Memorial Service
at
Wied Buni
2012
B'tiifikira ta' l-Attakk
Mill-Għadu fil-20 ta' Lulju 1942
Fit-tieni gwerra dinjija
fejn tilfu #ajuż hom
fuq il-kanun
Sgt. Zarb Fidele
Gnr. Sillato Saviour
Gnr. Baldacchino Francis
Gnr. Zammit Albert
Gnr. Ellul Joseph
Gnr. Agius Francis
Illum 8 ta' Settembru 2009.
Memorial Service held at Wied Buni, Birzebbuġa, 4th April 2012

Seventy one years ago, six brave soldiers of the 10th Battery, 30LAA Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery, lost their lives on a Bofors gun position sited on the foreshore of the main Kalafrana road a hundred yards or so away from the Birzebbugia Bus terminus.

The position which was known as “XLA 31” was enclosed with a 3 and a half foot high wall of sandbags and was fully equipped with predictor, gun stores, spare gun barrels and over 3,000 rounds of 40mm ammunition. It formed part of the air defence of the Kalafrana seaplane base and Hal Far airfield.

Towards midnight, on July 20th 1942, an enemy bomber dived low over Kalafrana and released a stick of bombs. Of these, one landed straight into the gun position and the other on its nearby Troop headquarters just across the road. Needless to say, everything within the gun emplacement was destroyed and out of the eight men on the spot six were killed outright and two survived after being dug out from under the smothering rubble caused by the explosion.

Those who died were: Lance-Sergeant Fedele Zarb M.M. (he had been decorated for bravery barely three weeks before). Gunner Saviour Sillato, Gunner Francis Baldacchino, Gunner Albert Zammit, Gunner Joseph Ellul and Gunner Francis Agius
3/11 Regiment Royal Malta Artillery (PDF Library).
Updated 8 August 2014
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