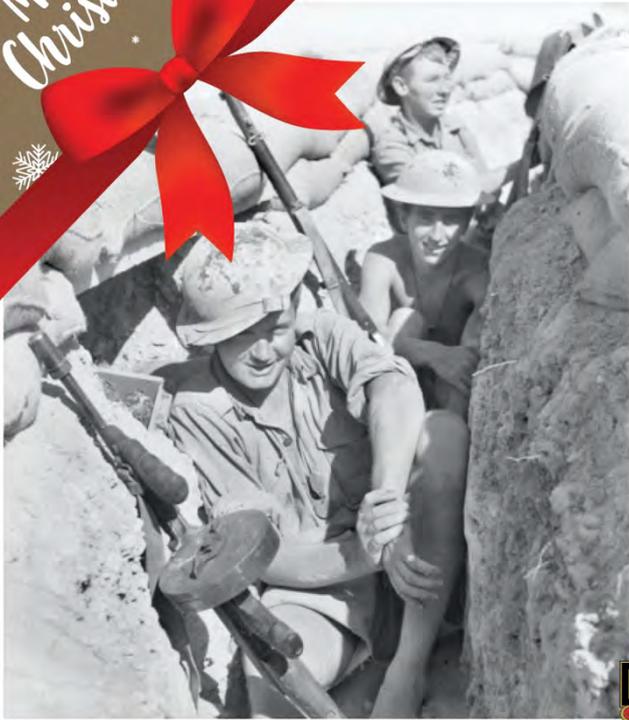


Merry Christmas

VOLUME 132 DECEMBER 2021



TOBRUK HOUSE NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION



THE RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION
NEUROSCIENCE FELLOWSHIP FUND

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION INC.

44 VICTORIA AVENUE, ALBERT PARK, VIC 3206

www.ratsoftobrukassociation.org.au

PHONE No 0432 232 502

GENERAL MEETINGS NORMALLY START AT 10.30AM

(NO MEETINGS JANUARY, MAY, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER)

**THE DATES & EVENTS LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE IMPACT OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT COVID RESTRICTIONS CALL 0432 232 502

Month / Date	Event Description
December 5	Christmas Lunch (<i>Details page 8</i>)
January 1 2022	Annual Subscriptions due. (<i>refer pages 24 & 25</i>)
January 31 2022	Committee nominations due. (<i>Nomination form page 23</i>)
February 25 2022	Annual General Meeting
March 25 2022	General Meeting
April 3 2022	Tobruk Sunday
April 25	ANZAC Day

Patron: Bill Gibbins

Committee of Management:

President – Graham Gibson

Vice President – Mike Kiernan

Secretary – Glenda Garde

Treasurer - Mike Kiernan

Other Committee Members –

Christine Mulvaney, Bob Horton,

Graeme Clifford, Tony Smith,

Heather Macfarlane, Ian Marr,

Karolina Sevcikova, Stuart Tolliday,

Lachlan Gaylard, Bruce Bingham

Tony Codd – Hall Keeper

TOBRUK HOUSE NEWS

Deadlines

Editorial and Notices

NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 2022

DEADLINE: JANUARY 4

We welcome contributions from our community but cannot guarantee publication.

Email is preferred with documents in Word and pictures in jpeg format but not essential.

Articles or letters with no contact details will not be published.

Main writers: Glenda Garde, Graham Gibson, Mike Kiernan & Lachlan Gaylard

DISCLAIMER

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VALE

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD;
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.
LEST WE FORGET

The President and ROTA Inc. members wish to extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to the families and friends of our departed comrades.

POPE, John Campbell, WX7421, 2/28 Battalion 26 September 2021, 103 yrs

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION INC.

President's Report – December

The 2022 Annual Subscription (\$30) is due on 1 January 2022, and we would appreciate if you are in a position to do so to pay early please. (Renewal form on page 25 of this THN.)

It is great news that the Covid restrictions that have affected so much of our day-to-day lives are slowly disappearing. This year has presented its challenges in so many ways, communication has been an essential element for our organisation. Despite all of this our 80th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony for Tobruk Sunday and a couple of Open days at Tobruk House have been very successful.

Outside of face-to-face contact, our bi-monthly edition of Tobruk House News has kept us well informed of so many events during the year. A huge thank-you to Stuart, Glenda, and Mike for the stories that they have generated for your reading pleasure.

We have connected 'Remotely' with the students and staff of Warrandyte Primary School for their annual lesson on the Siege of Tobruk. Please see further details in this edition of THN.

I regret that Glenda and myself were unable to attend the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony and Dinner in Hobart, due to the Tasmanian border remaining closed until 90% vaccination is achieved in that state. The organising committee have assured us that they will provide a full report for the February edition of THN.

Please note that the 2022 ROTA AGM has been brought forward to Friday 25th February 2020 starting at 10.30am sharp. Those wishing to nominate for the Committee must declare their intent no later than Friday 31st December. See page 23 for the Nomination Form.

We remind our members that the casual Christmas lunch at Tobruk House will be on Sunday the 5th December. Pre booking is essential. See page 8 for details.

To all our members and friends, we would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy Christmas and hope that you will be surrounded by your family and friends, and to those on our sick list now, we wish you all a very speedy recovery and a return to good health in the near future.

Thank-you once again for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated.

Graham Gibson, President

PS Don't forget about our special membership drive which runs until the end of this year – no joining fee – Simply write the words 'No Surrender' on the application form and pay only \$30 which is for the 2022 annual subscription.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION



Our treasurer recently came across this intriguing picture of a rather unusual version of our famous ROTA badge. Does anyone recognise it or have any details about it? We'd love to know so please contact us if you can shed any light.



The Rats Of Tobruk Association was originally a large organisation with thousands of members spread across Australia in State based "chapters". We have highlighted the Victorian Marching Girls group in last month's THN and we know that other states also had special sub- groups, including various sports teams. If you have any stories or pictures of such groups organised under the auspices of ROTA, please send them to us for inclusion in a future edition.

DIVE INTO TOBRUK – A HOLIDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

We wrote about the decommissioning of the HMAS Tobruk L50 amphibious heavy lift ship in an earlier edition of the THN. The ship saw thirty-four years of service from 1980 to 2015 and was deployed on twenty-six major expeditions such as the Middle East, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Bougainville, East Timor and the Philippines.



Living up to her motto 'Faithful and Strong', HMAS Tobruk retired with about 2,000,000 kilometres journeyed (equivalent to 40 trips around the world) and countless lives helped.

Scuttled in 2018 just off the coast of Bundaberg the Ex HMAS Tobruk is now open to the public and visitors can dive the unexplored resting place of the ship.

This 127m heavy-lift former navy ship is now home to a thriving and developing underwater ecosystem including over a thousand species of fish, and effervescent coral which is weaving its way through the corridors and quarters sailors once called home.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

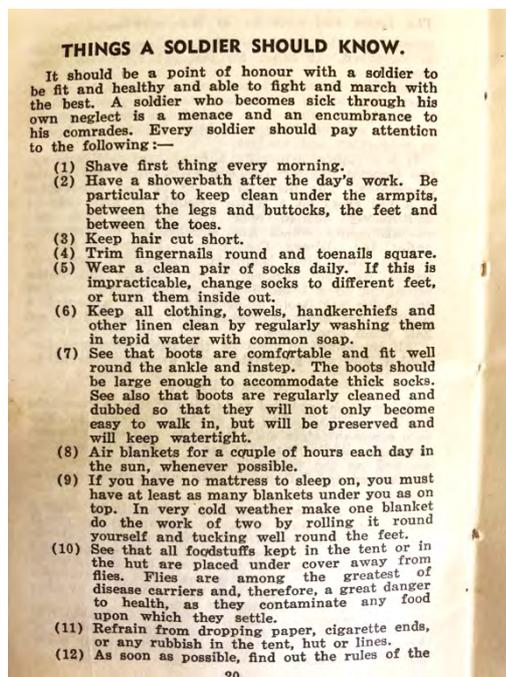
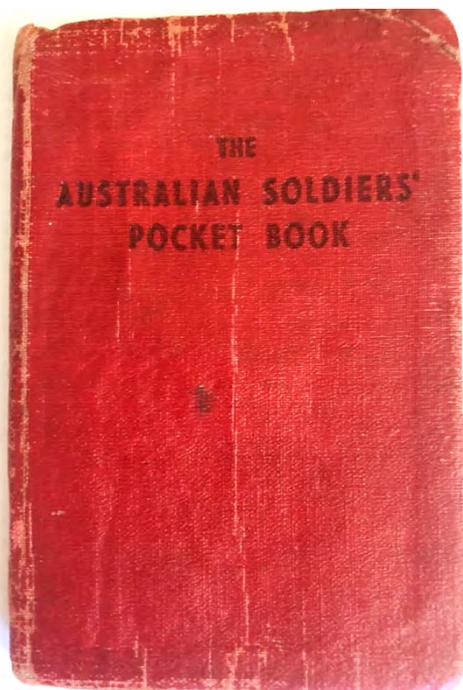
For most of the Australian soldiers, the Second World War offered the first opportunity for them to leave our shores. In many cases it was the first time they had even left their state, and some had never even seen their state capital city. So it was understood by the government that they needed a bit of guidance, hence the AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' POCKET BOOK- 1940

Things a soldier should know- 65 of them! Here are some:

- Have a shower or bath after a day's work. Be particular to keep clean under the armpits, between the legs and buttocks, the feet and between the toes.
- Wear a pair of clean socks daily. If impractical, change socks to different feet or turn them inside out.
- Keep all clothing, towels & handkerchiefs clean by washing them regularly in tepid water and soap.
- Be clean in habits. Do not urinate on the ground, but in the proper receptacle. Filthy habits can cause endless trouble among a large body of men.
- Be chaste.
- Pay your way and don't cadge.
- All the brains are not just under your hat, so go easy in your criticism of others.
- Save your fighting for the enemy.
- Halitosis can lose you a friend.

How to Behave Abroad

- Don't exhibit your sense of racial superiority (however superior you may feel) to any of the people of the country wherein you are stationed
- Don't mock or sneer at the peculiar manners or dress of your hosts
- Don't parade the fact that Australian soldiers are better than any others. Prove it by your actions
- Don't souvenir any of your host's belongings
- Be scrupulously honest! One swindler can smudge the reputation of a regiment. Are you going to be that blackguard!
- Don't meddle with their womenfolk or you may have to marry them!



When it
written:

was

- Population 6.75 million
- 86% population were Australian born & indigenous Australians were not counted at all*.
- White Australia policy was going strong- all political parties subscribed to it.

*Indigenous Australians were however allowed to join the AIF although they were paid less.

CHRISTMAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST 1941



"With Christmas approaching, my thoughts naturally are at home with you all. This time of year makes one very homesick. I think most of the boys feel the same way as I do." 19/12/1941

In these days of uncertainty, it is probably worth remembering that 1941 was no different when it comes to.... "Well, where to from here and ...what will happen next?"

For Australian troops, with the withdrawal of the 2/13 Btn., the long weary months of the siege were finally over by December 1941. However, a Christmas at home was not possible and, for most troops, Christmas was again to be spent in the Middle East.

Having been relieved from Tobruk in October, Christmas Eve found the 2/5th Field Ambulance of the 7th Division on garrison duty in Aleppo, Syria, where they held a party at a convalescent ward for local kindergarten children. As described by Lloyd Tann in his unit history, "The kids had a wonderful time and so did the unit members involved." Tom Pritchard recalls the party included a concert and one of the unit, Jack Abson appeared as 'Dangerous Dan McGrew', which involved him banging on a kerosene tin to simulate a gunshot. The children were delighted!

A Christmas dinner was also held at the hospital on the following day and, as was the custom, the officers and NCOs waited on the men. Meanwhile, special AIF Christmas dinners were held at other Middle Eastern locations, such as this one in Egypt.

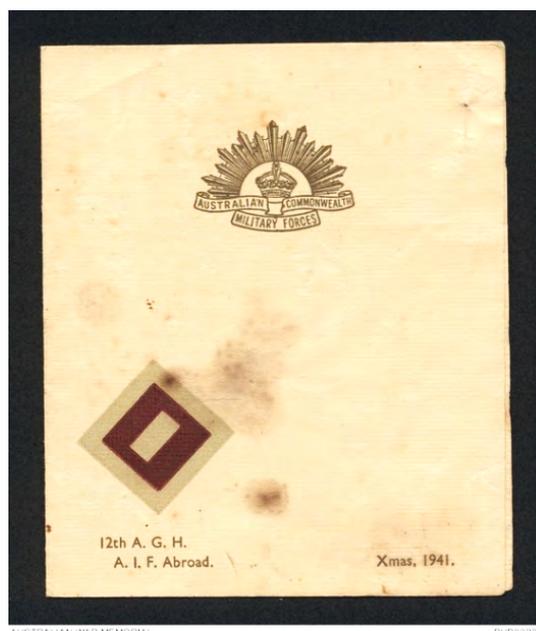


Heliopolis, Egypt. 1941-12-25. A scene during the HQ A.I.F. (Middle East) Christmas dinner at the assembly hall of the English school

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 022421



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PUB03228



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL PUB03228

As we sit down to Christmas lunch later this month, I wonder if any of these very traditional dishes will be on your menu?

TOBRUK TRUCES

Of course, there was no 'Christmas truce', such as the one that took place in WW1 along the Western Front in France in 1914, but it should be remembered that there were also truces in Tobruk in 1941. One such truce in August is described by gunner VX15694 Eric Eacott Watts of 2/12 Field Regiment.

"We had a high respect for the German soldiers, which is underlined by an incident during the attack by the 2/28th and 2/43rd battalions in the salient. We provided vital artillery support. The 2/28th had 83 casualties and the 2/43rd four officers and 97 men.

A padre, Father Gard, stood up in a truck and during a lull approached, holding a big Red Cross flag, when about 250 yards away, a German stood up in full view, also holding a similar flag. Not a shot was fired. The German shouted, "Halten, Minen", indicating that our party was on the edge of a minefield. The bodies of about 13 of our fellows lay on the ground.

The Germans then produced a mine detector and a German doctor and officer appeared through the gap made in the minefield. Both sides then removed their dead and wounded. They exchanged good wishes, cigarettes and drinks. The battle began again when each party returned to their weapon pits.

This temporary truce and others which occurred in Tobruk produced a warm feeling and our infantry experienced a feeling that his opposition were just ordinary fellows like themselves. The Germans respected us, and we admired them also."

This incident is also referred to in 'Gunfire' the official history of 2/12th. The history mentions that several such truces took place during the siege and that 'they restored some faith in humanity, even if only for a short time.'



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART26654

This painting from the AWM depicts the truce between the Germans and Australians at Tobruk on 4 August 1941 which enable each side to venture out into no man's land and collect their dead and wounded.

The Australian soldier holding the Red Cross flag, with his back to the viewer, is Sergeant Wally J. Tuit from 2/43 Battalion (Dowie's battalion), a timber mill foreman from Alberton, SA. He was identified by the artist on a visit to the Memorial in December 1999.

Dowie painted this and sketched two pencil drawings while an assistant to the sculptor Lyndon Dadswell in the Military History Section of the Australian War Memorial in Melbourne in 1943.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

128992

Tobruk, 1941-05-28. Men of B Company, 2/13th battalion, in post R8.

This photograph was taken during a truce to allow the Germans, assisted by Australians, to recover their dead and wounded after attempts the previous night to take positions occupied by the 2/13th.

In the background are the "white house" and a burnt out "I" tank with the enemy occupied R7 beyond

WARRANTYTE PRIMARY SCHOOL KEEN TO MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIP

The impact of the pandemic has been felt everywhere, but one of the biggest impacts has been on our schools and their teachers and students, so we were wondering whether it would be possible to carry out our annual grade 6 program with Warrandyte Primary school this year. This relationship began over thirty years ago and has involved many Rats and descendants.

We were thrilled to learn how much the school valued our contribution through the letter we received which is reprinted here.

Dear Committee,

On behalf of Warrandyte Primary School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rats of Tobruk Association for their ongoing willingness to support and connect with our Year Six students on an annual basis. In particular your flexibility over the past two years has been greatly appreciated, given the challenges associated with restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the recent challenges, Warrandyte Primary School is thrilled to continue to work with the Association to help bring the story and legacy of the Rats of Tobruk to the next generation, this year and beyond. The partnership that has been developed between the two organisations is something that is deeply valued by the members of our school community, inclusive of parents, staff and students. We can wholeheartedly say that our school community would be bitterly disappointed if we missed even one year of connecting with the Association due to the recent challenges.

We consider ourselves privileged to share a strong connection with the Rats of Tobruk Association and look forward to the virtual experience we will share this year.

Kind regards,

Greg Edwards

Level Six Teacher

Warrandyte Primary School

To comply with the Public Health requirements the students are unable to visit us and we are unable to visit them, so a series of video presentations have been prepared and will be used by the school as a part of their Remembrance Day observances.

The topics covered are Transport and Logistics (Graham Gibson), Medical support, (Heather Macfarlane), Infantry (Stuart Tolliday) and Tobruk House itself (Glenda Garde). We also provided a short video from the AWM collection giving some perspective on the environment from real footage of the Siege and a video greeting from Rat Tommy Pritchard. A number of uniform items, hats and other things from the Tobruk House collection were loaned to the school for the period so the children still had some hands-on experiences.

The children's projects will be completed early in December and Heather will again evaluate them to award prizes for the best efforts. We will collate all the work into a binder to be held at Tobruk House and will feature the winning pieces in the February THN.

2021 MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH – SUNDAY DECEMBER 5

We are pleased to confirm a casual Christmas lunch for members and their guests at Tobruk House on Sunday December 5 from 12 – 3pm.

There will be a charge of \$10/head levied at the door.

Bookings are essential. Please call or email the secretary to confirm your attendance.

Members must RSVP by November 29

All attendees over 16 yrs must show proof of double vaccination or an exemption certificate.



THE NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYMEN AND THE RATS OF TOBRUK

The harbours and ports along the North African coast have been trading centres and ports-of-call for seagoing vessels dating back thousands of years. Phoenician traders plied their wares long before the mighty Roman Empire embraced this coast. Many of these ancient ports are still in use today and some were the focus of intense hostile attention during the North Africa Campaign of World War 2.

The New Zealand 16th & 17th Railway operating Companies along with the 9th Survey, 10th & 13th Construction Companies were formed in 1940 after the British Government asked for the railwaymen to run the trains in the European campaign. Before they could arrive, France was overrun and they were diverted to the Western Desert. Their job was to help run and extend more than 400 miles of railway, moving troops and supplies along the North Africa rail network. The Railway Operating Companies and the Survey and Construction Company extended railway lines 275 miles into Libya, almost to the port of Tobruk. At one stage, the Kiwis set a record for the length of track constructed in one day.

This story came to light when a family member of one of the men asked us for him to be recognised as a Rat Of Tobruk. So far we have located 48 of the 75 names of the ROC and the search continues. Their story must not go unrecorded, their names will be etched alongside all those other men who served in the Siege of Tobruk.

This summary was prepared by Graham Gibson from the book The Desert Railway written by Brendon Judd. We will publish the story in two parts. The second part will appear in the February edition of the Tobruk House News. (Copies of the book are extremely scarce.)

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



The 1940 circular sent to all eligible locomotive railwaymen by D.G. Sullivan, Minister of Railways, appealing for volunteers.

On the 19th November 1939 the specialist Railway Group was formed at the request of the British Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, Anthony Eden. The New Zealand Government formed the following companies; one Headquarters Maintenance and Construction Group, one Railway Survey company, and four Construction Companies, all of which were to be attached to the British Army Royal Engineers Corps.

Twenty five percent of the New Zealand Railway employees answered the call before the Government put a halt to railway callup, as services within New Zealand were starting to suffer as a result of there not enough staff to operate and run their system. The men were placed in camps to begin their formal training. Initially 1400 men applied for 800 positions.

On the next page is a group photo (dated July 1940) taken at Hopu Hopu Camp, Ngaruawahia of the 17th Railway Operating Company before they left New Zealand. The first noticeable thing about this photo is the spread of age of these chaps, there seems to be more than a sprinkling of guys that look as though they were at the thick end of 40. Also a good smattering of troops, both enlisted and officers, who are wearing WW1 ribbons.

Each Railway Operating Company (ROC) comprised of 6 Officers and 355 other ranks, with the Headquarters Company comprising 3 officers and 24 other ranks. The

Railways Group's total complement that served overseas was 40 officers and 1368 other ranks-1408 men in total. The troopships *Mauritania* & *Empress of Japan* carrying the North Island railwaymen moved quietly out of Wellington Harbour before breakfast on the 28th August 1940 to meet with HMNZS *Achilles* and the *Orcades* carrying troops from the South Island, it would be three and half years before many saw their homeland again and regrettably for some this was the last they would see of it.



Railwaymen at Hopu Hopu, 1940. Back row: L. W. Kerr, S. Ruffles, J.H. Kilmister, H. Padlie, P.E. Haddock, J. Flannery. Middle row: P. O'Halloran, A.W. Robertson, J.G.W. Comber, J.R. Cook, J.V.Martin, C.E. Hollick. Front row: I.M. Wilson, G.E. Laming, W.G. Pearce, C.F. Waterworth, H.Gemmel, K.Emery, S.V. Frost, O.Offerson.

First they sailed in convoy to Fremantle to meet up with a convoy carrying Australian lads to Egypt. Having several thousand fit young men confined on board a troopship was a captain's nightmare. How to accommodate them? How to feed them, and how to entertain them? Deck games such as tennis and quoits were soon arranged, also crown and anchor and two-up schools soon appeared. Every available cabin was allocated two men but this soon became four with the additional two sleeping on the floor.

The railwaymen were destined to run the trains in the European campaign, but before they could arrive, France was overrun, and they were diverted to the Western

Desert. Their job was to help run and extend more than 400 miles of railway, moving troops and supplies along the North Africa rail network.

After leaving Bombay on route to the Middle East the New Zealand Railway groups settled into live at their training camp at Maadi, here they had desert training, parade ground drill, rifle practice, grenade throwing and desert survival training. In keeping with being an Engineer Battalion, the railwaymen were trained in booby-trap instruction, demolition and Bailey bridge construction.

On the 1st October 1940, the 10th Railway Construction Company was the first part of the railway group to be deployed when it was moved to Maaten Burbeita, not far from Baggush where the 2NZEF 4th Brigade was camped on the coast, close to Mersa Matruh.



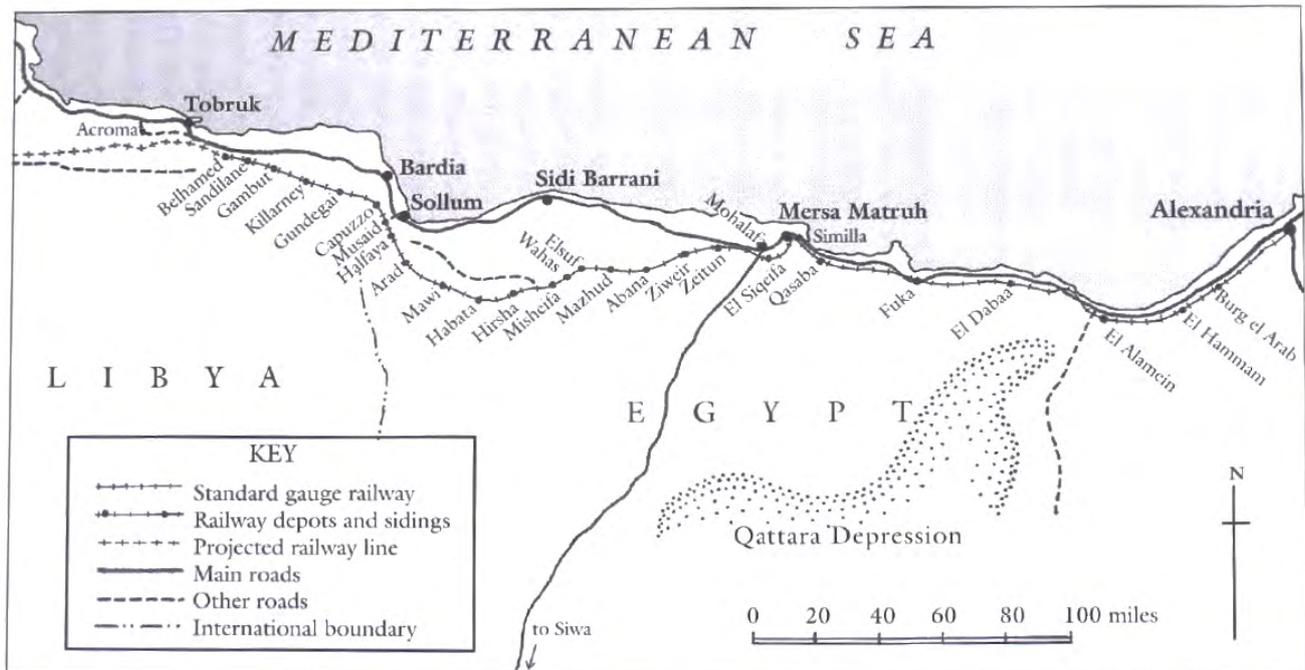
Following the success of the RAF in the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill felt it was time to secure a land victory, hoping to capitalise on the euphoria brought about by victory in the skies.

Churchill instructed General Wavell to launch an offensive against the Italians in Libya and drive them out of North Africa completely.

The railwaymen's primary role was to convert the 80 miles of railway between Dabaa and Mersa Matruh into a transport system upon which the army could rely to keep the advancing troops supplied. No delay would be tolerated was the firm order of the day.



Wavell's force was still under-equipped and overwhelming outnumbered by the Italian enemy. For two nights in succession prior to the initial attack, the Desert Force had been quietly taking up positions in readiness for zero hour, fortunately the ammunition and equipment dumps went unnoticed.



Map 1: Western Desert Railway and Extension

Then on the 9th December 1940 the attack commenced. Despite being numerically superior the Italians wilted and were driven back towards the Libyan border. Over 130 000 Italians were captured in the first few days of Wavell's offensive, the POWs were transported at the rate of 850 per day to Barce, their equipment and petrol was shipped back to Benghazi.

The initial success of provisioning the coastal ports made them increasingly important as supply lines lengthened. The Royal Navy was fully occupied in action against enemy shipping, so longshoremen and lighter boat



crews had to be found from amongst the ranks of the land forces. A call went out for men with a modicum of mechanical ability or seafaring experience to help. 75 NZROC members volunteered. Being the sort of give-it-a-go-types, many of the railmen who applied had mechanical experience but no experience in handling boats, particularly clumsy barge-like vessels that required some maritime

knowledge. Two weeks later a detachment of men from the 17th ROC were sent to Alexandria where they boarded the *Chakla* and *HMS Medway*.

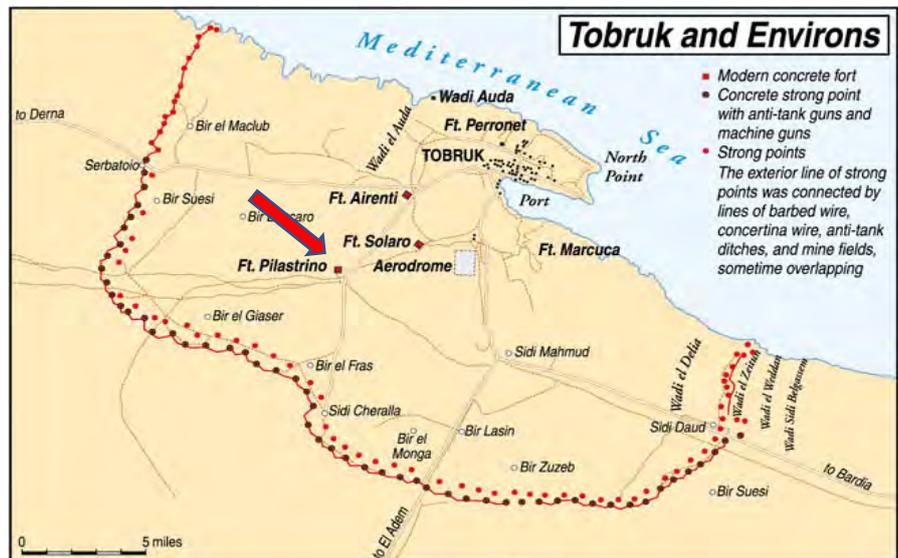
It was on this vessel that the railwaymen were taught how to operate and maintain marine diesels – from starting them with 'air bottles' (compressed air that was used to turn the engines over, which in turn fired into life) to splicing ropes and tying nautical knots. The men also learnt how to navigate unyielding barges that were used to ferry water, food, ammunition, and sundry war material from larger ships to shore. But by far the majority of the railwaymen who became involved in the seagoing operations were sent to a port that was to become famous during the Campaign – Tobruk.

ANOTHER OF TAFFY'S TALES *Another story from the memoirs of Ralph (Taffy) Whittle 2/8 Field Ambulance*

ALWAYS DRIVE WITH THE DOORS OPEN!

When the Colonel's Batman and I travelled in the Colonel's staff car to our forward dressing station at Fort Pilastrino, we always drove with both front doors open ready for a quick fall out if attacked. As the Germans, from a high point on the perimeter, could see almost all of our territory, they shot at anything that moved, especially staff cars.

As we passed a certain Wadi on the way to Pilastrino, we saw a group of the 2/43 Bn setting up a captured Italian field gun. The sighting of the target was done by a forward observer signaling weird instructions as the shells burst ... left one telegraph post, up a foot etc. As we watched, the amateur gunners used chocks and moved the gun as required, and then after loading, lay down on the ground with their fingers in their ears. The bloke responsible for firing held a lanyard and pulled it sharply, dropping quickly to the ground.



With an almighty flash and crash the gun fired, leaping some feet off the ground, which was one reason why all the gunners took cover, because sometimes the gun exploded rather than fired.

A cheer from the boys clustered around the field telephone indicated a close miss. Then they all looked up and saw us watching. "Get the hell out of here with that staff car" they yelled. "If you're not gone in 2 minutes, you'll cop all the counter battery shells as the Gerrys try to get rid of us, and you!"

We didn't waste any time arguing and went on our way. Finally, we reached the end of the pitted bitumen road and onto the rough limestone rocky plain, where you could see for miles. Suddenly there was a hell of a crashing sound, which rocked our Chevy off course.

Immediately we fell out of each side of the car, face down on the rocky ground, peering up to see the car bump slowly away from us until it stalled on a rock. As there was no more noise, we slowly rose and looked around. There on our left, cleverly camouflaged, was a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery, which had just fired a salvo over our heads to the German positions some miles out on the plains.

The battery Commander just had time to tell us to block our ears and duck, when the three guns fired. We looked out to the front and saw the shells bursting in the desert. "You better get out of here" shouted the gunners, "we're expecting the Germans to start firing back at us as soon as they get our range".

This seemed to be daily exercise for the artillery on both sides, so we didn't stick around, but ran to where the car had stalled, doors wide open, and drove on to the dressing station, which was a very comfortable, very deep and very safe solid concrete two room pillbox below the desert sand, built by the Italians (always good with concrete). Only a direct hit on top could cause any trouble.

Shells whistled overhead, but we stayed until evening playing cards with the cash which I had delivered, which was the reason for our journey. Well, one of them anyway. We did also bring out a few parcels of drugs and medical accessories.

THE RACE THAT STOPPED A NATION (BUT NOT A WAR)

Story by Glenda Garde from Legacy Victoria website <https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/60c7fb60357927ff3c53033e>

As we are all no doubt aware, just last month the Melbourne Cup was once again run at Flemington Racecourse. And the Cup was run during both World Wars.



The text on the wall says, 'A good thing for the Cup but better for the tonsils'. Legatee Wilson's letter said the murals were: 'painted on three walls of a white concrete Italian block house (Police Check post I think), some 18/20 miles west of Tobruk, between Tobruk and Derna, and near a captured Italian airfield, somewhere about February 1941.

'They were very well done, by a competent Sign-writer/artist, in correct and excellent colours (captured Itie paint no doubt - there was plenty in their Naval Stores at Tobruk).' (NB Itie was slang for Italian).

'The photos were there when we were coming back from Western Libya sometime in March 1941, prior to the 6th Division going to Greece.'

This photo of a mural, which shows a bottle of Victorian Bitter Ale being poured into the Melbourne Cup trophy, was painted in Libya in 1941 by a South Australian Sapper.

The photo, and two others, were sent to Melbourne Legacy in 1979 by Legatee Syd Wilson of Yamba NSW. He thought that Melbourne Legacy could use the photos to generate money by selling them for advertising or publicity purposes. He said they were enlargements of snapshots he had found in his old army trunk.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 020095



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 020080

The AWM website states that the mural was painted by South Australian painter, SX538 Sapper Leslie John "Doc" Dawes, 2/3rd Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers, about kilometres 30 west of Tobruk.

Another famous painting by the same Tobruk 'artist' from the AWM collection which served as a reminder of home. This was one of many such signs which the Australians erected to show that "It's not far really". Tea prepared in Tobruk tasted of chlorine and brackish water, cream cakes were, of course, unknown and so the signboard received many a grin from the Rats, who appreciated the joke.

[For the punters amongst us, you may be interested to know that the 1941 Melbourne Cup was won by Skipton, carrying 47.6 kg at 8/1. He was ridden by W Cook, trained by J Fryer and the prize money was £7,700.]

VALE JOHN CAMPBELL POPE We are indebted to David Warren from the West Australian for this story.



John Pope, one of Australia's last surviving Rats of Tobruk, had cause to thank his nationality as a prisoner-of-war in Germany in early 1945. Awaiting execution by firing squad for a failed escape bid, John and two mates, Tom Comins and Allan Beecroft, were in cells underneath the local Gestapo headquarters when guards, accompanied by a senior officer, brought them each a bowl of soup.

Comins, who spoke fluent German heard the officer ask: "Why have these men not been shot?" Told that they were Australians, the officer could not understand why they would cross the world to fight in a conflict he perceived was not their problem, so he sent the trio back to join other prisoners without any punishment!

John was born in Katanning in March 1918, the third son of Dr Edward and Olive Pope. He attended Katanning Primary School before transferring at the age of 10 as a boarder at Guildford Grammar School where he became a prefect, captain of swimming and a member of the 1935 winning Alcock Cup (football) team. John wanted to go to university, but his father said that with his older brothers both studying medicine in Melbourne and two younger sisters being educated at Kobeelya Church of England Girls' School in Katanning he could not afford it. So John joined the Commonwealth Bank.

After the beginning of WWII John volunteered for war service and joined the WA-raised 2nd/28th Battalion, which was sent to the Middle East in early January 1941. In March, as part of the 9th Division, the Battalion was sent to Libya to garrison an area east of Tobruk, a strategic deepwater Mediterranean port. In April, after a strong attack by the German Africa Corps under General Erwin Rommel, it was forced to withdraw to Tobruk and helped defend the 'fortress' for the next six months.

As a Company Sergeant Major, John was a major player in the 2/28th's unsuccessful attempt to take the heavily-defended German Posts, known as Sugar Six and Seven, in August 1941. The action cost the Battalion dearly with 88 casualties killed, wounded and captured. John was one of those taken POW and sent to Campo 57 in northern Italy. After the Italian surrender in September 1943 John was taken to Lower Silesia in Germany. In late 1944 with the Russians advancing on the Eastern Front, the Germans started moving prisoners to the west of Germany, fearful they would become part of a larger invading force if freed by the Russians,

In late January 1945, in the middle of a freezing winter they began a 30-day/night march. On day 17 John, Comins and Beecroft escaped. Their freedom lasted only three days before they were recaptured, handed over to the Gestapo and taken to cells inside massive underground tunnels within a mountain near Nordhausen where V1 and V2 rockets were being assembled.

After avoiding execution and during an air raid in late March 1945 John, Comins and Beecroft used confusion in the camp to escape again, eventually linking up with American troops who provided them with travel passes, food and clothing. The trio then commandeered a German Officer's VW car and drove to Paris, where, uninvited, they attended a high-society cocktail party.

They were 'reacquainted' with Australian authorities after a British military policeman spotted them swanning around Paris, John conspicuous in a slouch hat. They were then transferred to Eastbourne in England, before repatriation to Australia.

Despite requesting to rejoin the 2/28th Battalion fighting in New Guinea, John was discharged from the Army in July 1945.

Before his war service overseas, John had become engaged to Helen Brisbane, daughter of David Brisbane CBE, a prominent WA engineer and director. They had known each other as children in Katanning when Helen was a boarder at Kobeelya and later reconnected at a ball at the Karrinyup Golf Club. They married in Claremont in August 1945 and John rejoined the Commonwealth Bank in Katanning. In 1949 he was transferred to Perth, eventually being appointed CBA ranch manager at Cottesloe and taking on the role of President of the CBA Managers' Association.

In 1962, with three sons at Scotch College and not wanting to disrupt their education by taking promotions in regional WA or in the Eastern States, John resigned and joined the stockbroking firm of Saw, Cambridge and Brannelly. He subsequently became a partner and was elected to the committee of the Perth Stock Exchange. He retired in 1986.

In 1971 Helen lost a long battle with cancer. In the early 1980s John met Muriel Gadsdon, and formed a partnership which lasted more than 30 years until her death in 2015.

John was a keen punter but decided it was time to give up at the age of 97 after he drove his car, accidentally, through the doors of the Cottesloe TAB. He surrendered his driver's licence soon after.

John was a keen golfer, first at Karrinyup and later at Cottesloe Golf Club, where he was a member for more than 50 years. He maintained a keen interest in other sports, was a member of many clubs and lived independently until his death in Perth at the age of 103. He is survived by his youngest son Graham, nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by sons Jonathan (2001) and Douglas (2002).

John kept in touch with his fellow escapees after the war. Tom Commins became one of Sydney's leading specialist surgeons and Allan Beecroft became the chief dyer for the Onkaparinga Woollen Mills in Tasmania. Comins was a RAAF Flight Lieutenant and Beecroft a Warrant Officer Class 1 with the 2/12th Battalion.

VETERANS' NEWS *Thanks to Lachlan Gaylard for collecting updates from many of our known remaining Rats.*



Tom Pritchard and Christine Mulvany

Tom Pritchard - Tom remains in good health, and on a recent visit by committee members Christine Mulvany and Glenda Garde, he took great pleasure in showing us around his thriving vegie plot. (No fresh vegies 80 years ago in Tobruk!) His vegie plot has abundant parsley, spring onions, lettuce and rhubarb and you will never leave his house empty handed.

His gardening advice is also welcome and usually, spot on, especially when it comes to rolled up newspaper and earwigs. Lockdown has meant Tom has had to take it easy, but he remains in good health and enjoys listening to the radio and watching the 'gee-gees'. He was very much looking forward to Melbourne Cup Day.

Geoff Pullman – Geoff was still in lockdown at his aged care facility and missing visits from his daughters and other family but takes comfort from the lovely view from his room. He is really looking forward to a return to normality, hopefully in time for his 102nd birthday in November.



Don Simpson and his "drum kit"



Don tests out "Simpson" the new people mover



Geoff Pullman approaching 102 yrs

Don Simpson – Don is keeping well and filling in his time with his newfound hobby, playing the drums. (Improvising with a turned over bucket)

At Don Simpson's retirement village it was decided to buy a brand-new people mover, but the question that arose was what to name it?

After many submissions from other residents, it was decided that SIMPSON would adorn the mover. A twofold naming, for Simpson is synonymous with the moving of people given the Simpson and his Donkey story from the First World War, the other of course being Don Simpson, the oldest (and very respected) resident at nearly 103. Don was chuffed at the idea of having something named after him, especially it being something so useful.

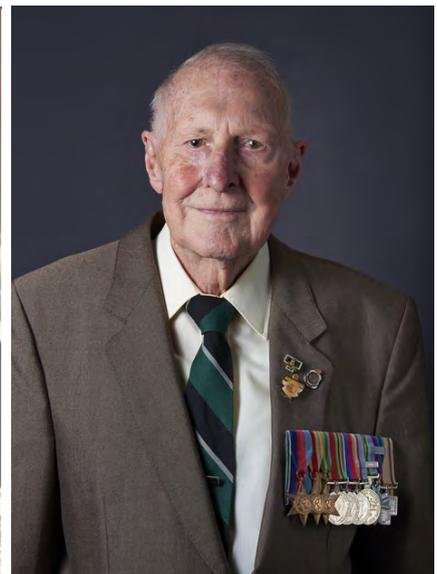
Ernie Walker – Ernie, at 105, is still enjoying his 27-acre property. His daughter reported that he was recently up at dawn doing some hazard reduction burning with a friend!



John Campbell



Ernie Walker



Bert le Merton

John Campbell – John continues to bounce back from recent health troubles and is enjoying time spent with his family. (Plus a cheeky ice-cream desert most nights.)

Bert le Merton - Bert has been unwell and just did a stint in the local hospital. He's now back at his aged care home and is on the mend. His son told him he'd dodged another bullet and he responded, "I dodged a few ten pounders in my time." Bert turns 103 next month.



Dick Burgess

Dick Burgess – Dick says he is as well as any 101 yr old in aged care but he lives by the motto 'Laugh don't cry'. He sends his best wishes to all and is particularly chuffed to see the increase in member numbers.

Joe Darley - Joe is travelling well and sends his best wishes. Joe is approaching his 100th very soon, although his daughter says he isn't as excited as the rest of the family.

Dennis Davis – Denis was recently lucky to celebrate his 101st birthday with family the weekend before the NSW lockdown. Present were all twenty of his great grandchildren spanning from 25 yrs to 1 month.



Dennis Davis celebrating his 101st birthday in fine style with his family

Syd Kinsman – Syd is keeping well having reached his century earlier this year. He and his wife June (married 71 years) still enjoy a variety of guests at the family home Syd built. When not entertaining he can usually be found in his garden.

With Christmas approaching Syd is preparing to transform the Kidman household with his traditional spectacular light display. Syd is renown for his Christmas lights which are very popular with the local residents and usually feature in the local paper. (And often in the THN.)



Syd Kinsman proudly showing off some roses from his garden



Harry Crick is looking forward to getting out again

Harry Crick – Harry is fed up with the pandemic, having just finished 14 days isolated in his room.

Harry recently celebrated his 103rd birthday and he believes that two pandemics in one lifetime is more than enough! He is looking forward to being able to attend the next ROTA event.

Fred Rose – We are very pleased to report that Fred has recovered from a recent quite serious illness and is back at his nursing home. Fred is our sole surviving Rat from West Australia.

We wish all our Rats good health and happiness

AN ENDURING AUSTRALIAN & POLISH FRIENDSHIP TO BE CELEBRATED AT SPECIAL ON-LINE SHRINE CEREMONY

The Shrine of Remembrance, in partnership with the Institute of National Remembrance, Poland, presents a digital event honouring the enduring legacy of the Australian and Polish Rats of Tobruk on 27 November 2021 07:00 pm - 08:30 pm

Join Dr Mark Johnston, Professor Marek Wierzbicki and Lucyna Artymiuk as they discuss the shared experiences of the Australians and Poles in Tobruk.

Hear how the friendships forged in a small, coastal town in northern Africa influenced Australia's post-war migration policies.

Between April and November 1941, 14,000 Australians were besieged within the Libyan fortress of Tobruk by a powerful Italo-German army. Ordered to deny Tobruk to the enemy for eight weeks, the men held out for five months. Pro-Nazi propagandist and broadcaster Lord Haw Haw (William Joyce) described the defenders as 'rats'—an insult which they adopted as a badge of honour.

Exhausted, the Australian troops were progressively withdrawn from Tobruk between August and November 1941. Other troops including the Carpathian Brigade, comprising soldiers who had escaped Poland after its conquest by the Nazis and Soviets in 1939, relieved them. It was the Poles who finally ended the siege when they captured Acroma and linked up with the British 8th Army. In recognition of this feat, the Australians shared with the Poles their most venerated title. Henceforth, the Poles too would be 'Rats of Tobruk'.

Between 1947 and 1948, Australian veterans of Tobruk helped sponsor the migration of 1,500 Polish soldiers to Australia when it became impossible for these men to return to their homeland, due to Soviet occupation.

Please note: This event will be exclusively live streamed and only available to view on the Shrine's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

NEW ROTA BADGED FACEMASKS

With face masks becoming a normal part of our "going out" wardrobe, we are pleased to be able to offer a new version of the facemask. It is available in two colours. \$14 each.



This reusable hygienic mask is made of cotton and polyester double layer. The fabric is processed with HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 technology, a high efficiency treatment proven to neutralize bacteria.

With ergonomic front stitching for a comfortable fit and elastic ear bands in hypoallergenic fabric, with OEKO-TEX Class I certification, this is a high-quality mask for everyday use.

Presented in an individual bag. For personal use by adults. Certified by EU Notified Body. Bacterial filtration efficiency: $\geq 90\%$. Highly resistant, up to 25 washing cycles. (A minimum washing temperature of 60°C is recommended.)

EVERY MEMBER CAN BE A RECRUITER – SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OFFER

NO JOINING FEE, AS LITTLE AS \$2 PER MONTH MEMBERSHIP.

This 80th Anniversary year is quickly approaching the end. COVID-19 has made this a difficult time for many and the famous words 'No Surrender' could not be more apt.

As part of its commemoration activities this year, the association is undertaking a membership drive.

For a limited time, the family of members (wives, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces and nephews), can join the association with no joining fee. In addition, the \$30 annual subscription fee payable with the application, will apply to 2022. This means that the new member can benefit from up to 15 months of membership for \$2 per month, depending on when they join.

To take advantage of this special offer, simply write the words 'No Surrender' on the Application Form (see page 26).

Offer ends 31 December 2021.



THE RATS OF TOBRUK EXHIBITION REOPENS IN CENTRAL VICTORIA

The President of the Bendigo District RSL Sub-Branch has advised that easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, has allowed the 'Rats of Tobruk Exhibition' at their 'Soldiers Memorial Institute Military Museum', to reopen.



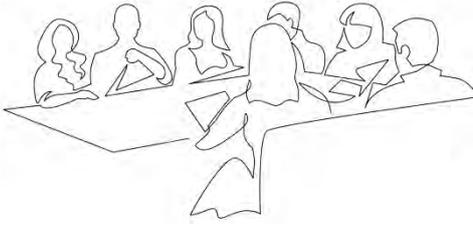
The exhibition will now run until the end of January.

The Military Museum's collection of Tobruk related exhibits and memorabilia has been combined with the story panels provided by the Rats of Tobruk Association, resulting in a very impressive and informative display.

With Central Victoria opening to tourism again, this is a great opportunity for families to come to Bendigo over the school holidays, and visit many of its attractions, including the Military Museum and exhibition.

The Military Museum is open on Saturday's from 11 am to 3 pm. The Admission Fee is \$9 for adults (concessional rates are available). You can confirm that the Military Museum is open on a particular Saturday by ringing 03 5442 2950.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!



In the August edition of the Tobruk House News, President Graham Gibson reported that at the next Annual General Meeting in February, there will be a 'changing of the guard' with respect to the Executive positions on the Committee of Management.

This changeover will result in several non-executive (ordinary committee member) vacancies on the committee. This is a great opportunity to get involved giving back to the association and helping guide it through the next few years. Members with knowledge and skills in social media, website administration, finance, marketing, governance, event management, or other fields of expertise which would benefit the association, are encouraged to volunteer.

With modern technology such as video conferencing, you don't have to live in Melbourne to become a committee member.

To find out more please ring Graham Gibson on 0414 700 180. The Nomination Form is on page 23 of this edition. The completed Nomination Form must reach the Secretary by 31 January 2022.



NEW LAPEL BADGES.



We are pleased to offer this beautiful new Lapel badge in time for Christmas. It is based on the well known original medal design, pictured below (left). It is 25mm in diameter and produced in metal with an antique bronze appearance. There are two versions of the fixing – stick pin or a butterfly/clutch attachment

This is a limited offer at a great price of \$15.00 incl postage. Please use the Merchandise Order form on page 27 to place your order.



The clutch or butterfly clips over the pin behind the badge.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to ROTA:

George Luk Leon Kippin Robert Hodgson Sam Hall (UK)
Judy Dorber

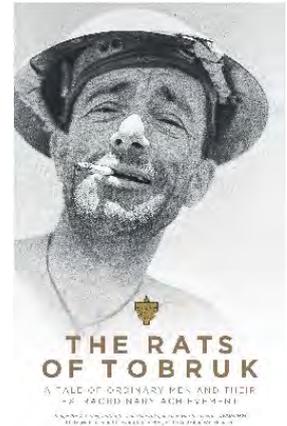


Your membership helps to ensure the legacy of the Rats of Tobruk

WA RATS' DESCENDANTS FLOCK TO PRINCESS ROYAL FORTRESS

David Theodore, the Curator at Albany's Princess Royal Fortress advised that our exhibition has attracted a great deal of interest from Rats descendants including those of:

Private Athol Roy JURY WX5871 – grand-daughter
Private James Gordon HOGG VX5777 – son
Harold SMITH (unknown as there's numerous listed) – nephew
A Polish Carpathian Lancer (name not noted) – son
Plus they've had a visit from Albert JACKA VC great niece.



(Readers will recall seeing photographs of the museum's presentation in the October edition of the THN.)

The exhibition has also attracted interstate virtual visitation from Australian Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Rtd) and Her Excellency Mrs Hurley. A former Officer in the Australian Army and now the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Defence Force, the Governor-General's interest in military history is deep rooted in his life and career.

"It is important that we continue to honour all those who have served our country," the Governor-General said.

"The Rats of Tobruk Exhibition brings the service, sacrifice and bravery of the men who served there to life for younger generations – it helps ensure that they will never be forgotten. Linda and I are delighted to be able to tour virtually and look forward to visiting Albany in person when conditions permit."

Mayor of Albany Dennis Wellington said it was an honour and a privilege to take the Governor-General on a virtual tour of the Rats of Tobruk exhibition.

"We are lucky enough to have this exhibition of true Australian spirit in Albany and are thrilled that the Governor-General is virtually able to tour the exhibit," he said. "Covid has changed how many of us live our lives, so the fact we can offer this tour virtually to our Governor-General amid a lockdown is just a wonderful example of our ability to adapt."

The Governor-General virtually toured the exhibit on Thursday 16 September along with 2 Rats of Tobruk Western Australian members and 4 local descendants.



His Excellency the Governor General David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Hurley saw a smaller version of the exhibition at Tobruk House earlier this year when they were honoured guests at the 80th Anniversary of the Siege held on Tobruk Sunday. Normally the entire exhibition is on display but on special occasions, when space is at a premium, only a representative selection of the 24 panels is on display seen here on the right side at the front of the hall.



ROTA MERCHANDISE

See Order Form on page 27 for postage costs and other details.



LADIES SUMMER POPPY SCARF
Grey, Dark Blue, Light Blue, White, Black
\$15



ROTA ROSEWOOD PLAQUE
with 'No Surrender' scroll
\$95



ROTA FACEMASK
Comfortable cotton & polyester,
hypoallergenic fabric. Washable.
Black or Blue. One size fits all
\$14



80th ANNIVERSARY TWO-UP SET
Includes kip and two 1941 pennies
\$17



80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE BAR MAT
\$40



ROTA BADGE CAR WINDOW
STICKER
Sticks to inside of window
(External version also available)
\$10



ROTA 'BASEBALL' CAP
\$20



ROTA LAPEL BADGE
Stick Pin or
Butterfly/clutch fitting
\$15



80th ANNIVERSARY
SIEGE MEDAL \$50



ROTA 80th ANNIVERSARY
RUGBY TOP
\$45



ROTA 80th ANNIVERSARY
POLO SHIRT
\$40



STUBBY HOLDER
Features selected verses
from a poem written during
the siege.
\$9



RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION INC

Registration No: A0054511Y

NOMINATION FORM

Committee Members for 2022

In accordance with the Association Rules (2017), at the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM), all positions on the Committee of Management will be declared vacant and elections held for these positions. Nominations are sought to fill these positions. All nominations must be on this Nomination Form.

The following rules apply:

- Only a member entitled to vote at general meetings (must be financial), is eligible for nomination.
- Only a member, who has been a member of the Committee for the 12 month period prior to the AGM, is eligible for nomination for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
- An eligible member can nominate himself or herself; or with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.
- Completed nomination forms must reach the Secretary by 31 January 2022. (Completed forms can be sent by mail to Tobruk House, 44 Victoria Avenue, Albert Park, Victoria, 3206 or electronically to ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com)
- The Committee has the discretion to reject a nomination, where the form is not correctly completed.
- A member can be nominated for more than one position.

I hereby nominate: _____
(eligible member's name)

for the position of (please tick the applicable box(s)):

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Ordinary Committee Member

Nominator's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nominated Person's Consent (only required where nominated by another member):

I, _____ accept this nomination.
(member's name)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RATS OF TOBRUK NEUROSCIENCE FELLOWSHIP FUND

In the February edition of the Tobruk House News, the launch of the 80th Anniversary appeal was announced. The aim is to raise during 2021, \$100,000 that will go into the **'Rats of Tobruk Association Neuroscience Fellowship Fund'**, which has become a 'virtual' monument to the mighty Rats of Tobruk.



Since the fellowship fund was established by the surviving veterans, an annual Fellowship has been awarded to a young doctor so that he or she can undertake studies associated with paediatric neuroscience. The Fellowship has had an inspirational track record of success and achievement. It is a sought after, prestigious fellowship. The growing number of recipients is contributing to an international network of paediatric neuroscience specialist.

Thank you to all those who have contributed. Nevertheless, we are not there yet. There is no better way to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the siege than by donating to the appeal. With the support of all descendants and friends, the ambitious target will be achieved.

The link to this appeal is <https://www.mycase.com.au/page/241888/siege-of-tobruk-80th-anniversary-appeal>

Adding a gift in your Will is another way to help ensure the continuation of the Fellowship.

To learn more about how you can contribute to this most worthy cause by adding a gift in your will, or most importantly, to let the Foundation know of your intention, please contact
Ally Pekin, Planned Giving, RCH Foundation
(03 9345 6389 or email: Ally.Pekin@rch.org.au)

NOTICE: ROTA SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE FOR PAYMENT ON 1ST JANUARY 2022

Affiliate members are reminded that this year's subscription is due for payment on 1st January. The subscription remains at \$30 for 2022.

Please note that individual payment requests are not normally sent to members. The cooperation of members by responding to this notice and paying their subscription as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated.

For payment information please refer to the 2022 Annual Subscription Payment Form on the next page.

If you are paying by EFT, ensure you include a unique reference such as your surname and membership no.

If you pay by over-the-counter bank deposit, please ensure you send details to ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com or post to The Secretary, ROTA, 44 Victoria Ave, Albert Park, 3206.

This is important for correct matching of payments, as bank deposits do not have adequate referencing. Payment can now be made using a credit or debit card. Please note that Tobruk Veterans and their wives or widows, are exempt from paying the annual subscription. Life and Honorary members are also exempt.



RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION INC MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

Item	Cost per Item	Quantity	Size S,M,L, XL,XXL	Postage Yes/No	Postage	Total	Comments
Rats of Tobruk, 1941, Lapel Badge - butterfly /clutch fitting	\$15				Inc postage		
Rats of Tobruk, 1941, Lapel Badge - stick pin fitting	\$15				Inc postage		
80 th Anniversary Medal	\$50				\$10		Postage for up to 2 badges to same address.
80 th Anniversary Mug	\$18				\$10		Postage for up to 4 mugs to same address.
80 th Anniversary Rugby Top	\$45				\$10		
80 th Anniversary Polo Shirt	\$40				\$10		
80 th Anniversary Two-Up Set	\$17				Inc postage		
ROTA "baseball" style cap	\$20				\$10		
ROTA Bar Mat Runner	\$40				\$10		
Badge Car Window Sticker	\$10				Inc Postage		20% discount for more than one sticker.
ROTA Stubby Holder	\$9				\$6		\$10 postage for up to 6.
ROTA Rosewood Plaque	\$95				\$10		
			Colour				
ROTA Face Mask	\$14				\$2		\$60 for five masks plus \$6 postage.
Ladies Poppy Scarf (light weight)	\$15				\$6		
\$10 postage for orders of multiple items to the same address				Total amount to be paid:		\$	

Payment is required before the items are sent. Delivery time can vary depending on stock availability and could be up to 6 weeks. Payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT) is our preferred method of payment. Payment can also be made by card, cheque, or money order.
 EFT Payment: If you are paying by EFT, it is important that you include a unique reference so that the payment can be matched to the members register. A suggested reference is the abbreviation 'MERCH' followed by your surname.

Bank Account Name: Rats of Tobruk Association BSB: 013 223 Account No: 2102 51748

Payment can also be made by Credit or Debit Card.
 To arrange this please ring our Merchandising Officer, Graeme Clifford: 0418 882 323

Purchaser's Name: _____ Contact Phone No: _____
 (Please Print)

Email Address: _____@_____

Delivery Address: _____

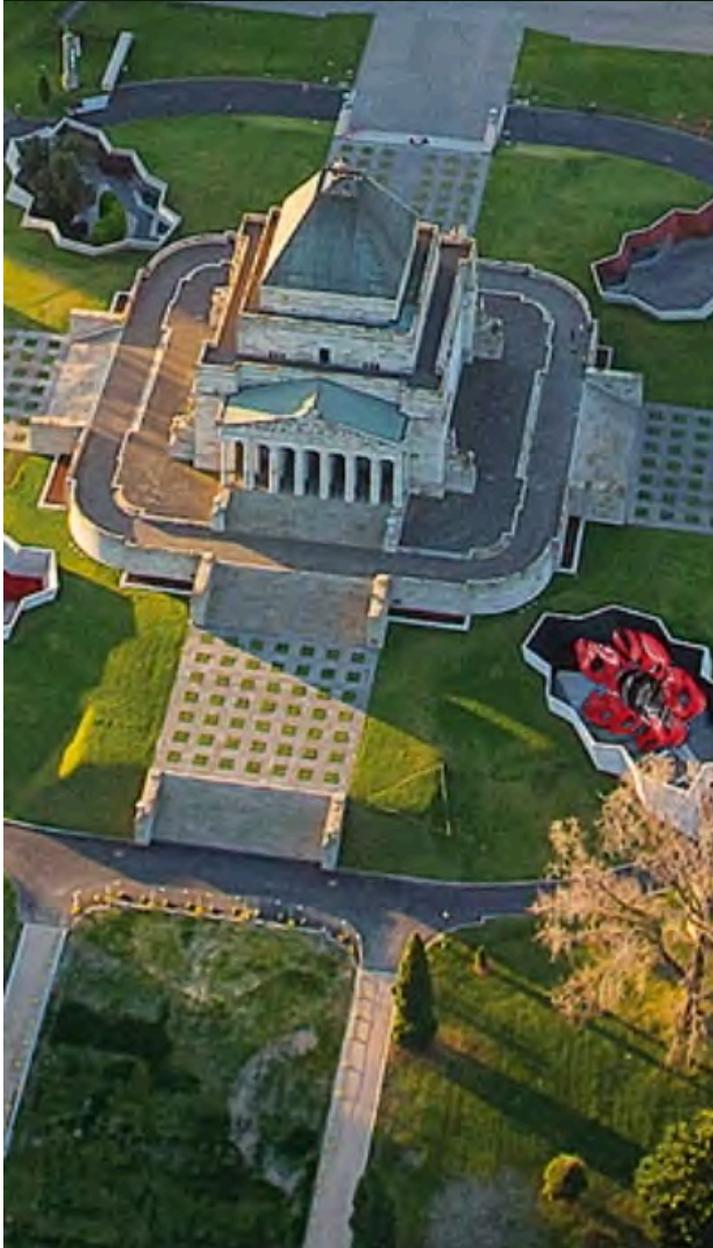
Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Please forward completed form to: 'Merchandise Officer, ROTA, 44 Victoria Av, Albert Park, Vic, 3206.

If you pay by EFT or card, you can scan this form and email to: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com
 All enquiries to the Merchandise Officer (Graeme Clifford)

email: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com Phone: 0418 882 323

What's on at The Shrine

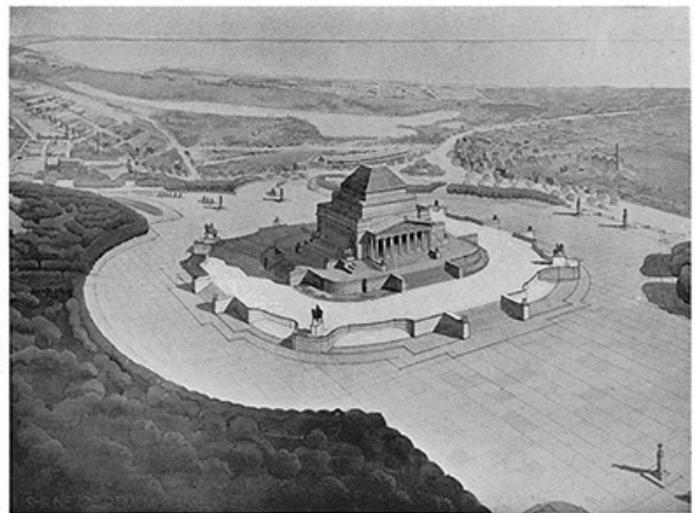


LUST LOVE LOST



The complex issues surrounding matters of love and sex profoundly affect people everywhere, every day. Wartime is no exception. Indeed, the disruptive nature of war and the extraordinary situations it brings about magnifies human experience in these areas.

THE HISTORY OF THE SHRINE



Learn why the Shrine was built. Who built it and what inspired its design? Follow a timeline of the Shrine's history and view a gallery of historical photos.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS



Immerse yourself in the visual world of three contemporary artists who explore the experience of being a recent veteran. Traversing painting, sculpture and street art, each artist interrogates notions of identity, dislocation and resilience.

Through a mixture of humour, subtlety and vibrantly rich iconography, their art represents a conversation between the wider veteran community and those of us who have never served.

LAST POST – Every Sunday at 4.45PM



The Last Post Service is another reason to make a family visit to the Shrine on Sunday afternoons. This new moving ceremony features a piper, bugler and Shrine Guard in historic uniform.