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22 Construction Squadron, Circa 1950's



22 Construction Squadron, Circa 1980's

Passing Parade

Robert (Bob) Silk passed away in May 2018, aged 87 yrs. Bob served in Vietnam from May 1967 to April 1968 with 1 Field Squadron. Many will remember Bob at SME where he was an instructor for many years.

Brian Smithson passed away in July 2018, aged 73 yrs. He was a National Serviceman and served in Vietnam from November 1966 to May 1967 with 55 Advanced Engineers Stores Service.

Allan (Blue) Rantall passed away on 29 July 2018, aged 73 yrs. He was a National Serviceman and served in Vietnam from October 1967 to July 1968 with 1 Field Squadron. Blue signed up as a regular and served a total of 25 years before taking discharge. He passed away while on holidays in Hervey Bay.

Henry (Harry) New passed away on 10 September 2018, aged 102yrs. Harry enlisted at the beginning of WW2 in October 1939 and was discharged at the end of the war in October 1945. He was a member of the 2/2nd Field Company, 6 Div. Harry received a Mentioned in Dispatches.

Sick Parade

Vance Bond had a visit to Hollywood Hospital where he underwent an operation for a triple by-pass and a collapsed lung. He spent some time in St John of God Rehab Hospital in Mt Lawley as he recovered. All is now well and Bondy is back home being cared for by his neighbours as he recuperates.

Stuart (Kiwi) Fraser has not been feeling well and spent a couple of days in hospital but is home again and on the mend.

Vernon Andrews got in touch with Peter Billington and informed him that he has lost the sight in one eye and is slowly losing the sight in his other eye. This loss of sight has severely restricted his movements.

ANZAC House Bus Shelters



Three members of 13 Fd Sqn have been involved in giving 2 bus shelters the ANZAC look. Working under the leadership of LCpl Andy Good, 3 Fd Sqn RNZE and supervision of Pete Ramsay. The bus shelters near ANZAC Cottage will have glass panels depicting scenes from Gallipoli and Vietnam when completed. The official opening is Sunday 21 October. Members are welcome to attend.

2018 WATERLOO DINNER ADDRESS

Excerpts from Brig Dave Wainwright's address

This is my first Waterloo Dinner as your Head of Corps and I would like to take this opportunity to provide you feedback and importantly reinforce your confidence that the Corps remains in good shape. I would appreciate your indulgence for a few minutes that affords suitable recognition of our Corps significant achievements, but equally as I have been advised by my many colleagues ensure that this remains in the spirit of “good Sappering” and in short, sharp and to the point.

In my role as your Head of Corps I have personally been struck by the depth of talent and collegial spirit that exists across our diverse group of leaders – I believe that this may be something that we collectively should reflect upon. Arguably every achievement I could hope to attempt to adequately acknowledge tonight is directly related to the talent of the people, from Sapper to every trade to NCO, Troop Commander to SSM.... From CO and RSM to our Association Presidents, the efforts by many are simply remarkable. We are equally extremely lucky to be supported by a distinguished group of Sappers who conduct the duties of the honorary positions for the Corps.

In preparing this speech, I thought it would be appropriate to focus on a key theme that I trust will resonate with each and every one of you. Perhaps this is best phrased as a question that you I trust will immediately associate with.

What is it that we so passionately pride ourselves on being a Sapper?

I would submit this is perhaps the very reason we all come together to dine tonight and pay our respects to a cause that we have strong affiliation.

Is it the can-do culture, the willingness to bravely go forward and tackle the uncertain with confidence... Is it the ingenuity or perhaps more eloquently expressed no better that what we passionately refer to as sappernuity of our people!

Is it that sense of reliability that our people and leaders inspire and create regardless of the hardship, or the imposed challenges? Is it simply the very values and traits of our people that range from rat cunning, to the ever resourceful committed professional, through to being that reliable mate in every team that we serve and that we all collectively admire and perhaps cherish?

The one constant that I am confident resonates in all these views, is the centrality of our people – what we all know and proudly call a Sapper. I would ask that we never lose sight of this importance, particularly as we reflect on our

proud heritage, acknowledge the achievements of today and continue to invest in our future.

My thanks similarly to the outstanding efforts in the capability investment by Army that the Corps continues to enjoy ranging from Land 155 – Enhanced Gap Crossing Capability through to Improved Ribbon Bridge and BEPB, that is now being taught at SME, through to Land 8160 – Armoured Engineering, a capability of critical importance to the Corps. Our thanks go out to the many behind the scenes to achieve these important developments.

We should note that further history will be made this year with new strong combined Arms links that includes the Intel Corps. On the 01 July 18 we will see the transition of Geospatial and Multi Media Engineers to the Intelligence Corps to align with the incremental evolution toward supporting the Intelligence Function. I would like to take the opportunity to wish all members who have taken up the offer to transfer to Intelligence Corps all the best for the future careers and thank them for the support they have given the Corps.

In closing, my congratulation to our award recipients this year through to the continued distinguished promotions of Sappers at every Level. We are proud to serve with you.

At last year's Corps Conference, I asked our leadership team of COs' and RSMs' to help develop and foster a Corps Vision statement: I would like to close with reinforcing this Vision and suggest this has much merit, particularly as we welcome the breadth of new talent, energetic and can-do Sappers of our Corps.

Sappers conduct the dangerous, dirty and demanding tasks that enable the Joint Force to live, move and fight.

Our people form uniquely skilled, adaptive and prepared teams drawn from the total force.

Investment in our people, equipment and emerging technology will enhance the Joint Force in a congested future operating environment.

All the very best to you all. Good Sapping and Ubique

Dave Wainwright, DSC Brigadier, Head of Corps, Royal Australian Engineers

MEETING OUR MEMBERS



Colin Bufton

Colin was born in Subiaco in 1945 and grew up in St James Park, Bentley. He has two brothers and a sister.

He attended Primary School in Bentley and Kent Street High School in Kensington.

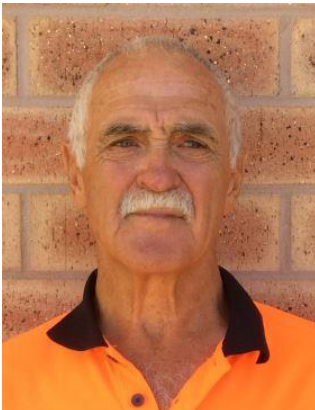
Colin was 15 when he started work as an apprentice boiler maker/welder with Tomlinson Steel of Welshpool.

Colin was called up for National Service and joined the Army in September 1965. He served with 22 Construction Squadron including a tour of duty to Borneo in 1966 before taking discharge in September 1967.

On leaving the Army, Colin worked as a welder up the coast at Geraldton, Port Hedland, Kununurra, and Alice Springs where he spent 10 years driving cattle trucks, building trailers and modifying trucks. Then it was to Darwin, Karratha and the Burrup Peninsula working for Worsley on the LNG load out jetty. In 1989 he bought and ran Dardanup Engineering.

Colin retired in 2000 but keeps busy rebuilding classic trucks and custom utes. He also enjoys travelling around Australia and prospecting.

Colin met Erica in Perth in 1966 and they married in June 1968. They have 4 sons and 4 grandchildren. They currently live in Dardanup.



Brian Deering

Brian was born in Subiaco in 1946 and has one sister. He grew up in and around West Leederville until the family moved to North Yunderup.

He attended West Leederville Primary School and then attended Pinjarra High School.

Brian was 15 when he started work with Scots Transport and Vehicle Maintenance, Mandurah.

In August 1968, Brian joined the Army and served with 18 Field Squadron and 22 Construction Squadron as a fitter engines and pumps and as a refrigeration mechanic. Whilst with 22 Const Sqn, he detached for 12 months to WA Survey Unit, Fremantle. On discharge, Brian had the rank of Corporal

After leaving the Army in 1974, Brian worked for Alcoa Pinjarra and in 1980 moved to Exmouth and worked at the Navy Base for the US Navy and the Commonwealth as the transport supervisor until he retired in 2005.

Brian married Wendy in 1970 and have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. They still live in Exmouth where they enjoy travelling, playing golf and fishing.

13 Field Squadron

13 Fd Sqn hosted the CO and RSM of 3 Combat Engineer Regiment from Townsville on the weekend 25-26 August. The Sqn invited the members of the Association to attend and 4 members turned up.

Lt Col Jennifer Harris gave a one-on-one type presentation to begin with and welcomed questions on the present and future tasks. She noted the large investment occurring in the Corps in the form of bridging and Armoured Engineer support vehicles

She raised the need for the whole Regiment, which 13 Fd Sqn is a part of, to be a ready status as on-going training to current levels of readiness and would require members of 13 Fd Sqn to journey to 3CER for specialist training with the Regiment.

She also noted the level of trade capacity being reduced to a limited Troop capacity of tradesmen and plant operators thus limiting the sapper's capacity and knowledge to provide specific accommodation needs to support the whole of Army needs.

The Ryan Club held a Veterans Health Week event, sponsored by DVA, after training on Tuesday 25 September. The theme of the event was healthy eating and the wellbeing of the people. It highlighted the types of foods we should eat and the types we should avoid reducing the amounts of sugars and saturated fats intake in our diet which can cause health problems as we get older.

The next visitors to the Unit will be the CO and RSM from SME. This visit is scheduled for some time in November and the Association has been invited to 13 Fd Sqn to talk and mingle with the CO and RSM. Exact date and time are still to be advised by the School and will be sent out to all WA members when confirmed to the Association Committee.

Other events occurring at 13 Fd Sqn in December will be a family day with BBQ lunch on Saturday 8th and the end of year presentation night on the following Tuesday 11th. Members of the Association have been issued an invitation by the Squadron to attend both events.

Again, exact times are still to be finalised, but you will be advised in plenty of time if you would like to attend one or both events. If you would like to attend any of the events, let Ian Johnston know so he can put your name on the gate entry list.

Fellowship Lunch

On Wednesday 19 September, the Association held a lunch at the Gosnells Hotel. Sixteen members and guests Brian Beech, Allan Gordon and Ray Smith from the Gosnells Community Men's Shed attended. Brian, the Workshop Supervisor, presented Ian Johnston with an Honour Board to be used as the Associations 'Life Members' Board. In response, Ian presented Brian with a copy of our book 'Sappers in the West'.

In all, an enjoyable time was had by everyone and the visit to the Men's Shed following the lunch gave us a look at what can be done to support activities for men.



Brian Beech & Ian Johnston



Trevor Jones & Neville Clark



David Hewett & Chris Hannah



Bob Brackenbury, Len Copley, Dale Skimmings &
Barry Cruslove (Ex RAEME)



Barry Johnson, Rob Horrocks & Steve O'Neil



Stewart Holmes, Arthur Farmer & Carl Phillimore

Special Guests

At the general meeting held on Sunday 16th September, Snr Const David Moorfield and Const Joe Blay from WA Police were invited guest speakers.

They spoke on general security of houses and vehicles, awareness of opportunist theft in shopping centres and on the streets and the importance of putting wallets, purses and keys out of sight within the house explaining that most house break-in occur when these items are left in full view of a thief looking through a window.

They advised get to know your neighbours and advise them if you will be away from home and if affordable, install a security camera which can be used by police should a break-in occur to your house or to a neighbour's house.

During the meeting 1st Const Matt Wiltshire arrived with his Police Substance Detection Dog. He gave a brief outline of their role and pointed out that Dakota was a substance and contraband detection dog and not a tracking/attach dog.

The main areas of work for substance detection dogs are at special events such as sports, concerts, transport terminals and shopping centres. The dogs are also called out when a search warrant has been issued to search a property where substances are suspected to be manufactured or trafficked.

Our thanks to the WA Police in providing their time to speak to our members.

Sausage Sizzle

On Saturday 22nd September, the Association held a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Malaga and raised \$1,437 on the day which was an excellent result.

Thanks to all the members and helpers who volunteered a couple of hours of their time cooking and serving, specially to Russell McEntyre and Trevor Jones who did all the running around ordering and picking up all the supplies required on the day.



The date for our next sausage sizzle is Saturday 16 March 2019. A reminder of this date will be published in the next edition of the Purple Circle.

Top-secret Vietnam War troops recognised

Pat Griffiths Australian Associated Press SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 10:39AM

Members of undercover Australian forces who provided critical intelligence during the Vietnam War will be recognised after decades of secrecy over their role.

Australia has lifted the veil of secrecy from one of its top undercover operations during the Vietnam War, allowing veterans to be rewarded for their service.

The 547 Signal Troop were in contact with enemy forces from day one of their deployment, monitoring communications for a United States intelligence team.

"Due to the extreme secrecy surrounding the troop's operations their presence in Vietnam continued to be a closely guarded secret," Defence Personnel Minister Darren Chester said in a statement on Saturday.

"Even today the troop does not appear on many maps drawn up by the Australian Task Force." While their work remained secret for decades, members of the troop will now be recognised with the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and a citation.

Governor-General Peter Cosgrove formally approved the award, in recognition of assistance provided to the former Republic of South Vietnam.

Formed in 1966, the 547 Signal Troop was deployed to Vietnam under the auspices of the United States intelligence network.

Their primary role was to locate and monitor enemy radio signals to identify troop strength, location, capability and future intentions.

The troop is directly credited with saving hundreds of lives - providing early warning of imminent enemy attacks against Australian, US and Thai forces.

"The extraordinary courage and bravery of this troop is now being formally acknowledged," Mr Chester said.

"I hope veterans and family members come forward to receive this well-deserved recognition."

Article courtesy of VVAA Lismore

So True

As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.

John Glenn

Never tell your problems to anyone, because 20 percent don't care and the other 80 percent are glad you have them.

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Association will be a General Meeting to be held on Sunday 25 November. Dates of meetings in 2019 have not been decided yet as the committee is waiting for a copy of the 13 Brigade training program.

When dates have been finalised, all members will be advised either by email, post or in the January Purple Circle.

Membership Fees

Membership fees were due on 1st July. Many of our members have been efficient and paid their fees already however there are some dragging the chain. If you are one of the tardy ones, you are requested to pay your membership fees as quickly as possible. The methods of payment are shown on the renewal notice.

Website

Our website was updated at the end of July. It may be viewed by googling -

www.wasappers.com.au

Change of Address

If in the last 6 months, you have changed any of your contact details, could you let the President or Secretary know. It makes life easier if their membership list is up to date. Contact details for the President and Secretary are shown on the front page of the Purple Circle.

Malayan Campaign & Indonesian Confrontation

The Malayan Emergency conflict began after three estate managers were murdered in Perak, northern Malaya, by guerrillas of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP).

In addition to air and infantry forces, Australia provided artillery and engineering support, and an air-field construction squadron built the main runway for the air force base at Butterworth.

The conflict lasted 13 years with thirty-nine Australian servicemen killed during this conflict.

Staff and volunteers at the Australian War Memorial are currently researching, digitising and indexing records to create a searchable roll representing Malayan Emergency, Malay Peninsula and Indonesian Confrontation.

The Roll will be due for release online in June 2019.



The Unit Guide

The Australian Army 1939 - 1945

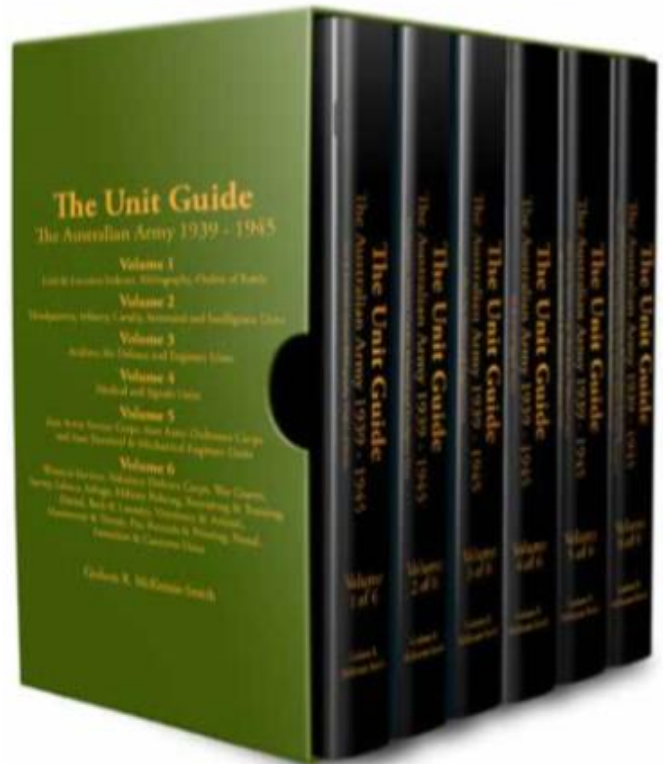
About the Book

Over 725,000 Australian men and women joined the Australian Army in World War Two and served in one or more of the 5,700 separate units which were formed in the AIF and AMF. As well as the infantry, armour and artillery there were engineer, forestry, farming, transport, workshop, medical, survey, dental, postal, records and war graves units, as well as butchers, bakers and leave train cooking sections. Only 409 (7%) of these units have any published unit history and until now the descendants of these proud servicemen and women have had nowhere to go to find out what their ancestor did during the war.

The Unit Guide, in a six volume boxed set, sets out to fill this gap with more than 5,500 profiles of units in the Australian Army during the war (which between them had over 13,700 unit names). Each profile covers what is known of the unit's formation, role, organisation, movements, operations and place in the Army's hierarchy, including references to the unit's War Diary at the Australian War Memorial and an extensive Bibliography. Further, there are ORBATS (Orders of Battle) for most of Australia's significant campaigns or locations defended by Australian troops – such as the defence of NSW (Feb 1942), the Siege of Tobruk, the 'Bird' forces captured by the Japanese, units on the Kokoda Trail, operations in Borneo, and the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (Apr 1946) which will be invaluable to military historians and researchers. It is user friendly with comprehensive indexes designed for readers without a military background.

In his Foreword, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell (Chief of Army) says, 'There is a place for The Unit Guide on the shelves of all secondary school, local and state libraries, RSLs (where people go to research their ancestors' activities during WWII), on genealogists' and military historians' shelves, and among the great history collections of this country.'

Big Sky Publishing is proud to present The Unit Guide which stands among the most committed and detailed research yet produced on the Australian Army; a reference work without peer that will assist military historians, researchers, genealogists, history buffs and most importantly the general public to navigate their way through the history of a large and complex organisation.



About the Author

Graham McKenzie-Smith is a retired Forester who has been researching Australia's military history since his early career in Papua New Guinea. The thirty five years of research behind the The Unit Guide saw Graham examine all unit War Diaries at AWM and many other sources to ensure The Unit Guide is as complete as the data allows. Graham's other books include the Australia's Forgotten Army series and books on the defence of WA and Army Engineers in WA. He is a long standing member of the Military Historical Society of Australia and a regular contributor to Sabretache and other military and forestry history publications.

Key Selling Points:

- First detailed account of Australian Units in World War Two.
- Among the most committed and detailed research yet produced on the Australian Army
- Foreword by the Chief of Army.

Author:	Graham R. McKenzie-Smith
ISBN:	978-1-925675-14-6
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Release date:	March 2018
Format:	Hardback C format Box Set
Pages:	Six Volumes 3,000 pages
Price (incl. GST):	\$209.99

Our Hat Badge



In 1825 Royal Engineers (RE) grenades were fixed on the coat tails of the issued coats, these grenades later in the 19th century are moved to the Collars of the coats. The RE grenades differ from those worn by the RA in having nine flames. The Australian Engineers had as the Motto on their cap badges the words “Facimus et Frangimus” which means “we make and we break”

In 1936 the Australian Corps adopted the RE cap badge, the Australian motto was retained, however, in 1947, as a recognition of World War II service the king approved the RAE Adopting the RE cap badge motto “Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense”. Which is the British Order of the Garter and translates into “Evil to him who evil thinks”

The well-known motto “ubique” is common to all Engineer Corps and is the word appearing on the collars badges worn by officers and warrant offices. It is a regular jibe for the irreverent sapper to describe the true meaning of the motto as “Shell where everywhere ... all over the battle field” to RA but when speaking to RE’s “everywhere” was attempting to explain that RE’s were employed in many areas of the battle field