

**“A Trooper of 2<sup>nd</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment,  
Queensland Mounted Infantry  
– Trooper Jamie Bodley”**

by Captain Conway Bown  
Official Army War Artist



*“A Trooper of 2<sup>nd</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment, Queensland Mounted Infantry – Trooper Jamie Bodley,” Oil on Canvas Board. 2007, Official Army Art Collection*

“This portrait was of a young trooper in the Light Horse; Trooper Jamie Bodley. The story of Jamie is quite tragic.”

“Jamie was an ASLAV crew commander. That is, he was the commander of a 12 tonne armoured vehicle. He was 21 years of age and drove me around whilst I was in Baghdad. One of his regular routes was Route Irish between the ‘Green

Zone’ to BIAP. (The international zone in the centre of Baghdad to Baghdad International Airport). Route Irish, as it was known, was the most dangerous route in the world at the time. Insurgents regularly attacked coalition forces along this route using suicide bombers, snipers and IEDs; Improvised Explosive Devices. IEDs were particularly nasty. As the name suggests, they were improvised with whatever the insurgents could find. One of their favourites was unexploded artillery shells that would be detonated when coalition vehicles were over the device or within the effective zone of its blast. The exploding of IEDs were often followed up by attacks by insurgents.”

“Trooper Bodley never so much as received a scratch whilst he was in Baghdad, commanding his ASLAV, but tragically he was killed in a motorbike accident when he returned to Queensland. His motorbike left the road on Cunningham’s Gap south west of Brisbane whilst his mother, and his brother (who was also a soldier in 2<sup>nd</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment) were driving in the car behind. His brother gave him CPR until the ambulance arrived but unfortunately, to no avail.”

**Points to Note:**

**The Uniform:** The Trooper wears the standard body armour although he has removed the cumbersome shoulder armour to allow him ease of access to the armoured vehicle which can be difficult to mount and to enter and exit. His Kevlar helmet is surmounted by a pair of goggles to protect his vision especially in the sandy environment of Iraq. Even in the middle of Baghdad, there is a great deal of sand blown in from the surrounding desert.

**The ASLAVs:** In the background is the rear of an ASLAV. Part of the spare tyre can be seen. The tyres of the ASLAV have a smaller solid wheel inside the tyre mounted on the axle so that if the rubber of the tyre is punctured, it will deflate but the weight will be taken up by the wheel so it can still drive. (Vital in a battle). On the back of the vehicle is a warning sign in English and Arabic warning other vehicles to keep 100 metres away. This is for security. The idea is this becomes a safety zone and any vehicles that enter this zone will immediately be suspected of dubious intentions and will attract the attention of those providing security for the vehicle (see the artwork called ‘The Shooter’).

The ASLAV is the Australian version of an American armoured vehicle based on a Swiss design. ASLAV stands for Australian Light Armoured Vehicle. (AS is the military abbreviation for Australia). The American design (simply known as a LAV by the US Marines or Stryker by the US Army depending on its version) is built in Canada by General Motors Canada. It is driven by a driver who sits on the left hand side of the vehicle, thus the sign signifying that it is left hand drive.

In the picture below of an ASLAV-25, the open hatch that normally covers the driver's position is shown below the barrel of the 25mm cannon casting a shadow on the side of the vehicle



An Australian Light Armoured Vehicles (ASLAV) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment.