

RUSI OF TASMANIA



The RUSI Gazette



Anglesea Barracks

Edition No 3/2019 dated 16 AUG 2019



NEW HOBART PRESIDENT

At the AGM on Thursday 15 August 2019, Major Martin Bastick was elected as the incoming President of the Hobart Branch for 2019-2020.

Martin, who is a retired Dentist, served in Malaya with the British Army and is also a Past President of the Kingston RSL. Martin replaces WGCDR Charles Hill who has served as President for the past three years.

MOVIE 'DANGER CLOSE' THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

The Movie 'Danger Close' which tells the story of D Company 6 RAR at Long Tan on 18 August 1966, is a must see.

The production is superb and the portrayal of all the characters is almost flawless. The film was shot on the Gold Coast hinterland and around several other locations in Queensland.

It is a film NOT to be missed.

Dunkirk 75 years on

The evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from the beaches of Dunkirk 79 years ago has been the subject of some recent films and documentaries.

An amazing 338,226 British soldiers were evacuated as well as some 140,000 Polish and Belgian soldiers. The evacuation was carried out under Royal Navy direction using a total of 993 ship (850 civil craft including ferries, pleasure boats and fishing vessels).

The BEF left behind 880 Field Guns, 500 AA Guns, 11,000 Machine Guns, 700 Tanks, 20,000 Motor Cycles and 45,000 cars and lorries. A Used Car and Cycle dealers dream!!!

No wonder the operation (Operation Dynamo) was called the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'.

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WAR VETERAN'S SERVICE

On Thursday 16 May 2019 LCDR Nigel Grey RFD gave a presentation on RAAF Beaufort escort operations between New Guinea and Australia and featured photographs of the operation taken by his father, FLTLT Steve Grey, who flew on the operation.

The photographs gave a tremendous overview of the terrain over which the Flights took place. The nature of the airfield facilities and construction program undertaken by Australian and American engineers and support personnel was absolutely amazing.



LCDR Nigel Grey (Left) being presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by CO Navy HQ Tas, CMDR Bob Curtis, whose father also served in the same theatre in the RAAF.

A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD FAMILIAR STORY



THE SIR RICHARD WILLIAMS ORATION

We have been fortunate to have been able to introduce the Sir Richard Williams Oration for March 2020. The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfield has promised to provide a high profile Air Force Officer to deliver the Oration.

This will be a first for the RUSI of Tasmania and we are eagerly looking forward to the event

A FACT TO REMEMBER

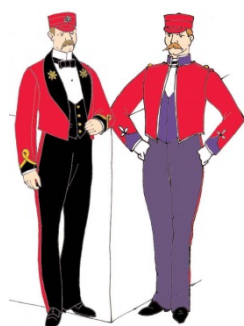
Experience is the name everyone gives
to their mistakes

Tasmanian Military Ball

The 2019 Tasmanian Military Ball will be held in Launceston at the Tailrace Centre on Saturday 12 October 2019. The Launceston Branch of the RUSI are taking a major lead in the organisation of the event.

Captain Kevin Best of Launceston Branch is co-ordinating the activity and can be contacted by email: kbes3880@bigpond.net.au

Members of the RUSI are encouraged to support the activity and specific details on cost etc., will be available shortly and circulated to all members. Mark your Diary now and try not to miss this event.



A RISKY COMMENT



THE MALTA STORY

Here are some interesting statistics about Malta during the period of World War II

Population of Malta WWII	270,000
Number of Air Raids	3,343
Bombs Dropped (Tonnes)	15,050
Civilian Casualties	1,581
Military & Merchant Navy Cas.	7,500
People Injured	3,780
Convoys to Malta (1940 -42)	17
Enemy ships sunk by Subs out of Malta (Tonnes)	390,660
Enemy Aircraft destroyed	241
Buildings damaged or destroyed	10,761

The gallantry of the Maltese under the siege conditions saw King George VI award Malta the 'George Cross' on 15 April 1942 and it was often thereafter known as the 'George Cross Island'. The Cross, along with the handwritten letter from the King, may be seen in the War Museum at Fort Saint Elmo in Valetta.

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

WGCDR Charles Hill has completed three years as the President of the Hobart Branch and at the AGM on Thursday 15 August 2019 he was presented with a plaque acknowledging his excellent service to the Branch.

The Plaque was presented by the Executive Officer RUSI of Tasmania, SQNLDR Alan Robertson. Charles is pictured below receiving his award.



50 YEARS A MEMBER – LTCOL TERRY MAHONEY

LTCOL Terry Mahoney joined the Institute in August 1969 and has been continuously a member ever since.

At the AGM of the Institute on Thursday 15 August 2019, Terry was presented with his 50 Year Membership Certificate and his 50 Year Medallion to mark the occasion. Terry was the Guest of the Committee at Dinner at the Hotel Soho prior to the AGM.



Commander Bob Curtis, CO Navy HQ Tas, gave us a very personal presentation concerning his father's service with No 7 Squadron RAAF when the Squadron deployed from RAAF Jack Jacky in QLD to Tadjji in New Guinea in 1943.

Bob gave us an insight into the deployment logistics in moving a squadron of 120 people, 19 Beaufort aircraft and support equipment in a very short period of time with limited transport resources.



CMDR Bob Curtis being presented with a 'thank you' by SQNLDR Alan Robertson

Editor of the RUSI Gazette is SQNLDR AW Robertson OAM, CSM, RFD, Executive Officer RUSI of Tasmania