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The Purple Circle

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Corps Badge Circa 1910



Brass, star-shaped badge, surmounted by a king's crown, with a grenade embossed on the raised circular centre. Around this is a painted red ring within which is 'AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS'. A scroll underneath the badge bears the motto 'FACIMUS ET FRANCIMUS'.

PASSING PARADE

Brian George Kalisperis passed away on 12 March 2023 aged 94 years and 9 months. Brian served in Vietnam from January to November 1967 with 1 Field Squadron.

Brian Thomas Williams passed away on 11 April 2023 aged 78 years and 7 months. Brian was the cook at 13 Field Squadron for many years during the 1970's – 80's.

Raymond Leo Bricknell passed away on 7 May 2023 aged 85 years. Ray served in Vietnam from September 1969 to August 1970 with 17 Construction Squadron (September to December 1969), 1 Australian Civil Affairs Unit (December 1969 to March 1970 and Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (March to August 1970).

Lionel Gordon Fuller passed away on 14 May 2023 aged 75 years and 2 months. Lionel served in Vietnam from September 1969 to September 1970 with 17 Construction Squadron.

Also:

Maureen Alice Hickson, wife of Harry Hickson passed away on 13 March 2023.

Kathryn Edith Billington, wife of Peter Billington passed away on 20 May 2023.



**WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM**

LEST WE FORGET

MEET OUR MEMBERS



Mario Marciano

Mario was born in Perth and has 2 older brother and a half sister. He and his wife have 2 children with their son and his wife expecting their first child soon.

He joined the Ares in 1989 and served all his time with 13 Field Squadron except when he went to Malaysia for 2 weeks as a part of the SUMAN Warrior Exercise. He was also a part of the Army security detail for the 2000

Olympic Games in Sydney.

Mario travelled to many places in WA with 13 Field Squadron on unit week-end training and Brigade exercises. He reached the rank of Sergeant which included a short stint as acting SSM before taking discharge in 2014.

After the army, Mario trained as a teacher and is still employed in the teaching profession.

In the West Australian newspaper dated 15 November 1984, there was an article about Mario. The headline read “How Mario returned from the Dead”. It was about a drowning incident in the Swan River.

Mario and his wife currently live in Canning Vale.



Ken Mitchell

Ken was born in Carmel in June 1944 and has 1 brother and 2 sisters. He grew up in the Carmel – Kalamunda area attending the Carmel – Kalamunda Primary school and Midland and Govener Stirling High School.

He left school at age 15 and started work as a junior Clerk with WAGR at Midland.

Ken joined the Army in 1961 and after completing recruit training was posted to Catering Corps. During his 24-year career, he served at Puckapunyal, Maralinga, Liverpool, Karrakatta, Duntroon Townsville and Brisbane. At Karrakatta he spent 8 years serving with 22 Construction Squadron. He served overseas in Borneo with 22 Const Sqn and West Samoa for the 1983 Pacific Games. Ken retired from the Army in November 1985 as the Major Senior Catering Officer at HQ 1 MD Brisbane.

He met his wife Judith in Perth in January 1964, they married in April 1965. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

In retirement, Ken and Judy were caravan park and plantation owners as well as doing work as a caterer. He now spends his spare time with Lions and relaxing.

Ken and Judy currently live in Augusta.

13th Engineer Regiment Update Jan – May 2023

Regimental Headquarters

13ER hit the ground running in 2023 with a compliment of regular army members posting into the unit. The new Commanding Officer LTCOL Lachlan Robertson and RSM WO1 Eron Sage have been actively working towards creating and forming a new unit as well as the much anticipated 13ER First Birthday Parade scheduled for the 01 Jul 2023. In a year full of firsts, the Regiment conducted its first Anzac Day service as a unit with a great turn out at the unit dawn service despite the weather. The service was followed by the regiment marching in the Perth CBD as its own formed body for the first time and it was excellent to see so many attend and march proudly. The unit recently conducted its first range shoot with a focus on combat shooting skills followed by a section defence range by day and by night with Battle Noise Simulation to add to the overall effect and realism, a taste of things to come.

The Regimental Birthday Parade planning is almost ready for execution at James Oval, University of WA on 01 July and the Regiment has been finding time in between their busy schedule to perform individual and collective drill requirements, with the Sovereigns' Banner arriving toward the end of the month. The Ryan Club Committee has been busily preparing for the Waterloo Dinner on the 17 June at Anzac Club and tickets are selling fast so get in early! It is sure to be a great night to catch up with mates and share some stories.

Proudly, the Regiment recognised 25 years of dedicated service the corps with WO2 Matt Mitten, WO2 Nathan Woodrow, SGT Chris Gallen and SGT Shane Newton presented with plaques constructed by the skilled team in Services Troop.

LCPL Ross Byron was awarded the Australia Day Medallion for his tireless efforts supporting the Regiment in specialist training and all number of unit activities and he is integral to the success of the unit so far, well done!

The OPSO MAJ Kurz was also presented his First Clasp to the Defence Long Service Medal.





13 Field Squadron

13 Field Squadron started the year with multiple members supporting Transit Security Element in Darwin and OP Flood Assist providing key recon and engineer assessment of minor projects to Fitzroy Crossing local authorities. Here, the troops commenced an intense three-month training package focusing on Engineer Search tasks. Developed by a crawl, walk, run approach the squadron continually built on individual and small team skills with the squadron deploying to Bindoon in March and April for confirmatory exercises working out of Scale A and Camp Sapper. The troops conducted Route Clearance and Area Search tasks before carefully entering and clearing enemy compounds of interest. Going forward the intent is to continue deploying to Camp Sapper, as an operating base, where improvements to the infrastructure are planned as part of our vertical and horizontal construction efforts.

In May the squadron deployed to Bindoon for the Regimental range activity. The morning focused on close quarter target engagement aligning with the new combat shooting package before the team moved to the Section Defence Range to employ target indications, fire control orders and engaging targets out to 400m from defensive positions.

As part of the of our Defence Assistance to Civil Community Readiness Program, the squadron ran a Chainsaw Operator course for the wider Brigade, instructing members from 13CSSB and The Pilbara Regiment as well as a Skid Steer Loader course for several of our Plant Troop members.



22 Engr Sqn is the newly raised SQN as a part of 13 Engineer Regiment, and is at the forefront of leading Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) for 13 Brigade and Army. The last 12 months has seen the development of a specialist element, that will deliver technical engineering in a wide range of environments. Backed by Defence West, and integrated with Western Australian Universities, the squadron is leading the way in a technology enabled Army. The framework for operating is set, project leads have their orders and 22 Engr Sqn is moving forward ready to remain agile with innovative concepts and ideas produced to enable the Land Force.



With its Specialist Service Officer program, offering individuals from the STEM fields in industry, the Innovation and Experimentation Group (IXG) are trialling projects that will provide the future soldier a tactical and technological edge on the battlefield. The IXG exists to support innovation within 13 BDE and the broader Joint Force focused on competitive capability improvement. To achieve this, the

IXG functions as a centralised coordination effect for innovation in partnership with other defence or government agencies, academia and industry.

Concepts range from Quadrupedal Uncrewed Ground Vehicles (QUGV) to the Ground Uncrewed Systems (GUS) that have the ability to survey the terrain or gaps, detect enemy heat signatures and sounds, and deliver blood and plasma. Exploring the future of robotic autonomy. The IXG have collaborated with Curtin University to develop an Artificial Software programme that can identify Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) when combined with an aerial drone. The IXG are developing the Mobile Makerspace, a mobile innovation creation platform, that will allow battlefield creation of expedient engineering.



ANZAC DAY

Under the direction of 13 Engineer Regiment RSM WO1 Eron Sage, the Dawn Service was a success, even if there was a bit of rain for a few minutes toward the end of the service. The lectern was relocated to down the front near the carpark which felt that the members, guests and visitors were actually a part of the service and not separated from the service.

The march in Perth was attended by a good turnout of Sappers who took part in the march. Although the skies were overcast the rain held off for the rest of the day.



VISIT TO BUCKLAND HILLS GUNS

On Tuesday, 18th April 24 members and guests attended a guided tour of the Buckland Hills Guns and tunnels. I would like to thank Graham McKenzie Smith and the two members of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society who made the tour possible. Thank you for giving up your time to tell us the history of the guns and tunnels, and then taking the two groups on a guided tour.



After the tour of the guns and tunnels everyone adjourned to the Albion Hotel on Stirling Highway, Cottesloe for lunch. Four extra members and guests attended the lunch making a total of 28 people.



Newest recruits have big paws to fill

WO2 Max Bree

TWELVE-week-old Joey is a high-energy and inquisitive kelpie pup, but 3CER's newest recruit has some big paws to fill.

Joey's uncle, Archie, is a successful explosive detection dog, and handlers at the regiment's dog section are hoping to continue that success.

It all starts by socialising Joey with new people and dogs, along with training to develop his hunt drive.

He was exposed to everything from helicopters, gunfire and wildlife to different people and vehicles, to get him used to the varied environments he'll operate in.

Handler Spr Glenn Newman said this helped build a puppy's confidence.

"We do environmental exposure before they get to a fear period, because everything in the beginning is neutral to them," he said.

Puppies are trained in basic obedience that includes making sure they can be easily recalled when working off leash at distance from the handler.

They are also imprinted with their target odour, which the regiment does by exposing a puppy to the odour while they are eating.

The dog becomes conditioned to an odour they'll eventually search for by associating it with a high-value reward, like food, from a young age.

The section has a number of labradors supplied by Border Force, with others received from local rescue shelters and breeders, but they plan to keep bringing in one or two new puppies each

year so handlers can raise the dogs from pups.

Joey follows border collie Ash, who arrived at the unit mid last year, and Archie, who was trained in 2018.

Spr Newman said raising puppies would result in search dogs shaped to their capability needs.

"From day dot, we've built the hunt drive and imprinted odours to what we need," he said.

"They understand what's right and wrong, and we've raised them to love search."

Each new puppy that comes in breathes life into the regiment's dog section, according to Spr Newman. This prompts sappers to learn training techniques to benefit their newest recruit.

"Morale comes up, people have to go out and find new information and processes to help the puppy learn," Spr Newman said.



Spr Flynn Skerke-Erwin, of 3CER, with trainee explosive detection dogs Joey and Ash.

Photo: WO2 Max Bree

Story: Courtesy of Army News

Make Sure Loved One Know Your Blood Type

I asked old Maud how she lost her husband. She told me her sad story:

"Well, he needed a blood transfusion, but his blood type was not on record, so the doctors asked me if I knew what it was, as they urgently needed to know, in order to save my Norman's life.

Tragically, I've never known his blood type, so I only had time to sit and say goodbye.

I'll never forget how supportive my Norman was. Even as he was fading away, he kept on whispering to me, "Be positive, be positive!"

That was my Norman! Always thinking of others."

Do You Know

The unknown sapper in the last Edition of the Purple Circle was Trevor Johnson. Warren Stuber was the only member who identified Trevor.

This Edition's sapper served in Japan as a part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces, Korea, Borneo, PNG, and Vietnam.

Do you recognise the Sapper shown below:



If you recognise this sapper, contact the editor. Contact details on the front page.

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 16 July. The meeting following the AGM will be held on Sunday 17 September and our guest speaker will be Paul Grace who will speak on the Abrolhos Islands.

Annual Fees

Annual subscriptions fall due on 1 July for the next financial year. A reminder email/letter will be sent out in the next week or so to all members whose membership is due for payment.

Those members who have paid in advance will be notified of this fact and the number of years credit remaining.

Contact Details

When you move house or change contact details, please do the polite thing, and let the Secretary know of your new details so we can stay in touch. It saves a lot of hard work and time by committee members to chase up details.

The Secretary, Trevor Jones can be contacted by phone - 0413 376 273 or by email - raeassocwasec2017@gmail.com

Laughs

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

When you go to court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 (twelve) people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

A Piece of Unit History

