

THE ARTILLERY NEWS.

JUNE 2006 – AUGUST 2006



Official Correspondence.

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R.A.A.A.T. SOCIAL WING

Launceston Artillery Dinner - 3rd June, 2006

The Artillery Dinner, hosted by the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Northern Social Committee, was held on Saturday 3rd June 2006 at the South Launceston Football Clubrooms commencing at 1830 hours.

About 50 members of the R.A.A.A.T. and their guests attended the function which also celebrated the 146th Anniversary of Tasmanian Artillery.

The evening was a great success and gave our members an opportunity to mingle socially in very pleasant surroundings. The catering was provided by the SLFC and the very efficient staff. The dining tables were highlighted with serviettes in the traditional Red and Navy colours of the Artillery.

The Master of Ceremonies, Mr. John McIntee, kept the pace brisk and the loyalty toast proposed by Col. Peter Patmore, the remembrance toast to fallen comrades and the Ode from Joe Ferguson and any other semi-formal parts of the evening were taken at the most convenient times. Charles Tee said *Grace* prior to the very enjoyable meal and Colonel Mark Cameron gave the toast "The Day we Celebrate" and a glimpse of the future of Artillery as well as a

brief history including a response received from the Royal Artillery on the occasion of their recent Anniversary.

The response, addressed to Major General (Rtd) T.R. Ford A.O., Representative Colonel Commandant read:

ROYAL ARTILLERY DAY

"Thank you for your message of greeting on the occasion of Royal Artillery Day celebrating the 290th Anniversary of the Formation of the first two permanent Companies of Artillery at Woolwich on 26th May 1716.

As Director Royal Artillery, I send greetings from all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery to the Colonel Commandant, Head of Regiment and all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery" signed: Brigadier R.M. McQ. Sykes ADC, Director Royal Artillery.

A very successful Regimental Fund-raising raffle was held – conducted by members Harold and Heather Mullins at their most entertaining best, as usual and a few photo memories were recorded by Charles Tee.

Thank you, Harold, Heather and Charles - and all those members and their guests who participated in a great night!







BEREAVEMENTS

The Artillery News has received the following notification from our Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc. Sec, **Mr. Norm Andrews OAM.**

*"I have the sad task of advising you that **two (2)** esteemed Life Members of the **Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc** have passed away. Family Personal Announcements were published in today's Examiner Newspaper" 1/6/2006.*

Both men served the gunner movement well in their own way and will be sadly missed.

CAPTAIN JOHN GUNN M.B.E.



Capt. John Gunn M.B.E.

When we talked about the Launceston Artillery over the last 60 or so years, the name of John Gunn always seemed to enter the conversation.

On Sunday 28th May, 2006, in his 90th year, he became a part of that proud Gunner history. As a great stalwart of all things Artillery, John will always be remembered with a generous mixture of respect and admiration as a participant and a leader of men while he was a member of the 2/8th Field Artillery during WWII and also as a mentor, and benefactor, of the former 6 Field Regiment R.A.A. in peace as well as a Foundation Financial Life Member of the R.A.A.A.T. No doubt, in time, a full eulogy of John's life will be forthcoming from those with far more intimate knowledge than this writer is aware of.

However, ex-members of the Regiment, and those of the Association, will always know that we were amongst those who had the privilege to serve with him as a fellow Gunner and we also know that his name will continue to enter our

conversations as long as Tasmanian Artillery continues to be part of this state's military heritage.

The sincerest condolences are offered to his widow, Jean and children, Jenny, Jack, Andrew and Robert.

UBIQUE!

LIONEL JAMES 'TOBY' EDWARDS

It is with utmost sorrow we announce the passing of our long-time friend, comrade and R.A.A.T. Foundation Financial Life member, Lionel James Edwards – far better known as 'Toby' – on Wednesday 31st May, 2006.

Toby was a tireless worker for the several Artillery groups in Launceston for many years, until time caught up with him, and his ill-health and frailty caused his permanent retirement to Peace Haven at Norwood.

Those of us, who knew Toby well, will remember him as a happy go-lucky humorous stirrer – a great little bloke with the biggest of hearts - who we were lucky to have in our company of Gunners.



Toby Edwards

Toby had the distinction of being a Bugler and later played with **St. Joseph's Band** in the pre-WWII Launceston Artillery prior to his Army war service and subsequent involvement with the R.A.A.F. He was also a fine Bantam-weight boxer in his youth and he had won a Tasmanian Artillery boxing championship amongst others. He was a keen fisherman and an excellent ballroom dancer in earlier times. Our deepest condolences go to his widow, Molly, and immediate family. Phillip and Julie-Anne, Teena and Phil and Steven as well as his loving grand-children and surviving sister Doreen Hynes.

We cannot do better than to echo their sentiments

"God has him in His keeping, we have him in our hearts." **UBIQUE!**

The funeral service for Mr. Lionel James 'Toby' Edwards was held on Monday 5th June, and it was a celebration of his full life. It was attended by many of his Artillery colleagues. The traditions were upheld when Mr. John McIntee read the 'Artillery Prayer' and Mr. Denis Webb presented the R.S.L. Tribute.

THE ARTILLERY PRAYER

Almighty God,

You kindle in the lives of all who follow You the flame of courage and devotion to duty.

May we, the members of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery, never lack the courage to serve loyally under our Captain General, our gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, especially in places of hardship, isolation and danger.

Let the memory of those who have given their lives be an inspiration to us that we may grow in wisdom and justice, and in the love of God and our fellow men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

6 Field Gunners

Those members of the R.A.A.A.T who are also members of the 6 Field Gunners will be pleased to learn that the Gunners A.G.M. and midday luncheon will also be held at SLFC clubrooms and that the arrangements will be for a similar sit-down meal as enjoyed by R.A.A.A.T. at our recent function.

Date: 21st October 2006. Starting time: 1200 for 1230 hrs sit-down.

Details to be confirmed by 6 Field Gunners Committee in due course.

From the Secretary's Desk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS for 2006

JUNE 2006

3rd Jun: Northern Social wing dinner mixed function at South Launceston Football Club

6th Jun: 146th Anniversary of Launceston Volunteer Artillery

AUGUST 2006

1st Aug: Birthday of Artillery in Australia [A Fd Bty]

10th Aug: Northern Historical /Social wing meeting at Queen Victoria Museum INVERESK

19th Aug: Gunner Dinner

25th Aug: 2/8th Aust Field Regiment Commemorative Plaque unveiling at Australian War Memorial CANBERRA*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN HOBART

Date to be advised please watch the public notices in local newspaper.

OCTOBER 2006

12th Oct: Northern Historical /Social wing meeting
21st Oct: 6 Field Gunners Reunion Dinner – LAUNCESTON
23rd Oct: El Alamein Day memorial day – HOBART

DECEMBER 2006

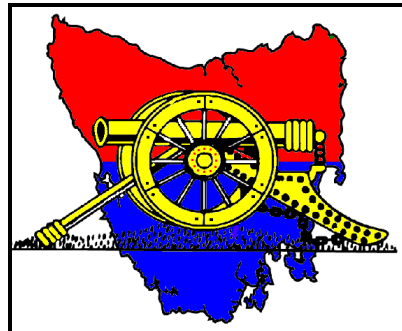
9th Dec: Northern Social wing dinner mixed function at South
Launceston Football Club.
14th Dec: Northern Historical /Social wing meeting at Queen
Victoria Museum INVERESK

YESTERDAY is history

TOMORROW in a mystery

***TODAY IS A GIFT
WHICH IS WHY WE CALL IT THE PRESENT
LIVE FOR TODAY***

UBIQUE
Norm Andrews Sec
11 June 2006



The Artillery News.

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