

HISTORY OF THE 13th AUSTRALIAN ARMoured REGIMENT

The Regiment originated from the METROPOLITAN and SOUTH DANDENONG TROOP, of the ROYAL VICTORIAN VOLUNTEER CAVALRY REGIMENT, in 1862. In 1885, renamed VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES. In 1903 linked with the 10th Light Horse Regiment, as the 10th/13th VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES. In 1913, renamed 13th Gippsland Light Horse.

13th Australian Light Horse Regiment, 1st A.I.F. 1915-1919, motto, "Devils Own". Formed, 28th May, 1915, at BROADMEADOWS, VICTORIA, and placed under the command of Lt Colonel ARNOTT, and consisted of A.B.C. Squadrons.

Regiment breaks Camp at Broadmeadows, Mounted, and rode out of camp, and through the city of MELBOURNE, (packed with people giving them a send off) and on to PORT MELBOURNE, all horses approximately 750, were given a swim prior to embarkation.

Finally, officers, men and horses were all aboard, and the ship slowly moved out from the pier at sea 28/5/1915 to 26/6/1915, several Horses died.

Arrived SUEZ, 26/6/1915, Regiment dis-embarked at PORT SUEZ 29/6/1915, Embarked men and horses on a Train. 30/6/1915, Camped at ABBASSIA and HELIOPOLIS, (very hot).

1/7/1915	Exercising horses.
5/7/1915	Regiment inspected by General MAXWELL, O.C. British forces in Egypt.
6/7/1915	Horses backs sunburnt, special stables erected, roof of palm leaves. Much more comfortable for men and horses.
12/7/1915	Moved to a new camp further into DESERT.

16/7/1915 Whole Regiment revolted, broke camp, and without Officers and passes, marched into CAIRO. Protecting of limited boundaries of camp. Better camping area then provided.

17/7/1915 DESERT Training.

to

2/9/115

3/9/1915 Left (without Horses) for ALEXANDRIA.

4/9/1915 Arrived ALEXANDRIA, and embarked on "WHITE STAR LINER", "MEGANTIE". Helped members of the 24th Batt (AIF) from the Ocean, who had been torpedoed, no lives lost.

9/9/1915 Dis-embarked at ANZAC, dug ourselves in.

12/9/1915 First Casualty.

15/9/1915 Took over defence of "LONE PINE".

19/9/1915 Several Casualties.

12/9/1915 In conjunction with 6th Aust. Inf. Brigade, took over defence of "LONE PINE".

13/9/1915 Moved to the defence of, "THOMPSON'S LOOK-OUT", in preparation for evacuation.

14/9/1915 Regiment forces now very thin.

18/9/1915 From rations issued, midnight commenced evacuating trenches quitely moving down the steep slopes, made beach 1.30 am.

19/9/1915 Safely embarked on Battle-ship.

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~~19/9/1915~~ Arrived LEMNOS Island.

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4/1/1915 Embarked P & O Steamer, SS Simla.

8/1/1916 Arrived back at ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.

9/1/1916 Dis-embarked at ALEXANDRIA, transferred to train arriving TEL-EL-KEBIAR.

- 15/1/1916 Review of all Australian Troops and Regiments by Lt General Murray O.C., Mediterian Forces. The largest review of Australian Forces ever held. Big mail from Australia received for all Troops from GALLIPOLI.
- 31/1/1916 Commemorating church parade relating to safe return from GALLIPOLI.
- 1/2/1916 Drafting reinforcements to Regiment to complete establishment.
- 3/2/1916 New clothing issued to all men from Gallipoli.
- 6/2/1916 Left Camp for ISMALIA, SUEZ CANAL, following fresh water canal on accounts of horses need of water.
- 8/2/1916 Arrived ISMALIA, then the SUEZ CANAL, Crossed on floating bridge to DESERT Side, and moved up Canal some 30 miles, to take up defenced of CANAL ZONE, along with CAMEL CORPS, great difficulty of controlling horses on account of Camels. Took over defence of a large area of Desert beyond the Canal Regiment inspected by GENERAL BIRDWOOD.
- 9/2/1916 Selecting horses in good condition for immediate DESERT SERVICE.
- 13/2/1916 Regiment broken up A.B.C. Squadrons allotted to three Divisions for patrolling the Desert up to 40 Kilometres West of the Canal with headquarters at SERAPEUM.
- 14/4/1916 9th/13th Light Horse have a successful Serap killing several Turks, and capturing a number of Turks and BEDOUINS, destroying wells, 60 miles out in the Desert.

- 25/4/1916 First ANZAC DAY, troops who served on GALLIPOLI, wear Red/Blue badges. Commemoration church parade of Remembrance. Afterwards fun and games on the CANAL, with all sorts of improvised boats etc. H.R.H. Prince of Wales attended.
- 26/4/1916 Canal shipping traffic heavy. Patrols ordered deeper into ARABIAN DESERT, to prevent Turks, shipping through to mine Canal.
- 28/4/1916 4.30 am crossed Canal on moveable punt Bridge joining 4th & 13th infantry Brigade, and sent out several patrols sighted enemy and out-flanked them on our right. Rode back to Headquarters on the Canal.
- 29/4/1916 Turks attack Railhead.
- 30/4/1916 Inspected by General Godley (N.Z.) staff of 2nd ANZAC H.Q.
- 7/5/1916 Despatched riders supplied to Infantry in Desert.
- 8/5/1916 Preparing for anticipated operation against Turks.
- 10/5/1916 Canal shipping traffic very heavy big movement of troops. Regiment strengthen Guard on Canal Temperature around 120°.
- 26/5/1916 New horses issued to replace horses in poor condition.
- 1/6/1916 Regiment commences moving to ISMALIA, trucked horse on train to ALEXANDRIA.
- 2/6/1916 Loaded horses on ship KINGSTONIAN.
- 3/6/1916 Sailed from ALEXANDRIA escorted by Royal Navy.
- 7/6/1916 Still at sea very rough, many horses very sick. Disembarked Horses at MARSEILLES. Entrained horses and Train left for War Zone.
- 11/6/1916 On Train all day and all night.
- 12/6/1916 Still on Train, stop at station, French people shower

us with Poppies and Confetti, make us very welcome, women and girls in tears as they see us new reinforcements.

- 13/6/1916 Still on train, most horses travelling well. Train passed around PARIS, crossed the SEINE RIVER and went to AMEINS.
- 14/6/1916 Reached our destination HAZELBROOK, 6am, dis-entrained, fed horses, had lunch and left for camp, a walk of 5 miles. The horses were not fit to ride for a while. Went on to the village of Merris. Put down horse lines and men were billeted with French farms.
- 15/6/1916 Settling down in FRANCE and inoculating and resting horses.
- 17/6/1916 Exercising horses. Regiment attached to 2nd Australian Division.
- 18/6/1916 Fitting horses with Gas Masks. General training now in progress.
- 28/6/1916 Have to shoot a number of horses contacted GLANDERS.
- 29/6/1916 Whole Regiment go to Divisional Baths. All clothing and uniforms burnt and complete issue of new under wear and uniforms.
- 30/6/1916 More horses shot - GLANDERS.
- 2/7/1916 Now in WAR ZONE, Germans greet us with very heavy bombardment. Continued training until 18/7/1916. Moved out of MERRIS 18/7/1916.
- 21/7/1916 Regiment at CONTAY, horses inoculated against GLANDERS.
- 9/8/1916 Exploring surrounding country for purpose of improving official maps.
- 10/8/1916 Requirement supplies guard of 60 Officers N.C.O's and men, for visit of KING GEORGE V and later for General Birdwood and many other Generals from English and Scottish Regiments.

- 14/8/1916 Commenced Mounted Signal duties, in conjunction with English and Scottish Forces, as the Australians joined them in action. A number of men with farming experience were mobilised to get the French Crops out and stacked, as French farmers were with their own forces, this went on for several days and troops were continually under fire from long range artillery.
- 31/8/1916 Ground very muddy. Up at 4.30am. Regiment ordered to Flanders a weeks trek North. Very muddy at Poperinghe, which the Germans continually bombarded, much Aerial activity from BRITISH & GERMAN planes. Shrapnel from their fights falling all around us.
Supplying patrols to Australian and English units.
- Sept/Oct 1916 Very Muddy and wet existence fed up.
- 20/10/1916 Ordered to SOMME to relieve 15th British Corps Cavalry.
- 29/10/1916 Regiment supplying many men to do duty in connection with pending big advance. Heavy firing by Australian Artillery.
- 30/10/1916 15th British Corps Cavalry, move out of forward Zone and 13th Light Horse take over their positions.
- 31/10/1916 Enemy shellfire stirs up ground very Muddy. Our horses and transport in 2 feet of mud. Infantry muddy up to waist. Regiment ordered to protect FRICORT, which Germans are shelling heavily. German planes court our positions. Conditions BAD. Few casualties and several horses killed and wounded.
- 1/11/1916 Aerial attacks repeated. Infantry cut overcoats off to waist length, as mud is already thigh high and very heavy on troops.

- 6/11/1916 Another heavy bombing attack from GERMAN Air Force.
Our horses scared badly and difficult to control.
- 8/11/1916 Heavy bombardment. Australian and British Artillery
now re-inforced reply with heavy shelling of German
Forces, the is terrific German Air Force, continue
attack on our position for several days.
- 10/12/1916 Got another bombardment from the German Air Force.
Artillery quietens down, Kaiser offers first peace terms.
- 19/12/1916 Very heavy snow storms, ground frozen hard. Can't use
horses to slippery.
- 25/12/1916 Xmas Day, Guns very quiet on both sides. Xmas parcels
arrived from Australia.
- 29/12/1916 Seven N.C.O's, selected for Infantry training with view
to Qualifying for commission.
- 30/12/1916 Quite day. Artillery only moderate.
- 31/12/1916 Rank and File see the old year out and create a great
disturbance.
- 1/1/1917 Regiment celebrate NEW YEARS DAY, with special rations
issued for dinner.
- 25/1/1917 German Air Force shoot down some of Army's Captive balloons.
Still very cold.
- 26/1/1917 Snow thick. 29th Division made a good advance. Members
of the 13th Light Horse, bring in some German prisoners.
- 28/1/1917 German planes came very low at night, and machine gunned
the Regiments Camp, a few minor Casualties among men and
horses.
- 29/1/1917 Aerial activity and Artillery stepped by the enemy and
allies.

1/2/1917 Heavy Aerial bombing, but little damage.

3/2/1917 Big guns being withdrawn, few enemy trenches taken by Allies.

4/2/1917 Still under heavy bombardment allies reply.

6/2/1917 German's raid AMIENS with planes and drop a large number of bombs.

8/2/1917 Thirty Eight re-inforcements for Regiment.

11/2/1917 German Artillery now very quiet, one German plane near FRICORT.

15/2/1917 Mounting Regiments HOTCHKISS machine guns, for anti-Aircraft work.

16/2/1917 Very heavy air attack this morning hundreds of bombs dropped and heavy machine gun fire.

17/2/1917 Receive 54 horses from remount depot to replace wounded Regt horses.

22/2/1917 Artillery re-inforcement moving up.

24/2/1917 One Squadron of Regiment ordered to the front Line as enemy believed to be retreating. Whole Regiment ordered to be ready to move forward. Some Germans had retreated to their trench fortresses.

25/2/1917 Regiment moves out from forward position, as impossible to reconnoitre with mounted patrols, "B" Squadron stands by to cover retreat.

4/3/1917 General musten parade for inspection and ordering replacement for equipment loss.

5/3/1917 Moved back further for rest, seems very quiet, still snowing. Regiment now resting and re-equipping.

14/3/1917 Regiment under orders again for advance through German rear-guard in case of further evacuation near BAPAUME.

16/3/1917 "B" & "C" Squadron move forward to patrol enemy lines.

- Owing to mud it is impossible to use Infantry "B" & "C" Squadrons re-connoitre where enemy is falling back and BAPAUME, falls into our hands. Mounted patrols move out beyond BAPAUME, pushing enemy beyond FREMICOURT. "B" Squadron occupy MORY, at 6.00pm, not much opposition. "C" Squadron advance to THILLOY, a few casualties.
- 19/3/1917 All Squadrons return and bivouac at BAPAUME, but advance later to VALIET and VRACOURT, a few more casualties.
- 20/3/1917 Wet and windy conditions hampers operations. English Cavalry, evacuated. Light Horse establish outpost near BERTINCOURT, BEAUMES. 13th take over and surround BERTINCOURT thus allowing Australian Infantry to occupy BERTINCOURT.
- 21/3/1917 Advance more difficult and slower 13th Light Horse establish another outpost near BAMETZ, enabling Australian Infantry to occupy that village on the 21/3/1917. Prince Leopold, of Prussia, shot down and captured by 13th Light Horse, due to Sgt Bob Fyffe, of the 13th Light Horse, who wounded him as he was trying to reach the enemy lines "A" Squadron move to BAMETZ to relieve "C" Squadron. More casualties suffered by the 13th Light Horse, and Regimental aid post established in area.
- 24/3/1917 Advance move at standstill as enemy now offering very stiff resistance. Our Infantry take over as not much use for Light Horse now, so Regiment escort a few German Prisoners to MEAULTE.

- 26/3/1917 Part of Regiment billeted in BAPAUME, Town Hall, recently captured a German time bomb explodes, causing a number of casualties to occupants, various assorted Australian Troops. A few of the 13th lost in explosion.
- 28/3/1917 Regiment now move back to prefer area and make camp at BECORDEL to rest horses and men. Germans bring on some big guns and force Regiment and Infantry etc, to move further back, out of their range, still muddy.
- 31/3/1917 Everything quietens down, but our bugler taken prisoner by the Germans.
- 2/4/1917 German planes attack at night, but no damage done. Still snowing. Australian Artillery start heavy bombardment. Front now quiet except for Aerial activity.
- 8/4/1917 A batch of new horses arrive to replace those lost in action.
- 9/4/1917 Very successful advance on our left by British forces towards ARRAS & LENS. 10,000 prisoners taken, snow very heavy.
- 16/4/1917 French commence a big advance our front normal.
- 19/4/1917 Good reports of French advance.
- 23/4/1917 German planes came in very low.
- 25/4/1917 ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE. Troops out on the line, given half day holiday, after inspection by GENERAL BIRDWOOD.
- 29/4/1917 GENERAL BIRDWOOD, presents Military Medals to some members of the 13th Light Horse.
- 30/4/1917 Voting of Regiment, for Federal Election.
- 2/5/1917 Regiment and horses resting. Football match between headquarters and "A" Squadron.

- 5/5/1917 5th Australian Division hold sports day. A big attendance of resting troops, along with an assortment of curious French peasants.
- 9/5/1917 "C" Squadron return from patrol.
- 11/5/1917 Heavy bombardment, prisoners employed repairing roads.
- 12/5/1917 5th Australian Division capture BUILECOURT, many prisoners taken, escorted by a troop of 13th Light Horsemen.
- 13/5/1917 Details of "B" Squadron return from patrol duty.
- 14/5/1917 At MAMETZ, Regiment play 24th Battalion a game of football in the mud, very amusing.
- 16/5/1917 English and Indian Cavalry moving up to line, as English Infantry move out.
- 19/5/1917 13th Australian Light Horse, play Australian 29th Infantry Battalion football, a win for the 13th.
- 20/5/1917 Lieut. Sydenham, joins Regiment to replace casualty of officer. Regiment along with a number of Infantry Battalions and other details now resting, for some time. Another inoculation. received some more remnants to replace casualties. All Regiment inoculated again.
- 1/6/1917 13th Australian Light Horse play 29th Battalion, football, Regiment wins easily.
- 2/6/1917 Regiment ride over old Battle fields and visit the biggest crater of the War. All this is an observation exercise.
- 3/6/1917 Football Regt versus Light Railway.
- 7/6/1917 Rest time finished, Regt starts training.
- 10/6/1917 General White, inspects Regiment, March Past.

- 13/6/1917 After training, Regiment proceeds to Australian Corps, school sports, and do very well in competition.
- 16/6/1917 Officers Mess on fire, all H.Q. men called out and building saved. Regiment under going further training to cold at certain weak spots.
- 3/7/1917 Allies start new offensive to assist RUSSIA'S new attack on enemy.
- 7/7/1917 GENERAL BIRDWOOD, inspected Australian Mounted Troops at HENENCOURT.
- 9/7/1917 Regiment moved North to MORBECQUE.
- 13/7/1917 New German attack, French refugees fleeing from HAZELBROOK pass through MORBECQUE.
- 16/7/1917 Germans, bombard HAZELBROOK.
- 16/7/1917 Air attack by Germans at night all have ordered to horse lines to try to pacify horses and prevent them from stampeding.
- 6/9/1917 Regiment ordered south.
- 9/9/1917 60 men supplied to help make up losses, by Australian Infantry.
- 10/9/1917 Heavy bombardment, continues for 2 days.
- 13/9/1917 Another terrific bombardment, commences.
- 14/9/1917 Detachment from Regiment, ordered to front line, also Machine Gunners and Patrols supplied.
- 18/9/1917 Terrific bombardment, more detachments went out to support Infantry.
- 19/9/1917 Another lot from Regiment move in on horses to escort German, prisoners out.
- 20/9/1917 Another counter attack by Australian Infantry at 4.50am, and all objectives gained, a few casualties in Regiment, prisoners escorted back to prison camp.

- 21/9/1917 Aussies still advancing. Heavy bombardment proceeds German counter attack, with no success. A few more casualties in Regiment.
- 23/9/1917 Another Australian attack with good results. Highland Regiment moves in to assist.
- 25/9/1917 Another heavy German bombardment. One of the 13th Officers and several men wounded. One of our Lieutenants killed and another wounded along with a few other ranks.
- 26/9/1917 One of our 13th HOTCHKISS Machine Gunners, bring down 3 German planes.
- 30/9/1917 Major McIntyre, Commanding "C" Squadron killed, along with a junior Officer. Several men and a number of horses wounded.
- 1/10/1917 Germans drop more bombs and a few more horses wounded.
- 2/10/1917 More bombing but no Regimental casualties.
- 3/10/1917 All troops standing by in readiness for another attack.
- 4/10/1917 3rd Australian Division hop over and all objectives gained.
- 6/10/1917 NEW ZEALANDERS, move up to relieve Australians who then moved out.
- 7/10/1917 As Regiment moves out, pass many new troops going up to the line.
- 8/10/1917 Infantry get a hurried call to line as Regiment moves back to OUDEZELLE to re-equip.
- 9/10/1917 Regiment rest and re-equip where necessary. Horses in fair shape and resting now. Well out of danger, except for Aerial bombing. Can hear heavy bombardment from YPRES.
- 20/10/1917 "B" Squadron called out for duty. Heavy bombing, but no casualties.

23/10/1917 CANADIANS, advance on Australians left.

30/10/1917 Three Officers promoted.

2/11/1917 Horses being clipped.

6/11/1917 A few casualties to some of our machine gunners, still serving in the line.

16/11/1917 "A" Squadron returns from forward line.

18/11/1917 Thirty six men of the 13th Light Horse, go to reinforce artillery to replace casualties.

19/11/1917 Great shortage of men to handle horses.

20/11/1917 Germans still bombarding heavily at night and continues till 3/12/1917.

5/12/1917 Regiment moves back to LOCRE for benefit of horses.

10/12/1917 Resting interrupted by six huge German planes, came across the Light Horse Camp, but successfully escape.

12/12/1917 Can hear heavy bombardment around the line, but Regt now well out of range.

13/12/1917 Germans bombard HAZELBROOK, killing many French civilians.

16/12/1917 Snow again, everything frozen for 4 days, very uncomfortable.

25/12/1917 Xmas Day, church parade at LOCRE school hall.

26/12/1917 More snow, warned to be prepared to move. Still snowing.

29/12/1917 Signs of a thaw.

31/12/1917 Still freezing and snow thick, a quiet News Year Eve. Germans visit at night, and drop a few bombs, but no damage to men and horses.

It is regretted that the diaries for the period 1/1/1918 to 31/12/1918 were mislaid.

- 1/1/1919 Regiment in area of Ham-Sui-Hourre attached to Corps Headquarters for duty.
- 3/1/1919 Regiment inspected by H.R.H. Prince of Wales. Decorations presented by him to Members of the Regiment, all officers presented to the Prince.
- 6/1/1919 COLONEL HINDEHAUGH, takes over as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.
- 7/1/1919 Horses classified for sale in England and France. Lieut. L Reid, presented with Military Cross.
- 8/1/1919 Horses still being classified. Football in the afternoon.
- 9/1/1919 All Regimental Troops, given a free day. Leave given very freely and accepted by those who had any money.
- 16/1/1919 A number of Troops preparing for departure to the United Kingdom and eventually arrive at BOULOGNE on 19/1/1919.
- 19/1/1919 Embarked at Boulogne for England and arrive London, report to A.I.F. Headquarters Horseferry. Leave granted to all ranks until the 2/2/1919, when they rejoin the Regiment at Hantes-Wheries, snow very deep.
- 9/2/1919 Turned horses out into fields but unable to graze on account of snow.
- 13/2/1919 135 Horses from the Regiment go to Jeumont for sale to French civilian.
- 26/2/1919 Regimental personal, embark at Le-Harve, on S.S.Dieppe, and leave for England.
- 27/2/1919 Dis-embark Weymouth, and entrain for Codford.
- 28/2/1919 Medical inspection by Medical Board, New issue of clothing. Innoculation against influenza.

- 30/3/1919 Leave granted to all ranks. Issued with passes, tickets and clothing - ship suits. More leave granted, few guard. Indefinite leave, waiting for ship to arrive.
- 25/4/1919 ANZAC DAY. Sports.
- 27/4/1919 Arrive Liverpool and embark S.S. Runic, which leaves for Australia 5.00pm and sails via the Cape for Australia all troops now anxious to get home, after an absence of 4 years.
- 15/6/1919 Arrive at Port Melbourne, about 1.00pm Dis-embark and immediately put into cars, supplied by volunteers meeting the Troops. Driven through the City of Melbourne street. Terrific welcome from the people, arrive at Defence Office. City Road, paid off and Discharged.

13th Australian Light Horse 1915-1919, 1st A.I.F. Association, officially closed down its association activities January 1979, after 51 years due to the increasing difficulty for members due to old man time, as most at that stage were octogenarians. The motto - LOYAL TILL DEATH.

Note: The details of the History dealing with the 13th Australian Light Horse Regiment, 1st A.I.F. 1915-1919, are from the personal notes, given to me (to use as I saw fit) by the late Lieut. Walker V.C. (13th A.L.H.), who always hastened to add, that the V.C., was a decoration, his parents indowed upon him and stood for VERNON CHARLES.

AFTER WORLD WAR 1

In 1921, the unit was reformed as the 13th Light Horse Regiment (Gippsland Light Horse) and known as the "Devil's Own", which was the name by which the 13th Light Horse Regiment, of the 1915-1919, period was known.

The Regiment was re-organised by Brigadier Scott, and commanded by Lt Colonel Armstrong, the Regiment consisted of three Squadrons, Headquarters "A" & "B", the two "Sabre Squadrons". Headquarters Squadron at Sale, "A" Squadron went to Warragul, "B" Squadron, East to Bairnsdale.

After Lt Colonel Armstrong, came Lt Colonel T Daly, who commanded for three years, when he handed over to Major Arnott, who was killed prior to receiving his promotion to Lt Colonel. The Regiment was then taken over by Lt Colonel Christensen.

During the period from re-organisation to round about 1930, training within the Regiment was not of a very impressive nature. From 1930-1933, the Regiment was commanded by Lt Colonel A.W.J. Stewart, it was during this Officers command, that training was taken seriously, and the Regiment was put on a fairly sound footing.

From 1933-1937, Lt Colonel G.S. Telfer M.C., was in command with Lt Colonel W.G. Hopkins as 2 I.C., who took over from Lt Colonel Telfer in 1937, it was about this time that the War establishment was increased, adding an additional two Sabre Squadrons to the Regiment, "C" Squadron took in an area from Bairnsdale to Orbost. While "D" Squadron, took in from Yarram to Foster, in South Gippsland.

It was during Lt Colonel Hopkins, command that World War II, broke out, the Regiment was then in camp at BAIRNSDALE, carrying out its first 4 weeks camp, prior to this the period of camp, training was 8 days.

WORLD WAR II

On Declaration of War, by the Japanese, the Regiment moved again to Leon Gatha area to complete its training and carry out the role of Coastal Protection from San Remo to Seaspray, with Regimental Headquarters at Leon Gatha. Conversion from a Horse trained Regiment to a Motor Regiment, commenced to take place, Horses were returned to Army Depots, and privately owned horses to their respective Troop areas. Many of the original men transferred to the A.I.F. during this period.

About March 1942, the Regiment moved to Rowvill area, and carried on with its training a few more establishment vehicles were available at this stage.

After a short period at Rowville, the Regiment move to Gehrang (Geelong area) Lt Colonel H Wallace, was appointed ADM. Command of the 6th Motor Brigade, and Major A E Arnott, ADM, Command of the 13th Motor Regiment, 14 March, 1942, an increase of War establishment vehicles, such as Bren Gun Carriers were available.

The Regiment by this time was getting to advance stages of Motor Regiment training, when a change to Armour seemed apparent. Lt Colonel Wallace resumed command. The following Officers transferred to various Units.

Lt Col Wallace

Capt R Williamson

Major A E Arnott

Capt W Lyle

Major J Hammill

Lt J Catter

Major J Stewart

The Official change to "ARMOUR" took place on 8 May, 1942, Lt Colonel F H Costello, was appointed then to command the 13th Armoured Regiment, with Major J H Donnelly as second in command. The Regiment then moved to Puckapunyal for conversion training to Armour, to the 6th Armoured Brigade.

The enlistments for the Regiment in the early stages were not so good, as it was thought at this stage that there may have been a chance of the Regiment, going into the A.I.F., as a unit, but this did not take place, and troops started to leave, and join the A.I.F. During the BAIRNSDALE Camp, extensive training was carried out, which included a 3 day Trek, inter Squadron excercises, and field firing, also night firing V.M.G.

Early in 1940, the Regiment moved off again for a 3 months camp at Torquay, this being a Divisional Camp, much more progressive training was carried out, which concluded with a Divisional Excercise.

It was the later part of this camp that Lt Colonel Hopkins handed over command to Lt Colonel Chase M.C., while Lt Colonel Hopkins, took over the 20th Light Horse Regiment.

On the 6 June, 1941, Officers and N.C.O's, returned to camp for a refresher course, this time to Geelong. I think at this time mobilization took place at the conclusion of this camp the Regiment rode the horses from Geelong through the City of Melbourne, Major General F P Derhan, general Officer, commanding the 4th Division, took the Salute in Collins street.

That night we camped at the Caulfield Race Course, and rode on the Leon Gatha, the next day, where 3 months training was carried out. Owing to adverse weather conditions the Regiment was bogged down and have to move to Mount Martha. Lt Colonel Chase, relinquished his command and Lt Colonel Wallace was appointed to command.

List of Officers and postings included the following:

Commanding Officer	Lt Col H Wallace
Second in Command	Major A E Arnott
Adjutant	Capt R Williams
Quarter Master	Capt N McNaughton
Transport Officer	Lt J Wilton
O.C. Headquarters SQN	Major J E Stewart

Second in Command	Lt G Hughes
O.C. "A" SQN	Major J A Hammill
Second in Command	Capt W Lyle
O.C. "B" SQN	Capt J H Donnelly
Second in Command	Lt L Wiseman
O.C. "C" SQN	Capt R Williamson
Regimental M.O.	Capt Clough
Padre	Padre Sansom

POSTING OF OFFICERS IN NEW FORMATION

C.O. Col F H Costello	OC HQ SQN Capt Gamble
2 IC Maj J H Donelly	2 IC Lt A Kelly
ADJ Capt R Williams	OC "A" SQN Capt L Wiseman
QM Lt J Leslie	2 IC Capt G Curry
TO Capt H Bird	OC "B" SQN Capt P Scarvill
MO Capt Cherry	2 IC Lt G Hughes
Padre Padre Sanson	OC "C" SQN Capt C Pearson
	2 IC Capt A Tompkins

War establishment vehicles, and equipment in the early stages was limited, but, as training advanced, vehicles and equipment became more plentiful, four 2 man Tanks, were used in the early stages. All Officers and N.C.O's, in turn did a conversion Course at the A.F.V. school at Puckapunyal.

Wing Training was organised under Regimental control, with Squadron responsible for various wing as under.

Headquarters - Elementary Training
 "A" Squadron - Driving maintenance
 "B" Squadron - Gunnery
 "C" Squadron - Tank Wireless

In door Tank Wirelasses, Gunnery and Driver Mechanic Schools were set up in Regimental huts, much of this equipment for these schools was not available through Army channels, and the troops themselves through various means found a lot of the necessary gear required such as Engines, gear box, magnets, carboreter, and chassis.

Parts for wireless and Gunnery rooms also came from unknown places. In the early stages of Armoured training the general feeling towards Armour was not keen, but with elementary training getting well advanced,

and the arrival of a few Tank Sand, thrills which followed changed the outlook altogether, men became keenly interested and Tank minded. Once this spirit prevailed, training showed marked improvement.

From this time on the Regiment started to take shape of a efficient Armoured Regiment. Only about 30% of the Regiment at this stage were A.I.F. but during the next few months, it built up to 100%, and became an A.I.F. Regiment.

Tank Drivers, commenced their practical tests Tank Wireless operators, moved out with sets on their vehicles to gain necessary experience. Tank Gunners, completed their final stages in Gunnery prior to Range practice. This stage of training completed, and still a limited number of Tanks, about 15 medium Radial Grants, and 5 Light Tanks. The elementary training proved its worth by very satisfactory results obtained from Tank, Small Arms, 37mm and 75mm Guns on stationary and moving targets. The Regiment now with 32 Medium Radial Grants, and, 7 Light Stewart Tanks, moved out on maneuvres in the Seymour district, and settled down to training in Squadron areas, firstly Squadron, then Regimental excersises were carried out.

The period the unit would remain out would vary from 7 to 10 days. Then back to camp for general over-haul and maintenance. It was on one of these maneuvres, the Regiment experienced it first serious accident, resulting in the loss of life of five members of a Tank Crew.

The "NEWS" that the 2nd Cavalry Motor Division, under which the 6th Armoured Brigade, came under command was to be disbanded.

The Regiments in the 6th Brigade were 12th, 13th and 14th Armoured Regiments, the 12th and the 14th were disbanded, and the 13th Armoured Regiment, moved North, to join the 3rd Armoured Division, with Headquarters at Murgon (Queensland).

The 1st Armoured Regiment, with complete War establishment and with the

exception of a few Light Tanks and Scout Cars, moved North in April, 1943. The movement by Rail required five trains for personal and equipment. Trains - shipment of Tanks took place at Albury, once again at South Brisbane. The Tanks were off-loaded at Monkland and the personnel (with the exception of Tank Crews) at Murgon. The Tanks under the command of Major J H Donnelly, moved a 100 miles by road to Murgon area, this movement entailed travelling through some very hilly and rough country, also jungle.

There were many thrills, before eventually arriving at their destination without any serious accident, prior to moving North, trucks were fitted especially as Headquarters and Squadron Offices, Quarter-masters stores, and Squadron cooks trucks.

These trucks were among the best fitted vehicles in the Armoured Division.

The Regiment moved to the East Coast, mostly of Brisbane, where the Unit came under the command of the American Forces, for instruction in loading of Tanks on Landing Barges and off Loading on an Island. The Regiment on return to Murgon, area, from this exercise move into a Regimental area. During a Divisional Exercise, the 13th Armoured Regiment, was given a role in which a movement by night without lights was the only hope of success.

The Tanks averaged 9 miles an hour for 7 hours on a very dark night, without lights on a road, little more than a track, wheeled vehicles could not hold the pace under the same conditions, and were brought forward separately.

During the absence of Lt Col F H Costello who was sent to the Islands for a short period as an observer, and Major J H Donnelly attending a Military School, Major Ford-Grieve, of the 2/4th Armoured Regiment was

appointed Admin Command of the 13th Armoured Regiment. On the return of Lt Col Costello, to the unit, Major Ford-Grieves, returned to his unit, and was later seriously wounded in action in New Guinea.

Lt Col Costello was appointed to command 2/5th Armoured Regiment in West Australia, and Major J H Donnelly to Admin, command of the 13th Armoured Regiment.

The war had reached the stage where it was obvious that, there was going to be little or no opportunity for Armoured units. Training took another change and much Jungle training was carried out, with and without vehicles.

The feeling in the Rank and file by this time, was that all the training and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years of hard work was likely to go over board at any moment without any definite results. Two months later the official announcement that the 3rd Australian Armoured Division, with the exception of the 2/4th Armoured Regiment, would be disbanded. Disbandment of the Units concerned commenced.

Tanks and Carriers, were sent down to Albury and wheeled vehicles to various vehicles parks in Queensland. Officers, N.C.O's and men were transferred to all kinds of units through-out the service all other ranks much disheartened by the dis-bandment of their unit, which they had hoped to go into action with, were still soldiers in heart, and were anxious to transfer to units likely to go on immediate active service. Although the War ended some months later, a large number of these men saw active service including the following who were decorated for bravery in Action.

Capt (now Major General C.M.I.) Pearson A.O., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., R.L.
 Lt John Carstairs M.C.

Sgt Toy Whatley M.M.

Major General C.M.I. Pearson A.O., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., R.L., is patron of the 13th Armoured Regt A.I.F. Association.

Motto:- "LOYAL TO DEATH".

Other officers not already named who served with the Regiment.

N Anderson	Lieut	A Frost	Lieut
S Lind	Lieut	J Earl	Lieut
R Stock	Lieut	W Gamble	Capt
J Leslie	Lieut	J Fox	Lieut
A Bond	Lieut	L Moran	Lieut
G Wilson	Lieut	H Treasure	Lieut

In the years prior to World War II, 1939-45, period, competitions were held between all Australian Light Horse Units. The record of the 13th Gippsland Light Horse is as follows:

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|---|---|
| (1) Lance-Sabre events | Commonwealth Champions Tom Wilson - Acky Smith. |
| (2) Brigade Cup. Brigade Sports | Best Regiment. |
| (3) "Foster Cup". | Best Machine Gun Troop in Australia. |
| (4) "Pearson Cup". | Best Troop in Regt "C" Squadron. |
| (5) Web Gilbert Trophy. "Digger Trophy" | Best Regt in Australia. |
| (6) McLean Memorial Trophy. | Regimental Competition. |
| (7) Hutton Shield. | Best Light Horse Troop in Australia. Won 4 times in succession. |

13th Australian Armoured Regt. (A.I.F.)

Claude H Wilson, President. Formerly "C" Squadron. 13th Gippsland Light Horse Regt. 13th Australian Armoured Regt.