



## COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc

#### 6/2021 Christmas Edition

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President Robert Gesmundo

Welcome to the final edition of our Commentary Newsletter for 2021.

Looking back in this year I have reported on many activities, difficulties, loss of Members and much more in our regular Commentary News.

To highlight just a few positive activities, I would like to mention The Old Boys Parade, Beersheba Commemoration (organised by The XLH Association), the historical reforming of our Tenth Light Horse Regiment and Cambrai Commemoration.

I must thank RSM Bruce Williams for his great address as Guest Speaker at our Cambrai Day Lunch and Adam Barnard from Spinifex Brewery for his full support in sponsoring Cambrai Day with a huge donation of Australian Lighthouse Lager cans of great beer and also Committee members Dick Jones and Tony Beekwilder for their generous raffle prizes.

Our membership to the RAACA Corporation is active and RAACAWA is well respected within the Corporation and its activities. The Committee has worked hard and diligently for the benefits of members and I commend our Committee. I would also like to thank our long-standing Patron Col Ken Ashman for his guidance, advice and total support during the year.

*Merry*

*Christmas and  
a happy New  
Year from the  
President and  
Committee to  
all members,  
family and  
friends.*

*Please give a  
thought for all  
ADF members  
and their families  
serving  
overseas at the  
time*



Above all I commend and thank you all for your attendance at all events and your continued support. It goes without saying that without your support the organised events would not be as successful as they have been.

We look forward to 2022 being a safe and better year.

The Committee has already started the process of selecting social activities for 2022 and we also have a Members event early in the new year as always and our AGM will be upon us early in the year.

Speaking of the AGM, this is an opportunity for members to consider nominating for Committee as there are currently vacancies. RAACAWA has a strong future ahead but to ensure that it continues to be as successful as it has been or even better it will always need the support of the membership including stepping up to Committee

Maria and I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe Christmas and a fantastic 2022.

God Bless — Yours in Armour

*Robert Gesmundo*

## MEMBERSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE 2022

Black Hat Event — 27th of January

Annual General Meeting — 27th February

ANZAC DAY Dawn Service, Perth March, 10LH Regiment function — 25th of April

Social trip — event June

Christmas in July event — 17th of July

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

Social/Trip event September

CAMBRAI Dinner - November 28th

We are looking to conduct two events involving visit to places of military interest and also incorporating a luncheon or similar. Any suggestion please speak to any committee member. Those items will be progressed at our January meeting

The ceremonial parade on October 10 for the re-raising of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in Western Australia also heralded a major increase in Army's presence in the state.

Chief of Army Lieutenant General Rick Burr said the re-raising of the 10th Light Horse's regimental status within the Western Australia-based 13th Brigade represented a strengthening of Army's presence in Western Australia.

"Reinforcing our presence in Western Australia will ensure that we are able to support the crisis response and security demands of Australia's relatively unpopulated north-western and western borders," Lieutenant General Burr said.

"This posture will be further reinforced as Army grows its littoral manoeuvre and engineering capability that is resident in the 13th Brigade."

Lieutenant General Burr said the re-raising of the unit provided Western Australians more opportunities to serve their nation in both full-time and part-time capacities.

"Army is bolstering its Western Australia recruiting and training to support this approach," he said.

"We have begun trials to allow soldiers and officers recruited in Perth to conduct initial training in their home state."

The parade held for the re-raising of the 10th Light Horse Regiment in Perth also celebrated the 107th anniversary of the raising of the regiment in 1914.

More than 100 soldiers took part in the historic ceremony in front of dignitaries, including the Governor of Western Australia Kim Beazley and the Assistant Minister for Defence Andrew Hastie.

Initially raised as the Western Australian Mounted Infantry, the 10th Light Horse Regiment's lineage can be further traced back to the period of the colonial militia of Western Australia, with its battle honours including South Africa (Boer War), and the World War I honours of Gallipoli, Gaza -Beersheba, Megiddo and Damascus.

Following the dis-establishment of the Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) and B Squadron in 1976, A Squadron remained the only active sub-unit.

In December 2020, the Army Force Structure Implementation Plan was released, directing the transformation of the 13th Brigade, among other objectives.

As part of that, the Chief of Army prioritised re-raising 10th Light Horse RHQ and establishing B Squadron by the end of 2023.

The regiment's newly appointed Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Wright said the re-raising of the 10th Light Horse Regiment was a significant milestone of Army's Objective Force.

"The unit has always recruited well and has a spiritual connection with the WA community," Lieutenant Colonel Wright said.

"B Squadron is being raised ahead of schedule in November 2021, and on current trends, the regiment will be near full staffing by the end of 2022.

"As well as personnel growth, we are fortunate to have been given the opportunity to develop a light cavalry capability, with an initial issue of 10 Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles – Light.

"The Hawkei is a fantastic platform from which we can experiment and develop our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities with a focus on our WA base of operations."

Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One (WO1) Bruce Williams said the re-raising of the regiment recognised the unit's strong history, while looking to the future.

"The 10th Light Horse Regiment is one of the most storied units in WA history, and the parade reflected that with our new fleet of Hawkei as well as the 13th Brigade's Land 121 Fleet," WO1 Williams said.



# RE-RAISING OF THE TENTH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT

## 10TH OF OCTOBER 2021







**LTCOL Daniel Wright**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**10 Light Horse Regiment**  
**Article for Association Members**

A few short years ago, social media forums whipped up a frenzy to the tune of A Sqn 10 Light Horse being struck from Army's Order of Battle. Thankfully that never became a reality, but it shows how far we have come in 2021, to be re-raising the famous Regiment to full unit status. Backing up this historic occasion is commitment from Army to provide the unit with a new platform, the Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle, now in the unit's possession. With these vehicles on display, the 10th Light Horse will stand re-raised on the 107th anniversary of the Regiment's inception, the 10th of October 2021. The significance of this occasion, and indeed the Regiment's enduring place in the Army's Order of Battle, is not lost on the unit's members and community. With new platforms comes an expanded role, with 10LH being given increasing tasks and responsibilities in the Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance space.

By January 2022 the Regiment will be manned with a Regimental Headquarters, and 2 Squadrons both containing 2 Troops. The Regiment aspires to recruit an additional troop per year for the next 2 years, and we are well supported by Defence Force Recruiting and the 13th Brigade in doing so. We have runs on the board with this, recruiting a full troop in the last 12 months since the announcement of B Squadron's establishment and the release of a fourth troop.

In 2022 the Regiment will enter the new era trialling new tactics, systems and of course, exploring the capabilities of the Hawkei. It will be a busy yet exciting year for the unit, with major exercises planned in the far reaches of WA in order to prove our capabilities in the extremities of our Area of Operations. In addition to this, we will be maintaining our directed tasks as a force element in support of domestic operations over the high risk weather season, and other contingencies. COVID 19 continues to challenge us, with many of our soldiers heading to the eastern states for technical, trade and promotion courses. Unfortunately this disruption is likely to continue into 2022. I have been amazed at the commitment and dedication shown by our soldiers in the past 2 years. Not only have they maintained commitment to getting qualified, often necessitating a several week course back up by 2 weeks' isolation, they have consistently volunteered for various domestic support tasks. It is true that good things happen to good people, and I remain convinced that the reason the Regiment was chosen for re-raising and new capability, is ultimately down to the consistent high performance of its soldiers and NCOs.



## CAMBRAI DAY PARADE AND LUNCHEON



The event was held at RAAFA Bullcreek with a parade and luncheon. Our guest speaker was the RSM of the 10th Light Horse Regiment WO1 Bruce Williams.





## THE YEAR THAT WAS – 2021



Activities for the year commenced in February with a special evening organised by Ross Leighton at the Gravity Centre. The weather was not kind for observation however members enjoyed a meal and were able to view the equipment at the centre.

Those attending were given tickets to return to the centre to complete the visit and view the wonders of space through the optical equipment available at the centre.

The activity was subsidised for members attending by the Association



The AGM for the Association was held at the RSL Hall in Osborne Park with the Executive for the year being President Robert Gesmundo, Vice President Peter Williams, Secretary Noel Moyes and Treasurer LM John Dwyer supported by LM Dick Jones, Colin Davies and Tony Beekwilder. Our Patron Col Ken Ashman once again accepted the position and on behalf of our members thank you Sir.



Planned ANZAC Day events were cancelled due to COVID issues. A number of members conducted their own Dawn Service at their homes. Barry Bamford of Kirwan Qld is pictured on left.

A wreath was layed at the T tenth Light Horse memorial at Kings Park on the day with one person in attendance. The wreath along with many others are normally layed at the State War Memorial with the Association commemorating the service of all past and serving members of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.



Once again members enjoyed each others company along with family and friends at this function. The food and beverages were suitable for the occasion and thanks to gift donors (see information last page) Dick Jones and Tony Beekwilder along with prizes provided by the Association their were quite a number of raffle prize winners.



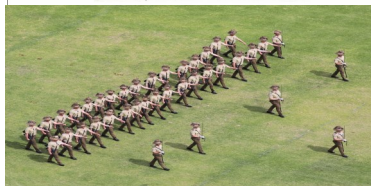
We farewelled Col Ted White Commanding Officer of the Regiment who worked his way from Trooper in the Regiment. Ted served during WW2 as a SGT in the Intelligence Corps in the Islands and then in the occupying forces in Japan.

Association and past serving members of the unit attended his funeral.



*For Len Hall  
badly wounded 10th  
Arms at Geresofeta  
Nov 1947. On lookout  
Duty at Mazar  
Nov 1946.*

The Old Boys Parade a traditional commemoration conducted by the unit was held at the 10LH memorial in Kings Park. Despite pressures of time and space the unit once again ensured those members who had gone before them would not be forgotten



The re-establishment of the Regiment is covered in this edition of Commentary. Suffice to say the return of RHQ and in particular B SQN was welcomed by all in the Association. As Western Australia's own and for many who served with the unit in the 60s and 70s in particular with the powerhouse SQN.



The last membership event for 2021 was the Cambrai Parade and Luncheon where the guest speaker was RSM WO1 Bruce Williams of the 10LH Regiment. Members and partners enjoyed the event along of course with the 3 course dinner and wines, This is another membership subsidised event of the Association.



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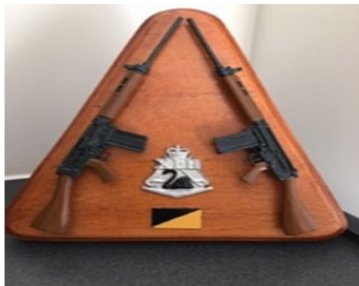


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