



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc

3/2022 ANZAC EDITION

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*They shall not grow old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning*

We will remember them

Lest we forget

President Robert Gesmundo



Welcome to this ANZAC edition of our Commentary Newsletter. I hope it finds you all well and safe even if at times life is not what we want it to be.

Our AGM was very successful, much was discussed and achieved with the support of attending members. Thank you all who were able to attend, those who lodged Proxies and those who sent apologies. It was a great effort. My thanks to the committee for their efforts over the past year and I look forward to working with them again. We have a couple of vacancies available – please contact me for further information should you be interested.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Patron Col Ken Ashman for accepting to be our Patron for another year. Col Ashman's support, knowledge and willingness to always be available is an asset to RAA-CAWA and to the Committee. The Committee will be addressing many issues and activities during this year, and you will be kept informed as we progress forward in the best interest of our Members.

Our membership with the RAACA Corporation is active and RAA-CAWA is well respected and appreciated with the support, information and action we take as required.

On behalf of our Committee, and I am sure, our membership, we wish a speedy recovery to any of our members who are unwell or are experiencing difficulties beyond their control. I would like to ask you all that if you know of any member in this situation, please let our Secretary Noel Moyes know so he can inform our Welfare Officer, Tony Beekwilder.

In closing I would like to ask for your support of our Association by attending any organised event, contribute any supportive comments through our Secretary, and as always, we will act in the best interest of our Membership.....Stay well and stay safe.

Yours in Armour, Robert Gesmundo, President

Articles in this edition focus on events during WW1, WW2 and Vietnam that have a personal connection from some of our members. My thanks to them for providing the information. One article concerns the military life of Lt General H.C.H. Robertson who served with the 10LH WW1, WW2, Japanese Occupational Forces and Korea. Editor



TPR John Sanderson loading a cannister round on operations
Phuoc Tuy province South Vietnam

Major John Sanderson taken at the Royal Military College
Duntroon

John is a valued member of the Association having served on both the National and State committees of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association. He is a Vietnam veteran who served with 1 ARMD REGT and his other postings during his career included the 10LH Regiment and 5 Military District. He retired from the ARMY as the QM of the RMC with the rank of Major. His contribution to helping fellow veterans spans many years of advocacy on their behalf including members of the Association. He played a large part in securing CAMBRAI House in the early 2000s primarily for the support of Advocacy Services, the establishment of a base for the Association for Administrative and social purposes.

Bruce Cameron wrote a two volume book *Cannister! On! FIRE! Australian Tank Operations in Vietnam*. It is based on the daily records kept at the time and feed back from those who participated. A small take from that book indicates the challenges faced by the 61000 served in Vietnam – 500 who paid the ultimate sacrifice and many more who have suffered physical and mental disabilities as a result of their service.

On the 21st of October 1969 The Composite Troop of 1 ARMD REGT in support Of an ARVN operation was returning along Route 326 when tragedy struck. TPR John Sanderson, operator on 2ZeroEcho (CPL Fred Fedoprowyrsh) recalled that the driver of the lead tank “noticed a small mound in the middle of the road that definitely was not there during the morning run. I still remember thinking how observant the driver was. I also remember an old man walking along the side of the road (looking) very frightened and uncomfortable. My senses were telling me that something was amiss.”

The mini-team were sent forward (How brave they were, not knowing if this was a “set up”. LCPL Bryant Hansen knelt down and commenced prodding carefully with his bayonet. Almost immediately, there was an explosion. Hansen was killed instantly. His body shielded his Number 2 who, miraculously was relatively unscathed.

John immediately grabbed a medical kit and volunteered to go forward however when he got to the two men he realised nothing could be done. John requested the US dustoff helicopter crew to fly the sappers body back to 1 AFH but in the reality of war there priority was to look after the injured so it was left to his own unit 1 Field SQN to arrange. The very next day Trooper Bert Casey was killed in an RPG attack on B SQN 3 CAV.

Many of those that served in Vietnam in the RAAC are members of the Association and/or members of RAAC unit associations around the country. Your contribution both then and now is appreciated by all.



The following is a partial history of my father Kenneth Kingsley Moyes, Initially W235084, and later as WX10904

I lost all of the information about my Dad's war record when my computer died a few months ago. All I have is a partial photocopy of his Record of Service, which shows he initially enlisted about 1940 in 7 Field Park Company, a unit of RAE known as a Field Engineers. The men in the unit are mainly Tradesmen, used in admin and support roles, under detachment to other units. Often called on to operate heavy machinery such as earth moving equipment.

The 'normal' allocation of 3 Field Companies are to a Brigade and remain under command of their own officers.

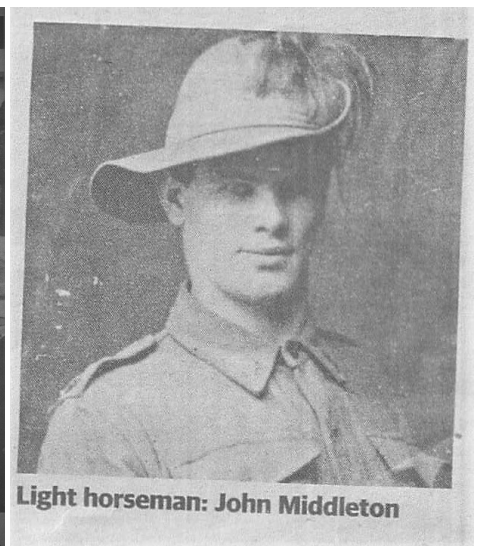
Dad's initial designation was Tinsmith while in 7 Fd Pk Coy. He then transferred to the 10th Field Park Company, as a Bricklayer. 2/10 Fd Coy was formed in Seymour in July 1940, attached to 23 Infantry Brigade Group. They left for Singapore in August and initially were established at Malacca in Malaya, but moved to Mersing, and given the role of defending Johore. They were tasked to build beach defences, roads, water supply and accommodation.

I believe in the final stages of the defence of Malaya, and Singapore, all the units such as Field Park Engineers and other service units that were not combat units were combined as a single unit, under the command of various officers. They then fought as infantry defending Singapore until the surrender.

I know only that he spent some time in Changi, and was then transported to Thailand as part of "H" force, on 8/5/43 to an area along the Railway to a place called Tampi. The place is not known now as the name is not known by the locals but is not far from the place called "Hellfire Pass". He passed away 15th July 1943, was exhumed from his grave at the prison camp area, in May 1946, and reburied in the war cemetery in Kanchanaburi, near the "Bridge over the River Kwae", in Thailand.

I visited Thailand in 1991 in the company of Weary Dunlop, Keith Flanagan, and some other returning survivors, on a tour arranged by Keith Flanagan. I originally planned to bury dad's medals at his grave, but everyone assured me they would get stolen. We received the following Posthumous Medals; Defence Medal, Australian Service Medal, War Medal 1939-1945, The Pacific Star, 1939-45 Star,

Noel Moyes 10LH Regiment and current Secretary of RAACA WA



John Middleton with six surviving members of 2nd Reinforcements 10LH Regiment 52 men (December 1917)

TPR JOHN MIDDLETON 10TH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT

John enlisted at Midland and after initial training set sail on the Itonus from Fremantle along with other members of the 53 strong second reinforcement of the 10LH Regiment including CAPT Hugo Throssell VC centre front in the photograph above. By December 1917 they were the remaining members of the reinforcement.

Like many from the Regiment John served at Gallipoli where he received a severe gun shot wound but recovered to re-join the unit and served with them in the middle east returning home in early 1919. Many of his comrades serving in what was to become known as "The Glorious Tenth" made the supreme sacrifice for their country during the Gallipoli operation particularly at the NEK and Hill 50 where Throssell's courage earned him the Victoria Cross. Many others returned home with battle wounds and scars some carried for life.

Battle Honours: Anzac; Damascus; Defence of Anzac; Egypt, 1915-17; El Mughar; Gallipoli, 1915; Gaza-Beersheba; Jerusalem; Jordan (Es Salt); Magdhaba-Rafah; Megiddo; Nebi Samwil; Palestine, 1917-18; Rumani; Sari Bair; Sharon; Suvla

Decorations 1 VC; 1 CMG; 3 DSO, 1 bar; 1 MBE; 9 MC, 1 bar; 15 DCM, 1 bar; 15 MM; 3 MSM; 48 MID; 4 foreign awards.

After the war John ran a boot making shop in North Perth then managed the canteen at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital. John died at the in 1987 at the age of 93.

One of John's 14 Grand children was Warren (Bear) Robson who served with the 10LH Regiment for 33 years 1971 to 2003. CPL Robson was one of a team of valued members in HQ SQN and then A SQN 10LH

Warren is also a long term member of the Association.



Officers of the 10th Light Horse Regiment shaving during the Battle of Romani in July 1916. Robertson is on the left. Below in Korea



Major General H C H Robertson (right) accepts the sword of the Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazo Adachi following the Japanese surrender 13 SEP 1945 in New Guinea.



Gallipoli Campaign; Sinai and Palestinian Campaign;
Western Desert Campaign; New Guinea Campaign; New Britain Campaign
Occupation of Japan
Korean War

Lieutenant General **Sir Horace Clement Hugh Robertson, KBE, DSO** (29 October 1894 – 28 April 1960) was a senior officer in the Australian Army who served in the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean War. He was one of the first graduates of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, to reach the ranks of major general and lieutenant general.

During the First World War, Robertson served with the 10th Light Horse in the Gallipoli Campaign, including the disastrous Battle of the Nek, where much of his regiment was wiped out. He later participated in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, where he captured a Turkish Army general, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

During the Second World War, Robertson led the 19th Infantry Brigade at the Battle of Bardia and accepted the surrender of the Italian Navy at Benghazi. Later, he commanded the 1st Armoured Division in Western Australia. In the final weeks of the war he commanded troops in the closing stages of the New Britain Campaign and the Aitape–Wewak campaign. At the end of the war, he accepted the surrender of Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazō Adachi.

Following the war, he commanded the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in the Occupation of Japan and the British Commonwealth Forces Korea in the Korean War.

Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire; Distinguished Service Order; Mentioned in Despatches (4); Officer of the Order of the Nile (Egypt) Chief Commander of the Legion of Merit (USA) ; Taegeuk Cordon of the Order of Military Merit (Korea)

Upon his death 8 Generals were his pall bearers with

MEMBERSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE 2022

ANZAC DAY Dawn Service— Closed event— Corps represented by President who will lay wreath on behalf of all past serving members of the Corps.

ANZAC DAY PERTH MARCH

Form up 8.45am on St Georges Terrace (Trinity Arcade side) just down from Barrack St

ALL BLACK HATS WELCOME TO MARCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION

Association Dress with medals for members— similar for other Black Hats

GLOBE HOTEL— WELLINGTON ST

Black hat after march get together

10IH REGIMENT ANZAC DAY EVENT

Es Salt Lines Irwin Barracks

Open invitation— past serving members and families

(Note all above events participants and onlookers are advised to practice good COVID safety protocols)

BLACK HAT LUNCHEON —event MAY - DETAILS TBA

Christmas in July event— 17th of July

OLD BOYS PARADE— 6th of August (TBC by 10LH)

Social/Trip event September

CAMBRAI Dinner - November 28th

MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Charlie Koala
 Self-funded,
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 helping the well-being of
 past and present armed
 services personnel.

CharlieKoalaAustralia.com.au

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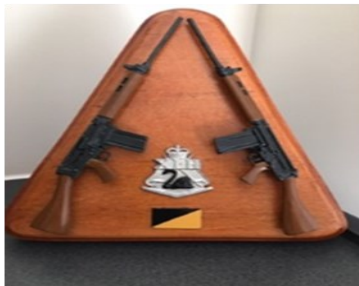


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Tonybeek1942@gmail.com

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