

“ASLAV-25 in Profile”

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‘ASLAV-25 in Profile’
Orthographic diagram.
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“The Australian Light Armoured Vehicles are variants of the Piranha Light Armoured Vehicle which originated as the Swiss Mowag Piranha. This design was then varied by General Dynamics Land Systems of Canada and variants sold to the US Marine Corps (1st Generation) and to the US Army and NZ Army (3rd Generation). The US Army calls their LAV the “Stryker”, a picture of which is below.

The Australian variant is a 1st Generation model. The AS part of the abbreviation comes from the standard NATO abbreviation for Australia (AS). The ASLAV depicted above is the ASLAV-25. The 25 denotes the 25mm calibre cannon, rounds of which are shown below.



Points to Note:

Orthographic: Orthographic (ortho – correct, graphic – writing/drawing) is a means of creating a diagram where all the angles are the same or ‘correct’. That is not to say that it is realistic! To the eye, we see an object where the closer part of the object seems to be larger than further parts of the object. Those who have studied art or industrial/technical drawing, you would know this as ‘perspective’ where parallel lines will appear to converge towards imaginary ‘vanishing points’. In orthographic drawings, perspective is removed. Have a look at the spare tyre at the rear of the ASLAV. If you were actually looking at an ASLAV from this point of view, the tyre would not look like a perfect rectangle. To create an orthographic illustration is quite difficult to do. You have to remove from the image all the distortion from the camera lens initially, and then remove the perspective.

Flags: The flags are attached to the antenna. The Australian National Flag (ANF) takes precedence over all other flags and so the ANF is on top and the guidon (swallow-tailed flag) of the cavalry is below showing 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

ASLAV – PC: The ASLAV-PC is the personnel carrier version of the ASLAV. It does not have the 25 mm cannon of the ASLAV-25 but has room inside to carry up to 8 troops. An ASLAV-PC is shown below. (Photo by Conway Bown)



The Light Horse and the Cavalry: In the days before tanks and armoured vehicles, horses were used in warfare. Troops mounted on horses and who fought on horseback were known as cavalry. They were often heavily armoured or armed and the horses were often quite large and strong. Military units that used horses often had the word horse in their name. For example ‘Horse Guards’ or Royal Horse Artillery, or First Regiment of Horse – Kentucky. The last example, from the American Civil War, is a good example of a ‘slang’ or military term in the use of the word ‘horse’. Often, the cavalry would be called ‘horse’. This convention carried on to the naming of a type of soldier that travelled on horseback but did not normally fight on horseback. This was the Light Horse.

The Light Horse were infantry – foot soldiers – that travelled on horseback and then dismounted to fight. Unlike cavalry, they weren't normally heavily armed and their horses were not large cavalry style horses. Instead, they used a horse colloquially known as 'Walers'. The waler was more of a stock horse that was bred in the colony of New South Wales during the 19th Century and which were favoured for use by the British in India because of their ability to withstand the heat and their remarkable stamina. (The term Waler derives from the nickname for the horse, New South Waler because of from where they originated.) Both the Cavalry and Light Horse were used for reconnaissance.

In Australia, there have been a number of units that have been designated cavalry or light horse throughout its history. Today, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and the 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment, Queensland Mounted Infantry use the ASLAV for their reconnaissance and troop transport roles.



The inspiration - 'Starlight, racer and troop horse' by George Lambert. Australian War Memorial ART 02705

A painting by renowned war artist George Lambert painted on board was the inspiration for the picture of the ASLAV. The Waler was the loyal and reliable mode of transport (and friend) of the light horse and mounted rifles and I wanted to honour the Waler by creating a modern day version of this troop transport.