



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc
1/2022

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RAACA WA
AGM

SUNDAY
MARCH 27TH

3pm

Herdsmen Tavern
33 Herdsmen Parade
Wembley WA

Afternoon Tea Provided

COVID PROTOCOLS
IN PLACE PLEASE
BRING PROOF OF
VACCINATION ID



President Robert Gesmundo

Welcome to the first edition of our Commentary Newsletter for 2022. I hope you enjoyed a safe a peaceful Festive Season with your families.

I am pleased to say that even during the current difficult COVID conditions experienced by all of us, your Committee is working as hard as possible in your best interest. We are meeting regularly and considering events which would be entertaining and also comply with COVID restrictions that are changing constantly. We will keep you informed as events are finalised.

Our AGM is approaching fast, and I look forward to a strong attendance to show your support for your Committee and RAACAWA.

There are still positions available on the Committee and members can be co-opted so can you give your serious consideration to help RAACAWA and its members by nominating.

ANZAC Day information will be circulated as soon as we receive confirmation and additional information. We have been advised, so far, that I will be laying a Wreath on behalf of RAACAWA at the Dawn Service which is an invitation only event this year due to current COVID arrangements.

On a sad note, I attended the Funeral Service for Col Adrian Roberts, a Member of Tenth Light Horse and a decorated soldier. I also attended the Funeral Service for our member Robbie Platell who was also part of XLH. We also lost our respected friends Olga Creig and Dick Jones's friend Cheryl. Unfortunately, I could not attend the Funeral Services due to work commitments. *Our sincere condolences go to all their loving families.*

2022 promises to be another year that will ask much from us, but I am sure that we will continue to stay well and respect all the COVID restrictions thrown our way. We are RAACAWA.

Before I close, I would like to thank our Patron Col Ken Ashman for always being available for guidance and advice and our Committee, although small, for their dedication and hard work to keep the Membership safe and functional.

In conclusion I wish you all good health, stay safe and make the most of what we have.

MEMBERSHIP EVENT SCHEDULE 2022

Annual General Meeting – 27th MARCH 2022

ANZAC DAY Dawn Service – Closed event – Corps represented by President

ANZAC DAY PERTH MARCH 9am

101H REGIMENT ANZAC DAY EVENT

Social trip – event MAY

Christmas in July event – 17th of July

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

Social/Trip event September

CAMBRAI Dinner - November 28th

AGENDA FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

To be held at

The Herdsman Tavern 33 Herdsman Parade Wembley WA 3pm on the 27th of March 2022

Strict COVID arrangements apply including provision of proof of vaccination. Seating arrangements will be as required by the Health regulations.

OPENING

MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

RECEIVE AND CONSIDER

ANNUAL REPORT OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION (UNDER PART 5 OF THE ACT)

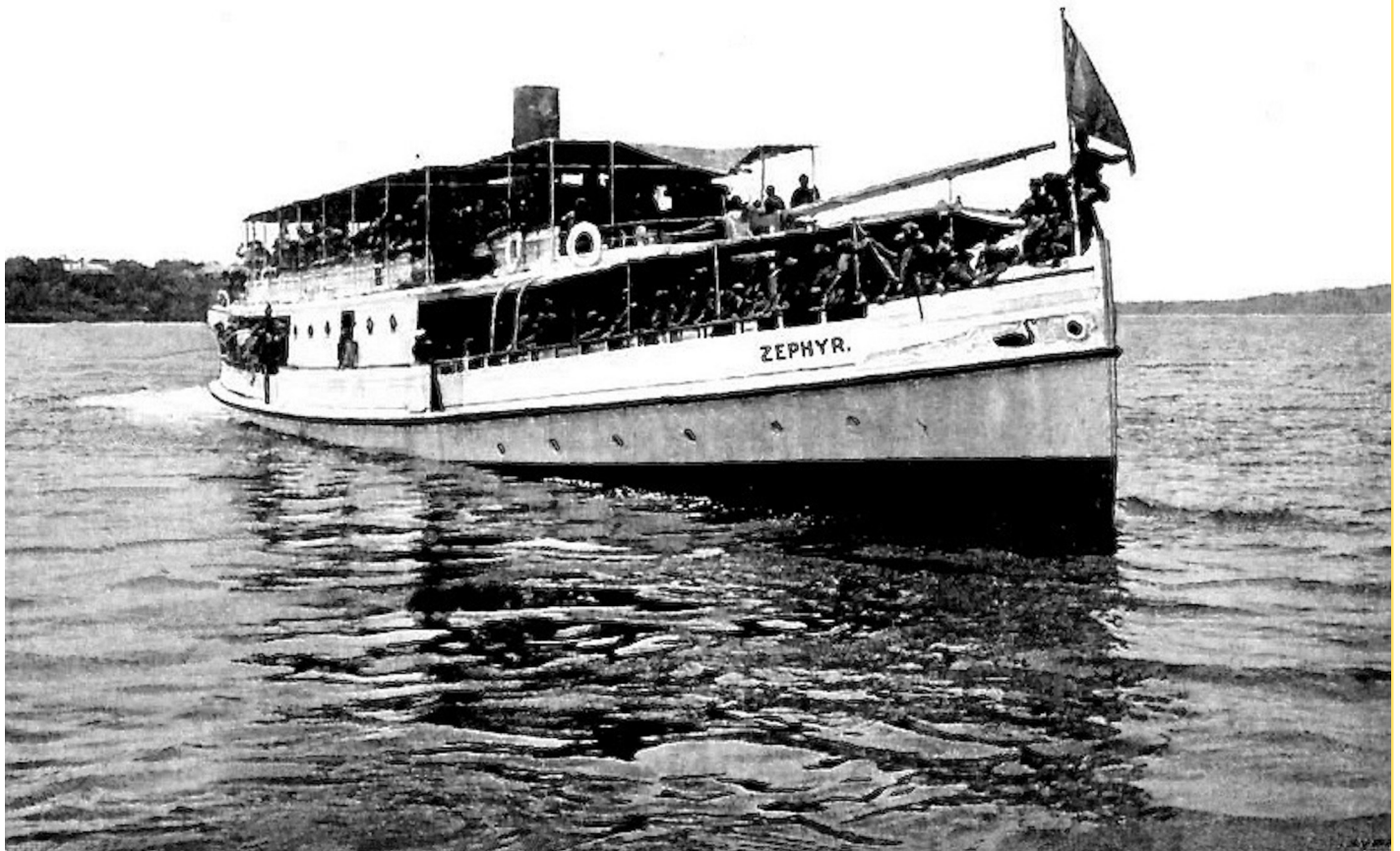
DECLARATION OF OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONFIRM OR VARY ENTRANCE AND SUBSCRIPTION FEES

CONFIRM OR VARY HONORIUMS

GENERAL BUSINESS

Noel Moyes
Secretary



10th Light Horse travels to Rockingham

Original Caption:

S.S. Zephyr en route to Rockingham with members of the 10th Regiment of Light Horse.
Western Mail, 15 January 1915.

On 4th January 1915, members of 10th Light Horse Regiment travelled to Rockingham to take part in what was the last training camp for the AIF regiment before it left for overseas. A large number of officers and men travelled to Rockingham by the coastal steamer *Zephyr*, while the horses and support vehicles that had left several days earlier moved overland, escorted by one squadron.

The camp was under command of Lt Col N.M. Brazier who arrived the next day, also by coastal steamer. He was accompanied by Lt Col J. Mac. Antill, who was Brigade Major of the 3rd Light Horse Brigade, to which 10th Light Horse was part. The Brigade Major, who was visiting WA from the Eastern States, later reported to the Commanding Officer, Brigadier (later Brigadier-General) F.G. Hughes that 10th Light Horse was *easily the best* of the three sabre regiments of the Brigade.

However, relationships between Brazier and Antill were not cordial, and a simmering indifference between the two senior officers led to disastrous consequences at The Nek on Gallipoli a few months later.

Of passing interest -- the SS *Zephyr* which in its earlier years was considered a somewhat luxurious mode of travel, finished its working life making regular trips to Rottnest Island, and as a river ferry, plying several times daily between the Barrack St jetty and Mends St in South Perth, well into the late 1950's

Barry Bamford

Royal Australian Armoured Corps

The role of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps is to locate, identify, destroy or capture the enemy, by day or night, in combination with other arms, using fire and manoeuvre.

Royal Australian Armoured Corps

The Royal Australian Armoured Corps (RAAC) is a combat arm with a range of capabilities that can be employed by the Army. RAAC units are able to participate in a range of operations including direct attack, reconnaissance and armoured mobility to infantry. Units of the RAAC are equipped with the Abrams M1A1 main battle tank (MBT) family of vehicles or the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) and Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle (PMV).

The main types of Armoured Corps units are:

The tank regiment - The tank regiment operates the Abrams main battle tank. The Regiment's manning and equipment make it suitable for a variety of employments. The role of the tank, in coordination with other arms, is to close with and destroy the enemy using fire, manoeuvre and shock action.

The cavalry regiments - The cavalry regiments operate the ASLAV and Bushmaster protected mobility vehicle. A cavalry unit's personnel and equipment enable it to conduct a variety of tasks. The role of cavalry is to locate, dislocate, and disrupt the enemy through the conduct of offensive, defensive and security actions.

The light cavalry regiments – The light cavalry regiments/units are Army Reserve units that can operate either in a mounted or dismounted role. The units are equipped with either the light cavalry patrol vehicle (LCPV) and the interim infantry mobility vehicle (IIMV) or the Bushmaster (PMV). Light cavalry conducts stability and enabling activities and augments cavalry regiments. Light cavalry tactics comprise security, stability and enabling activities including the operations of protection, counter-insurgency, evacuation and strategic response options and RFSU operations.



Within the Royal Australian Armoured Corps the following is the accepted order of precedence of regiments:

- 1st Armoured Regiment
- 2nd Cavalry Regiment
- 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers
- 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment (Queensland Mounted Infantry)
- 4th/19th Prince of Wales's Light Horse Regiment
- 12th/16th Hunter River Lancers
- 10th Light Horse Regiment
- 'B' Squadron, 3rd/4th Cavalry Regiment
- 'A' Squadron, 3rd/9th Light Horse (South Australian Mounted Rifles)

Army Teaming Command Themes

People	Preparedness	Profession	Potential	Partnerships
We are self-aware, comfortable with feedback and self-correcting.	We deliver individual and collective capability quickly in any environment.	We reflect a national institution and a profession.	We have a bias for continuous improvement and innovation.	We partner to share information and gain expertise.
We demonstrate individual and collective good character.	We bring people together, share information and integrate capabilities from anywhere.	We practice leadership and follower-ship.	We think critically, respectfully contest ideas, and experiment to unlock potential.	We create partnerships with our communities and other institutions to unlock potential.
We value our people, their families and our communities.	We are culturally competent and build relationships to enable access and achieve influence.	We show humility and always remain accountable to instil trust.	We examine success and failure, learn quickly and adapt.	We engage in strategic partnerships that are in the national interest.
We develop and empower resilient individuals to contribute to optimal teams.	We strengthen our relationships through shared vision and purpose.	We instil confidence through our professional mastery and shared competence.	We collaborate and partner to realise potential.	We engage in partnerships to contribute to national resilience.

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch (RSLWA) is actively preparing for ANZAC Day events for Monday April 25 while acknowledging that plans could change due to public health advice.

Following advice from the Department of Health, RSLWA is planning to deliver a scaled down Dawn Service at Kings Park but will still plan for a full ANZAC Day Parade through the Perth CBD and a scaled down Commemorative Service in the Perth Concert Hall.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt said final arrangements for ANZAC Day would depend on health advice closer to April 25 and the level of public health and social measures in place at that time.

“Right now all of WA is under Level 2 measures. Should this remain as we near ANZAC Day then the CBD Parade would not be able to proceed as Level 2 restricts events to no more than 500 persons,” Mr McCourt said.

Mr McCourt said the COVID pandemic has meant a lot of uncertainty but RSLWA will do its best to ensure commemoration in some form is observed on ANZAC Day.

“After two years without any ANZAC Day events in Perth, many in the community are eager to see the events proceed. Unfortunately, with the increasing cases of COVID, we have to put the health and safety of our Veterans and the public first.”

With this in mind, the Dawn Service at Kings Park will be by invitation only and held within the area that is traditionally enclosed with seating socially distanced.

The Service will be broadcast live throughout Perth and regional areas in partnership with Radio 94.5 and Radio Triple M. For those unable to tune in, RSLWA is planning to have a pre-recorded Commemorative Service on its website for people to download and use for their own Driveways at Dawn services.

The Story of the Blue Bottle

It seems that myths and legends in large groups, such as the army, can emerge from the most innocuous situations -- and the resultant stories become 'platforms' upon which individuals remember events from the past. One such event is the story of the 'Blue Bottle.'



A SQN 10LH Circa 1967 SHQ 1 TP Northam Parade Ground

The story started soon after I became Troop Leader of 3 Troop (3 Tp), A Sqn, 10th Light Horse, located in Northam in the mid-1960's. At the time I was also Secretary/Treasurer of the A Sqn Officers' and Sergeants' mess, responsible for the conduct of the bar. On Saturday, the first day of an annual camp I was cleaning out and securing the bar prior to the Squadron leaving the depot for two weeks. While doing this I noticed there were half a dozen or so near-empty bottles of various spirits and liqueurs lined up along the back of the bar. As we

had recently had an audit, I decided to write these left-overs off so we could make a 'clean start' as it were when we returned from camp. To this end, rather than just throw them out, I emptied them into a clean one-gallon (4.25 lt) blue plastic bottle that happened to be behind the bar. Into this rather fiery mixture I also emptied three or four near full bottles of green-ginger wine that had been left over from a recent formal dinner. As the Squadron was lined up on the brink of leaving, I put the bottle in one of the side bins of my Ferret and promptly forgot about it. It needs to be noted perhaps that unauthorised carriage of alcohol in this manner was strictly against regulations!

The following days were crowded and continuous, as camp periods inevitably were. On the following Saturday the Regiment conducted live firing on an MG Range, and then moved to a regimental harbour area, about ten kilometres away, for the start of a twenty-four hour maintenance and rest period. 3 Tp participated in the shoot, moved to the harbour area and commenced off-loading personal gear and erecting 'hootchies,' while looking forward to the cold beer and fresh meal that were to follow.

However, this was not to be. At about 1815 hrs when we were near through setting up, I received a signal from SHQ, saying that fires had been reported in the range area and 3 Tp was to move back to the range area, put out any fires, and picquet the area for the night. Because the threat of fire was taken extremely seriously we were given ten minutes to move. mood amongst the crews was decidedly unhappy -- dark even!

3 Tp saw the night out, returned to the harbour area the following morning, and subsequently completed the following week's training. But every year after that while I remained a troop leader the 'Blue Bottle' became an institution. In the following twelve months there were a number of comments made in the mess as to what the 'Blue Bottle' had contained, and before each subsequent camp almost inevitably a troop member would ask me if the 'Blue Bottle' would go to camp that year.



I always assured them that it would, but subsequent mixtures were more benign than the original fiery cocktail, usually a good mixture of black rum and green ginger wine. But it would be introduced in the same manner. During stand-down in the middle weekend of camp the troop would sit around, share the Blue Bottle and exchange perceptions of what we had been doing.

We were sitting under the tarps bemoaning our fate when I remembered the blue bottle. I considered we had completed the task assigned to us, and as there were no signs of fire, decided we could stand down as well. A cautious taste of the blue bottle revealed that although it was a little warm, it was quite palatable, and so it was passed around. As it continued to do so a debrief of the week's activities emerged and after several rounds some rather frank, mainly constructive comments were made by all concerned. It turned out to be a most useful night.

Lt Col J.D. Deykin, former CO of 10LH, addressing the meeting from the steps of the old Post Office building in Hawes St, Northam prior to unveiling the memorial plaque. Lt D.G Beresford who organised the reunion stands behind.

In 1997, eighteen years after I left the Regiment, I returned to 10LH at Karrakatta for the first time, to attend the Beersheba Dinner the Regiment held each year. On the way in I met Lt Col (later Brigadier) Ian Stock who had been commanding officer 10LH during the late 1960's. After cursory greetings he said to

me: *I hope you haven't brought the Blue Bottle for this function have you?* I was somewhat taken back. How the CO would know about the 3 Tp ritual was a surprise -- or that he would still associate it with me after such a long period was extraordinary.

Similarly, in November 2005 I attended a reunion of A Squadron members in Northam. At a small ceremony held during the meeting a memorial plaque was unveiled on the outer wall of the old Northam Post Office building that had acted as the A Squadron Orderly Room and Q Store. The plaque commemorates the presence of A Squadron in the building -- as all traces of the Squadron and the depot area have long since disappeared. One of the first persons I met was (L/Cpl) Les Lange who had been my driver in the final years of my troop leading in Northam. One of the first things he said to me after thirty-six years since he had been my driver was: *Did you bring the Blue Bottle?*

Apparently the memory lingers on!!

Barry Bamford

Dec 2000

Revised: Jan 2022



The memorial plaque in remembrance of A Sqn 10LH occupation of the Old Post Office building 1949- 1975

Australian Army Museum of WA presents

ARMY MUSEUM FAMILY DAY

Saturday 9 April 2022
Artillery Barracks,
Burt St, Fremantle
10.30am - 9pm

Join us as we open the museum for an extended day/night event to allow our visitors access to our fabulous exhibition spaces for longer, you will also see....

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BY JOHN BURRIDGE MG BETWEEN 11AM & 6PM

Tickets available through <https://www.trybooking.com/BXGCI>
Adults \$15 | Family (2 + 3) \$35 | Concession \$10 | Children 6 - 17 \$10
Booking fees apply | Proof of vaccination required | Masks mandatory

Refunds will not be issued if proof of vaccination is not supplied,
however in the event of cancellation by the organisers, refunds will be offered.

For more info www.armymuseumwa.com.au or call 9430 2535



ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership for 2022 and for the donations received. For the small number who have not renewed a reminder to please do so by submitting \$30 through direct transfer to our Combank Account RAACA WA BSB 066192 Account Number 10329559 or by mail to the Treasurer RAACA WA 37 Barrington Avenue Champion Lakes WA 6111

Information in regard to the Association and activities can be found on our web site

raacawa.org.au

As President Robert has indicated any member is welcome to join the committee please contact him if you are interested in doing so

MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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 Self-funded,
 not-for-profit advocacy's
 helping the well-being of
 past and present armed
 services personnel.

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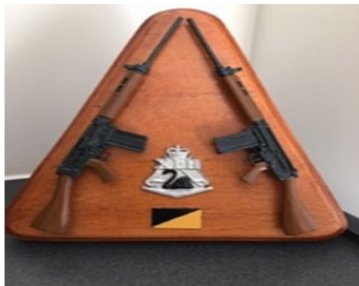


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