

NZAR A68 Armoured Cars in Support of the Gallipoli Campaign

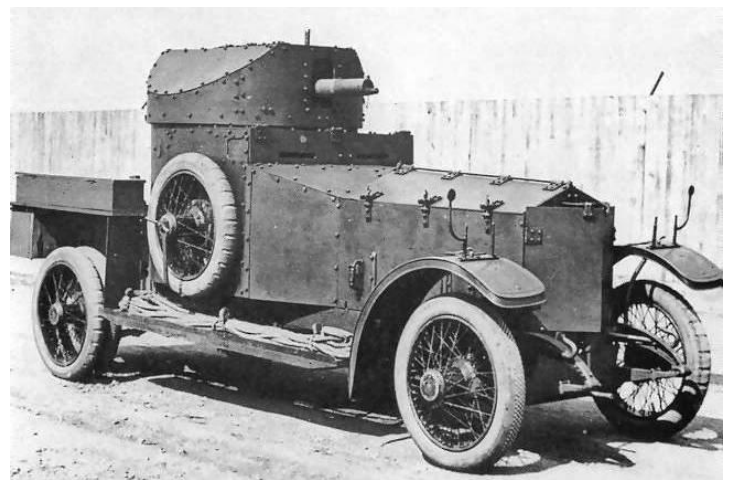
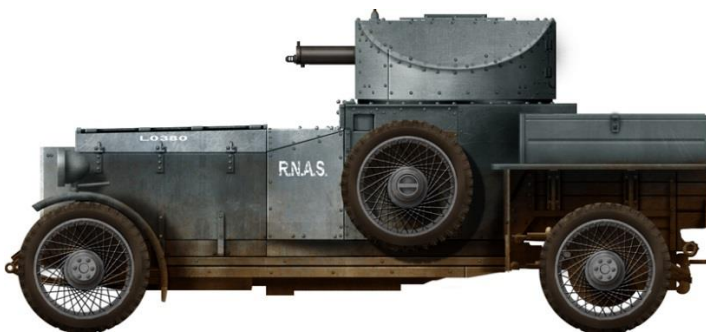
Compiled by Dr John Osborne MG DTT PhD FSG

By mid-April 1915 No3 Armoured Car Squadron RNAS commanded by Lt Cdr JC Wedgwood had reached Mudros, Gallipoli, but before being committed to land operations, Early on 25 April 1915 the Squadron's machine-gun crews were used to provide covering fire with their eleven Maxim guns installed on the foredeck of the landing-craft *River Clyde*, the vessel ran aground on the sloping beach at Sedd el Bahr, but the gunners kept up such a torrent of fire on the Ottoman positions that the forces were able to get ashore and capture Sedd el Bahr the following day. While this action was taking place, No4 Armoured Car Squadron under Commander C E Risk had been attacking Bulair as a diversion.

The RNAS Armoured Car Squadrons continued with their Maxims to support the Army at Gallipoli. On 28 June the cars were engaged with the infantry in attacking Ottoman troops but, towards the end of 1915 as winter came, the RNAS armoured cars – together with the crews who manned them – came under RND / Army operational control but remained under the command of RNAS.



The cars and motor cycles of the Gallipoli squadrons stored in dug-outs after the machine guns had been removed.



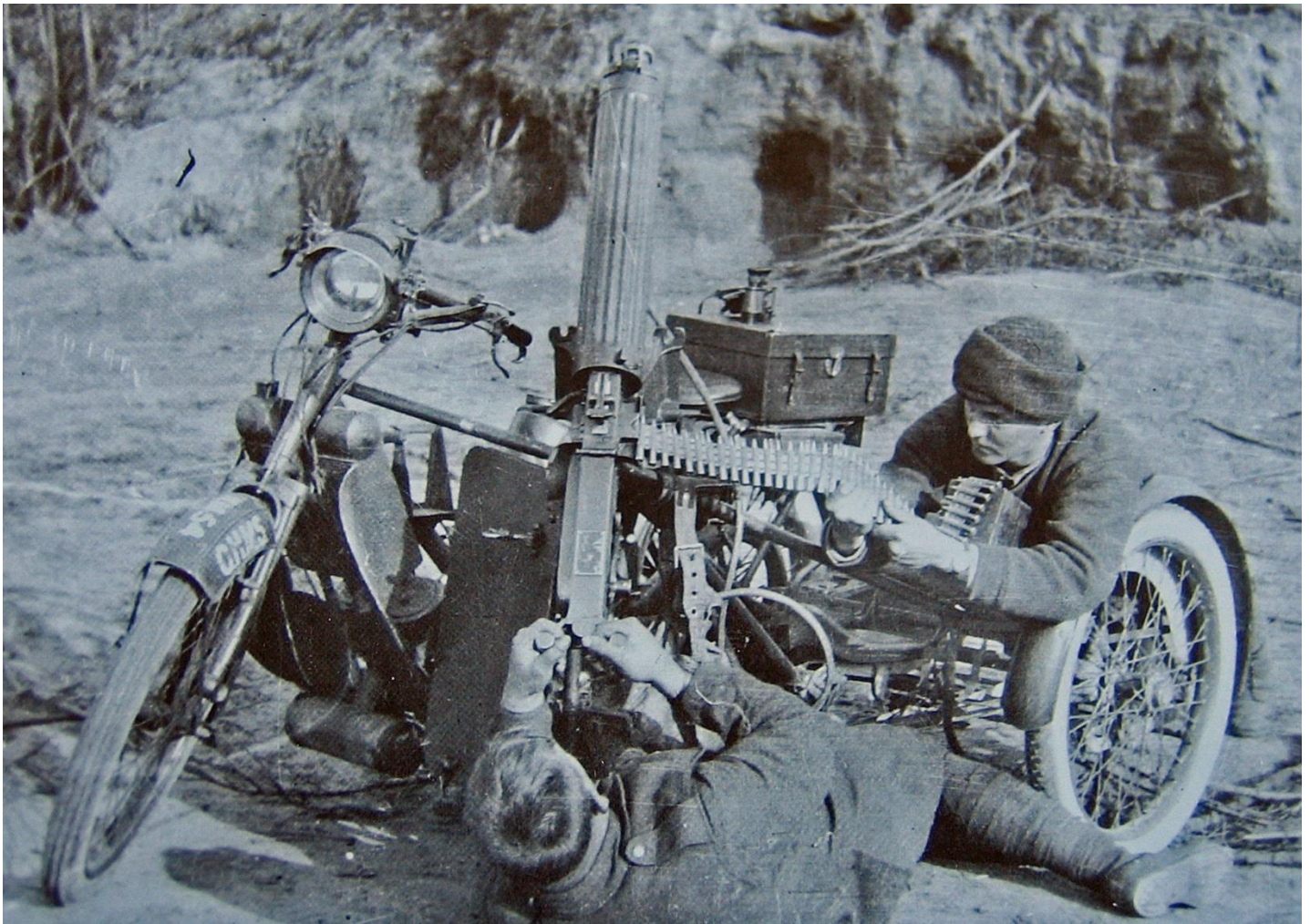
Rolls Royce Mk.I 1914 Pattern. In August 1914, the Eastchurch Squadron of the RNAS (Royal Naval Air Service) was based in Ostend under the command of Cdr Charles Rumney Samson, who introduced Armoured cars and fitted them with a .303" Maxim machine-gun, and used in coordination with airplanes that spotted the enemy. So successful were their actions that, in October 1914 the War Office, approved the conversion of Rolls Royce Silver Ghost chassis and the Admiralty Air Department rationalized the conversion and set up the new RNAS tactical units used at Gallipoli.



Examples of armoured cars c1915/16



Cap badge of the Royal Naval Air Service, showing stylised Armoured Car, circa 1916.



Example of an RNAS armed motorcycle c1915/16 Research continuing 22 April 2015

Acknowledgements and special thanks to: Phil Cregeen FSG, Michael Wynd researcher Royal New Zealand Navy Museum, www.navymuseum.co.nz Australian War Memorial www.awm.gov.au Royal Naval Museum www.royalnavalmuseum.org www.armymuseum.co.nz www.firstworldwar.com www.navymuseum.mil.nz http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Armoured_Car http://www.tanks-encyclopedia.com/ww1/gb/Rolls_Royce_Armoured_Car.php http://www.rrec.org.uk/Cars/Rolls-Royce_Armoured_Cars/Armoured_Cars_in_Action.php <https://defenceoftherealm.wordpress.com/2014/11/16/rolls-royce-armoured-car-1914-pattern/>