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The Purple Circle

Editor: Ian Johnston.

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Winter Edition 2019



Dawn Service Back Home at RAE Memorial

Passing Parade

John Collin (Bob) Isager passed away on 13 April 2019, aged 73 years 11 months. Bob was a 16th Intake Army Apprentice Carpenter & Joiner. He served in Vietnam from October 1970 to September 1971 with 17 Const Sqn. Bob also served in PNG at Lae in the late 1970's.

Neal Harris passed away on 14 April 2019, aged 74 years 7 months. Neal was the Army Liaison Officer on HMAS Sydney when it sailed to Vietnam in September – October 1965. He also served with HQ Aust Forces Vietnam from July 1971 to February 1972.

John Bending passed away on 23 May 2019, aged 88 years 6 months. He was a West Australian, born in North Fremantle. John served in Vietnam from October 1969 to November 1970 with 1 Fd Sqn.

Publishing of “Purple Circle”

The “Purple Circle” from this Edition onwards will be published a month earlier. It will now be sent out on the 15th day of June, September, December and March. This is to have the December Edition out before Christmas instead of having to rush to get the January Edition out straight after Christmas and New Year.

The 15th March Edition will also give more notice leading into ANZAC Day and the Dawn Service and the Annual General Meeting in July.

Annual Subscriptions

Your annual membership subscription is due on 1st July, a renewal notice is included with this newsletter. Members are encouraged to make payment as soon as possible after receiving their notice

Due to a reshuffle of membership numbers to fill vacant spaces in our membership list, some members will find that when they receive their new members card, they will have a new membership number.

Payment can be by direct debit/deposit as shown on the renewal notice or by cheque and posted to: - The Treasurer at PO Box 94, Dianella, WA 6059.

Waterloo Dinner

The Waterloo Dinner will be held on Friday 28th June and will be held at the Burswood on Swan Reception Centre, 1 Camfield Drive, Burswood again this year.

Members attending are requested to be at the function centre by 1900 hrs (7.00pm) for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles.

The cost of the dinner is \$95.00 per person but with the Association's subsidy, members will only have to pay \$75.00. Any non-members attending will be required to pay the full \$95.00. Payments required not later than end of work on Friday 21st June

Payments are to be made direct to the Ryan Club either by: -

1. Eftpos/direct debit to: BSB 833-205 Acct # 20688869 and mark payment – WL and name
2. Cheque to: - Ryan Club, 13 Field Squadron, Irwin Barracks, Karrakatta, WA 6010.

13 Field Squadron News

Last month, 13 Fd Sqn participated in the Brigade '9 Day Field Training Exercise' held at Bindoon Training Area. The main tasks completed by the Combat Engineer Troops was the construction of targets for their next demolitions exercise and the building of defensive positions for future 13 Battle Group exercises.

Plant Troop continued with training of the Squadron plant operators in the designated plant training area.

Photos of the training were not available before going to print but should appear in the next edition.



Names on the Life Members Honour Board

The honour board lists the names of all the Life Members of the Association and this section is to give a brief overview of the service of the first two life members.

WX5510 Spr Roy William Abbott MBE was born in Nedlands in 1915. He joined the Army on 26 June 1940 and assigned to the 2/2 Fd Pk Coy. In 1940, the unit deployed with the 6th Inf Div to Egypt and North Africa where they were a part of the recapture of Tobruk in January 1941.

The 6th Inf Div was the first unit selected for Greece and so in April 1941, 2/2 Fd Pk Coy landed in Greece. In late April, with the advancing German forces, the Australians were evacuated to Crete. In June, 51 members of the 2/2 were taken prisoners by the Germans, including Spr Roy Abbott.

July saw the POW's moved to Stalag XIIIIC in Bavaria, Germany where they remained until the end of the war. After liberation in April 1945, the Australian POW's returned to Australia.

Spr Roy Abbott was Mentioned in Dispatches for his work in Libya in June 1941

Spr Roy Abbott was discharged in November 1945. He was an active member of the Association and given Life Membership in 1988.

WX27225 Lt Hugh Maxwell Frank O'Doherty was born in Perth in 1914. He joined the Army on 30 July 1942 and assigned to the 7th Australian Army Troops Company.

The 7th Army Troops Company were tasked with strengthening bridges and upgrading roads from Perth to Darwin allow for tanks to be transported north. This included the construction of a new bridge over the Moore River. They were also involved in works around Darwin.

Lt Hugh O'Doherty was discharged from the Army on 18th July 1944. He was an active member of the Association for many years and secretary from 1955 to 1977. He was given Life Membership in 1988.

Did You Know

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are "XL".

As you grow older: He who hesitates is probably doing the right thing.

ANZAC Day

Dawn Service

The cover picture was taken shortly after the completion of the Dawn Service. It shows our Memorial under low lighting, just before dawn breaks. Many thanks to 13 Fd Sqn for organising and running the service.

WO2 Glen Donaldson was emcee, addresses were given by Maj Daniel Kennedy-Stiff and MajGen Craig Williams AM (Ret). Others who participated in the service were Chaplain Neil Anderson (prayer and benediction), Spr Ford (Corps prayer), Capt Charlette Woollard (honour role), WO1 Mick McGrath (Ode), Ian Johnston (introduction of wreath layers), Bob Keatch (bugler) and a special thanks to the sappers who formed the catafalque party.

It was good to see the car park full of spectators once again watching the proceedings, many of whom stayed on for breakfast and mingled with members in the Ryan Club after the service.

March in Perth



There was a good turnout of sappers, young and old, in the city of the march. It was estimated that we had in excess of 80 marchers doing the Engineers proud.

Looking at the picture, we were typical sappers marching, everyone out of step but marching with the same goal.

A big thank you to Jim Spink and his bus for getting us all to the march and back to Irwin Barracks in one piece.

Watson's Pier

Ian Coate's painting of Watson's Pier has been reproduced and copies of the print (pictured) are now available for purchase. The prints are in A2 size (420mm wide x 594mm high).

The cost of the print has been set at \$70.00 each if you are prepared to pick up prints from Ian Johnston. If prints are to be posted, a \$15.00 cost for package and postage applies.



WATSON'S PIER

On 18 June 1915, Lt Stan Watson and men from 2 Field Company, Australian Engineers, completed Watson's Pier at Anzac Cove. The senior officers held a dinner to celebrate the achievement and the event was called the Waterloo Dinner in a still on the centenary of the Battle of Waterloo. Each year, around 18 June, supper everywhere salutes the annual Waterloo Dinner to celebrate the occasion and drink a toast to Watson and his Pier.

Print No. / 100



Ian Coate
Artist

“100 Years of Engineering”

There are still prints of our artwork “100 Years of Engineers” available for purchase. Cost is \$100.00 plus \$20.00 postage if the print is to be sent to a home address or interstate

WW2 Veteran Found

On ANZAC Day, while waiting for the march to start, my Presidents business card was given to Wayne Smith who had brought his father in to march with us. Colin was there to push his father’s wheelchair.

A few days later I received an email from Wayne asking if I would like to visit Colin who is a resident in the RAAFA Care Centre in Bull Creek.

Last month I visited Colin Edgar Smith in the Alice Ross King building and found a 99-year-old man sitting in his chair talking to staff who left when I arrived. Over an hour later I had to leave as it was his lunch time, feeling sorry that I had not met him earlier.

For the time I was there we talked about his family moving from Victoria to Fergusons Mill near Pinjarra, his father buying farm land near Doodlakine, being called up for service in WW2 on 3 August 1941 and being allocated to RAE and 7th Army Troop Company, service in WA and Bougainville, volunteering to go to Morotai and Japan after the war and returning to the farm after being discharged on 21 February 1947.

At the age of 95, Colin left the farm to go into care at Kellerberrin and then moved into RAAFA about 2 years ago as it was more convenient for medical appointments and long-term care.

Blast from the Past



Next Meeting

I have not received a copy of the 13 Battalion Battle Group training program for the next 6 months, so no firm date has been set for our Annual General Meeting. I have heard via 13 Fd Sqn SSM and Trg WO that the next training weekend is 24-25 August, so our AGM may not be until Sunday 25th August. When a date has been confirmed, members will be notified by email or phone.

All members are requested to attend the AGM as we will be electing a new committee and board management team. It is incumbent on the members to select a committee who they believe are the best people to run the Association for the next 12 months.

Contact Details

There are still cases of members changing their contact detail without letting the Secretary or the President know. The Secretary is the custodians of our membership contact register and it is helpful if he is kept up to date with any contact changes so the register can be updated when changes occur.

Keeping an up to date register is a requirement under the rules of the WA Government Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

Website

Our website will be closed from 28th June until sometime in July for updates. Once up and running again the site may be viewed by googling - www.wasappers.com.au

Book Launch

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: Friday 7 June 2019

TIME: 11.00 am

LOCATION: RSPCA Campus. 139 Wacol Station Road WACOL.

EVENT: Book launch of "In Dogs We Trust"
- after the Memorial Service with Military Working Dog Day.
The author, Lieutenant Colonel George Hulse (Retd) will be on hand to sign books.

What is the book about?

We are the War Dog team and this is our story.

Taken from first-hand accounts of war in difficult places, this book reveals what it's like to be in a fight for your life and your best mate in that fight is a dog. To be the very first person that an enemy soldier sees and not to be able to look for the enemy yourself while you concentrate on any indication of trouble from your dog in front of you requires a special kind of combat soldier. It requires a special kind of dog. This book will give you what it's like to be that person as a military working dog handler in both the Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force. Be amazed, informed and captivated by the accounts of this special asset in the Australian Defence Force that will open your eyes to a different kind of soldiering.

The author is LTCOL George Hulse RAE (Retd) who commanded the Army Engineer dog wing in the early 1970s. He is the Vice-President of the Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association, Vice-President of the Toowong RSL sub/branch and President of the 1 FD SQN GP Association (Combat Engineers/Tunnel Rats

Copies of 'In Dogs We Trust' can be purchased through the Australian War Dog website at www.aussiewardogs.org for \$30-00 each (includes packaging and postage).



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS

ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. INC.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM



Secretary
Mr Trevor Jones
P.O. Box 94
Dianella WA. 6059
Email: raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

PERSONAL DETAILS

SURNAME: CHRISTIAN NAME:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER:
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:

SIGNED: Date:

RENEWAL AMOUNT - \$20.00 PER ANNUM

Payment can be made by:

Cheque to - RAEA of WA Inc. and posted to Treasurer at the above postal address.

Electronic Banking - Bank of Queensland. BSB - 126548. Account No - 28326462

Account Name - RAEA of WA. Inc.

Ensure you include - Subs and your name for identification.

COMMITTEE USE ONLY - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL RECEIVED/PAID

SECRETARY: DATE:

TREASURER: DATE:

