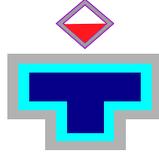


**The Furphy Flyer in Mufti.**



**I HOLD FAST**

Official Organ of the 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion Association Inc.

**Postal address : 10B Somme Parade, Edithvale 3196**

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President Alan Macfarlane, OAM EM, 1 Philip St. Vermont 3133 Telephone 9884-9378

Vice Presidents : Doug Dobson and Alan Nicholson

Secretary, Michael Oakley Telephone 9772 3302

Treasurer, Roland Nicholson

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Janice Young

Committee : Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Eric Elsdon, Robin Mitchell, Keith Anderson and Mark Quinn.

Assisting the committee. Vern Collier, Owen Lewis and Sandra Sharpe.

Editor, Frank Tyrrell Telephone 9789 4764

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**COMING EVENTS FOR 2007**

**9<sup>th</sup> Division's Shrine Service and Luncheon, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

*(Please refer to details on page 2)*

**2/24<sup>th</sup>'s Shrine Pilgrimage – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2.00pm**

**(Assemble 1.30pm)**

*(Please refer to details on page 2)*

**Wangaratta Weekend Reunion, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November**

*(Please refer to back pages for further details)*

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***Vale***

K R Stewart	VX45502	June 2007
Elsie Forrest		29 June 2007
Norma Free		July 2007
E A (Eddie)Shilling	VX40320	18 July 2007
Robert Macrae	VX31673	20 July 2007
Irene Kee		17 August 2007

All members of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association offer their deepest sympathy and understanding to those bereaved by the passing of members of the association.

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### **2/24<sup>th</sup>'s Shrine Pilgrimage, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2007, at 2.00 pm.**

We will be gathering at the Shrine again this year for our sacred Shrine Pilgrimage. Weather permitting, we shall meet at our tree at approximately 1.30 pm., with the ceremony taking place in the Inner Sanctum of the Shrine. The wonderful Shrine staff will provide guards for the wreath laying ceremony as well as chairs and sound equipment. Later we will adjourn to an ante room where afternoon tea (kindly supplied by all attending) can be enjoyed by all.

I would encourage everyone to come along and spend 1½ to 2 hours at this sacred place, remembering the men of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion.

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### **Ninth Division Shrine Pilgrimage and MCG Luncheon, Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

A reminder to those attending the Ninth Division Shrine Pilgrimage followed by the Luncheon.

**Assemble : 11.30 am. at the East Entrance of the Shrine**

**Lunch : Venue, MCG : Tom Wills Room in the Southern Stand.**

Entrance off Brunton Ave, Gate 7, then use lifts 16 or 19

**Parking:** Underground parking, Tower Number 4.

**Bus:** Please advise if you will be requiring a bus from the Shrine to the MCG. The bus will cost \$2.00, payable on the day

**Cost:** Luncheon will cost **\$35.00** per head. Please forward payment, made payable to 2/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Association, to our Secretary prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> October.

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### **Birthday Luncheon 2007**

On Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> July, Association members and friends attended the annual Birthday Luncheon at the Pascoe Vale RSL. Our President, Alan Macfarlane, welcomed the thirty nine attendees and thanked us for attending, especially those who had travelled great distances. The birthday celebration was inviting and friendly with the bonus of a lovely meal.

Seven original members of the Battalion were at the lunch. Also there was Edna Bridgeman who had recently celebrated her 93 birthday. Well done Edna.

It was nice to catch up with Nance Ormsby who told us that her grandson, Hayden Middleton, had joined the Rats of Tobruk Pipe and Drums, as a drummer. The 13 year old has made his grandmother very proud. We also heard that the ROTA had donated \$50,000 to the Rats of Tobruk Pipe and Drums to assist with their coming trip to Moscow.

Each attendee was eligible to win one of the many door prizes that were kindly donated by the Pascoe Vale RSL and Janice Young. All in all a very nice day and we would like to again thank the friendly staff for their hospitality and generosity.

Apologies:- Eric Elson, Les Hanson, Charley Scales, Roland Anderson, Eddie Shilling, Wynn and Neil Holland.

Attendees:-

Janice Young, Michael Oakley, Frank Tyrrell, Faye Macfarlane, Alan Macfarlane, June Mitchell, Robin Mitchell, Alan Nicholson, Curley Callander, Ian Holmes, Val Wilson, Bob Clark, Dot Clark, Lynn Masters, Robyn Koiker, Peter Koiker, Jan Denton, Ric Henning, Harrie Quinn, Mollie Quinn, Mark Quinn, Edna Bridgeman, Keith Anderson, Mr and Mrs Andy McRedmond, Hautrie Crick, Graeme Millane, Doreen Millane, Maudie and Robyn Stevens, Fran Scully, Bernadette Scully, Marie Neal, Kathleen Curtis, Nance Ormsby, Trish Becroft, HESSIE KNIGHT, Beatrice Fraser, Mrs McKenzie.

Annual General Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2007

The meeting was opened by our President, Alan Macfarlane. Those attending :- Rob Mitchell, Janice Young, Michael Oakley, Eric Elsdon, Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Alan Nicholson, Owen Lewis, Mark Quinn, Keith Anderson and Frank Tyrrell. Apologies were offered on behalf of Doug Dobson, Ossie Warden, Vern Collier and Roland Nicholson.

The minutes of last years Annual General Meeting were read and adopted. The current financial statements were deferred awaiting the Audit Report and will be adopted at the next committee meeting. The election of office bearers resulted in the following –

President : Alan Macfarlane  
 Vice Presidents : Doug Dobson and Alan Nicholson  
 Secretary : Michael Oakley  
 Treasurer: Roland Nicholson  
 Assistant Treasurer/  
     Secretary : Janice Young  
 Editor : Frank Tyrrell  
 Committee : Bob Clark, Keith Clark, Eric Elsdon, Robin Mitchell, Mark Quinn and Keith Anderson  
 We have also co-opted the assistance of Vern Collier, Sandra Sharpe and Owen Lewis to assist the committee.

The following is the President's report on the Associations activities during the previous year.

Fellow members – I am pleased to offer my report regarding the Associations activities, etc, for the past year. Whilst we are all very much slower, the Association is alive and well. May it continue into the future.

Our **Annual Shrine Service** was well attended and we offer our thanks to the Shrine staff who, as usual, were most helpful with our service and afternoon tea.

The **9<sup>th</sup> Division Shrine Service and Luncheon** at the MCG. Sadly our numbers are dwindling, which is only natural as it is members only. Maybe its future is a little bleak.

The **Wangaratta Reunion** was again a great weekend, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. With nearly 200 in attendance for the various functions, some having travelled from afar and with member numbers on the natural decline, it is wonderful to have the enthusiastic interest of families and friends. Our thanks to the RSL for the Friday evening hospitality and for having us join them for the Remembrance Day Service at 11.00 am on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

For our own Memorial Service on Saturday afternoon it was something special to have two smartly groomed students from Wangaratta High School join us for the Wreath laying Ceremony, also the cadet who carried our Banner with pride. Our grateful thanks to the Mayor, Cr Don Joyce, Councillors, Zonta Ladies, Lions Club and Cemetery staff for what was a wonderful and impressive weekend.

**ANZAC Day March and Reunion 2007.** Our numbers were on par with last year and we were honoured to have five wonderful students from Wangaratta High School join us for the March and Reunion. They more than made up for the missing cadets from Watsonia who normally parade with us, carrying our Banner. We have been advised that the School wishes to send students down each year to carry our Banner. I'm sure you all agree this is most desirable and to be accepted. Again I offer our grateful thanks to Peter Wright of Moreland Bus Lines for the transfer to Pascoe Vale RSL for our Annual Reunion Lunch.

Our **Birthday Lunch**, held on 6<sup>th</sup> July, was great with over 30 attending and voting to be there again next year. Our thanks to Pascoe Vale RSL.

**Financial Affairs.** I refer to our annual subscription of \$10 which has been unchanged for about 18 to 19 years, quite remarkable really, and it still covers the production and postage costs for the four issues of our "Furphy Flyer" each year.

So I wish to thank all those members and friends, who so generously donate, large and small amounts, enabling us to operate and provide funds for various projects, particularly our Memorial area in Wangaratta.

For some time, consideration has been rife regarding the erection of new Bluestone brick pillars to match our Memorial and Gates at the entrance to Wangaratta Cemetery. The Trust have now decided this should be done, so, with the help of John Elward, Greg Larkins and Paul MossHolland, a submission was prepared for us to sign and submit to the grants Commission. This has now been approved and we have \$7000.00 towards this project. Work has commenced with the foundations, etc, and we thank the Trust who, as ever, supply the labour and materials, including the Bluestones.

I have attended the various meetings of all kindred organisations, plus the 9<sup>th</sup> Division, on your behalf and I thank you all for your support. I offer special thanks to Secretary, Michael Oakley, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, Janice Young, Furphy Flyer in Mufti editor, Frank Tyrell and my wife, Faye.

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On behalf of the President and Committee we offer sincere condolences to our fellow committee member, Sandra Sharpe, on the recent death of her mother, Irene Kee.

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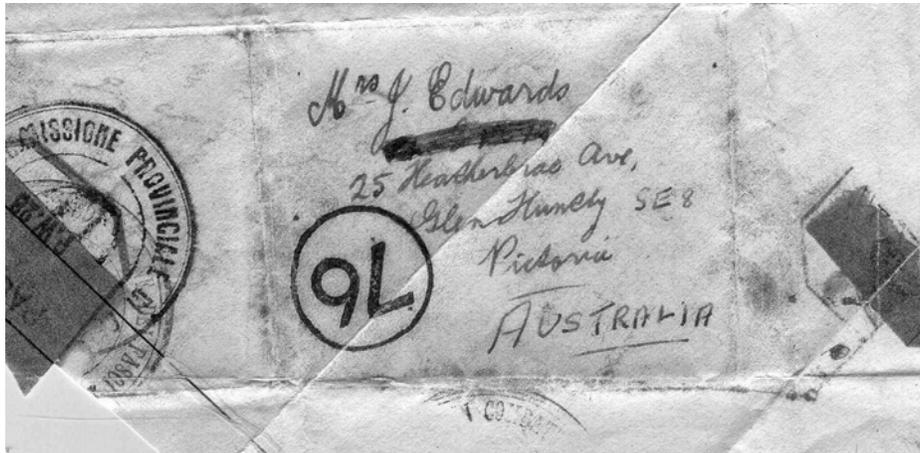
***This next item was sent in by Eric Edwards .....***

I am enclosing an article and brief story you may like to include in the "Furphy Flyer".

I was taken prisoner of war at Tobruk on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1941, because we had run out of ammunition in that section. Two days later, i.e. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, a German officer invited me and some other POWs standing nearby, to write a letter of not more than 25 words to our relatives, and he promised that they would be dropped by plane over British lines.

This was undoubtedly done for the letter which I wrote at that time was received by my mother. In fact, it was the first real indication she had that I was a POW. She had received notification that I was "missing believed prisoner of war" but not that I was a POW.

I wrote on a scrap of paper, about 7 inches by 5 ¼ inches and, as I had no envelope, I folded it over and tucked the peaks in so that the finished article was about 2 ¾ inches by 2 inches in size.



The two dark "patches" represent the brown paper adhesive used by the Censor to seal it so that it would not come undone while in transit.

I wrote:

Dear Mum,

I have been taken a prisoner of war without wounds at Tobruk. I am in good health.

There is no cause for worry. I will write as soon as possible. Advise others.

Your loving son, Eric.

*Thank you for the item Eric. Besides being an amazing memento of the war it makes us think of the mixed feelings your mother must have felt when she received it; the happiness that you were alive and not wounded but the fear of your imprisonment and safety.*

**LETTERS****Received by our President and Secretary**

*From **John Archibald** of Balnarring .....*

Dear Alan, I would like to apologise for not attending the Battalion Lunch last Friday. Nola and I had every intention to attend but somehow it slipped my mind. It was not until the Sunday that I realised we had missed the Luncheon.

I'm sorry we missed as I believe the day was a great success. Regards to all.

*Thanks for your note John; we look forward to seeing you at future functions.*

*From **Joy Bienert** of Templestowe .....*

Dear Alan, many heartfelt thanks for taking the time to 'search' me out and pass on the photos from Eric. I felt very honoured and it is a very special feeling to have photos which add to our own family story.

Receiving the photos prompted me to get out an album I had started with Dad's army photos and with the help of the wonderful 2/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion History, be able to sequence them in some order.

Once again many thanks.

*Best wishes to you Joy.*

*From **Charlie Scales** of Bon Beach .....*

Dear Frank, thank you for the Furphy. I read with interest that my good friend Alan Dwyer's father, James Dwyer, was in the 1<sup>st</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which initially won fame at Lone Pine and later in France.

My father and Uncle Joe also served in the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Gallipoli and in France. *(See article in this Furphy)*

Fortunately I am recovering from a series of recent illnesses which culminated in a dose of Gastro which really laid me low. But, with Lois' ministrations and my basic good health I am recovering rather quickly. Cheerio and good health to you and yours.

*Good to hear that you are feeling better Charlie. Thanks for your article.*

*From **John Heynes** of Keysborough.....*

Please find enclosed my subs and a donation to the Association. My late father was Charlie Heyes, VX29173, who enlisted with his mate George Thompson, both from Orbost, Victoria.

Both have now passed on. I enjoy reading the "Furphy Flyer". Best wishes to all.

*Thank you, John, nice to hear from you.*

*From **Pat Comb** of Swan Hill .....*

Please find enclosed payment and details of G G Comb, VX28470, for his Plaque on Battalion Wall, Wangaratta. Also included is a donation in appreciation of sending the "Furphy Flyer" to me for all these years. I am never able to attend any functions but like to read all about them.

*I'm sorry that you are now unable to join us at our functions Pat but I assure you, and the many other members who, due to age or illness are unable to attend our functions, your support is very much appreciated by the Association.*

*From **Anne and David Neville** of Mt Waverley .....*

Please find enclosed our subs and a donation to help with postage costs.

We enjoy reading the Furphy, especially the wartime articles, keep up the good work.

*Thank you for your kind words and support.*

*From **John McLeod** of Templestowe .....*

Please find enclosed my subs and a donation. I am looking forward to visiting Wangaratta and the Battalion Wall to view Dad's Plaque.

I enjoy reading the "Furphy Flyer" and would be interested to hear from anyone who may have served with my father, **Lt Roy McLeod**, VX25480. I can be contacted at PO Box 620 Templestowe, 3106.

*I hope someone can assist you John.*

*From **Jean Riordan** of Echuca .....*

I couldn't do without the "Furphy Flyer", I read it from cover to cover. All of my Dad's mates have gone to God now but I still like to read the stories and poems.

God bless all the 2/24<sup>th</sup> that are still living.

*Our best wishes to you Jean.*

*From **Barbara Hollis** of Casino NSW .....*

I wish to apply for a plaque for the Memorial Wall at Wangaratta Cemetery in memory of our dear father, Arol 'Pud' Hort.

My Dad always enjoyed the "Furphy Flyer" and since his death I love to sit with a coffee and read it. Kind regards to all.

*Thanks Barbara. I hope you enjoy another coffee with the Furphy.*

*From **Jim Lowe** of Natimuk, Vic .....*

Please find enclosed my subs and a donation to the Association.

It's nice to see the country green again after the dry years and to have some water. Occasionally I see Frank Schneider and Clem Eastick.

Regards to all.

*Thank you very much for your donation Jim. Best wishes to you.*

*From **Mary Jane Joscelyne** of East Melbourne .....* When the "Furphy Flyer" arrives I sit down and have a marvellous read, as does my son Antony. My kind regards and good health to all.

*Thank you Mary, I hope you enjoy this issue.*

*From **Jack Webb** of Maffra Vic .....*

My regards to Alan Macfarlane. I was pleased to hear about the Fig tree that was planted at Seaspray as I will get to see it.

Also thanks to Doug Dobson for the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Bumper Sticker. I have all my medals mounted on a red gum slab, including my 13th Light Horse Badges with the original colour patch. The diamond white over red diamond was the same. The Bumper sticker on the red gum slab looks very good.

Regards to all.

*Good to hear from you Jack. Glad you appreciated the sticker.*

*From **Jim Payne** of Kyneton .....*

It must be a few years since last writing to you and time has now almost caught up with me. The Doc said "you might make it to Christmas". So I accepted his invitation to meet at hospital next week and now have discarded my angina tablets etc and I reckon I could march at attention wearing an old gas mask for ???; perhaps not. One Lt Doug Meehan took us out at Wangaratta, had us open order march, don respirators and threatened dire punishment if he spotted any irregularities. He took us far enough to make that occasion a permanent item in my memory!!

At that time I think Big Mac would have been WO2 in HQ Coy and I recall him taking us down to the river bank to dig a trench system exactly as geometrically specified in the training manual.

The frosts and cold showers at Wang were invigorating. Doc Robby used the same gear for our injections and the things we grizzled about in those days are now happy memories.

It must be more than twenty years ago that Don Frazer wrote in the "Furphy Flyer" that he had a recording of the Battalion Band, made in Tel Aviv shortly after their win in the 7<sup>th</sup> Div Band Contest. I accepted his offer of a copy and that is now enclosed. The recording is not "hifi" but it is our band. As I am now living in a hostel I no longer have the equipment to play the tape, or the hearing to appreciate it. No doubt you already have a recording in the Battalion records but perhaps you can find a home for the tape, which also contains some comments from Harry.

It was at Dimra about February 1941 that I left the Battalion to join a Signals Unit and from thereon my service was mainly confined to Morse key and radio. Eventually joined 9 Division Signals at Alamein and in recent years have assisted Secretary, Stan Snowdon, produce the unit's newsletter. A very enjoyable activity.

Hope time treating you kindly, Happy Days.

*Thank you for the letter and tape Jim, good to hear from you.*

*From **Rayda Noble** of Bonbeach .....*

Dear Michael, I am enclosing a story about my friend Charlie Scales. (*see item in "Furphy Flyer"*)

Like my late father, Charles (Bernie) Prain, it wasn't until the last 5 years of his life that he told me of all the funny things that had happened in his life. He realised I was a mature lady who needed to know the truth.

Keep up all the good work and look after Charlie for me. Kindest regards.

*Thanks for the article Rayda. Best wishes to you.*

*From **Max Frost** of Launceston .....*

I appreciate the "Furphy Flyer" and the information of Association doings, unfortunately too many birthdays and the failure of my undercarriage has got me almost (but not quite) house bound.

Must tell you of ANZAC Day last; being unable to attend official functions in the city, I and an Ex Member of Z force, decided to hold our own remembrance ceremony in our retirement village.

Thought we would use our chapel and expected between 6 to 20 attendees. Surprise; got 72!!

Having been RSL local President and also on State Executive, I was able to give the address with Monty McDonald (Ex Z Force) saying the Ode. A tape was used to play the last post.

The Local Member for Bass presented us with the Australian flag and we were pleased to see him attend what we feel will now be an annual event.

I did give thought to getting my daughter and son-in-law to take their car (and me) over on the TT Line Ship so as to allow our attendance at the Wangaratta Reunion in November. However, medical advice fixed that as to be sadly forgotten.

Please give my warmest regards to all and especially to Alan Macfarlane and Robin Mitchell.

*Always a pleasure to hear from you Max. Congratulations to you and Monty for arranging what sounded like a very impressive, remembrance ceremony.*

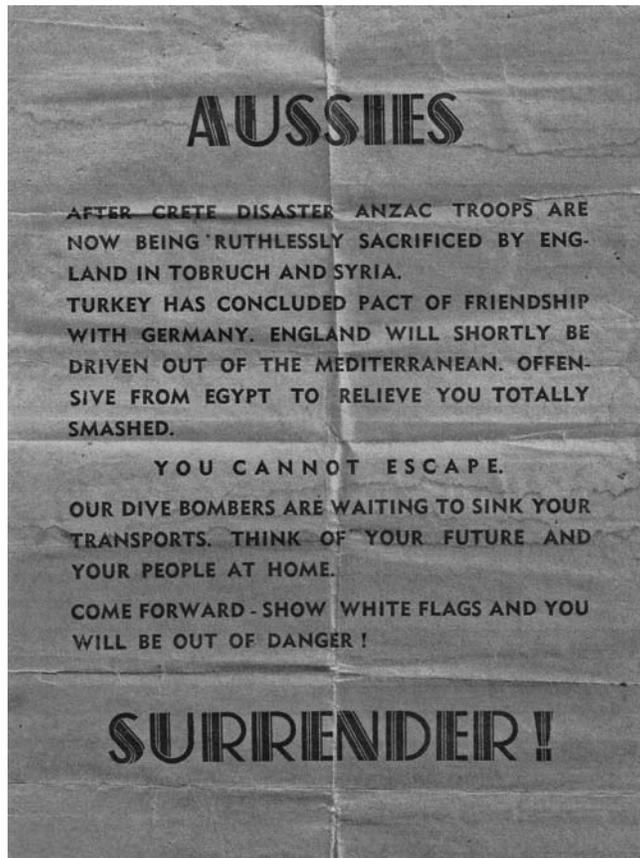
*Sorry we will not see you at Wang but I know your mates will still be thinking of you.*

*We have also had notes from .....*

**Jack Devlin**, and **Bill (Curly) Northausen** who wish members all the best.

*Mrs Beverley Weir sent this item in. It's a copy of a leaflet dropped on Australian troops at Tobruk. Her uncle was Thomas Ingham, VX30904, KIA. Thanks Beverley.*

*(Keith Clark tells me they came in very handy as toilet paper!)*



I printed the following Internet information in the February 2005 edition of the "Furphy Flyer" and feel that it may be of interest to new readers and members who have updated their computers. If you do not own a computer, get your children or grandchildren to look up the information. They will be just as interested, I'm sure. Thanks to Association Member, Mark Johnston, for kindly providing this information.

#### Service Records

To find a brief summary of the service record of any individual who served in the Australian armed forces in the Second World War, go to the website <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>. At that site you can find the person by clicking on '**Name**' or '**Service Number**' and entering the relevant details. Once you have found the individual concerned, the information you can find on him includes: date and place of birth, date and place of enlistment, next of kin, any honours received, rank and posting at discharge.

#### Photographs of the 2/24th Battalion

Go to the site: [www.awm.gov.au/](http://www.awm.gov.au/) At the top right on the home page an option is '**Search our collections**'. Click on that and once the relevant page opens, enter in the space '2/24 Battalion'. Click on '**Search**' and more than 300 possibilities come up. Click on the words '**Long titles**' and you can see the full captions as you scroll down the page. Click on the thumbnail images and you'll see enlarged versions. You can also search this database for pictures of individuals. For example, put in the name 'Greatorex' under '**Simple Search**' and you will find two photos of the 2/24th Battalion's Captain Greatorex.

#### Read the battalion war diary

Go to the site: [www.awm.gov.au/](http://www.awm.gov.au/) On the lefthand side is a list of places to go. Click on '**Collection Databases**'. Here one of the possibilities is '**Australian Army War Diaries**'. Click on this, then on the next page choose '**Second World War**', then '**Class 8- infantry**', then '**Sub-Class 8/3 – Battalions**', then '**2/24 Infantry Battalion**'. You will then see a big range of monthly folders you can enter. For example there are 13 folders concerning Torbuk alone. Some of these contain more than 200 pages each, which you can read by clicking on the relevant folder. This all sounds complicated, but is quite easy in practice.

#### Read about a soldier who died in the war

Go to the site: [www.awm.gov.au/](http://www.awm.gov.au/) At the top right you can click on '**Research a person**'. At the new page, enter the person's surname, click on the Second World War, and press search. Several possibilities come up. The most informative is the Roll of Honour, which mentions where the person died, where he is buried, and usually particulars of his next of kin, prewar address and occupation.

#### Read about a soldier who received an honour or award

Go to the site: [www.awm.gov.au/](http://www.awm.gov.au/) On the left hand side of the home page is a link called '**Biographical databases**'. Click on this. The new page includes a heading '**Honours and Awards**'. Click on this. The first and third link provide information, but the best is the third, called '**Honours and Awards (Index: Second World War, Korean War and Malayan Emergency)**'. From this link you can see index cards that explain briefly why the person got their honour or award.

*Following the article in the May Furphy, about the three generations of Dwyer's in the Australian Defence Forces, Rayda Noble and Charlie Scales sent me this item from the "Corryong Courier", which outlines the amazing contribution of the Scales family.*

### **The Scales Family, Seven enlistments.**

The father of this Scales family was **William (Bill) Gordon Scales**, born in 1892. Bill joined the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF, 24<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements, serving with distinction in Gallipoli, France and Belgium. He was mentioned in Despatches at Gallipoli and was awarded the Military Medal, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. As a result of action in Upnes (Belgium) Bill lost his leg.

Bill married Mary Josephine McInerney at Kilrush, Eire, returning to Australia in 1919. He was known locally as Shire Rate collector, valuer, etc from 1922 to 1960. He died in Corryong in 1965.

Surprisingly, Bill's brother **Joe** served in the same battalion as him in Gallipoli and France. They were the sons of Issac Scales of Mitta Mitta and lived in the old farm house up river from Mitta township towards Dartmouth. Joe was awarded the DSO and Military Medal. Both men were promoted to Officers in the field – the equivalent of a decoration.

**William Gordon Scales**, the eldest son of Bill and Mary, enlisted in the AIF, VX1618, in November 1939. Gordon was in the 6<sup>th</sup> Division, 2/17<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion that saw action at Bardia, Tobruk, Derna and Greece. Fighting a rearguard action in Greece, Gordon was taken as a Prisoner of War at Crete airport. As a linguist, Sgt Gordon led escape routes from POW camps, marching across Europe to the Polish border, finally linking up with the Americans.

After the war he re-enlisted in the Korean War as a Sergeant and Infantry Instructor. In 1954 he was flown to forward combat zones where he sustained a severe foot injury. He was treated first by an American 'MASH' team, then at Seoul and finally at Kune in Japan. It was here that Gordon transferred to the Commonwealth Rest and Recreation Centre in Tokyo to manage the administration of servicemen, where he remained until 1956. Gordon passed away in 1982.

At **Charlie Scales'** public farewell, at Corryong's Athenaeum Hall, Dr D P Greeham (RSL President) said "I brought Charlie into the world in 1920 and I'm now farewelling him to go to war". Charlie first tried to enlist in the AIF at the age of 17. The local electrician drove him to Melbourne but the enlistment officers checked his age.

Charlie finally enlisted in 1940, became a member of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and went overseas in November 1940 to become a "Rat of Tobruk". It was here that the "Rats" withstood months of intense bombardment from the Germans.

Charlie was wounded in the battle of Tel El Eissa and returned to Alexandria and Tel El Keebeen. He returned to duty for the battle of El Alamein where the boys of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> and "Albury's Own", the 2/23<sup>rd</sup>, fought so gallantly. Upon returning to Australia Charlie joined the Red Cap Paratroopers.

Charlie had an interesting boxing career in the Army being trained by Ron McLachlan and Australian heavyweight, Herb Narvo. Charlie later organised boxing tournaments in Corryong.

He left Corryong in 1965 and is now retired at Bon Beach. He lost several fingers in a Rigby and Son factory explosion in 1972. He is an active member of the Mentone RSL and Frankston TPI association; loves his time around the racing stables and race tracks; and regularly puts pen to paper on controversial subjects, local historical matters or to rectify a wrong.

The three daughters of Bill and Mary Scales also enlisted in the services. **Yvonne Scales** served in the AAMWS (Medical) from 1943 to 1946 at Heidelberg and Bonegilla. Upon discharge she joined the WRAC from 1949 to 1951.

**Molly Scales** also enlisted in the AAMWS, serving from 1943 to 1951. Her duties took her to Heidelberg, Woomera and the Occupational Forces in Japan.

**Margaret Scales** served at Echelon and Bandiana with the Australian Women's Army Services.

The youngest of the three sons, **John Scales**, spent 20 years in the regular Army, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1978. He attended Portsea Officer Cadet School, gaining his commission in 1960. After attending special courses he spent 1965-1966 in Vietnam, Captain of AA training, which was in reality Australia's first commitment to Vietnam as Tactical Advisers. Returning to Australia he was Second in Command, 1<sup>st</sup> Army Regiment, at Puckapunyal.

He returned to Vietnam in 1970 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Taskforce as Troop Commander of Army Personnel Carriers. 1971 saw him promoted to Major and Squadron commander at Holdsworth and then to the Staff College at Queenscliff.

He resigned in 1981 but remained as a Staff Officer for 5 years, during which time he was appointed Commonwealth Ombudsman for 5 years.

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### **The "Rats" are Moscow Bound, September 2007.**

The Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums have been invited to play at the Moscow Military Tattoo. Late last year the "Rats Band" received an email from the Australian Embassy in Moscow who had been contacted by the Producers of the International Military Festival Kremlin Zoria (Moscow Military Tattoo). The Tattoo Director was the Director of the Russian Cossack Dance Troup at the 2001 and 2005 Edinburgh Military Tattoos and specifically requested that "The Rats" come to Moscow.

The Tattoo itself will take place in Red Square with St Basil's Cathedral as the backdrop. There will be an audience of approximately 7,000 each night and it will also be broadcast on Russian television.

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### **Wangaratta High School June Newsletter.**

On Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April, Wangaratta High School held its 2007 ANZAC Ceremony. The annual ceremony, organised by school prefects and involving the entire school, is an important part of the School's calendar.

Mr Darrel Brumby, President of Wangaratta RSL, was welcomed as a special guest.

Led by a contingent of the school's Army Cadets and student Highland Pipers Laura Watson and Alisdair Tutt, the school's prefects paraded the national flags of Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain through the School Hall. Following these flags was the Battalion flag of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (Wangaratta's Own), which was with troops at Tobruk. A precious memento kindly lent to the School for the ceremony.

Also carried in the procession was a photograph of the Wangaratta High School veteran being honoured, Private Victor Green, who was killed in France in 1915, plus a wreath of Australian native flowers in memory of all those who have died in war

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#### **2/24<sup>th</sup> Items for sale**

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Ties   | Cost \$25.00 each |
| • Scarves  | Cost \$15.00 each |
| • Lapel Badge                                    | Cost \$ 6.00 each |
| • History of 2/24 Australian Infantry Battalion. | Cost \$50.00 each |

Prices include postage costs. If you would like to purchase any of these items please write to our Secretary, Michael Oakley, at **10B Somme Parade, Edithvale 3196**.

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Reginald may be 75, but he still thinks of himself as a ladies' man. Every Friday night, he dresses up nice and smart, slicks down his hair and heads off to his favourite club. When he gets there, he walks up to the bar, sidles up to the prettiest girl he can find and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"



**Memorial Wall.**

The 2/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion Memorial Wall is the main feature at the entrance to the Wangaratta Cemetery – a fitting tribute to the Battalion members. Since advising that the newly prepared East Wall is now available for the placement of individual Memorial Plaques, the Association has been proud to add the names of many, much loved, Battalion members. The latest plaques have included the following names....

G. G. Comb                      A. C. Hort                      S. A. Maydom

Applications for a Plaque for a deceased Battalion Member should be made to the Association enclosing a Cheque/Money Order for \$88 (inc GST) made payable to “E J Wright & Sons” – the memorial masons who manage the wall. Send your request to, The Secretary, 2/24 Aust Infantry Batt. Assoc Inc, PO Box 2003, Edithvale VIC 3196.

Details required for the Plaque are :- Surname, Initials, Service Number, Honours and Date of Death.

**Wangaratta Weekend Reunion  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007  
Reminder... Have you booked your Motel Room?**

The following is a list of toll free / phone numbers for you to ring :

- **Park View Motor Inn**                      **1800 032 475**
- **Warby Lodge**                                **1800 806 720**
- **Wangaratta Motor Inn**                      **03 5721 5488**
- **Heritage Motor Inn**                        **1800 066 679**
- **Ryley Motor Inn**                              **03 5721 6388**

Please indicate that you are part of the 2/24<sup>th</sup> Reunion and specify a downstairs room requirement if necessary. The staff are waiting for your call and will be helpful.

**Programme for Wangaratta Weekend Reunion  
9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.**      Arrive at Wangaratta Motels (if you can get there on Friday).  
Settle in and possibly meet up at the RSL for dinner.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

**2.30 pm**                      Assemble at Cemetery for our Wall and Tree Memorial Service.  
Afternoon tea provided, courtesy of Zonta Ladies.

**6.30 pm**                      Reception at Town Hall by the Mayor and Councillors of the Rural City of  
Wangaratta. (Corner of Ford and Ovens Streets)

**7.00 pm**                      Reunion Dinner

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

**11.00 am**                      Assemble at the City Cenotaph for our normal service followed by our BBQ lunch in  
the Town Hall supplied by Lions Club and Zonta Ladies.

**Medals and Name tags should be worn please.**

