



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS  
ASSOCIATION WA Inc  
Edition 2/2025  
Editor John Dwyer



**Patron**

BRIG Phil White  
(RET) AM RFD

**President**

Barry Carson  
0418163607

**Vice President**

Colin Davies  
0403654954

**Secretary**

Ian Goodall  
0414376756

**Treasurer**

LM John Dwyer  
0419694549

**Committee:**

LM Dick Jones  
93075654  
David Veenstra  
0438544646

**CONTENT**

P1 President  
P2 AGM  
P3 Activities  
P4 WEDGE  
P5 Chauvel  
P8 Membership

**AGM RAACA WA  
& BBQ**

SUNDAY 12 PM  
MARCH 23RD  
Cambrai House  
Irwin Barracks Ad-  
vise Sec Ian  
0414376756  
iangoodall1@optusn  
et.com.au



*PRESIDENT BARRY CARSON*

*Welcome to this edition of Commentary. May I take this opportunity to first up acknowledge the work of the Committee over the past year since the last Annual General Meeting. Every event requires planning, organising and execution and thank you to them for the hours of work they put in on behalf of the membership. On the topic of AGMs please note that the 2025 event will be held on Sunday the 23rd of March at 12 noon followed by a BBQ lunch. Please come along, support your committee and enjoy the company of fellow members. Partners are welcome. For gate security and catering please advise Ian Goodall telephone 0414376756 or email iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au.*

*Our Black Hat Coffee mornings continue each month with the next being at the Muffin Break Joondalup Shopping Centre. Members enjoyed a return to Wedge Island where they enjoyed good accommodation and surrounds. Thank you to David Veenstra for organising that event.*

*I have been advised by the unit that due to commitments the Old Boys Parade will not be held until August of this year. Further detail will be provided by them. The Association will be involved in the Dawn Service at Kings Park, the Perth March and the unit catch up after the event. More information to follow in that regard.*

*Our member Barry Bamford has written an interesting article for this edition—a very good read.*

*Finally please make contact with any of the committee should you require advice or assistance in any RAACA matter.*

*Yours in Armour*

*Barry Carson*

# **AGENDA FOR THE 2025 AGM OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSO- CIATION WESTERN AUSTRALI**

To be held at Cambrai House Irwin Barracks Sunday 23rd of March at 12noon followed by BBQ  
lunch

ODE

OPENING

ROLL CALL including proxy votes received

APOLOGIES

CONFIRM MINUTES OF 2024 AGM (previously distributed)

RECEIVE AND CONSIDER

- (1) The committees Annual Report of Association Activities during the previous year.
- (2) Financial Statements for Tier One Association and Audit Report

ELECTION OF OFFICE HOLDERS AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWER OR AUDITOR

REVIEW AND CONFIRM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2026

MEMBERSHIP FEES

PATRON BRIG PHIL WHITE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

CLOSURE

Ian Goodall

Secretary

## RAACA WA EVENTS

Mar 11 TUE **COMMITTEE MEETING CAMBRAI HOUSE 1300 HOURS**  
23 SUN AGM Cambrai House 1200 hours followed by BBQ  
Advise Secretary of attendance please  
27 THU BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH 1000 Hours Muffin Break Joondalup

Apr 8 TUE **COMMITTEE MEETING CAMBRAI HOUSE 1300 HOURS**

24 THU STATE WAR MEMORIAL EVENING<sup>I</sup>

In the late afternoon, the day before Anzac Day, RSL WA is holding an inclusive Sunset Service at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park & Botanic Gardens. Join us for this important ceremony to commemorate all service men and women who have served and died in military operations. Location: Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park Park WA. Time 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

25 FRI DAWN SERVICE KINGS PARK

A representative of RAACA WA attends the service and lays a wreath on behalf of all Black Hats. A time held tradition our Coffee Plus event held after the event in the park usually follows. We are interested to know who would like to attend this event. Please advise the Secretary Ian.

ANZAC MARCH PERTH WA—Details to be provided

UNIT EVENT—DETAILS TO BE ADVISED

## WEDGE ISLAND EVENT 19 TO 23 FEB 2025

THIS EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY DAVID VEENSTRA, ERIC TREVASKIS, BARRY CARSON, DICK JONES AND IAN GOODALL

ON THE 18TH DAVID GOT UP THERE EARLY TO SET UP, ERIC AND MYSELF ARRIVED ON THE 19TH, DAVID HAD FOUND THAT THE BORE WAS NOT PUMPING SO I LOADED SEVERAL CONTAINERS ONTO THE BACK OF MY VEHICLE AND WENT TO CERVANTES AND LOADED UP WITH 190LITRES OF WATER FOR USE IN TOILET AND SHOWER.

MORNING OF THE 20TH THE 240V SYSTEM WENT ON THE BLINK SO WE SET UP A SMALL GENERATOR TO KEEP FRIDGE AND SOME LIGHTS GOING. DAVID WENT FOR A DRIVE UP TO CERVANTES, WHILE HE WAS AWAY ERIC AND I INVESTIGATED WHY THE SHOWER WASN'T WORKING SO WELL, WE FOUND THAT THERE WAS SAND IN THE PIPES AND MANAGED TO CLEAR THEM AND PUT ON A REPLACEMENT SHOWER HEAD AS THE ORIGINAL ONE JUST DIDN'T WORK. BARRY ARRIVED IN THE AFTER-NOON.

ON THE 21ST WE JUST SAT AROUND AND RELAXED AND ERIC LEFT TO GO HOME FOR HIS WEEKEND COMMITMENTS.

MID MORNING ON THE 22ND WE GOT A PLEASANT SURPRISE AS DICK ARRIVED HAVING BEEN DRIVEN UP BY HIS DAUGHTER HELEN, SHE REPORTED HE HAD BEEN GREATLY DISAPPOINTED AT NOT BEING ABLE TO COME UP EARLIER IN THE WEEK DUE TO FENCING CONTRACTORS AT HIS HOUSE. HELEN STAYED FOR MORNING TEA BEFORE HEADING OFF. WE UPDATED DICK ON THE WATER AND POWER ISSUES AND WHEN HE LOOKED, HE PRESSED A RESET BUTTON WHICH WE HAD DONE MANY TIMES BEFORE AND LO AND BEHOLD THE POWER RESET SO WE NOW HAD THE 240V SYSTEM BACK AND RUNNING. WE THEN GOT INTO DAVID'S VEHICLE AND WENT TO LANCELIN TO THE LANCELIN INN FOR LUNCH. DURING THE REST OF THE DAY WE JUST RELAXED AND TOLD TALL STORIES ETC.

MORNING OF THE 23RD WE TIDIED UP THE SHACK, PACKED AND HEADED FOR HOME, WE ALL HAD A GREAT TIME.



## General Sir Harry Chauvel

In the afternoon of 4th March 1945, the death occurred in Melbourne of General Sir Henry Gordon Chauvel, better known to many Australians as General Harry Chauvel. Harry Chauvel was well known to many Australians after WW1 due to his leadership of Light Horse units, first on Gallipoli and later in the Middle East where he eventually became commander of the Desert Mounted Corps. As a military leader Chauvel was resolute, cool in tight situations but flexible in his decision making. As Henry Gullett the official WW1 historian relates:

He fought to win, but not at any price. He sought victory on his own terms. He always retained, even in heated moments of battle, when leaders are often careless of life, a very rare concern for the lives of his men and his horses.

Soon after WW1 he was appointed Chief of the General Staff, and remained in this position of influence until 1930.

This brief article is not to elaborate further on his WW1 military achievements, but to view aspects of his upbringing and civilian involvements after the war, as well as comment on his relationship to 10th Light Horse.

Following his retirement from the army in 1930 Harry Chauvel immersed himself in a multitude of civic, commercial and religious affairs. Amongst such undertakings, he became a director in several prominent commercial enterprises including the National Bank, and the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, as well as chairman of the Australian board of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation. He was also appointed chairman of the National War Memorial in Canberra, and remained in that appointment until his death. He was also active in the Anglican church. Sir Harry had been raised in a family of Huguenot descent, with strong protestant orientations, and in colonial Sydney his family had made substantial financial and individual contributions to the formation of the Anglican diocese of Grafton and Armidale. As a young man Harry attended Sydney Grammar School where religious education enhanced his personal beliefs. The effects of his religious beliefs are not readily visible in most accounts of his military achievements, but it is not unlikely the calmness under duress often referred to by many of his military biographers was tempered by his firm religious beliefs. During his post WW1 period as Inspector General of Australian forces, he and his family moved to Melbourne, and following his retirement from the army Sir Harry served as a member of the Anglican Synod, for many years representing Christ Church South Yarra. He also became a lay canon of St Paul's Cathedral for the period 1930-1933, and held the stall named for Richard Hooker, an honorary appointment involving responsibilities for developing and enhancing Anglican Church life.





As well as these endeavours, Sir Harry continued to take part in military activities. He was continually invited to army functions, dinners and parades, especially Anzac Day parades, at which he often either took the salute or led in person. He wrote newspapers articles and took part in radio broadcasts, often commenting on the need for support of returned soldiers. In commenting about his eligibility to lead an Anzac parade in Melbourne in April 1935, one newspaper correspondent commented that through his quiet work in the interests of returned servicemen he had come to be regarded as their peace-time leader. In December 1936 he led the Australian contingent to the coronation of George VI in London, and at his insistence the uniform worn by the Australians included most of the accoutrement of the Australian Light Horse including a slouch hat, emu plumes and spurs.

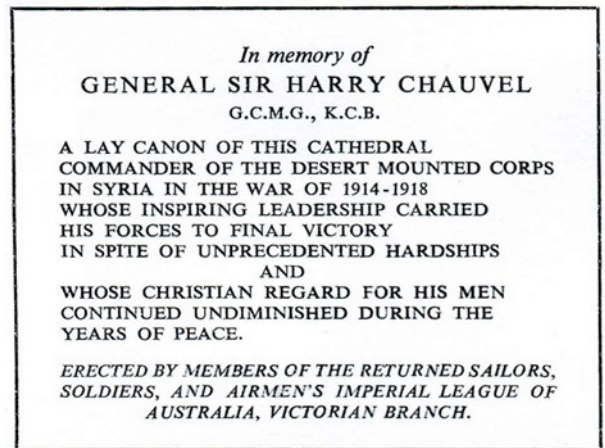


Image of the plaque and accompanying details obtained through courtesy of the staff of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

With the advent of WW2, a volunteer defence corps (VDC) comprised mainly of armed civilians was formed to complement AIF and militia forces defending mainland Australia. Sir Harry Chauvel was invited to act as Inspector-in-Chief of the nascent corps, an invitation he accepted. It is not unlikely that his acceptance of the appointment influenced the decisions of thousands of former WW1 AIF soldiers who joined the new corps. His activities in the VDC involved constant travels to inspect units throughout Australia, duties which eventually started to wear down the veteran soldier, now aged in his late 70's. When at home in Melbourne Sir Harry was in the habit each morning of riding along Alexandra St near the Yarra River, but in 1944 a recurring knee injury forced him to give up his riding. Early in 1945 his condition deteriorated to such an extent that he was committed to hospital, where he died. Sir Harry never lived to see the WW2 victory to which he had contributed, both directly and indirectly.

In July 1952 a commemorative plaque, designed by the Australian ecclesiastical architect L.R. Williams, in remembrance of Sir Harry was placed in the North Aisle of St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, and dedicated by incumbent church dignitaries.

In 1923 Sir Harry was offered and accepted an appointment as Honorary Colonel of 10th Light Horse, about which he is reported as having said: ... there was no other regiment in Australia or in any other country, of which he would sooner be honorary colonel. He was re-appointed to that position in November 1928, and again in July 1933. From then no further notifications regarding Sir Harry's appointment to 10th Light Horse appear in the Commonwealth Government Gazette. The spacing of the original re-appointments suggest that five years was considered the tenure of an Honorary Colonel, and by this measure his reappointment as Honorary Colonel, or his relinquishing of the position, would have been expected at some time during 1938 -- but no such notice appears. A newspaper article notifying the funeral arrangements for the notable West Australian soldier, Sir Talbot Hobbs in May 1938 include a statement that Sir Harry, as Honorary Colonel represented 10th Light Horse at the funeral. Accordingly, in the absence of any further notifications, the possibility exists that Sir Harry remained Honorary Colonel of 10th Light Horse up until the time the Regiment was disbanded in May 1944, and in theory remained as Honorary Colonel, even after his death, until the appointment, in 1952, of the then Governor of Western Australia, Lt Gen Sir Charles Gairdner as the first Honorary Colonel of the resurrected regiment.

Barry Bamford

March 2025

Gullett, H.S. (1984). *The AIF in Sinai and Palestine: 1914- 1918*. St Lucia, University of Queensland Press. p.63

*The Herald* (Melbourne), 20 April 1935, p.6

*The West Australian*, 18 September 1923, p.6

*The West Australian*, 12 May 1938, p.21

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

Phone/message : 0414376756 email: [iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au)

Surname\_\_\_\_\_ Other Names\_\_\_\_\_

Home Address\_\_\_\_\_ Suburb\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code\_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Occupation\_\_\_\_\_

(If Retired, Pre Retirement)

Details of Military Service including serial number, rank on discharge or current rank, units with whom you served.\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your wife/partner\_\_\_\_\_

(Or next of kin if applicable with address and phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Name Plate is available for Wife/Partner at a cost of \$10.00

Wife/Partners name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Subscription \$ 40.00 Total \$50.00 (to be enclosed) and covers period 1 January to 31 December.

Joining Fee includes Corps Lapel badge, this badge always remains the property of the RAACA WA and if resigning must be returned.

Remitted \$40 or \$50 if Nameplate required for Partner (please tick one)

I hereby apply to join the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association WA Inc and in doing so pledge to promote the objectives of the Association, maintain the spirit, comradeship and tradition of the Corps and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Association in accordance with the Constitution of the Association.