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The Purple Circle

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In WW2, the Engineers had two Sappers serving in their ranks who in later years had distinguished legal careers



VX 107617 Cpl (Lt)
Ninian Martin Stephen –
43 Australian Landing
Craft Coy.

Sir Ninian Stephen – High
Court Chief Justice and
Governor General 1982-
1989.



NX 122947 Capt Nigel
Hubert Bowen – 43
Australian Landing Craft
Coy.

Sir Nigel Bowen –
Cabinet minister and
Federal Court Chief
Justice.

Both men served with 43 Australian Landing Craft Coy along with Lt (Sir) Frank Packer. The Coy served in New Guinea waters for a period of 19 months and was the sole means of transportation between Aitape and But to Wewak.

PASSING PARADE

William Henderson (Bill) Stobie passed away on 23 October 2022 aged 93 years and 11 months. Bill served in New Guinea with 22 Construction Squadron, he also served in 21 Construction Squadron. Bill was a member of the Association.

John Ernest (Tich) Freeman passed away on 19 December 2022 aged 73 years and 3 months. Tich served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on the AV1356 Clive Steele from October to November 1966, December 1966 to January 1967, January to March 1967, January to April 1969 and July 1969 as well as on the AV1355 Vernon Sturdee from June to December 1967.

Frederick Charles Seidenkamp passed away on 27 December 2022 aged 76 years and 10 months. Fred served with 32 Small Ship Squadron and sailed to Vietnam on AV1353 Harry Chauvel from October 1967 to March 1968.

Gaetano Giuliani passed away on 2 January 2023 aged 74 years and 11 months. Gaetano served in Vietnam from August 1970 to August 1971 with 55 Engineer Workshop and Park Squadron.

John Thomas (Jack) Doolan passed away on 4 January 2023 aged 89 years and 7 months. Jack served in Borneo from June to December 1965 with 24 Construction Squadron.

Andrew Michael (Andy) Beard passed away on 21 January 2023 aged 69 years and 2 months. Andrew joined the army in 1974 and assigned to RAInf until he graduated from OCS Portsea in 1979 and posted to Engineers. He served in 2FER, 7FER, Garrison Engineer Wodonga and SO2 Works in Adelaide and Brisbane.

Neill Garland passed away on 28 January 2023 aged 84 years and 6 months. Neill served in Vietnam from 24 September 1968 to 24 September 1969 with Headquarters Australian Force Vietnam, Saigon.

Reece Devlin passed away on 29 January 2023 aged 53 years and 1 month. Reece died at home in the USA where he lived. He was a member of 13 Field Squadron for a number of years.

LEST WE FORGET

MEET OUR MEMBERS



George Howell

George was born in Singapore in May 1933 and had 1 brother who died at a young age. While still young, his family moved back to Portsmouth, England where he grew up and experienced the German bombing of Portsmouth during WW2. He attended Portchester Primary School and then Portchester High School.

George emigrated to Perth in 1948 with his family and at the age of 15 started work at Winterbottom's as an apprentice spray painter. He later joined Sandovers, then Burkett Stirling and in 1964 joined Nelson & Coy as their

state representative before retiring, only to run a restaurant and catering business for some years.

He started his military career at the age of 12 as a Naval Cadet in Portsmouth, England. In 1951 he was called up for National Service training but because of his apprenticeship opted to do 5 years CMF service. After 3 months of full-time training, he joined 13 Fd Sqn as a Sapper, over the next 15 years he was promoted to Tp Sgt, WO2 SSM and Lieutenant Tp Comdr. In 1968 he was posted to 36 Water Tpt Sqn as Admin Comdr and promoted to Captain in 1969.

George was posted back to 13 Fd Sqn in 1970 and over the next 5 years, he had periods as Admin Comdr of 13 Fd Sqn and postings to 5 Trg Gp. In 1978, he returned to 13 Fd Sqn as OC and promoted Major. George retired from the ARes in 1980, then in 1985 accepted the position of RAE Colonel Commandant Western Region, a position he held until 1991.

He met his wife Lesley in 1953 at an ANZAC House dance and they married in January 1955. They have 3 son and 1 daughter who they lost in a car accident in 2015, 8 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

In retirement, George spends his time with his family and enjoys stays in contact with the ARes and the RAE Association.

George and Lesley currently live in Scarborough.

A married couple with two young children were thinking about having a third child. Then they heard the statistic that "One in three children born in the world is Chinese", so they didn't take the risk.

Did you know that there are two types of flu – the harmless one that women and children get, and the "near death" version that men get.



13 ENGINEER REGIMENT

Anniversary Parade

RSM, WO1 Eron Sage is busy working on the 13 ER first Anniversary parade celebrating the formation of 13 Engr Regt and 22 Engr Sqn.

The following information is subject to final approval.

The parade is to be held at James Oval, UWA on Saturday 1 July 2023. Approx parade start time is 3.30pm. When details have been confirmed and joining instructions issued, you will be advised of exact details.

13 Fd Sqn SSM Nathan Woodrow was promoted to WO2 last month.

Life of a CO & RSM



"What's the point of my staying on in the Army if we're going to row every time I'm late in the morning"

British Humour

Advertisements placed in English newspapers:

Free Yorkshire Terrier – 8 years old, hateful little mongrel, bites.

Puppy – ½ Cocker Spaniel, ½ sneaky neighbour's dog

Wedding Dress for Sale – worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie

For Sale - Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married and wife knows everything.

NOTICES

Next Meeting

The next general meeting will be held on Sunday 2 April and our guest speaker is John Koekemoer, ex sapper in the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers. The following meeting is set for 11 June and then the AGM on 16 July.

Put these dates in your diary or in your phone.

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day and the Dawn Service are fast approaching. I have been forewarned that we will be required to submit a list of names of members, partners, guests, and visitors so we can get in the gate.

At the beginning of April, I will be sending out an email requesting names of people who wish to attend, be sent to me so a list can be compiled and sent into HQ 13 Engr Regt.

Front gate opening and closing times along with the start time for the Dawn Service will be advised when known.

Ex 22 Const Reunion

The 22 Construction Squadron Ex-Members Group will be holding their Annual Reunion on 22 April 2023 commencing at 1200 hrs.

This event is open to Sappers who served in 22 Const Sqn. If you served in 22 Const Sqn and did not receive a flyer, it means your name is not on their members list. If you would like to attend, contact Gary Howell on email - howellg86@yahoo.com.au or on mobile - 0411 531 170

Next Association Luncheon

Our next luncheon to be held on Tuesday 18 April, will include a visit to the Leighton WWII Guns and Tunnels on Boundary Road, Mosman Park. After a tour of the tunnels, we will then gather at the Albion Hotel, 535 Stirling Hwy, Cottesloe for lunch.

The tour of the tunnels will commence at 10.30 am and there is a \$10 entry charge.

Thanks to Graham McKenzie-Smith for giving his time to open the tunnels and give a short briefing on the history of the complex.

For more information see Trevor Johnson's flyer emailed out on Thursday 9 April.

For table booking purposes, please contact Trevor or the editor if you are coming along to the lunch before 4.00pm on Friday 14 April.

Do You Know

Do you know who this cool looking young sapper from 13 Fd Sqn is operating a 966B front end loader! The photo was taken during the unit annual camp in 1971.

Send your answer to the Editor – contact details - mobile 0409 019 518 or email raeassoc2016@gmail.com

If there is more than one correct answer received, the winner will be drawn from a hat to see who wins a prize.

Answers to be received by 5.00pm, Friday 2 June.



Did You Know

That during WW2, there were two 13 Field Company units.

The WA based 13 Fd Coy, who served in northern WA, the NT, and New Britain as a part of the 5th Division.

The 2/13 Fd Coy, who served at Tobruk, Syria, New Guinea, Tarakan and Morotai as a part of the 9th Division.

Japanese Planned Attack on Australia



A JAPANESE SKETCH MAP PREPARED DURING LATE MAY 1942 AND DETAILING THE PROPOSED INVASION OF AUSTRALIA. ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED, PRESUMABLY BY THE ALLIED INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL INTO WHOSE HANDS THE DOCUMENT FELL. NOTABLY PERTH WAS SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR THE MAIN ATTACK, POSSIBLY DUE TO ITS ISOLATION, WHILST THE ATTACK ON DARWIN WAS A FEINT TO DRAW THE ALLIED FORCES TO THE AREA.

of attack
 used on Japanese Mandated Islands and
 Japan to defend the left wing against
 the Americans. The right wing to be defended by
 the Malacca Straits and by light naval forces
 the Indian Ocean approaches.
 The forces based on Java, to stage a divers-
 sional landing at Darwin and engaging the
 American and Australian forces around Katherine and
 Birdum. The main force, proceeding via the Sunda
 Straits to land at Fremantle and Perth, occupy the
 country west of Esperance - Sandstone, then
 advance eastward.

General plan of attack.

1. Forces based on Japanese Mandated Islands and on New Guinea to defend the left wing against the Americans. The right wing to be defended by mining the Malacca Straits and by light naval forces defending the Indian Ocean approaches.
2. Part of the forces, based on Java, to stage a diversional attack landing at Darwin and engaging the American and Australian forces around Katherine and Birdum. The main force, proceeding via the Sunda Straits, to land at Fremantle and Perth, occupy the country west of Esperance - Sandstone, then advance eastward.

THE POWER OF A 7.8 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE

Turkey-Syria earthquake ripped huge chasm in what was once an olive field near Antakya

