

APRIL 2019



Editor David Laing

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## Special Points of Interest

- Rod Beames prognosis on PAGE 4
- See Page 6 for Merchandise available.
- If you have any stories and/or pictures of a military nature, please send them to the Editor for publication. All input is appreciated.
- Australian Leopards on Page 2 & 3

# "Sitrep, Over!" To Perpetuate the Regiment

## ANZAC Day debacle.....

As you would all know by now, RSL State Branch sent out a message via Facebook last Friday afternoon, that because of a "Perfect Storm" the after march activities at Torrens Parade Ground had been cancelled!

Just like that! No consultation with ex-services groups, no asking RSL members! No Plan B! Just cancelled!

A later statement put out by RSL State Branch said a major sponsor had withdrawn their support, and because of that and "other reasons" the entire activity was not to proceed.

Since then, a million phone calls between the Old & Bold, the Bald and the Grey, have succeeded in making the day happen where the RSL couldn't. Support has been pledged from the State Government via Veterans SA, and they will pay for the usual activities at the Parade Ground to take place.

Our Association has gathered after the March at TTD for a number of years, and to "throw a



spanner" in those plans hasn't made the RSL State Branch too popular!

Thank you to Rob Manton of Veterans SA and thank you to Premier Steven Marshall and his cabinet who have now guaranteed the success of the event this year!

So, after the march, I'll expect to see you at Torrens Parade Ground, and we'll share a beer, a snag with onions, and tell more lies about our deployments to Cultana and Kersbrook!

Cheers and PRO PATRIA

*David Laing*

Fees and Merchandise can be paid by EFT through the following Bendigo Bank account:

**RSAR Association**

**BSB 633 000**

**Acc. 1616 585 88**

Cheques etc can be mailed to David Hope at:

**The Treasurer RSAR Association  
20 Katoomba Rd**

**Beaumont SA 5066**

## Leopard Main Battle Tank

The **Leopard** (or **Leopard 1**) is a main battle tank designed and produced in West Germany that first entered service in 1965. Developed in an era when HEAT warheads were thought to make conventional heavy armour of limited value, the Leopard focused on firepower in the form of the German-built version of the British L7 105-mm gun, and improved cross-country performance that was unmatched by other designs of the era.

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The design started as a collaborative project during the 1950s between West Germany and France, and later joined by Italy,<sup>[1]</sup> but the partnership ended shortly after and the final design was ordered by the Bundeswehr, with full-scale production starting in 1965. In total, 6,485 Leopard tanks have been built, of which 4,744 were battle tanks and 1,741 were utility and anti-aircraft variants, not including 80 prototypes and pre-series vehicles.

The Leopard quickly became a standard of European forces, and eventually served as the main battle tank in over a dozen countries worldwide. Since 1990, the Leopard 1 has gradually been relegated to secondary roles in most armies. In the German Army, the Leopard 1 MBTs were phased out in 2003,

while Leopard 1 derived vehicles are still widely used. The Leopard 2 MBTs have taken over the MBT role. Leopard hulls have been re-used in a wide variety of roles.

The Leopard project started in November 1956 in order to develop a modern tank, the *Standard-Panzer*, to replace the Bundeswehr's American-built M47 and M48 Patton tanks, which, though just delivered to West Germany's recently reconstituted army, were rapidly becoming outdated. On 25 July 1957, the detailed specifications were released; the new design needed to weigh no more than 30 tonnes, have a power-to-weight ratio of 30 horsepower per tonne, be able to withstand hits by 20 mm rapid-fire guns on every side as well as to operate in a battlefield contaminated with chemical weapons or radioactive fallout, the then-standard baseline for combat with the Warsaw Pact. In addition, the main armament had to consist of a 105 mm calibre weapon (the new British L7A3 105 mm gun was selected), carrying at least as many rounds as current US tank designs. Mobility had priority, while firepower came second; armour was seen as less essential, as it was believed that no real protection against hollow charge weapons was possible anyway.

France was very interested in the design as its own AMX 50 project had just failed. In June 1957, West Germany and the French Fourth Republic signed an agreement to develop a common tank, designated in German *Europa-Panzer*. Three German (*Arbeitsgruppe* A, B and C) and one French design team would be included in a competition, with each team producing two prototypes. In September 1958, Italy joined the development program. Several prototypes were entered for testing in 1960. Among the prototypes were Porsche's *Model 734* from team A, sporting a cast turret, and that of team B (Rheinmetall), whose cast turret was somewhat higher. Team C from *Borgward*, designing a very futuristic tank, failed to have a prototype ready in time. Even before these first prototypes were finished, it had (in 1959) been decided that a second phase with improved designs would be started: Team A had to build 26 phase II Prototypes for testing, team B six. Only two tanks of the required six would actually be constructed by team B.

The Porsche Prototype II was eventually selected as the winner of the contest in 1963; this did not come as a surprise: it had already been decided in 1961 to build a pre-series of 50 vehicles based on this design; production of these was started that very year. This "0-series" was modified with a new cast turret and several hull changes to raise the rear deck to provide more room in the engine compartment, and move some of the radiators to the upper sides of the hull. Before mass production of the standard version started, it was also decided to add an optical range-finding system for better long-range gunnery, which required the turret to be somewhat taller, and added "bumps" on either side of the turret to mount the optics for triangulation. Germany dropped France from the joint program after France repeatedly missed deadlines for its contribution to the program. In February 1963 Defence Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel announced he would soon ask the defence committee in Parliament to approve production of the tank. At this time the tank weighed 40 tons and costed \$250,000 each. In July the Defence Ministry ordered 1,500 tanks with production to take place between 1965 and 1970. Germany also announced its agreement to develop a successor with the United States; called MBT-70, the program failed to materialize a tenable design.

Production was set up at Krauss-Maffei of Munich from early 1964 onward, with deliveries of the first batch between September 1965 and July 1966. The Leopard was soon being purchased from Germany by a number of NATO members and other allies, including (in chronological order) Belgium (1968), the Netherlands (1969), Norway (1970), Italy (1971), Denmark (1976), Australia



## Leopard MBT continued.....

(1976), Canada (1978), Turkey (1980) and Greece (1981). It is also key to note that Germany has a strict export-policy for their military equipment. Greece, Spain and Chile, while still under dictatorships, purchased the French AMX-30 instead.

In 1980, a research program was undertaken to study further improvements to the Leopard 1, providing it with a completely modern fire control system and fully effective night/bad-weather vision system. The decision was made to base the upgrades on the earlier models, which were no longer competitive.

### LEOPARD 1A5

The resulting *Leopard 1A5* was based on 1,225 vehicles of the Leopard 1A1A1 model. The turrets were again modified for the 1A5, both in order to store all of the new equipment, as well as to move more of the ammunition into the rear of the turret, as opposed to the left side of the driver where it had previously been stored. The new turret was also able to mount the newer 120 mm gun from the Leopard 2 if desired, although this option has not been used.

After trials, the Krupp-Atlas Elektronik EMES 18 fire control system, which was developed from the EMES 15 used on the Leopard 2, was selected in December 1983. The EMES 18 included two new sights on the top of the turret, and no longer required the "bumps" as did the earlier optical systems. A crucial part of the upgrade was the introduction of more effective ammunition, including new APFSDS rounds.

The Leopard tank could also be fitted with bolt-on lexan armour panels, which have increased the effectiveness of the armour. These "modified" tanks have proved themselves in the field.

The first modified vehicle was delivered in early 1987. Since then, almost all users of the Leopard 1 have also applied similar changes to their own vehicles, and in most ways the 1A5 can be considered the "standard" Leopard 1 today.

In the Netherlands, an improved version equivalent to the A5 called "Leopard 1 Verbeterd" (improved) was developed, the same version is used by the Chilean Army.

### AUSTRALIAN LEOPARDS

In 1974, the Australian government confirmed the purchase of the Leopard, with a total of 101 vehicles being acquired (consisting of 90 MBTs, five Bridgelayers and six Armoured Recovery Vehicles). Two more ARVs were purchased later. The first



Leopards subsequently arrived in Australia from Germany in 1976, ending a selection and trial process (against the US M60 series) that started in 1971 when the army decided it needed a replacement for its British Centurions, which had served since 1952 and been deployed during the Vietnam war.

In March 2004, the decision was

made to replace the Leopard 1 with reconditioned US M1A1 Abrams AIM. The first 18 of 59 M1A1 Abrams arrived in September 2006. The M88A2 Hercules is concurrently replacing the Leopard family of support variants in Australian service. The Leopard 1 was operated by the 1st Armoured Regiment and was officially withdrawn from service in July 2007. Their guns were never fired in combat operations. Some of the tanks were subsequently offered to military museums or RSL clubs.

Next Month. The M113A Australia's APC

## Letter to the Editor

## from the President Rod Beames

*As you all know by now, Rod Beames was admitted to hospital a month ago with some very serious health problems. So bad was the diagnosis that on Day 3 Rod was given only until the weekend to live! This news hit us all like a ton of bricks, but I can't imagine how old mate Rod felt! I hope I never have to find out.*

*He was transferred between the QEH and RAH, many tests were carried out and tubes inserted, and now things look just a little rosier. Here's how Rod puts it!*

Dear mates and colleagues

I wish to let it be known that I can now confirm my health is in a spot of bother, but I'm fighting on.

My doctor at RAH Dr Tan, after every test imaginable, has informed me that I have a very aggressive form of prostate cancer and it has spread outside my prostate. They don't want to operate because it will do more damage and achieve very little with my quality of life.



I start tomorrow, with a program of hormone injections in the stomach which will neutralize the cancer and minimize it spreading further. Once they get my "pissing problem" under control, we intend to embark on an extended chemo exercise. If all goes to plan, I will most certainly miss this year's ANZAC march but there's a better than 50% chance that I will be back next year.

I have been overwhelmed with the response from the RSARA members and serving Officers and soldiers of 10/27 Battalion. It is truly comforting to receive so many calls, text messages and cards. As President in my "heyday", I took time out and visited many members in hospital etc, not for one minute ever expecting to be on the receiving end, but this small effort has been repaid a thousand times over. Some have opened up with their own experiences and its comforting to know that, although everyone is different, I'm not the first or only one to have gone down this road.

On a lighter note (well it is now) you may have read in the Advertiser examples of "things you don't want to hear during an operation".... well mine is (true story) ...after lining up to go into urgent surgery for the insertion of a port for transfusion, the doctor explained what he intended to do but at the end, the nurse said "doctor, if you go ahead as you just described, Mr Beames will die. His platelets are too low to withstand that operation".

Needless to say, there were some last minute changes made and I'm here writing this.

I will be a bit of a veggie for 40 weeks but it is my optimistic wish that I can shake your hands as we line up to march in 2020.

Thank you all for your support.

*Rod Beames*

*That's it from the man's own mouth. He's certainly a fighter, and with our support (and those of the medical profession, of course) Rod can beat this problem.*

*He asked me a few weeks ago to get someone else to lead the Association on ANZAC Day, but I vowed to him that if he couldn't be there, no one would take his place! Anyone can call the step, but only the President leads the members. I'm sure you'll all agree?*

*Our main focus is to help Rod regain his health, and to assist that, the committee, have absolved him of any responsibility of the presidents job, leaving him to concentrate solely on getting his life back on track.*

*David Laing* Editor/Secretary

## **ANZAC on Torrens Update. Help Needed**

As previously advised, Veterans SA, the state government's veterans agency, wishes to notify the veteran community and members of the public that we are working with interested groups to hold an ANZAC on Torrens event on Anzac Day this year.

We are currently meeting with relevant authorities, stakeholders and potential sponsors/supporters to establish what can be done.

Veterans SA are calling for volunteers to help run this years Anzac on Torrens Event.

If you, or someone you know, is able to spare a few hours on the day, please register via the link below.

If you hold a current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate, please advise in your registration.

Register by going to :

<https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/contact/register-to-volunteer/>

More details will follow during the week once they become available.

### **We will remember them.**







## Royal South Australia Regiment Association Inc

RSAR Association Inc  
The Secretary David Laing  
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Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Association Merchandise  
available**



- Regimental Tie \$20 plus \$3 postage
- Lapel Badge \$10 plus \$3 postage
- Name Badge \$20 plus \$3 postage

Other items like Polo Tops, Stubby Holders and Engraved Timber Shields also available. POR.

## *Now you see me.....*

The RSARA Committee of Management meet four times a year to discuss the conduct and operations of our association, and to talk about matters pertinent to the membership and the Regiment. Friday 22nd March was no different, except for the meeting venue, which had changed from Torrens Training Depot to the Roy Inwood VC Club at Keswick Barracks. I made the usual drive from the other side of Murray Bridge to Keswick, and as usual, arrived 1/2 hour early. Just as well. It took me 20 minutes to find someone to unlock the training room for me!

Some of the other committee members arrived, with El Presidente Rod Beames rocking up at 1159 hrs on the dot!

We went through the apologies and the Minutes of the previous meeting were read and voted on. Rod appeared to rush through things and said he had another meeting to go to, but he would show us some points of interest on the 1st floor before he left! Which he didn't!!! 1156 hrs and Rod declared the meeting closed and rushed out of the building!

I felt angry that I had driven all that bloody way, 110m kms, to be rushed through a meeting and not had the chance to discuss some important issues. I drove the long 110 kms back home, fuming all the way. When I got home I put my feelings into an email to Rod, telling him exactly how I felt, and that I would threaten him with my resignation if it happened again! **FULL STOP. SEND!**

I heard nothing until Saturday afternoon when Rod's wife Cheryl phoned and said Rod had been admitted to the QEH with a bowel blockage! We both agreed he was "so full of it..." and deserved to be where he was. How wrong we were!!!

On Monday I phoned Rod and he said he was just waiting to be cleared by the Doctor and he would soon be heading home.

On Tuesday I had a call from Treasurer David Hope, with the news that Rod had experienced major organ failure, and things weren't looking too good at all! He might not make the weekend!

I changed my immediate plans and went to the RAH where Rod had been transferred. By the time I arrived Rod had received some better news, that the treatment regime was working, and there was indeed light at the end of the Beames tunnel! I spent an hour with Rod and Cheryl, and we were joined by Col Abel and later Colin Phillips. Rod has had a steady stream of visitors since then, and I know he appreciates everyone's time and efforts to wish him well.

I, however, felt pretty bad about the whole email thing, and venting my anger on a bloke who was obviously well under the pump!

When I mentioned this to Rod he agreed with me, that he'd let things get to him, and was now paying the price! Our advice to everyone! Take the time to smell the roses, 'cos if you don't, they won't be there for you to smell the next time around!

*David Laing* - Editor

## From the SAMRA Newsletter

In February the RSAR Association, along with members of the South Australian Mounted Rifles Association and the Royal Engineers Association cooked lunch for 250 soldiers at RAAF Base Edinburgh, and it was the first time the combined associations had worked together. It certainly won't be the last, as we will now ensure they are invited to assist in ALL Battalion support exercises. The SAMRA President, Reg Williams mentioned the exercise in their monthly magazine, and here's what he said.....

*"Five of us joined about a dozen from the RSAR and RAE Associations at Edinburgh on Sunday 3rd February to provide a BBQ lunch for nearly 250, 10/27 RSAR and 3/9 LH (SAMR) and RAE members undertaking their compulsory admin and weapon training. It was a positive experience for all. The troops were very appreciative, and the associations worked well together. A special thank you to Grant Kirkpatrick, Peter Cornelius, Bob Ireland and Bill McKeough for spending the day, supporting the Squadron."*

Thanks Reg, it was great working with you and your members, and we look forward to doing it again soon.

## A Strange Convention

A man boarded an aircraft at London 's Heathrow Airport for New York , and taking his seat as he settled in, he noticed a very beautiful woman boarding the plane.

He realised she was heading straight toward his seat and bingo - she took the seat right beside him.

"Hello", he blurted out, "Business trip or vacation?"

She turned, smiled enchantingly and said, "Business. I'm going to the annual nymphomaniac convention in the United States ..."

He swallowed hard. Here was the most gorgeous woman he had ever seen sitting next to him, and she was going to a meeting for nymphomaniacs!

Struggling to maintain his composure, he calmly asked, "What's your business role at this convention?"

"Lecturer," she responded, "I use my experience to debunk some of the popular myths about sexuality.."

"Really", he smiled, "what myths are those?"

"Well," she explained, "one popular myth is that African-American men are the most well endowed when, in fact, it's the Native American Indian who is most likely to possess that trait.

Another popular myth is that French men are the best lovers, when actually it is the men of Greek descent.

We have also found that the best potential lovers in all categories are the Irish."

Suddenly the woman became uncomfortable and blushed. "I'm sorry," she said. "I really shouldn't be discussing this with you, I don't even know your name!"

"Tonto," the man said. "Tonto Papadopoulos, but my friends call me Paddy."

# A good answer for a regular question.

American but still good!

*It's a pity our polities, let alone senior officers, don't have a similar perspective!*

Trey Gowdy, South Carolina Congressman, recently responded to a question by a CNN reporter about the DoD ban of transgenders joining the U.S. armed forces. As Trey typically does so very well, he nailed it rather succinctly.

\*Reporter's question\*:

"How can President Trump claim to represent all U.S citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, when he banned transgenders from joining the military? Isn't that discrimination?"

\*Congressman Trey Gowdy's response\*:

"Nobody has a right to serve in the Military. Nobody. What makes people think the Military is an equal opportunity employer? It is very far from it... and for good reasons. Let me cite a few.

"The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining for being too old or too young, too fat or too skinny, too tall or too short. Citizens are denied for having flat feet, or for missing or additional fingers."

Clearly annoyed by the reporter's attempt to trap him with the question he went on to explain:

"By the way, poor eyesight will disqualify you, as well as bad teeth. Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ? Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms? Hear voices in your head? Self-identification as a Unicorn? Need a special access ramp for your wheelchair? Can't run the required course in the required time? Can't do the required number of push-ups? Not really a 'morning person' and refuse to get out of bed before noon? All can be legitimate reasons for denial.

"The Military has one job: Winning War. Anything else is a distraction and a liability. Did someone just scream, 'That isn't Fair?' War is VERY unfair; there are no exceptions made for being special or challenged or socially wonderful.

"YOU must change yourself to meet Military standards...not the other way around. I say again: You don't change the Military... you must change yourself. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues.

The Military needs to Win Wars.. and keep our Country safe... PERIOD!

"If any of your personal issues are a liability that detract from readiness or lethality...

'Thank you for applying and good luck in future endeavours'.

"Any other questions?"



# Formal Dinner - 12th October 2019

## LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

Over the past two years the Association has conducted very successful Formal Dinners at the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and it the intention to carry on that event this year, as long as enough interest is shown.

To make the night a success we require at least 40 expressions of interest, and once received the planning will go ahead. The Band of the 10th/27th Battalion will again entertain us throughout the evening!

The venue is the Colonel Light Gardens RSL, and the date set is **Saturday 12th October @ 1900 for 1930 hrs.**

Cost is again set at \$45 per head, and that will cover your 2 course meal and all wine, beers and soft drinks. Dress is FORMAL: That is:

Dinner Suit, Lounge Suit, Mess Dress or Polys for men and After 5 for ladies. Miniatures to be worn.

Attendance is not just for those of officer rank, but is open to ALL RANKS and their partners. This will be a great night of camaraderie and friendship, to be enjoyed by all. For those who don't like to drink and drive, there are many affordable motels and B & B's within a short distance.

If you would like to attend please register your interest with the Secretary David Laing on his email of [davidlaing49@bigpond.com](mailto:davidlaing49@bigpond.com) **NLT Friday 3rd May 2019**



## A Reflection on the Scots

Sent in by David Hope

A New Zealand couple are touring the Scottish Highlands and they drive past this lovely old pub with hundreds of people standing outside.

The wife says "Darling we have to have a drink there".

The husband says "We can't! Look at all the people there, we'll never get in".

But the wife is adamant and they find somewhere to park and walk back, they push their way through the throng and to their surprise the bar is empty.

They go up to the bar and the publican says "How can I help you Sir?".

"We'd like two pints please",

"Coming right up Sir", and two pints duly arrive.

"That'll be 4d Sir" the guy says.

"But a pint costs two pounds!".

"Normally yes Sir, but today is the 400th anniversary of the opening of this pub and we're selling the beer at what it would have cost you then."

"What about all those people outside?"

"Those miserable bastards, Sir? They're waiting for Happy Hour!"

# CPL DAVE'S PAGE

## The Devil Made Me Do It!

While walking down the street one day a Member of Parliament is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

'Welcome to heaven,' says St. Peter.

'Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you.'

'No problem, just let me in,' says the man.

'Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.'

'Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,' says the MP.

'I'm sorry, but we have our rules.'

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he went down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he found himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and dressed in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people.

They played a friendly game of golf and then dined on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the Devil, who really is a very friendly & nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it's time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and wave whilst the elevator rises....

The elevator rises and the door opens in heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

'Now it's time to visit heaven.'

So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

'Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.'

The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: 'Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.'

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

When the doors open he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above.

The Devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. 'I don't understand,' stammers the MP.

'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?'

The Devil looks at him, smiles and says, 'Yesterday we were campaigning..

Today you voted'.



## Learning To Cuss

A 6 year old and a 4 year old are raking the yard.

The 6 year old asks, "You know what? I think it's about time we started learning to cuss."

The 4 year old nods his head in approval.

The 6 year old continues, "When we go in for breakfast, I'm gonna say something with hell and you say something with ass."

The 4 year old agrees with enthusiasm.

When the mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6 year old what he wants for breakfast, he replies, "Aw, hell, Mom, I guess I'll have some Cheerios."

Whack! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step.

His mom locks him in his room and shouts, "You can stay there until I let you out!"

She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4 year old and asks with a stern voice, "And what do you want for breakfast, young man"

"I don't know," he blubbers, "but you can bet your fat ass it won't be Cheerios!"

**My wife said she wanted some peace and quiet while she cooked dinner.**

**So I took the battery out of the smoke alarm!**