



# BARTREAD



NEWSLETTER OF THE WARTIME VEHICLE  
CONSERVATION GROUP, South Australia .

## EDITORIAL



The words of a once famous Dean Martin song , “Baby it’s Cold Outside” ring true, winter has most certainly arrived ! But winter has not in any way dampened the spirits of WVCG club members, as a couple of recent Club runs would testify. A run to Anderson’s Hill Winery was attended by a small group, as well as the Club Registration / Inspection Day run to the Stanley Bridge Hotel at Verdun, a huge success! As a matter of interest, the Armoured Personnel Carrier pictured above is a Polish Army OT-64 SKOT. We may in the future see one of these belonging to a potential new club member – stay tuned ! I hope you all enjoy this edition of Bartread, and keep warm !

ISSUE 21, AUGUST 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE



CLUB REGISTRATION / VEHICLE INSPECTION DAY, HELD AT THE STANLEY BRIDGE HOTEL, VERDUN – A FULL REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ROUNDUP



A NEW FEATURE ENTITLED “PAGES FROM THE PAST” MAKES ITS DEBUT IN THIS ISSUE !

## ALSO FEATRUED



A LOOK AT SOME UNINTENTIONALLY RIDICULOUS MILITARY VEHICLES THAT NEVER MADE IT INTO PRODUCTION



ITEMS FOR SALE, including items wanted. PLEASE EMAIL DETAILS OF ITEMS FOR SALE TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS

“No newsletter editor is at all hours wise , only perhaps after a few shandys !

## MILITARY VEHICLE DISPLAY AT BIRDWOOD

The National Motor Museum at Birdwood is planning a Military Vehicle Display, and WVCG Club members have been invited to participate by providing suitable vehicles. The display is planned to run for three months, from 24<sup>th</sup> July, and will give members of the public an opportunity to view these vehicles and gain an insight into our hobby of military vehicle collecting and restoration, as well as provide some awareness of our club, The WVCG. If you are interested in participating, see Rick Shearman.



## CLUB REGISTRATION / INSPECTION DAY

The annual club Registration / Vehicle Inspection Day was held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, at the Stanley Bridge Hotel at Verdun. A great destination on a cold winters' day, members were greeted by an open wood fire and the wonderful atmosphere of this great little country pub. An excellent showing of members were treated to a Club subsidized meal, much good banter, and the opportunity to tidy up all those logbooks and legal matters that go with historic vehicle registration. We even had a potential new club member arrive in a 6X6 Perentie ambulance! All who attended would say, a great afternoon had by all! A big thank you must go out to Tony van Rhoda JP, who was in attendance to sign statutory declarations for historic registration, Thanks Tony !!



## HMAS ADELAIDE DOCKS AT OUTER HARBOUR



The Royal Australian Navy warship HMAS Adelaide, docked at Outer Harbor on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, to visit her city's namesake and to deliver troops for a major military exercise. The 27,000 tonne ship, which is the largest currently in RAN service, is some 230 metres long, and can transport more than 1400 defence personnel, six helicopters and around 100 vehicles.

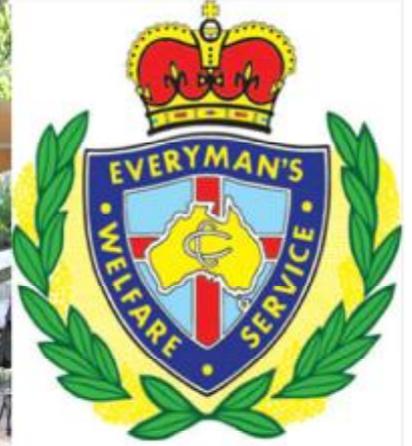
"Exercise Hamel" will be conducted in South Australia's mid north, around Port Augusta, Whyalla, and Cultana, and will involve over 8,000 military personnel. This training exercise will be designed to evaluate the war fighting skills of a Brigade, and Darwin's 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade will be tested to ensure they are ready for potential future deployments from humanitarian assistance missions through to high tempo war fighting operations.

HMAS Adelaide offloaded the Exercise Hamel opposition force, which consisted of around 600 troops of which half were from the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade in Brisbane and the other half were US forces composed of 180 Marines from the Darwin rotational force based in Darwin, and the remainder were US Army forces.

It has been a long time since HMAS Adelaide has visited Adelaide, the previous namesake was a guided missile frigate, and she visited in November 2007.



## EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE



In attendance this year at Corowa was Representative Kristian Kemper, with his brew truck from Everyman's Welfare Service.

Accredited by the Australian Department of Defense, Everyman's Welfare Service serve the members of the Australian Defense Force (ADF) and their families by providing a Philanthropic support service which is not provided as such by the ADF. The ADF rely on this service to lift troops' morale in the field or on base. These brew trucks have been known to pop up in the strangest and most unexpected of places, including conflict zones, and are always a welcome sight for tired soldiers, offering a hot brew and plenty of tasty munchies.

While not members of the ADF as such, Everyman's Representatives receive ADF accreditation and hold honorary officer status. They work from recreation centres on bases and travel with the troops on military exercises and operational deployments. They are issued with military clothing, but not with weapons.

Everyman's is a trans-denominational Christian charity serving on behalf of all Australian Christian churches. Once commissioned into the work, Everyman's staff undergo an initial 12 month on-the-job training program that ensures they are qualified to handle any situation within the military structure.

Perhaps one of the greatest benefits to the Defense Force, is the time and genuine care that Everyman's can give the troops. An Everyman's Welfare Representative can stop, get to know the person, build a relationship and be available in times of need. Everyman's Welfare Service is a non Government funded, not for profit charity. All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.



## YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE A LAND ROVER MIGHT SHOW UP ...

Whilst not wishing to appear obsessed with Land Rovers, your editor was surprised to see where these vehicles actually show up around the world. A prime example must be the Polish Army, which has a number of Defenders within its fleet. As if the Soviet GAZ was not enough of a headache !



↑ This 110 Defender belongs to the Zandarmeria Wojskowa, which as we all know is the Polish Army Military Police.



↑ The Minerva, built under license from Land Rover, by the Belgian car builder of the same name. In 1952, Land Rover won the contract for 2500 vehicles, which were supplied in CKD form, to be assembled by Minerva. Chassis, axles, transmission, and other parts were supplied, but the contract specified 63% of the parts should be of Belgian origin. The body was made of steel. The front mudguards were squared off and sloping, which were easier to produce. Just under 10,000 of these vehicles were produced, and supplied to the Belgian Army and Police.

↓ The Land Rover Centaur Halftrack. Based on a Series 3 with a 3.5 litre V8 and a shortened belt drive form a Scorpion light tank, the version pictured below was developed in South Africa and known as a Rapid Mine Deployment Vehicle. Capable of launching 64 small anti-personnel mines over a maximum area of 7,145 square metres.



## UNINTENTIONALLY RIDICULOUS MILITARY VEHICLES THAT NEVER MADE IT INTO MASS PRODUCTION

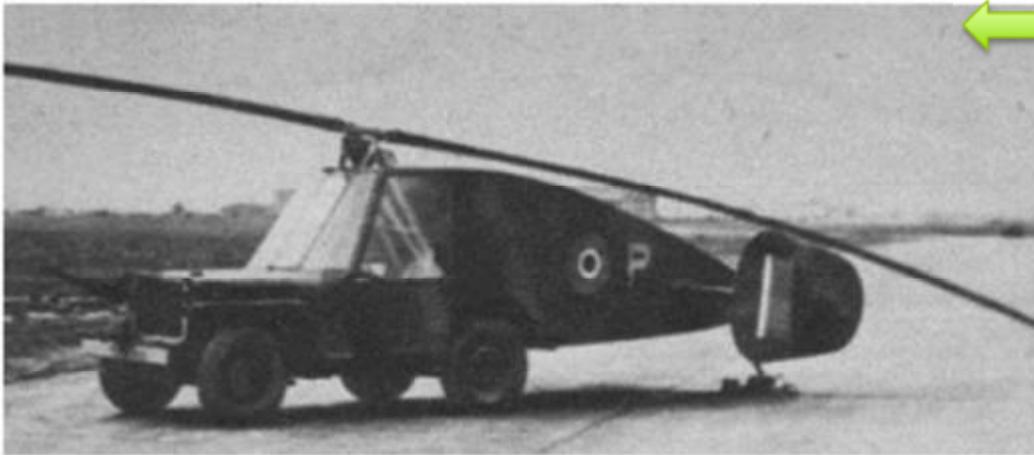


War is a deadly serious business, but it takes some unconventional thinking and creativity to constantly dream up new ways to carry soldiers into war and annihilate the enemy. In 1898, a British inventor named F.R. Simms mounted an iron shield and a 1,000 round Maxim machine gun on a petrol powered quadricycle. Built to provide cover fire for advancing infantry, the **Motor Scout** had a 1.5 HP petrol engine and could carry enough fuel to travel around 120 miles. The bicycle tyres and lack of suspension proved to be less than ideal on uneven, crater strewn battlefields, and consequently, the Motor Scout never made it into mass production.

Ever since France's quick surrender in WWII, the country has had a reputation for being a pushover, militarily. France probably did little to help their image in the eyes of enemies in Algeria and French Indochina where, in the 1950's, the cash strapped nation began equipping some of their elite paratroopers with the cartoonish-looking Vespa 150 TAP. The 11 HP Vespa carried a 75mm recoilless anti-armour rifle. Airdropped in pairs into enemy territory, a 2 man team would unpack each scooter from palettes packed with hay bales (to provide impact protection) Ammo was secured to one scooter, while the other was strapped with the big gun and tripod it mounted on for firing. Around 500 of these **Bazooka Vespa** scooters were built before production ceased.



In 1968, General Electric began working on a rather strange quadruped robot that could be used to carry infantry equipment over rough terrain. Controlled by the hand and foot movements of a single human operator, a prototype version of the **Walking Truck** was delivered to the US Military for testing in 1970. Weighing in at over 3000 pounds, the vehicle used a complicated hydraulic system to facilitate movement. It proved to be not terribly fuel efficient, only being able to cover around five miles before refueling. The US Army ultimately decided that helicopters were a more practical means of delivering troops and equipment, and the project was abandoned.



This one is an absolute classic ! In 1942, the British Army first began experimenting with the idea of a Jeep that could leap over chasms and enemy positions. The Air Ministry turned to Raoul Hafner, an Australian born helicopter engineer, who basically combined a Willys MB with a 40 foot "gyro kite" to keep

the vehicle aloft after being dropped from an aircraft or released from a tow vehicle. Operating more like a glider than a real helicopter, the **Hafner Rotabuggy** reportedly took to the air for the first time in 1943 after being towed skyward behind a supercharged 4.5 litre Bentley. The vehicle was also successfully dropped from a Whitworth-Whitley bomber, with the most successful flight coming in 1944 when a Rotabuggy reportedly flew for 10 minutes at an altitude of 400 feet while hitting a top speed of 65 MPH.

The British would continue to experiment with "flying Jeep" technology into the 1960's with a prototype version that, instead of an external rotor, used lift fans built into the body of the vehicle. The later "Airjeep II" was surprisingly capable but far too costly to mass produce compared to lower maintenance helicopters that proved more rugged and reliable.

The Antinov A-40 was a Russian tank with wings attached, designed in the hopes of finding a safer way to get tanks directly into battlefields. The A-40 was to be towed into the air by a TB-3 bomber aircraft, then released and directed to the battle site by the crew inside. When testing, and engineering this



flying tank, the engineers faced issues mostly involving the tank's weight and the immense amount of skill it took to stick a controlled landing. In a reasonably successful test flight, much of the tank's armour was removed, and it was still almost too heavy to be towed by the TB-3 aircraft. While aloft, the pilot had to control the plane by pivoting the tank's turret to which the wings were attached. When the tank came in to land, the pilot had to get the tracks moving before hitting the ground. The project didn't survive much past the first test flight !!

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

This is a new section of our Magazine, in which the Editor would like to include photographs and articles of interest, specifically relating to club members or those we might know. Events past, places that have changed or anything of an interesting historical nature would also be fine. Articles do not need to relate to military vehicles, but if they do, that's fine. The Editor would sincerely welcome any contributions to this section from members. So dust off those old photo albums, and let's see what we can come up with ...



In order to kick this section off, your Editor has volunteered to be the Guinea Pig !

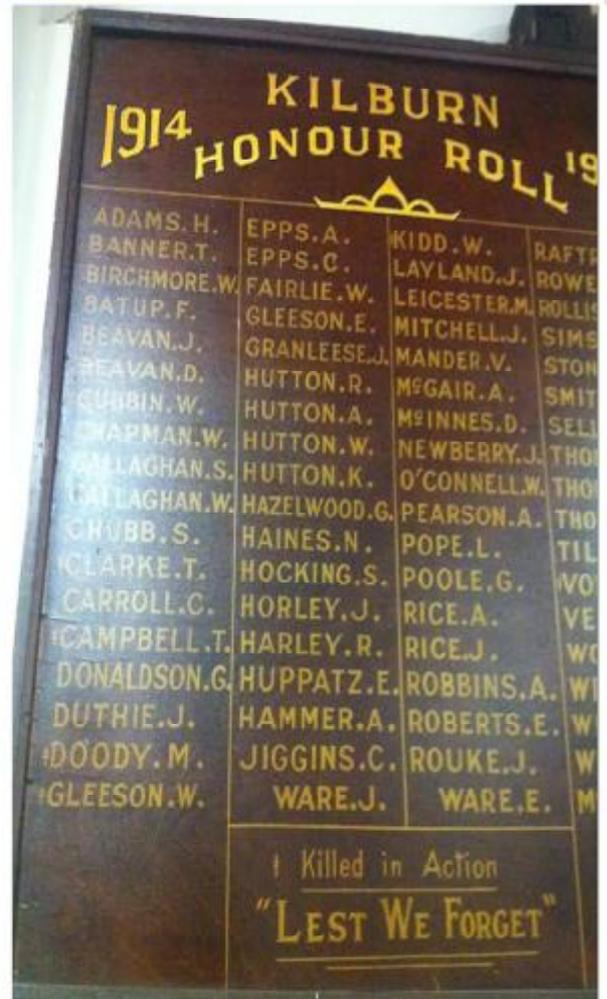
These images date back to between 1981 - 1988, and depict your editor serving with the Army Reserve, in both 10 Bn RSAR, and 3Fd AMB, RAAMC. Ah, those were the days !



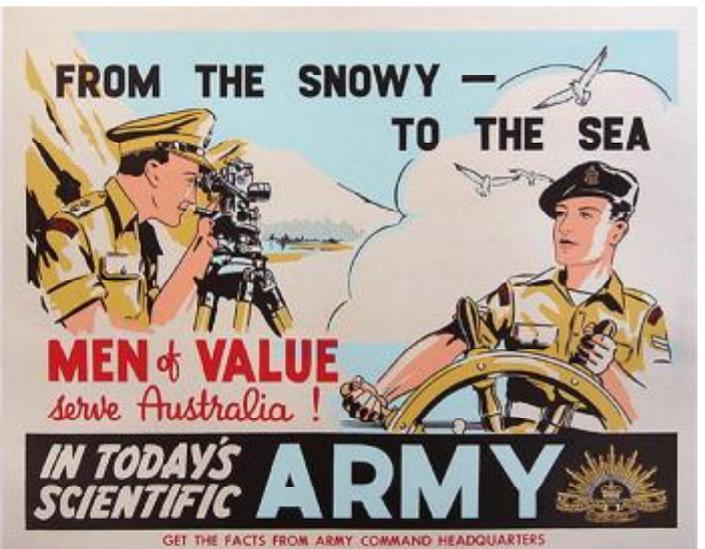
## PAGES FROM THE PAST



Whilst attending the Kilburn RSL Anzac Day March this year, Pedr Horley made a surprise discovery. His Great Grandfather's name on the Honour Roll in the RSL Club Rooms .



The two recruiting posters appearing below were released during the same year as your editors' birth !



## STILL FOR SALE



An exciting opportunity currently exists for you to purchase various items of Australian Army uniform, and in doing so, make a financial donation to your club !

Pictured for sale at Corowa this year, in front of your president's tent, was this fine selection of ex-army clothing, which created some degree of interest. However, some items still remain unsold, so if you would like to purchase any, please see your club President, or any committee member.

Items still remaining are as follows :

- Howard green jumper, size 95 – 105, in good used condition
- Service dress uniform, with trousers, size “39 portly”, suit smaller person
- Battle dress trousers, size 82, in good condition
- Khaki service jumper, small men's size, well used
- Set of army greens, suit small man, well used, but still OK
- Black webbing parade belt (no brass)



**HURRY, THESE ITEMS WILL NOT LAST LONG, ALL PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE !!!**

## ALSO FOR SALE



Also for sale is a Trigg Bros (Yes, made in south Australia, just like the submarines !) Lunette Ring towing hitch. This came off my camper trailer, prior to sale, and may be handy for a project. \$50 neg. See your President if interested



## FOR SALE



We have a new style Club Baseball cap for sale to members. They are Khaki in colour with the WVCG logo, and are for sale to club members for the bargain price of \$20 each. These are selling fast, so go on, let a few moths out of your wallet and purchase one! If you are interested, please see our club treasurer, Mick Jenner.

HURRY, ALMOST ALL SOLD OUT !!

### \*\*\* ALWAYS WANTED \*\*\*



Wanted : Your editor is a collector of military marching compasses, amongst many other things, so if anyone knows of any for sale, it would be very much appreciated. Similarly, if any club member wishes to place a "Wanted" advertisement for anything , just let your editor know, he won't charge you very much !!

### \*\*\* STILL WANTED \*\*\*



**Manufacturer** Excelsior Motor Company of Birmingham  
**Production** 1942-1945  
**Successor** Corgi 50  
**Engine** 98 cc (6.0 cu in), two stroke, single cylinder, air cooled  
**Transmission** single-speed  
**Suspension** none  
**Weight** 32 kg (71 lb) (dry)  
**Fuel capacity** 3.7 litres (0.81 imp gal; 0.96 US gal)

Wanted : Excelsior "Welbike".

Complete or parts, anything and everything needed, contact Rick Cove at :

[rckcv@internode.on.net](mailto:rckcv@internode.on.net)

Or give him a call on :  
0401 278 238



## THE BACK PAGE



**St Petersburg – My kind of town !!** This would literally be your editor's dream come true! Ex-army amphibious vehicles serving as taxis crossing the rivers of St Petersburg. Apparently one company has gained an official license to use ex-army BRDMs ( Boyevaya Razvedyvatelnaya Dozornaya Mashina – literally Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle ) as city taxis. They're painted red and pink so as not to freak out regular Russians. Not that Russians don't have to deal with military vehicles showing up at random, like tanks crossing the road and tanks crossing the beach.



Your editor really needs to visit Russia! Apparently, if you visit some beaches on the Baltic Sea you will see this show quite often. Since the beach itself is not a virgin paradise, the local authorities make these armoured columns go through sand instead of breaking the roads' asphalt. It would appear that the locals take it all in their stride !





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2015 - 2016

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