



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS
ASSOCIATION WA Inc Edition 6/2025



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QR CODE

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Events

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Guildford Event



The 15th August I had the privilege to represent your Royal Australian Armoured Corp Association at the State War Memorial in Kings Park in a gathering in solemn remembrance to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific Day with a very fitting commemoration service with a 101-year Army veteran, Hilton Doust reciting 'The Ode.'

After the service all assembled in the State Reception Centre at Frazer's Kings Park for a light snack & drinks which provided the opportunity to talk with some of the 22 veterans who represented that generation of our forebears who gave so much to our country.

It was truly a day for deep and respectful reflection

As with our tradition the last Thursday of the month (28th) saw the Black Hat Coffee function gather at memorial to the Light Horse located in the Stirling Square area of Guildford. At this black hat gathering of 7 members including our Patron we took the opportunity to reflect about Hugo Throssell who was the only ever light horseman to win a VC and that was action at Hill 60 on 29-30th August 1915. The president provided a short history about Hugo Throssell followed by Dick Jones reciting several stanzas of 'The Ode'.

Afterwards most retired to the Rose & Crown for a coffee and or lunch in the outside sunny courtyard. Once again Dick Jones brought along a haversack full of memories RSM's A. Kings old map case minus chinagraph coloured marking pencil's, a genuine prismatic compass, and several forms of protractors, which all stimulated old memories being told.

Yours in Armour

Barry Carson



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Thank you to Association member Phil Martin who commemorates each year the life of his Brother who was a casualty at Long Tan. Phil kindly wrote the article on the next page.

AUSTRALIANS IN VIETNAM - 50TH ANNIVERSARY END OF WAR

Australia's commitment in the war began with 30 military advisors in 1962. It was, and remains Australia's largest force commitment since WW2 involving 61,000 military personnel with 521 killed and 3000 wounded. To the members of our Association who were part of that war and to all ADF who served in that conflict we respect your service and honour those who paid the ultimate price.

On the 27th August, 59 years ago, 21-year-old Corporal Peter 'Pete' Clements died from the wounds he received whilst commanding his M113A1 APC - callsign 23A during the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966.

Peter Clements was born in Cunderdin, Western Australia in 1945. He was nine when his father died, so he and his younger brother Brian were brought up by their mother until she re married in 1955. The family then moved to Moora in the early 1960's where both Peter and Brian finished their schooling.

Upon finishing his schooling he found employment at a local car dealership however was at a loss to what his career would be. He decided that a few years in the Army would be beneficial, in April 1962, when he was 17 years old, he joined the Australian Army.

Following his basic training and attending the Armoured Corps Training Centre, Pete was posted to 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Royal Australian Armoured Corps. It was here that he was posted to a newly formed Squadron under the title of 1 Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) Squadron

In May 1966 Peter's squadron was moved to Vietnam to relieve 1APC Troop and arrived on the 9th of June 1966. In the late afternoon of 18 August 1966, his troop was called into action and while delivering reinforcements to Delta Company 6RAR at the Battle of Long Tan Peter was fatally wounded and died nine days later at 36 U.S. Evac Hospital in Vung Tau.

I remember my brother Peter Clements only in parts of my early age and was just 10 years old when I learnt he was involved in the Battle of Long Tan and had received serious wounds. I can recall the dark days my parents endured waiting for any news and the miracle that he may be recovering, however, my mother received the news she had been dreading and that he had succumbed to his wounds and passed away on the 27th August 1966.

He was sent into battle delivering reinforcements to the beleaguered infantry who were grossly outnumbered by a determined enemy and his life was taken trying to save the lives of the troops involved in the battle.

The funeral for Peter was conducted at the Moora Cemetery on September 6, 1966 with full military honours.

Each year on Vietnam Veterans Day, the Moora RSL conducts a service at the Moora War Memorial and another at graveside.

Rest in Peace Brother.



10LH RANGE SHOOT LANCELIN

Members were invited to attend the range shoot on 19 July, those going had to supply their own food and drinks (non-alcoholic) and appropriate dress for the range. Six accepted the invitation and two dropped out for other reasons. We met with the RSM and our driver at 5.30am on Stubbs Terrace outside Karrakatta and mounted the sprinter bus and travelled to Lancelin, on the way we stopped in Lancelin for coffee and light repast. On arrival at the range, we were surprised at the facilities there, toilet block, accommodation block, lecture room etc. We had a safety briefing before walking about 50metres to the firing point, we were supplied with chairs, binoculars and ear protection for our comfort. We observed the serving members go through their gun drills and firing for their qualifying from weapons mounted on the top of the two, 2 door Hawkei vehicles. After we were invited to enter the 4 door Hawkei above and have a photo taken of us in the vehicle and holding the weapon that had been used in the shoot. After the completion of the shoot we re-mounted the sprinter bus for the return journey, stopping for a late snack on the way, on arrival back at Karrakatta the RSM spoke to us and said that on a future shoot members attending would have the opportunity to have a shoot and that this had been a great success and he looked to future shoots with members being invited.

Ian Goodall

BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNINGS

4th Thursday each month 10am to 12 noon

Location advised. July held at Joondalup Shopping Centre. August at Guildford memorial event.



September at Muffin Break Joondalup Lakes Shopping Cen.

Maintenance – Cambrai House

Thank you to Stephen Jones, Ian Goodall, Tania Wells, Barry Carson, John and Annette Dwyer for attending the busy bee on Saturday the 23rd AUG. Lawns and garden looking good, books sorted and stored in Library, records up to date and stored. All the best to VP Colin – House Manager.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURD CORPS ASSOCIATION WA INC

- ACTIVITY SHEET 2025

M	D	Day	Function
Jul	8	TUE	COMMITTEE
	19	SAT	10LH ACTIVITY
	20	SUN	CHRISTMAS IN JULY
	31	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE NORTH
Aug	23	SAT	CAMBRAI WORKING BEE
	8	FRI	OLD BOYS PARADE
	28	THU	THROSSELL VC (Hill 60) Guildford
Sep	9	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
			HMAS STIRLING VISIT—TO BE ADVISED
	25	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE - Muffin Break Joondalup Lakes Shopping Centre
Oct	14	THU	COMMITTEE MEETING
	30	THU	BLACK HAT COFFEE MORNING NORTH
Nov	11	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	21	FRI	CAMBRAI LUNCH
Dec	9	TUE	COMMITTEE MEETING
	14	SUN	CHRISTMAS BBQ

Planned Events:

Visit to HMAS Stirling Museum;

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





Second Lieutenant Hugo Vivian Hope Throssell was awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for bravery at Hill 60. He became the only light horseman to be honoured with a VC. The citation published for Throssell's VC published in the London Gazette 15 Oct 1915 read

“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during operations on the Kaiakij Aghala (Hill 60) in the Gallipoli Peninsular on 29 and 30 August 1915. Although severely wounded in several places during a counter-attack, he refused to leave his post or to obtain medical assistance till all danger was passed, when he had his wounds dressed and returned to the firing-line until ordered out of action by the Medical Officer. By his personal courage and example, he kept up the spirits of his party, and was largely instrumental in saving the situation at a critical period. “

Born in Northam, Western Australia, on 26 October 1884, Hugo was known as 'Jim' to family and friends. He was the youngest son of 14 children. Hugo Throssell attended Northam State School and then Prince Alfred College in Adelaide. And known as 'the crack footballer of the Northam district.'

In 1912, Hugo and his brother, Frank Erick Cottrell (Ric) Throssell, took up land at Cowcowing in the Western Australian wheatbelt. Cowcowing is an area just north of Wyalkatchem.

With the outbreak of World War I, Hugo and Ric both joined the Australian Imperial Force, under the 10th Light Horse Regiment. On 4 August, Hugo landed on Gallipoli, only 3 days before the charge at the Nek.

After the tragic Nek experience, Hugo wanted to avenge his fallen comrades, like so many of the Anzac troops. However, Hugo's chance came later that month at Hill 60. The fight for Hill 60 was part of the August Offensive, the last major Allied offensive operation on the peninsula.

At 1 am on 29 August, the 10th Light Horse was brought into action. Hugo's unit was ordered to take a long trench held by Turkish troops. Within minutes, they had bombed and fought their way into a sizable chunk of the trench. Hugo killed 5 Turkish soldiers while his men constructed a barricade across their side of the trench to hold the Turkish soldiers back from advancing.

A fierce counterattack soon began. Hugo and his fellow soldiers strategically held their bombs on short fuse until the last possible moment before hurling them at the enemy on the other side of the barricade. Throughout the remainder of the night, both sides threw more than 3,000 bombs. Corporal Sutton Ferrier was credited with having flung nearly 500 bombs that night. Hugo later recommended Cpl Ferrier and 4 other corporals for gallantry awards.

In Stephen Snelling book 'VCs of the First World War: Gallipoli, 1995, p 223' Hugo Throssell was quoted as having said

"Whenever a Turkish bomb landed in the trench these men immediately picked it up and threw it out again, frequently succeeding in lobbing it back among the Turks. I saw this act, not once, but a dozen times ..."

The Turks made 3 attacks on the Australian trench. During the last attacks, many of the original 160 men had either died or retired as wounded. While in sole command, Hugo was wounded twice, in the shoulder and neck. His face covered in blood from bomb splinters in his forehead, he continued to yell encouragement to his men:

Hugo Throssell was also quoted in the next page of the same book as having said:

"Then they crawled out of the trenches and came straight at us. In the dim light we could see them against the skyline. I passed the word to our fellows, and when the first Turks got within ten yards we cheered and shouted, and, standing up in the trenches, started firing as fast as we could. There was no thought of cover. We just blazed away until the rifles grew red-hot ... and then we picked up the rifles the wounded or killed men had left."

As dawn broke, a machine gun arrived in the Australian line and, in Hugo's words, 'It settled the Turk's third and final charge – and the trench was ours'. Badly injured and now receiving treatment for his wounds, Captain Horace Robertson was quoted in Lionel Wigmore's book in collaboration with Bruce Harding, 'They Dared Mightily' 1963, p 50.

"Hugo looked spent and exhausted, he wore no jacket, but had badges on the shoulder-straps of his shirt. The shirt was full of holes from pieces of bomb, and one of the 'Australias' [shoulder badge with the word Australia] was twisted and broken, and had been driven into his shoulder.

Hugo was awarded the VC for his part in the battle. It was the first VC to be won by a Western Australian in the war and remains the only one awarded to a Light Horseman.

Evacuated to hospital in England, Hugo was promoted to captain and **rejoined his** regiment in Egypt.

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“

Hugo was awarded the VC for his part in the battle. It was the first VC to be won by a Western Australian in the war and remains the only one awarded to a Light Horseman. Evacuated to hospital in England, Hugo was promoted to captain and rejoined his regiment in Egypt.

He was discharged on 13 February 1919 and returned to Western Australia.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION W.A. Inc.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Ian Goodall Secretary 8 Saintly Turn Byford 6122

Phone/message: 0414376756 email: 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 _____