

# BARTREAD



**WARTIME VEHICLE CONSERVATION GROUP**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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# WARTIME VEHICLE CONSERVATION GROUP

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## WVCG MONTHLY MEETINGS

ARE HELD AT THE TOWER HOTEL, MAGILL SA ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING AT 1900 HR'S. MEALS AVAILABLE, ORDER AT THE BAR AND MEAL WILL BE SERVED IN THE MEETING ROOM.

### **Inside this issue:**

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# Task Force's XXX Corps arrive in basecamp at Dommelen, Netherlands.





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# COVID-19

Coronavirus has seen people sick and dying around the world. This virus has the potential to kill millions of people without any cure. Scientists and medical people world wide are working tirelessly to find a cure to end this Pandemic, but a result could still be a long way off.

This Pandemic has changed our lives, maybe forever and we must all work together to solve this epidemic and slow the number of contaminations by washing our hands for 20 seconds, use a sanitation wash. Don't forget a mask and gloves when leaving the house, remembering to keep a 1.5 meter distance from other people. So far this appears to be working in reducing the numbers admitted to a hospital.

Our state and federal governments are doing their best to stop contaminations, so we must also do our share. This virus has already seen a number of activities close, including Anzac Day Celebrations. Stay safe and we will all come through this together.

Your Committee thanks you.

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# MILSPARES

## MILITARY VEHICLE SPARES

PTY LTD.

Joe's Motor Pool panels in stock and coming soon



In stock



In stock



In stock



In stock



In stock



Coming soon



In stock



In stock



Coming soon



Coming soon



Coming soon



Coming soon



Coming soon

British manufactured zintec body panels now available in Slat, MB, GPW & composite. For expressions of interest or sales please call 0488 111 184 or email [sales@milspares.com.au](mailto:sales@milspares.com.au)



## A Message From the WVCG committee

We ask all our members travelling to any Club outings too take extreme care when driving your precious restored vehicles on our busy roads and highways. We want you all to arrive safely to the venue and return home safely back to your families.

Safety Alert from your WVCG Committee

# WHO AM I

## WHO AM I

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE WVCG MEMBER IN THE PHOTOGRAPH.

The correct answers will be posted in the following issue of the magazine. So forward a copy of yourself and let's see what you looked like years ago. It may be of you playing sport or in the services or just doing anything at all. Please forward your photograph to:

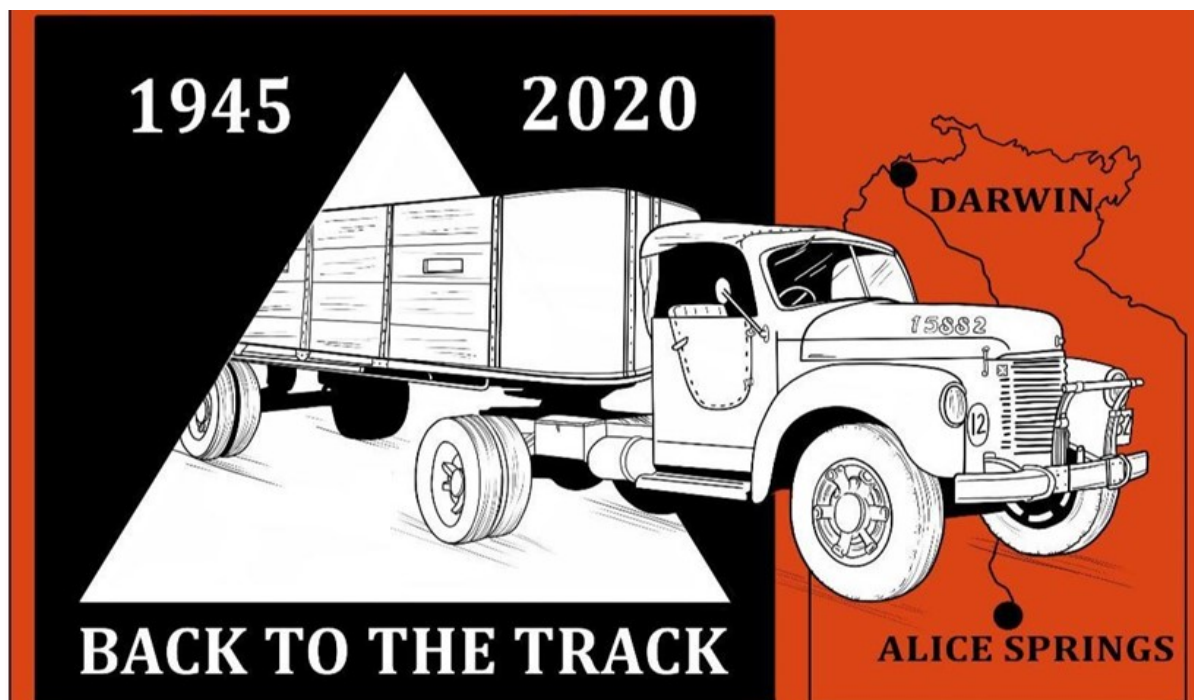
Editor/Publisher.

Email: [gumbrae44@tpg.com.au](mailto:gumbrae44@tpg.com.au)

NO DETAILS RECEIVED  
SO SEGMENT CANCELLED

CANCELLED DUE TO MEMBERS NON INTEREST

# BACK TO THE TRACK POSTPONED UNTIL 2021



## WEB SITE

Keep visiting the web site for the latest event information. <http://www.backtothetrack2020.com>

## Event delayed until 2021

After speaking to NT Health authorities and Tourism NT, being directed to complete the on line COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment tool and given that more restrictions will likely be placed on events, the various liabilities and risks are too great for the event to occur at this time.

**It is with great regret that the event BTTT2020 will be delayed until the same time next year - 2021**

## All participant entries will be retained for 2021.

If you have no intention of participating in 2021 and wish a full refund, return the participant book "A Wartime Journey" for a refund of the entry fee and year numberplate order if already paid.

If you can join us in 2021, all event merchandise / numberplates / participant pack / events will be retained and kept for 2021.

## NT Government response to COVID-19

In line with the activation of the national pandemic plan, the Northern Territory along with all other jurisdictions is preparing for a potential pandemic situation.

<https://health.nt.gov.au/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-covid-19> Latest NT specific updates

Public Health Emergency declared

The National Cabinet has met and resolved to enact a series of measures enforceable by Federal, State and Territory law:

- The aim is to get ahead of the curve. There will be some impacts to our Territory lifestyle regarding our significant events; however, we all need to follow the best advice to limit the risk of COVID-19 to Territorians.
- Remote communities in the Northern Territory have been closed to all non-essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of COVID-19.



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**Mass gatherings.** From today (18th March), organised, non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people will be prevented. Event organisers will need to cancel, reschedule or modify events falling within this category. Organisers can use NT Health's risk based assessment tool (available on SecureNT) to identify the risk of the event. If they would like the event to proceed then they should contact the mass gatherings hotline to confirm their assessment that the event can proceed.

Non-essential organised gatherings are any function or event that a large group of people attend including, but are not limited to, conferences, music festivals, sporting events, some religious and life celebrations, cultural events, elections and other public occasions.

**For gatherings of less than 500 people.** The NT Health COVID-19 Risk Assessment tool available on SecureNT has been developed to assist event organisers determine the level of clinical risk around proposed events. The results of the risk assessment will assist event organisers in making decisions about whether to proceed with an event or to restrict, modify, postpone or cancel.

The Public Health advice is to use this self-assessment tool to assist decision-making noting that erring on the side of caution is encouraged.

## **MASS GATHERINGS**

There is a dedicated COVID-19 mass gatherings hotline for the NT - 1800 518 055.

All gatherings of more than 500 people are prevented and will need to be cancelled, postponed or modified to meet requirements.

The NT Health COVID-19 Risk Assessment tool DOCX (66.0 KB) has been developed to assist event organisers to determine the level of clinical risk around proposed events.

## **In Summary:**

After considering the average age and profile of participants travelling from intrastate to the NT, the likely imposition of further restrictions, completing the Risk Assessment tool and speaking directly with NT Health authorities: -

**The event "Back To The Track 2020" will regrettably need to be deferred until 2021.**

**FOR FUTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DOUG TREAGER : [dougdraeger@hotmail.com](mailto:dougdraeger@hotmail.com)**

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**Frank Scott reports that he had borrowed a library book. "For Valour". Australians awarded the Victoria Cross. By Author Craig Blanche.**

**I met his brother recently, and, you know, chat about stuff.**

**It is a remarkably easy read. It includes the brief scuffle in Nth Russia. 1918-19 And Australians in the Boer War. The story of each, is in two parts. They are brief, and clearly detailed. There are some very readable articles.**

**Frank SCOTT.**

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# COROWA 2020

**COROWA 2020** Was again well supported by the Military Vehicle fraternity and thankfully it was not cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. A number of our members from South Australia attended, including WVCG President Kevin Tipler who supplied photos of the event for our magazine. Thanks Kevin. So for those of us who could not attend enjoy the photographs. *Editor/Publisher.*

























# "OUT AND ABOUT" In COROWA circa 1945

## Year of the Military Motorcycle



A walk down Memory Lane of the 1945 Parade down Sanger Street of Dispatch Riders and their machines, heading to the Show-ground for annual Corowa events. Below-Some of those events held to keep them all entertained, like "how to ditch the bike and start fighting"!









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# ANZAC DAY 2020

IT IS A SAD DAY WHEN THE ANNUAL ANZAC DAY MARCH IS CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THIS WILL BE HARD ON OUR AGING VETERANS FOR SOME THIS COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN THEIR LAST MARCH. WE THINK OF THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES AT THIS SAD TIME. HOPEFULLY WE WILL ALL BE OVER THIS CRISIS BEFORE NEXT YEARS ANZAC DAY MARCH, WHICH I AM SURE WILL BE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS. I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY VETERANS WHO WOULD JUST SAY "BUGGER IT. I WILL STILL MARCH".

I RECALL SOME YEARS BACK WHEN THE ANZAC DAY MARCH WAS CALLED OFF DUE TO VERY HEAVY RAIN. I CAN STILL SEE THIS VERY TALL UPRIGHT MAN IN HIS SUIT, PROUDLY MARCHING DOWN KING WILLIAM STREET ON HIS OWN. HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY A TV CREW AS TO WHY HE STILL MARCHED. HIS REPLY. "WE WENT THROUGH MUCH WORSE IN THE WAR THEN A LITTLE RAIN" I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THIS AND I DEFY ANYONE TO SAY THIS OLD SOLDIER DID NOT SHOW US THE TRUE AUSTRALIAN "ANZAC SPIRIT" OF WHICH WE ARE SO PROUD.

*Editor. Publisher*



*"They shall grow not old, as we  
that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the  
years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and  
in the morning  
We will remember them."*



## *"LEST WE FORGET"*

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# ANZAC DAY 2020

## An incredibly special event



**CAPTION:** *Rosie Hartigan (above) and Brian Hartigan (right) during the ANZAC Day 2020 neighbourhood dawn service.*

ANZAC Day 2020 was an incredibly special day - celebrated widely in suburb's right around Australia. Few neighbours normally get up for a traditional Dawn Service, but they were out in force this Anzac Day morning - young and old. The sound system in parts of the neighbourhood was a tad dodgy, cutting in and out as the service from Canberra was broadcast across the nation - but that didn't matter at all, we could still hear the bugles reverberating through suburb's, competing with the kookaburras and crows. The 5.50am start was much better too, So special was this ANZAC Day - I think we will campaign to do it this way next year too. So special was this ANZAC Day, all neighbourhoods around Australia deserved a round of applause.





# Former Captain Tom Moore promoted on his birthday



*Colonel Tom Moore talks to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Miller while holding The Yorkshire Regiment Medal, re-presented as a birthday gift from the British Army.*

**Captain Tom made us cry - (tears of joy)** World famous walkathon fundraiser and now former-captain Tom Moore has been promoted to the rank of colonel on his 100th Birthday. The Second World War Veteran was given Her Majesty the Queen's Royal Assent to be made Honorary Colonel Army Foundation College Harrogate. The promotion was detailed in a letter from the Chief of the General Staff, which was presented by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Miller, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment (1 Yorks). Other presentations to Colonel Moore included the re-presentation of a lost Second World War Defence Medal, as a gift from The British Army. Other members of 1 Yorks, an antecedent of Tom's former Regiment the 8th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, visited Tom at his home in Bedford to deliver the presentations. There was also a further presentation by the Duke of Wellington's Regiment Association. It has also been specially arranged for Captain Moore to have two birthday flypasts today, one from the era of his service, and also a flight of modern-day aircraft. A Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast of a Spitfire and a Hurricane will be broadcast live on BBC Breakfast at approximately 08:20. At 14.30 a flypast by the Army Air Corps of a Wildcat and an Apache attack helicopter will also allow his former Service to show their appreciation. Colonel Tom Moore has so far raised more than £30 million (AU\$57 million) for NHS Charities on a fundraising site by walking in lengths of his garden - with even more money coming from the proceeds of his number 1 chart-topping single, "You'll never Walk Alone" - and via cash donations inside the more than 150,000+ birthday cards sent to him. His fundraising page will close at midnight British time on his birthday, 30 April 2020. Colonel Tom's original target was to complete 100 lengths of his garden before his 100th Birthday - which he achieved 14 days ahead of schedule - and to raise £1000 for the NHS. Overachiever. Tom Moore was a member of the 8th Battalion the Duke of Wellington's Regiment during the Second World War, serving in India and the Burma campaign. After the war he was also an armoured-warfare instructor.

**LATE NEWS:** *Soon to be knighted by H.M. the Queen*



# Vickers Light Tank Restoration

I would like to thank Colin Jones for his kind permission to publish the restoration of his two Vickers Light Tanks, including photographs for use in the WVCB Magazine too share with our club members.  
Tony VAN RHODA. Editor/Publisher.

Hello everyone, as we are still in sort of a lockdown and the job I still have is on hold, I thought it is a good time to get back to the Vickers. I can't believe how fast time has gone. I had a workshop move around and tidy up and here is where I am at the moment. The engine and trans is in, exhaust made and fitted and I now need to concentrate on the final drives.





OK so the problem was the photos were too big and for some reason I up ended them. Anyway I will have to remember that. The Chev engine is in and it is a very, very close fit but that's OK as long as it is in. I custom made the exhaust and that too is fitted. I have to do some linkage and final drive completion which will take a while. I am running a Hypertherm 85 and it does the job for me but is a far cry compared to a Water Jet Speed, air pressure and amps per cut is something that needs to be played with to get good results and of course clean tips. I also have a air dryer above my compressor and run it for at least 10-15 mins before I cut anything as water in the air is a definite no no. Colin.







GREAT TO HAVE COLIN BACK AND UPDATING US ALL AS HE CONTINUES HIS PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION OF HIS RESTORATION PROGRAM. I FOR ONE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO FOLLOWING HIS EXCELLENT RESTORATION OF HIS TWO "VICKERS LIGHT TANKS". KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK COLIN.





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# Boeing's Loyal Wingman prototype launched



***CAPTION: Loyal Wingman prototype number one rolled out today - the first military aircraft designed and built in Australia for about 50 years. Boeing image.***

***By: Brian Hartigan 05/05/2020***

A Boeing-led Australian industry team today presented the first unmanned Loyal Wingman aircraft to the Royal Australian Air Force - an historic milestone for the company and the Commonwealth. Using artificial intelligence to extend the capabilities of manned and unmanned platforms, Loyal Wingman is the first military aircraft to be designed, engineered, and manufactured in Australia in more than 50 years. It is Boeing's largest investment in an unmanned aircraft outside of the United States.

As the first of three prototypes for Australia's Loyal Wingman Advanced Development Program, the aircraft also serves as the foundation for the Boeing Airpower Teaming System (ATS) being developed for the global Defense market. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said, "This is a truly historic moment for our country and for Australian defence innovation". "The Loyal Wingman will be pivotal to exploring the critical capabilities our Air Force needs to protect our nation and its allies into the future." Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld said the rollout of the first aircraft was a significant milestone in the Boeing Loyal Wingman project "This project is an excellent example of innovation through collaboration and what can be achieved working together with defence industry," Air Marshal Hupfeld said. "This demonstrates the importance of the relationship Air Force has with Boeing Australia and defence industry more broadly. "I look forward to defence industry more broadly.

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With a global market demand for highly capable but extremely affordable unmanned aircraft, Boeing said it applied company-wide innovation to achieve those goals. The aircraft was engineered using a digital twin to model its structures, systems, capabilities and full life-cycle requirements; manufactured with Boeing's largest-ever resin-infused single composite piece; and assembled using proven advanced manufacturing processes.

Vice president and general manager of Autonomous Systems for Boeing Defense, Space and Security Kristin Robertson said Boeing was proud to take this significant step forward with the Royal Australian Air Force and show the potential for smart, unmanned teaming to serve as a force multiplier. "We look forward to getting the aircraft into flight testing and proving the unmanned teaming concept," Mr Robertson said. "We see global allies with those same mission needs, which is why this program is so important to advancing the development of the Boeing Airpower Teaming System." The Loyal Wingman prototype now moves into ground testing, followed by taxi and first flight later this year.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Some media outlets are claiming the Loyal Wingman is the first Australian designed and built aircraft in 50 years. A quick Google search disproves this. The claim should more accurately say, "first Australian designed and built military aircraft in 50 years". That said, I was initially sceptical about the latter claim too, because I remember the GAF N22B Nomad in service in my day (1990s). But the Nomad is indeed around 50 years old, with design work beginning in the mid-1960s, and its maiden flight on 23 July 1971.*

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# We remember VE Day 75 years on.



(8 May 1945): A truck of revellers passing through the Strand on VE Day

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Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said on that 7 May 1945, the German High Command authorised the signing an unconditional surrender on all fronts, which would come into effect from midnight 8/9 May, with 8 May declared Victory in Europe Day.

"For more than half a decade Australian service men and women were operational in Europe, fighting and dying in Britain, north west Europe, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, on land in North Africa, Greece and Crete and in the Middle East," Mr Chester said.

"Tragically, more than 10,000 Australians died in the war against Germany and her allies in the European theatre and nearly 10,000 more were wounded and almost 8000 became prisoners of war."

Victory in Europe brought cause for great celebrations in Allied nations and saw liberation for the thousands of Australians who were prisoners of war in Germany or eastern Europe.

"While Australians serving overseas joined in the celebrations and in the major Australian cities people rejoiced, they were still aware that the war in the Pacific was yet to be won and would ultimately continue until August the same year," Mr Chester said.

"On Victory in Europe Day, we should all remember the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women who fought and died in the European theatre. "Lest we forget."

Almost one million Australians enlisted for service in the Second World War and of those, there are still some 14,000 veterans alive today. On 15 August this year we will commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in the Pacific, long referred to as the end of the Second World War, where we will remember the service of those who served in the Second World War and the sacrifice of the some 39,000 men and women who died protecting our country.

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## FRANKS FRENCH LIASON



**Yes I know. You think that is My Jeep in the line up. Actually , it is a museum in Wilmington, below Quorn. And me camping at Farina, above Lyndhurst. ( my coldest night for a long time. Minus 6 degree ) 2018.**

**We rolled on to Maree to welcome twelve Citroen Traction ( same as mine..) on into Lyndhurst. They were travelling from Perth to the Gold Coast. There were twelve of them. Mostly Families. The children, sang to us " non musical Australians" at the Lyndhurst hotel.. I thought it was wonderful. Me too self conscious to engage in my pathetic French.**

**FRANK SCOTT. WVCG MEMBER.**

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# WWI Aussie's remains formally identified



**CAPTION:** Captain Arthur Harold Appleby and an extract from his service rec-

## WWI Aussie's remains formally identified.

The Australian Army has identified a previously unknown First World War Australian officer as Captain Arthur Harold Appleby, providing his family with confirmation of his final resting place. Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said for more than 100 years Captain Appleby's family searched for his final resting place and that he was honoured to confirm that it is in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France.

"From Hobart, Tasmania, Captain Appleby enlisted in May 1915 joining the 12th Battalion and first saw service at Gallipoli before serving on the Western Front in France," Mr Chester said. "During the 2nd Battle of Bullecourt, Captain Appleby was killed by shellfire while in the frontline trenches. Some 10,000 Australians were killed or wounded or taken prisoner of war during the two battles against enemy defences at Bullecourt." "It is fitting that ahead of Anzac Day this year, Captain Appleby's family can reflect on his service and sacrifice with knowledge his final resting place will now be marked with his name, Australian Imperial Force details and the iconic Rising Sun Badge."

Finding Captain Appleby's final resting place would not have been possible without the combined effort of his family, private researchers, Australian Army's Unrecovered War Casualties team and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Mr Chester thanked all those involved in identifying Captain Appleby's grave captain Appleby's grandniece, Mrs Andrea Gerrard OAM and private researchers, Mr Len Kelly, and Mr Noel Forde. "Mrs Gerrard has campaigned for a considerable time to find the final resting place of her great uncle and this announcement will bring great pride to her and her family," Mr Chester said. "I would also like to acknowledge the work Mrs Gerrard has done over many years through the Headstone Project, which seeks to properly honour veterans who were buried in unmarked graves. In consultation with Captain Appleby's descendants, the Australian Army and Commonwealth War Graves Commission will make arrangements to replace the previously unmarked headstone."



# Strange Looking German Armoured Cars of WW2.

By: Andrew Knighton



During the Second World War, the Germans made extensive use of military vehicles to master a new form of warfare, in which the combustion engine replaced horsepower and armoured formations dominated battlefields. To do this, they developed a wide range of military vehicles, including a series of armoured cars.

## **Kfz 13 Adler**

Though Hitler and his ministers did much of the work in turning Germany towards mobile, armoured warfare, their predecessors were not ignorant of the power of fighting vehicles. In 1932, the year before the Nazis came to power, the German army commissioned its first widely used armoured car. The Kfz 13 was meant to fulfill two roles. In the long term, it would act as a reconnaissance vehicle, giving German scouts the speed, range, and protection they needed to safely observe enemy positions. In the short term, it would provide a stopgap vehicle for armoured units until more tanks and specially built combat vehicles were available.



Kfz 13 Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-04719A CC-BY-SA



To make production quick and cheap, the Kfz 13 was built by welding a steel hull onto the chassis of a commercially available car, the Adler Standard 6, and equipping it with a machine gun. Because of this design, it didn't do well when traveling off road and it had a high centre of gravity that led to accidents. Its armour wasn't thick enough to properly protect the two-man crew even from small-arms fire. The Kfz 13 was still in use in 1941, when some were used in Operation Barbarossa. It also proved useful as a training vehicle.



An armoured Sd.Kfz. 232 with large loop antenna (6-wheeled radio and command vehicle). Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-2005-0138 / CC-BY-SA 3.0

**Sd Kfz 221 and 222.** Developed by Auto-Union/Horch and serving from 1935, the Sd Kfz 221 was the smallest of the specialist armoured cars that superseded the Kfz 13. This time, the chassis was specially developed for military purposes, with a rear engine, four-wheel drive, low-range gears suited to cross-country travel, and sloped side armour. Its open-topped turret usually carried a 7.93mm machine gun, though some were equipped with an anti-tank rifle.



A Leichtes Panzerspähwagen Sd. Kfz. 221 lies knocked out in Bredevad on April 9th, 1940



In 1938, an improved version was produced - the Sd Kfz 222. As well as minor changes to the design of the hull, this saw the turret weapon replaced with a 20mm automatic cannon and the engine upgraded to improve its power. These vehicles saw service throughout the war.



British soldiers inspecting a captured German SdKfz 222 armoured car, 24 June 1941.

**Sd Kfz 231** Though work on designs began in the late 1920s, it took until 1933 before the German army was equipped with its first six-wheeled armoured car, the Sd Kfz 231. The Sd Kfz 231 appeared in different models from three different manufacturers - Daimler-Benz, Bussing-NAG, and Magirus. All three models were built to the same specification, so despite differences in detail,



SdKfz 231 6-rad from an unknown unit - Poland 1939



Each chassis was built around the commercial truck design of the relevant manufacturer, strengthened to make it suitable for a military role. The engine was at the front and could be operated either from there or from a secondary driving position at the rear, letting the vehicle travel at top speed in either direction. Bulletproof tires and armour 8-15mm in thickness gave the vehicle some



**Kfz. 231 Heavy armoured scout car (8-wheel).** Photo: Bundesarchiv, CC-BY-SA 3.0

The **Sd Kfz 231's** turret was hand operated. It carried either a 20mm cannon or a 7.92mm machine gun. Variations included a communications vehicle with a distinctive aerial array. Around 1,000 Sd Kfz 231s were produced by 1936. At that point, they were superseded by an eight-wheeled vehicle and so manufacturing stopped, but the existing cars remained in service. They were used in the invasions of Poland and France, then relegated to internal security and training work.



**Army Corps with Heavy Armoured Car (Sd.Kfz. 231).** Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 136-B3092



## Sd Kfz 232 and 233

Shortly after the development of the six-wheeled Sd Kfz 231, the military put out a requirement for an eight-wheeled armoured car. Bussing-NAG had previously created a chassis for an aborted eight-wheeled cross-country truck, and this was adopted to form the basis of the new armoured car, which became the Sd Kfz 232.



8 Rad Sd.Kfz. 232 radio vehicle of the 5th SS Panzer Division Wiking in Russia, 1941. Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 101III-Hummel-025-22 / Hummel / CC-BY-SA 3.0

**The Sd Kfz 232** had an armoured body built over a relatively slender chassis. It was originally equipped with a 7.92mm machine gun and a 20mm automatic cannon, but this was later upgraded to a short 75mm gun, with this more heavily armed vehicle given the designation Sd Kfz 233. Despite its complex mechanical layout, this series of vehicles became very popular with the army and they were widely used. The most distinctive feature of these vehicles was the way their wheels were arranged. They were divided into two sets of four, each mounted on a separate bogie, one at the front and one at the rear. All eight wheels were both steerable and driven, given power by a series of transfer boxes and differentials from the engine at the rear.



Sd Kfz 233 armoured car



In most circumstances, the rear bogie was locked and the front wheels used to steer, but this arrangement could be reversed in emergencies, allowing a rear driver to steer the vehicle backward.

#### **Sd Kfz 234**

By 1940, the eight-wheeled armoured vehicles had already seen their engines improved, but now a more substantial redesign was ordered, resulting in the Sd Kfz 234. This time, the chassis and suspension were integral to the hull. Thicker armour was added, along with greater fuel capacity and air brakes. One of the big reasons for the redesign was so that the vehicle could be tailored to fighting in hotter conditions, as Axis troops were engaged in fighting against the British in North Africa, a theatre where armoured vehicles played a leading role. As a result, the Sd Kfz 234 was equipped with an air-cooled engine.



Sd.Kfz. 234/2 Puma



Sd.Kfz. 234 4 Pakwagen, Munster Panzermuseum, Germany. Photo: Banznerfahrer CC BY-SA 3.0





British and American troops inspect captured German guns and a Puma armoured car, near Foy Notre Dame, 29 December 1944.



Schutzpolizei in front with several Puma Radpanzer Sd. Kfz 234 2 probably in Bruck an der Leitha Austria. Photo: Andreas Jonke CC BY-SA 4.0

Problems with this engine slowed down the development of the vehicle and by the time it was ready the campaign in North Africa was over, thanks in part to the arrival of American forces. But the Sd Kfz 234 still found a useful place fighting against the Soviets. Germany's eight-wheeled armoured cars were among the country's best vehicles of the war, used widely and effectively in campaigns across Europe.



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# ETTAMONGA PUB

WVCG PRESIDENT. KEVIN TIPLER STOPPED OVER AT THE FAMOUS ETTAMONGA PUB FOR A NICE COOL REFRESHING BEER, (or two) ON HIS WAY TO THE 2020 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COROWA ANNUAL GATHERING. I HEARD THE EVEN CELEBRATING THE "YEAR OF THE MILITARY MOTORCYCLE WAS AGAIN A HUGE SUCCESS. I HOPE NEXT YEARS EVENT WILL BE RUN AGAIN ONCE WE ARE OVER THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC.



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## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM YOUR WISE PRESIDENT

I am about to build up a GPW engine. I had a crank sorted and was ready to take it for a crack testing prior to the grind. A friend of mine said he had three to do, so we negotiated a special rate!

Result; one good, three cracked. So we disassembled a few more engines, and came up with another. Three military and two civilian cranks.

Results; Two more cracked. One being a civilian!. There were no differences between Ford and Willys. So we are still at fifty-fifty.

So if you're about to build up an engine, have access to two cranks just in case!.

Cheers. President, Kev.

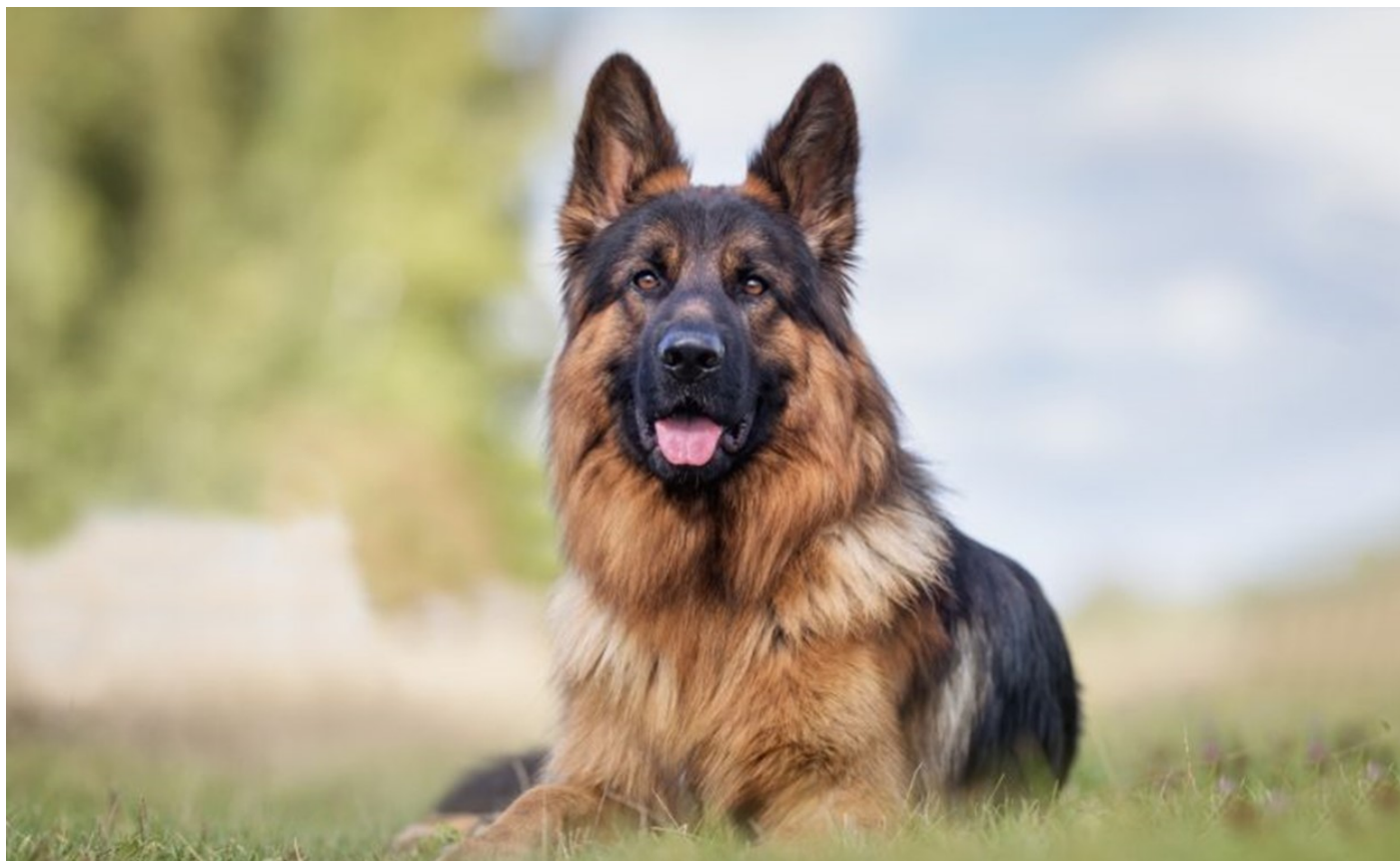
Now we all know why Kev is our President.

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# The 4-Legged German who Flew Against the Luftwaffe

By: Jay Hemmings



There are few friends more steadfastly loyal than those of the canine variety. During the Second World War, a German Shepherd named Antis proved his fearless devotion and undying loyalty to his master - Robert Bozdech, a Royal Air Force bomber pilot - many times over, even when caught in the middle of bombing raids, or when their aircraft was being torn up by anti-aircraft fire. Indeed, Antis was the only dog in the war ever to accompany a pilot on a combat mission. In 1949, Antis was awarded the Dickin Medal, the highest award for bravery an animal can receive. Antis's life almost ended shortly after it began. In 1939, French pilot Pierre Duval and his Czech gunner Robert Bozdech were flying a reconnaissance mission over Germany when they were shot down. They crash-landed in some woods in No Man's Land between France and Germany. Bozdech - who had fled his native Czechoslovakia in 1938 when the Nazis invaded, after which he had joined the French Air Force - was uninjured. He dragged the wounded Duval from the wreckage of the plane and helped him to an abandoned farmhouse he had spotted in the distance. They planned to wait there until nightfall. Then, under cover of darkness, they could get across the French border and back to safety.



The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals' (PDSA) Dickin Medal, given to animals who showed conspicuous gallantry or devotion to duty while serving in military conflict. While the farmhouse looked abandoned, when Bozdech pushed open the door, he heard movement inside. With his pistol drawn and cocked, he demanded that whoever was inside reveal themselves. What came creeping out of the darkness toward him, though, was no Nazi soldier, but it was German - a German Shepherd puppy, to be exact. Having always had a soft spot for animals, Bozdech melted some snow for the puppy to drink. He also gave it some of his rations, as it looked emaciated and seemed very weak. The pup kept him and Duval company until darkness fell, then it was time to leave. Bozdech felt bad about leaving the puppy behind to fend for itself in the empty house,



but this was war; there was no time for sentimentality, only survival. He left the pup behind with a heavy heart, but shortly after he and Duval had left the house, the puppy started howling and whining.



#### WW2 RAF Mascot

Concerned that this racket would attract the attention of the Nazis, who were searching for the downed pilots, the pair decided that there was only one way to silence the pup: they would have to kill it. Bozdech looked for a large rock so that he could end the puppy's life quickly and mercifully. But when it came to actually doing the deed, he found that he couldn't do it. He put the rock down, slipped the puppy into his jacket, and snuck off into the night. Duval, Bozdech, and the puppy made it back across the border, and French soldiers escorted them to safety. Duval was taken to a hospital, but Bozdech and the puppy boarded a single-engine plane, which took them to an airbase. This was the first of many flights the dog would end up taking. Bozdech called the dog "Ant," named for the Russian dive-bomber ANT airplanes, of which Czech airmen were found. Later, Bozdech extended the dog's name to Antis, to avoid having his name sound too similar to the English word "aunt."



Aeroflot Tupolev ANT-40.



The airmen were all very fond of Antis, but a particularly strong bond developed between Bozdech and the dog. Antis soon showed himself to be not just a companion, but an especially valuable member of the squadron. Bozdech had trained Antis to obey basic commands like “sit,” “stand,” and “stay,” but on the morning of May 10th, 1940, Antis suddenly had no interest in either playing or obeying his commands. Instead, he stood stiff-legged, his hackles raised, staring at the distant horizon and growling. The reason for his sudden and inexplicable aggression soon became clear: the sky quickly darkened with the approach of Luftwaffe Dornier DO17 bomber planes. The bombs started falling thick and fast. Bozdech grabbed Antis and dived into a trench with him, where they survived the raid, shaken but uninjured.



**A formation of Dornier Do 17Zs, circa 1940. Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-342-0603-25 Ketelhohn / CC-BY-SA 3.0**

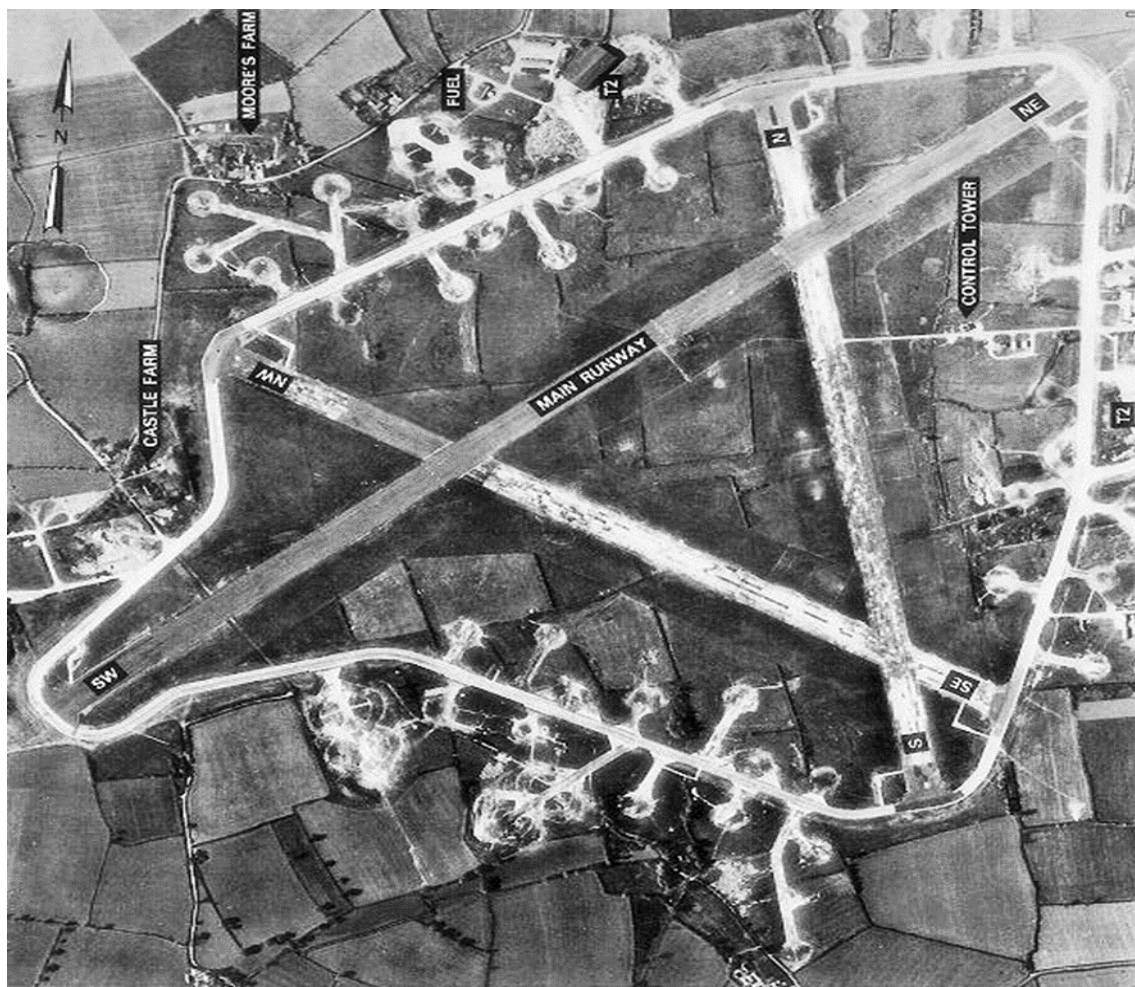
Antis quickly developed a reputation for his ability to sense approaching German bombers long before the actual technological equipment could pick them up. Whenever he reacted as he had done on May 10th, the troops at the airbase prepared for a bombing raid. Bozdech was later transferred to Britain for a time where, after a minor car accident, he was restricted to administrative duties in Liverpool. One evening, he and Antis were out for a walk when suddenly the dog went stiff and started to growl. Sure enough, within minutes the sky was dark with Luftwaffe bombers. As the bombs began to rain down, Bozdech threw himself on top of Antis to protect him.





**Last photo previous page:** A typical Luftwaffe bomber formation; Dornier's using a "stepped up" Echelon formation. Photo: Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-341-0456-03 Folkerts CC-BY-SA 3.0

After the raid was over, Antis immediately got up and started sniffing through the rubble of ruined buildings and barking. In this way, the canine hero managed to sniff out and save six survivors trapped under the rubble, including a baby. When Bozdech was fit for duty again, he resumed flying bombing missions, this time from an airbase at Suffolk. Antis accompanied him there but was not allowed on the airplanes. Whenever Bozdech would take off for a mission, Antis would sit and wait forlornly, refusing to sleep or eat, only perking up once his master returned. One day, though, Bozdech was due to fly a mission when Antis disappeared. He searched frantically all over the airbase, but with only twenty minutes until take-off, he had to abandon his search and get to his bomber.



Royal Air Force Station Rattlesden or more simply RAF Rattlesden is a former Royal Air Force station located 9 miles (14 km) south east of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, England.

As soon as he was in the air, though, he discovered where Antis was - the dog had managed to hide himself away in the airplane and had kept quiet until they were up in the air. Once they had reached cruising altitude, though, Antis started to have difficulty breathing, so Bozdech pulled off his own oxygen mask and took turns breathing through it with Antis. Even though it was strictly forbidden to have animals on a warplane, officers made an exception for Antis. He even got his own specially-designed breathing apparatus for the missions he flew. Antis ended up flying a number of missions with his master and was wounded twice in action. After the war was over, Antis stayed with Bozdech, who returned to Czechoslovakia. When the communists took over, though, he had to flee his country once again, and he took Antis with him. Antis continued to prove himself to be a valuable companion, helping Bozdech to detect border patrols and assisting him to escape undetected. Bozdech ended up settling permanently in Britain, along with Antis, who was awarded the Dickin Medal - the most prestigious medal an animal can get - in 1949. Antis lived out the rest of his life in peace, passing away in 1953, at the age of 13. Bozdech never had another dog after Antis, perhaps too heartbroken after losing his best friend with whom he had been through so much. He passed away in 1980 at the age of 67.



# D-DAY JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

We celebrate the anniversary of the D-Day Landing in France by the allies to push back the German Army to liberate the French people after 5 years of German occupation. This was to start to the push back the German forces back into Germany and end the War. This great achievement by the allies saw the war end in May 1945. Below you will see photographs taken on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and the same photograph showing the same view today. Please take time to reflect and remember the sacrifice made by so many allied soldiers to finally end WWII.



*June 1944: Boats full of US troops wait to leave Weymouth to take part in Operation Overlord.*



**A view of the harbour of the English town today. This location was used as a launching place for Allied troops participating in the invasion of Nazi-occupied France on D-day**





*Ammunition stored in the town square of Moreton-in-Marsh shortly before D-day.*



*A view of the high street in the English town today.*





***From Previous Page: 6 June 1944: Troops of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division land at Juno Beach on the outskirts of Bernières-sur-Mer on D-day***



***A view of the seafront and beach in Normandy today. 340 Canadian soldiers lost their lives in the battle for the beachhead.***



***6 June 1944: Royal Marine Commandos of Headquarters, 4th Special Service Brigade, make their way from LCI(S) (Landing Craft Infantry Small) onto 'Nan Red' Beach at Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer.***



***A view of the sea in the Juno beach area today.***





*6 June 1944: American craft of all styles pictured at Omaha Beach, Normandy, during the first stages of the Allied invasion.*



*A view of the beach near Colleville-sur-Mer, France.*





6th June 1944: A French armoured column passing through Sainte-Mère-Église receives a warm welcome from its inhabitants.



*A view of the high street today.*





**FROM PREVIOUS PAGE; 12 June 1944: A group of American soldiers stand in the village of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, which was liberated by paratroopers of the 501st and 506th Regiments of the 101st Airborne Division.**



**6 June 1944: A Canadian soldier directs traffic in Bernières-sur-Mer. 14,000 Canadian soldiers had landed at nearby Juno Beach**



**6 June 1944: A Canadian soldier directs traffic in Bernières-sur-Mer. 14,000 Canadian soldiers had landed at nearby Juno Beach**





*A view of Notre-Dame Nativity church today.*



*July 1944: United States Army trucks and jeeps drive through the ruins of Saint-Lô.*



**A view of the roadway in the town today. Saint-Lô was almost destroyed by 2,000 Allied bombers when they attacked German troops stationed there during Operation Overlord.**





*6 June 1944: A Canadian soldier stands at the head of a group of German prisoners of war, including two officers, on Juno Beach, Normandy.*



*A view of the beach in Bernières-sur-Mer in Normandy today.*

TIME TO REFLECT AND REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES  
MADE AND THE HARD FOUGHT BATTLES OF WWII  
TO BRING TO THIS TERRIBLE WAR TO AN END,



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