

PHOTO STUDY OF

AUSTRALIA 2/23 and 2/24 BATTALIONS

PART 2

TARAKAN ISLAND, 1945-05-22. MEMBERS OF PIONEER PLATOON, HQ COMPANY, 2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION, MOVING ALONG THE CREST OF THE ELBOW AFTER DELOUSING JAPANESE BOOBY TRAPS AND CUTTING STEPS IN THE VARIOUS SLOPES TO FACILITATE THE EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED DURING THE COMING ATTACK ON JAPANESE POSITIONS.



A hammock swung between two piles of rocks and sandbags was the temporary home for this member of the 2/23rd Infantry Battalion.



A memorial service was held by members of 2/23rd Battalion for fallen comrades. The battalion choir, accompanied by the band, is singing during the service. Chaplain NX93451 Gloster Stuart Udy is on the far right. VX46109 Private Clyde Henry Douglas Cameron is standing second from the left.



An unidentified Australian Serviceman with 'Smiler', a pet monkey which is the mascot of 2/23rd Australian Infantry Battalion (known as Albury's own). 'Smiler' has seen quite a lot of active service, and is in fact, a bit "bomb happy". He can distinguish between friendly and enemy planes and dives for a slit trench immediately on hearing the latter.



**SYRIA. 1942-03. THIS
RHESUS MONKEY,
"SMILER", WAS
ACQUIRED BY THE
2/23RD INFANTRY
BATTALION AT
AMIRIYA. HE IS SEEN
WITH DRIVER G.
RINTEL WHO WAS
RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS
CARE.**



**BURLEIGH HEADS,
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.
1944-07-14. MEMBERS OF THE
7TH DIVISION LIFE SAVING
TEAM WHO ARE ON DUTY AT
THE BEACH NEAR THE 7TH
DIVISION PHYSICAL TRAINING**

CAMP. IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE:- WX112
PRIVATE J. DICKIE, 2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION
(1); SX3453 SERGEANT J. SCALLY, 2/27TH
INFANTRY BATTALION (2); QX28537 PRIVATE M.W.
BARLTROP, 2/14TH INFANTRY BATTALION (3);
SX18016 PRIVATE D.E. BOWDEN, 2/33RD
INFANTRY BATTALION (4); NX92115 PRIVATE A.
MCGILCHRIST, 2/31ST INFANTRY BATTALION (5);
NX126763 PRIVATE J.F. CHRISTENSEN, 2/27TH
INFANTRY BATTALION (6).



**CAIRNS, QLD. 1943-08-01. TROOPS OF THE 1ST SIGNAL
PLATOON, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2/23RD BATTALION,
26TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, ON THE WHARF.
SHOWN ARE:- VX46928 PRIVATE (PTE) BERRY (1); VX30437 PTE
H. J. JAMIESON (2); VX75770 PTE T. J. DELANEY (3); VX40829
PTE J. M. BUTLER (4); VX47418 PTE C. W. MCLEAN (5); VX42164
PTE S. T. GOODALL (6); VX37910 PTE R. A. STEELE (7); VX117914
PTE F. W. FIRTH (8); VX61932 PTE E. H. ELLIS (9); VX29601 PTE
D. CARMICHAEL (10); VX25338 PTE G. SCHRAM (11); VX73218
PTE R. YORKE (12); VX26312 PTE V. VENVILLE (13).**

IN NEXT 2 PHOTOS:



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

055033





**CAIRNS, QLD. 1943-08-01.
VX46649 PRIVATE DUNNE
(LEFT) AND VX60438
PRIVATE BRAYBON OF THE
2/23RD BATTALION, 26TH
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
BRIGADE, CHOOSE HARD
BEDS AND PILLOWS FOR
THEIR NAPS.**



**CAIRNS, QLD. 1943-08-01. VX50855
PRIVATE K. W. MURPHY OF THE 2/23RD
BATTALION, 26TH AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BRIGADE IS PROUD OF HIS
NEWLY SHAVEN HEAD....A LITTLE MORE
THAN A 'HIGH AND TIGHT.'**



**CAIRNS, QLD. 1943-08-01.
VX46698 PRIVATE (PTE) G.
E. MOORE (1) OF THE
2/23RD BATTALION, 26TH
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY
BRIGADE, TRIES OUT HIS
HAMMOCK WHILE
VX61025 PTE J. E. LYNCH
(2) AND VX124472 PTE C.
BOULTER (3) LOOKS ON.**

Marching to consecration of the 2/23 Battalion colours.



In a section of the Tobruk salient, at Headquarters 2/23rd Battalion near the front line, three members are making toast over an open fire.

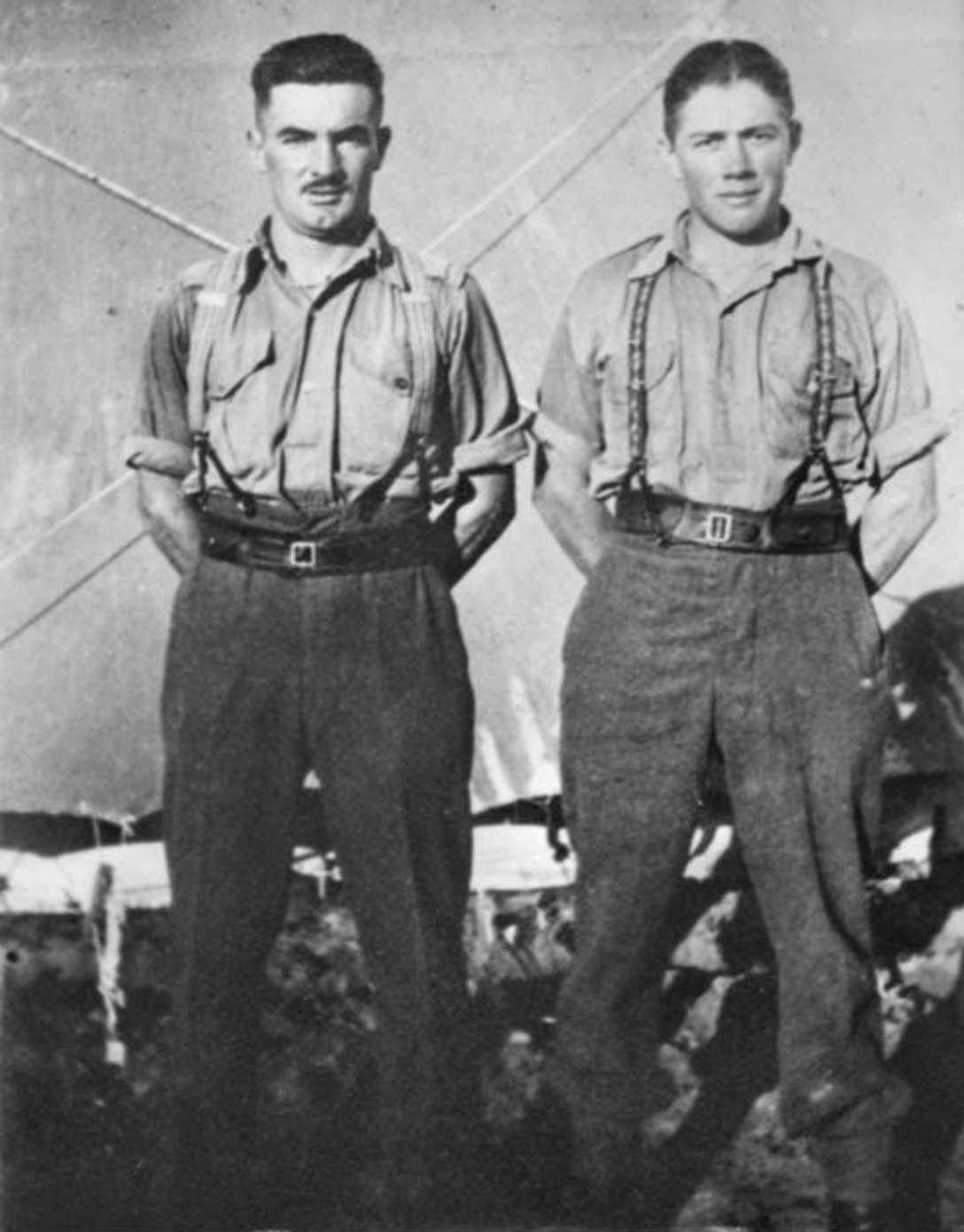


Informal group portrait of members of D Company, 2/23rd Battalion. Identified, left to right, back row: VX42953 Private (Pte) Garnet Keith (Gar) Clements, of Cobden, Vic; VX42971 Pte David Clifford (Dave) Ross, of Camperdown, Vic; VX24356 Lance Sergeant (LSgt) Ronald James (Ron) Hacking, of St Kilda, Vic; VX44550 Pte Gordon Raymond Greskie, of Edi, Vic; VX47486 Sergeant (Sgt) Thomas James (Tommy) Peel, of Euroa, Vic. Front row: VX47524 Pte William Gordon (Gordon) Langer, of Albury, Vic; VX42964 Pte Joseph John (Joe) Egan, of Allansford, Vic; VX42936 Pte Cyril Geoffrey (Geoff) Boyle, of Mepunga East, Vic; VX42880 Pte William John (Bill) Mills, of Hamilton, Vic, or 'Scotty' Stewart ; VX42256 Gunner (Gnr) John Frederick (Jack) Travers, of Tumbarumba, Vic. Pte Greskie was killed in action on 6 May 1941, in Tobruk, Libya, aged 28. Pte Clements, Pte Ross, LSgt Hacking, Pte Langer, Pte Boyle and Gnr Travers were wounded in action in Tobruk on 17 May 1941, in the same action Pte Egan was killed in action on 17 May 1941. Sgt Boyle was wounded in action at Tobruk on 17 May 1941 and later in El Alamein on 22 July 1942. Pte Mills was wounded in action in El Alamein on 29 October 1942.



Studio portrait of brothers, VX40139 Private (Pte) Lawrence Anthony Egan (left) and VX42964 Pte Joseph John (Joe) Egan (right), of Allansford, Vic. Both enlisted with the 2/23rd Battalion on 29 June 1940, and Pte Joe Egan was killed in action in Tobruk, Libya, on 17 May 1941, aged 24.



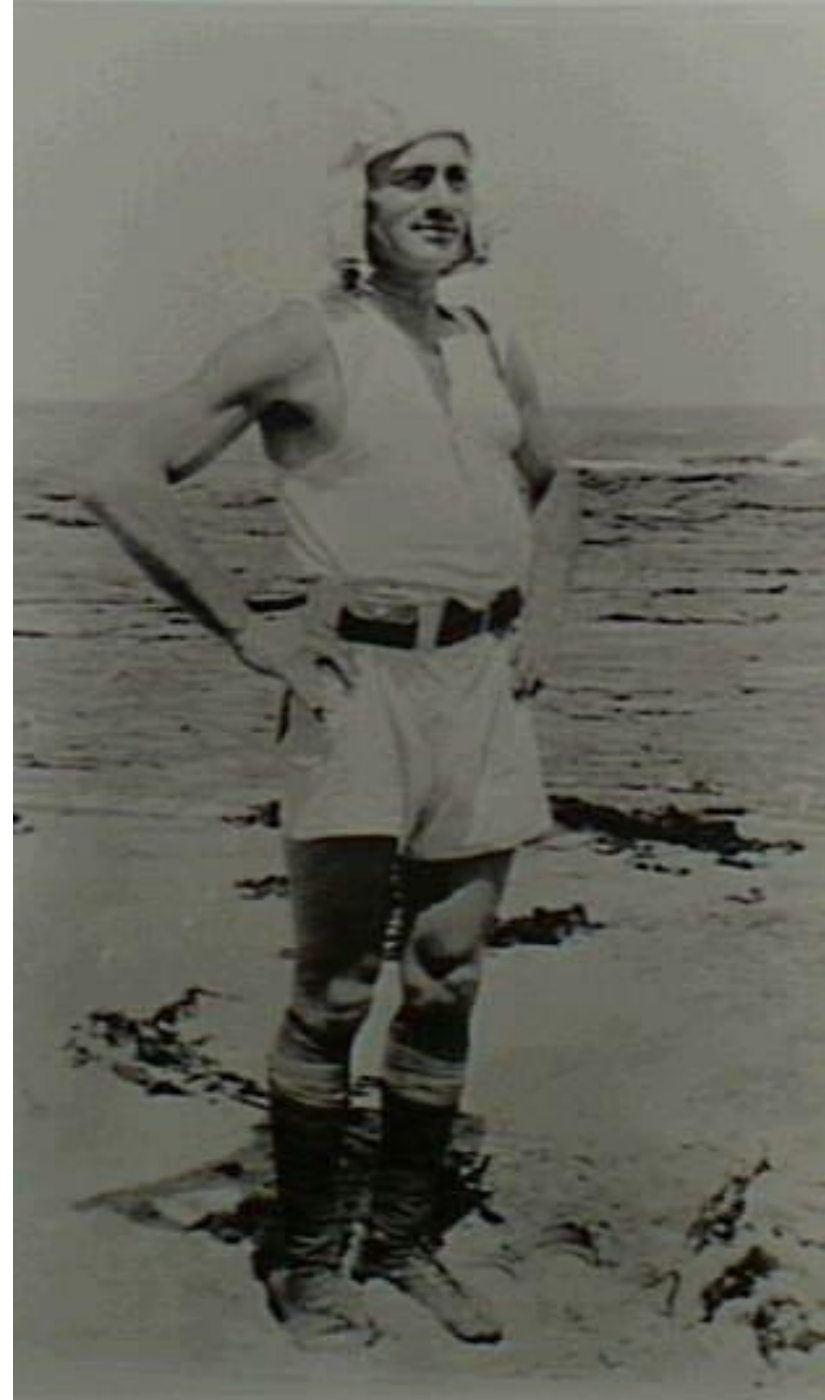


Informal portrait VX42964 Private (Pte) Joseph John (Joe) Egan, of Allansford, Vic, (left) and VX42936 Sergeant (Sgt) Cyril Geoffrey (Geoff) Boyle, of Mepunga East, Vic (right). Both enlisted with the 2/23rd Battalion on 29 June 1940, and Pte Joe Egan was killed in action in Tobruk, Libya, on 17 May 1941, aged 24. Sgt Boyle was wounded in the same action at Tobruk on 17 May 1941 and later in El Alamein on 22 July 1941



Informal outdoor portrait of VX42393 Private (Pte) Henry George Peacock of Glenrowan, Vic. Enlisting in the Second AIF in June 1940, Pte Peacock served in the Middle East with the 2/23 Battalion. He was killed during the battalion's defence of Tobruk on 17 May 1941, aged 22. Pte Peacock is standing in the garden of the Tallangatta home. A young boy, Doug Bourke stands near the fence.

1928. Informal portrait of Private George Frederick Smith, 23rd Battalion City of Geelong (Colac). Private Smith, later Lieutenant Colonel Smith DSO ED, played an important role in anti malarial discipline and drug use, receiving a Mention in Despatches (MID) in 1945 having rendered gallant and distinguished service in the South West Pacific Area. (Donor E. Smith)



Members of 8 Platoon, A Company and 15 Platoon C Company, 2/23 Battalion with maps on Mt Api. Identified are: 1. NX110694 Private (Pte) S. Johnston; 2. SX30792 Pte K Pascoe; 3. NX168415 Pte H Goodard; 4. QX55765 Pte O'Callaghan; 5. WX26757 Pte E Carter; 6. VX73891 Lance Corporal A Fraser; 7. VX93601 Pte W. Chennall; 8. VX93510 Pte C Duffy; 9. NX174271 Pte D Geekie; 10. unidentified; 11. VX24659 Corporal (Cpl) T Porter; 12. NX5707 Pte V Gunst; 13. WX19004 Pte C Hunt; 14. VX55811 Sergeant Rimmington; 15. unidentified; 16. VX42856 Pte A Carmody; 17. Cpl J Shaw; 18. unidentified; 19. VX68777 Pte C Goulding; figures marked 20-23 are all unidentified.



Members of 16 Platoon, D Company, 2/23 Infantry Battalion, grouped on Margy Feature. Identified, standing, left to right: QX26581 Sergeant (Sgt) N McD Smith; unidentified artilleryman; QX46684 Sgt H Pugsley; unidentified artilleryman; VX42917 Lieutenant M Zukerman; VX91144 Pte F Arnold (extreme back); VX5062 Captain R F H Row; VX110420 Pte V E Stevens; VX72502 Pte E Walpole; VX131027 Pte G Whitaker. Front row, sitting: NX170707 Private (Pte) A J Riddle; VX134300 Pte G Boyle; VX122900 Pte R Wright (holding Japanese flag); VX176304 Pte G Griffiths (partially obscured); VX92846 Staff Sergeant J H Kenwood; NX173146 Pte J Jacobs; VX87994 Pte E Lucas; VX87378 Pte J Cook; QX49171 Corporal (Cpl) R T Coghill.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

108563

16 Platoon, D Company, 2/23 Infantry Battalion

Members of 13th Battery, 2/7th Field Regiment bringing up sections of a captured Japanese 75mm gun which they are to use during the attack on the Japanese positions on Freda Feature in support of 2/23rd Battalion. Identified: left to right; Gunner (Gnr) M P Mackay (1); WX10840 Gnr Charlie Kench, of West Perth, WA (2); WX29551 Gnr Gerard Augustine Fitzgerald, of Subiaco, WA (3); SX11109 Bombardier Bernard James Threadgold, of Solomontown, SA (4); SX12821 Lance Bombardier Frank Dadds, of Magill, SA (5); SX33333 Gnr William Ronald Whitford (6).



Members of the 2/23rd Infantry Battalion Australian Rules Football team which defeated the team from the 2/43rd Infantry Battalion in the 9th Division Australian Rules Football Competition: Left to right, back row: VX43788 Private (Pte) W P Zampaitti; VX25366 Sergeant (Sgt) E J Norton VX29595 Sgt J J Cook; VX25268 Warrant Officer Class 2 K R Fox; VX47139 Lance Corporal (LCpl) W L Thomas; NX156427 Pte W A Bagley; VX68188 Pte A R Siphthorne. Middle row: VX48324 Pte L R Clough; VX70110 LCpl C McKenzie; VX57336 Pte T P Carrigan; WX33114 LCpl F C Hassett; VX75663 LCpl G G Jarman; VX71225 Pte W A J Tatt; VX70496 Pte F J Ryan. Front row: VX74624 Pte H J Meaney; VX139406 C M Powell; VX60446 LCpl T N Cooke; VX61932 Pte H E Ellis; VX106855 Pte G J Smith; VX74650 Pte S G Spence.



MOROTAI ISLAND. 1945-05-17.
CAPTAIN T.S. MONKS, BRITISH
BORNEO CIVIL AFFAIRS UNIT (1),
LIEUTENANT D.W. ATKINS, 2/23
INFANTRY BATTALION (2), AND
LIEUTENANT J. GREGORY, 17
ADVANCED ORDNANCE DEPOT
(3). LIEUTENANT ATKINS WAS
WOUNDED IN THE ARMS WHILE
THROWING GRENADES AT
TARAKAN.



**MOROTAI ISLAND. 1945-
05-17. LIEUTENANT S.
SMITH, 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION (1), WHO
LOST AN ARM AT
TARAKAN, BEING
TREATED BY CAPTAIN F.B.
AVELING, AUSTRALIAN
ARMY NURSING SERVICE
(2)**



**MOROTAI. 1945-05-16.
STRETCHER BEARERS OF
2/12 FIELD AMBULANCE
CARRYING PRIVATE W.G.
BOWELL, 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION (1), DOWN
THE RAMP OF LANDING
SHIP, TANK (LST), DURING
UNLOADING AT BLUE
BEACH OF THE WOUNDED
FROM TARAkan ISLAND.
THEY WERE TAKEN BY
AMBULANCE TO 2/5
GENERAL HOSPITAL.**



New Guinea. Captain J. Cudlipp, Company Commander of B Company, 2/23rd Battalion fatally wounded by shellfire on Green Ridge is carried out on the track to a regimental aid post during the attack on Sattelberg. Stretchers bearers, Lance Corporal Alvin Hatters, Corporal Doug Coutts (helmet). Far left is Lieutenant Allan Lyne. Matilda tanks were used to blast Japanese positions in the village.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

016227

IN NEXT PHOTO: Outdoor group portrait of members of the 2/23rd Battalion Carrier Platoon on the beach near Dimra, Palestine in January 1941. (Dimra was a small Arab village 11 kilometres north east of Gaza City.) Identified at the back are: VX38931 Private (Pte) Stanley Twyford Peters from Arawata, Victoria (killed in action on 17 May 1941 during the Siege of Tobruk, Libya); VX46250 Corporal (Cpl) John Patrick Joy from Woolonga, Victoria (killed in action on 17 May 1941 during the Siege of Tobruk); and VX27410 Cpl James William Swinton from Cobden, Victoria. In the middle from left to right are: VX27790 Pte Lennox Mortimer from Caulfield, Victoria (later promoted to Lance Sergeant); VX19116 Sergeant (Sgt) Colin Gilchrist Rigg from Caulfield (later promoted to Captain and awarded Military Medal); VX42266 Cpl John Leslie Johnson from Walwa, Victoria; VX22370 Cpl Glen Edward Craigie from North Essendon, Victoria (later promoted to Lieutenant); VX26647 Cpl Ferguson Willians Simpson from Oaklands, NSW (killed in action on 22 July 1942 in First Battle of El Alamein); and VX47693 Cpl Albert Charles Artis from Port Fairy, Victoria.



IN NEXT PHOTO: Outdoor group portrait of members of the second 23rd Battalion Carrier Platoon on the beach near Dimra, Palestine in January 1941. (Dimra was a small Arab village 11 kilometres north east of Gaza City.) The names of their home towns are printed on their steel helmets. Their Bren gun carrier was named Walwa after, a town in Victoria. Identified at the back are: VX42266 Corporal (Cpl) John Leslie Johnson from Walwa, Victoria; VX48780 Captain Graham Grantham Anderson from Prahran, Victoria; VX27410 Cpl James William Swinton from Cobden, Victoria; and VX47671 Private (Pte) Charles William Fraser from Geelong, Victoria. Middle row from left to right: VX46250 Cpl John Patrick Joy from Woolonga, Victoria (killed in action on 17 May 1941 during the Siege of Tobruk, Libya); VX27702 Pte George Alfred Drake from Fitzroy, Victoria (later Warrant Office Class 2); and VX47664 Pte John Molyneaux Lorimer from Yackandandah, Victoria. Lying in the front is VX38931 Pte Stanley Twyford Peters from Arawata, Victoria (killed in action on 17 May 1941 during the Siege of Tobruk).



**PEAK HILL, NEW GUINEA.
1943-12-10. MORTAR MEN OF
THE 2/23RD AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION ON THE
ROAD AT PEAK HILL, FIRING
ON JAPANESE POSITIONS ON
THE WAREO-BONGA TRACK.
THEY ARE: VX34472 LANCE-
CORPORAL MCLAY (1);
VX25903 PRIVATE (PTE) R. R.
ADAMS (2); VX47293 PTE L.
KNEROCH (3); QX37574
SERGEANT M. H. HUTTON (4).**



The following information illustrates why it is difficult to locate a particular soldier in the official records and, subsequently, difficult to do research:

In the next photo (below) you will see a portrait of Cecil James (Jim) Lucas who enlisted on 4 April 1941 as NX600 Private (Pte) Joseph Charles Lucas (his brother's name**), with 23 Battalion. He later transferred to 2/17 Battalion. Pte Lucas served in Greece, Crete, Syria, Bardia and Tobruk and later in New Guinea at Finschhafen and Lae. Pte Lucas was discharged on 14 November 1945. His brother Joseph **enlisted in June 1941 under Cecil's name.****

Both brothers had put their ages up to enlist. Cecil was one of nine brothers from the Lucas family who enlisted from the Bega district. **Many of the brothers had multiple enlistments and some enlisted together and served together for periods of time.**



**PORTRAIT OF NX169503 PRIVATE
NORMAN LESLIE GOMM, 2/23RD
INFANTRY BATTALION, WOUNDED
AT SATTELBERG 1943-11-24 AND
REPORTED AS HAVING DIED AS A
PRISONER OF WAR (POW) C. 1943-
11-30 AGED 19. HERE HE IS SHOWN
AS A LANCE CORPORAL BEFORE HE
REVERTED TO PRIVATE AT HIS OWN
REQUEST. (DONOR: W.H. CONNELL)**





**Private “Chick” Bridge
of the 2/23rd Infantry
Battalion finding time
for a shave in the front
line at Tobruk.**

**PRIVATE D. E. HAILEY
(LEFT) AND T. M. CONWAY
(RIGHT) MEMBERS OF
2/23RD INFANTRY
BATTALION IN THEIR BREN
GUN PIT ON THE
FORWARD SLOPE OF B
COMPANY POSITION
DURING THE ATTACK ON
THE JAPANESE HELD
FREDA FEATURE BY 26TH
INFANTRY BRIGADE.**



RAVENSHOE AREA, QLD. 1944-12-29. THE 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION A GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM, WINNERS OF THE
9 DIVISION BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP. IDENTIFIED
PERSONNEL ARE:- PRIVATE W E OGILVIE, (1); LIEUTENANT
COLONEL F A G TUCKER, COMMANDING OFFICER, (2);
LIEUTENANT F T HEATON, VICE CAPTAIN (3); PTE J N
WEBSTER, (4); CORPORAL R S REICHMAN, (5); WARRANT
OFFICER 2 J C G APLIN, (6); CPL C A BROUGH, (7); PTE E J
KING, (8).



**Souvenir portrait of VX61516
Private (Pte) John Edward Coole,
2/23 Battalion. The portrait has
been inserted into a replica label
of Victoria Brewery Bitter Ale.
On the reverse Pte Coole has
written the message "How do
like me on the label of my
favourite fruit", when he sent it
home to his family.**



TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-05-06. PRIVATE H.M. WILLIAMS, (1), AND WARRANT OFFICER G.L. HART, (2), WITH AN ORANGOUTANG FOUND UNDER A BUILDING ON TARAKAN WHEN OCCUPIED BY HEADQUARTERS 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION.





Studio portrait of VX75731 Private (Pte) James Lyon, 2/23rd Infantry Battalion of Richmond, Vic. Pte Lyon worked as a hawker and as a fireman prior to enlisting on 16 February 1942. He completed his initial training in Victoria between March and July and on 15 August he was transferred to the 12th Reinforcements, 2/23 Battalion. He embarked for overseas service on 23 August and arrived in Suez in early October. Between April 1942 and November 1942 the 2/23 fought, as part of the 9th Division, at Tobruk, Libya and El Alamein, Egypt. Pte Lyon and his unit arrived at the conclusion of the Allies successful campaign in the Middle East. The 2/23 Battalion left for Australia on 31 January 1943. After training for jungle combat they arrived in Milne Bay, New Guinea on 4 August 1943. On 24 November 1943 Pte Lyon was wounded in action at Finschhafen, New Guinea. He died of his wounds on 27 November 1943, aged 28 years.

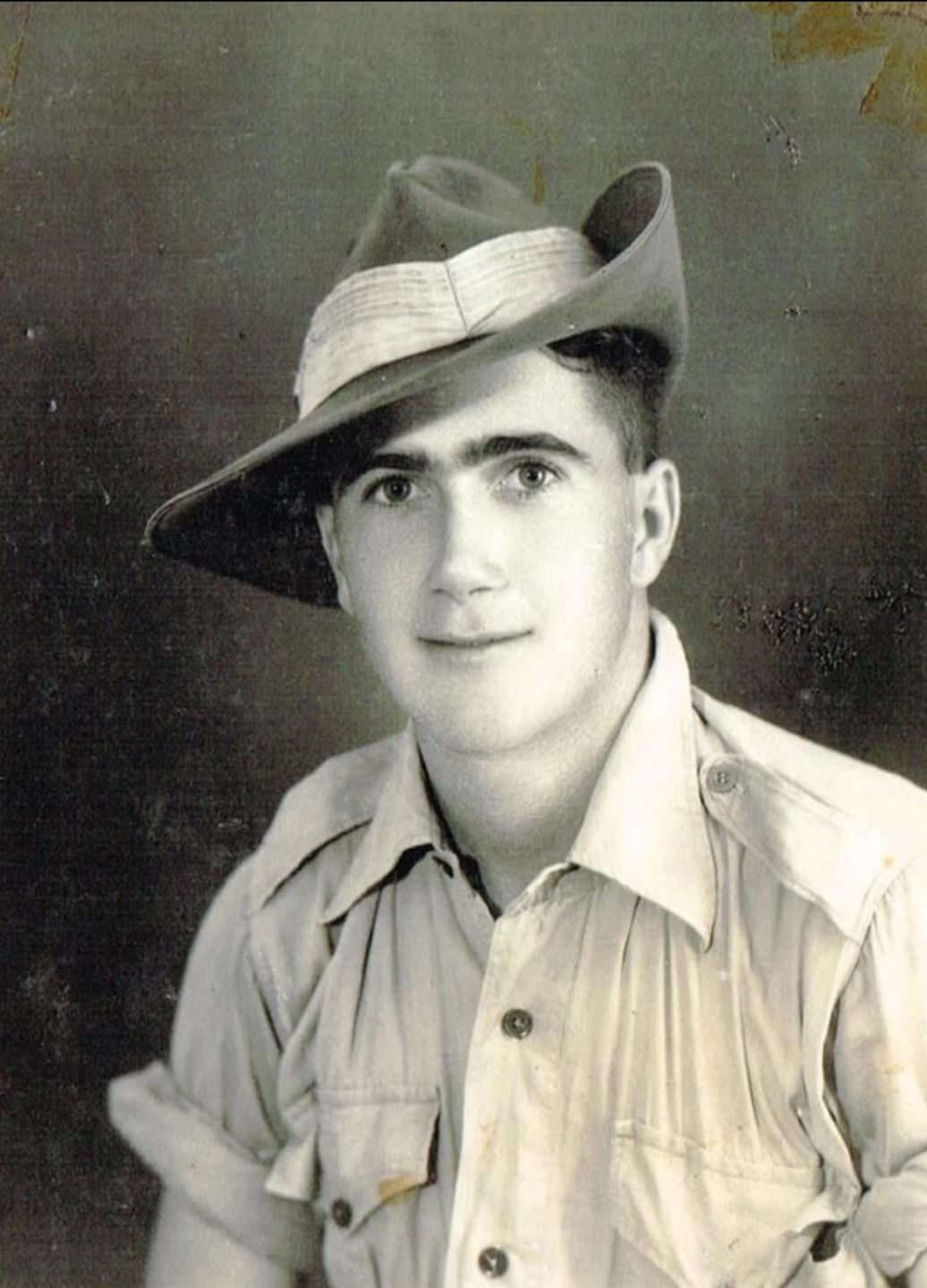


Studio portrait of VX46250 Private (Pte), later Corporal, John Patrick Joy, 2/23 Battalion, of Jingellic, Vic. He was a station hand prior to enlisting on 25 June 1940. Pte Joy, VX42229 Pte Allan Clement Kelly, and VX42266 Pte John Leslie Johnson, all originally from Walwa, Vic, were close friends, who all enlisted in June 1940. Following initial training in Australia, they embarked from Port Melbourne on board HMAT Strathmore on 17 November 1940 arriving in Egypt on 17 December. After further training in desert warfare the unit was sent to Tobruk, Libya, arriving on 18 March 1941. All three were killed in action during the counter attack on 17 May 1941. Corporal Joy was 27 years of age.

James (Jim) MOIR

WX10664





Sylvester MURPHY
WX4433

TARAKAN, BORNEO.

1945-05-05. PRIVATE J A HUMFREY, D COMPANY, 2/24 INFANTRY BATTALION (1), POURING TEA FOR MEMBERS OF D COMPANY, 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION, AS THEY PASS THROUGH UNIT LINES NEAR THE AIRSTRIP ON ESSEX RIDGE.



WAR MEMORIAL

TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-
05-05. CORPORAL J.D.
BLANTON, (1), AND PRIVATE
F.J. GILES, (2), MEMBERS OF
D COMPANY, 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION, PAUSE FOR A
CUP OF TEA AS THEY PASS
THROUGH THE LINES OF D
COMPANY, 2/24 INFANTRY
BATTALION NEAR THE
AIRSTRIIP ON ESSEX RIDGE.





TARAKAN, BORNEO. 1945-05-05.
MEMBERS OF D COMPANY, 2/23
INFANTRY BATTALION, PAUSE FOR
A CUP OF TEA AS THEY PASS
THROUGH THE LINES OF D
COMPANY, 2/24 INFANTRY
BATTALION NEAR THE AIRSTRIP
ON ESSEX RIDGE. IDENTIFIED
PERSONNEL ARE:- PRIVATE W J
BUTTERLY, (2); PTE R HARLAND,
(3); PTE R SAUNDERS, (4);
CORPORAL W M FITZGIBBON, (5).

TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-05-09. MEN OF C COMPANY, 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION COMING OUT OF THE FRONT LINE, MOVING SOUTH ALONG ANZAC HIGHWAY, FOR A REST AFTER 9 DAYS CONTINUOUS FIGHTING AND PATROLLING. IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE:- PRIVATE T.W. PITT, (4); PRIVATE R.C. ARNOLD, (6); PRIVATE N.O. SPOSITO, (7); PRIVATE H.J. CRUDEN, (8).



**TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-
05-02. PRIVATE J.
HAYWOOD, NO. 9
PLATOON, A COMPANY,
2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION BEING
CARRIED OUT AFTER
RECEIVING A STOMACH
WOUND FROM A
SNIPER'S BULLET.**



TARAKAN, BORNEO,
1945-05-05. PRIVATE
N.J. WILSON, HQ
COMPANY, 2/23
INFANTRY BATTALION,
MEMBER OF A
MORTAR
DETACHMENT, WAITS
FOR A TARGET AT
ESSEX RIDGE.



TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-
05-01. SAPPER C.R.
LANGE, 2/13 FIELD
COMPANY, ROYAL
AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS,
MEMBER OF A
"BANGALORE TORPEDO"
PARTY RESTS ON THE
TRAIL APPROXIMATELY 1-
1/2 MILES FROM THE
BEACH WITHIN THE 2/23
INFANTRY BATTALION
AREA.



TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-05-09. SERGEANT A.J. BUCKLEY, (1), AND CORPORAL S. ONGLEY, (2), BOTH OF 2/24 INFANTRY BATTALION EXAMINE THE CRUDE HEADSTONES MADE OF JAM TIN LIDS WITH NAMES AND NUMBERS PUNCHED WITH A NAIL, MARKING THE GRAVES OF PRIVATE M.H. DUGGAN, PRIVATE R.H. DAVISON, AND PRIVATE F. MOLONEY, MEMBERS OF THE 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION, WHO WERE KILLED IN THE AREA 3 DAYS BEFORE.



TARAKAN, BORNEO, 1945-05-09. THE "TARAKAN TAXI" OPERATED BY 3 PLATOON, HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION TROOPS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "REBELS"). THE CAR, CAPTURED AT HOSPITAL SPUR, ON MAY 4 HAS BEEN USED TO CARRY WOUNDED, AMMUNITION, EQUIPMENT AND WATER; IT IS SHOWN MOVING NORTHWARDS ALONG ANZAC HIGHWAY BEYOND THE AIRSTRIIP.



TARAKAN ISLAND.

**1945-08-05. A
MEMORIAL SERVICE
WAS HELD BY
MEMBERS OF 2/23RD
INFANTRY BATTALION
FOR FALLEN
COMRADES. SHOWN,
CHAPLAIN G.S. UDY
LEADING THE SINGING
OF THE CONCLUDING
HYMN, NEARER MY
GOD TO THEE.**



**TARAKAN ISLAND. 1945-08-05. A
MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS HELD
BY MEMBERS OF 2/23RD
INFANTRY BATTALION FOR
FALLEN COMRADES. SHOWN,
PRIVATE W.H. NATION
SOUNDING THE LAST POST.**





**TARAKAN ISLAND,
BORNEO, 1945-05-
02. A MEMBER OF
THE 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION KILLED
IN ACTION DURING
THE FIGHTING FOR
TARAKAN HILL AND
OILFIELDS.**

TARAKAN ISLAND. 1945-09-30.

FOUR CHAPLAINS
CONDUCTING THE CENOTAPH
DEDICATION CEREMONY AT
THE TARAKAN WAR CEMETERY.
IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE:-
CHAPLAIN W. D. MCALISTER,
CHURCH OF ENGLAND, 2/3RD
PIONEER BATTALION;
CHAPLAIN F. L. CUTTRISS,
RAAF; CHAPLAIN G. S. UDY,
2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION;
CHAPLAIN W. R. COWPER,
METHODIST, HQ, 1 CORPS
TROOPS.





**TARAKAN ISLAND, 10 JULY
1945. METHODIST
CHAPLAIN, CAPTAIN G S
UDY, CALLED THE
FIGHTING PADRE, OF 2/23
INFANTRY BATTALION,
NEGOTIATING A VERY
MUDDY SECTION OF
ANZAC HIGHWAY ON HIS
MOTORCYCLE.**

**TARAKAN ISLAND. 1 JULY
1945. SERGEANT C L ALCOCK,
2/9 ARMoured REGIMENT
(1) AND PRIVATE D CUTHBERT,
11 PLATOON, B COMPANY, 2/3
PIONEER BATTALION (2)
TAKING FRESH BREAD AND
TINNED FOOD ASHORE TO
MEMBERS OF A PATROL FROM
10 PLATOON, 2/23 INFANTRY
BATTALION. THE MEN ARE
PART OF A 24 HOUR PATROL
AROUND THE NORTH COAST
OF THE ISLAND IN A LANDING
CRAFT MECHANISED.**



TARAKAN ISLAND. 20 JUNE 1945. MEMBERS OF C COMPANY, 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THE TOWN SWIMMING POOL. THE POOL WAS REPAIRED BY 2 FIELD COMPANY AND ITS USE ROSTERED AMONG UNITS ON THE ISLAND. (FOR IDENTIFICATION OF 9 NAMED PERSONNEL REFER TO PROVISIONAL CAPTION OR NAME INDEX).





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

109898

TARAKAN ISLAND. 16 JUNE 1945. PRIVATE T KINROSS, 2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION, (1) SHOWING HIS BROTHER, PTE COE (2) AN ORNATE JAPANESE CIGARETTE CASE WHICH HE FOUND DURING THE FIGHTING ON ESSIE FEATURE. PTE KINROSS' CORRECT NAME IS COE; HE USED AN ASSUMED NAME, KINROSS, WHEN HE JOINED THE ARMY AT THE AGE OF 17.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

109496



TARAKAN ISLAND, 1945-05-22.
MEMBERS OF 13 BATTERY,
2/7TH FIELD REGIMENT
BRINGING UP SECTIONS OF A
CAPTURED JAPANESE 75MM
GUN WHICH THEY ARE TO USE
DURING THE ATTACK ON
JAPANESE POSITIONS ON
FREDA FEATURE IN SUPPORT
OF 2/23RD INFANTRY
BATTALION. IDENTIFIED
PERSONNEL ARE: GUNNER
(GNR) J. SPENCER (1);
SERGEANT (SGT) W. HORSNELL
(2); GNR R.N.CRAFT (3); GNR D.
GILMOUR (4); SGT A.G.
DABINET (5).

TARAKAN ISLAND, 1945-05-29. MEMBERS OF D COMPANY, 2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION



CARRYING CORPORAL (CPL) JOHNSON (4), A UNIT CASUALTY, DOWN THE STEEP TRACK FROM HILL 105 TO THE UNIT ADVANCED DRESSING STATION. PRIVATE (PTE) D. A. NICHOL (1); PTE J. J. MCGURK (2); PTE P. J. LOONERTY (3); CORPORAL W. FITZGIBBON (5); PTE S. I. MCEWAN (6); PTE F. J. GILES (7).

TARAKAN ISLAND, 1945-05-29. MEMBERS OF D COMPANY, 2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION

CARRYING ONE OF THE UNIT CASUALTIES DOWN THE STEEP TRACK FROM HILL 105 TO THE UNIT ADVANCED DRESSING STATION. PERSONNEL ARE: VX94912 PRIVATE (PTE) R. HARLAND (1); NX104106 PTE W. M. FITZGIBBONS (2); VX140987 PTE F. T. GILES (3); VX87276 PTE D. A. NICOL.



TARAKAN ISLAND, 1945-05-22.

MEMBERS OF PIONEER PLATOON, HQ COMPANY, 2/23RD INFANTRY BATTALION, MOVING ALONG THE CREST OF THE ELBOW AFTER DELOUSING JAPANESE BOOBY TRAPS AND CUTTING STEPS IN THE VARIOUS SLOPES TO FACILITATE THE EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED DURING THE COMING ATTACK ON JAPANESE POSITIONS.



TARAKAN ISLAND. 1945-06-01.
MEMBERS OF PIONEER PLATOON,
2/23 INFANTRY BATTALION,
CAREFULLY SEARCHING FOR THE
BODIES OF THREE MEMBERS OF D
COMPANY, WHO WERE BURIED IN
A LARGE FALL OF EARTH DURING
THE UNIT ATTACK ON JAPANESE
POSITIONS ON MARGY FEATURE.



**2/24 BATTALION
WITH SWORDS
AND FLAGS
CAPTURED
FROM
JAPANESE 1945.**



Four Australian soldiers in front of former Japanese brothel on **Tarakan island, 1945.**





The celebrated 'Jeep Train', known as the Membukut Special, on the Beaufort-Jesselton railway. Engineers of the 9th Division repaired the railway, adapted jeeps to replace damaged locomotives and returned the railway to working order. AWM 111845



Men of the 2/17th Battalion perform the necessary task of searching the bodies of Japanese dead near **Brunei town**, 13 June 1945. (From left) Private George Creber and Lance Corporal John Creber, brothers who had enlisted in June and July 1941, respectively, survived the war and were discharged on consecutive days in March 1945. AWM 109317



Lance Corporal Frank Gilbert, 2/48th Battalion, lying exhausted on the roadside after carrying wounded men down from the hill code-named Sykes to an aid post for further treatment and evacuation. AWM 089463



The burial of Lieutenant Tom 'Diver' Derrick VC DCM, 2/48th Battalion, who died of wounds on Tarakan on 24 May 1945. Derrick, who had served through Tobruk and El Alamein in North Africa and the Huon Peninsula campaign in New Guinea – for which he had been decorated with the Victoria Cross – had been mortally wounded the previous night in the fight for the hill code-named Freda. AWM 044970

Sappers of the 2/13th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers on a damaged pipeline jetty after working waist deep in mud and slime to breach beach wire entanglements ahead of the main landing on **Tarakan**. (From left) Sappers DR Bidwell, Reginald Stevenson, Patrick Carroll, Raymond Mace, James Proctor, George Maxwell, Alexander Clydesdale and Edmond Slee. Slee was killed in action at Djoeata, Tarakan, on 1 July 1945. AWM 090915



Signalman Ken Newton, RAN, of Beach Commando B, 2nd Beach Group, operating an Aldis lamp to communicate with ships during the preliminary landing on Sadau Island on 30 April 1945. This island in Batagau Strait, separating **Tarakan Island and Borneo, was taken by the 2/4th Commando Squadron and a battery of the 2/7th Field Regiment. The gunners gave fire support to engineers making gaps in the beach obstacles across on Tarakan. AWM 090863**





The paybook photograph of Gunner Albert Cleary, 2/15th Field Regiment, a prisoner of war sent from Singapore to Borneo. After enduring the first death march, Gunner Cleary escaped from Ranau but was recaptured. He died on 20 March 1945 after almost three weeks of torture and beatings. He has come to symbolise the suffering of the final groups of Sandakan prisoners. A memorial now stands near the site of his death at Ranau. AWM P02468.516

TARAKAN ISLAND, BORNEO.
1945-05-04. MATILDA TANKS OF
C SQUADRON, 2/9 ARMoured
REGIMENT AND CREWS DURING
A PAUSE ON THE ANZAC
HIGHWAY.





The grave of a victim of the Sandakan death marches: a man shot near the 16-mile peg near Sandakan. The cross was erected by a Chinese gardener, a sign of the close involvement of Sabahan people in commemorating the marches' victims. AWM 042578



Australian soldiers marching next to blazing oil tank, Tarakan Island, Borneo, April 1945



Australian soldiers on bicycles found on the island ride through devastated Tarakan. In the background is dense smoke rising from burning oil storage tanks.

Three Australian soldiers write the folks back home what they think of the Egyptian city of El Alamein which has been re-christened "Heaven" by Aussie troops.

Written on the wall of the el-Alamein railway station, meaning that the battle of el-Alamein was the Heaven as compared to what the soldiers had gone through during the fights in the desert.

