

# The Advent of Tank

LTCOL Chris Gardiner



## Lancelot de Mole



## BUCKBOARD JOLT.

## Inspiration For Tank.

SYDNEY, May 17.—A buckboard buggy jolting along over terrible country in Western Australia in 1911 was the inspiration for the modern tank, claims Mr. L. E. de Mole, now of Cremorne, Sydney.

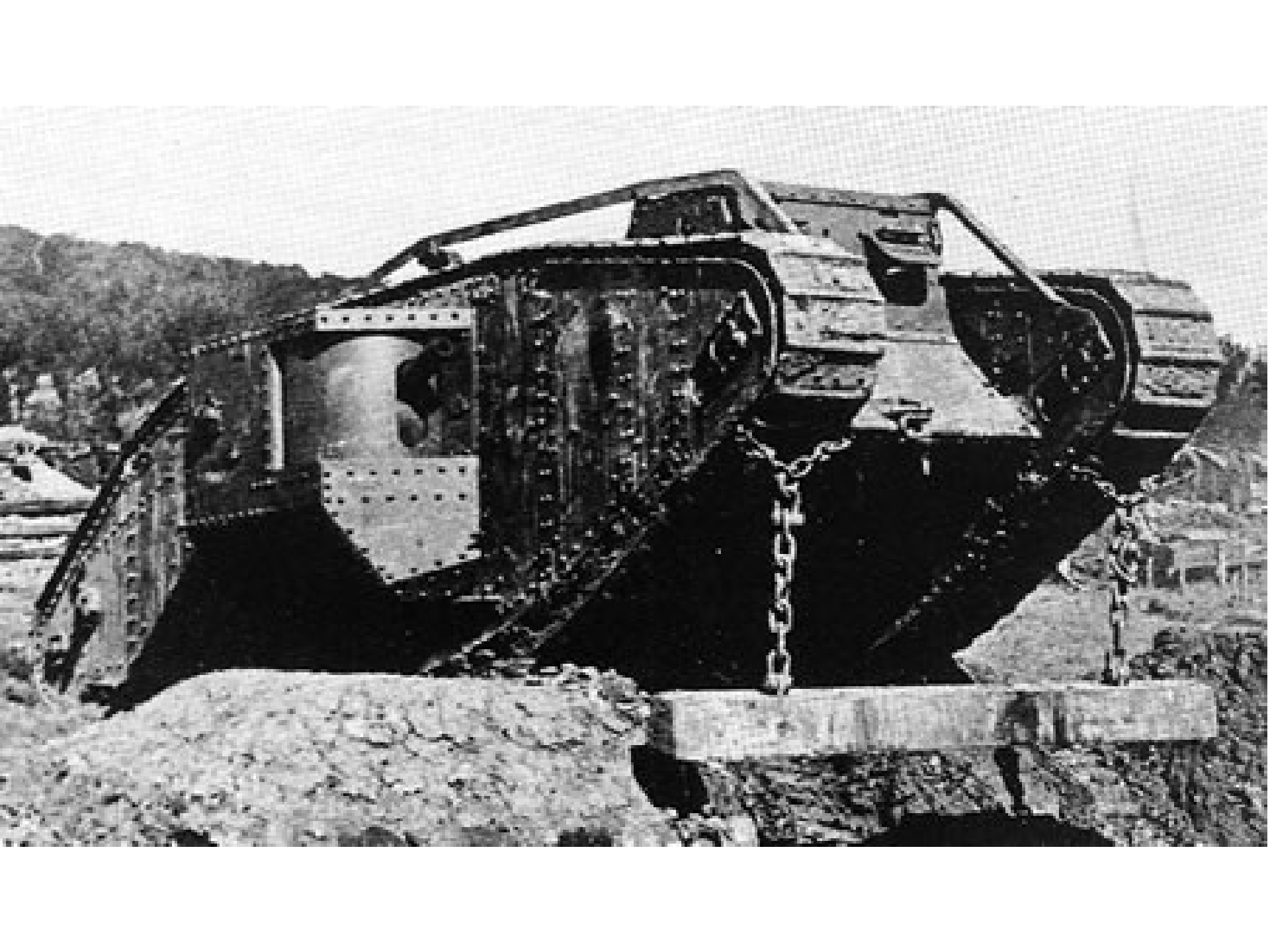
As he went forward in this buggy like a ship in a heavy sea, says Mr. de Mole, he began to think out a method of traction that would be equal to all obstacles. The result was the first plans of what has evolved into the modern tank.

Mr. de Mole sent his plans to London to the War Office which returned them in 1912 with the terse announcement that they were not further experimenting with chain rails.

Mr. de Mole, a civil engineer, is now employed in the designing office of the Sydney Water Board. He again submitted plans to the War Office in 1915, showing improvements on his previous attempt. Then, unknown to him, he says the War Office had evolved a tank which already was in production. "When I saw the first pictures of these tanks," he says, "they seemed to be identical with my own idea submitted in 1912."

At the Royal Commission on awards to inventors in London in November, 1919, Mr. de Mole appeared in person to plead claim to an award. To-day he produced an authenticated copy of the Commission's findings, rejecting his claim. The Commission said: "We consider he is entitled to the greatest credit for having made and reduced to practical shape, as far back as 1912, a very brilliant invention which anticipated and in some respects surpassed that actually put into use in the year 1916." Following this bitter experience, no one welcomes more heartily than Mr. de Mole the formation by the Sydney division of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) of an inventors' advisory committee to examine ideas now pouring into the Army and Navy Offices at the rate of 500 a week.

The committee will launch the biggest search for ideas ever carried out in Australia.







# Cambrai

- Massed (376 Mark IV)
- Terrain
- “Surprise”
  - Transit
  - Dummy Tanks
- Breaching
- Lessons:
  - combined arms cooperation
  - manoeuvre warfare



# Current to Future

- Never Fight Alone
- Protection, Mobility, Firepower
  - Weight
  - Track / Wheel
  - Numbers

