IN THE BEGINNING ……

Most Australians who served in Armour during the Second World War did not have the chance to leave their country's shores. By the time peace came in 1945, these men and their leaders, were aware that they might lose their identity as members of a unique branch of the army simply because, through no fault of their own, they had not been allowed to serve overseas.

To preserve and perpetuate both the Corps and camaraderie that had evolved with it, a meeting was organised at Southport Queensland. There, born on 28th September 1945, at the Headquarters of the 4th Australian Armoured Brigade Group, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Denzil Macarthur-Onslow was the guiding light behind the formation of the Armoured Corps Association. With interim controlling bodies nominated for each state, Lieutenant-General Horace Robertson, the widely known and revered "Red Robbie", was appointed Federal President with the Brigade Commander as Vice President. The original commander of the First Armoured Division, Lieutenant-General John Northcott, by then Chief of the General Staff, accepted the office of Patron.

Apart from the clear aim of reinforcing the comradeship of war service, the fledgling Association also intended to look to the welfare of its members and their dependants.

It was early 1946 by the time the wartime soldiers had been demobilised and returned to their homes. At the Punt Road Drill Hall on 7th February 1946, the Victorian Branch held its first inaugural meeting. In excess of 600 members met and elected Brigadier John Clarebrough to the State Presidency. By June, the Victorian membership had risen to 792, each paying 11 shillings entrance fee and a further 10 shillings annual membership.

The new branch held its first meeting at Scots Church Hall on 31st May 1946 with 350 members in attendance. Soon after, the first Trustees were appointed and, at about the same time, sub branches were formed at Ballarat and Horsham. Then, the Association sought its own clubrooms, but despite many enquiries and inspections of possible sites, the plan failed because of financial limitations. In the following year, the Branch gained the use of 6 RMR Barracks in Victoria Street Melbourne for meetings, reunions and dances. This remained home to the Association for quite some time. 1947 was the year in which the Paratroopers Association joined ranks with us. At that time membership reached an all time high of 1072.

1946 was the year in which the first Honorary Life Memberships were awarded, the first to Sir John Northcott. Victorian John Frawley, well known for his splendid portraits of most senior officers of the Corps during the war, was awarded the second for winning the Association's competition to design a suitable badge. Field Marshall Lord Montgomery was the third recipient, being honoured in 1947.

During 1950 the Association received its Royal Charter, and became the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association, and in the same year, Brigadier Hinton, Federal President since 1945, became the fifth Honorary Life Member.

There followed a period of decline in activity. It was not until the mid-1960s that a remarkable revival occurred. The serving members of the C.M.F. were invited to join the Association and subsequently all those serving in Armour, part time or full time, were made welcome.

So it comes about that today the Association has amongst its ranks, those who served in World War II, together with soldiers past and present from the pre-war militia, the CMF, the Army Reserve and Regular Army. There are also veterans from Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and more recently Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Overall, a significant representation of men of Armour.

This brief record of our origins will, we trust, serve to acquaint potential members with our early history.

Today the Association maintains its aims in a variety of ways. Socially the annual calendar includes: commemoration of the Association's birthday in February, a family day picnic in February/March, participation in the ANZAC Day march, a children's Christmas party, and the highlight of the year, the Cambrai Day Dinner. This gala evening is normally held at Puckapunyal, has an eminent guest speaker and normally attracts a large number of guests.

In other areas of activities, the Victorian Branch awards Certificates of Merit for services to, the Association, the Corps or the community at large. There are welfare funds from which assistance may be drawn in cases of hardship; and there are scholarships available to the children of members who have been financial for 5 or more years. These are available for the 1st and 2nd, and 5th and 6th years of secondary education. There is an additional fund for first year apprentices and trainees. There is no requirement for academic excellence, the sole requirement to qualify being evidence of the child's continuing education. The Association has close affiliations with the state branches in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Northern Territory.

Now that you have read a little of what our Association is about, why not accept our invitation to join? In addition to members of Armoured units and attached personnel, at the AGM in February 2018, the Association members voted to allow the admission of Affiliate Members, being relatives of people eligible to join. The application form is on the other side of this brochure along with details of the 2 categories of membership. Simply fill in the application form and post it to the Secretary, together with the joining fee and annual subscription. Once accepted, you will receive a welcome letter, our eye catching lapel badge and a copy of our quarterly newsletter, **Track,** which will keep you up to date with all the news of our Association.

Why not join?

Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc.

A0023458C

(Victorian Branch)

Founded 7th February 1946

Ordinary Membership open to all those who served or are still serving in Armour

&

Affiliate Membership for their relatives

Enjoy all the advantages of membership of the RAACA

Continuing comradeship

with people who served in Armour.

Welfare benefits

in time of trouble, for members and their families.

School children's scholarships

to help with secondary education and trade training of member's children.

Social activities

which preserve the friendships forged during their service in Armour.

Free subscription to "Track"

the Victorian Branch's newsletter which keeps you abreast of all the news about the Association.

Categories of Membership

An ***Ordinary Member*** of the Association shall be a member or former member of the Royal Australian Armoured Corps or any other Armoured Formation of the Australian Military Forces, and all such persons who have at any time been attached thereto and such other persons, members or former members of the Australian & Commonwealth Military Forces.

An ***Affiliate Member*** of the Association is a person who is not eligible to be an ordinary member; but is a person who is a relative of a person (living or deceased) who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member: (i.e., parent, grandparent, spouse, brother, sister, child, grandchild, stepchild, son in law, daughter in law, brother in law, sister in law, nephew, niece, aunt or uncle of the person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member as the case may be).

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Details of person entitled to Ordinary Membership (See above for details of membership categories)

Name in Full: .....

Address: ..... Post Code: .....

Phone: ..... (B/H) Mobile: ..... E-mail: .....

For Ordinary Membership, enter the details of your service, for Affiliate Membership, enter the service details of your relative.

Dates of Enlistment: ..... Discharge: .....

Units served with, relevant dates and brief details of service: .....

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Details of person applying for Affiliate Membership

Name in Full: .....

Address: ..... Post Code: .....

Phone: ..... (B/H) Mobile: ..... E-mail: .....

Relationship with person entitled to Ordinary Membership detailed above: .....

Date of application: ..... Application for Ordinary Membership / Affiliate Membership (Circle as appropriate)

Enclosed: $ ..... Made up of: Joining Fee: $12.00 Annual Subscription $ 25.00 (one year) OR I have made an EFT payment as follows: Name: RAACA (Vic) Bank: Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Acc. No.: 163760515giving my details & what it is for.

If accepted, I agree to be bound by the RAACA Inc. (Vic Branch) Constitution & Rules.

Applicant's Signature: .....

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:
Secretary
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association Inc .
(Victorian Branch)
1 Ambleside Link
Doreen Vic 3754

FOR COMMITTEE USE:

Application Accepted / Rejected

At committee meeting on: .....

Applicant notified by letter dated: .....

Badge issued: Yes / No

Copy of Track posted: Yes / No