



**COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER**  
**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc**  
**4/2024 edition**  
 WEB [www.raccawa.org.wa](http://www.raccawa.org.wa) Email [jadanne14@gmail.com](mailto:jadanne14@gmail.com)



**Patron**

BRIG Phil White  
(RET) AM RFD

**President**

Barry Carson  
0418163607

**Vice President**

Colin Davies  
0403654954

**Secretary**

TBA

**Treasurer**

LM John Dwyer  
0419694549

**Committee:**

LM Dick Jones  
93075654  
David Veenstra  
0438544646

**CONTENT**

- P1 President
- P2 Fraternal
- P3 Events
- P4 Wedge Is
- P5 Ex Pied Piper
- P9 Vale Noel
- P10 Membership



**PRESIDENT BARRY CARSON**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of July we were all very much saddened to hear the tragic news of the passing of our esteemed member and dutiful Committee Secretary of 9 years who served under 4 different Presidents of our Association during that period. having originally joined RAACA in 2007.

Noels family was kind enough to allow the association to present as part of his Eulogy the military side of his life both with RAACA, and earlier his 10 years with the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Army Reserve unit's service to country.

When you next visit the 10 LH Regiment, at ES Salt lines please inspect the restored Boan Shield in the southwest corner of the drill hall and look at the detailed wood carving back piece on which all the recorded results are on the metal shields done since the first award was made in 1914-15.

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August we were able to celebrate Noels life with his friends and family. Association members and former fellow reservists around 35 in strength formed a Guard of Honour as Noels coffin was moved away from the chapel for a private family burial. VALE: Noel Kenneth Moyes 27<sup>th</sup> January 1941 to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2024

Earlier in the month on the 19<sup>th</sup> July another "black hat " who served at 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse in Noels later years of service was Ken Cockram, he was laid to rest also.

On the Associations social side, the last Thursday "black hat" coffee morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> July had a trial meet up at the Joondalup Shopping Centre and attendance was slightly more than our normal regular Dome café Deep Water Point venue.

At the next committee meeting other potential locations will be discussed as well as the thought of rotating the locations during the year.

With now halfway into 2024 saw 27 members and partners enjoy a Xmas in July function on 29<sup>th</sup> at the traditional Herdsman's Hotel. It was good to see our former Patron Ken Ashman and his wife Sue grace us with their presence but sadly our immediate past President Robert Gesmundo was unable to attend due to medical condition



## RAACA WA FRATERNAL

-

The Christmas in July function was held at the Herdsman Lake Tavern. Members and partners enjoyed the event. Thank you to raffle sponsors and congratulations to the winners of that and the door prizes.

-

Thank you to all Black Hats who tuned up for our Late Secretary's Noel Moyes funeral. It was a fitting farewell from his ARMY mates of many years standing.

-Dick Jones reports the first Black Hat coffee event at Joondalup Shopping Centre was a good start. The committee has agreed the morning will alternate between North and South with the September event inclusive of a visit to the Stirling Square 10LH memorial.

-

The committee meets once per month at Cambrai House and it has been suggested that once each quarter we should hold a member BBQ at 12 noon. Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

RAACA WA UPCOMING EVENTS

BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING  
DOME CAFÉ DEEPWATER POINT  
100 THE ESPLANADE MT PLEASANT  
AUGUST 29TH 10AM

BLACK HAT LUNCHEON AND 10LH MEMORIAL VISIT  
MEMORIAL AT STIRLING SQUARE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH  
AT THE ROSE HOTEL GUILDFORD  
11AM THURSDAY 26TH OF SEPTEMBER

CAMBRAI PARADE AND LUNCHEON  
WINGS RESTAURANT ROYAL AIRFORCE ASSOCIATION BULLCREEK  
12 NOON FRIDAY 29TH OF NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS BBQ  
CAMBRAI HOUSE  
SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 12 NOON





## WEDGE ISLAND VETERANS SHACK WEEKEND

WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

October 2nd to the 6th

A veterans group has set up one of the shacks remaining at Wedge Island for use by past serving members of the ADF. Committee man David Veenstra has booked the shack over the period Wednesday to Sunday October 2nd to 6th. Members are invited to attend for part or all of that period.

You will need to bring bedding, swag, food, drinks and especially water. Sleeping accommodation is limited within the shack so first in best dressed. Swags or tentage can be used on the grounds around the shack. The shack can be accessed by normal vehicles.

Usual beach activities including fishing. Moving away from Wedge to visit other areas will be by 4WD – shared for those who require transport. For those that have attended Dick's shack (unfortunately now gone) no better than watching sunset high up on the dunes with a glass of port. A contribution to upkeep and cleanliness of the shack and surrounds as per normal from those attending. Further information and location of the Veterans Shack within the Wedge Island settlement and communications will be given to those attending.

Please contact David for any further information or to confirm your attendance. Mobile: 0438544646 Email: davidvee@bigpond.net.au



NEXT BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING –  
DOME 100 THE ESPLANADE MT PLEASANT

10AM 29TH OF AUGUST

10AM AUGUST 29TH: At the Dome 100 The Esplanade Mt Pleasant (Deepwater Point)



## THE TENTH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT - CAMP 73 EXERCISE PIED PAPER



*"They should have traffic lights"*

In September this year, the Tenth Light Horse Regiment, together with a composite rifle company from the Royal Western Australia Regiment, conducted a sixteen day exercise called "Pied Piper".

### The Concept

Why "Pied Piper"? That goes back to the 1972 camp, during which our C.O. at that time, Colonel White, began planning an ambitious exercise for Camp 73 involving training in armour/infantry co-operation.

His aim was to make this year's camp different - different in concept and different in location. He wanted to provide an opportunity for the men to face new challenges and adventures. In turn, of course, this was planned to boost the training standards and morale of our existing members, and to attract the interest of potential recruits.

Compared with past camps, this was indeed an ambitious plot. Reconnaissance done during and soon after the September '72 camp led to the selection of an area of territory extending from Hamelin Pool on Shark Bay in the North, to Kalbarri on the Murchison River in the South.

That was where the name "Pied Piper" came from - Robert Browning's poem: "The Pied Piper of Hamelin". Many sceptics were saying that the whole plot was a "pipe dream". It seemed that they were wrong, however, when our formal bid was approved in principle and detailed planning began.

It was decided that the exercise was to be fully

tactical throughout, and based on a "limited war" setting. Participating elements were nominated as being RHQ, HQ Sqn, LAD, two Cavalry Troops, an APC Troop, and an infantry rifle company. Small groups to act as enemy and umpires were also written in at this stage.

A number of means of pre-positioning the vehicles at Hamelin was investigated. A military and political "situation build-up" was planned and initiated as a lead-up to the exercise itself. Much research into topography and other map detail of the exercise area was done. Property owners were approached for approval to use their land. More detailed reconnaissance of the area was carried out by key personnel. Detailed Q planning began.

And then, just four weeks before Pied Piper was due to begin, it happened.

### Bad News

On the Thursday night home training parade, our present C.O., Lt Col Deykin, informed the Regiment that, despite every effort he could make to prevent it, we must accept substantial changes to our plans.

There had to be two major changes, both imposed as the result of a Commonwealth Government requirement to reduce expenditure.





### *Where did you go wrong?*

Firstly, the exercise area was changed to one much further south - to a narrow coastal strip between Jurien Bay and Lancelin. This change was in order to reduce the costs involved in transporting our vehicles to and from camp. This area was much more limiting to us, particularly as it was straddled by a large national park in which we could not operate.

Secondly, a severe limit was placed on the track mileage we were allowed to use. This, too, was imposed with a view to reducing expenditure. It also had (and still has) the serious effect of very significantly reducing the proper utilization of the sophisticated training resources with which we need to train. A rough calculation showed that each vehicle would need to be limited to little more than ten miles per day throughout camp in order that the mileage restriction would not be exceeded. That's half an hour's movement in every twenty four!

### **The Challenge**

All ranks realized at once that we must not let these cut-backs defeat us. While it was obviously not going to be quite the great training experience and adventure we had spent so many months preparing for, nevertheless, a surprising amount of our planning could, we found, be quite readily adapted to the new plans.

An almost defiant mood amongst us was apparent in the decision to retain the name "Pied Piper" for the exercise, and the name "Nilemah" (which is "Hamelin" spelt backwards) for HQ Sqn's initial base area.

Some of the camp instructions were promptly

rewritten. Landowners involved in the new area were contacted. Ground and air recce of the new area were hastily completed. Map preparation began all over again.

Vehicle preparation (even down to carpeted floors in many vehicles) was completed, and the pre-positioning of the carriers at the Jurien Bay airstrip (i.e. "Nilemah") commenced a week before the exercise was due to begin.

The Advance Party started preparatory work at the airstrip on the Thursday and they received the main body, which began arriving at about 1400 hrs on the Saturday.

### **The Exercise Begins**

After a non-tactical first night, during which crews settled into vehicles and the marrying up of the infantry company with the APC Troop began, sub-units began dispersing from Jurien, moving South.

The southern boundary of our area of operations for those first days was the Hill River. The river was flowing high and fast after heavy rains. To facilitate our crossing of the river later, an element from 13 Fd Sqn began the construction of a temporary bridge.

The bridging operation required protection - a continuing task for us until we eventually completed our crossing. Clear and Search operations, together with night ambush tasks, were other activities through which the armour/infantry co-operation training got under way.

The enemy's presence became uncomfortably evident right from the start and their harassment of





*"On Parade"*

us at all hours of the day and night imposed a constant pressure on us to improve and refine our routines, drills, and tactical deployment.

Communications, within the limitation of the incomplete equipment currently available to us, were effectively used. Most difficulties were overcome as standards and efficiency were improved, particularly in the use of the codes.

Two operations: the first resupply run, and the crossing of the Hill River, were our next tasks. Both received the attention of the enemy, particularly where escorts or sentries appeared to be lacking or inadequate. The problem of providing adequate armoured escort while at the same time conserving track miles was a constant dilemma throughout the exercise.

#### **Molar Hill**

Our Area of Operations after the river crossing extended south to Cervantes, on the boundary of the Nambung National Park.

HQ Sqn and RHQ moved forward to an area just south of Molar Hill, known as Flat Fields. The weather, which had been very stormy, improved at this stage, making life easier, particularly for the more exposed infantrymen.

Now there was a new area to search, more night ambush tasks, and another resupply of rations, water and fuel.

Contacts with the enemy continued at the rate of about ten per twenty four hour period. At various stages, certain of our key personnel were either captured or "umpired out" in order to exercise more fully the more junior officers.

Each day at 1630 hrs, a conference was conducted

by the CO at RHQ. OCs and representatives from the enemy and umpire groups met at these conferences for orders and to discuss training.

A number of visitors, including the CMF Member of the Military Board, the DRAAC, the Comd 2TF, and our Honorary Colonel spent some time with us.

Representatives from the press also visited, and we received good publicity both during and immediately after camp.

A helicopter was available on several days, and full use was made of it for reconnaissance, demonstrations, familiarization training, insertion of patrols, and transportation of VIPs.

The LAD was busiest at this time with a carrier in which the engine was believed to be damaged by water. The LAD's new fitter's vehicle, which had been busy earlier unloading and loading the engineers' bridging equipment, was needed to lift out the water damaged engine. Unfortunately, repairs could not be effected in the field and the vehicle had to be recovered to Perth. This was the only major vehicle casualty during camp.

#### **Through the Nambung**

The move south through the Nambung National Park had to be non tactical, and the few hours of comparative relaxation this afforded was a much appreciated bonus.

The re-appearance of the enemy, however, soon ended the respite and the final phase of the pursuit had begun.

Our area of operations now extended south from Wedge Island almost to Lancelin.

"Intelligence Reports" indicated that the enemy force was concentrating for an all out final stand. Our



Cavalry and APC Troops, operating with the infantry, continued clearing south. An infantry recon patrol located the enemy's camp at "The Passage", just north of Lancelin. Preparation and planning for a deliberate attack on the enemy camp was initiated by the C.O.

#### The Passage

Dawn of the day of the final attack saw the concentration of all elements for the battle.

The Cav Troops were positioned as cut-off groups while the infantry were inserted north of the objective by the APC Troop. The APCs then provided direct fire support as the infantry swept towards the enemy camp.

Contact was made early, and from then until the successful conclusion of the operation, there was an almost constant hail of fire interjected with the violent reverberations of exploding shell and mortar simulators. Smoke was also used extensively to screen the moves of both sides.

The transmission of the success signal "Gibson Gone" brought the many days of living fully tactically to an end.

#### Winding Down

We all assembled for an exercise debrief from the C.O., after which we moved to Edwards Well. This being the first occasion in the history of the Regiment when all our tracked vehicles were assembled in the one place, many photographs were taken.

A few drinks and barbeque packs from Lancelin proved most welcome that evening after our "dry" camp on one-man ration packs.

On the Saturday we returned to Perth to clean and return weapons and equipment.

Pay Parade on the Sunday was well attended. There were many tired men heading for home with the prospect of "back to work tomorrow" heavy on their minds.

#### In Retrospect

The representatives of the corps of Armour and Infantry learned a great deal about each other.

In particular the differing problems of time and space of the other arm came sharply into focus.

We proved again that you don't need a "tent city" for a successful CMF camp in the bush.

We realized that we all still have much to learn. In particular, leaders at all levels must make more effort to tell their subordinates what is to be done and why. Too often the remark was heard: ".....it would have been better if we had known more about what was going on".

It can be said however, that the main aims of Exercise Pied Piper were achieved. The final plan was adhered to, personnel and vehicle casualties were very few in number and, despite the sometimes foul weather, the hard rations and the long hours of hard and exacting work, morale remained high.

Fully tactical, continuous camp exercises would not be right every year, but any such camps in the years ahead will need to be good to measure up to Exercise Pied Piper.



OFFICERS' MESS 1973-4

Back row: Lts. K. Harris, B. Forknall, C. Gunn, D. Ward, J. Stitt, E. Polas, N. Glass, E. Bolton, L. Small, G. Sach.

Front row: Capts. D. Sivyer, R. Tingley, M.C., H. Bajars, Maj. D. Hall (M.I.D.), Lt. Col. J. Deykin, E.D., Maj. P. Altham, Capts. B. Gibson, R. Walker, Lt. B. Arrantash.

XLH SCRAPBOOK, JANUARY 1974 - 7



## VALE NOEL MOYES

Noel served with the Tenth Light Horse Regiment during the 1960/70s covering two eras the first being when the unit was equipped with wheeled British armoured vehicles and the second with American made tracked vehicles.

In that time he served as an Assault Trooper, driver and Crw Commander. Our current Patron BRIGADIER Phil White remembers Noel from the days when he was posted to his Troop Leader position when Noel was the Troop Corporal. It was not without its fun times when off duty as Noel in the stocks for some misdemeanour in the Throssell VC Club indicates.

Noel joined the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association many years after his service and from 2015 has been the Secretary serving his fellow members as the main point of contact for any activity or event and on the committee of management. Noel and Val attended many social events including those down at Cambrai House located at Irwin Barracks enjoying the company of fellow Association members and partners

I remember one particular event where a number of members spent a week travelling the Golden Heritage tracks from Southern Cross to Laverton mostly on gravel roads. Noel and Val brought their caravan with most others camping. The organiser Dick Jones led the group along the tracks at a fast pace and on many occasions I saw that Caravan bouncing and twisting to a degree way above what it was designed for. A great time had by all on that trip.

Noel volunteered to refurbish the Boans Shield an award given to the best SQN in 10LH Regiment each year and dating back to the early days of the unit. The unit accepted his invitation and Noel put his woodworking skills to the test over many months. He was presented with a special award by the unit for his services.

Noel had life long friendships with a number of members in the Association and 10LH fraternity.. His service to all members was very much appreciated.





ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

37 Barrington Avenue Champion Lakes WA  
Phone/message 0419694549 Email [jadanne14@gmail.com](mailto:jadanne14@gmail.com)

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.