



COMMENTARY NEWSLETTER
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION WA Inc
1/2021 EDITION

Postal: 25 Bentley St Stoneville WA 6081 Phone: 0892952281
 Email: secretary.raacawa@gmail.com



Patron

Col Ken Ashman
 (MSM USA)
 (RET)
 92862167



PRESIDENT ROBERT GESMUNDO

Welcome to this edition of our Commentary newsletter.

President

Robert Gesmundo
 94994685

Vice President

Robert Norris
 93023529

Secretary

Noel Moyes
 92952281

Treasurer

Ross Leighton
 92764695

Committee:

Tony Beekwilder
 95918663
 Colin Davies
 0403654954
 John Dwyer
 0419694549
 Ross Flint
 93325634
 Dick Jones
 93075654
 Peter Williams
 0428948458

Unfortunately, COVID has controlled our activities and more so recently. I do hope that all of you are safe with no serious difficulties and that you and your loved ones are coping well. Perhaps the celebration of Valentines Day yesterday made life a bit easier for some.

At time of writing this we do have several ongoing activities such as the visit to the Gravity Discovery Centre, our AGM on 14 March 2021 and ANZAC Day is "ON". The AGM is always an important and major activity of the Association and its success depends on attendances. I urge you to make a maximum effort to attend the AGM and support your Association.

Details and Agenda will be sent to you as a separate document. If you are unable to attend, I ask you to complete the Proxy Form attached to the Agenda and return it to the Secretary by the due date.

Respecting confidentiality we have several members who are unwell and under medical treatment and we wish them well and a speedy recovery. We also acknowledge their loved ones who are under stress. Our thoughts are with you all.

As this is the last Commentary Newsletter before the AGM I would like to thank you all for your support and a special vote of thanks to our Committee who has made every effort to do the best we can for the Membership over the last 12 months.

A special Thanks to our Patron Col Ken Ashman and wife Sue. In closing I wish you all good health, peace and the ability to overcome these difficulties that are challenging us at present.

Stay well and stay safe.

Yours in Armour

Editor
 John Dwyer

**AGM OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMoured CORPS ASSOCIATION
 WA INC.**

SUNDAY 14TH MARCH 1500 HOURS

RSL OSBORNE PARK MEMORIAL HALL 129 MAIN ST OSBORNE PARK

AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED





Sabre Troop vehicles of the day were 3 Ferret Scout Cars MK2 commanded by the TP , CPL and Lance CPL. The Staghound Armoured Vehicle T17E1 commanded by the TP LDR and the Humber 1 Ton CT Truck commanded by the ASLT TP SGT carrying 8 Assault Troopers.

The make up of some troops varied and reflected the vehicle resources available at the time.

MK1 Ferrets were used by the Commanding Officer, SQN OCs and 21Cs.

4 Ton Diamond T Wrecker was the main LAD support vehicle

Studibaker US6 2 1/2 ton 6 wheel drive trucks and Land Rovers SWB were vehicles used by logistics and support people within the Regiment.

Black tank suits with sub unit coloured cravat was the work dress of the day.

Armament was 30 calibre Machine Gun and grenade launchers for MK2, Grenade Launchers MK2, 76mm, 30 Cal MGs for Staghound, Humber SLR L2A1

Personal weapons were

SLR L1A1, Owen Machine Gun, 38 Revolver Smith and Wesson



RHQ, B, C, HQ SQNS and LAD OF THE TENTH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT
ES SALT LINES IRWIN BARRACKS KARRAKATTA

1961

Congratulations to President Robert and his wife Maria on their 60th wedding anniversary



L-R Tony Beekwilder, John/Annette Dwyer, Don Sivia, Colin Davies, Dick Jones, Robert and Maria, Marilyn Simmonds, Ross Flint, Ross and Vicki Leighton, Noel Moyes, Ken and Sue Ashman pictured at Robert and Maria's anniversary party

Mr Jamie Wallis OAM Order of Australia in the General Division

Jamie Wallis served with the 10th Light Horse Regiment as an officer his first posting was a Troop Leader 2 Troop B SQN.

Jamie had a long career in the mining industry leading a successful company during the early development years and has made a strong contribution to the industry in the ensuing years.

Those of you who have been to Whiteman park would have seen his strong contribution to the Heritage Rail system and possible ridden on the extensive local track system in heritage carriages

More about Mr Jamie Wallace OAM in our next edition





Presentation of the 10th Light Horse (AIF) Standard

Original Caption

Scenes at Rockingham last Sunday on the occasion of the presentation of the 10th Light Horse Regiment, now in training for active service, of a handsome standard donated by Mrs Law-Smith.

Photo: Western Mail, 29th January 1915.

Early in January 1915, 10th Light Horse travelled to Rockingham, then a small timber port south of Perth, to conduct final training before embarking for overseas service. During the camp a hand-sewn Standard was presented to the Regiment by Mrs Law-Smith, the wife of a prominent Perth businessman. The presentation and the emblem were described in the following manner.

An important event during the sojourn of the Regiment at Rockingham was the consecration of a Regimental Standard, the generous gift of Mrs P. Law-Smith. In the presence of the whole Regiment, mounted and in review order, the impressive ceremony was conducted by His Grace Archbishop Riley, Chaplain-General of the Forces, following which, the beautiful emblem was handed into the keeping of the Regimental Sergeant-Major by Mrs, Law-Smith in person.

Olden, A.C.N. (nd) Westralian Cavalry in the War. p.20

Because of the short time between the raising of the Regiment and this presentation, the emblem had not been granted royal assent, and accordingly was not a 'Guidon' or official 'Colours'. Even so, as part of the ceremony, it was afforded customary religious rites.



A Memorable Start to a New Era

During the 10th Light Horse annual camp at Bindoon in October 1968 members of the Regiment were introduced to a 'new' vehicle that ushered in the next era of combat vehicles used by the Regiment. Up until this time the composition of sabre troop vehicles had centred around the use of Mk2 Ferret Scout Cars and one-ton Humber trucks. Staghound Armoured Cars as fire support vehicles (FSV's) had been withdrawn some years before, and replaced by MK2 Ferrets with a white band around the turret to simulate an FSV. Similarly Saracen Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC's) had been withdrawn, and troop assault sections operated out of the back of Humber trucks.

In October 1968 the first American tracked M113 armoured personnel carrier appeared in the Regiment. The 1-1-3 was an aluminium hulled combat vehicle being used extensively at that in the conflict in Vietnam, and one vehicle and a driver was loaned to the Regiment during the camp as an introductory and familiarisation exercise. The vehicle was nicknamed *Snoopy*, and after several initial demonstrations to the assembled Regiment the vehicle was then rotated out amongst sabre troops in the Regiment for one day each, to practice movement with the troop. The troop's assault section was mounted in the vehicle and practice was undertaken of mounted and dismounted drills that for most assault troopers had so far only been conducted out of the Humber. After rotation between the sabre troops the vehicle was then used to convey a collection of Regimental officers, including the padre, the doctor and the dentist – known as *The God Squad* – to various locations to observe troops undertaking their usual training.

At this time the Regiment had only brief encounters with the new vehicle, but the following year the replacement of Ferrets and Humpers began in earnest.

The photo shows assault troopers of 3tp A Sqn (Northam) practicing dismounting drills out of the *Snoopy* vehicle on the morning of 14th October 1968. For members of 3tp this day became memorable in more ways than one. Later during the day the weather deteriorated, and rain began to fall in blinding sheets. Troop members took shelter in the *Snoopy* vehicle, and while they were discussing the training being undertaken a violent earthquake rocked the vehicle from side to side, causing some degree of alarm. The earthquake extended across several local districts, passing under and demolishing the wheat belt township of Meckering.

Days When the Earth Trembled

The sounds of the Light Horse have always created vivid images for me. The realization of this fact occurred in 1972, when, as Officer Commanding Headquarters Squadron, Tenth Light Horse I accompanied the ceremonial troop of horsemen the Regiment sponsored to a local carnival. As the four horsemen, in groups of two and three, thundered past the crowd, completing their various mounted activities, the thudding of hooves on turf created a rumbling and shaking of the ground underfoot. I tried to envisage what Turkish troops must have experienced during the charge at Beersheba when in November 1917, over six-hundred galloping Light Horsemen, overwhelmed the defending Turkish forces and captured vital wells of Beersheba. The magnitude of those thundering horsemen and the pounding of hoofs on the earth is, in this mechanistic age, difficult to imagine.

Equally impressive is the sound of massed armoured vehicles. In 1966 during the presentation of the new 10th Light Horse Regimental Guidon, the old Guidon was escorted off the parade ground before the consecration of the new emblem. As part of the escort to the old Guidon I was able to sit on the side-lines and watch the rest of the parade. As the vehicles, mainly Ferrets and Humbers, drove past line-ahead in review, the low frequency droning of over fifty large Rolls-Royce engines set up a harmonic that seemed to make everything vibrate and rattle. Similarly, the snorting acceleration noises of 1-1-3 armoured personnel carriers (APC's), the clanking of tracks and the rumbling that armoured tracks make as they claw a path across the ground makes the air vibrate and the ground tremble.



Once as duty officer at Es Salt Barracks, Karrakatta in Western Australia, I answered a telephone call from a local resident who inquired about movement of 113's from the Karrakatta depot. I expected to be confronted with a complaint about vehicle noises, but such was not the case. The resident lived by the main road north to the Regimental training area and noted that there had been considerable movement of vehicles along the road during the last few days. He remarked that he had no complaints about the vehicles, in fact he said, "I think you guys do a good job,"-- but, the caller reported, when the vehicles went past, even though his residence was situated a hundred metres from the road the passing vehicles made the house rattle and shake. The crux of his concern was that he was trying to sell his house and wanted to make sure he did not invite potential buyers in to view the property when armoured vehicles were due to drive past!

My most vivid memory of armoured vehicles and trembling ground is quite different. During an annual camp in the Bindoon training area in October 1968, various squadrons shared training time with a recently

circulation around various troops to introduce and familiarise soldiers with the vehicle's capabilities. I was the Troop Leader of 3 Troop, 'A' Squadron, Northam at the time, and on this particular day had use of the new vehicle.



The Troop had practiced a number of tactical moves during the morning and as we did so the sky grew heavy and dark until eventually rain began to fall in blinding sheets. I persevered with this for a while and then decided that

little training value was emerging from the situation and, forming the vehicles into a standard defensive circle, congregated all troop members in the APC to discuss what we had been doing. The 1-1-3 was ideal for this. All troop members could fit in the vehicle, it was dry, which meant that debriefing and map reading could proceed in a civilised manner. We'd been doing this for a few minutes when it became increasingly noticeable that the vehicle was moving. Suddenly there was a pronounced rumbling noise and the whole vehicle began to vibrate and sway violently from side to side. The driver, who was sitting inside behind the engine compartment, leapt up shouting incredulously that somehow the vehicle engine had started by itself. He scrambled into the driver's seat and finding none of the gauges registering but the vehicle still moving, released the driver's hatch and stuck his head out. From there he shouted back excitedly into the vehicle, "It's a bloody earthquake!"

His comment was met with derision from the assembled group. Earthquakes are not usual in Western Australia! However, his response was an emphatic, "It f---ing is !!" The effect of this was electric. Someone released the large cargo hatch immediately above us, the ramp door at the rear was swung open as bodies exited the vehicle in the quickest manner they could see, with maps, map-boards, chinagraphs and other equipment going in every direction. It took us a few minutes to realise that this was probably the silliest action we could have taken. We were as safe inside the vehicle as anywhere. However we stood around getting soaking wet and gawking at the swaying vehicle while the ground continued to tremble underneath us.



In fact it was an earthquake. Later we learnt that the tremor had lasted over ninety seconds and in other places had created a fault that raised the ground as much as two metres in

Earthquake damage: October 1968

Damaged housing in the West Australian wheat-belt town of Meckering.

height. The fault

had run directly under and devastated the wheat-belt town of Meckering many kilometres away. Other surrounding towns had experienced the quake but as luck would have it, had escaped serious damage.



Meckering Earthquake: October 1968

Many stories emerged from this event. It is worth recording the effect of the earthquake on another "A" Squadron troop. Sergeant Mike Shaw was leader of 2-Troop, and like me stopped his training when the rain became impenetrable. Mike was still working with Ferrets and a Humber, and so his soldiers did not have the comfort of a 1-1-3.

Fault line of the earthquake, a kilometre outside the town of Meckering in West Australia

However, he decided to "brew up" during the break, and to this end put a dixie of water onto the small petrol burner issued to vehicles for cooking. He placed the lighted burner and dixie under the steel hull of his Ferret out of the rain and waited for the water to boil. A short while after doing this the rumbling of the earthquake began. Mike said later that he thought the rumbling sounded like a fire being fanned by a draught inside the vehicle and, as improbable as it seemed, thought he had set the Ferret on fire. His immediate action was to knock over the dixie, pick up the still flaming burner and hurl it as far as he could into the nearby scrub. He related later that, like us scrambling out of our vehicle, he was not sure why he did this, but it seemed like the appropriate thing to do in the instant.

It was even more interesting later -- trying to explain on his "Lost and Damaged Report" how he lost his petrol cooker.

Barry Bamford

Jun 2004

Reviewed Oct 2020

VOLCANOS OF THE WORLD - wordsearch



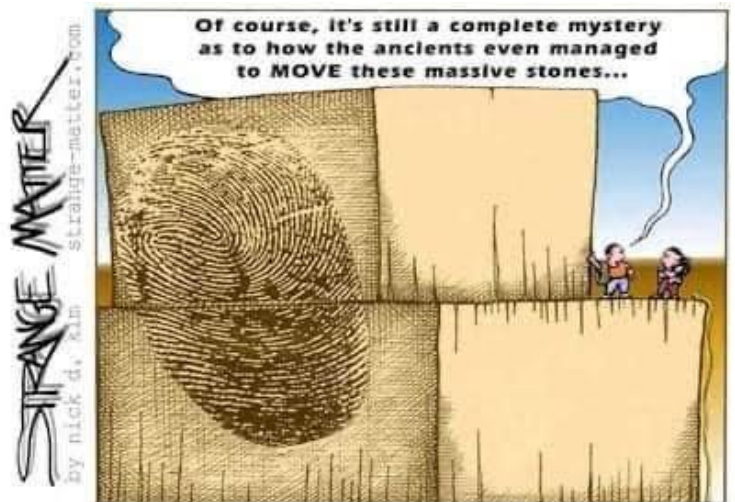
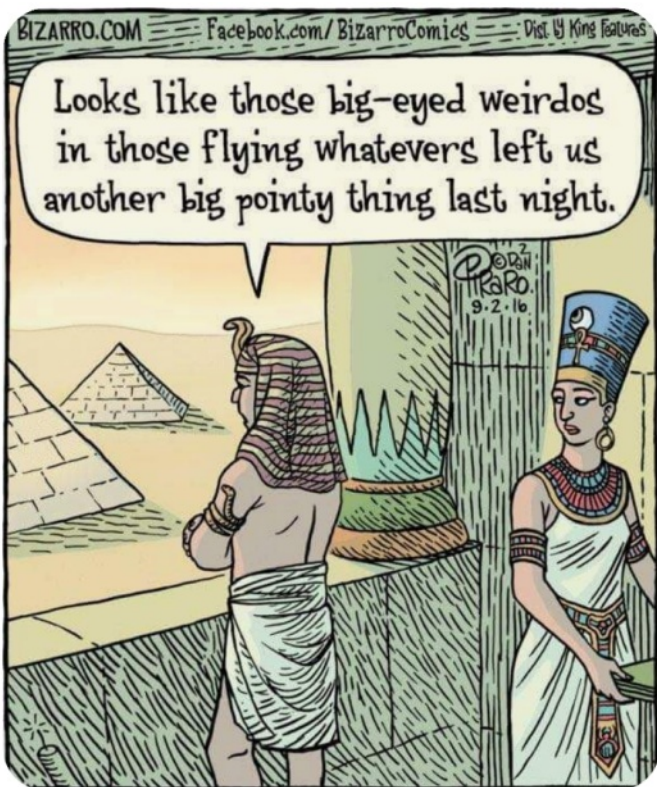
AAK
ABU
ACATENANGO
ALMOLONGA
ARGOWAYANG
AZUMAYASAN
BALATUKAN
BERLIN
BEZYMIANNY
BRENNISTEINSFJÖLL
BUNYARUGURU
CABALIAN
CAKRABUANA
CAMEROON
CHAO
CONCHAGÛITA
DABBAHU
DALLOL
DATONG
DESLINDE
DOTSERO

EBEKO
EMURUANGOGOLAK
EREBUS
ETNA
FANTALE
FOX
FROSTY
FUERTEVENTURA
GAMCHEN
GARIBALDI
GAUSSBERG
GILBERT
GOODENOUGH
HEARD
HRÓMUNDARTINDUR
HURI
IAMELELE
ISANOTSKI
IYA
JARAGUAY
JORCADA

JUMAYTEPEQUE
KAENA
KONE
KRAKATAU
LAUCHACHAN
LOLO
LONGONOT
LYNGDALSHEIDI
MACA
MATUTUM
MOMOTOMBO
NABRO
NAZKO
NONDA
OBIGLIO
OSHIMA
PAGAN
PETACAS
PRINDLE
QUALIBOU
QUILOTOA

RAIDEN
RENDOVA
RURUTU
SABANCAYA
SOCOMPA
TAAL
TOLOKIWA
TONDANO
UBINAS
ULIAGA
VANGUNU
VATNAFJÖLL
VOKEO
WAESCHE
WILLIAM
XIANJINDAO
YATSUGATAKE
YOKOTE
ZENGYU
ZIKWALA

Solution page 11



DAY/DATE	TIME	EVENT	COMMENT
Tuesday 12th January	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Tuesday 9th of February	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Sunday 14th Feb	1600	Gravity Discovery Centre and Observatory	RSVP Friday 22nd of January
Sunday 14th March	1500	AGM -afternoon tea	RSL Hall 129 Main Street OSBORNE PARK WA 6017 Details to follow from the Secretary
Tuesday 13th April	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House- Preparation ANZAC events
Saturday 25th April	0500	Kings Park Dawn Service	President - wreath laying Bill Robertson - coffee plus arrangements
Saturday 25th April	0900	ANZAC PDE Perth	Detail to be provided to members prior to event
Saturday 25th April	1200	A SQN 10LH ANZAC EVENT	Security entry to be advised
MAY		SOCIAL EVENT	TBA
Tuesday 13th July	1300	Committee meeting	Cambrai House
SOCIAL EVENT			
Sat 7th of AUGUST		Old Boys Parade	XLH Regiment Unit function TBA
Tuesday 14th September	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Saturday 30st October	1800	Beersheba Dinner	10LH ASN Function
Tuesday 10th November	1300	Committee Meeting	Cambrai House
Sunday 21st November	1200	Cambrai Parade and Luncheon	RAAFA Bullcreek
Sunday 6th December	1200	Christmas Function	TBC
Notes:			
		Committee meetings - Members welcome, <u>need to advise</u> <u>Secretary Noel Moyes</u> <u>Secretary.raacawa@gmail .com</u> <u>if attending for security at the gate</u>	

MEMBERS BUSINESS DIRECTORY



CHARLIE KOALA'S
Not for profit advocacy's helping
the well being of past and present
armed services personnel.

CHARLIE
M: 0413 181 986
E: charliemccallum1953@gmail.com

TOM
M: 0415 031 729
E: thomastjd16@gmail.com

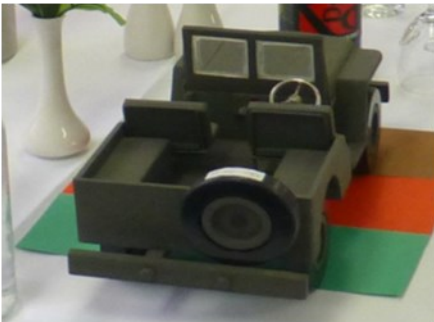
OUR SERVICES

Providing Assistance with:

- Household Bills
- Transportation to appointments
- Recreation Options
- Social Interaction
- Counseling Options



NEED A PLAQUE - Tony Beekwilder
Tonybeek1942@gmail.com
0409204336

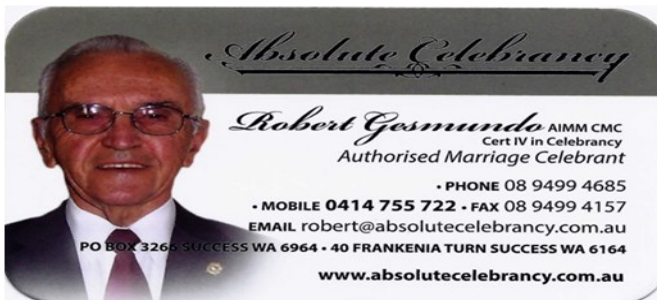


Dick Jones - Wooden Models
Dickover60@hotmail.com

Plumber

Laurens West

<https://m.facebook.com/pregrineplum>



Absolute Celebrancy

Robert Gesmundo AIMM CMC
Cert IV in Celebrancy
Authorised Marriage Celebrant

• PHONE 08 9499 4685
• MOBILE **0414 755 722** • FAX 08 9499 4157
EMAIL robert@absolutecelebrancy.com.au
PO BOX 3266 SUCCESS WA 6964 • 40 FRANKENIA TURN SUCCESS WA 6164
www.absolutecelebrancy.com.au



Absolute Celebrancy

Robert Gesmundo AIMM CMC
Cert IV in Celebrancy
Funeral Celebrant

• PHONE 08 9499 4685
• MOBILE **0414 755 722** • FAX 08 9499 4157
EMAIL robert@absolutecelebrancy.com.au
PO BOX 3266 SUCCESS WA 6964 • 40 FRANKENIA TURN SUCCESS WA 6164
www.absolutecelebrancy.com.au

