



Respect, Gratitude, Admiration

TRIBUTE

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A B-2 Spirit stealth bomber on approach to RAAF Base Amberley, west of Brisbane.

The B-2 Spirit is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. Its stealth characteristics give it a unique ability to penetrate very sophisticated defences.

(Source; Contact)

President Report

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT

PEACEKEEPING¹

Peacekeeping has been a major role of our ADF over 70 years, but little is known of their deployments. Here is a summary.

Since four Australians became the first UN peacekeepers in the world in 1947, Australian has contributed more than 66,000 personnel to 73 peacekeeping operations in 64 countries.

Twenty-five Australians have been killed in service. However, not all Australia's peacekeeping missions have involved the UN.

COUNTRY OF SERVICE	YEARS	COUNTRY OF SERVICE	YEARS
Indonesia (Dutch East Indies)	1947-1951	Cambodia	1991-1993
Greece	1947-1949	Somalia	1992-1995
Kashmir	1950-1985	Former Yugoslavia	1992
Korea	1950-pres	Sinai	1993-pres
Israel	1956-pres	Rwanda	1994-1995
Congo	1960-1961	Mozambique	1994
West New Guinea	1962-1963	Bougainville	1994
Yemen	1963-1964	Haiti	1994-1995
Cyprus	1964-2017	Cambodia	1994-1999
India/Pakistan	1965-1966	Former Yugoslavia	1995-2004
Sinai	1973-1979	Guatemala	1995
Israel/Syria	1974	Bougainville	1997-2003
Lebanon	1978	East Timor	1999-2005
Zimbabwe	1979-1980	Solomon Islands	2000-2017
Uganda	1982-1984	Ethiopia/Eritrea	2000-2005
Sinai	1982-1986	Sierra Leone	2001-2003
Iran/Iraq	1988-1990	Iraq	2002-2003
Namibia	1989-1990	Afghanistan	2003-2021
Thai/Cambodian border	1989-1993	Sudan	2005-2011
Afghanistan/Pakistan	1989-1993	Timor-Leste	2005-2013

Iraq	1991-1999	Darfur	2008-2011
Western Sahara	1991-1994	Iraq South Sudan	2009-2013 2011-pres

Note 1: Source: RSL Queensland and <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/peacekeeping#2>

In addition to our military peacekeepers, police and civilians have served as peacekeepers in different global spots. Our peacekeepers often have a more hazardous role than combatants as they have very different rules of engagement that prevent them firing on the “bad guys” unless they are fired upon themselves. Not all peacekeepers carry weapons, making it even more hazardous. The Anzac portal above gives more detail.

You will hear some peacekeeper stories at the Military Spectacular

From the Editor

Welcome to *TRIBUTE* No 15. This month we will tell the story of one more soldier who died in Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey and the interesting story of Tinian Island and its significance during World War Two along with all the regular sections.

Next month we will be taking a break from our normal format and producing a Military Spectacular Special which I hope to have out by the middle of September.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Military Spectacular. The early Bird tickets are on sale till 1 September so go to www.militaryspectacular.events and buy your tickets today.

Australian Defence Force Casualties in Afghanistan Part 4.

By Ian Curtis



8513334 Lance Corporal Todd John 'Chidge' Chidgey

Todd John Chidgey was born on 5 May 1985 and was the second of three sons to Kerrie Baker and Wayne Chidgey of Gosford, New South Wales.

He attended Point Clare Primary School where he received a Citizenship Award by the Probus Club of Gosford West for his community work. His sense of community continued to grow as he did in life; at the age of 15, he started sponsoring a child in a third world country. Todd went on to attend Henry Kendall High School, and as soon as he was able to work, found part-time employment at his local supermarket. After high school, Todd was accepted into the Australian Institute of Music where he achieved a Diploma of Music.

Growing up, Todd was loyal and close to his brothers, Paul and Adam, and to his wide circle of friends. He enjoyed most sports and he played cricket in the 1994/95 season and won the best fieldsman trophy for the year. He also began playing soccer for Gosford City and this became his sport of choice. Todd went on to play soccer for The Lakers Football Club, and over his sporting journey won numerous personal and team accolades. He maintained a passion for soccer off the field and was an avid fan of the Manchester United Football Club. He would often take it personally when his beloved team lost.

Todd was also passionate about rugby league and barracked for the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs. At every opportunity, he would attend games in Sydney with both family and

friends.

For reasons known only to him, Todd enlisted into the Australian Regular Army in 2006, applying for and being accepted into the Special Forces Direct Recruiting Scheme. Todd passed the gruelling selection and training program and went on to become a member of the 4th Battalion (Commando), The Royal Australian Regiment (which in 2009 was renamed the 2nd Commando Regiment).

Known to his Army mates as “**Chidge**”, Todd fitted seamlessly into regimental life and quickly earned a reputation as a reliable soldier with an outstanding team ethic. One of his friends described Todd as a quiet achiever who knew his role within his platoon. Todd also had a great sense of humour and was always laughing.

When Todd joined 4RAR, the battalion was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan as part of Operation Slipper. Training was intense. Although Todd had initially been posted to the battalion’s mortar platoon, he went on to train in a reconnaissance and scouting role.

He deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in June 2008 with Special Operations Task Group – Seven. The tempo of operations for Australian Special Forces during this time was constant. The commandos sought to close with and engage the Taliban insurgents in Uruzgan and neighbouring provinces while other coalition efforts could focus on building peace and stability in support of the democratically-elected Afghan government. Todd returned home in November that year, and continued to hone his skills as a soldier by completing a host of training and courses. In February 2010, he returned to Afghanistan with the Special Operations Task Group as a mortarman.

It was during his third tour to Afghanistan in July 2012 that Todd really stood out. By then, he had completed courses that qualified him as a sniper and Joint Terminal Attack Controller. The latter was essential for Australian Special Forces teams, and gave them the ability to call in close air support from coalition jets and gunships whenever the situation called for it. Todd stood out for his professionalism and drive during this deployment. During one operation targeting a high-value Taliban insurgent, Todd, acting as a JTAC, called off an inbound airstrike due to the presence of civilians in the area. His actions that day undoubtedly saved many lives.

On another deployment, Todd’s mortar section was involved in a gun-battle with insurgents. Not only did he keep his mortar tubes in action, but he also managed to provide fire support to another patrol which had become involved in a small arms engagement with the Taliban.

After his return to Australia, Todd met Karla Hosie and the couple began a relationship. When Todd left for his sixth deployment to Afghanistan in May 2014, Karla was pregnant.

On this deployment, Todd was posted to the Australian Defence Force Headquarters in Kabul as part of a Protective Security Detachment for a senior Australian Army officer. At around 2 pm on 1 July 2014, Todd was found in a room of one of the ADF Headquarters buildings with a gunshot wound to the head. He was rushed to a nearby medical facility where he underwent surgery, but died later that day surrounded by his comrades. He was 29 years old.

Todd was farewelled by his mates at an emotional ramp ceremony. One of his friends gave a eulogy in which he said that Todd was “more than a mate, you were and are a brother”.



Todd Chidgey’s body was returned to Australia and he was laid to rest with full military honours in the Palmdale Lawn Cemetery and Memorial Park at Palmdale, New South Wales on 14 July 2014. The funeral was attended by the Prime minister Tony Abbott and 450 of his family and friend.

Those who served with Todd in the 2nd Commando Regiment described him as “a brilliant bloke to know and work with, who was loyal to the core and would do anything for his mates”. He was a “consummate professional and a dedicated soldier. Lance Corporal Todd Chidgey was one of the hardest-working members of the regiment who never sought recognition or reward.”

Todd is remembered by his family as “the consummate gentleman, a son and a brother who was well mannered, loyal and always there for his family”. Time has not diminished their sadness, but their pride in his service and sacrifice continue to conquer the loss they feel without him. Todd Chidgey’s memory lives on through his son, Fox, who never got the chance to meet his father.

Lance Corporal Todd John Chidgey’s name is listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial, Australian Commando Memorial, Two Wells Afghanistan War Memorial, Yungaburra Afghanistan Avenue of Honour, 42for42 Afghanistan Memorial Garden and the new Atherton RSL Memorial.

References

1. Australian War Memorial
2. Department of Defence
3. www.dailymail.co.uk

(Ed: This is the final article in this series. We will return to this topic at a later date)

TINIAN: NOT JUST AN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC

By Gary Colin Saunderson

It's a small island, less than 40 square miles, a flat green dot in the vastness of Pacific blue.

Fly over it and you notice a slash across its north end of uninhabited bush, a long thin line that looks like an overgrown dirt runway. If you didn't know what it was, you wouldn't give it a second glance out your airplane window.



On the ground, you see the runway isn't dirt but tarmac and crushed limestone, abandoned with weeds sticking out of it. Yet this is arguably the most historical airstrip on earth. This is where World War II was won. This is Runway Able.



On 24 July 1944, 30,000 US Marines landed on the beaches of Tinian Eight days later, over 8,000 of the 8,800 (from the aerial photo, they had nowhere to hide.) Japanese soldiers on the island were dead (vs. 328 Marines), and four months later the Seabees had built the busiest airfield of WWII, dubbed North Field, enabling B-29 Super fortresses to launch air attacks on the Philippines, Okinawa, and mainland Japan.

Late in the afternoon of 5 August 1945, a B-29 was manoeuvred over a bomb loading pit, then after lengthy preparations, taxied to the east end of North Field's main runway, Runway Able, and at 2:45am in the early morning darkness of 6 August took off.

The B-29 was piloted by Colonel Paul Warfield Tibbets Jnr (23 Feb 1915 – 1 Nov 2007) of the US Army Air Force, who had named the plane after his mother, Enola Gay. The crew named the bomb they were carrying Little Boy. 6 hours later at 8:15am, Japan time, the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Three days later, in the pre-dawn hours of August 9, a B-29 named Bockscar (a pun on "boxcar" after its flight commander Captain Fred Bock), piloted by Major Charles Sweeney took off from Runway Able. Finding its primary target of Kokura obscured by clouds, Sweeney proceeded to the secondary target of Nagasaki, over which, at 11:01am, bombardier Kermit Beahan released the atomic bomb dubbed Fat Man

Here is "Atomic Bomb Pit #1" where Little Boy was loaded onto Enola Gay:



There are pictures displayed in the pit, now glass-enclosed. The picture below shows Little Boy being hoisted into Enola Gay's bomb bay.



The commemorative plaque records that 16 hours after the nuking of Nagasaki, "On 10 August 1945 at 0300hrs, the Japanese Emperor, without his cabinet's consent, decided to end the Pacific War."

Take a good look at these pictures. This is where World War II ended with total victory of America over Japan. I was there all alone. There were no other visitors and no one lives

anywhere near for miles. Visiting the Bomb Pits, walking along deserted Runway Able in solitude, was a moment of extraordinarily powerful solemnity.

It was a moment of deep reflection. Most people, when they think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, reflect on the numbers of lives killed in the nuclear blasts, at least 70,000 and 50,000 respectively. Being here caused me to reflect on the number of lives saved, how many more Japanese and Americans would have died in a continuation of the war had the nukes not been dropped.

Yet that was not all. It's not just that the nukes obviated the US invasion of Japan, Operation Downfall, that would have caused upwards of a million American and Japanese deaths or more. It's that nuking Hiroshima and Nagasaki were of extraordinary humanitarian benefit to the nation and people of Japan

Let's go to this cliff on the nearby island of Saipan to learn why:



Saipan is less than a mile north of Tinian The month before the Marines took Tinian, on 15 June 1944, 71,000 Marines landed on Saipan.... They faced 31,000 Japanese soldiers determined not to surrender.

Japan had colonized Saipan after World War I and turned the island into a giant sugar cane plantation. By the time of the Marine invasion, in addition to the 31,000 entrenched soldiers, some 25,000 Japanese settlers were living on Saipan, plus thousands more Okinawans, Koreans, and native islanders brutalized as slaves to cut the sugar cane.

There were also one or two thousand Korean "comfort women" (kanji in Japanese), abducted young women from Japan's colony of Korea to service the Japanese soldiers as sex slaves. (See *The Comfort Women: Japan's Brutal Regime of Enforced Prostitution in the Second World War*, by George Hicks.)

Within a week of their landing, the Marines set up a civilian prisoner encampment that quickly attracted a couple thousand Japanese and others wanting US food and protection. When word of this reached Emperor Hirohito, who contrary to the myth was in full charge of the war, he became alarmed that radio interviews of the well-treated prisoners broadcast to Japan would subvert his people's will to fight.

As meticulously documented by historian Herbert Bix in "Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan ", the Emperor issued an order for all Japanese civilians on Saipan to commit suicide. The order included the promise that, although the civilians were of low caste, their suicide would grant them a status in heaven equal to those honoured soldiers who died in combat for their Emperor.

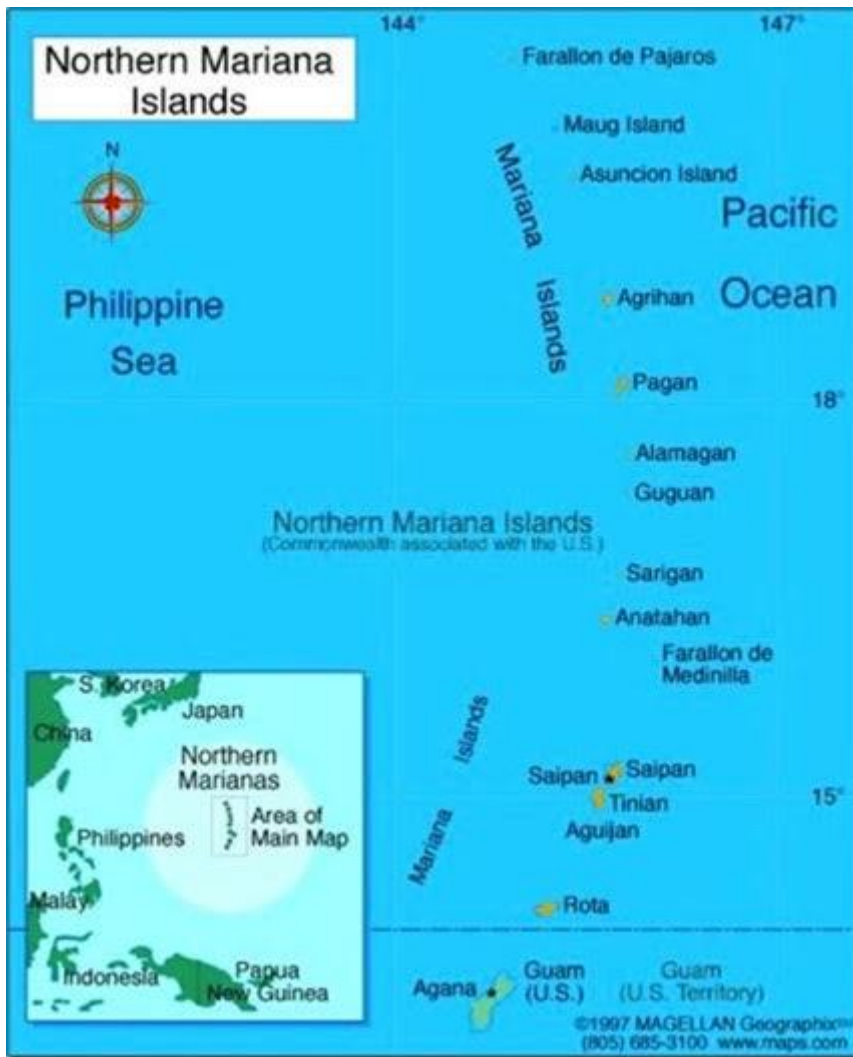
And that is why the precipice in the picture above is known as Suicide Cliff, off which over 20,000 Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths to comply with their fascist emperor's desire mothers flinging their babies off the cliff first or in their arms as they jumped.

Anyone reluctant or refused, such as the Okinawan or Korean slaves, were shoved off at gunpoint by the Japanese soldiers. Then the soldiers themselves proceeded to hurl themselves into the ocean to drown off a sea cliff afterwards called Banzai Cliff. Of the 31,000 Japanese soldiers on Saipan, the Marines killed 25,000, 5,000 jumped off Banzai Cliff, and only the remaining thousand were taken prisoner.

The extent of this demented fanaticism is very hard for any civilized mind to fathom- especially when it is devoted not to anything noble but barbarian evil instead. The vast brutalities inflicted by the Japanese on their conquered and colonized peoples of China, Korea, the Philippines, and throughout their "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" was a hideously depraved horror.

And they were willing to fight to the death to defend it. So, they had to be nuked. The only way to put an end to the Japanese barbarian horror was unimaginably colossal destruction against which they had no defence whatever. Nuking Japan was not a matter of justice, revenge, or it getting what it deserved. It was the only way to end the Japanese dementia. And it worked, for the Japanese. They stopped being barbarians and started being civilized. They achieved more prosperity and peace, than they ever knew, or could have achieved had they continued fighting and not been nuked. The shock of their getting nuked is responsible.

We achieved this because we were determined to achieve victory. Victory without apologies. Despite perennial liberal demands we do so, America and its government has never apologized for nuking Japan ...Hopefully, America never will.



yes...Guinness lists Saipan as having the best, most equitable, weather in the world. And the beaches? Well, take a look:



Although we do not forget, history fades into the shadows of our mind and we seldom think about it. But we should remember and we should be constantly reminded of our history, where we came from and how we got here. Kind of interesting.

From the News



Royal Australian Navy EC-135 Aircraft from 723 Squadron conduct a fly past during the 723 Squadron Graduation Ceremony held at HMAS Albatross in Nowra

The first aircrew to graduate from 723 Squadron Joint Helicopter School in its 70th year have received their wings and initial qualifications in a ceremony fittingly featuring a flyover of EC-135 training helicopters.

Army's ARH Tiger and Air Force's PC-21 also joined the formalities, along with the Navy band and the 23 graduates' families and guests. The graduates included four Navy and nine Army pilots, and two Navy and four Army aircrew, all from No. 723 Squadron, plus four remote pilot warfare officers from No. 822X Squadron. The graduates had completed a rigorous training course to achieve their initial helicopter qualification, and the Army pilots and Navy aircrewman were presented with their respective service flying brevets, or wings.

Army Lieutenant Alex Powell was awarded dux of the pilot course, while Leading Seaman Benjamin Price and Sergeant Joshua Tewson were duxes of the Aircrewman course for their service. The remote pilot warfare course dux was Acting Sub-Lieutenant Jordon Creek. Their perpetual trophies were donated and presented by Boeing Defence Australia.

Reviewing officer for the parade, Commander Fleet Air Arm Commodore David Frost, encouraged the graduates to continually improve throughout their aviation careers. "Many aspire to fly with the Royal Australian Navy and Army; however, few realise this dream," Commodore Frost said. "You have shown determination during the course of your training.

So have your family and friends. “Your graduation has sealed your part of a great lineage that is interwoven with soldier and sailor, a team that has served our nation with distinction and honour for more than a century. “You are in a profession where excellence is essential and your desire to improve must be ingrained. You can be sure that your leadership and courage will be tested.”

The graduates will now advance to operational training with their respective services in the coming months, and will ultimately be employed in operational roles in Navy MH-60R, Army ARH, MRH, CH-47 and Navy unmanned aerial systems.

Navy



HMAS Supply departs Pearl Harbour

The recently commissioned HMAS *Supply* is ready to play its role as a range extender for an array of international war ships as the sea phase of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 commences in the waters off Hawaii.

RIMPAC will be the first time that Supply-class auxiliary oiler replenishment ship *Supply* will engage in replenishments at sea with multiple international navies and will be an important milestone for the ship and crew.

Replenishment ships are a critical enabler to support war fighting, search and rescue and humanitarian and disaster relief for long distances and large areas. For maritime nations like Australia, this ability to project its maritime forces far from our shores is particularly important.

For *Supply's* Commanding Officer Commander Cindy Jenkins, RIMPAC provides an opportunity to demonstrate that one of the Royal Australian Navy's newest ships is up to the tasks it was designed for. “Transferring hundreds of tonnes of fuel and supplies between

ships underway, themselves weighing thousands of tonnes each, is a task that is not always easy,” Commander Jenkins said. “But as a maritime nation, our ability to deliver this capability is essential to maintaining Australia’s national interests. “We’re very excited to work with multiple partner navies over the next few weeks and look forward to strengthening partnerships and enhancing interoperability.

“Our participation in RIMPAC is a great achievement and reflective of a lot of hard work by the ship’s company and those ashore to get *Supply* to where she is now.”

(Source: Contact)



US Navy aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln leads a fleet of multi-national ships in formation during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022

The Australian Defence Force’s (ADF) participation in the world’s largest international maritime exercise has come to an end.

The biennial Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) was conducted in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California from 29 June to 4 August 2022, and featured 38 surface ships, three submarines, nine national land forces, more than 170 aircraft and approximately 25,000 personnel from 26 nations.

RIMPAC 2022 saw an Australian contingent of approximately 1,600 personnel, HMA Ships Canberra, Supply and Warramunga, two RAAF P-8A Poseidon aircraft, Mine Warfare and Clearance Diving capabilities, and a Joint Landing Force led by the Townsville-based 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Commander Australian Contingent, Commodore Paul O’Grady, DSM, CSM, RAN who led the 19-nation maritime component of the exercise, highlighted the importance of the strong relationships built during RIMPAC 2022 “The

interchangeability and strong relationships that are built at each RIMPAC help make the Indo-Pacific region more secure and our Defence Force more capable,” Commodore O’Grady said.

“RIMPAC demonstrates that we have the architecture to integrate forces, platforms and capabilities; and enables us to learn more about our partners and ourselves. “The return to a full-scale exercise this year, demonstrated capable, adaptive partners working together to increase the interoperability, resiliency, and agility needed by the joint and combined force.”

Key highlights for Australia during RIMPAC 2022:

- The first-time auxiliary oiler replenishment ship HMAS Supply participated in an international exercise, conducting 22 replenishments at sea, transferring more than 7million litres of fuel.
- Two United States Marine Corps MV-22B Osprey aircraft and support personnel embarked and integrated into HMAS Canberra for the duration of RIMPAC, advancing efforts to integrate the two nation’s amphibious forces.
- Royal Australian Air Force and Indian Navy P-8 aircraft worked together to conduct anti-submarine warfare.
- Australian Army led a multi-national landing force with ground elements from Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Mexico and the United States.
- Royal Australian Navy clearance divers practiced underwater mine clearance and explosive-ordnance disposal and worked with peers from Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands and the United States.

The RIMPAC 2022 fleet consisted of HMNZS Aotearoa (AOR-11), HMCS Winnipeg (FFG-331), HMCS Vancouver (FFG-338), USS Abraham Lincoln (CV-72), USS Essex (LHD-2), USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62), USS Chafee (DDG-90), USS Gridly (DDG-101), USS Sampson (DDG-102), USS William P Lawrence (DDG-110), USS Spruance (DDG-111), USS Michael Monsoor (DDG-1001), USS Mobile Bay (CG-53), USS Charlo Tte (SSN-766), USS Topeka (SSN-754), USNS Henry J Kaiser (T-AO-187), USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE-11), USCGC Midgett (WSML-757), USV Nomad, USV Ranger, USV Sea Hawk, USV Sea Hunter, ROSK Marado (LHDS-6112), ROKS MTG (DDG-976), ROKS STG (DDG-991), ROKS SDS (SS-082), BRP Antonio Luna (FFG-151), RSS Intrepid (FFG-69), JS Izumo (DDH-183), JS Takanami (DDG-110), KD Lekir (FSG-26), TNI I GNR (FFGHM-332), ARM Usumacinta (A-412), ARM Juarez (FFG-101), FS Prairal (FF-F731), INS Shivalik (FFG-F48), CNS Lynch (FF-07) as well as HMA Ships Canberra, Supply and Warramunga.

Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022 has provided a plethora of opportunities for interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the 25 participating nations.

(Source: Contact)

Army



Australian soldiers on patrol in Afghanistan aboard a Bushmaster

Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy has announced government approval for a land-force-level electronic-warfare project valued at nearly \$75million.

The Project Land 555 Phase 6 will modify existing Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles and install electronic-warfare systems into these vehicles.

Minister Conroy said the systems would improve the Australian Defence Force's ability to monitor and control the electronic environment and, where necessary, deny or degrade the electronic systems of adversaries. "The government is committed to increasing the ADF's ability to operate and fight in complex electromagnetic environments," Mr Conroy said. "This new capability will give our land force a better range of options to continue to pursue our interests in our region and deter, defeat and deny attacks and threats against Australia. "The project will complement air and maritime force-level electronic-warfare systems, further enhancing these capabilities when deployed in combination as a joint force."

Mr Conroy said the government had awarded delivery of the project to Raytheon Australia. "Australian industry will be involved in supply, training and maintenance support," he said. "This project will inject more than \$46million into Australian industry, contributing to strengthening our sovereign defence industrial base, supporting delivery of multiple sovereign industrial-capability priorities and growing the skills of our local workforce."

(Source: Contact)



Captain Chloe Pinheiro

Flying low over the desert, Army Captain Chloe Pinheiro looks down and doesn't think of exploring it by camel, she thinks of driving across it in an Australian light armoured vehicle.

The cavalry officer is deployed to Operation Mazurka on the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, as a member of the multinational force and observers (MFO) peacekeeping mission. She works in the forces' operation centre at South Camp, de-conflicting force assets, incident management, data consolidation, and battle tracking. Her experience in reconnaissance gives her an advantage in her role, which involves consolidating MFO reconnaissance and coordinating mobile patrols.

"We have mobile observation teams who provide reports of dispositions and the status of routes within the area of operations," Captain Pinheiro said. "I flew up to North Camp and went on a week patrol with the Colombians in the Ballistic Engineered Armoured Response Counter Attack Trucks, which gave me the opportunity to visit the MFO remote sites and see the operations from the ground. "In the south it is very mountainous, but it is completely different in the north; it reminds me of one of our training areas back home, Cultana, but with sand instead of red dirt."

Captain Pinheiro said the multinational exposure has been an invaluable experience. "What I do at home at 1st Armoured Regiment generally involves planning and executing training scenarios or assisting with personnel management," she said.

Her days at the MFO vary depending on what is happening in the area of operations. Captain Pinheiro is on call 24/7 and can be woken in the middle of the night to assist with incident management or casualty evacuations. "Here, everything is live," she said. "The MFO is very diverse, we have American and Czech aircraft, Italian coastal patrol vessels, Colombians patrolling up north, and Fijian and Americans patrolling in the south. We even have a civilian observer unit."

This is Captain Pinheiro's first operational overseas deployment and experience working in a higher headquarters.

She said she joined the Army because she wanted a career that was hands on, in the field, and one that allowed her to travel with work. “I feel proud to be working overseas and carving my own path with the Australian Army,” Captain Pinheiro said.

(Source: Contact)



National President of the AATTV Association Colonel (ret'd) Kerry Gallagher, left, and President of RSL Queensland Major General Stephen Day unveil the Operation Reunite memorial at Kokoda Barracks.

One of the most highly decorated units of the Vietnam War celebrated the 60th anniversary of its formation with a memorial service at Kokoda Barracks on 30 July.

More than 160 people gathered to remember the contribution of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) and its 1008 members who provided training and assistance to South Vietnamese forces over a decade of war.

They were the first Australian unit into Vietnam in 1962 and the last to leave in 1972.

National President of the AATTV Association Colonel (ret'd) Kerry Gallagher said the organisation was unique. “The team was made up entirely of volunteers of all ranks and we often worked as individuals or in pairs, living and fighting shoulder to shoulder with Vietnamese forces,” Colonel Gallagher said. “We developed close bonds with our colleagues and have friendships continuing today.”

Commanding Officer of the Land Warfare Centre at Kokoda Barracks, Lieutenant Colonel Wendy Say, said the AATTV forged an enviable reputation. “The AATTV were known for their relentless perseverance in supporting the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam,” Lieutenant Colonel Say said. “They made an extraordinary contribution to the war effort and also to our nation’s reputation and relationships abroad.”

For its size, the AATTV is one of the most decorated units in the history of the Australian Army.

There were four Victoria Cross recipients amongst the training team ranks, with 110 other Commonwealth awards for bravery. 33 training team members were killed and 122 were wounded during the Vietnam War.

The commemorative service showcased the carefully curated memorial grove. “The grove is a living memorial, featuring a tree for each member with a stake featuring their name, rank and regiment,” Colonel Gallagher said. “As a part of the memorial service we unveiled a new sandstone plinth for the row of memory to honour 33 members killed and a memorial stone plaque for five team members killed in action whose bodies were returned to Australia under Operation Reunite,” he said.

Kokoda Barracks is fitting home to an AATTV memorial.

The Jungle Training Centre, as it was known at the time, was the primary training location for all AATTV elements prior to deployment to Vietnam.

(Source: Contact)



15 August 2022 – 2/4 RAR 49th Birthday

As is the Battalion custom, the 2/4 RAR flag is flown by the Battalion to commemorate and acknowledge the 23 years the 2 RAR and 4 RAR were linked to form 2/4 RAR. The ex-members of 2/4 RAR came to Samichon Lines to observe the breaking of the flags at 0700 and then had coffee and cake provided by the Battalion. At the ETVC Club.

The Battalion while it was known as 2/4 RAR had many soldiers pass through its ranks. They worked hard and were regarded as the Best Battalion in the Regiment. The 2/4 RAR period brought the customs and traditions of two Battalions together, as 2/4 RAR was tasked with maintaining both. However, the 4 RAR customs and traditions were strong due to the influence of the members of 4 RAR that formed 2/4 RAR. Over time these traditions have remained in 2 RAR (Amphib). These are not limited to but include, the Bearded Pioneer Platoon SGT, The Pipes and Drums and the Battalion’s Boozer, The Edgar Towner V.C. Club. Inside the Edgar Towner V.C. Club, the 2/4 RAR flag fly’s proudly next to and equal to the 2 RAR flag.

2/4 RAR History

After the War in South Vietnam ended and the cessation of National Service the Army underwent a major reorganisation. 2 RAR and 4 RAR were linked on the 15 August 1973 to form 2nd /4th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (2/4 RAR). 4 RAR was formed up on the 4 RAR parade ground by the RSM WO1 W.T.C. (Wally) Thompson. Members leaving the Battalion for other postings fell out and marched off the parade. WO1 Thompson marched the remaining soldiers to 2 RAR's parade ground and handed them over to WO1 Ken Hall, RSM 2 RAR. While they were away from the old 4 RAR lines the unit signs were changed to 2/4 RAR. The combined soldiers from 2 RAR and 4 RAR were marched back to their new lines where 4 RAR had previously resided under the direction of WO1 Ken Hall the new 2/4 RAR RSM. The new 2nd /4th Battalion was led off the parade ground by the Pipe Major WO2 Doug Thorenson to the 4 RAR tune of "Inverbrackie" and "Ringo" the 2 RAR Battalion quick march.

Between 1977 and 1979 the Battalion concentrated on conventional warfare including night and mechanized operations. In 1980 the unit was reorganised on light scales and became part of the Operational Deployment Force (ODF) in close country and conventional warfare operations. During its time soldiers served on Operations but these were few and far between. Rifle Company Butterworth was an Australian Army infantry company based at the then RAAF Butterworth in Butterworth, Malaysia, which is on the mainland from Penang Island. Rifle Company Butterworth was established in 1970 to provide a protective and quick-reaction force for RAAF Base Butterworth during a resurgence of the Communist insurgency in Malaysia. While RAAF Base Butterworth was handed to the Royal Malaysian Air Force in 1988 and the insurgency officially ended in 1989, the Rifle Company at Butterworth has still been maintained as a means of providing Australian soldiers with training in jungle warfare and cross-training with the Malaysian Army. 2/4 RAR provided 12 Company rotations to this, which under the Australian Honours and Awards redesignated as Operational service. Commonwealth troops were deployed to Rhodesia in 1979 as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force. They deployed from Dec 1979 till March 1980 and 2/4 RAR provided two LTs and one CPL.

From 1992 to 1993, 28 individual soldiers from the Battalion served with the United Nations in Cambodia. In May 1993, 2/4 RAR was tasked to provide a Rifle Platoon for Operation Gemini in Cambodia. 12 Platoon Delta Company, deployed to Cambodia tasked with providing security for Aviation Task Group sent to support the Elections. In 1993, 54 soldiers from the 2/4 RAR Battalion were detached to 1 RAR for operational service in Somalia as part of Operation Solace.

Australia deployed two contingents (each of six months), as part of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Each contingent comprised a headquarters, a medical team, and a rifle company. In August 1994, A Company 2/4 RAR (appx 114 members) deployed to Rwanda as part of the Australian Medical Support Force. A Company was tasked to provide security of the base at Kigali and escort protection for the medical teams. Other 2/4 RAR personnel were employed in the Contingent Headquarters, as medical assistants and in logistical support functions.

On 1 February 1995, the Battalion was de-linked, with 2 RAR remaining in Townsville, Queensland and 4 RAR to be formed in Holsworthy, New South Wales. Three separate parades were conducted, one in Townsville for BHQ, Admin Company, Bravo Company and

Charlie Company, one in Butterworth Malaysia for Delta Company who were deployed to Rifle Company Butterworth (RCB) and one to Kigali, Rwanda for Alpha Company who were deployed as part of UNAMIR II and Support Company was on exercise. Only a handful of soldiers elected to transfer to 4 RAR with the whole Battalion remaining and changing lanyards to a Black one.

(Source: 2RAR Museum Curator)

Vale Rat of Tobruk, Sydney Kinsman

Rat of Tobruk Sydney Kinsman died recently, aged 100.

Syd joined the Australian Army in July 1940, having just turned 19. He served with the 2/48th Infantry Battalion in Palestine, Libya, Benghazi, Tobruk, Syria and El Alamein.

Syd proudly remembered the 2/48th Battalion, which saw out the full nine months of the siege of Tobruk. It was a highly decorated unit, with four Victoria Cross recipients in its ranks by the time the war ended. Syd was wounded during the siege.

After Tobruk, Syd went to Syria, before the battalion was deployed to El Alamein in Egypt's western desert in July 1941. It was at El Alamein that Syd was taken prisoner of war. He was held in Benghazi, Libya, until he was sent to Italy a year later. In September 1943, he and two others escaped to Switzerland from their work camp near the Vercelli rice fields in Italy's north, hiking at night across the Monte Moro Pass in the Italian Alps.

After the war, Syd picked fruit in the Riverland before returning to Adelaide to qualify to work in the building industry. He then went to

Central Australia shooting kangaroos for RM Williams to make some money. In 1949, he started building houses in Alice Springs where he remained for the rest of his life.

Syd was well known in Alice Springs, where, according to the ABC, he was the town's last living Second World War veteran. Last year the local council erected a monument in his honour, to coincide with his 100th birthday.

An estimated 750 cars and other vehicles took part in an Anzac Day 'drive-past tribute' past the home of Syd on Anzac Day 2020. See 'Drive-past tribute honours Alice's Rat of Tobruk' in the Winter 2020 *Vetaffairs*.

Syd passed away on 15 June 2022, a month shy of his 101st birthday.



(Source: Vet Affairs Newspaper August 2022)

Air Force



Pilot Officer Mitchell Kennedy, centre, with his father, grandfather and photo of his great-grandfather next to a PC-21 aircraft at RAAF Base Pearce

Most kids grow up dreaming of becoming a military pilot. For Pilot Officer Mitchell Kennedy, that outcome was maybe a foregone conclusion.

Three generations of Kennedys stood side-by-side during the No. 266 advanced pilots course graduation ceremony at No. 2 Flying Training School on 29 July. The youngest was recent graduate Pilot Officer Mitchell Kennedy, now posted to No. 79 Squadron for introductory fast-jet training. His father and grandfather were beside him.

Flight Lieutenant Iain Kennedy said he didn't think he pushed his son into becoming a pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). "He was brought up around aeroplanes and our Air Force friends," Flight Lieutenant Iain Kennedy said. "His great-grandfather and grandfather were both Royal Air Force pilots and now he's a RAAF pilot as well." As the fourth generation of military pilot in his family, some would say flying is in Pilot Officer Kennedy's DNA.

He said it's more to do with hard work. "I've seen people with no aviation history work hard and have a passion for flying and achieve what we've achieved," Pilot Officer Kennedy said.

Proud father Flight Lieutenant Kennedy, who graduated his own pilot's course in 1987, served for a decade piloting Hercules and as a flight instructor. His grandfather, Flight Lieutenant Ron Kennedy, piloted Vulcan bombers in the Royal Air Force before an exchange posting to RAAF, which included time with the Roulettes in 1972.

Three generations held a photo of the eldest military pilot to bear the Kennedy family name. His great-grandfather, Flight Lieutenant John Kennedy flew Blenheim bombers during WW2, taking part in the evacuation of Singapore and escaping death after his plane crash landed in Sumatra.

Pilot Officer Kennedy's mother, a former air traffic controller, joined the Kennedy men to celebrate the latest flight school graduate.

The most recent Kennedy to graduate also broke new ground. Pilot Officer Kennedy was the first in his family to be selected for fast-jet training – something his father doesn't want to go to his head. "I don't think you can measure the pride we feel, we're pretty ecstatic," Flight Lieutenant Kennedy said. "He did very well, but we won't tell him that to his face."

And as far as continuing the family tradition, Pilot Officer Kennedy said he had "secret hopes" his son or daughter might follow in his footsteps.

"But that's a long way off," he said.

(Source: Defence News)



An Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft during Exercise Arnhem Thunder, held at RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory.

Dominating the skies of the Northern Territory, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) F-35A Lightning II will participate in Exercise Pitch Black for the first time. Transitioning from the Classic Hornet to the F-35A since the last iteration of Exercise Pitch Black, Nos. 3 and 75 Squadron will be putting the RAAF's fifth-generation aircraft through its paces in a multi-national air combat environment.

Commanding Officer of No. 3 Squadron, Wing Commander Adrian Kiely, said Pitch Black provides an outstanding opportunity for detailed training with our partners through large-force mission planning and execution. "Exercise Pitch Black is the largest Australian-based

international exercise 81 Wing has participated in since transitioning to the F-35A and we're excited by the opportunity to integrate the jet's advanced capabilities with so many of our international partners," Wing Commander Kiely said. "Across the exercise, we aim to improve our collective air combat capabilities in a complex and contested environment. "Our focus for Pitch Black is on strengthened international integration, which is paramount to further improving our ability to come together as a highly effective and interoperable force."

Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multi-national exercise with 17 nations including Australia participating this year from 19 August to 8 September.

Wing Commander Kiely said the local community will have the opportunity to get a taste of F-35A action while No. 3 Squadron is deployed in the Top End. "RAAF Base Darwin is one of the premier air combat training locations worldwide," he said. "Darwin's base and support agencies are highly adept at facilitating large force employment, and the NT military airspace is among the best in the world. "We greatly appreciate the ongoing support we receive from NT residents and in particular the Darwin local community. "We look forward to engaging with the public with an F-35A handling display at Mindil Beach and on the ground during the RAAF Base Darwin Open Day."

(Source: Defence News)



Blitz truck 19012 after being restored by History and Heritage – Air Force's Restoration Support Section

A restored World War 2-era Blitz truck was recently handed over to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre. The truck, with the serial number 19012, was restored by the History and Heritage – Air Force's Restoration Support Section (RSS).

Australia and its allies used Blitz trucks extensively during World War 2 in various roles including transporting troops and cargo. An estimated 800,000 Blitz trucks were

manufactured in Canada by Ford, General Motors and Dodge, and shipped around the world to assist with the war effort.

Following World War 2, Australia continued to use Blitz trucks in its Defence, forestry, agriculture, transportation and engineering industries.

Wing Commander Kevin Kovic, officer in charge of RAAF Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre, said the vehicle was versatile. “The Blitz truck saw service in all theatres and was used by all branches of the Australian military and allied Commonwealth forces,” Wing Commander Kovic said. “This particular truck was in RAAF service and was used as a recovery vehicle.”

The RSS team, led by Corporal Steve Falzon and volunteers Mr Ken Savage, Mr Bill Luyten, Mr Max Farrell, Mr Doug Eadie and Mr Charlie Miles, painstakingly rebuilt Blitz truck 19012 from the ground up over many years – including a period of intensive activity from 2020-22.

The restoration included overhauling the truck’s engine, rebuilding its clutch and brake systems, re-wiring its electrical system, and manufacturing and fitting the half-doors and modified tray bed.

While Blitz truck 19012 was originally fitted with a crane, the restoration team manufactured and fitted a replica cargo tray.

“We at the Amberley Aviation Heritage Centre are extremely pleased with the great attention to detail in its refurbishment, as performed by our restoration volunteers and reservists,” Wing Commander Kovic said.

(Source: Air Force News)

Quiz

Quiz Questions

1. Name the ship? Loyal, reliable and hard-working...this recent addition to the fleet is the third to bear this name
2. Name the ship? Saltwater people from Darwin region whose society was based on a close relationship with the sea.
3. What class of submarine did Navy’s Collins-class subs replace?
4. How many members are in the Air Force Roulettes team?
5. In what year did the slouch hat become standard issue headdress in the Australian Army (a) 1897 (b) 1903 (c) 1915?
6. What is the most mass-produced tank in history?
7. What is the world’s most common calibre handgun ammo?

(Ed. Answers will appear in the November 2022 edition)

Answers to Quiz Question Tribute No 14

1. Who is considered to be the most successful tank ace in history?
Answer; Kurt Knispel (German Tank Commander in WW2 – claimed 168 tank kills)
2. What Company produces the Aegis Combat System?
Answer; Lockheed Martin
3. Which military methodology is also known as ‘lightning war’?

Answer; Blitzkrieg

4. What is the largest-calibre rifled weapon ever used in combat?

Answer; Schwerer Gustav – 800mm shells

5. Name the ship. The football team of this suburb has a record for the longest-running premierships drought in history for that code's competition?

Answer: HMAS *Parramatta*

Show and Tell



Honouring Afghanistan Service

On 13 August 2022 Phillip Thompson OAM MP unveiled a memorial statue at the Atherton RSL, commemorating those who have served in Afghanistan and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

(Source: Atherton RSL)



On Saturday 13 August 2002, Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day, two new real-life bronze statues were unveiled by the Caloundra RSL sub-branch at Kings Beach Amphitheatre which was the site of the parade ground for between 24,000 and 30,000 troops who passed through training in the Caloundra area between 1939 – 1945. The statues were made possible by the generosity of Sunshine Coast businessman and philanthropist Roy Thompson.

The bronze statues were the work of Coolumb artists Jane Bailey and Mark Snell, of Lavaworx Art Studio. The extremely detailed statues of an armed soldier standing guard and a nurse as she tends an injured veteran are based on real people, the nurse is 104-year-old Faye Clarke, living on the Sunshine Coast. Her face is the model of the nurse and the soldier on the stretcher is her husband. The sculpture is titled 'Comfort'. The bronze soldier named Ray represented all who fought in the war and this sculpture is called 'On Guard'.

(Source:sunshinecoastnews)



The 28 cm calibre German railway gun which became known as the Amiens Gun after its capture on 8 August 1918 by the 31st Battalion during the big advances of the 5th Australian Division in the Battle of Amiens in August 1918.

(Source: Australian War Memorial)

Humour and Poetry

People with a cold – “I just want to stay in bed and do nothing, I feel terrible’

People with Corona Virus – “I feel terrible, I think I will go skying in Austria, visit the Eiffel Tower and maybe do some white water rafting in Camino de Santiago”

Day 3 without sport. Found a lady sitting on my couch yesterday. Apparently, she is my wife. She seems nice.

Do you know the difference between an Australian and a computer? You only have to punch information into a computer once.

When I visit Australia will I be able to see kangaroos in the street? Depends how much you’ve been drinking.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately, now when I pee, I clean the toilet.

Stronger Than Grief

by Chaplain Jim Cosgrove

Australians are all reeling and many folks are feeling,
Dismayed with all our recent soldiers' deaths,
We farewell a fallen brother then another, then another,
And its like we need to stop to catch our breath.

While one family is grieving another is receiving,
The news that takes their world to grief and sorrow,
There's lots of fear and tension, you can sense the apprehension,
As we wonder if there's more bad news tomorrow.

But the families will tell us they are so proud of their fellas,
Even as they stop to wipe away their tears,
The say they feel inside an intense and burning pride,
As they face the nightmare of their deepest fears.

Their courage and belief are even stronger than their grief,
That their sacrifice is for a worthy cause,
They believe their precious sons, brothers, dads, beloved ones,
Have paid the price for freedom on our shores.

They want to tell their mates to never doubt or hesitate,
To fight this fight against the reign of terror,
An untimely made decision to turn our backs on this mission,
Would be at this sad time a costly error.

As families deal with grieving, they are strengthened by believing,
That their soldiers gave their lives for you and me,
In the history of their nation there are many generations,

Whose sacrifice has made our country free.

And so, in this time of grief, please don't falter in belief,

That our Aussie boys are where they need to be,

They've got the guts to fight their wars, keep supporting them because,

They need support from their community.

Important Dates in September

2 September 2008 – Corporal Mark Donaldson action resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross

5 September 2007 – Explosive Detective Dog MERLIN – died in a vehicle accident during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

9 September 1992 – LFS15 September 2011 – Craftsman Beau Pridue – 8 CSSB RAEME – died from a motor vehicle Accident in East Timor during Operation Astute

16 September 2006 – Commissioning of HMAS Sirius

18 September 2021 – Decommissioning of HMAS Paluma

20 September 1999 – Arrival of INTERFET in East Timor

21 September 2007 The last UH-1H Huey Helicopter was withdrawn from service

22 September 2007 – Commissioning of HMAS Launceston (111)

23 September 2007 – Commissioning of HMAS Hobart (111)

24 September 2007 – Explosive Detection Dog RAZZ – died from a roadside bomb during Operation Slipper, Afghanistan

29 September 2006 – Commissioning of HMAS Maitland

30 September 1982 – 6 RAR provided support to the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane till 9 October. A Company was on stand-by to support SAS in needed.

Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division Committee 2022 – 23

President	Neil Dearberg
Vice President	Russell Paten
Honorary Secretary	Ian Curtis
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Curtis
Committee Member	Scott Meares
Committee Member	

<p><u>IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 September – Bimonthly Meeting • 14 – 16 October – Military Spectacular • 11 November – Remembrance Day • 12 November – Bimonthly Meeting 	<p><u>FELLOWS of MHSa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Meyers • Anthony Staunton • Donald Wright <p><u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p>
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Contact details

Honorary Secretary / Treasurer: Ian Curtis	Editor: Ian Curtis Editor: Neil Dearberg
Phone: 0437303969	Phone: 0437303969
Email: qldsec@mhsa.org.au	Email: qldsec@mhsa.org.au
Website: www.mhsa.org.au	
Address: MHSa Qld PO Box 243 Maleny, Queensland 4552	Annual Membership Fees Ordinary Member \$50 Family Membership \$55



MILITARY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Business Number (ABN) 97 764 781 363

Membership Application

Queensland Division

Membership Fee Ordinary Member \$50, Family Member \$55 (ie 2 or more domiciled at the one address)

Name/s

Postal Address

.....

Telephone

E-mail

Date/year joined the Society

Military Interests

I understand the above details will only be used by the Qld Division and the Federal Secretary of the Military Historical Society of Australia to maintain correct records of my membership and for general branch or administrative business, and by the Journal editor to assist with editorial planning. I understand that the Society's Constitution requires the Federal Secretary to maintain a membership register (including the Journal mailing list).

In addition to information kept for these purposes:

OPT IN I agree to my email details being included on the Federal Secretary's contact list which will be used solely to distribute Society business and convey items of interest to members (including members' notices) **YES /NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

OPT IN I wish to be included on the members' interests register and give permission for my military interests and my phone/email/address contact details to be included on it (cross out whichever does not apply). **YES/NO (cross out whichever does not apply)**

I understand that I can revoke permission for inclusion on register and contact lists at any time

As part of your membership you will receive a quarterly edition of Sabretache, the journal of the MHS. **I require a hard copy (mail) / electronic (via email) version. (circle your option)**

.Cheque/Money Order: Military Historical Society of Australia, Qld Division - Please send this form and your membership fee to:

**Treasurer, Qld Division
Military Historical Society of Australia
PO Box 243
MALENY Q 4552
Email: curtisir131@gmail.com**

Or,

Direct deposit to the Qld Division MHS Westpac Account at Maryborough, Qld.

BSB No. 034-128 Account No. 23-3618

If paying by Direct deposit, reference your name and forward the application form as well.