



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS  
ASSOCIATION WA Inc Edition 5/2025  
Cambrai House 2 Little Gibraltar Rd Irwin Barracks  
Editor John Dwyer



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*PRESIDENT BARRY CARSON*

*Moving into the second half of the year I am pleased to say initiatives have been planned with some in place addressing the issue of declining membership with the loss of dear friends during the past 12 months and those who are unable to attend functions through ill health.*

*This year, at the AGM, we introduced a membership category for serving members both 10LH and other Corps regiments which is being put into place at this time.*

*The unit has agreed for the positioning of an information board located at the Throssell Club. The board has been made and will shortly be positioned in the club.*



Scan QR Code for further information

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

JULY 19

Range Shoot

JULY 20

Christmas in July

JULY 31

Black Hat Coffee

AUG 8

OLD BOYS PA-RADE

*Corps unit Associations have been requested to provide information on members who are resident in WA so they can be informed of events they may wish to attend conducted by our Association.*

*I seek your assistance in the process by sourcing a prospective member, informing them of what we are about and so and supporting those that would like to join to complete the membership form (last page of this Commentary).*

*Yours in Armour*

*Barry.*

**BLACK HAT CHRISTMAS IN JULY LUNCH**

**Venue: Mt. Henry Tavern 27 Manning Rd Como WA**

**Luncheon: \$20 (Subsidised) for Roast Dinner or Fish Meal or purchase from main menu subsidised \$5**

**Timing: Sunday July the 20th, commencing at 12 noon.**

**Please Advise Secretary Ian if you are attending. [iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:iangoodall1@optusnet.com.au) or 0414376756 end of this week for booking purposes.**

## ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC

M	D	Day	Function
Jul	8	TUE	COMMITTEE
	19	SAT	<b>10LH ACTIVITY</b>
	20	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
	31	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH
Aug	2	SAT	<b>CAMBRAI WORKING BEE</b>
	8	FRI	OLD BOYS PARADE
	28	THU	THROSSELL VC (Hill 60) Guildford
Sep	9	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE
Oct	14	THU	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
Nov	11	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	21	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
Dec	9	TUE	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING</b>
	14	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ

### Planned Events:

Visit to HMAS Stirling Museum; Tenth Light Horse Regiment 111th Year  
 Dates to be finalised.

Please contact one of the committee if you have an idea for an event that would be appreciated by our members.

## *INVITATION TO CAMBRAI DINNER 2025*

*Dear fellow members and partners.*

*On behalf of the committee It is my pleasure to invite you to the Cambrai Lunch to be held at the Royal Australian Airforce Association Club, Bullcreek. Those who attended last years event can certainly attest to the quality of the accommodation and food.*

*The event will be held on Friday the 21st of November, commencing at 12 noon. In keeping with tradition a short parade at the RAAFA memorial will be held followed by a two course luncheon.*

*An charge of \$30 per head will apply for members and there partners. The charge reflects a subsidy from the Association in appreciation of your continued membership and past ADF service.*

*A drinks package of beer, wine or soft drink will also be provided along with coffee.*

*The charge for other guests will be \$55 per head.*

*Bookings and payment to the Treasurer by direct credit:*

*Payee: RAACA WA*

*BSB: 066192 Account Number: 10329559*

*Or by cheque to Treasurer RAACA WA 37 Barrington Avenue, Champion Lakes WA 6111*

*Yours in Armour*

*Barry Carson, President*







## ANZAC DAY PHILIPPINES—JAMES and JANICE BUCHANAN

I have returned from my trip to the Philippines and as promised some photos from Anzac Day at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Manila on one of the military base (Fort Bonifacio ) Taguig City it was a lovely service and done very respectfully know where near as good as Kings Park but nonetheless, I en-



joyed being around fellow members



There were a few black hats and a lot of retired and ex-servicemen there including a contingent from the ADF as well. As with Kings Park a gun fire breakfast was held after the service with Bundaberg Rum coffee and a splash of scotch

The Filipino military did a wonderful job. There were also Ambassadors from New Zealand, Britain , Canada and America. A contingent of soldiers and naval personnel from the USA as well as senior political representation from the Philippines government. A wonderful contingent of international school students mainly Australians and New Zealanders who attend international school were there in the uniforms. All in all what a wonderful day

We were cautious taking photos as this was an active base as well as many of the serving personnel would like to remain out of the limelight.

In one of the photos you'll see the deputy ambassador for Australia in the Philippines as the ambassador was out of country. At the time. The young lady was a very pleasant young lady and we had a great. long talk She was very interested in the plumes as her grandfather also served in WW1

I also have a small gift to present to you guys its an commemorative hand fan and a patch from the day also and next time I catch up I'll drop it off to you guys to put in safekeeping



### **New weapon system unveiled**

WITH the new F9 sidearm weapon system (F9 SWS) in hand, personnel have begun pulling the trigger on a new chapter in close combat.

The system comprises a SIG Sauer 9mm P320 X-Carry Pro with red dot sight, torch and holster. It is supported by a non-lethal training kit and (WTSS).

WO2 Mark Biviano, of the Combined Arms Training Centre, said it was more than just a pistol. "The first thing you notice is that you are employing a system as opposed to simply a weapon," WO2 Biviano said. "You receive all of the components of the system, and then you use all the components throughout your lessons."

The F9 SWS replaces the legacy self-loading Pistol 9mm Browning Mk3. Rollout of the F9 SWS began last year and will continue through to 2026. For Army, rollout started this year at 7 Bde and will continue throughout 2025. "It's not just a weapon upgrade - it's a complete shift in how we build deployable capability," WO2 Biviano said.

Supplied by Queensland-based NIOA Group, the new pistol is part of equipment being acquired under Land 300, which includes F7 fighting knives, new sniper rifles, a sniper surveillance system and FI5 personal defence weapon system (for limited users).

F9 SWS training includes web based ADELE lessons, hands-on drills, WTSS and train the battle shot live fire - integrating combat mind-set, shooting techniques and qualifications on all the equipment in a single course.

Participants must demonstrate accuracy and weapon handling across multiple distances

In early March, a week-long train-the-trainer course was held at Amberley, where participants qualified to instruct others on the F9 SWS.



## **Germany officially hands over cutting-edge RCH 155 artillery system to Ukraine**

On 13 January 2025, German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius presided over a historic event at the KNDS Deutschland facility in Kassel, where the first 155 mm RCH 155 self-propelled artillery system was officially handed over to Ukraine. The advanced weapon system, produced by KNDS, was received on behalf of the Ukrainian Armed Forces by Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, Oleksii Makeiev.

The RCH 155 (Remote Controlled Howitzer 155 mm) combines the firepower of the Panzerhaubitze 2000 howitzer with the mobility of the GTK Boxer armoured vehicle, creating a highly modern and fully automated artillery system. This handover makes Ukraine the first operator of this state-of-the-art technology, even before the German Armed Forces. Minister Pistorius hailed the event as a testament to German engineering and international cooperation, emphasising its significance for European security.

### **Strengthening Ukrainian artillery**

The RCH 155 system offers Ukraine a major capability boost with its mobility, rapid fire-readiness, and ability to fire on the move. Its crew of just two—a commander and a driver—operates the fully automated turret, making it a highly efficient system. The wheeled configuration enhances operational flexibility and reduces vulnerability, while its range and agility ensure survivability in combat.

Ukraine will receive a total of 54 RCH 155 systems, sufficient to equip three artillery battalions. Six units are expected to be delivered in 2025, with training for Ukrainian operators already underway in Germany. The initial contract for 18 units was signed in 2022, followed by a supplementary order for 36 more in 2023.

### **Continued support with Panzerhaubitze 2000 systems**

In addition to the RCH 155, Germany has committed to delivering 54 Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers by 2027. These systems, mounted on tracked platforms, complement the capabilities of the RCH 155. To date, 36 Panzerhaubitze 2000 units have been delivered to Ukraine, including 25 from Bundeswehr stock. Some units have already seen action, while others have been lost in combat.



Germany has also played a vital role in training Ukrainian artillery personnel. Over 420 Ukrainian soldiers have completed training programmes on artillery systems, maintenance, and tactical deployment, showcasing their ability to rapidly integrate advanced technologies into combat operations.

#### **RCH 155: a milestone for German defence and industry**

The RCH 155 represents a pivotal development for Germany's military capabilities as well. It is expected to become a central component for the Bundeswehr's medium forces. Plans are underway to procure 80 units for German forces, financed through the Bundeswehr's special fund. This procurement is part of a broader German-British collaboration, announced in 2024, to jointly purchase, evaluate, and optimise the system, securing hundreds of jobs in both nations.

Kassel, the production site for the RCH 155, holds a storied legacy in defence manufacturing, having produced Leopard 1 and Leopard 2 tanks for decades. Minister Pistorius praised the precision, determination, and teamwork of the KNDS workforce, underscoring their critical role in turning technological milestones into reality.

#### **A partnership for European security**

The delivery of the RCH 155 marks a significant milestone in Germany's steadfast support for Ukraine, reflecting a commitment to European security and defence cooperation. As Ukrainian Ambassador Oleksii Makeiev noted, the provision of advanced systems like the RCH 155 ensures that Ukraine can defend itself effectively while fostering enduring partnerships with its allies.

#### **SPECS:**

**Armament:** One 155mm/L52 cannon

**Country users:** Germany, Ukraine, United Kingdom

**Designer Country:** Germany

**Combat Equipment:** Automatic electrical gun laying system, a computerized fire control system, a radio data transmission connection, air conditioning, NBC (Nuclear, Bacteriologic and Chemical) protection system, and fire extinguishing in the engine compartment.

**Crew:** 2

**Armour: Hull:** STANAG 4569 Level 4

**Turret:** armor protection against the firing of small arms and artillery shell splinters

**Weight:** 39,000 kg

**Speed Vehicle:** 100 km/h

**Range Vehicle:** 700 km

**Dimensions:** Length: 10.5 m; Width: 2.99 m; Height: 3.6 m

#### **Sources:**

German Ministry of Defence. – 14 January 2025

By Lukasz Prus (Defence Industry Europe)

GLOBAL DEFENCE NEWS – 19 January 2025



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall Secretary 8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

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

**APPLICANT:** Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Other Names \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Annual Subscription \$ 40.00 per annum**

**WIFE/PARTNER/OTHER:**

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

(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/other at a cost of \$10.00**

Wife/Partner/others name desired on Name Plate \_\_\_\_\_

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

Joining Fee includes Lapel badge, this badge always remains the property of the RAACA WA and if resigning must be re-

turned. Remitted \$40 ☐ or \$50 ☐ if Nameplate required for Wife/Partner/Other (please tick one)

Association Bank Account details for Direct Deposit

RAACA WA Inc CBA Warwick BSB 066 192 a/c 1032 9559 (please include your name)

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.

DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_