

# El Alamein: 75 Years On

## *The War in the Mediterranean and the Campaign for North Africa 1942*

Provisional Programme:

**DAY ONE:** Wednesday 6<sup>h</sup> September

10.00-11.00 Registration. Tea & Coffee

11.00--11.15 Introduction and Welcome: *John Buckley*

11.15-12.15 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1: Professor Niall Barr**

12.15-1.15 LUNCH

1.15 – 2.45 **PANEL 1: The Battles I.**

Nicole Townsend: *They fought like demons”: The British Eighth Army, the Australian 9th Division and the disaster at Ruin Ridge, July 1942*

Iain Johnstone-White: *‘Concentrated Attention’: The British Dominions and Alliance Warfare in World War*

Phil McCarty: *“Rommel: A Problematic Icon”*

2.45-3.15 Tea and Coffee

3.15 -4.45 **PANEL 2: Air Power.**

Linda Parker: *The significance of the development of Allied air superiority in the Western Desert with particular focus on the Battle of Alam al Halfa , 30 August to 5 September 1942*

Matthew Powell: *The Battle of El-Alamein and Tactical Air Power: The Western Desert Air Force or Army Co-operation Command?*

John Moremon: *The Price of Air Support: Royal Australian Air Force Casualties and the Grief of Families*

4.45-5.45 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2: Professor David Motadel: Anti-Colonial Revolutionaries and Germany's War for a New Global Order, 1941-1945**

7.00-8.30 **FILM SHOW:** “Desert Victory” introduced by Phil McCarty

**DAY TWO: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September**

9.00-11.00 **PANEL 3: Doctrine**

Paul Latawski: *'El Alamein and the Mixed Lessons of the Western Desert: Concentration of Force, Firepower and the Practice of Combined Arms in the British Army'*.

Russell Hart: *British-Commonwealth Operational and Tactical Adaptation in North Africa and its Role in Ensuring Allied Victory at the Battles of El Alamein, July-November 1942*

Neal Dando: *The Infantry Battle: actions in attack and defence in North Africa in 1942.*

11.00-11.30 Tea and Coffee

11.30-12.30 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 3: Professor John Gooch: 1942: L'anno del destino**

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.30-3.00 **PANEL 4: The Axis Powers**

Dennis Showalter: *The Other Side of the Dune: El Alamein from Axis Perspectives*

Bastian Matteo Scianna: *The Battle of El Alamein as an Italian lieu de mémoire*

Dan Zamansky, *The Breaking Point: Alamein, Torch and the collapse of German Air Power.*

3.00-3.30 Tea and Coffee

3.30-5.00 **PANEL 5: Interpretations.**

Duncan Maggs: *Writing the Desert War: Major-General Playfair and British Official History of the Second World War – A Case Study*

Aldino Bondesan: *The El Alamein Battlefield Historical Park: a new perspective in military tourism*

Marc Hansen: ". . . ritterlich war Eure Art, menschlich hier das Gesetz" ? – *El Alamein on display in British and German military museums*

7.30 CONFERENCE DINNER: Novotel, Wolverhampton.  
Speaker – **Professor Stephen Badsey: *Remembering the Desert War...***

**DAY THREE: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

9.30-11.00 **PANEL 6: The Battles II**

Matthew Hirst, *Strategic Bombardment or Senseless Bloodbath?: The Artillery at El Alamein*

Chris Mann: '*A man's first battle is always his best*': Douglas Wimberley, the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division and the Battle of El Alamein

John Carbis: *Mine Fields and Gap Clearance*

11.00-11.30 Tea and Coffee

11.30-12.30 **KEYNOTE 3: Dr Peter Lieb - *The Desert Foxes under Scrutiny: Leadership, Combat Performance and Violence of the German Afrika Korps***

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.30-3.30 **PANEL 7: Wider Perspectives.**

John Greenacre: "*A Fleeting Opportunity Not Fully Realised: The Effectiveness of British 1st Parachute Brigade during Operation TORCH.*

Richard Hammond: *For Want of a Ship: El Alamein, North Africa and the War at Sea*

Sotiris Rizas, *Allied Strategy in the Mediterranean, the Resistance and Political Conflict in Occupied Greece, 1942-43*

Jonathan Fennell: *Victory at El Alamein and the 'Road to 1945'*

3.30-4.00 Tea and Coffee

4.00-5.00 **FINAL KEYNOTE: Professor Simon Ball, *Alamein: British Cultural Defeat?***

5.00 Concluding Thanks