

More Majorum

2024 Issue 1



**SHEPPARTON
MILITARIA EXPO
MARCH 2 & 3
See Page 2 & 7**

**Something
from your
Collection**

Lee Metford

**Hales rifle
grenade**

Ballard Rifle

**Foot note in
History; Battle
of Kissoué**



Above ; Lee-Metford Rifle

Right; Two photos of the GR Outrider



Above; Hales rifle grenade complete and disassembled components.



A Ballard Rifle in Carbine configuration.

N.V.A.C.G. Committee 2023/24

EXECUTIVE

President / Treasurer: John Mc

Vice Pres / Safety Officer: John M.

Secretary: Carl W.

M/ship Sec / Expo Co-Ordinator: Graham R.

Newsletter: Brett M.

Sgt. at Arms: Simon B.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John H.

Scott J.

Sol S.

Peter R.

Rod D.

Ned M.

Achtung !!

SHEPPARTON — ANNUAL

MILTARIA & COLLECTABLES

EXPO 2024



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

Sat. 9.00 am to 5.00 pm - Sun 9.00 am to 3.30 pm

**MCINTOSH CENTRE SHEPPARTON
MARCH 2ND & 3RD**

***** MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 7 *****

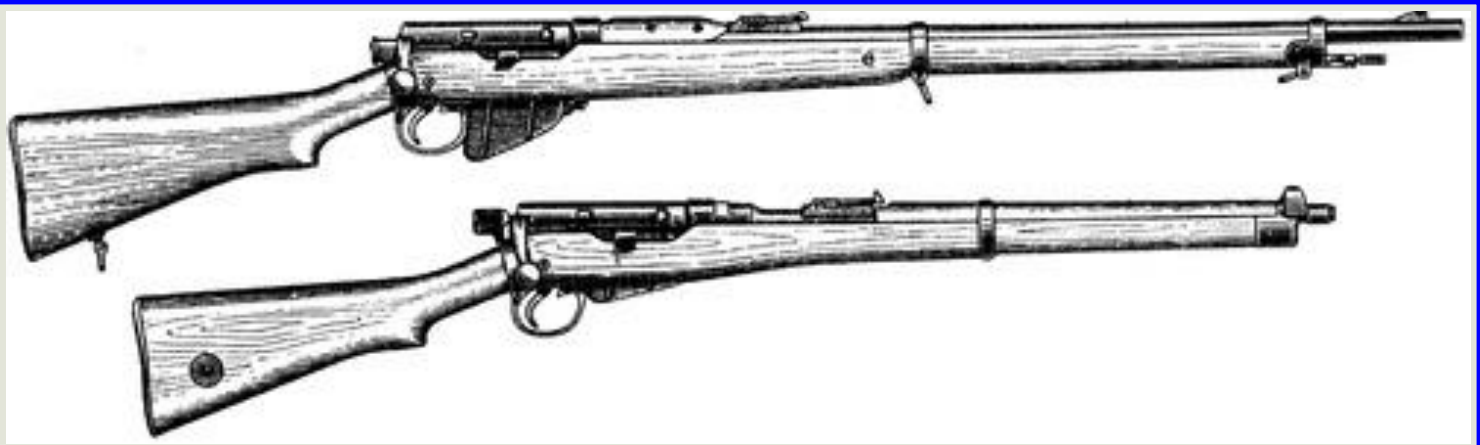
SNIDERS WANTED

Hi all several members are after 577 Sniders in good working order with good barrels. Most are after Mk 3's, but a good Mk 2 will be considered also. Also in order of preference is - Military carbines, 2 band short rifles then 3 band long rifles & Sporting Sniders. Please contact John H on 03 58213192 or email jobah450.577@bigpond.com

LOOKING TO BUY

- (A). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Yataghan Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.
- (B). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Cutlass Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.
- (C). .577/450 Martini Henry rifle Elcho Bayonet and Scabbard in VG order.

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



In service	1888–present (ceremonial)
Wars	Second Boer War First Italo-Ethiopian War Boxer Rebellion various Colonial conflicts 1904 Paraguayan Revolution Second Italo-Ethiopian War World War I (limited) Irish War of Independence Chaco War World War II
Designer	James Paris Lee, RSAF Enfield
Unit cost	£3/15/- = £3.75 in 1892-1893
Produced	1884–1896
Variants	MLM Mk II MLM Carbine Charlton Automatic Rifle
Length	49.5 in (1,257 mm)
Barrel length	30.2 in (767mm)
Cartridge	Cartridge .303 Mk I
Calibre	.303 inch (7.7 mm)m ww1 7.9
Action	Bolt-action
Rate of fire	20 rounds/minute
Muzzle velocity	2,040 ft/s (621.8 m/s)
Effective firing range	c. 800 yards (730 m)
Maximum firing range	1,800 yards (1,600 m)
Feed system	8 or 10-round magazine
Sights	Sliding leaf rear sights, Fixed-post front sights, "Dial" long-range volley sights

Lee–Metford: was a bolt-action British army service rifle, combining James Paris Lee's rear-locking bolt system and detachable magazine with an innovative seven groove rifled barrel designed by William Ellis Metford. It replaced the Martini Henry rifle in 1888, following nine years of development and trials, but remained in service for only a short time until replaced by the similar Lee–Enfield. Lee's bolt action mechanism was a great improvement over other designs of the day: - The rear-mounted lugs placed the operating handle much closer to the rifleman, over the trigger. This made it much quicker to operate than other, forward-mounted lug designs which forced the rifleman to move his hand forward to operate the bolt. It also enabled the rifleman to operate the trigger with his middle finger while still holding the bolt between thumb and index finger. The bolt's distance of travel was identical with the length of the cartridge, whereas in forward mounted lug designs bolt travel was cartridge length plus lug length. This also meant the firer did not have to lift his face out of the way when drawing back the bolt. The bolt lift was 60 degrees compared to the 90 degree rotation of some French and Mauser-style actions, both speedier and also meaning the rifleman did not lose the sight picture when the bolt handle was in the open position.

In addition Lee introduced a superior detachable box magazine to replace the integral magazines in use with most repeaters, and this magazine offered greater capacity than the competing Mannlicher design. Metford's polygonal rifling was adopted to reduce fouling from powder residue building up in the barrel, and to make cleaning easier.

In spite of its many advantageous features, the Lee–Metford was something of an anachronism, due to its use of a black powder-loaded cartridge. By the time of the rifle's introduction, rifle design had moved on to using small-calibre smokeless powder cartridges, which allowed bullets to be propelled at much higher velocities without as much smoke or residue. The .303 ammunition designed for the rifle was in fact originally intended to be loaded with a smokeless propellant, but as a result of protracted development, selection of a smokeless propellant was delayed, forcing the British to rely on black powder in the interim. By the time Cordite cartridges were available, it was found that they



were wholly unsuited for use with the shallow Metford rifling, which would wear out and render barrels unusable after approximately 6,000 rounds, compared to the 10,000 rounds that the deeper, square-cut Enfield rifling pattern rifles could deliver. The Lee rifles fitted with Enfield barrels became known as Lee Enfields. Regardless of the shortfalls brought about by the use of black powder, the Lee–Metford went through several revisions during its short service life, with the principal changes being to the magazine (from eight-round single stack to ten-round staggered), sights, and safety. Starting in 1895, the Lee–Metford started to be phased out in favor of the Lee–Enfield for the reasons outlined above, involving a change to Enfield barrels and sights adjusted for the flatter trajectory enabled by the smokeless propellant.



Replacement; of the Lee–Metford rifles took several years to achieve, and they were still in service in some units during the Second Boer War in 1899. Poor sighting-in and quality control at the factory level resulted in British rifles being woefully inaccurate at ranges greater than 400 yards (370 m). Nonetheless, captured Lee–Metford rifles became the primary weapon for the Boers too when their Mauser ammunition ran out. The British considered an entirely new rifle, the Pattern 1913 Enfield, based upon a modified Mauser design, but its develop-



ment was cut short by the First World War and the eminently adaptable Lee–Enfield served for another half century. In British service the Lee–Metford was also upgraded to the standards of later rifle patterns (e.g. to charger loading and Short Rifle, the SMLE pattern), though the barrel was almost always switched to one with Enfield pattern rifling. The Lee–Metford was produced commercially and used by civilian target shooters until the outbreak of World War I, as it was considered to be inherently more accurate than the Enfield pattern of rifling. In this context, barrels and boltheads could be replaced as frequently as the owner wished, or could afford. It remained a reserve arm in many parts of the British Empire into WWII, even being issued to the New Zealand Home Guard and the Australian Volunteer Defence Corps until more modern rifles could be obtained. The Lee–Metford is still in ceremonial use with the Atholl Highlanders.

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



This item is from Ian's collection of Roman Armour and weapons. The helmet in the pictures is a reproduction of what historians call an "Imperial Italic G" . It is based on an extremely well preserved example discovered in a cave near Hebron in what is modern day Israel. It is an interesting example, showing lunate decorations on the crown and an embossed "L section" brow guard. It has criss-cross reinforcing bars applied over the bowl, which leads historians to date the original helmet to the first decade of the 2nd Century AD.



Above is the original "Imperial Italic G" from Israel.



These reinforcements were first applied to Legionary helmets during the Dacian Wars in the first decade of the second century to protect them from the Dacian heavy falx, a curved 2 handed hybrid sword/axe capable of smashing through Roman armour.

The original is believed to have been taken as a trophy by Jewish rebels during the Bar Kochba rebellion which took place in the years 132 – 135AD.

Reproduction from Ian's collection is to the left & above left

Type	Percussion cap grenade
Place of origin	United Kingdom
In service	1915-?
Used by	United Kingdom
Wars	World War I
Designed	1915–1918
Produced	1915-?
Mass	1 lb 5 oz (No. 3) 1 lb 8 oz (No. 20 Mk I)
Filling	Tonite and TNT for the No. 3, Ammonal for No. 20 and grenades based on it.
Detonation mechanism	Percussion cap fuse

Hales rifle grenade is the name for several rifle grenades used by British forces during World War I. All of these are based on the **No. 3** design. To fire the No. 3, the user would fit the grenade into the rifle, insert the detonator, lay the rifle on the ground in the correct position, remove the safety pin, pull back the safety pin collar, insert a special blank round into the rifle, then fire.

Operational variants With variants that lack the vane, the grenade was activated in exactly the same way as the ones that have a vane, but the user did not need to remove the safety pin collar, as it lacks one.

History In 1907, Martin (sometimes Marten) Hale developed the rod grenade. "A simple rod was attached to a specialized grenade, inserted into the barrel of a standard service rifle and launched using a blank cartridge."

"However, the British did not immediately adopt the idea and entered World War I without any rifle grenades. As soon as trench warfare started, however, there was a sudden need for rifle grenades. The British government purchased a rodded variant of the No. 2 grenade as a temporary solution.

By 1915 Hale had developed the No. 3, which is commonly known as the Hales rifle grenade. The Hales grenade was improved throughout World War I to make it more reliable and easier to manufacture. However, production of the grenade was slow. In order to speed rod grenades to the front, the British also made rodded versions of the Mills bomb.

Although a simple approach, launching a rod grenade "...placed an extreme amount of stress on the rifle barrel and the rifle itself, resulting in the need to dedicate specific rifles to the grenade launching role, as they quickly became useless as an accurate firearm. This led to the search for an alternative and resulted in the reappearance of the cup launcher during the latter years of World War I."

After World War I, the rod-type rifle grenade was declared obsolete and the remaining Hales were replaced with Mills bombs shot from a rifle via a cup launcher.

The Hales went through many variations in order to make it more cost effective and battle effective.

The No. 3 started off as the No. 3 Mk I. It has an externally segmented body and a wind vane designed to help activate the detonator in mid

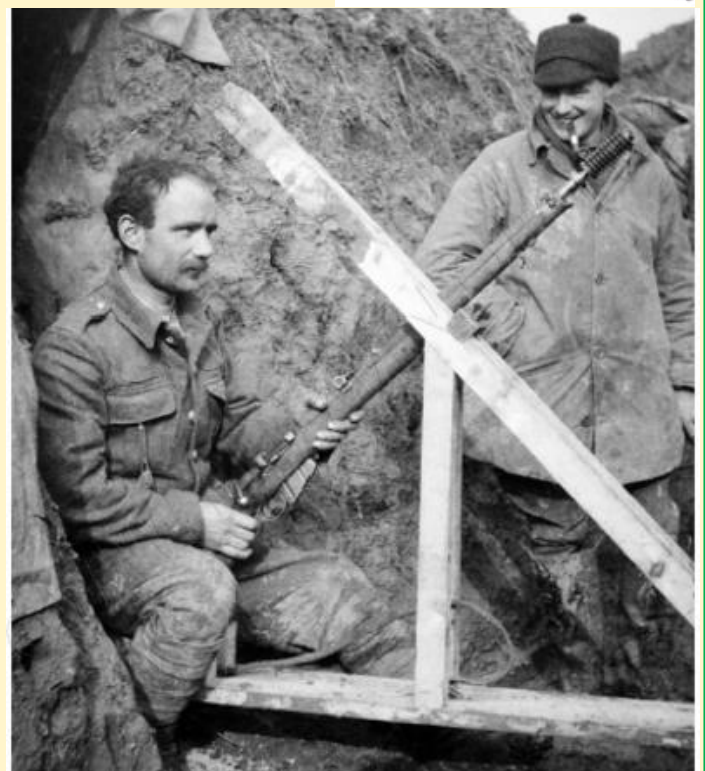
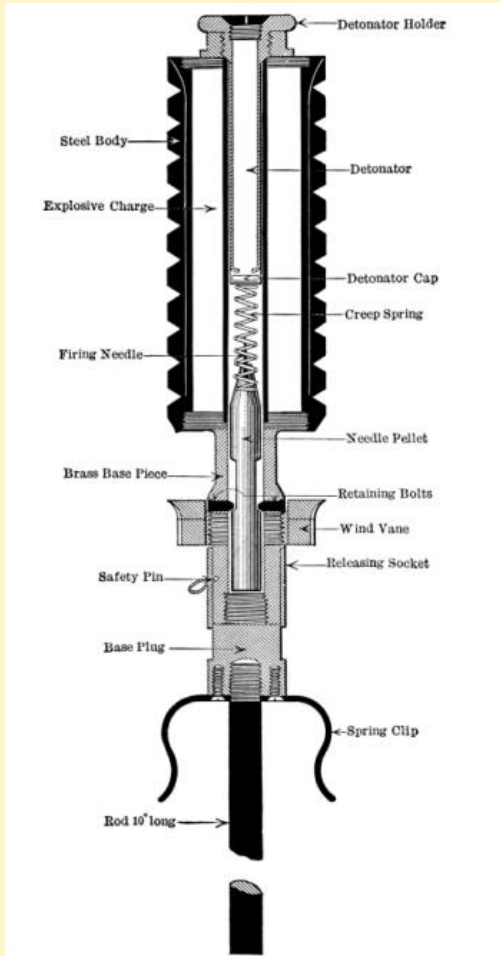
flight. It uses either Tonite or TNT as its explosive.

The No. 3 had several problems; it was difficult to manufacture, as it required precision and was made up of many parts. Another problem occurred with the detonators; like the No. 1 grenade, the No. 3 needed a special detonator that was difficult to manufacture. This detonator was also used in the No. 2 grenade and was very similar to the one in the No. 1 grenade, which made it harder to mass-produce.

Practically, the vane was a significant problem; it was hard to align properly and adverse weather, such as rain, strong winds or even a particle of dust could prevent the vane from operating correctly, which caused a failure.

The No. 3 also had an overly sensitive percussion cap, which caused many premature detonations.

Once these problems became well known, further development was begun. The No. 20 was the result of these refinements.



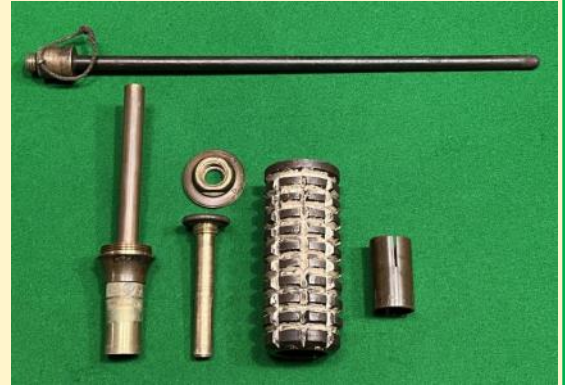


The No. 20 was similar to the No. 3, but its main difference was that it lacked No. 3's vane. In theory this was supposed to make it more reliable than the No. 3 and the main problem of the design was the choice of explosive used. Instead of Tonite or TNT, the No. 20 used ammonite, which tended to corrode the brass parts of the grenade, which created several failures when it was fired. While an improvement over the No. 3, the No. 20 still had design flaws, and the No. 24 was introduced to address some of the remaining problems. The No. 20 had two variants, the Mk I and II. The Mk I had a solid steel cylinder body, very similar to the No. 3, while the Mk II used a weldless steel tube and had circumferential grooves for fragmentation.

The No. 24 was essentially a No. 20 with a less sensitive percussion cap and refined ammonite that did not corrode the brass parts of the grenade.

There were two variants of the No. 24, the Mk I and II. The Mk I used the No. 20 Mk II's body, while the Mk II incorporated a cast iron body that has no external grooves.

In 1918 the No. 35 was introduced. This was a No. 24 MK II that had a detonator holder that used a small arms cartridge and a shorter striker.

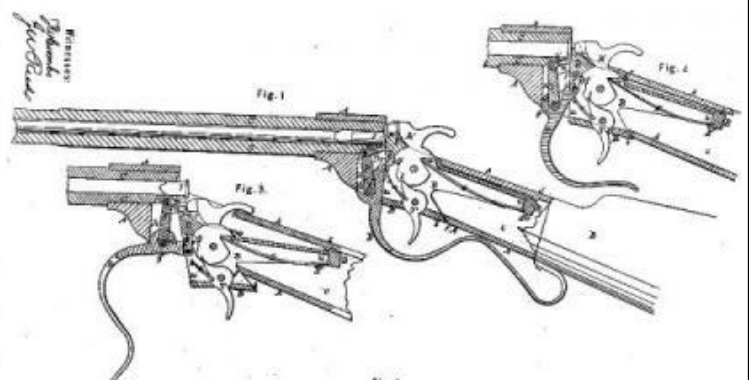


Ballard Rifle was a single shot, breechloading longarm used during the late American Civil War by Kentucky volunteers. The Rifle was designed and patented by Charles H. Ballard in November 1861 in Worcester, Massachusetts. Around 3,000 were made between 1862 and 1865, with some being used for military use in Kentucky. Ballard rifles used by Kentucky Volunteers will have Kentucky marked on them.

Variants

Variants were built by Ball & Williams (1862–1865), Dwight Chapin & Co. (1862–1863), and later by R. Ball & Co. (1865–1867), Merrimack Arms (1867–68), and Brown Manufacturing (1869–1873). The last and most successful maker was J.M. Marlin Firearms Co., who built more models than any predecessor (1870–1890).

The Ballard rifle had over 20 variants during its 29-year lifespan. The No. 1 Hunter's Model was first introduced in 1875 for the .44 rimfire caliber. The No. 1 would later be produced in .44 rimfire, .45-70 Government, .44 Ballard Long, & .44 Ballard Extra Long. This version along with the No. 5+1/2 Montana are known for being one of the main rifles used to hunt buffalo. Other variants included the No. 1+3/4 Hunter's Model, No. 2 Sporting Model, No. 5 Pacific Model, and the No. 5+1/2 Montana Model.



MILITARIA & COLLECTABLES EXPO 2024

McINTOSH CENTRE - SHOWGROUNDS
SHEPPARTON

MARCH 2nd & 3rd

www.nvacg.aug.au



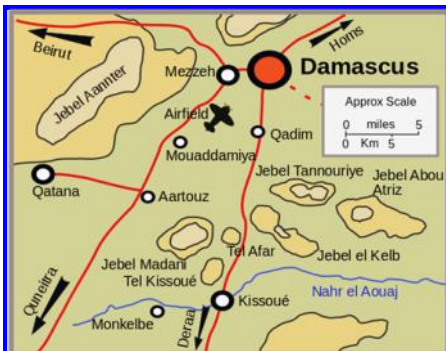
Members, March 2nd and 3rd are the dates of our annual Shepparton militaria show and you are all free to come and go as you please over the whole weekend, just wear your membership badge or show your membership card. If you don't have either, just identify yourself to the entry desk, using a government issue photo ID. They will have a list of current members and issue you with a member pass.

We also extend free entry to members of Golden City Collectors Association and the Ballarat Arms & Militaria Collectors, who can present a membership card or badge. Non Members over 16 - \$10. Under 16 not permitted unless under control of an adult.

However it is not as simple as just turning up, this event doesn't just happen by itself. We need as many able bodied members as possible to help at the McIntosh Center, at 4.00 pm, on Thursday 29th of February, to set up tables. It is an air conditioned room and it takes about 2 hours, after which we will have cool drinks and a bit of social gathering. On Friday from Midday we need people to direct dealers to their tables and keep an eye on things

Again on Sunday the 3rd of March at 4.00 pm, again 2 hours or less and we can have it all packed up.

If your able to help it would be much appreciated.



Foot note in History; Battle of Kissoué (17 June 1941) was part of the

Allied advance on Damascus in Syria during the Syria-Lebanon campaign in World War II. The battle is noted for the confrontation between Vichy French and the Free French Forces. The Free French met with stiff resistance from the Vichy French.

On 8 June 1941, troops of the 5th Indian Infantry Brigade Group, under Brigadier Wilfrid Lewis Lloyd, had crossed the Syrian border from the British Mandate of Palestine to take Quneitra and Deraa with the objective of opening the way for Free French forces to advance along the roads from these towns to Damascus. This was one of four attacks planned for the campaign by the Allied commander General Henry Maitland Wilson. By 12 June, Deraa, Sheikh Meskine and Ezraa on the Deraa to Damascus road had been captured and the Indian and Free French

forces, now named *Gentforce* and under the unified command of French Major-General Paul Legentilhomme were before Kissoué. Unfortunately, Legentilhomme was wounded almost immediately after taking command and was succeeded by Brigadier Lloyd on 14 June.

Kissoué was a strong defensive position. East of the road the gardens and houses of the town provided cover for infantry and tanks backed by the considerable defence works on the steeply rising Jebel el Kelb and Jebel Abou Atriz behind them. West of the road were the hills of Tel Kissoué, Tel Afar and Jebel Madani which commanded the roads to Damascus from both Quneitra and Deraa. The boulder-strewn country was virtually impassable by wheeled vehicles except on the road and made progress difficult even on foot. Furthermore, the river Awaj flowed in front of the French positions across the Allied line of advance.

At 04:00 on 15 June, Indian troops made a frontal attack which fortuitously coincided with a relief of the Vichy force's forward troops. After fierce fighting, the village was taken by 08:30. By 09:00, the Indian troops were pushing forward into the hills behind the village which overlooked the main road from the west and within an hour had captured Tel Kissoué. On the river on the far left flank of the advance, the village of Monkelbe had been secured by Free French marines by 11:30.

A second phase of the attack had begun at 11:00 with Free French forces advancing across the river into the hills on the right of the Damascus road. Having captured Jebel Kelb, the advance stalled on Jebel Abou Atriz, while on the far right a flanking move by Free French tanks was stopped by heavy shelling from Vichy artillery. Further depressing news for Lloyd came from the Allied troops holding Quneitra, on the other main road to Damascus from the south, who reported the approach of a strong Vichy force from the north. Furthermore, Lloyd's own lines of communication were being threatened by the capture of Ezraa by Vichy Tunisian troops which had advanced cross country from Tel Soutaine to the east. Ezraa was only 6 mi (9.7 km) to the east of Sheikh Meskine which was on the main road south from Kissoué. Lloyd decided that a rapid advance on Damascus would best deal with the critical situation. He sent two companies of Free French troops and some artillery south to Sheikh Meskine to bolster reinforce the two squadrons of the Transjordan Frontier Force which had taken defensive positions across the road eastwards from Sheikh Meskine to Deraa and ordered the Indian brigade to advance. During the night of 15 June, pushing forward through the hills to the left of the Kissoué to Damascus road, Indian troops took Aartouz on the Quneitra to Damascus road, cutting the rearward communications of the Vichy force advancing on Quneitra. On the afternoon of 16 June, it was reported incorrectly that Ezraa had been re-taken by the Allies but the news from Quneitra was less promising. Outnumbered 3:1 and facing tanks against which they had no effective counter, the Allied defenders at Quneitra, a battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (less a company which was at Kissoué), held out until, surrounded and ammunition virtually exhausted, at 19:00 on 16 June the remaining 13 officers and 164 men surrendered. Despite this threat to *Gentforce's* supply lines, it was decided to press on to Damascus. This forced the Vichy commander to withdraw his flanking forces.



RG Outrider, is a 4x4 multi-purpose mine-protected, armoured personnel carrier (APC) manufactured by BAE Systems of South Africa. It was first introduced in early 2009 as the RG-32M LTV, and was first purchased by Ireland. The vehicle was offered to the US market the following year, re-designated as RG Outrider. It is based on and is the successor to the RG-32M already in service in Afghanistan with the coalition forces. The RG Outrider offers several improvements over its predecessor, including the addition of the V-shaped hull.

In February 2009, BAE Systems announced the introduction of a new variant of the RG-32M, named RG-32M Light Tactical Vehicle (LTV), which was put on display at the International Defence Exhibition (IDEX)

the same month.^[2] The main improvement was the addition of a V-shaped hull, increasing the protection offered. BAE Systems claimed that "the RG32M is mine hardened, but the RG32M LTV is mine protected". Ireland was the first country to purchase the RG-32M LTV, acquiring 27 units for assisting peace-keeping operations. The vehicle was launched for the North American market in early 2010, with the new designation RG Outrider. The company announced in February 2010 that they had demonstrated the RG Outrider to US military commanders at the Nevada Automotive Test Center. It was exhibited at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) winter exposition the same month. It is being marketed in the United States targeting operations in Afghanistan where its predecessor, the RG-32M, has been in use with US, Swedish and Spanish forces.

Features

The RG Outrider is slightly larger than its predecessor, with the hull being 200 mm (7.9 in) wider and 50 mm (2.0 in) higher. In addition to the APC role, it can also be used as a command, liaison or scouting vehicle. The RG Outrider can provide ballistic protection against up to 7.62x39mm antipersonnel rounds

Used by	Ireland
Designer	BAE Systems
Mass	9,500 kilograms (20,900 lb)
Length	6 metres (20 ft)
Width	2.205 metres (7 ft 2.8 in)
Height	2.190 metres (7 ft 2.2 in)
Crew	2+2
Main armament	weapons mount
Engine	Steyr M16 SCI Turbo charged intercooled 200 kilowatts (270 hp) @ 4,000 rpm
Transmission	Allison S1000 5-speed automatic
Suspension	4x4 wheeled
Maximum speed	>120 kilometres per hour (75 mph)

(STANAG 4569 level 2). Anti-tank mine protection is of level 2a and 2b (under wheel and under center), and it can also provide side protection against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). A 7.62 mm or 12.7 mm machine gun can be fitted to the weapon station on the roof.

The RG Outrider has a height of 2,190 mm (86 in), and is 6,000 mm(240 in) long and 2,205 mm (86.8 in) wide. It has a wheelbase of 3,340 mm (131 in) and a ground clearance of 430 mm(17 in). Classified as a four-wheeled mine protected patrol vehicle, it has a weight of 9,500 kilograms (20,900 lb), and can carry 4 personnel including the driver and commander. It is powered by a Steyr M16S CI Turbo charged intercooled engine (6 -cylinder, 200 kW), with 5-speed automatic transmission and four-wheel drive capability. It has a maximum speed in excess of 120 kilometres per hour (75 mph), and can negotiate up to 60% gradients and 30% side-slopes. The RG Outrider also has a payload capability of 2,000 kilograms (4,400 lb). Its load bay allows the addition of mission specific equipment, thus allowing the vehicle to be adapted to different conditions. Commercial off-the-shelf parts have been used extensively in the vehicle, with the view that this will reduce the need for crew training and logistics problems.



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
jobah450.577@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
[@ShepartonArmsExpo](https://www.facebook.com/ShepartonArmsExpo)

