

Lieutenant Colonel Graeme Smith RFD Retd

I served in the Army Reserve for 29 Years.

I enlisted in the Melbourne University Regiment in April 1967 and graduated as Lieutenant in 1971. My first posting was as Troop Officer of an APC Troop at 4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment. Over the following years, I progressed in rank to Major and held positions as Troop Leader, Squadron 2IC and, Squadron Commander.

I attended and graduated from Staff College and in 1991 was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. I was then posted back to Melbourne University Regiment as Commanding Officer and held that posting for 2 years. I was then posted back to 4/19 PWLH as Commanding Officer. During my term, I oversaw the change of the Regt's role from APC to Cavalry and then to Reconnaissance.

In 1994 I was appointed commander of a joint force "Exercise Northern Explorer". The force comprised of over 880 participants. It was a joint Army and RAAF exercise made up of Exercise headquarters, 2 Squadrons of 4th 9th Prince Wales Light Horse, a company of 5/6 RVR and 8/7 RVR and supporting logistical elements from 4Bde. The exercise was conducted on the Tindal Air Force Base in the Northern Territory. The Exercise was tasked to conduct recon and security operations within the designated area of the Air Base. It was a significant opportunity to assess the Reserves capability to operate outside of Victoria in company with RAAF elements.

I also managed the linking of 4/19 PWLH with 8/3 Victorian Mounted Rifles 1993/94. It was a significant period during which the history and traditions of both Regiments were joined together. More significantly the Squadrons went through a major reorganization where the troops were reorganised taking into account their level of training. This allowed for the Regiment to undertake more meaningful training exercises.

When I retired from active service in 1996, I was appointed to the Trustees of the Regiment which pledged to maintain and promote the history of the Regiment. I held the position of Chairman of the Trustees for 7 Years.

In 2016, it was agreed to establish the General Sir Harry Chauvel Memorial Foundation Inc. The objective of the Foundation was to commemorate the centenary of the charge of the Light Horse at Beersheba in 1917 and to promote the life and achievements of General Sir Harry and bring them into of the public. I held the position of President until 7 November 2023.

I continue to maintain a deep interest in the Light horse.



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