepower, mobility and survivability for soldiers on the battlefield".

"All tanks procured under this project have been rebuilt under the Abrams Integrated Management program to an as-new, zero-kilometre, zero-hour standard."

The Abrams will form a key component of the Hardened and Networked Army plan.

The Abrams Integrated Management (AIM) program applies modifications and technology improvement to the M1A1 to ensure it will serve to 2020 and beyond.

The comprehensive rebuilding process means the tanks have embedded diagnostics and digitalisation plus a range of armour, firepower, automotive and engine improvements.

The Australian M1A1 AIM tank has a cruising range of up to 480km, the ability to reach speeds of 66km/h on-road and up to 48km/h off-road

Of the 6256 major components on the tank, 5368 are replaced with brand new components. The remaining components are checked to ensure that they adhere to the manufacturer's original specification or they are replaced by new components.

The modification process for the Abrams began in June 2005 when the 59 Australian-selected M1A1s were transferred to the Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, where they were stripped to their component parts.

Armed and dangerous

- The Australian M1A1 AIM tank has a cruising range of up to 480km, the ability to reach speeds of 66km/h on-road and up to 48km/h off-road while carrying four crewmen and ammunition.
- The primary weapon is a 120mm smooth-bore cannon. It is also equipped with a .50 cal machinegun for the tank commander and two 7.62mm machineguns. The Abrams can fire an advanced kinetic energy tungsten penetrator round against vehicles and a multi-purpose round for infantry support.
- The Abrams' survivability is enhanced through its nuclear, biological and chemical protection system, crew compartmentalisation from munitions and armoured blow-off panels, which allow stowed munitions to vent to the atmosphere if they are detonated.

Source: Army Newspaper



Click on badge for
history of Regt

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A NEW ERA FOR RESERVISTS

The army reserves will be bolstered and their pay improved as part of a budget plan costing hundreds of millions of dollars to upgrade the army's fighting capability. A new "elite" group of about 3000 highly trained reservists will receive special funding, as the Howard Government moves to tackle a military recruitment crisis. The move will reverse a 1996 Coalition decision to scrap the "Ready Reserve", established by the former Labor government to supplement the regular Australian Defence Force in overseas operations. In a big win for new Defence Minister Brendan Nelson, the Government will announce plans to provide a range of salary perks to reservists for the first time. These are likely to include healthcare and superannuation. The Government is also considering waiving university fees for "high-readiness" reservists, who would spend up to two years in full-time training. The minister, who has taken direct responsibility for personnel policy, will also boost special allowances for regular Defence personnel in areas where there are shortages of technical specialists.

While Dr Nelson has secured several billion dollars in additional funding to buy military equipment, the budget will also include a range of measures to boost the attractiveness of the Defence Force as a career for young people. "There's a big focus on trying to attract larger numbers (into the military)," one source said. Dr Nelson is particularly keen to attract university-level entrants and the May budget is expected to offer generous incentives to achieve that goal. The Government has been forced to act because of a steady decline in the number of young people joining the Defence Force and former regular Defence personnel choosing to serve in the reserves. This has forced the Government to consider plans to relax health criteria for officer recruits, as The Australian revealed last December.

The budget is expected to include funding to establish a High Readiness Reserve of about 3000 troops. Members will receive a higher level of training and better pay. In return, they are expected to be ready within about 30 days to be deployed to trouble spots around the world, or to help in military clean-ups following natural disasters. The Government is effectively reviving the Ready Reserve as the regular army finds itself stretched in a range of overseas deployments.

The number of reservists has been falling in recent years, despite the higher profile given to the military and higher spending on personnel, which accounts for about 40 per cent of Defence expenditure.

The reserves cost about \$1 billion a year to run but do not contribute significantly to lifting the operational effectiveness of the regular Defence Force. Official government figures show the number of reserves fell from 22,154 to 21,968 in the 12 months to June 30 last year. Anecdotal evidence suggests some units have struggled to attract a single recruit in the past year. Strong employment conditions and changing demographics are blamed for the lack of new recruits willing to sign-up either on a full-time basis or as reserves.

Prime Minister John Howard promised a "fundamental review" of reserve remuneration arrangements at the 2004 election. This included consideration of financial and non-financial aspects, education support, "milestone recognition" and even some "tailored" remuneration packages. Currently, reservists receive tax-free pay, but their conditions lag behind those provided by other military powers, such as the US. Source: News Limited.

[Top of Page](#)



LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

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[QUEENS OWN HUSSARS](#)

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[ARMY MUSEUM BANDIANA](#)

[IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM](#)

[ARMY NEWSPAPER](#)

[2nd/9th Australian Armoured Regimental Group](#)



4th Armoured Brigade [Matilda II](#) and [M3 Grant](#) tanks firing small calibre weapons during a demonstration (Source AWM 063203)



4th Australian Armoured Brigade
Raised 12 February 1943 (with
disbandment of 2 Armd Div)

At formation: 2/6, 2/9 Armd Regts, 1 Armd Tank Bn
10/43: 2/4, 2/6, 2/9 Armd Regt, 1 Tank Bn (NGF)
03/44: 2/4, 2/5, 2/9 Armd Regts, 1 Tank Bn
08/44: 1, 2/4, 2/5, 2/9 Armd Regts, 1 Amphib Armd Sqn
09/44: 1, 2/5 Armd Regts, 1 Armd Bde Recce Sqn, 1 Amphib Armd Sqn
07/45: 1, 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/9 Armd Regt, 1 Amphib Armd Sqn, Armd Sqn (Spec Eq)

2nd/9th Plaque Dedication – Canberra 21st March



There was a good attendance of 50 people at the 2/9 AARGA plaque dedication ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra on the 21st March 06. Bill Sawers and Reg Skinner unveiled the plaque. Also pictured holding the banner are Bill Milton and SAMRA president Ron Teusner.

[Top of Page](#)