

THE ARTILLERY NEWS.

SEPT - NOVEMBER 2004



Official Correspondence.

R.A.A Assoc. of Tas. Inc.

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R.A.A. ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings of the Historical Wing (North) will continue to be held every two months on the second Thursday of the month at the Inveresk Museum commencing at 2.00 p.m. (Winter Schedule)

All Members and potential members are welcome.

R.A.A.A.T. Historical Wing (North) Meeting 14/10/2004.

Meeting at Mt. Esk Nursing Home, St. Leonards - starting time 2.00 p.m. Bring a *small* plate to share.

El Alamein Day Anniversary – (Hobart) Queen’s Domain - Wednesday 20/10/2004

Those Northern R.A.A.A.T. members who are interested in attending this celebration and a get-together afterwards are asked to contact the Secretary without delay. Members will need to fund their own counter-lunch and drinks at the Waratah Hotel

St. Barbara’s Day - 4/12/2004

Farewell Dinner for 16 Fd. Battery R.A.A. Battery Commander. (*Venue to be advised – probably L’ton.*)

MESSAGE OF LOYALTY

ARTILLERY DAY - 1st. AUGUST, 2004

Fellow Members,

On 9 July this year, I sent the following message of loyalty from the Regiment to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to mark Royal Australian Artillery Day 2004:

"The Colonels Commandant, the Head of Regiment, and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery convey to Her Majesty, their Captain General, their respect and loyalty on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day, 1 August 2004. On this day the Regiment celebrates one hundred and thirty three years of dedicated service."

I have received the following reply:

"Please convey my warm thanks to the Colonels Commandant, Head of Regiment and all Ranks of the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery for their message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of Royal Australian Artillery Day, which is being held on this the one hundred and thirty third anniversary of the Regiment."

As your Captain General, I appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to you all for an enjoyable event on this notable occasion.

Elizabeth R"

Ubique, Paul Stevens.

Major General J. P. Stevens, AO (Rtd.)

Representative Colonel Commandant

Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery

R.A.A.A.T. HISTORICAL WING MEETING

12th AUGUST 2004

The informal general meeting of the Historical Wing that took place on **12/8/2004** was attended by members - Norman Andrews, Max Frost, Des Salter, Toby Edwards, Marc Smith, Rick Woods, Frank Stokes, Lloyd Saunders, Bob Brown and Graeme Petterwood. Guests were Fraser Murray, David Harvey and Trevor Giles who all were supplied with details of membership.

Apologies were received from Gunter Breier and Terry Higgins.

Our convenor, Norman Andrews, advised the meeting of the results of discussions that took place at R.A.A.A.T. Committee level about items that had been suggested at our last Historical Wing meeting and members were asked for their comments.

It was pleasing to note that the long-drawn-out discussions about a Tasmanian Gunner Memorial Plaque to be positioned at the Launceston Cenotaph are now in the advanced planning stages. Norm presented details of the proposed plaque to our meeting and received a unanimous agreement that the second draft design provided all the necessary information to advise the public of importance of the Artillery role in this state since 1860. Costs of the manufacture and positioning are still to be confirmed.

We were also notified that the Australian Defence Medal which we were advised about in the Special Edition (May) had been approved by the Federal Government - but the term of eligibility had been decided at 6 years service not 2 years as requested by the RSL and other service groups.

While there is no satisfactory reason supplied for the longer service requirement, some former Reservists who served outside of this time-frame, feel that financial consideration involved in producing the additional number of medals required may have had some bearing on the Government's decision. They are pressing for a re-consideration to address the failure of recognizing the service contribution that they have made and feel the eligibility standard was arrived at arbitrarily.

Members and institutional guests are reminded that in the advent of a mailing address alteration – please let our Secretary know ASAP – otherwise, NO Artillery News!

Frank Stokes advised the our meeting that the 6 Field Gunners organization will be holding its next meeting at Paterson Barracks on 16/10/2004 between 12. 00 – 4.00 p.m. and that those of us that have dual membership are cordially invited.

Graeme Petterwood reminded those present that August 18th was the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and displayed an Australian Artillery 5 Cent token from his collection of militaria that was used at Nui Dat Camp at the time. (*The details about the token were forwarded from an US Army Master Sergeant who was in Vietnam at the time - see article below*)

One of our guests, David Harvey, gave an interesting insight into the life of “Mad Harry’ Murray and also presented for inspection several photographs from his family’s personal collection.

At the conclusion of our usual get-together afternoon tea was enjoyed.

Our next Historical Wing Meeting will be held at **Mt. Esk Nursing Home**, St. Leonards on 14/10/2004 commencing at 2.00 p.m. Please bring a small plate – *with something on it* - tea and coffee will be available.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION of TASMANIA INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 21st August, 2004

The A.G.M. of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania Inc. was held on Saturday 21st August, 2004 at Legacy House, Launceston commencing at 1.35 p.m.

A considerable amount of apologies was forth-coming but, overall, the attendance was still excellent and those who did participate did so with an appreciative interest in the proceedings.

The Minutes of the A.G.M. will be distributed through official channels by our Secretary, Norman Andrews, but the gist of the reports was that the R.A.A.T as an organization was doing fairly well on all fronts – not that we should rest on our laurels. Our President, Barry Bastick, called for a concentrated effort by all members to try and recruit at least one or two other ex- or serving, artillery-men - or even friends of the artillery - as a matter of duty to the R.A.A.T.

After the President’s report and the Treasurer’s Interim Report had been made, the call for the election of 2004/5 Office Bearers was made. The Meeting unanimously re-elected the Executive panel and several new nominations for General Committee were approved - so there will be new faces in this group. Those 2003/4 Committee members who have retired, or not re-nominated, were thanked for their previous efforts by the President. Our Committee now consists of:-

Patron	LTCOL William Cox AC, RFD, ED
President	MAJ Barry Bastick RFD
Vice Presidents	Des Salter JP, LTCOL Steve Carey RFD
Secretary and Public Officer	Norman Andrews OAM
Treasurer	LT Alistair Chilcott
Committee:-	MAJ Milton Cunningham, CAPT Kim Martin, SGT Jason Eddington, LBDR Cameron Baker, Mr. Joe Ferguson, Mr. Marc Smith.

Ex - officio members

COL COMDT RAA for Tasmania Region -	LTCOL M A Cameron, RFD
Battery Commander 16 Fd Bty RAA -	MAJ Barry Bastick RFD
Auditor	MAJ Richard James

We were also advised, by Mick Badkin, that a formal Dinner is being organized to farewell the current 16 Battery Commander and that will take place on 4th December at a venue to be advised.

Discussions initiated by Barry Bastick, Mark Cameron and Peter Patmore were undertaken and covered a range of formal business matters that will be shown in the official Minutes in due course. Mark Cameron also spoke of a proposal regarding a saluting base on the Queens Domain Hobart and number of funding channels need to be looked into to assist with this project.

Mark also thanked the RAA Assoc. of Tas. for the progress made this year and he said we are starting to gather momentum. Mark also said we the current members all need to look at the membership of the Assoc. and all members are urged to encourage new members.

Annual Members are requested to renew their membership subs ASAP.

The Meeting officially closed at 2.00 p.m. but members and guests had been invited to remain to hear a lecture by **Doug M Wyatt** RFD regarding Tasmanian Colonial Artillery 1803 – 1903 and then partake of an Afternoon Tea prepared by the Ladies of Legacy.

No-one rushed to the door - and we were treated to a great lecture, accompanied by computer graphic images projected on to a screen that really gave us a wonderful feeling of belonging to a piece of ongoing history.

Doug's CD with *pdf* text, for those who are computer literate, and/or the 124 page book with 70 photographs, sketches and maps entitled "**Tasmanian Colonial Artillery 1803 – 1903**" should be on every Tasmanian gunner's bookshelf (*or computer hard-drive as mine already is for ready reference*).

These are extremely well researched packages with many more historical photos as a bonus on the CD and, after seeing the presentation, it is obvious that Doug has put in the hard yards – and many hours - to make this a '*must read*' production of the early days of Tasmanian Artillery.

The CD costs \$15.00 and the well formatted book \$24.00 plus \$5.00 packaging & postage in Australia for single copies. Inquiries and additional copies can be ordered direct from:

D. M. Wyatt
9 Morris Avenue,
Taroona. Tas. 7053.

WANTED KNOWN

(a) - Recently received, an email from a former Gunner asking for any information about his father.

"I am researching my father's military service, 66642 (later TX833) Alfred George Henley.

He joined the Army 27 Nov 1939 and served with the 2/1 Tank Attack Regt which I believe was previously the 2/1 Anti Tank Regt. After the war I know he served with 6 Fd Regiment and was a WO2 until about 1960 when he moved to Devonport. I was just hoping to find any information or photo you may have or direct me to where I may find something. Also any information on the 2/1 T/A Regt would be gratefully received as I am also currently researching the war time history of that Regt. I have a great source of information in the current President of the 2/1 Tank Attack Regiment Mr. Allan Grant in Brisbane who served the war with the 2/1st. but further information is always welcome. My ultimate aim is to publish a web site dedicated to that WWII unit." **Paul Henley (Ex Gunner # 62429 - 1972 to 1978)**
Email: miner@bigpond.net.au (The email address is the authorized contact point supplied by Mr. Paul Henley, so, if anyone has information or photos, please contact him or advise the Editor who can pass on any relevant information.)

UPDATE

According to one of our R.A.A.T. members currently residing in Victoria, he remembers a Sergeant Alf Henley who was serving at Hobart's Anglesea Barracks during the time he was there and he believes that the N.C.O. may have been involved later as (possibly) the RSM of the 6th Training Group until 1959 when the 1953 - 59 period of National Service ceased.

(b) - After the Boer War a number of Boer artillery trophies were shipped to Australia for distribution among the various states and units that participated in the 1899-1902 war. Many have been accounted for, however, some are still missing including one that was forwarded as a trophy to Tasmania. The "missing" Tasmanian gun was a small 37mm Krupp single loading QF mountain gun with a drop slot breech. Would any of your members/readers perhaps know anything about this or any of the other missing trophies listed below? Any information or photographs will be greatly appreciated.

The missing pieces are:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Original Recipient</u>
75mm Krupp	BL 1	Victoria
60mm Krupp	BL ?	Victoria
2" Whitworth	BL ?	South Australia
37mm Krupp	QF 2	Tasmania
37mm Pom-pom ?		West Australia
37mm Pom-pom ?		Queensland
.450" Maxim	473	South Australia
1/2 pdr (SBML) ?		Robt. McKillop Esq, Burgh Surveyor, Perth

MC Heunis,

Oranje Vrijstaat Artillerie Corps

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A GREAT DAY'S OUTING.

Anzac Day, Sunday 25th April 2004, saw a kind change in the lousy weather of the previous two days, and gave the large crowd, who fully participated in the ceremonies, the chance to show their respects to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, to those who had returned from conflict, and to those who had waited to be called. It was most gratifying to see the large number of younger people and children who will carry the original Anzac tradition on into our nation's future. It was also very gratifying that a long tradition was carried on as **Mr. Roger McKenzie**, son of our late mate, former B.S.M. Charles Gilbert McKenzie, laid the wreath on behalf of the **Royal Australian Artillery Association of Tasmania**. Thank you, Roger!

Quite a few of our members took advantage of the break in the weather and made an opportunity to attend the ceremony and then to catch up with old mates afterwards at the Paterson Barracks.

Some even got their names in the paper the following day – even if they weren't the most photogenic of our gunners.



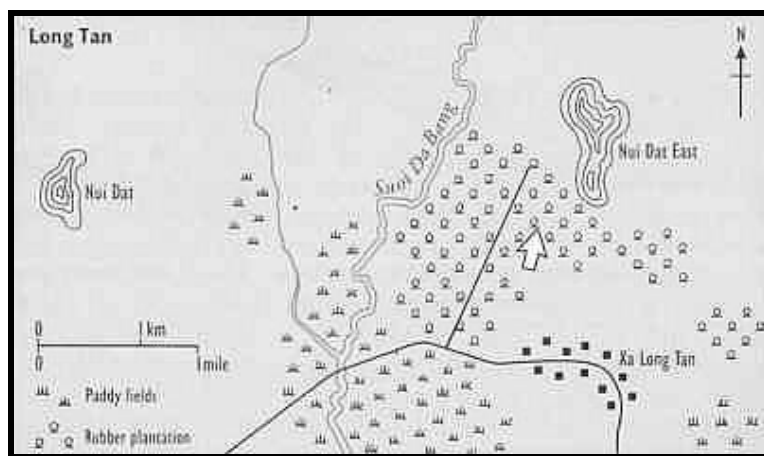
'Toby' Edwards, Don Wright (Navy), Graeme Petterwood and Gunter Breier.
(Photoscan from the pages of "The Examiner" newspaper 26/4/2004)

A TIMELY REMINDER TOKEN

NUI DAT - BATTLE of LONG TAN - VIETNAM

16th - 18th August 1966

As well as being a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Association, I am a collector of coins, banknotes, medals and tokens, and it was of great interest to me to have received a small brass token that had once seen service in Vietnam at Nui Dat - a place familiar to many Australian troops during the conflict. The story of the Battle of Long Tan, near Nui Dat, is now etched into the pages of Australian military history and, as a nation, we have gone on to other conflicts, but we should never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by 18 of our young National Servicemen and memories of the pain and anguish of the 24 others who were wounded in this action at Long Tan on August 18th., 1966.



Proximity of Nui Dat to Long Tan

AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY 5 CENT CLUB TOKEN

A search of the Internet for details about the Australian Artillery token was not very successful and, although there was sufficient evidence to convince me that it was initially produced for use by our troops in canteens and clubs in Vietnam, I would now consider this token is relatively scarce outside of those that came back as souvenirs with our own servicemen. These are very special mementos.

AUSTRALIAN / 5 c / ARTILLERY (same reverse) Brass-round-21millimeters diameter.

After a follow-up conversation with the ex U.S. Army friend who had supplied the token, I was then put in contact with **Ray Bows**, author of a newly published - and already internationally well received - book about the Vietnam experience. The title of the book is: **"TIME-LINE VIETNAM - The Tiger that Ate the Fire Base."** Former U.S. Army Master Sergeant Ray Bows, is an expert on Vietnam Military tokens.

"There were two allied military token types listed in my 1988 catalogue on the Vietnam War. The Australian Artillery piece was listed as 950AUAL-5, and as described and pictured per your recent message. In my original catalogue of 1983, the piece was listed as number 2519AF-5. This piece was issued by the first Australian Task Force Artillery, 161 Battery, Nui Dat Base Camp, Ba Ria, Phuoc Tuy Province. The mission of the Australian Artillery was to protect Highway 15 (Line of communications) in the eastern portion of the Rung Sat Special Zone. The Rung Sat was known as the "Forest of Assassins" was characterized by General William Westmoreland as "one of the most savage pieces of terrain in the world." The Australians occupied this Viet-Cong infested area under the control of the US Army's II Field Force. The token listed was used at the Peter Badcoe Club of the Australian Logistic Support Group at Vung Tau, in addition to being used at Nui Dat. These tokens found their way into other clubs throughout Vietnam but were periodically culled out of circulation during monthly

accounting. Each different club's tokens were only authorized for use in that specific club in an effort to protect Military Payment Certificates, which protected the US dollar and which kept dollars from falling into the hands of the Communists with which they could buy weapons and ammunition on the world market. The Artillery Battery served from September 1965 to December 1971. It has been my experience that by 1968, when I arrived in Vietnam, that many of these tokens were no longer in use and therefore they coincided almost exactly with the battle that you mention....."

Historical Reference: <http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/vietnam/longtan.html> and <http://www.maori2000.com/vcoy67/nuidat2.htm> (Contain the Battle reports.)



The Australian Artillery Five Cent token.

Ray Bows mentioned the special U.S. Military Payment Certificates that were issued to deny the enemy from obtaining official currency to purchase armaments. Amongst my collection I happened to have a small, battered 10 Cent example that also might bring back a memory or two to those who saw them in use in Vietnam.



Sample U.S. Military Payment Certificate (Series # 641) issued between 31st August 1965 - 21st October 1968 - 10 Cents note

Official References:

US and ALLIED TOKENS of the VIETNAM WAR - Ray Bows, 1983

VIETNAM MILITARY LORE - Another Way to Remember - Ray Bows, 1988

Standard Catalog of World Paper Money (Volume 3) - by Colin R. Bruce II & George S. Cuhaj, 1997

R.I.P. – Gnr. PATRICK BARRY LESLIE

It is with regret that I have learnt of the passing, on May 13, 2004 at Bendigo, Victoria, of **Patrick Barry Leslie** (age 66), formerly of 6th Field Regiment, R.A.A. (Citizen Military Forces).

My last memory of Pat was on Anzac Day 2002 as he proudly marched down Charles St., Launceston, towards the Cenotaph, all smiles with his beard bristling, to be with his Gunner mates.

Those of us who knew Pat send their deepest sympathy to his extended and very caring family, and we will personally mourn one of those genuine characters we only meet occasionally during our lifetimes.

One of his last requests was that his funeral notice should include the words – “bright colors, please – no black suits or high heels and no flowers – donations to the Holman Clinic would be more useful.”

SEE YA, COBBER



Some of those members present at the inaugural R.A.A. of Tas. Meeting.

TIN CAN BAY – QUEENSLAND

We have another where, why and when question that many of our members might know the answer to. This aerial shot is identified as being of a training area at Tin Can Bay, Queensland – but, for those of us who are ignorant of its military purpose at that time, the actual location and when in 1972 that this photo may have been taken, it would be great if someone could enlighten us.



Tin Can Bay 1972



Tin Can Bay 2002

The 1972 photo looks like something out of M.A.S.H. while the colored photo was taken by holiday-makers who wandered too close to the area during another exercise in 2002.

The Artillery News.

Graeme E. Petterwood. (Editor).

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