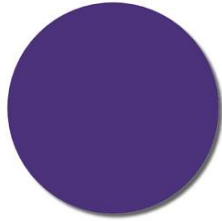


13 FIELD SQUADRON



Raised: 1 July 1912

Mascot: 'Red Devil'

Brief History:

Tracing its origins to 7 FD COY Australian Engineers in 1910, 13 Field Company was established on the 1st July 1912 and is one of the longest continually serving units within Western Australia.

Being part of the Volunteer Army at the outbreak of the first World War and therefore ineligible to be deployed as a entire unit with the First AIF, some 4 Officers and 96 other ranks joined the AIF to seek service overseas. This included the Officer Commanding, Major Pidgeon. Some of these volunteers were involved in the first action that Australian Engineers saw in World War One. The war took its toll however with 15 of its member making the supreme sacrifice.

The remainder of the unit in Australia continued active as part of the Citizen Militia Forces during the war.

The unit again took up the challenge at the outbreak of the Second World War. However, this time the unit was mobilised in defence of Australia to build fortifications at Rottneest Island and then Darwin for similar work. In 1943 the unit was deployed to New Britain and New Guinea against the Japanese, constructing lines of communications, wharfs, conducting mine sweeping operations and supplying water to the forces there. At the cessation of conflict, the unit was

charged with administering some 140,000 prisoners of war in New Britain.

As part of the general de-mobilisation of the army after the war the unit was demobbed from 1946 to 1947 before being raised once again, this time with the title 13 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers in 1948.

With the designation of Combat Engineers, the Squadron has been serving continuously since that time and has been involved in numerous activities in and around Western Australia, interstate and on deployments overseas.

As part of their general job description, Combat Engineers conduct mine clearing operations, high risk search for explosives, bridge construction, explosive demolition, plant operation, water supply, forestry and general construction tasks.

The Squadron is based at Irwin Barracks in Karrakatta and is blessed with strong loyalty from past and present members of the Unit. These men and women, who over the years have fostered many traditions, are proud to bear the title; **“The Little Red Devils”**.