



**COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER**  
**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc**  
**5/2020 EDITION**

Postal: 25 Bentley St Stoneville WA 6081 Phone: 0892952281  
 Email: secretary.raacawa@gmail.com



**Patron**

Col Ken Ashman  
 (MSM USA)  
 (RET)  
 92862167

**President**

Robert Gesmundo  
 94994685

**Vice President**

Robert Norris  
 93023529

**Secretary**

Noel Moyes  
 92952281

**Treasurer**

Ross Leighton  
 92764695

**Committee:**

Tony Beekwilder  
 95918663  
 Colin Davies  
 0403654954  
 John Dwyer  
 0419694549  
 Ross Flint  
 93325634  
 Dick Jones  
 93075654  
 Peter Williams  
 0428948458

**Editor**

John Dwyer



**PRESIDENT ROBERT GESMUNDO MESSAGE**

Greetings fellow members. It is indeed my pleasure to once again send you a brief message to update you on the activities of RAACAWA.

Since our last Commentary Edition, the Committee has been very active in creating possible activities for our mutual enjoyment. Ross Leighton organised a very enjoyable afternoon at Whiteman Park on Sunday 4 October 2020 and all who attended this free event had a great time.

A Sqn Tenth Light Horse have invited us to attend and participate in the Traditional Old Boys on Sunday 31 October 2020 commencing at 1500 hours. I will be reciting The Ode and laying the Wreath on behalf of RAACAWA.

*It is very important that we have as many members as possible attending so that we can proudly pay our respects.*

Dress will be Association Dress with Medals. I ask you to make every effort to share this Traditional Day with your mates.

As I mentioned in my last Commentary, we have been working on Cambrai Day Lunch. The organising of the event is my responsibility and I am ably assisted by Ross Leighton and the Committee.

The day is Sunday 22 November 2020 commencing at 11.30 hours held at RAAFA's new Function area, Bull Creek. By now you would have received an email Invitation Flyer and a copy together with a Questionnaire are attached to this edition of Commentary.

I look forward to sharing this Traditional Annual Event with you all and may I also ask you to make every effort to reply to the questionnaire as this will assist your Committee in delivering the best service to you, our members....Thank you.



## CAMBRAI

Proposals for an operation in the Cambrai area using a large number of tanks originated from Brigadier [Hugh Elles](#) of the Tank Corps, and the reliance on the secret transfer of artillery reinforcements to be "silently registered" to gain surprise came from [Henry Hugh Tudor](#), commander of the [9th \(Scottish\)](#) infantry division artillery.<sup>[8]</sup> In August 1917, Tudor conceived the idea of a surprise attack in the IV Corps sector, he suggested a primarily artillery-infantry attack, which would be supported by a small number of tanks, to secure a breakthrough of the German Hindenburg Line. The German defences were formidable; Cambrai having been a quiet stretch of front thus far enabled the Germans to fortify their lines in depth and the British were aware of this. Tudor's plan sought to test new methods in [combined arms](#), with emphasis on combined artillery and infantry techniques and see how effective they were against strong German fortifications.<sup>[9]</sup> Tudor advocated using the new [sound ranging](#) and [silent registration](#) of guns to achieve instant suppression fire and surprise. He also wanted to use tanks to clear paths through the deep barbed wire obstacles in front of German positions, while supporting the tank force with the [No. 106 Fuze](#), designed to explode high explosive (HE) ammunition without cratering the ground to supplement the armour.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Air support

Two weeks before the start of the battle, the [Royal Flying Corps](#) (RFC) began to train its pilots in ground-attack tactics. Before the ground offensive, the RFC was assigned sets of targets to attack, including trenches, supply points and enemy airfield [Masnières](#)



The first day of success was greeted in Britain by the ringing of church bells.<sup>[37]</sup> The massed use of tanks, despite being a further increase on previous deployments, was not entirely new but the success of the attack and the resulting Allied press enthusiasm,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> including in the United States, were unprecedented.<sup>[5]</sup> The particular effectiveness of the tanks at Cambrai was the initial passage through barbed wire defences, which had been previously "supposed by the Germans to be impregnable".<sup>[38]</sup>

The initial British success showed that even the strongest trench defences could be overcome by a surprise attack, using a combination of new methods and equipment, reflecting a general increase in the British capacity to combine infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft in attacks.<sup>[39]</sup> The German revival after the shock of the British attack improved German morale but the potential for similar attacks meant that the Germans had to divert resources to anti-tank defences and weapons, an extra demand that the Germans could ill afford to meet.

Wherever the ground offers suitable going for tanks, surprise attacks like this may be expected. That being the case, there can be no more mention, therefore, of quiet fronts.

# CAMBRAI

## REMEMBRANCE LUNCH

**Sunday 22 November 2020**

**To be held at  
RAAFA Airforce Memorial Estate  
2 Bull Creek Drive BULLCREEK WA**

**Arrival 11.30**

**12.00 Wreath Laying**

**12.30 move to Dining Room for 3 course lunch  
including 1 bottle each of red and white wine plus soft drink per table.  
Self serve tea/coffee station with mints.**

**Bar available at own expense.**

**Dress:** Association dress with medals

**Cost:** \$25.00 RAACA per seat members & partners  
\$35 each SNGO members & \$50 each external guests

To help our administration, **PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**  
RSVP to Noel at [secretary.raacawa@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.raacawa@gmail.com) or 0402 149 755

**Confirm by direct transfer payment to RAACA BSB 066192 a/c 1032 9559  
(Please add your name).**

**or**

**Cheque to Treasurer 52 Bramwell Rd NORANDA 6062**



## Brief History – 10<sup>TH</sup> LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT AIF

Current serving members of the unit and those that have gone before them base all their activities on the “CULTURE” established by those who served with the Regiment in WW1

On 10 October 1914, "C" Squadron of what had until then been known as 7th Light Horse Regiment was officially re-designated the 10th Light Horse Regiment. It was the only AIF light horse unit raised in Western Australia.

The regiment was sent to Egypt as part of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, embarking from Fremantle on [HMAT A47 Mashobra](#) in two stages, beginning 7 February 1915, and arriving in Egypt on 8 March 1915.

The regiment's first action came during the Gallipoli campaign. Due to the terrain and the static nature of the fighting on the peninsula, it was felt that mounted units could not play a part; however, a number of light horse units were deployed in a dismounted role as infantry. The 10th Light Horse Regiment arrived at Gallipoli on 20 May 1915 and initially it was largely used in a defensive role. In August, however, the Allies attempted to break the stalemate, launching the August Offensive. The regiment's action at the Nek during this offensive was immortalised in the final scenes of the 1981 Peter Weir film Gallipoli. It was also involved in the Battle of Hill 60 later in August before being evacuated along with the rest of the Allied troops in December 1915.

Reverting to its original mounted infantry role, the regiment saw service in the Middle East for the remainder of the war, taking part in numerous actions including those at Romani and Beersheba. The regiment was later given the honour of leading the Australian Mounted Division, and accepted the formal surrender of the city of Damascus on 1 October 1918. During its service during the war, the regiment suffered 237 killed and 479 wounded.

Later, while awaiting repatriation, the regiment was used to suppress a nationalist uprising in Egypt in 1919.

Following its return to Australia, the 10th Light Horse Regiment was disbanded in 1919.

## Battle Honours

South Africa, Gallipoli, Gaza-Beersheba, Jerusalem, Megiddo, Damascus1 Victoria Cross (Hugo Throssell)

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1 Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George  
3 Distinguished Service Orders and one Bar  
1 Member of the Order of the British Empire  
9 Military Crosses and one Bar  
15 Distinguished Conduct Medals and one Bar ([William Clarence Martin DCM & Bar](#)) & ([Spencer Gwynne DCM MID](#))  
15 Military Medals  
3 Meritorious Service Medals – 48 MIDs – 4 Foreign Awards

## MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**CHARLIE KOALA'S**  
Not for profit advocacy's helping  
the well being of past and present  
armed services personnel.

**CHARLIE**  
M: 0413 181 986  
E: charliemccallum1953@gmail.com

**TOM**  
M: 0415 031 729  
E: thomastjd16@gmail.com

### OUR SERVICES

Providing Assistance with:

- Household Bills
- Transportation to appointments
- Recreation Options
- Social Interaction
- Counseling Options



NEED A PLAQUE - Tony Beekwilder  
[Tonybeek1942@gmail.com](mailto:Tonybeek1942@gmail.com)  
0409204336

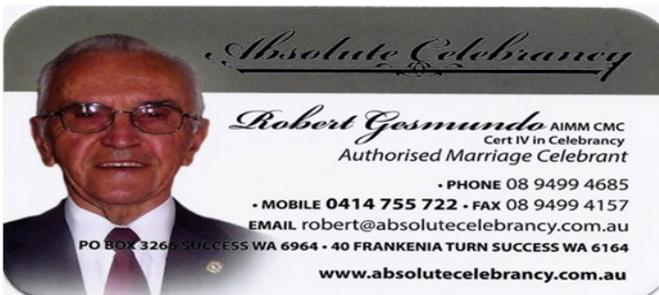


Dick Jones - Wooden Models  
Dickover60@hotmail.com

### Plumber

Laurens West

<https://m.facebook.com/pregrineplum>



*Absolute Celebrancy*

**Robert Gesmundo** AIMM CMC  
Cert IV in Celebrancy  
Authorised Marriage Celebrant

• PHONE 08 9499 4685  
• MOBILE **0414 755 722** • FAX 08 9499 4157  
EMAIL [robert@absolutecelebrancy.com.au](mailto:robert@absolutecelebrancy.com.au)  
PO BOX 3268 SUCCESS WA 6964 • 40 FRANKENIA TURN SUCCESS WA 6164  
[www.absolutecelebrancy.com.au](http://www.absolutecelebrancy.com.au)

## POSTAL DELIVERY OF COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

As advised previously by the President the committee is determining the level of interest in this newsletter being posted to members in hard copy format. It would be appreciated if you would advise our Secretary Noel Moyes your preferred method of delivery – By Post or By email.

Please let Noel know by emailing [secretary.raacawa@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.raacawa@gmail.com) or phone 92952281 or mobile 0402149755