



Representing the Royal Australian Armoured Corps
Corporation Limited in South Australia



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President's Page

For those who have served, have you ever thought how much of your service and its habits have continued with you for your entire life?

In April this year, I spent three weeks in a tent in Streaky Bay for a fishing holiday. As I finished packing up I did a quick check of my site to make sure I hadn't left anything behind. As I did so, I said to myself "Area clear". This was a throwback to my time in Mortar Platoon in Adelaide University Regiment, when it was based on an infantry battalion, and the pack-up drills include a check of the area before heading off. Similarly, when I returned home, I removed everything from my boat and cleaned all the equipment. This is ingrained in me because at the conclusion of any field exercise with 3rd /9th Light Horse, we would have to clean the myriad of stores and equipment right down to oiling the shovel.

It's not just these drills that have stayed with me. A few years ago I was an outposted human resource manager in a government department. When I had to go into head office for meetings, I always made sure I arrived 10 minutes early to get a coffee then would be sitting in the meeting room 5 minutes before the meeting started. This was because I was taught in the Army that you always arrive early to an orders group so you can mark up your map and be seated before the commander arrived. I must say that the Army didn't really teach me the patience I needed when my colleagues in the government department didn't arrive at the meeting until after the scheduled start time, even though they only had to walk from one side of the office to get to the meeting.

If anyone every asks me what is the most important skill I have learned from my time in the Army, I can respond without hesitation with "decision making". General George Patton once said "A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week". The ability to make a considered decision quickly while taking into account pertinent factors is something that is taught at different levels training and then executed in training or on operations. This ability to make decisions helped me so much in my civilian career, although I was continually amazed how many senior managers seemed unable to make a decision in a timely manner. I'm sure there are many other good habits that former soldiers have continued with even if it is many years since they completed their service.

The big event for SAMRA each year is ANZAC Day. It was pleasing to see so many SAMRA members, their families and dignitaries as well as members of the public attend the memorial service. I heard that something in the vicinity of 300 people attended the service. The fact that the Jane Lomax-Smith - Lord Mayor, Steve Georganas - Federal member for Adelaide, Barbara Pocock - Senator for SA, Dave Peterson - State President of RSL as well as representatives from other groups is a good sign that this service has a lot of support. It was also good to see the new Commanding Officer of 1st Armoured Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Jake Penley CSM and the Regimental Sergeant Major, Warrant Officer Class One Grant Gripske as well as the Officer Commanding 3rd/9th Light Horse, Major Matt Walsh. My thanks to James Kennelly and everyone involved in the planning and conduct of the service. It was also good to see how well turned out SAMRA members were for the march and also good to see a few new faces, although overall, our numbers were slightly down on last year.

Thanks to Dave Mercer for the organisation of the march, particularly in keeping members informed of details (and keeping me in step during the march). It was also great to see SAMRA members popping up at ANZAC Day marches around the state, country and overseas.

Nec Aspera Terrent

Malcolm Haynes



Troop Hide back in the day

INTRODUCTION OF THE SELF- LOADING RIFLE L1A1 IN COMMONWEALTH SERVICE. By Pete Tulloch SAMRA Archivist.

Recently I discovered some back issues of the British Army's SOLDIER magazine in a charity shop.

The march 1954 edition has an article on the introduction of the Belgian FAL, (Fusil Automatique Leger, or Light Automatic Rifle), into British Army service, headed "At last a self- loading rifle", and makes interesting reading.

During the Korean War it became apparent that the venerable SMLE .303 family of weapons had reached the end of their service lives.

While robust and reliable they lacked the rate of fire to defeat Chinese "human wave" tactics, and sub machine guns lacked penetrating power when confronted with a communist soldier in quilted winter clothing and wearing chest webbing. (There is anecdotal evidence of Australian troops being issued with US M1 Garands after the Battle of Kapyong.)

WW2 had also brought home to the allies the difficulty in supplying coalition forces who used different calibre ammunition, so with the formation of NATO in 1949 it was agreed that a common calibre of small arms ammunition should be adopted.

The British had experimented with a shortened .280-inch round, and a the revolutionary EM2 to fire it. (See below.)

However, the US Army ordnance Department refused to consider anything less .30 calibre, and as they were the major alliance partner, their opinion held sway.

As we know the 7.62mm NATO round was adopted, the British chose the Belgian FAL, and the Commonwealth followed suit. (According to one source it was assumed that the US would also order this weapon, but instead adopted a development of the Garand as the M14.)

The British ordered 5,000 weapons for troop trials, and the weapon was adopted as the SELF- LOADING RIFLE L1A1.

There was a need to revise the drill manual for a number of reasons, including:

1. As the return spring was housed in the butt, there was concern that it would be damaged if the weapon was slammed onto the parade ground during the "order arms" drill movement.
2. Initial trials rifles were fitted with a basic optical sight, (as developed for the EM2), which could have injured a soldier's face during the "slope arms" movement.

Interestingly, the article shows the L1A1 field stripped but only the breech cover, bolt carrier and bolt have been removed. It also shows the magazine being reloaded from 5 round clips while still being in situ. The article stated that the soldier would be issued with a spare magazine "for use in emergencies." Spare ammunition was to be carried in cloth bandoliers.

The Australian Government Small Arms Factory at Lithgow began production of the L1A1 in 1959, eventually producing 220,000, including 10,000 L2A1 light support weapons and 500 L1A1-F1 shortened versions for the PNG Defence Force.

Some were field modified in Vietnam with a shorter barrel, pistol foregrip, and capable of fully automatic fire. These were used by SAS patrols and some battalion recce patrols. (A YOUTUBE channel "Forgotten Weapons" has a segment on these modifications called "The Aussie Bitch"). As we all know, the L1A1 provided the Australian Army with a robust and reliable rifle until the late 1980s when it began to be replaced by the Steyer. Some army reserve units continued to use the SLR up until 1992, and it is still used for ceremonial by the Federation Guard.



ONE OF HISTORY'S "WHAT IF'S", THE BRITISH EM2. (RIFLE, AUTOMATIC, 7mm, No.9 Mk 1)

At the end of WW2, it had become apparent to many small arms experts that cartridges like the .303 British and American .30-06 were too powerful for the modern battlefield. It was thought that engagements between infantrymen, carried into battle in armoured personnel carriers, were unlikely beyond 1000 metres and more likely at about half that distance.

During the war the German Army had developed a shortened 7.92mm round for their STG44 assault rifle, and this weapon had proved itself very effective.

After the war a Polish expat developed a revolutionary rifle, chambered for a shortened .280-inch, (7mmx43mm), round using the now familiar bullpup design.

The design produced a shorter, handier weapon, without a reduction in barrel length. The lighter ammunition also meant that a soldier could carry more of it.

The weapon incorporated a non-magnified optical sight in the carrying handle which gave more rapid target acquisition than standard iron sights. (Emergency "flip up" iron sights were provided on the left side of the receiver and barrel)

The weapon was capable of fully automatic fire.

Troop trials, pending further development, were deemed very successful and it was announced in the British Parliament that the EM2 had been approved as the new standard rifle for the British Army.

As it turned out that this was somewhat premature, as due to the politics mentioned above, the .280 round was not adopted by NATO, and the design could not, (without difficulty), be reworked for the 7.62mm cartridge.

The YOUTUBE channel, "Forgotten Weapons", has a very good segment on this weapon.

Finally, it should be mentioned, that although the EM2 bears a resemblance to the British SA80, (L85A1), the internal workings are different.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PHOTO 003



Where were you on ANZAC Day 2024?



David Hughes—The dawn service this year in Gawler had a big crowd around 5000 people.



Michael Kuilboers at the Gaythorne RSL parade in QLD.

Dean Manuel with his grandson — The Kadina Army Cadets did them selves proud especially marching past and saluting the Veteran's outside the Wallaroo RSL as well as the Guard of honour at the service, great job done by all.



Memories of firing the .30 Cal Browning machine gun.



The Advertiser

Plan for 3500 extra northern suburbs homes in zone change



FAREWELL ELIZABETH NORTH TRAINING DEPOT



"A large number of army horses on the beach and in the sea with their riders at Brighton." 16th Light Horse, South Australian Mounted Rifles 1903 - 1912.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5227695?searchTerm=army%20brighton#>

Sandy (Major General Sir William Bridges' horse)

The only horse to return from the First World War

In the First World War 136,000 "walers" (the general name applied to Australian horses abroad) were sent overseas for use by the Australian Imperial Force and the British and Indian governments. One horse from the 136,000 made it back to Australia.

Sandy belonged to Major General Sir William Bridges, who subsequently died at sea of wounds he had received at Gallipoli. He was one of 6,100 horses who had embarked for Gallipoli. However, very few of the animals were put ashore, as Lieutenant General Sir William Birdwood decided there was not room or requirement on Anzac Cove. On 5 May Birdwood sought approval to send the horses back to Alexandria.

From 1 August 1915 Sandy was in the care of Captain Leslie Whitfield, an Australian Army Veterinary Corps officer in Egypt. Sandy remained in Egypt until he and Whitfield were transferred to France during March 1916.

In October 1917 Senator George Pearce, Minister for Defence, called for Sandy to be returned to Australia for pasture at Duntroon. In May 1918 the horse was sent from the Australian Veterinary Hospital at Calais to the Remount Depot at Swaythling in England. He was accompanied by Private Archibald Jordon, who had been at the hospital since April 1917 and classed as permanently unfit for further active service.

After three months of veterinary observation, Sandy was declared free of disease. In September 1918 he was boarded on the freighter Booral, sailing from Liverpool and arriving in Melbourne in November. Sandy was turned out to graze at the Central Remount Depot at Maribyrnong.

Sandy saw out the rest of his days at the Remount Depot. Although he was originally intended to go to Duntroon, his increasing blindness and debility prompted the decision to have him put down, "as a humane action", in May 1923. His head and neck were mounted and became part of the Memorial's collection. Sandy was displayed for many years, although is currently not on exhibition owing to deterioration through age.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

J02105

HOW MANY FACES DO YOU RECOGNISE?

1. Date of activity (month and year if possible)

2. Name and location of activity or exercise.

3. Names of any people you recognise (please be specific e.g. TPR Bloggs - second from left)

If you have any anecdotes of the photo or the relevant activity, please let us know so they can be published in the next edition of SAMRAG.



(Peter Byass posted) Ex Maiden Magpie, 1976. It was taken at Smithfield, the trees outside the Northern Boundary provided the backdrop.

(Peter Royals posted) The camp must have been around March/April 1976 as I went to Darwin around June of 1976.



A SQN 3/9 SAMR - CAMP 1976

Front Row: L to R. Lt Fox, Lt Gibbons, Lt OBrien, Lt Norton, Lt Stobart, Capt Shearwin, Capt Wade, Maj Hill, Capt Mitchell, Lt Burzacott, Lt Kennelly, Lt Moore, Lt Francis, Lt Anderson.

2nd Row: L to R. Sgt Hoey, Sgt Jordan, Sgt Spackman, Sgt Day, Sgt Coppi, Sgt Szpunar, Sgt Piateck, Sgt Cameron, Sgt Brown, Sgt Nicholls, Sgt Royals, Sgt Martin, Sgt Wheaton, Sgt G. Rogers, Sgt Tuffin, WO2 Nearmy, Sgt G.A. Rogers, Sgt Jupp, Sgt Courtney, Sgt Harte, S/Sgt Scrymgeour, Sgt Godfrey.

3rd Row: L to R. Cfn Pobke, Tpr Ferdinands, Tpr Washington, Tpr Pulley, Tpr Heindrich, Tpr Andrew, L/Cpl Joseph, Cpl McDuff, Tpr Hamilton, Tpr Haydon, Tpr Harris, Tpr Tullock, Tpr Koster, Tpr Kearton, Tpr T. Leach, Tpr Dickson, Tpr Havers, Cpl Monten.

Back Row: L to R. Tpr McDermott, Tpr Rohde, Tpr Byass, Tpr Collins, Tpr Glocke, Tpr Walter, Tpr Clarke, Tpr Milton, L/Cpl Poole, Tpr Wilson, Tpr Hall, Cpl Wehr, Tpr Zanker, Tpr McDonald, L/Cpl Lines, Cpl Brooks, Tpr Gray, L/Cpl Sutton, Pte Pearks, Tpr Pearsall, L/Cpl Woods, Cpl O'Callahan, Tpr Pattmore, Cpl Walton, Tpr Stone, Tpr Waterman, Cpl Pascale, Tpr Potter, Tpr Cathro, L/Cpl Fridmanis, Cpl Batchelor, Tpr Perkins, Cpl Long, Tpr Moog, Cpl Wise, L/Cpl Mercer, Cpl Craig, Cpl Kaschammer, Tpr Cornelios, L/Cpl McMellon, Tpr Gallagher, Tpr Moorman, Tpr Virgin, Cfn Snow, Tpr Leach, Tpr Northway, Cpl Bradke, Cpl Wienberg, Tpr Close, Tpr Vershaw, L/Cpl Harnett, Tpr Syson, Tpr Turner.

V A L E

LT Wayne Van Tenac passed away on the 14th April 2024. Wayne joined the Regiment in 1958 and discharged in 1971. He has been a member of SAMRA for 23 years.

FINE DINING



IN THE FIELD

36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE NAVAL, MILITARY & AIR FORCE CLUB. WEDNESDAY 21 AUG 2024 1900 H FOR 1930 H DRESS: NEAT CASUAL RSVP BY 14 Aug 2024 FOR CATERING PURPOSES ORDER YOUR MEALS AT THE BAR FROM 1800 H

The following items are available for purchase. All profits support the Association:

- ASSOCIATION PLAQUES - \$40.00
- BLACK BASEBALL CAP EMBROIDERED WITH THE 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BADGE ON THE FRONT AND THE WORDS 'SAMRA' ON THE BACK — \$20.00 (NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME).
- NAME BADGES—\$25.00
- BLACK POLO SHIRT, BADGE ON THE FRONT, WITH SAMRA UNDERNEATH— \$45.00 WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING SIZES IN STOCK 2XL = 3, L = 1 AND M = 1
- 3rd/9th LH (SAMR) BLAZER POCKET BADGE - \$25.00
- RAAC LAPEL BADGE—\$6.00
- SAMRA MEMBERSHIP LAPEL BADGE—\$5.00
- ASSOCIATION TIE—\$33.00

Place your orders with Bob Ireland, Mobile: 0421 846 592 please add \$11.00 for postage and packing. The preferred method of payment is via your financial institution using EFT, details are;

**Account Name—Association, South Australian Mounted Rifles
BSB—833 205, Account No—20760940, or send your payment to:
SAMRA Secretary, 63 Barramundi Drive, Hallett Cove, SA 5158**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
MOUNTED RIFLES
ASSOCIATION INC
Contact Details**

**Secretary
Newsletter Editor,
Public Officer &
Webmaster**

**63 Barramundi Drive
Hallett Cove SA 5158
Mobile: 0439 843 897**

**We welcome to our
new SAMRA
member**

MAJ Andrew Kemp (partner Kerry), Service History: DOE 05 June 1999, served with 3/9 LH (SAMR), AUR, QUR and currently 2IC/XO 10/27 RSAR.



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Warwick is a former RAAC member who served with 1st / 15th Royal New South Wales Lancers and is a current SAMRA Committee Member.

2024 SOCIAL CALENDAR

- **Thursday, 25 July—Old & Bold lunch at the Seacliff Hotel, Seacliff.**
- **Wednesday, 21 August—36th SAMRA AGM at the NM&AF club.**
- **Thursday, 19 September—Old & Bold lunch at the Earl of Leicester Hotel, Parkside.**
- **Wednesday, Black Hat Night, October date TBC.**
- **SAMRA AFX at Stansbury caravan park, first week in November.**
- **Saturday, 7 December—OEY function, venue TBC.**