



**COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER**  
**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMOURED CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc**  
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**President Robert Gesmundo**

Welcome to this edition of our Commentary Newsletter. Since our last edition much has happened including the cancellation of ANZAC Day and other events. I am sure that many of us paid tribute to our ANZACS in the alterative way of forming up outside our homes at dawn and paying our respects. I know in our street, I set up our neighbours and others and then turned on my car radio to full power for the Last Post. I received many compliments even from people that had not anticipated waking up but did so in hearing the Last Post. A wreath was layed at the 10LH memorial in Kings Park on ANZAC Day on behalf of all Corps members.

On Saturday 15 May A Sqn held a Family Day, and I was very pleased and proud of RAACAWA Members attendance. It was a great opportunity to renew friendships and share memories. My compliments to A Sqn for a well organised event. .

Due to the amount of work and activities the Committee has decided to maintain monthly meetings to ensure that we can provide the best service to our members. I would like to acknowledge the maintenance work on Cambrai House by a dedicated group of Colin Davies, John Dwyer, Tony Beekwilder and Ray Lederer.

We warmly welcome our new members Clare Curtis, Colin Beales, Nick and Michaela Trowill

Our next Social function is Christmas in July on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> JULY at the Herdsman Hotel. Details have been sent out and are also in this edition of Commentary. I look forward to meeting up with many of you on that day. On the Social activity aspect, all I ask is for your support as your attendance "makes" every event special and a success.

This Association has been going well for many years but there comes a time when it is important that if we want RAACAWA to continue strongly and the Committee to provide the best for its members, a review is of great value. With this in mind, I propose to hold a friendly, informal and social "Think tank" to hear any suggestions, ideas and constructive advice that can improve our Association from members. The tentative date, subject to venue availability is Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2021 with more details to follow.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY  
 ON SUN 18TH JULY  
 Herdsman Tavern 12n

MEMBERSHIP MEET-  
 ING ON SUN 29 AUG

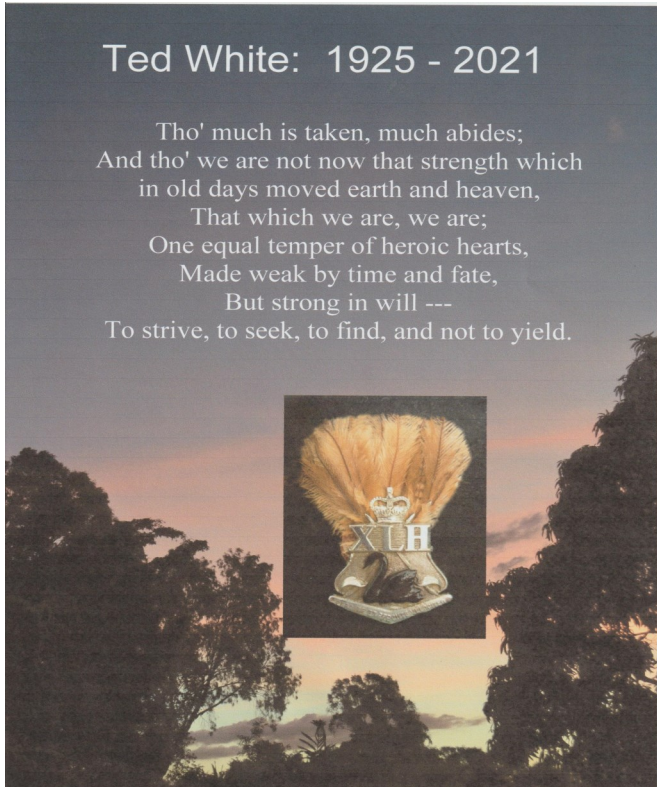
RE-RAISING 10LH  
 REGT ON THE 10TH  
 OF OCTOBER

On a sad note. VALE Col E A (Ted) White. The Funeral was well attended by members of RAC-CAWA and XLHA combined and I was very proud as I received many compliments on our attendance. Our sincere sympathy and condolences to his family. In closing I wish you well, ask for your continued support and stay safe.

Yours in Armour

*Robert Gesmundo*

President



**VALE COL TED WHITE RFD ED (Ret)**

Ted was a long term member of the Association and attended many of our functions the last being the Cambrai Parade and Luncheon at Kings Park in 2018. He was a WW2 Veteran with service in the Islands and in Japan as a SGT in the Intelligence Corps. He often joked that when he joined 10LH Regiment he was told a SGT in intelligence was equal to a trooper in Armoured Corps.

Ted worked his way from Trooper to OC B SQN as a Major and then on to Commanding the 10LH Regiment.

Ted worked for the Commonwealth bank and was married to Bonnie (Dec) To his family and friends our condolences





It's been a long time between drinks due to cancellation and/or restriction of events due to COVID the last being the commemorative and social events for ANZAC DAY

A return to our Christmas in July function has been organised for this year at the Herdsman Lake Tavern private function room located at 33 Herdsman Parade Wembley for all members, partners and friends. Come along, enjoy the fellowship.

Full menu (20% of Price as indicated) and seniors menu—choice of five available along with bar service.

A number of items have been donated for free door and raffle prizes.

SUNDAY 18TH OF JULY 12 NOON START

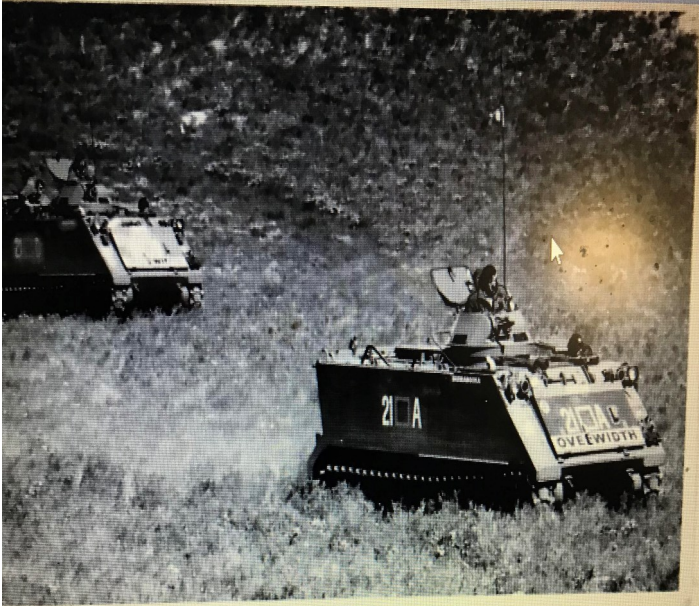
IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD ADVISE THE SECRETARY NOEL MOYES TELEPHONE 92952281 OR EMAIL [secretary.raacawa@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.raacawa@gmail.com) ASAP confirming your number attending so that we can ensure we have the enclosed room for our event.

**THINK**



**AUGUST 29TH MORNING TEA— RAACA WA THINK TANK  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW CLOSER TO EVENT—PLEASE DIARISE**

## 1st Track Troop 10LH Regiment



The Regiment was introduced to "Tracks" with Snoopy during camp 69 with a series of demonstration runs through the troop lines. CPL Bill Schofield ARA was left in an embarrassing situation on one occasion when the APC dropped into a crossing just a fraction more than its length and had to be dug out. From that it was full on with crew commander, gunnery and driver training for Regimental instructors at Puckapunyal who then ran a series of courses at the unit.

1 Troop B SQN was the first troop into the field at the annual camp working through a series of operational tasks. It became a three run approach for each task with the original run followed by the text book solution after discussion with training officers then a further run for the television news organisations that frequented the Lancelin Training area during the first week.

The late Alvin Harris was TP LDR, TP SGT John Dwyer and Assault Section SGT Bill Horrocks. Some others in the TP were Garry Hamley, John Lane, Mick O'Keefe and Eddie Jones.



Anzac Day: 25 Apr 2021

All quiet on the Western Front.

Lighting up the dawn in north Queensland,  
10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse was there!

Like a number of our members Barry Bamford



## BOXERS IN THE RING



### 7 Bde practises its mounted combined arms manoeuvre capability at Exercise Diamond Walk, (From ARMY News)

The new Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles are being put to the test in the largest exercise the vehicle has been operated in since its introduction into the Army. The A Sqn 2/14LHR (QMI) vehicles are being used in the 7 Bdeled Exercise Diamond Walk at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area. Tpr Harrison Dietrich, a gunner on the Boxer, said the crews had adapted well to the new capability. "We have just conducted a battle run with the hatches down, which has been a first for the troop," Tpr Dietrich said. "It was a case of walking through the complexities of a hatch-down environment. It's also been about adapting and trying to work out the best way to employ the Boxer."

"Lt Riley Brassil previously worked with the vehicle the Boxer is replacing: the Australian Light Armoured Vehicle. He said the crews had shown great initiative and technical mastery in the way they had adapted to the new vehicle platform, which was unlike anything they had worked with before. "In a vehicle that has so many sensors and digital systems, you find that you have so much more to work with and your mind is stretched between a few different lines of effort," Lt Brassil said. "However, if you can pull that all together and work with the crew as a whole, the Boxer is extremely effective at doing its job."

OC A Sqn Maj Daniel Solomon said the crews enjoyed taking the Boxer into the field after extensive theory-based training in the barracks. "This has been our first opportunity for this training year to take the Boxer into the field as part of its introduction into the Army," Maj Solomon said. "Diamond Walk has been an opportunity for us to go back to basics, and the couple of weeks we have been out here has seen us achieve dry and live-fire individual crew certification, and up to troop certification live-fire." Maj Solomon said the Boxer had already demonstrated its superiority in the short amount of time 2/14LHR (QMI) had worked with it. "So far, people have been quite impressed by the performance of the Boxers," he said. "We have constantly pushed the boundaries of the Boxer, trying to push it further and further, and so far it's responding very well."



## **The Australia Army History Unit's Paul McAlonan looks back 50 years to Operation Overlord at Long Khanh.**

In early June 1971, Australian forces in Vietnam conducted a major deployment into southern Long Khanh Province. The aim was to prevent a potential large-scale offensive by a strong force of North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong main force units into the 1 Australian Task Force (1ATF) area of operations in the Phuoc Tuy Province.

This operation, named Overlord, was so large in scale that the majority of the combat resources of 1ATF were committed, as well as supporting US Army units, leaving only workshop and service support personnel at Nui Dat to defend the 1ATF base.

After being inserted into Long Khanh Province (30km north of the Nui Dat task force base) by helicopter on June 6, B Coy, 3RAR, quickly discovered a previously unknown complex of enemy bunkers 500m from the landing zone. Not wishing to engage the enemy in failing light, they withdrew to a night harbour and directed mortar and artillery fire onto the enemy positions throughout the night.

The next day at 6.30am, B Coy, led by 5 Platoon, assaulted the bunker system and immediately came under heavy fire from three sides. The understrength platoon, with only 27 soldiers, attacked the bunkers without armour support as the B Coy OC thought that the sound of the armour moving during the night would cause the enemy to abandon their positions.

The fire was so intense it took two hours for the rest of B Coy to join 5 Platoon.

The intensity of the engagement meant that the infantry had to receive resupplies by air. During one of these, a RAAF Iroquois was shot down, killing two of the crew.

Centurions sent to support B Coy contacted the bunkers 800m from the infantry and came under heavy fire.

By 9.30am, with damage from RPG fire, wounded crewman and low on ammunition, the tanks halted to allow a resupply to occur and for D Coy to join them. They were not able to meet B Coy until 5.30pm, by which time the majority of the enemy had fled leaving only a small delaying force.

It was noted in the aftermath of the battle that the 105mm artillery rounds had minimal effect on the bunkers and the only one destroyed was from a direct hit from a 155mm round.

Over the next few days there was only sporadic contact until June 12 when three armoured personnel carriers (APCs) were ambushed. During this contact, an RPG round struck an external bin containing Claymore mines, which detonated and killed seven Australians, severely wounded another three and badly damaged the APC.

Five hours later another troop of APCs were ambushed with RPG and Claymore fire, with one being extensively damaged when an RPG penetrated, critically wounding the crew commander.

# Tank rolls out of retirement



AFTER sitting in a paddock near Mingenew for 15 years, this 1942 vintage General Grant tank is looking pretty good for its age.

And so do the blokes who restored it, Bob Beard, Ross Keesing, Bill Morgan, Wally Rippen, Jim Potter, Jim Harrower, Frank Dunlop and John Deykin.

They are members of the Light Aid

Detachment of the 10th Light Horse, one of the state's most famous regiments.

The tank served with the 2/10th Armoured Division of WA in the 1940s as it prepared to defend WA from the feared Japanese invasion during World War II.

Like many of its kind, the tank was retired to a farm for clearing and was eventually laid to rest and rust until it was

tracked down by Mr Deykin, a former commander of the 10th Light Horse.

The tank will now be kept on display at Irwin Barracks at Karrakatta after a small parade and presentation yesterday.

It was the tank's first public appearance since it rattled down St Georges Terrace in 1942.

Picture: DON PALMER

## 50 YEARS ON - THE MESSAGE REMAINS THE SAME

(Reproduced from the COMMENTARY, NEW YEAR (1947) EDITION)

Now that Christmas and New Year is passed and another year is on the way, our thoughts turn to a big job to be done for the Association.

The year of 1947 will be a good one, and in WA we want the utmost support from all members to make the branch a concern that will be able to assist its members at all times, whenever it is called on to do so.

Let us make a concerted effort and induce other eligible persons to become members and swell our ranks, so that we will be in a position to establish our own ARMOURER CORPS CLUB where we may go in leisure hours and meet the boys. Once we are able to obtain clubrooms we will be in a better position to offer something concrete to all members. In the meantime we urge you to support us so that we can carry out all our plans to acquire these premises.

1947 can be a successful year for us, so we ask you all to do your best in encouraging all ex Armoured Div., Light horse and Para-troop PERSONNEL to become members.

Best of luck to all.

EDITOR