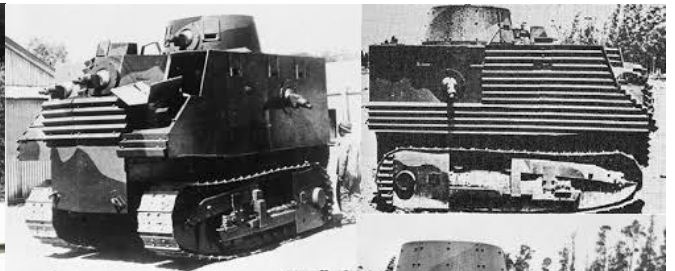
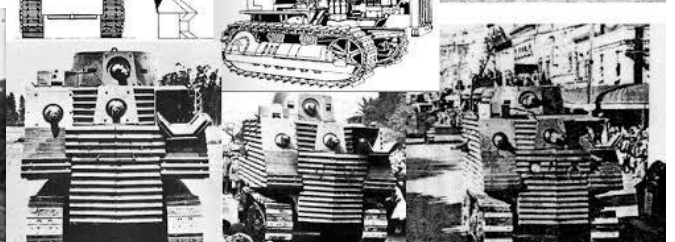


More Majorum

2021 PART 4



Above Tiger 2 Tank
Left Bob Sample Tank
Below is the Gemenchek Bridge in 1945



Clabrough & Johnstone .22 rimfire conversion of a Lee-Speed carbine

Bob Semple tank

Footnote in History

7th AIF Battalion

Lee-Speed

380 Long [9.8 x 24mmR]

Something from your Collection

William John Symons

Modellers Corner by "Old Nick"

Repeating Carbine Model 1890

Type 60 Light Anti-tank Vehicle

On the Heritage Trail by Peter Ford

Minié rifle

To the left some water carers at Gallipoli Taking rest before their next trip up.



Below painting of the light horse charge at the Nek



N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2020/21

EXECUTIVE

President/Treasurer: John McLean

Vice Pres/M/ship Sec: John Miller

Secretary: Graham Rogers

Newsletter: Brett Maag

Safety Officer: Alan Nichols

Sgt. at Arms: Simon Baxter

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Harrington

Scott Jackson

Carl Webster

Peter Roberts

Rob Keen

Sol Sutherland



ATTENTION !!

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Wanted - The name of the member who in mid-June, made a direct deposit of \$125.00 cash into our bank account. I assume that person would like a current membership card, but as you have provided no clues as to who you are, all I can do is include you in the group that received their Annual Subscription Final Notice.

Annual Subscriptions - At the time of writing we have 137 fully paid-up members, though one of them is ID unknown. For those that have yet to respond to the final notice, I am still happy to take your money at any time, but I won't be posting any more reminders, you won't have a membership card to cover you for Governor in Council Exemptions for Swords Daggers and Replica Firearms and we can't endorse your firearms license applications or renewals. If you have not renewed, because like me you are a bit forgetful, then pay for three years and you won't have to worry about it for a while. More than a third of our members have taken the three-year membership option.

Changes of Address - A lot of the late subscriptions are coming with a change of email or postal address. Not surprising, if we can't contact you, we can't notify you when your membership is due. It is really simple. You don't have to send me a letter, you don't have to use email and you don't even have to find time to phone me. Just get on the internet and go to "<http://www.nvacg.org.au/member/>" fill out the form and press send. DONE.

Annual General Meeting - The AGM is coming up on August the 13th unless we are still in COVID19 lockdown in which case it will be on September 10th.

A quick read of the last AGM's minutes and a report from our treasurer, will be followed by all committee positions (listed at top of this page) being declared vacant. We will then call for nominations either in writing or from the floor. If you would like to have some input into the future direction of this guild, get yourself nominated. I am sure everyone would be happy to see some new blood on the committee. After the election we will discuss the direction of the guild for the next 12 months. This will include the future of the gun show in a COVID environment, and the format of monthly meetings. One proposal is that we go from twelve general meetings a year, where we conduct club business, to six for business with the other six meetings being social and collecting related activities only. We had one of the social evenings at our June meeting in the form of a blacksmith demonstration night. It was our highest attendance at a monthly meeting for quite some time.

Secretary's Annual Report - Due to 2020's COVID lockdown it has only been 6 months that the guild has been open for business. As we would not be able to have a 2021 Gun Show, and even monthly meetings were in danger of cancellation, the members decided to keep the current committee in place through to this year's AGM. So there has been very little management activity, membership continues to grow slowly but steadily with 156 members on our books even if a few of them have yet to indicate if they are rejoining. We have set a date for 2022 Gun Show, but it will probably have to be a prepaid ticket event with time limits and COVID Marshalls, so maybe beyond our resources.

I'd like to thank John McLean for chairing meetings organizing supper throughout the year, also in his role as treasurer. John Miller for his role as Vice Presidents and Membership Secretary. Brett Maag for his outstanding job as newsletter editor. And finally, all the other committee members for putting in when required.

Graham Rogers

Something from your Collection

With each newsletter we would like to feature something special from a members collection, it doesn't have to be valuable or rare, just something you don't see every day. Members who would like to have an item featured can contact Brett Maag or Graham Rogers. If you can supply a digital photo and a short spiel it would be good if not, bring it along to a meeting and we will photograph it there and take notes.



Here we have two medals which belong to my late dad. These had belonged to his father and mother my grandparents. The Peace medal issued (prematurely) to South Australian school children by the State Government to celebrate the end of the Boer War. The medal has the inscription 'British Transvaal War 1899 South Africa' on one side, and 'South Australia peace medal 1900' on the other.

Historical information;

In May 1900 the South Australian Government announced the end of the war in South Africa and that they would be issuing peace medals to school children to commemorate the event. As it turned out, the declaration was two years premature and it wasn't until June 1902 that hostilities ceased. Details can be found in the 'Advertiser', 31 May 1900 and 3 June 1902.

Repeating Carbine Model 1890 a.k.a. Mannlicher Model 1890 Carbine

In service	1890–1918 (Austria-Hungary)
Used by	Austria-Hungary Kingdom of Bulgaria Emirate of Afghanistan Kingdom of Hungary First Austrian Republic Kingdom of Hungary
Wars	Balkan Wars, World War I
Manufacturer	Österreichische Waffenfabriksgesellschaft
Produced	1891–1896
No. built	115,218
Mass	3.3 kilograms (7.3 lb)
Length	1,005 millimetres (39.6 in)
Barrel length	498 millimetres (19.6 in)
Cartridge	M90: 8×50mmR M90/24:8×57mm IS M90/30, M90/31: 8×56mmR
Action	Straight-pull bolt action
Feed system	5-round en bloc clip, integral box magazine

Is a bolt-action rifle, designed by Ferdinand Mannlicher that used a new version of his straight-pull action bolt. It was introduced as an alternative to the Mannlicher M1888 as it was shorter and easier to maneuver with. Three main versions were introduced: Cavalry Carbine, Gendarmerie Carbine and Navy Short Rifle.



Cavalry Carbine; This variant was used by the Austro-Hungarian cavalry. A stacking rod, handguard and bayonet lug are absent.

Stutzen; This variant features sling swivels on the underside, a stacking rod and bayonet lugs. It was used by the Austro-Hungarian Navy.

Gendarmerie carbine; The Austro-Hungarian Gendarmarie was also in need of a carbine. It adopted a version which featured a bayonet lug but no stacking rod.

Conversions

M90/30 was a conversion of these rifles in First Austrian Republic. They carry the letter **S** stamped on the barrel.

M90/31 was a conversion of these rifles in Kingdom of Hungary. They carry the letter **H** stamped on the barrel.

Afghan Contract; A small number of these carbines made for the Afghan Contract



William John Symons, VC (10 July 1889 – 24 June 1948) was an Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was 26 years old, and a second lieutenant in the 7th Battalion, (Victoria), Australian Imperial Force during the First World War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

On 8–9 August 1915, at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, Turkey, Symons was in command of a section of newly captured trenches and repelled several counter-attacks with great coolness. An enemy attack on an isolated sap early in the morning resulted in six officers becoming casualties and part of the sap being lost, but Symons retook it, shooting two Turks. The sap was then attacked from three sides and this officer managed, in the face of heavy fire, to build a barricade. On the enemy setting fire to the head cover, he extinguished it and rebuilt the barricade. His coolness and determination finally compelled the enemy to withdraw.

On 2 February 1916, Lt. Col. (later Major-General) Harold (Pompey) Elliott, commanding the 7th Battalion, wrote to his wife Kate about the action at Lone Pine when the 7th won four Victoria Crosses, including Symons. He describes the infiltration

of the Australian trenches by the attacking Turks and the exchange of shots and grenades. Captain Bastin was shot through the arm and stretchered out of the trench but the Turks entered the trench a second time. Elliott writes that when the Australian's waivered he got together a few fresh men and placed Symons in charge with the order to charge the Turks at bayonet point. In a trench described as being full of dead men, blood and brains, Symons succeeded to Elliott's admiration. Even though Elliot promoted the bravery of his men, he was concerned about being over looked for his promotion and awards. Whilst on English convalescence leave an interested King George V presented Symons with his VC. Symons told the King about the action and the award of four Victoria Crosses. During the conversation he asked why Elliott has never been even mentioned in dispatches after being through the Gallipoli campaign and been wounded. The King's secretary took Elliot's name and in his letter to Kate, on 18 February 1916, Elliott announced his promotion to Brigadier-General. Symons later achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel during the Second World War. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia.

Born	(1889-07-10)10 July 1889 Bendigo, Australia
Died	24 June 1948(1948-06-24) (aged 58) Paddington, England
Allegiance	Australia
Service/branch	Australian Army Home Guard
Years of service	1906–18 1941–44
Rank	Lieutenant Colonel
Unit	7th Battalion First World War
Battles/wars	Battle of Lone Pine
Awards	Second World War Victoria Cross

Designed	Early 1870s
Case type	Rimmed, straight
Bullet diameter	.375 in (9.5 mm)
Neck diameter	.379 in (9.6 mm)
Base diameter	.380 in (9.7 mm)
Rim diameter	.430 in (10.9 mm)
Case length	.944 in (24.0 mm)
Overall length	1.34 in (34 mm)

380 Long [9.8 x 24mmR]; also known as the .380 Rook rifle, is an obsolete centerfire rifle cartridge. The .380 Long is a straight rimmed cartridge originally designed for use in rook rifles for target shooting and hunting game up to the size of smaller deer. In addition to British munitions makers, of the .380 Long was also made by DWM in Germany and a number of cheap European pistols were chambered in it. This cartridge is very similar to the .38 Long Colt and may have inspire the latter cartridge's development. As with other rook rifle cartridges, the .380 Long was superseded as a small game hunting and target cartridge by the .22 Long Rifle. As a pistol cartridge, the .380 Long gradually lost favour to more modern rounds such as the .38 S&W.



Bullet mass/type	Velocity	Energy
124 gr (8 g) Lead	1,050 ft/s (320 m/s)	304 ft·lbf (412 J)

WANTED

Looking for a W.W. Greener Cocking Tool - WW Greener Facile Princeps Shotgun Cocking Tool - a vital piece of equipment to re-cock the action of Facile Princeps SXS shotgun before it can be reassembled. Looks like a Turn screw or Screwdriver but will be stamped with "Cocking Tool" on the shaft. Also wanted 12 Gauge Snap Caps stamped

W.W. Greener
Please contact Vito on
0421 928 566 or
vitoliz@westnet.com.au



W. W. GREENER



CATEGORY A/B & H FIREARMS LICENCE TESTING

Firearm safety coarse & license testing conducted by Victoria Police authorized safety instructors, available to any N.V.A.C.G. member.
Contact Graham Rogers 0417 137 232 or Alan Nichols 0408 142 733





[Unit colour patch](#)

7th Battalion was an infantry battalion of the Australian Army. Raised in 1914 as part of the Australian Imperial Force during the First World War, the battalion was completely recruited from the state of Victoria and formed the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division. The battalion served during the Gallipoli campaign where it had the distinction of having four of its members awarded the Victoria Cross. In 1916, it was transferred to Europe, fighting in the trenches along the Western Front for the next two and a half years. Although disbanded in 1919 following the end of hostilities, it was re-raised in 1921 in the Citizens Force (later known as the Militia) as a part-time infantry battalion based in Victoria. However, due to lack of funding following the Great Depression and a shortage of manpower following the suspension of the compulsory training scheme in 1929, the battalion was amalgamated with the 38th Battalion as the 7th/38th Battalion, although it was delinked again in 1936 when the Army was expanded due to rising tensions in Europe. During the Second World War, the 7th Battalion served primarily in a garrison role, firstly being used to defend the Australian mainland before deploying late in the war to take part in the Bougainville campaign in 1944–1945. On Bougainville, as part of the 23rd Brigade, they took part in the fighting in the central sector of the island in the last months of the war. Following the end of hostilities, the battalion was once again used in the garrison role before being returned to Australia and disbanding in early 1946. In 1948, the battalion was re-raised as an amalgamated unit with the 8th Battalion when the Citizens Military Force was reformed. Today, it exists as the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment.

First World War

Formation; Following the outbreak of the First World War, the Australian government decided to raise an all volunteer force for overseas service due to the provisions of the *Defence Act (1903)* which precluded sending the Militia outside of Australian territory to fight. While this force would draw from the military forces that already existed the part-time Citizens Force and the Permanent Military Force it would be largely be made up from recruits not currently serving. Known as the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), initially it was to consist of 20,000 men, comprising one infantry division and a light horse brigade. Recruitment for the first intake began on 10 August 1914, and the 7th Battalion was among the first units raised, forming less than a fortnight after the declaration of war. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Harold Elliott, the battalion was brigaded with the 5th, 6th and 8th Battalions to form the 2nd Brigade under Brigadier James Whiteside McCay. Elliott took personal control over the recruitment process, selecting only those officers that he had known from his service in the Citizens Forces as his company commanders, who he in turn entrusted with choosing their own subordinates. Recruitment was conducted over a period of three weeks and by the end of the period the process had been so successful that the battalion was over establishment. Initially, the battalion was organised into eight companies, designated 'A' to 'H', while recruitment and initial training was undertaken at Broadmeadows, however, this was later reduced to the new British standard four companies of double the size, designated 'A' to 'D'.

Egypt Training before the Gallipoli landing



[Members 7th Battalion in a trench at Gallipoli](#)

Gallipoli; In September the battalion marched through the city of Melbourne and a fortnight later they embarked upon HMT *Hororata* bound for the Middle East. They arrived in Egypt on 2 December 1914 after which they undertook further training before being called to undertake defensive duties along the Suez Canal following the failed Turkish First Suez Offensive in February 1915. However the battalion did not take part in direct combat, and during this time a number of its non-commissioned officers were allowed to apply for commissions in British Army units. In early April the battalion was moved to Alexandria and from there on to Lemnos Island. On the morning of 25 April 1915, the battalion took part in the Landing at Anzac Cove, coming ashore as part of the second wave. Over the course of the first week the battalion was involved in establishing the beachhead and suffered heavily, losing five officers and 179 men killed or died of wounds. This was higher than any other subsequent battle that the battalion fought during the war. On 29 April, the 2nd Brigade was relieved by the 12th (Deal) Battalion and in early May the battalion was able to reorganise itself after its baptism of fire. The respite did not last long, however, for only ten days after the landing at Anzac Cove, the 2nd Brigade was transferred to Cape Helles in order to take part in an attack on Krithia on 8 May 1915. The attack was a very costly failure, with the battalion losing a further six officers and 87 men killed. Nevertheless, they were involved in what is believed to be

the first brigade-level attack conducted by an Australian force against an entrenched enemy and the attack earned the Victorians many plaudits. After the attack the battalion was given a weeks rest at Cape Helles, where it received a number of reinforcements before being sent back to the lodgement at Anzac Cove, where a stalemate situation had developed. In an effort to break this deadlock, the Allies launched an offensive in August and the battalion took part in the Battle of Lone Pine. After taking over positions that had been captured by the 1st Brigade, the battalion defended the trenches against repeated Turkish counterattacks and, in the process, four of its members performed acts of gallantry that later led to them receiving the Victoria Cross (VC), the nation's highest military decoration. These men were: Corporal Alexander Stewart Burton, Corporal William Dunstan, Lieutenant William John Symons and Lieutenant Frederick Harold Tubb. Sergeant Ball and Corporal H. Webb received the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). According to Ron Austin, during this fighting, the 7th Battalion lost 87 men killed; Arthur Dean and Eric Gutteridge give the total casualties as twelve out of fourteen officers and 680 Other Ranks. Despite the battalion's success in holding the trenches at Lone Pine, the August Offensive failed to break the deadlock as setbacks elsewhere resulted in continued stalemate and for the rest of the campaign the fighting was relatively static. Finally, in December the decision was made to evacuate the Allied force from the peninsula. During the evacuation, two of the battalion's soldiers, William Scurry and Alfred 'Buntie' Lawrence played a significant part through their invention of a self-firing rifle, which assisted in making the Turks believe that there were still men manning the trenches even as they were being evacuated.



Western Front; After Gallipoli the 7th Battalion was withdrawn to Egypt, where the AIF underwent a period of reorganisation and expansion prior to being transferred to Europe. The 7th Battalion was split to provide a cadre for the 59th Battalion which was being raised as part of the doubling of the Australian forces. In March 1916, they sailed to France where for the next two and half years they would take part in the fighting in the trenches along the Western Front. Upon arrival, the battalion was sent to the Somme, where its first major action came in July during the Battle of Pozières. Throughout July and into August, the battalion was committed to the fighting twice, losing 55 men killed in the first battle and another 83 in the second. In late August, the 7th Battalion, with a frontage equal to just over half its authorised strength, was transferred to Ypres, in Belgium, where they manned trenches near the Ypres–Commines canal. During this time they were not involved in any major attacks, however, each night they sent patrols out into no man's land and established listening posts to gather intelligence. On 30 September, the 7th Battalion, along with its sister battalion, the 8th Battalion, mounted a raid on the German line at Hollebeke with a force roughly equivalent to two platoons. The raid was a great success, with the Australians overwhelming the defenders and capturing a section of the German line and killing up to 13 Germans, before withdrawing. In October, the battalion returned to the Somme where they spent the winter months manning trenches and training. In early 1917, precipitated by the loss of the high ground around Pozières, the Germans withdrew back to the Hindenburg Line in order to shorten their defensive line and to straighten a salient that had developed. In February, the German withdrawal was discovered and the Allies, finding an open battlefield for the first time since 1914 and believing that the German Army was suffering from limited manpower, began an advance to follow them up. On the night of 26/27 February, the 7th Battalion launched what was meant to be a trench raid, but turned into an open advance, seeing them extend their lines by 2.5 kilometres (1.6 mi). The Allied advance, however, was brief as the Germans had established themselves in strength, and was halted before the Australians reached Bullecourt. In May the battalion was withdrawn from the front line for re-organisation and training. It did not return until the Third Battle of Ypres in September and October 1917, when they were committed to the fighting first at Menin Road. The 7th Battalion had 57 men killed in this phase, and then later at Broodseinde another 98 were killed. Following these battles, the 7th Battalion was withdrawn from the front line once more in December. In March 1918, however, following the start of the German Spring Offensive, the battalion was called back to help stem the tide of the German advance. As the German offensive ran out of momentum, the battalion kept up the pressure on the German line through a series of peaceful penetrations, before subsequently taking part in the Allied Hundred Days Offensive, which was launched near Amiens on 8 August 1918. As a part of this offensive, the battalion fought major actions at Lihons on 9–11 August where they captured a number of German mortars and Herleville Woods on 23 August. They continued operations until late September 1918 when they were withdrawn with a strength of just 410 men and it was out of the line when the armistice came into effect in November. Shortly afterwards the demobilisation process began and as the battalion's numbers fell as men were repatriated back to Australia, it was amalgamated with 6th Battalion. This battalion was amalgamated with another, formed from the 5th and 8th Battalions, to form the 2nd Brigade Battalion. Throughout their service during the war, the battalion suffered 1,045 killed and 2,076 wounded. Members of the battalion received the following decorations: four VCs, one Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG), two Distinguished Service Orders (DSOs), 20 Military Crosses (MCs) with two Bars, 31 Distinguished Conduct Medals (DCMs) with one Bar, 100 Military Medals (MMs) with five Bars, six Meritorious Service Medals (MSMs), 37 Mentions in Despatches (MIDs) and six foreign awards. The battalion received a total of 26 battle honours for its service during the war.

7th Battalion on there way home to Australia



7th Battalion members at Bougainville

Second World War;

Following the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, the Australian government once again decided to raise an all volunteer force for service overseas as the legal restrictions on employing the Militia outside of Australia still applied. Regardless a number of Militia units attempted to join up en masse as already formed units and the 7th Battalion was one of these units. However, as they were required to remain in Australia to provide home defence in the case of war spreading to the Pacific this did not occur. In October 1939, the Militia was mobilised in stages to undertake a short period of 30 days continuous training and this was undertaken again in 1940, but for a period of 90 days instead. The compulsory training scheme was also reintroduced and the 7th Battalion's ranks were filled out with national servicemen. Throughout

1940 and 1941 the battalion undertook a number of training camps in Victoria. In December 1941, with Japan's entry into the war following the attacks on Malaya and Pearl Harbor, the battalion was mobilised

for war service and tasked with defending the Dandenong area. In 1942, however, it received orders to move north to Darwin, where it carried out garrison duties to defend the town and experienced a number air raids from Japanese aircraft. During this time also, the battalion was transferred to the 23rd Brigade. Originally the 23rd Brigade had been part of the 8th Division and made up of Second Australian Imperial Force (2nd AIF) battalions, however, after these units were captured or destroyed on Rabaul, Ambon and Timor, it had been rebuilt using Militia battalions and placed under the command of Brigadier Arnold Potts, and assigned to the 12th Division. They remained in Darwin for 18 months before being relieved and sent back to Melbourne in April 1943. After taking leave, the 7th Battalion was sent to the Atherton Tablelands in Queensland for a period of intensive pre-deployment training in November. In 1944 the 23rd Brigade had been attached to the II Corps, which was tasked with taking over from the Americans and launching a renewed offensive on Bougainville. The 23rd Brigade was given the task of relieving the garrisons in the outer islands and the 7th Battalion was primarily responsible for Mono island, although one company was detached to Munda, arriving there in October 1944. Tasked with defending the airfield from a Japanese attack that was at best remote, some members of the battalion sought to enliven their existence by acting as crews on US Navy PT boats carrying out raids on New Britain and New Ireland. In April 1945, after months of lobbying by Potts—who was keen to get back into action himself after having been relieved of his previous command during the Kokoda campaign—the 7th Battalion was transferred to Torokina on Bougainville Island, where the Japanese garrison was still holding out.

In June they moved up the Numa Numa Trail to Pearl Ridge in the central sector of the island where they relieved the 27th Battalion. Almost immediately they began aggressive patrols in order to dominate the Japanese in their area of operations and were tasked with the capture of several key positions including Wearne's Hill, Base Point 3, Tokua and Sisivie and to establish a forward position in the Wakunai Valley. Over the course of the next three months until the end of the war, the battalion captured 25 positions and killed around 200 Japanese soldiers. Following the end of hostilities the battalion moved to the island of Fauro to guard Japanese prisoners of war. As the demobilisation process began, members of the battalion were slowly repatriated to Australia, while others were transferred to other units for further service elsewhere. By March 1946 the last of the battalion's personnel had been returned to Australia and on 10 May 1946, the 7th Battalion was formally disbanded. During its service throughout the war the battalion lost 25 men killed or died on active service, with a further 50 men wounded. Members of the battalion received the following decorations: one DSO, one MC, one MM and 16 MIDs.

Legacy; Following the completion of the demobilisation process, the Citizens Military Force was reformed in 1948, albeit on a reduced scale. At this time, the 7th Battalion was not re-raised in its own right, although an amalgamated unit known as the 8th/7th Battalion (North Western Victorian Regiment) was formed in order to perpetuate the two rural Victorian battalions. Today the honours and traditions of the 7th Battalion are maintained by the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, an infantry battalion of the Australian Army Reserve, that was formed in 1960 as the 2nd Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, following the introduction of the Pentropic organisation, but which was later redesignated 8/7 RVR. The 7th Battalion's battle honours include those of the 2nd AIF's 2/7th Battalion, which were entrusted to the 7th in 1961.

Commanding officers

First World War:

- Lieutenant Colonel Harold Edward Elliott
- Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Jackson
- Lieutenant Colonel Carl Herman Jess
- Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Edward Herrod.

Second World War:

- Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Marcell Conran
- Lieutenant Colonel Howard Leslie Ewin Dunkley
- Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Thomas Henry Goucher
- Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Moore Norris
- Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Markham Sadler
- Lieutenant Colonel Peter Glynn Clifton Webster
- Lieutenant Colonel John Alfred Wilmoth.

Battle honours

First World War: Landing at Anzac, Defence at Anzac, Helles, Krithia, Anzac, Suvla, Sari Bair–Lone Pine, Gallipoli 1915, Egypt 1915–16, Somme 1916–18, Pozières, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, Lys, Hazebrouck, Amiens, Albert 1918 (Chuignes), Hindenburg Line, Epehy, France and Flanders 1916–18, Suez Canal.

Second World War: North Africa 1940–41, Bardia 1941, Capture of Tobruk, Greece 1941, Middle East 1941, Crete, Canea, 42nd Street, Withdrawal to Sphakia, South-West Pacific 1942–45, Wau, Mubo I, Bobdubi II, Komiatum, Liberation of Australian New Guinea, Maprik, Yamil–Ulupu, Kaboibus–Kiarivu.

Lee–Speed rifle was a bolt action rifle based on James Paris Lee's rear-locking bolt system and detachable magazine. Early models were fitted with barrels using the radiused rifling designed by William Ellis Metford. While later models used the same square "Enfield" rifling as contemporary British military rifles. The weapon was a sporting variant of the well known Lee–Metford and Lee–Enfield rifles made for civilian shooters, though often purchased by Army officers who wanted a rifle made to a higher standard of fit and finish than the issued military rifle.



Officer's Model No.2 marketed by the Army & Navy Stores Ltd., London note the safety on the stock like a shotgun safety.

LEE-ENFIELD MAGAZINE MILITARY CARBINES
303 BORE.



For particulars and prices see page 12 opposite.

PARTS WANTED

Westley Richards "Monkeytail" gun parts namely lock and hammer etc.

Also a complete firearm with good barrel and in good working order.

contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email johbah450.577@bigpond.com



SOME OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW BUT THE N.V.A.C.G. HAS IT'S OWN WEBSITE

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>

You can find past & current newsletters here

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/news/>

We are also on Facebook

[@nvacgorg](https://www.facebook.com/nvacgorg)



Bob Semple tank

was a tank designed by New Zealand Minister of Works Bob Semple during World War II. Originating out of the need to build military hardware from available materials, the tank was built from corrugated iron on a tractor base. Designed and built during a period of uncertainty in which New Zealand feared having to defend itself from Japanese invasion without external assistance, these tanks were a civilian effort to design and create a means to protect New Zealand. Designed and built without formal plans or blueprints, it had numerous design flaws and practical difficulties, and was never put into mass production or used in combat.

Design and construction; New Zealand, like its neighbour Australia, had no indigenous armoured fighting vehicle industry. It was expected that armoured fighting vehicles would be provided from Britain. Australia and New Zealand did have some heavy industry that could be turned to the production of armour and armoured vehicles but little had been done. The idea of mechanising the New Zealand Army had been suggested before the war but without much progress. The use of the American Disston "Six Ton Tractor Tank", a 1937 vehicle constructed of an armoured box on a Caterpillar Model 35 chassis which had been sold to Afghanistan, was suggested.

New Zealand had built some improvised armoured trucks and unable to get any tracked carriers from Australia were building their own with armour plate imported from Australia. After the Fall of France in mid-1940, and the loss of most British tanks there, there was no likelihood of production being spared for New Zealand. Rather than obtain the armoured superstructures from America, it was felt they could produce their own using local materials and resources.

It was decided that a 'tractor-tank' would be an adequate design; if the need for defense arose, a large tank superstructure could be bolted upon a tractor base within a few hours, allowing for quick transformation and deployment of the tanks.

The first (mild steel) prototype was built on a Caterpillar D8 crawler tractor, a type which was readily available. The Public Works Department had 81 D8s, and another 19 were available. A lack of weapons meant that it was equipped with six Bren machine guns — one in each side, two facing the front, one in the turret and one at the rear. The vehicle was very tall at 12 ft (3.5 m) and performance was poor. Due to the lack of armour plate, corrugated (manganese) plating was used in the expectation it would deflect bullets. The crew of eight included one gunner who had to lie on a mattress on top of the engine to fire his Bren gun.

The tanks were constructed without the use of any formal plans or blueprints. Working from an American postcard depicting the conversion of a tractor to a 'tractor-tank', Bob Semple and TG Beck (Christchurch District Works Engineer), improvised the design

Mass	25.4 t (25.0 long tons)
Length	4.20 m (13 ft 9 in)
Width	3.30 m (10 ft 10 in)
Height	3.65 m (12 ft 0 in)
Crew	6-8 on
Armor	8–12.7 mm (0.31–0.50 in)
Main armament	6× 0.303 in (7.7 mm) Bren light machine guns
Engine	6-cylinder diesel 95 kW (127 hp)
Power/weight	5 hp/t
Operational range	160 km (99 mi)
Maximum speed	24 km/h (15 mph)

of the tanks. Using resources available to Bob Semple as Minister of Public Works, the first tank was quickly produced in the PWD's Temuka workshops. The additional two were built at the NZR Addington Workshops. The first cost £5,902, and the second and third together cost £4,323, for a total cost of £10,225 (although the Army was only billed £3,414).

The intention was to disperse the hulls at locations ready in case of a Japanese invasion at which point they would be mounted on tractors for use. The idea was discarded after the tanks attracted public ridicule; however, Bob Semple stood by his design and even stated "I don't see anyone else coming up with any better ideas."

Handling and performance; Due to the limitations of requirements and resources, the tank was a functional failure. By using a large tractor as a base, and bolting on a hastily designed and poorly constructed tank superstructure, the resultant tanks were inadequately armored, extremely heavy (20–25 ton), unstable, restricted by tractor gearing to slow speeds, and had to stop to change gears. Furthermore, due to the shape of the underlying tractor and undue vibrations, shooting from the tank was both difficult and inevitably inaccurate. These limitations have caused the Bob Semple Tank to frequently make lists of "Worst ever tanks".

Final result; In the end, due to their impracticality, the tanks were disposed of by the Army. They had been given Army serial numbers NZ6292 (held at Papakura) and NZ3494 & NZ 3495 (held at Burnham). One went to the Pacific in 1944, after being stripped of its armour.



Footnotes in History



The cutting near Gemas, Malaya, where the 2/30th Battalion carried out an ambush in January 1942.

Battle of Gemas part of the wider Battle of Muar took place during the Japanese invasion of Malaya in the Pacific Campaign of the Second World War. The action occurred on 14 January 1942 at the Gemencheh Bridge near Gemas and saw around 1,000 troops of the Japanese 5th Division killed or wounded during a fierce ambush initiated by Australian soldiers from 2/30th Battalion, assigned to the 27th Brigade of the 8th Division.

Battle; The 2/30th Battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Frederick "Black Jack" Gallegan, was ordered to mount an ambush on the main road, 11 kilometres (6.8 mi) west of Gemas in the hope of preventing the Japanese from advancing any further south. The ambush site was located at a point where a wooden bridge crossed the Sungei Gemencheh river, connecting Gemas with the larger neighbouring town of Tampin, and bringing traffic on the road into a long cutting through thick bushland. The 2/30th Battalion subsequently deployed one

company in the ambush position 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) forward of the main body of the battalion. The Japanese had passed through Tampin and needed to cross the bridge to reach Gemas and at 16:00 on 14 January 1942, "B" Company 2/30th Battalion under Captain Desmond Duffy, initiated the ambush. As the Japanese passed through the engagement area in their hundreds—many of them on bicycles—the bridge was blown and the Australians opened fire with machine guns, rifles and grenades. Faulty telephone lines back to the main battalion position prevented Duffy from being able to call in artillery fire on to the follow on Japanese forces, however, and the forward company was subsequently forced to withdraw after a 20-minute engagement as the Japanese began to press their positions.

Aftermath; The battle following the ambush, and a further action closer to Gemas during which the Australian anti-tank gunners from the 2/4th Anti-Tank Regiment destroyed six out of eight Japanese tanks, lasted another two days. The fighting ended with the Australians withdrawing through Gemas to the Fort Rose Estate. According to Coulthard-Clark, total Japanese casualties in the wider battle numbered over 1,000, while the Australians lost 81 killed, wounded or missing; Allen Warren provides figures of 70 killed and 57 wounded in the initial engagement. Despite the tactical victory at Gemas, as well as strong stands later at Bakri, the 22nd Australian Brigade's ambush north of Jemaluang and the fighting withdrawal from Muar, the Japanese advance down the Malay Peninsula was only temporarily slowed.

Parit Sulong Massacre On 23 January 1942 in Johor, Malaya (now Malaysia) was committed against Allied soldiers by members of the Imperial Guards Division of the Imperial Japanese Army. A few days earlier, the Allied troops had ambushed the Japanese near Gemas and blown up a bridge there.

Incident; During the Battle of Muar, members of both the Australian 8th Division and the 45th Indian Infantry Brigade were making a fighting withdrawal, when they became surrounded near the bridge at Parit Sulong. They fought the larger Japanese forces for two days, until they ran low on ammunition and food. Able-bodied soldiers were ordered to disperse into the jungle, the only way they could return to Allied lines. About 150 Australians and Indians were too seriously injured to move, and their only option was to surrender. Some accounts estimate that as many as 300 Allied troops were taken prisoner at Parit Sulong. The Imperial Guards kicked and beat the wounded prisoners of war with their rifle butts. At least some of them were tied up with wire in the middle of the road and machine-gunned. The Japanese then poured petrol over the bodies, set them alight, and (in the words of Russell Braddon) "after their incineration...systematically run over, back and forwards, by Japanese driven trucks." Anecdotal accounts by local people also reported POWs being tied together with wire and forced to stand on a bridge, before a Japanese soldier shot one of them, causing the rest to fall into the Simpang Kiri river and drown



Lieutenant Ben Hackney

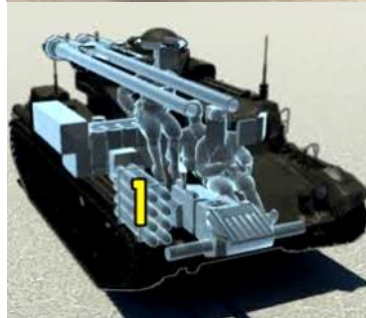
Aftermath; Lt Ben Hackney of the Australian 2/29th Battalion feigned death and managed to escape. He crawled through the countryside for six weeks with two broken legs, before he was recaptured. Hackney survived internment in Japanese POW camps, and was part of the labour force on the notorious Burma Railway. He and two other survivors gave evidence regarding the massacre to Allied war crimes investigators. The commander of the Imperial Guards, Lt Gen. Takuma Nishimura, was later in charge of occupation forces in eastern Singapore. He was indirectly involved in the Sook Ching massacre in Singapore. Nishimura retired from the Japanese army in 1942 and was made military Governor of Sumatra. Following the war, he was tried by a British military court in relation to the Sook Ching massacre. Nishimura received a life sentence, of which he served four years. As he returned to Japan, Nishimura was removed from a ship at Hong Kong by Australian military police and charged in relation to the Parit Sulong massacre. Nishimura was taken to Manus Island in the Territory of New Guinea, where he faced an Australian military court. Evidence was presented stating that Nishimura had ordered the shootings at Parit Sulong and the destruction of bodies. He was convicted and executed by hanging on 11 June 1951. In 1996, Australian journalist Ian Ward published

Snaring the Other Tiger, which suggested that the Australian Army prosecutor, Captain James Godwin a former Royal New Zealand Air Force pilot who had been ill-treated as a POW in Sumatra had "manipulated" evidence to implicate Nishimura. Ward states that Godwin took no action on the testimony of Lieutenant Fujita Seizaburo, who reportedly took responsibility for the Parit Sulong massacre. Fujita was not charged and his fate is unknown. Extensive research conducted by Professor Gregory Hadley and James Oglethorpe and published in the *Journal of Military History* in 2007 subsequently showed that the evidence that purported to indict James Godwin was a later fabrication created to further political causes in the 1990s.

Wreckage of the 45th Indian Brigade still littered on both sides of the road at Parit Sulong on 26 September 1945. Some of the gear of some 150 Australian and Indian troops massacred by the Japanese can be seen on the left.



In service	1960-2008
Used by	Japan
No. built	252
Mass	8,000 kilograms (18,000 lb)
Length	4.3 m (14 ft 1 in)
Width	2.23 m (7 ft 4 in)
Height	1.38 m (4 ft 6 in)
Crew	3
Caliber	105 mm (4.1 in)
Elevation	-20° to +15°
Traverse	60°
Muzzle velocity	500 m/s
Effective firing range	2,750 m (3,010 yd)
Maximum firing range	7,700 m (8,400 yd)
Armor	12 mm (0.5 in) steel
Main armament	2 × M40 recoilless rifles
Secondary armament	1 × .50 caliber spotting rifle
Engine	Komatsu 6T 120-2 air-cooled, 6-cylinder diesel 150 hp (110 kW)
Power/weight	15 hp/tonne
Transmission	manual (4 forward and 1 reverse gears)
Suspension	torsion bar
Ground clearance	0.35 m (14 in)
Fuel capacity	140 l (37 U.S. gal)
Operational range	250 km (160 mi) (road)
Maximum speed	55 km/h (34 mph)



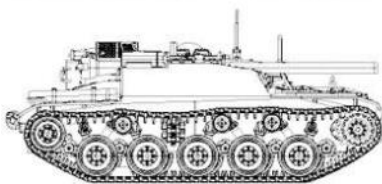
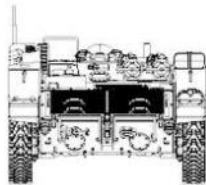
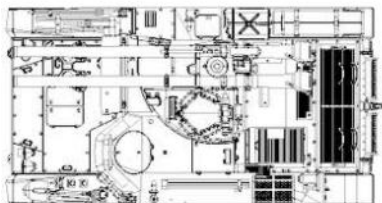
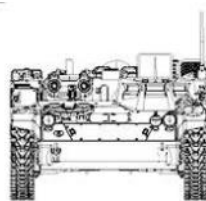
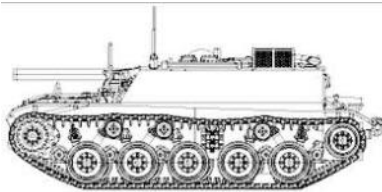
Type 60 Self-propelled 106 mm Recoilless Gun

is a light anti-tank vehicle developed by Japan in the late 1950s. It mounts two M40 106 mm recoilless rifles as its main armament.

Development; In the mid-1950s the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force contracted for one prototype each from Komatsu (SS1) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (SS2) powered by a 110 hp six-cylinder diesel engine and fitted with two 105-millimeter (4.1 in) recoilless rifles. They were delivered in 1956. A second series of prototypes was built with 4 recoilless rifles, but adoption of the American M40 recoilless rifle forced the reversion to two weapons. The Type 60 was

designed for ambush attacks against enemy tanks, and mounting four weapons gave the vehicle a rather high-profile. A third series of three heavier prototypes was built by Komatsu as SS4, with a more powerful engine, a new transmission and clutch and a two-speed auxiliary transmission. They were accepted into service in September 1960. Starting in 1974, a 150 hp Komatsu SA4D105 air-cooled, 4-cylinder diesel engine was fitted.

Operation; The commander is seated to the left of the two weapons and his position is attached to their mounting so that he remains at the same height when they are elevated for firing. The M40s can be fired from the lowered position, but their traverse is limited to 20°, elevation to +10° and depression to -5°. The elevation mechanism is manually operated and allows the weapons to traverse 30° to each side. The loader is seated to the left of the commander and must exit through his rear-opening hatch to reload the recoilless rifles while on top of the engine deck or behind the vehicle. Only eight rounds of ammunition are stowed on board and two rounds on outside. As of 2001, Japan reported to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs that 140 Type 60s were in service.



SNIDERS WANTED

Hi all. Several members are looking for a 577 Snider in good working order with good barrel.

Most are after Mk 3's, but if a good Mk 2 is available that will be good also.

Order of preference is: Military carbines, 2 band short rifles, 3 band long rifles, then sporting Sniders.

Please contact John H. on 03 58213192 or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com
Or John M. on 0427 303 357 or Brett M. at bnmaag@gmail.com



*How dangerous is that?
Sandals on a bike?...*



LOOKING TO BUY

- .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.
- .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in very good order.

If you can help with any or all of these Bayonets Please contact John Harrington on 03 58213192 or email on jobah450.577@bigpond.com



Note of interest;

We have two current NVACG members and a former member. At the 11am service on ANZAC Day Dookie 2021 with the volley salute party. Other members with these members, also participated in the dawn service volley salute party in Shepparton at the cenotaph, and the Mooroopna memorial volley salute party midmorning.

Blast from the past;

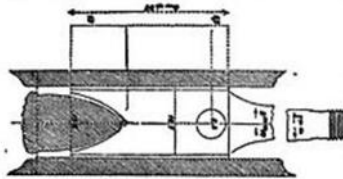
L/R Mike Royal, the late members Peter Davis and Stan Kemp. Photo is from the 80s Please note that they are holding a Winchester



The Minié Rifle was an important infantry rifle of the mid-19th century. A version was adopted in 1849 following the invention of the Minié ball in 1847 by the French Army captain Claude-Étienne Minié of the Chasseurs d'Orléans and Henri-Gustave Delvigne. The bullet was designed to allow rapid muzzle loading of rifles, and was an innovation that brought about the widespread use of the rifle as the main battlefield weapon for individual soldiers. France adopted it following difficulties encountered by the French army in Northern Africa, where their muskets were outranged by long-barreled weapons which were handcrafted by their Algerian opponents. The Minié rifle belonged to the category of rifled muskets.

Mechanism; The rifle used a conical-cylindrical soft lead bullet, slightly smaller than the barrel bore, with three exterior grease-filled grooves and a conical hollow in its base. When fired, the expanding gas forcibly pushed on the base of the bullet, deforming it to engage the rifling. This provided spin for accuracy, a better seal for consistent velocity and longer range, and cleaning of barrel detritus. Before this innovation, the smoothbore musket commonly using the buck and ball was the only practical field weapon. Rifled muskets had been in use since the Renaissance, but they required hammering projectiles with a ramrod and mallet into the bore of the barrel, and also created considerable cleaning problems. The short-lived "carabine à tige" system used a pin at the bottom of the barrel which deformed the bullet against the wall of the barrel when the bullet was pushed to the bottom. This system was very problematic for cleaning, especially with the black powders of the period. The Minié rifle used a percussion lock and weighed 10 lb 9 oz (4.8 kg). Having a reasonable accuracy up to 600 yards (550 metres), it was equipped with sights for effective aiming. The hollow-based bullet was of .702 inch (17.8 mm) calibre, and weighed 500 grains (32.4 g). It could penetrate 4 inches (10 cm) of soft pine at 1,000 yards (918 m). A test in Vincennes in 1849 demonstrated that at 15 yards the bullet was able to penetrate two boards of poplar wood, each two-thirds of an inch thick and separated by 20 inches. Soldiers of the time spread rumors that at 1,200 yards the bullet could penetrate a soldier and his knapsack and still kill anyone standing behind him, even killing every person in a line of 15. The Minié rifle saw limited distribution in the Crimean War and similar rifles using Minié bullets (such as the Pattern 1853 Enfield, the Springfield Model 1861 and the Lorenz rifle) were the dominant infantry weapons in the American Civil War. The large-caliber, easily deformed conical lead bullets, ranging in diameter from .54 to .58 inches (14-18mm), combined with the high-speed spin from the rifling, created terrible wounds.

Above Various types of Minié balls In the Minié rifle Below countersunk ramrod was necessary to force the ball without damaging its shape.



Use; The Pattern 1851 Minié rifle was in use by the British Army from 1851 to 1855. The Minié system was also used extensively by various manufacturers, such as Springfield (the Springfield Model 1861) and Enfield (the Pattern 1853 Enfield). Minié rifles were also used extensively in the Boshin War (1868–1869) in Japan, where they had an important role in tipping the balance against the Tokugawa forces in encounters such as the Battle of Toba–Fushimi.

Obsolescence; The muzzle-loading Minié rifle became obsolete in 1866 following the defeat of the Austrians, equipped with this type of rifle, against the Prussians, who had the innovative bolt-action Dreyse rifles. In France, the existing Minié rifles were then retooled to accommodate a breech-loading mechanism reminiscent of a snuff box, and became known as Tabatière (snuff-box) rifles. Soon after, the breech-loading Chassepot system was adopted by the French army.



Pattern 1853 Enfield and the Springfield Model



ON THE HERITAGE TRAIL

The Secret Radio: General MacArthur's Headquarters at Shepparton

Recently H.T. was ask about the wartime short wave radio station 'VCL', which operated outside of Shepparton from 1944. It transmitted, so it was said, Australian propaganda into Japanese held areas in South East Asia. But did it?, Under what name?, and from where?

Radio Australia out at Verney Road was the obvious place to start looking, so come along Members!. Our story starts back in 1937, with the Australian Government intending to Commission a major shortwave radio station. The lead-up to, then start, of the Second World War in 1939 made this a high priority, so three locations were investigated. All to be passed over for the 567 acres favourable for radio transmission, located just outside of Shepparton. Fitting-out began in 1942, the antennae being supported by a large, bombproof transmitter hall. But now there were no transmitters available, and in 1943 the facility remained empty. So until a suitable unit became available in America. It was then provided to us under "Lead Lease", and was allocated the call sign VLC. But—it was stipulated the intended use of the transmitter was to relay "Voice of America" programs to the Philippines. And yes, as a security measure, from commencement on 1st May 1944 these were identified as 'being from General MacArthur's Headquarters in Australia'. A situation which remained for roughly 6 months. When the station's location was revealed. The Americans usage of VLC continued until May 1945, Radio Australia content ('Australia Calling') having been phased into transmissions from the previous year, aided by two Australian-built transmitters coming into service later in 1945. the American transmitter unit remained in service with Radio Australia long into the post-war ear.

By Peter Ford

Modellers Corner by " Old Nick " out of my collection

This issue the " German Army Panzerkampfwagen VI , Tiger Tank II "AKA : King Tiger , Tiger II or Tiger Ausf B !

Tiger MII was a close follow-up to the Tiger MKI , and potentially more superior , however it was rushed into production and consequently had a few teething problems with its overall performance and reliability !

Built by Henschel Manufacturing Industries as was its predecessor .

Engine : 700 + bhp V12 cylinder Maybach

Speed : Maximum, road: 41.5 km/h (25.8 mph), Sustained, road: 38 km/h (24 mph), Cross country: 15 to 20 km/h (9.3 to 12.4 mph)

Crew : 5 (commander, gunner, loader, radio operator, driver)

Armour : 100 mm Hull , 110 mm Turret , extra 80 mm side panels

Armament : 8. 8 mm , with 71 calibre barrel length

Weight : 68 tons

Number Build : 489

Unit cost: 800,000 Reichsmark (\$300,000 USD) in 1944–45

Fuel capacity: 860 litres (190 imp gal)

Produced: 1944–45

Fortunately for the Allies the MKII Tiger was mechanically unreliable , due to it being rushed into production in the final days of the Third Reich ! However if it was used earlier in the war , when it was on the drawing board and the imperfections ironed out it would have been almost invincible in a Tank Battle.

The first combat use of the Tiger II was by the 1st Company of the 503rd Heavy Panzer Battalion (s.H.Pz.Abt. 503) during the Battle of Normandy, opposing Operation *Atlantic* between Troarn and Demouville on 18 July 1944. Two were lost in combat, while the company commander's tank became irrecoverably trapped after falling into a bomb crater created during Operation *Goodwood*.

On the Eastern Front, it was first used on 12 August 1944 by the 501st Heavy Panzer Battalion (s.H.Pz.Abt. 501) resisting the Lvov–Sandomierz Offensive. It attacked the Soviet bridgehead over the Vistula River near Baranów Sandomierski.

A standard battalion (*Abteilung*) comprised 45 tanks:

Battalion command 3 × Tiger II								
1st company command 2 × Tiger II			2nd company command 2 × Tiger II			3rd company command 2 × Tiger II		
1st platoon 4 × Tiger II	2nd platoon 4 × Tiger II	3rd platoon 4 × Tiger II	1st platoon 4 × Tiger II	2nd platoon 4 × Tiger II	3rd platoon 4 × Tiger II	1st platoon 4 × Tiger II	2nd platoon 4 × Tiger II	3rd platoon 4 × Tiger II

Units that used the Tiger II were as follows:

Heer: (s.H.Pz.Abt) 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511

SS: (s.SS.Pz.Abt) 501, 502, 503



"FOR SALE"

COLLECTABLES, MEMORABILIA, BAYONETS, HEMETS, UNIFORMS, REFERENCE BOOKS & COLLECTABLE FIREARMS

Special order Winchesters
73, 92, 95 And 66 Musket etc.

Contact Geoff
on 5821 9015 Or
email; wilsigns1@gmail. com