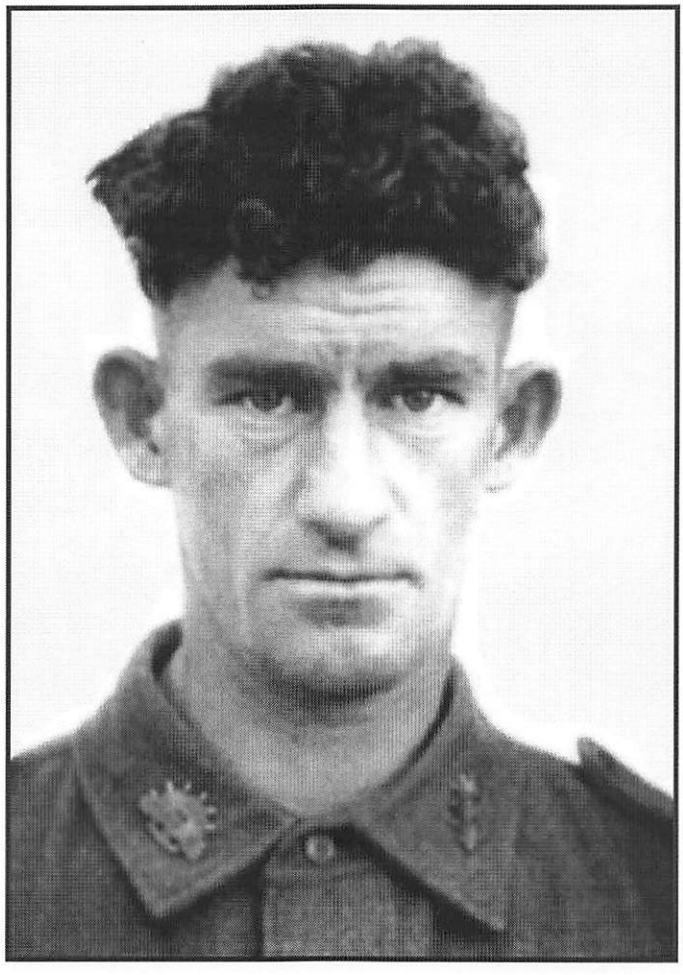
Information about the 17 men that died on active service and are listed on the Ringwood RSL remembrance board in the Members Room



This Information is correct as at 15th December 3003

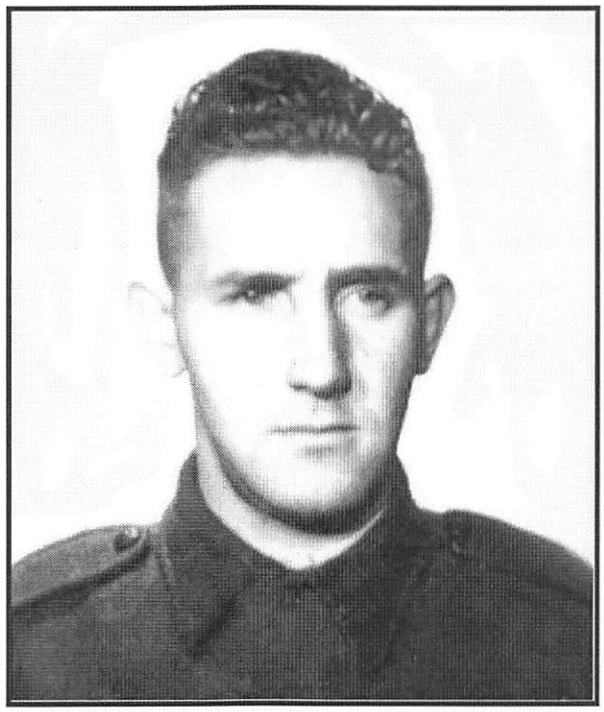
LESLIE THOMAS BENNETT VX 28958



Enlisting at Ringwood on 19th June 1940, Going initially to Caulfield after 3 days he was posted to the 5th Infantry training Depot at Colac, Victoria.

Going to Seymour on 20th July he was posted to the 2/40 Infantry Battalion. In August Headquarters decided that 2/40 battalion would be made up solely from Tasmanian enlistments. As a result the 3 rifle companies made up of Victorians were transferred to the 2/24 Infantry battalion. This battalion then moved to Wangaratta where it trained for 3 months. Whilst there the local people adopted them and as a result the 2/24 was given the honorary title of "Wangaratta's Own"
Embarking from Melbourne on the H.M.T. Strathmore on 16th November 1940 Private Bennett arrived at Port Said with the battalions rear party on 21st December. The early months of 1941 saw them at the Australian Base in Dimra. April saw them in Tobruk as part of the defending force later to be known as the "Rats of Tobruk". In early May the enemy made a major thrust on the town and the battle ran over a number of days.
It was in this action that Les Bennett was killed. Reported missing on the 11th May it was later reported that he had been killed 8 days earlier. Aged 29 he was living at Mullum Road, Ringwood when he enlisted in 1940.
He was the Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Bennett of Forest Hill, Victoria.

GEORGE STANLEY GOWLAND VX59560

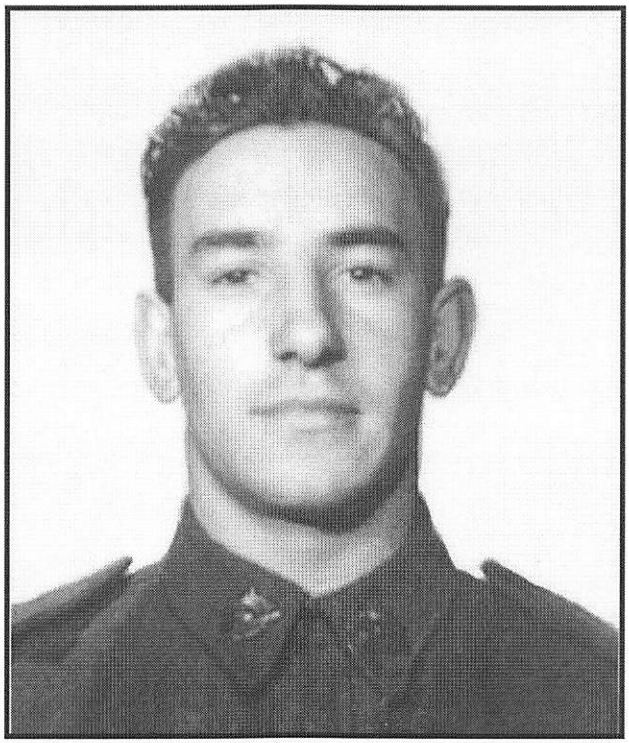


George Stanley Gowland enlisted in the 2nd AIF on the 29th of August 1941 and was allotted to the 2/21st infantry battalion. In March that year, he was were posted to Darwin, NT. In May a decision was reached to send the troops to reinforce in garrison on Ambon The 2/21st-battalion plus Corp troops left Australia in the December, arriving at Ambon on the 17th. The Australians were dispersed at strategic positions on the island to backup the local Dutch forces. The Japanese commenced bombing the allied positions on the 7th of January 1942, their only opposition being two Bofor anti aircraft guns operated by the Dutch forces. They commenced landing their invasion force totaling 5300 men including tanks on the 24th of January and after a gallant defence the last defenders surrendered on the 2nd of February.

Research shows that he was among 309 Australian officers and men who defended the airstrip at Laha Here the fighting was extremely heavy with over half of the defenders being killed. Japanese records show that there were about 150 Australians still alive at Laha after the position was surrendered to them. These survivors they executed, the first batch being killed on the 6th of February and the remainder some days later between February 15th and 20th

In 1946 when Australian government authorities searched the area surrounding the site for some trace of the missing 150 prisoners of war they unearthed the bodies of 68 Australians, all of whom had been beheaded their hands still tied with wire The remains of other diggers, over 80 in all were never found. Commonwealth War Graves list George amongst those whose bodies were never found. It is only assumed that the brothers enlisted under age as at the time of their deaths George is said to have been 21 and Albert only 18. They had already been in the army almost 2 years.

ALBERT THOMAS GOWLAND VX 63130

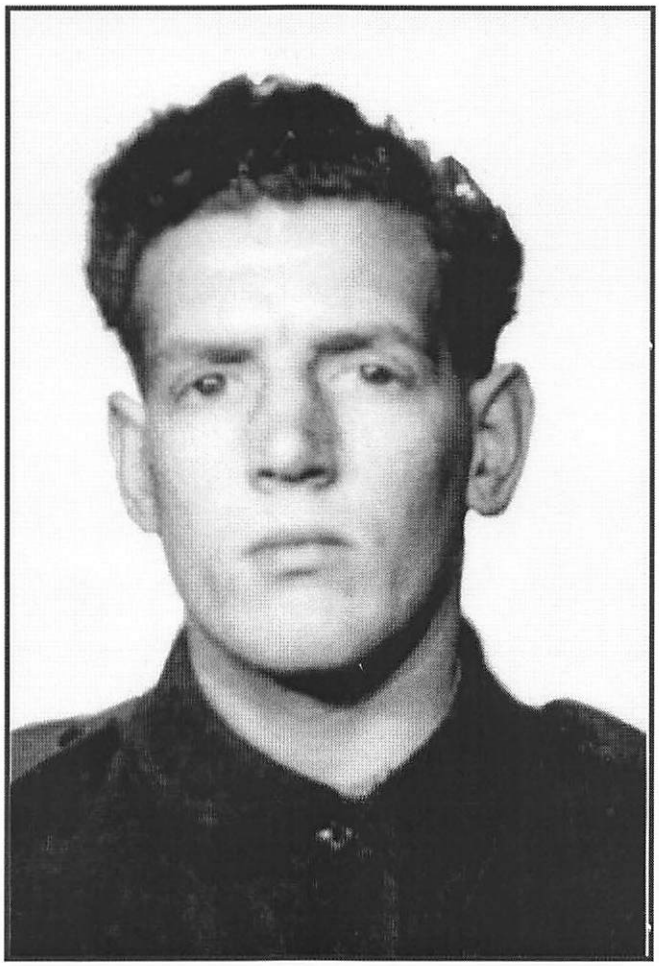


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FREDERICK ARTHUR ALDOLPSON VX 63126



Enlisting at the Melbourne Town Hall on 8th September 1941, he spent his first few days at Royal Park. Transferring to the southern Command Engineers Training Depot on 17th September, he was sent to Bonegilla. Six weeks later he was reinforcement to the 2\2 Pioneers.
He embarked for the Middle East on the 2nd November 1941. The voyage took 22 days. After a period with the Pioneer Training Battalion he joined his unit on 21st January 1942. The 2\2 Pioneers had returned from Syria and were preparing to return for service nearer to Australia. He embarked on the S.S. Orehades on 31st January bound for service in Java. With their British and Dutch Allies the defenders held out until late April, but the Japanese had a much larger force and in the main wee better equiped. Private Adolphson was reported as missing on 7th March and listed as P.O.W. on 14th July 1942. Records show that he died from malaria whilst a prisoner in a Thai camp on Sunday 26th September 1943. He was 19 years of age.

Born at Ringwood he stated on enlistment, that he was born in September 1919 and lived at Maidstone Street Ringwood. It is possible that he enlisted in Melbourne to enable him to increase his age. He was the son of George and Annie Adolphson of Ringwood

ARTHUR ROY BURLOCK VX 5442



Enlisting at Hawthorn on 23rd October 1939, he was one of the earliest from the district to join up. After spending a fortnight at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds he was transferred to Puckapunyal. At this time the 6th Division was being formed and as a result he was posted to the 2/7 Infantry Battalion.

Departing Puckapunyal on 15th April 1940, the battalion travelled by train to Port Melbourne. Here they boarded the H.M.T. Straithaird bound for service in the Middle East. Thirty-four days later they disembarked at El Kantara. Here they boarded trains and travelled to their camp site at Beit Jirja where months of training followed. In late December they joined with other allied forces to move into Libya.

The Italians had a large force in and around Bardia which the allies attacked on 3rd January 1941. Within 3 days the battle was over and the victorious were moving on to take Tobruk. It is estimated that 40,000 Italians surrendered plus many tanks and field guns were captured. The Australians suffered 130 killed and 326 wounded. Arthur Burlock was Killed in Action at Bardia on Friday 3rd January 1941 and is buried in the Solum War Cemetery. He was aged 27.

Born at Northcote in December 1913, he was living in Eastfield Road, East Ringwood at the time of enlisting and was the son of Arthur and Emma Burlock.

LEONARD GRANT COLLETT VX 41760



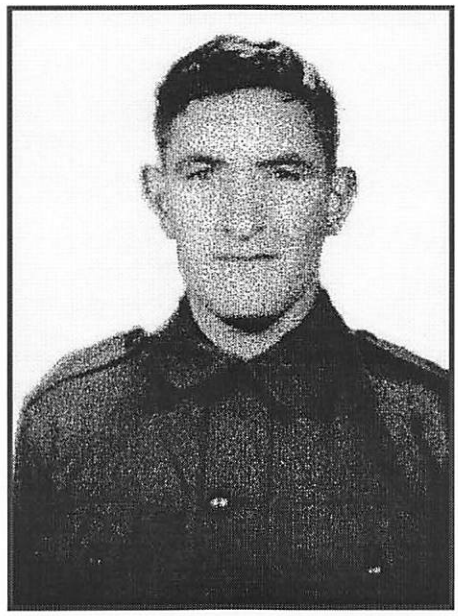
Keith Charles Collett was the older of the two brothers born at Albury NSW in August, 1919 his brother Leonard Grant Collett was born at Preston, Victoria in October, 1919 It was the younger brother Leonard who enlisted first at the Ringwood Drill Hall on the 13th June, 1940 his brother Keith enlisting at Ringwood Drill Hall 13 days later on the 26th June 1940. Records reveal that both brothers took their Oath of Enlistment at Caulfield on 27th June 1940

On the 29th June, 1940 Leonard Grant Collett was in Bendigo at the No. 10 Training Depot, from there it appears that he spent some time with the 4th Training Battalion before transferring to the 2/24 battalion on September 23rd On the 7th of December he is recorded as being posted to the 2nd reinforcements 2/24th Battalion.

Len and Keith embarked from Melbourne for the Middle East in February 1941 and disembarked 6 weeks later on the 23rd March
Based at Dimra in Palestine Len left the battalion for a month in May to serve with the 26 Australian Training Battalion. He rejoined the 2/24 on the 6th June At this time the battalion was in Torbuk as part of the Garrison under seige. The battalion history records that "the 6th June was a great day, for 110 men of our 2nd, 3rd,and 4th, reinforcements had arrived from Egypt by destroyer". From this it would appear that Len participated in the siege and continued to serve with the battalion while it later rested and re-equipped in Syria in the first 6 months of 1942. During this time he would have spent time with his older brother Keith.
As explained in Keith's story they were involved in the fighting around Mersa Matruh and later at Tel el Eisa. It is at the latter that Len was killed. As part of 15 platoon he was in a group that went forward in an attempt to overcome devastating machine gun fire that was threatening the flank of their company. Len was in the section ordered to the extreme right from which direction the heaviest firing was coming. He was not seen again by the rest of this platoon.

His next of kin was his mother Celiaia Evelyn Collett who lived at Greenwood Avenue Ringwood. Leonard Grant Collett is buried at El Alamein.

KEITH CHARLES COLLETT VX41756



Keith was a recruit at the depot located at the Caufield Racecourse. After a stay of 2 days he was then transferred to the No. 1O Training Depot located near Bendigo with his brother. The 23rd November, 1940 saw him with the training battalion where he spent 2 weeks. On the 7th of December he was posted to the 2/24 battalion with their 2nd reinforcements.

At about this time the main body of the 2/24 Battalion was leaving Colombo in transit for action in the Middle East. Keith was posted to the 26th Australian Infantry Training at Dimra in Palestine at which time he was Acing Corporal.

The 16th of July saw him arrive at the staging camp "Amiriya" Reverting to the rank of private he again joined the 26th Australian Infantry Training Battalion. The 9th division of which the 2/24 Battalion was a part was to spend 6 months in Syria, training and resting until as the battalion history describes it "They had reached the peak of efficiency and was both mentally and physically in top form" Meanwhile in January, 1942 the Axis forces headed by Rommel had been reinforced by tanks, guns and armoured cars and had launched a number of counter attacks.

He attacked Tobruk On the 20th of June and the garrison surrendered the following day. As result about 35,000 allied troops became P.O.W. The allies including the 2/24 Battalion had established a defensive position at Mersa Matruh in Egypt. Having achieved a number of victories Rommel felt sure that his army could continue its drive right through to Alexandria but was proven wrong when his forces were defeated at the battle of El Alamein in October 1942. Leading up to this major battle there were many conflicts and at a place called Tel el Elsa, about 5 miles east of El Alamein was where the Collett brothers were killed in action. For the 15th of July, 1942 the day Keith was killed, the battalion history records "Soon after dawn the enemy shelled and mortared our position until mid afternoon. During the bombardment we lost 3 men killed and one officer and 31 O.R.'s wounded" Keith was buried in the El Alamein Cemetery on the day of his death, but was later exhumed and re-interred in a different plot on 4th December 1942

EWEN FYFE VX 32332



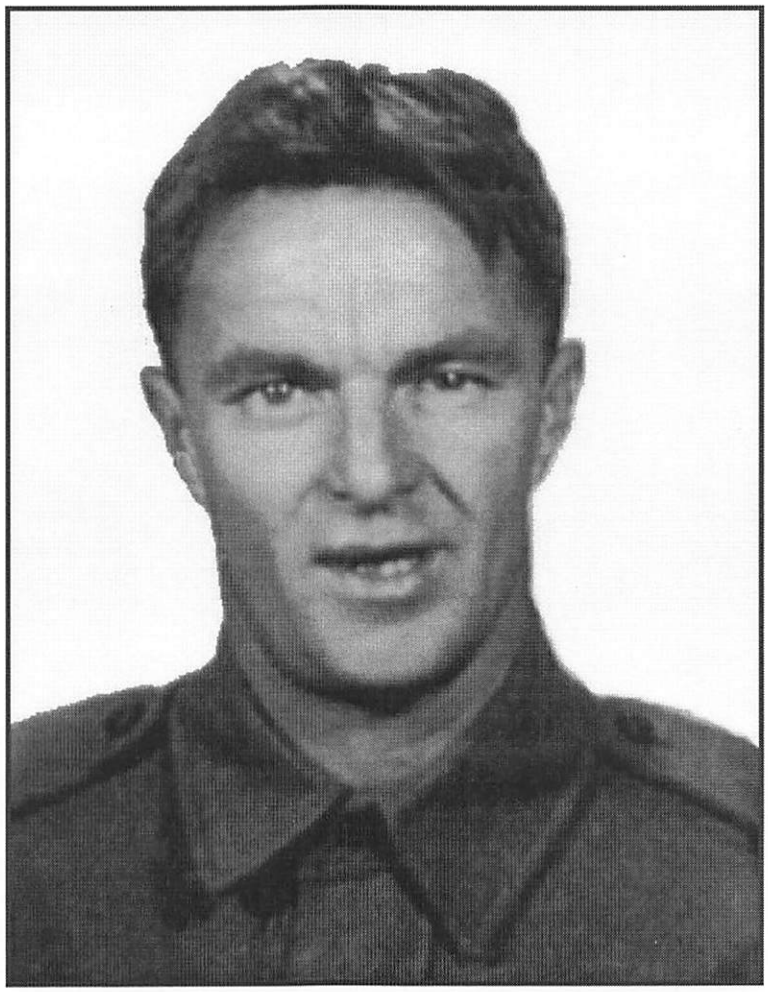
Enlisting at Hawthorn on 1st June 1940, it was another 17 days before he got into uniform. Taken on strength at Royal Park on the 18th June, 3 days later he was transferred to the 5th Infantry Training Depot at Colac. Posted to Albury on the 27th August, he joined the 2/23 Infantry Batallion. The battalion trained in the area and as a result the locals adopted them and they became 'Albury's Own".

In the 16th November the battalion boarded buses at Bonegilla for travel to Wodonga. From there they travelled by train to Port Melbourne Pier. That afternoon they set sail for the Middle East on board the H.M.T. Strathmore. Disembarking a month later at El Kantara they went into camp at Dimra where they stayed 3 months. March 1941 saw the battalion as part of a large allied force move west towards Tobruk. By the end of the month the 2/23 Battalion was part of the garrison that had relieved the 6th Division allowing it to go the Greece and other areas. Continually patrolling and digging, the defenders awaited Axis power major attack. It was during this period that Ewen Fyfe was killed.

It is recorded that "late on the 28th April 1941 several Stukas dived on the 2/23 battalion A Company position, which resulted in Pte. Fyfe being killed instantly with 2 others dying of wounds shortly afterwards."

He was aged 28 and is buried in the Tobruk War Cemetry.
Born at Hawthorn in April 1913, upon enlisting he gave his address as Wantirna Road, Ringwood. Son of William and Louisa Fyfe of Ringwood.

EDWARD JAMES MONGER VX 41794



Edward enlisted at the Ringwood Drill Hall on the 27th June 1940.

After a few days at Caulfield for kitting out, he was transferred to No. 10 Training Depot at Bendigo. On the 7th December he was posted to the 3rd reinforcements 2/24 Infantry Battalion at Echuca. Records show that he then had a short stay at both Balcombe and Darley camps before he embarked from Sydney for the Middle East in April 1941. Upon arrival, he with other troops was attached to the 26th Infantry Training Battalion. He rejoined the 2/24 at Dimra on 9th July 1941. Shortly after, the battalion was to become part of the Tobruk garrison.

On 15th July 1942 he was wounded. Records show that at this time the battalion was at Tel el Eisa in the lead up to the Battle of El Alamein and suffered heavy casualties as a result of enemy shelling. Recovering from his wounds he then participated in the main battle as a stretcher bearer with B Company.

Initially posted as missing, he was later reported as being Killed in Action on Monday the 26th October 1942, aged 32.Born at Yarra Junction in 1910 he was living at Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood at the time of enlisting. His wife June Monger was from Moama, N.S.W.

RALPH MORCOM VX 7419



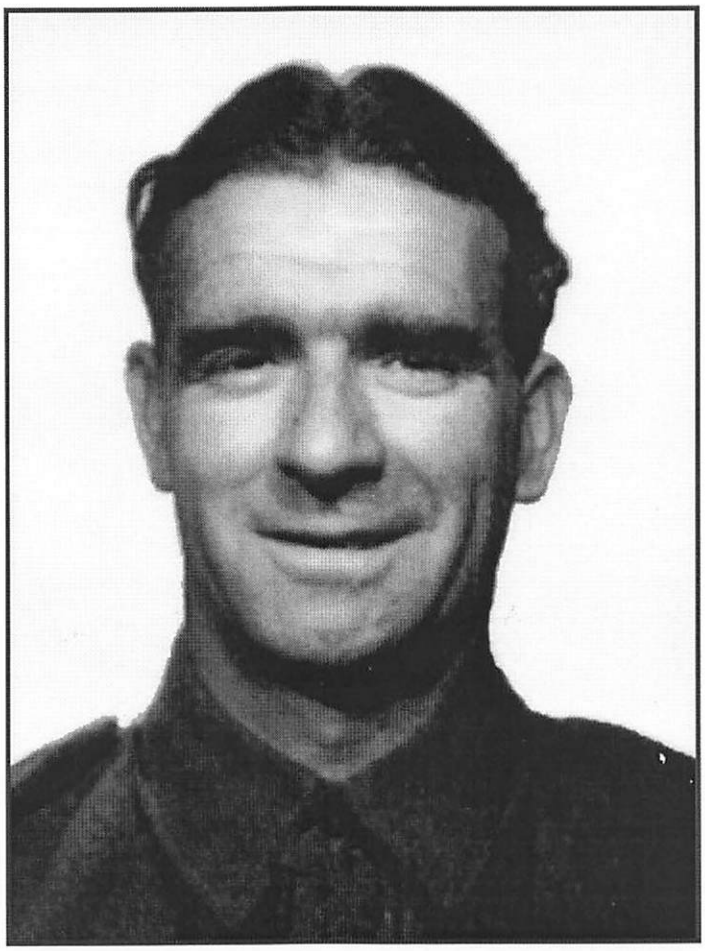
Ralph Eric Morcom enlisted on the 14th November, 1939 He was allocated to the 2nd 5th Infantry Battalion (2/5 Inf Btn) On the 14th April, 1939 he embarked with the 2/5th Btn at Port Melbourne on His Majesty's Transport Y2 or HMT Etterick. He disembarked at Kantara on the 18th May, 1940.

Ralph Morcom was admitted to Casualty receiving station at Bait Jirja in Southern Palestine where the 2/5th and various other battalians were camped on the16th June, 1940 He was discharged the next day from the Casualty receiving station
On the 14th July, 1940 he was evacuated to the First Australian General Hospital,

On the 24th October, 1940 Ralph Morcom was evacuated to the 2 New Zealand General Hospital. From the New Zealand General Hospital Morcom went to the NZ Convalescent depot then to 1 Aust Convalescent depot to recover his health.

On the 19th November, 1940 he was discharged from I Aust con depot. He went to 17 Aust Inf training battalion which trained reinforcements for the 3 Btns of the 17 Inf Brigade i.e. 2/6, 2/6 and 2/7 Btns. At this time the 2/5th had been moved to Egypt.
8th January, 1941 he was marched out of the Training Btn to staging camp in Egypt.
12th January, 1941 he was marched out of staging camp to the 2/5th Inf Btn (by now the Btn had been in the Bardia Battle and were getting ready to attack Tobruk in Libya
He embarked in Middle East for Greece (the 6th division was withdrawn from Libya to the Amiriya camp outside Alexandria and sent to Greece)
On the 19th April, 1941 Pte Ralph Morcom was killed in action in Greece.

LESLIE ALBERT JOHNSON VX 50877



Private Johnson enlisted in the Australian Army Ordnance Corps at Carlton on 25th February 1941 and reported for service at Royal Park on the 10th March. He was posted to the 4th Reserve Motor Transport Company Australian Army Service Corps at Caulfield as a driver 3 days later.

He embarked from Sydney on the 10th April 1941 and arrived at Singapore on the 24th April as part of the 8th Division.

In July he was at Malacca, Malaya and was in the Allied Forces that participated in its country's defence against the Japanese invasion. Overwhelmed, the Allies were forced to withdraw down the Malayian Peninsular to Singapore.

It was in this retreat that Les Johnson was accidentally killed on Saturday the 24th January 1942. He was buried at Tampoi Hill Cemetery and was aged 32.

He was born at Elwood in July 1901, the son of Albert and Margaret Johnson.

CLIFFORD RUTLAND TANN VX60815



Enlisting at South Melbourne on the 22nd July 1940, he was posted to the Australian Army Service Corps, 4th Division. After completing a 68 day training camp at Balcombe, 22nd Coy. A.M.F. he was transferred to the unit reserve on 1st April 1941 and posted to the South Melbourne Depot. He returned to Balcombe on 28th December 1941, now on full time duty.

He was promoted to acting Corporal and 3 months later, Acting Sergeant. On 26th April 1942, he entrained for service in the 5th Military District, Western Australia. Whilst there he was attached to a number of units as a driver, including 2nd Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers. He re-joined the A.A.S.C. on 20th November 1942.

He was killed when the motor cycle he was riding collided with a tram at Beaconsfield, Freemantle on Wednesday 23rd December 1942. He was aged 27.

Born at Geelong in January 1915, he was living with his wife Irene at Haig Street, Ringwood when he enlisted. He was the son of Albert and Gertrude Tann. He is buried in the Perth W.A. War Cemetery.

F.A.S. KUMKIE VX15816



The only official information records are the details of his last resting place.

The letter to Corporal Kumkie's Mother from the War Department.

Mrs. E.A.Kumkie
Wantirna Rd.,
RINGWOOD

18th October. 1941

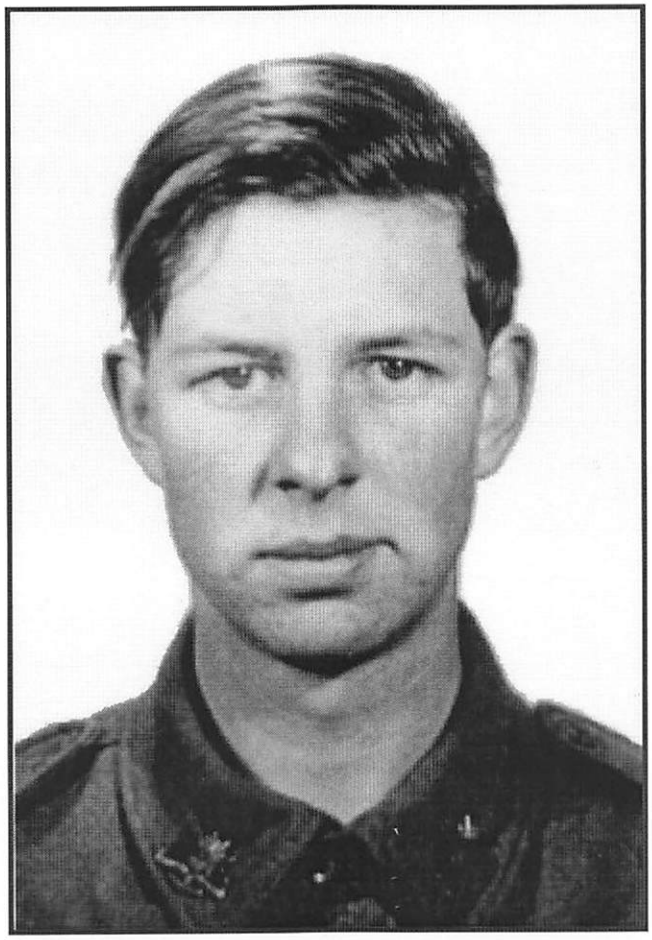
MADAM

VX15816 - Cpl. Kumkie, F.A.S

Details of Burial

Date of Burial:-12/6/41
Place:- Reference 24/1581 Buried in GraveN. "A" 64
New British War Memorial Cemetary Haifa.

WILLIAM PATRICK REILLY VX 22840



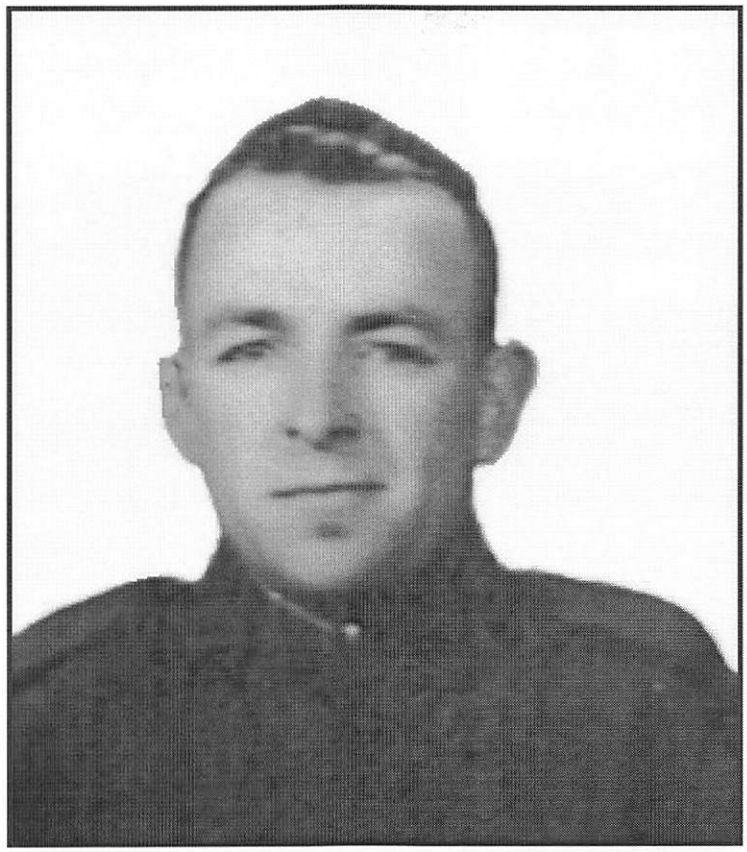
Enlisting at the Ringwood Drill Hall on 6th June 1940, he went firstly to Caulfield then onto Puckapunyal the following day. Posted to the recently formed 2/14 Infantry Battalion he embarked from Sydney on board the Aquitania for the Middle East on 19th October 1940. On the 25th they arrived in Egypt and the battalion disembarked at Kantara.

April saw them move into position for a possible German attack. However, with a change in strategy it was deemed that the 7th Division would be included in the allied force selected to invade Syria. Thus in early June 1941 the 2/14 Battalion was heading north to do battle with the Vichy French which included the Foreign Legion.

It was at the Battle of Jezzine that Private Reilly was Killed in Action on 24th June 1941. It is recorded that whilst the troops were moving through a cross-fire of machine guns across a bare flat it was thought that they had escaped the hail of bullets. However it was later discovered that both the Sergeant and Private Bill Reilly had been killed. Initially buried on the east slope of Mount Jezzine, he was re-interred in the Beyrouth British War Cemetery. He was aged 21.

Born in Dublin, Ireland in October 1919, he was living at Mullum Road, Ringwood when he enlisted. He was the son of Michael and Elizabeth Reilly of Ringwood.

R.E.G. NORTON VX 48165



RONALD EDMUND GEORGE NORTON

A.I.F. 1 Indep. Coy., Australian Infantry
who died on
Wednesday, 1st July 1942. Age 23.

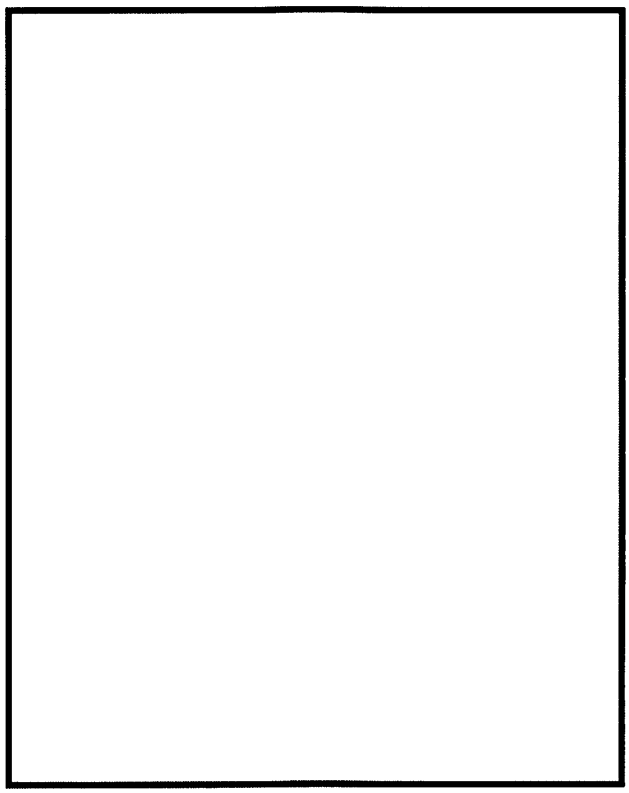
{PRIVATE}Additional Information:	Son of Percy Victor Norton and Ida Violet Norton, of East Ringwood, Victoria.
{PRIVATE}Memorial:	RABAUL MEMORIAL, Papua New Guinea
Grave Reference/ Panel Number:	Panel 14.

Private R. Norton was onboard the "Montivideo Maru" a Japanese ship transporting 1,053 Australian Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees from Rabual to Hainan Island.

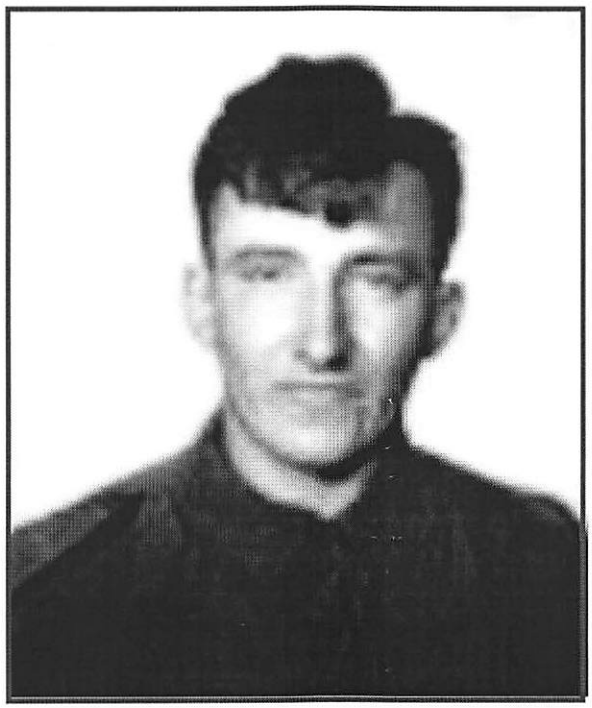
The ship was torpedoed and sunk with the loss of all Allied Prisoners, approximately 7 miles of Bjoeador Lighthouse on the north west corner of Luzon Island in the Phillipines by the United states Submarine "Sturgeon" on the 1st July 1942

FOREMAN. R.

I have nothing about this man, no photo VX nunber or history



K.N. POWELL VX66324



Craftsman
VX66324
A.I.F. 2/10 Ord. Wksp., Australian Corps of Electrical & Mech. Engrs
who died on
Sunday, 17th June 1945. Age 22.

{PRIVATE}Additional Information: Son of George Leslie and Alice Louisa Powell, of Ringwood, Victoria.

Commemorative Information

{PRIVATE}Memorial: LABUAN MEMORIAL, Malaysia

Vic. Paybook photograph, taken on enlistment, of VX66324 Craftsman Kenneth Norman Powell, 2/10th Ordnance Workshop, Australian Corps of Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. He was one of over 2000 Allied prisoners of war (POW) held in the Sandakan POW camp in north Borneo, having been transferred there from Singapore as a part of B Force. The 1494 POW's that made up B Force, were transported from Changi on 7 July 1942 on board the tramp ship Ubi Maru, arriving in Sandakan Harbour on 18 July 1942. Craftsman Powell, aged 22, died as a prisoner of the Japanese on 17 June 1945. He was the son of George Leslie and Alice Louisa Powell, of Ringwood, Vic. He is commemorated on the Labuan Memorial Panel 29. (Photograph copied from AWM232, items 4 and 5. Personal information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Database.)