

THE ARTILLERY NEWS.

DECEMBER 2007 - FEBRUARY 2008



Official Correspondence.

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EL ALAMEIN DAY

65TH ANNIVERSARY

23RD. OCTOBER, 1942 - 2007



At an emotional ceremony held on the 23rd October, 2007, at Tasmania's Government House after the traditional service at the Hobart Cenotaph, the Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency the Honourable William Cox - an ex-

artilleryman himself, personally distributed a quantity of especially cast bronze 52mm. engraved medallions that were instigated by the Historical Arms & Military Society of Tasmania Inc. of Glenorchy, Tasmania.

Enclosed in black plush velvet and white satin presentation boxes, they commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein, 23rd. October 1942 - 2007, and were presented to the 38 known surviving members of the. 9th Division AIF, who were able to attend. Several others were distributed to family members who represented absent living recipients..

I believe that less than 50 men, from the hundreds that went from Tasmania and Victoria in the composite regiment formed in 1940 are still alive in this state.

There will be few further opportunities left to honour many of these men.

Old soldiers do fade away - **LEST WE FORGET!**

A number of the northern Tasmanian members of the Royal Australian Artillery Association - and several of their wives and carers - made the trip to Hobart for the Anniversary service at the Cenotaph and the medallion presentation at Government House. Some decided to travel by the Army bus whilst others came down in private transport.

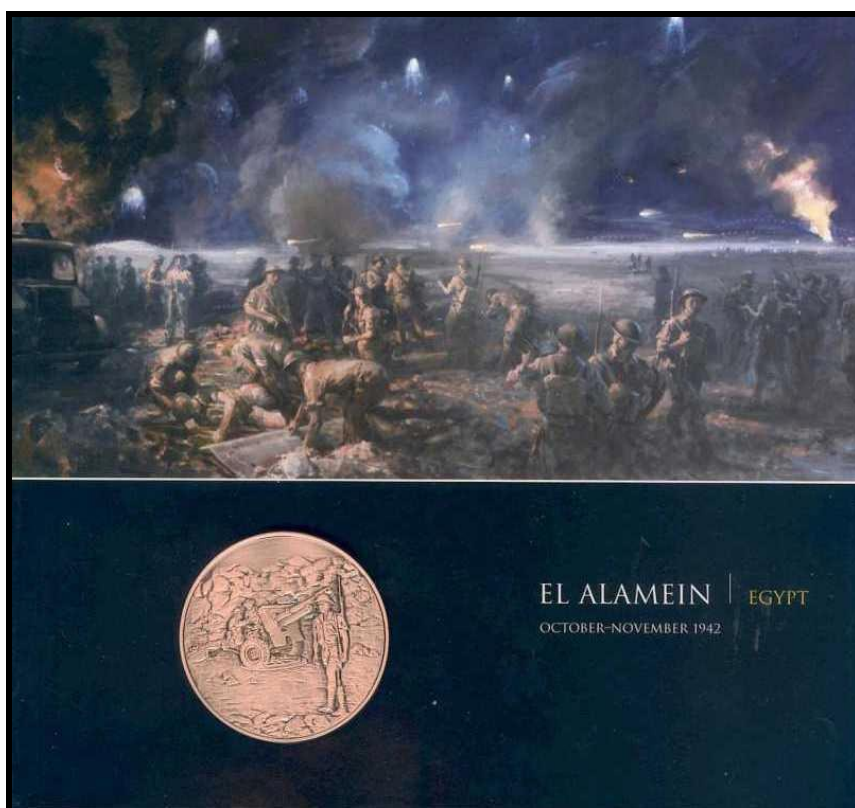


**Some who never had the chance to grow old!
Part of El Alamein War Cemetery**

The medallion issue was a very limited release with the members of two other major Artillery Associations, or families of original participants who had passed away, also being eligible to obtain an un-engraved medallion to commemorate the event if they so desired.. I believe the medallion mintage was probably only approx. 200 pieces in total - but that figure has yet to be confirmed.

The medallion was accompanied with a small well presented 58page illustrated book entitled '*El Alamein - Egypt October - November 1942.*'

In passing, I noticed that the image of the gun appears to have been cast in reverse (mirror image) but I don't suppose the veterans and other recipients of the medallion would mind too much - it was the event that counted!



El Alamein 65th Anniversary Medallion and 58page book

As a gunner with the post-war Tasmanian 6th Field Regiment RAA, who had the opportunity to be involved with the weapon shown on the medallion, I can appreciate what went on - but certainly not the scale nor the deadly urgency.

An extract from an Allied report quotes: - *"That, as from 2140 hours (9.40 p.m.) on the night of 23rd October, the massive artillery bombardment – at an average rate, on the 30 Corp front, of **900 RPM (Rounds per minute)** - had continued unabated while the foremost battalions were advancing on the objectives during the hour allowed for the following troops to pass through and launch their attack for the second objective, at the end of which time - as though a sudden anger had impelled the artillery to it's upmost exertion - the rapidity of the bombardment suddenly increased signalling the start of the second phase.*

By daylight that next morning, 9 Division's front had erupted with fire of every kind– fire from field guns, machine guns, mortars and snipers directed at the infantry, high velocity fire at the tanks and fire from British Tanks. There was one gun every 21 metres along a 10 kilometre front firing at the enemy at this time and the pandemonium was to continue, with some periods of greater intensity, for several days"

*During this period from the start of firing up until 2100 hours on 24th October, the 2/8th Field Regiment had expended 11,268 H.E. and 1,307 Smoke shells – **not a bad official tally for 24 hours.** In fact, it is believed that 3000 – 3500 extra rounds were not accounted for'. - "GIMME THE GUNS" - (2002)*



I. to r. – R.A.A.T. members, Messrs. Terry Higgins, Max Frost, Lloyd Saunders, Don Cohen, Max Gofton, Joe Ferguson, Norm Andrews, Rick Wood, Graeme Petterwood, Frank Stokes, Harold Mullins, Bevan Filce, Des Salter (obscured) Gunter Breier and John McIntee who laid the Artillery wreath. The carers' names are unknown – but they were much appreciated and deserve our thanks.



A small section of the crowd waiting for the commemorative service and memorial wreath-laying ceremony to commence.



At the conclusion of the wreath-laying ceremony and after the Last Post had echoed across the Derwent River – the Honour Guard snapped to attention for the stirring sounds of Reveille

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting

Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc.

This is a brief edited summary of the A.G.M. - the official notifications will be circulated as usual. Events recorded here are not in meeting sequence. Held at the 16 Fd. Bty. RAA Building, Paterson Barracks, 2 St. John Street, Launceston on Saturday 17th November 2007, the meeting commenced at 1405 Hours [2.05pm].

Maj Barry Bastick welcomed the members present to the 7th. Annual General Meeting of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc.

Present:- Maj Barry Bastick (President), Maj John Anderson Lt Brett Coulson (Treas), WO1 Joe Ferguson, WO2 Bevan Filce, Mr. Rick Wood, Marc Smith, Graeme Petterwood, Gunter Breier, Eric Ryan and Norm Andrews (Hon Secretary) - TOTAL 11 members

Messages - Received from RAA Assoc of SA - *“Hope all goes well for 2008. Cheers from the SA Gunners”*

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

For the period Nov 2007 to next AGM August - September 2008

9 nominations were received by the Public Officer by Thursday 15th Nov 2007 marked * below and they were declared elected for the ensuing year.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Nominator</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
PRESIDENT	COL Stephen Carey*	BarryBastick	NormAndrews
VICE- PRESIDENT (2)	Mr Des Salter JP*	Norm Andrews	John McIntee
	Vacant		
SECRETARY/ PUBLIC OFFICER	Norm Andrews*	John McIntee	Des Salter
TREASURER	Barry Bastick*	Joe Ferguson	Norm Andrews
ASST SEC/TREAS	Vacant		
COMMITTEE	Joe Ferguson*	Norm Andrews	Des Salter
	Bevan Filce*	John McIntee	Des Salter
	John McIntee*	Bevan Filce	Des Salter
	Graeme Petterwood*	Max Frost	Gunter Breier
	Mark Cameron*	Norm Andrews	Des Salter

Chairman **Maj Barry Bastick** called for any other nominations from the floor for persons who would wish to participate in the committee. - **None were received**

Ex - officio members

COL COMDT RAA for Tasmania Region LTCOL M A Cameron, RFD, jssc.
Battery Commander 16 Fd Bty RAA MAJ Chris Talbot

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR - MAJ Barry Bastick moved that MAJ Richard James the current Auditor be re-appointed Auditor for the ensuing year.

Seconded by Brett Coulson

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Graeme Petterwood that the above listed committee be elected for the ensuing period. Seconded by Joe Ferguson

- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAJ Barry Bastick continued as chairman of the meeting and declared the committee elected for the ensuing period. The members present congratulated the incoming committee by acclamation

ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman Barry Bastick gave a verbal Annual Report for this the 7th AGM of the RAA Assoc of Tas. Inc.. It was moved by Norm Andrews that the Annual Report be received and adopted. Seconded by Marc Smith - **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT and BALANCE SHEET

Maj. Barry Bastick (acting for the Treasurer) gave a brief verbal Financial Report subject to audit. The RAA Assoc. is in a sound financial position. It was moved by Joe Ferguson and seconded by Marcus Smith that the financial report as presented, be accepted and adopted. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

1. NATIONAL RAA Combined Battles of Coral & Balmoral Memorial Services will be held in CANBERRA 12 – 14 May 2008
2. RAA Assoc of Tas Inc, will send one representative to attend with our banner, others may attend at their own expense
3. COL COMDT RAA Tas Mark Cameron has strongly suggested that a subsidy of up to \$500 to help defray costs of travel and hotel accommodation, taxis fares etc for our state representative and that an amount of about \$600.00 be earmarked to purchase an Artillery banner for our association. Total of possibly about \$1,100.00 Moved by Joe Ferguson seconded by Graeme Petterwood that we commit ourselves to the expenditure involved with items above. - **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
4. Notice to amend our constitution to reflect current trends at next Annual General Meeting – amendments to be posted for comment.
5. Restore and transfer of funds from general funds to a separate fixed term deposit (*as a sub account*) to be called **LAUNCESTON ARTILLERY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION FUND** to subsidize and defray operating costs of LAUNCESTON Social functions over a period of time; as was the original intention of the founders of the Launceston Artillery Old Comrades Association fund. Moved by Norm Andrews and seconded by Barry Bastick that this be carried out. - **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
6. Norm expressed a need for somebody to be responsible for keeping track of our membership and to be charged with recruiting new younger members. Bevan Filce volunteered for the position. - **RESOLVED**
7. New Member application has been received from Peter During ex 14 Fd Regt South African Artillery Regiment and No.1 on 25 Pdrs and 5.5 inch Med. Moved by Norm Andrews and seconded by Bevan Filce that we accept Peter's application to join our ranks. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
8. ARTILLERY NEWS editor Graeme Petterwood said there is a need for a section in the newsletter for *Battery News* from 16 Fd Bty RAA - Barry Bastick to follow up with 16 Fd Bty BK CAPT Chilcott. - **ONGOING**
9. John Anderson requested that when the Annual Financial Statements for this AGM are available they are to be circulated to all members present at this particular meeting. Barry Bastick advised this will happen - **ONGOING**
10. Chairman Barry thanked 16 Field Battery for making the meeting facilities available at Paterson Barracks, for our Annual General Meeting and he also thanked all members for their attendance at the meeting and for their devotion to the RAA Assoc of Tas during the years he has been President and chairman and wished all the compliments of the season and a safe trip home.
11. Graeme Petterwood asked the members present to thank Barry Bastick for the time and service given by Barry to our Artillery organization by

acclamation; seconded by Joe Ferguson and Norm Andrews. This was done with sincere appreciation. Meeting closed at 1440 Hours.

NOTE: Next informal General meeting will be at 2.00 p.m. February 14, 2008 at Q.V. Inveresk Museum. Please bring a plate to share as usual. All members invited.



The Artillery News.

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