

On the morning of 31 October, the Australian battalions were concentrated in the most fiercely contested area of the whole battlefield. During the early hours of 1 November, 24th brigade took over command of the forward units and the 2/28th and 2/43rd battalions relieved the 2/24th and 2/48th battalions. At midday, a major enemy assault by tanks with aerial and artillery support commenced and continued throughout the afternoon and well into the night. It did not die down until 2.30 am on 2 November which was ninety minutes after the long awaited break-out Operation Supercharge had opened with an intense artillery barrage.

From the night of 26 October 1942 when the Australians started their drive northwards and brought the whole weight of the Africa Corps against them, Montgomery had been regrouping his forces to create a reserve for the break-out. On 2 November, with the Axis reserves concentrated against the 9th Division, Montgomery made his thrust through the bridgehead originally secured by the 9th Division on the opening night of the battle. The Germans did not break immediately but the overwhelming British aerial and armoured strength ensured success. Rommel first gave the order to retreat on the evening of 2 November, cancelled the order when Hitler directly intervened and finally restarted his withdrawal on the night of 3/4 November. On 5 November, the 9th Division found the enemy gone from its front and having fought the last Australian battle in North Africa returned home in early 1943. The victorious 8th Army was unable to seize the opportunity of cutting off and capturing a sizeable proportion of Rommel's force and it was not until 13 May 1943 that North Africa was cleared of enemy forces.

The 8th Army casualties were 13,500 killed, wounded or missing. About 27,000 prisoners were taken, 450 tanks destroyed or abandoned and much equipment captured. The 9th Australian Division losses between 23 October and 4 November totalled 2,694, including 620 dead, 1944 wounded and 130 taken prisoner. Churchill in The Second World War said the magnificent drive towards the coast by the Australians, achieved by ceaseless bitter fighting, swung the whole battle in favour of the British. Montgomery's Chief of Staff, Sir Francis de Guingand said in Operation Victory of the Australian thrust towards the coast:

I think this area saw the most determined and savage fighting of the campaign. No quarter was given, and the Australians fought some of the finest German troops in well-prepared positions to a standstill, and by their action did a great deal to win the battle of El Alamein.



Cowra 1940



Swimming Parade
Cowra



Route March
Cowra 1940



"Bill" (Bill) Campbell &
Diddy (Bert) Sutcliffe. Cowra 1940



George Robertson
Cowra



Bill Mackay



Bivouac Cowra
B Rudd



Cowra, 1940



Orange Rifle Range



Cowra 1940



Torpy announces final leave



"Home again. Cowra
1940



On final leave



En route from Cowra
To Darling Harbour



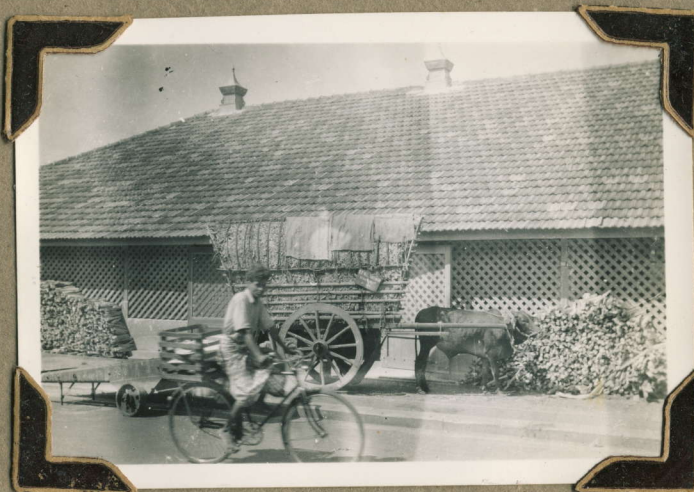
En route to boat.



Onboard complete
with Mac West



Native Traders
Ceylon



Buffalo Cart. Ceylon



Catamarans
Ceylon



AIF Nurses in
Catamaran



A. Catamaran



Bitter Lakes



Taken from the train in the
desert between El Kantara &
Gaza



A stop for tea



Desert convey (Note the dust)



Desert Architecture



A desert town
(Fullaja, I think)



Some of our trucks
at Sbiza



Ruins at Sbiḥa Sinai P.



Ruins of Crusader Stronghold
beyond Beersheba towards Sinai



Noel Poynting at Sbiḥa



Ruins of Sbiḥa
Sinai Peninsula



Ruins of Church
at Sbiḥa



Ruined Church
Sbiḥa



One of my first snaps
in Palestine



dust off guard
Tom Rushby, John Woods
Bill MacKay, Jack McCa
and yours truly



Lt. R. Robertson Poynting
Smith Champion



Lt. R. J.S.B. Badawi
Suffidi and young Mahmud



Keith Hunter and
Curly Myers



Clair, Poynting, Hunter
Maher - badly out of
focus



Just a snap



Benjamin (Village Policeman on leave)
Poynting. — & self



Palestinian Shepherd
the bamboo in his hand
is his pipe on which he
plays fearsome music



A snap in an orchard



Battn R.A.P.
F. Sherwood
of Orange 954
Battn seated



At the Races



In our tent during the rains
Hunter, Keihne, Meyers Luxmore
Johnson



Bill Keihne



Thompson, Bromhead, Coggan
Poynting Clair



P.T



Hunter Myers Poynting
& Bromhead



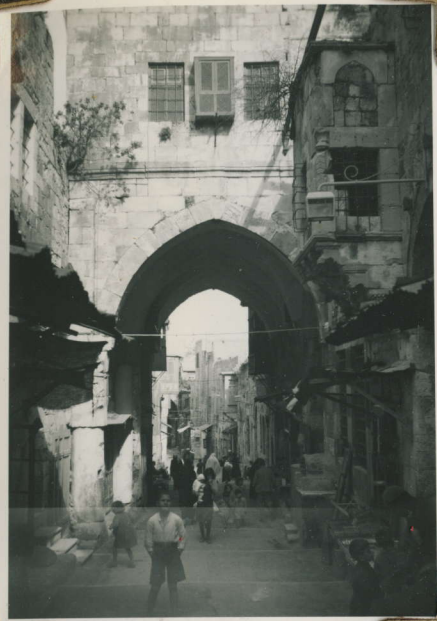
Self & John Wood on
walls of Jerusalem
March 1941



On leave in Jerusalem
March 1941



Jerusalem



A street in Jerusalem



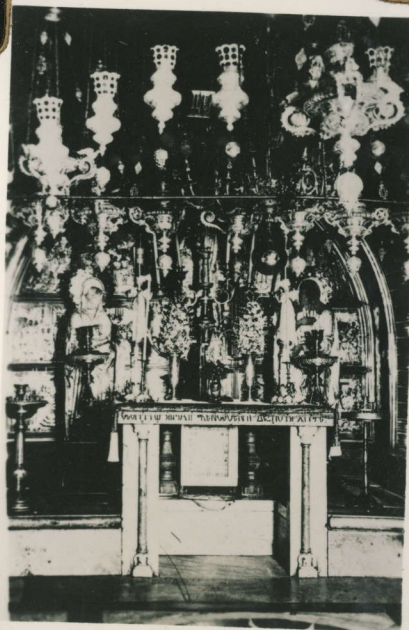
*The Wailing Wall
The old lady sitting down
is having a real cry*



*The Church of the
Holy Sepulchre*



*Building over the Holy
Sepulchre (in the Church)*

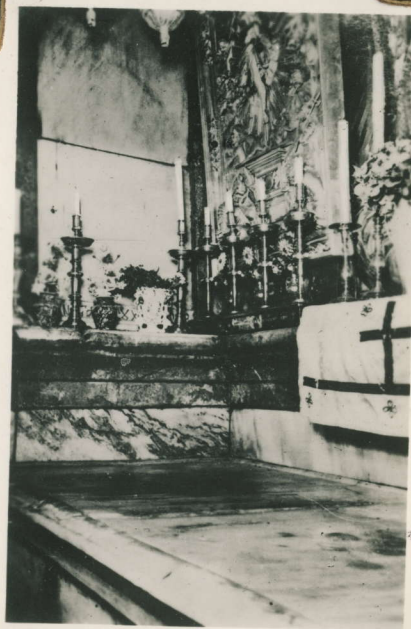


Calvary

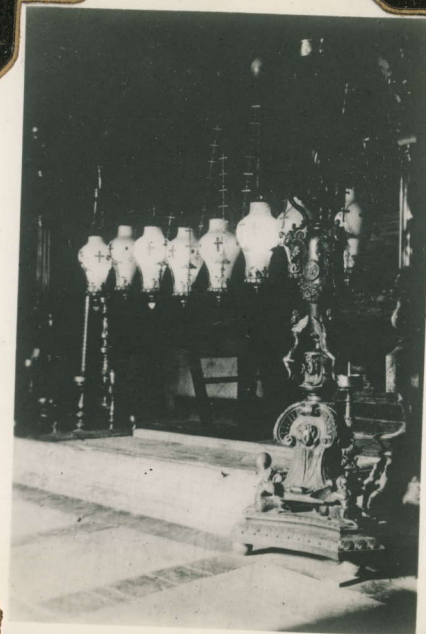




Our Lady of Sorrows



Interior of Holy Sepulchre



Anointing Stone



The Cave
(Note the Silver Star, bottom
centre)



Bethlehem



Bethlehem
Franciscan Chap



Church of the Nativity
(Note the small door)



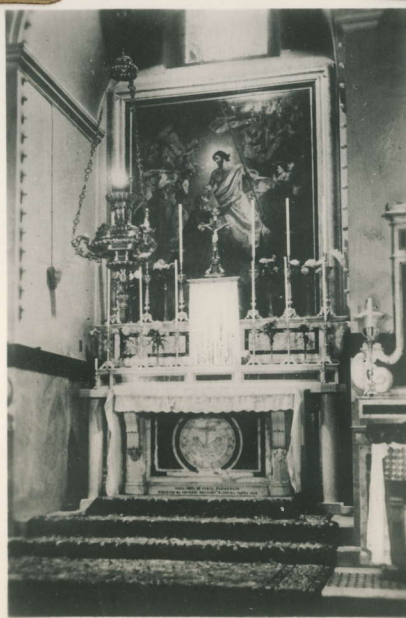
Church of the Holy Family
Nazareth



Church of The Nativity
Bethlehem



Descent to The Manger
Bethlehem



Franciscan Chapel



Rachels Tomb Bethlehem



Nazareth



Garden of Gethsemane



Altar in the Church of All Nations, Garden of Gethsemane. Original rock can be seen in front of the Altar



Tiberias & the Sea of Galilee



"Dat ribber Jordan



Russian Compound
Jerusalem



Another view of the
Russian Compound.



Native women carrying fuel
near Jerusalem



War cemetery
Mount of Olives



Memorial to Australians
Mount of Olives



Ruins of St John's Church
Sebastiya



Looking over the wall
of Jerusalem



A Maronite Church
They put an electric light
wherever they can



Standing: - Laurie, Poynting, Drinkwater, Bromhead
 Keirne, Maher, Hunter
 Sitting Bannister, Sutcliffe, Geary, Clair, Izard, Mye



Round the dugout mouth
 Hedgehog & barbed wire in distance



Standing: - Laurie, Poynting, Drinkwater, Bromhead
 Keihne Maher Hunter
 Sitting Bannister Sutcliffe Geary, Clair, Izard Mye



Part of No 2 Platoon, 2/2 Machine Gun Bn. Western Desert
 (Off photograph)



Round the dugout mouth
 Hedgehog & barbed wire in distance



lining the Guard at the
Royal Palace, Cairo



Going for water



Farouk's palace Cairo



An avenue in Gezireh, Fashionable
Suburb of Cairo on island in river



Not a bad spot, Cairo



Bromhead, Brookes, Clair



This is "yours truly" sitting
on the top of Cheops pyramid
Age 4850 years (Circa)
Original height 480ft.



Shadow of pyramid
over Giza



Climbing the pyramid
Taken from $\frac{2}{3}$ way up



The step pyramid at Sakkara
First pyramid & oldest large stone
monument in the world.
Built by Pharaoh Zoser



This minaret was just
outside my hotel window
in Cairo



The mosque of Omar.



Irrigating from Nile
bucket system



Bromhead, Clair, Smith
Rhodesian Gardens
Mahomet Ali Barrage
below Cairo



A "Tramp" on the Nile



Irrigating from Nile
Water buffalo & wheel



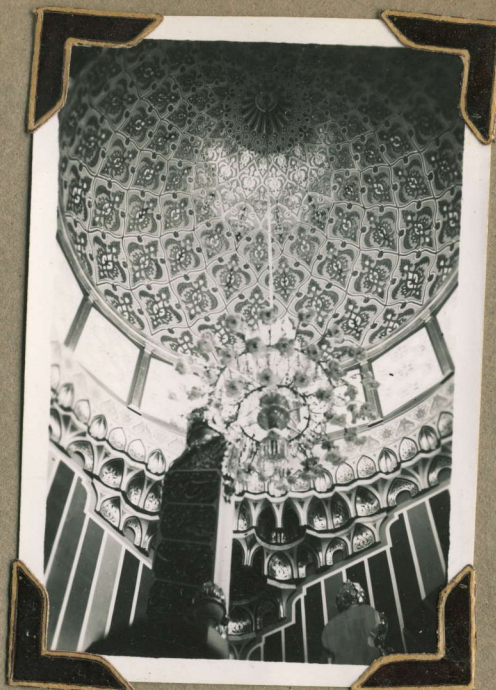
Ghyppo boat on Nile
Note man 2/3 way up
mast



The Nile near Cairo



Mosque of Omar



This is an angled shot
of the dome of the mosque
where the Egyptian Royal
family are buried



This was taken in old
Cairo near Ibn Tulun's mosque



Water carriers



One method of seeing the
Rhodesian Gardens



A Cairo Shop window



Another shop window in Cairo
the reflections in the glass
spoiled the shot



Keeper holding armadillo
in Cairo Zoo



A new mosque on
Gezira Island



Two disgusted kookaburras
with a brightly coloured
copper in Cairo Zoo



Our camp in Wadi Sharia
In the gully in centre you will
notice three tents made from
blankets, mine was the
centre one



Footsteps in the sand



Wadi Sharia. Rather bar
What!!



This is the tent so often
spoken of by poet & song writer
the Bedouin tent



Wadi Sharia, where
the flock drink &
the Arabs get their
water



My blanket tent
Wadi Sharia



Baby Camels



and more baby camels



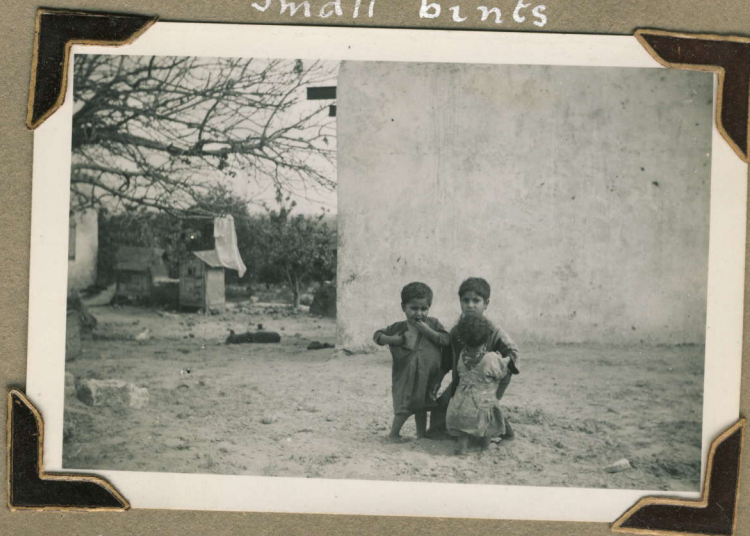
and still more baby camels



Small bints



Arabs



Three Arab urchins



Bringing the animals in
for a drink Wadi Shar'ia



A small walad filling
the family water jars
at Wadi Shar'ia



Wadi Shar'ia



This little cove's mother gave
him a ride with the water
There were two more jars on the
other side. She probably climbed
aboard herself later



This walad had been
watering his pop's camel
He was a bit camera shy



This walad thought I was
taking a photo of some
sheep. I suddenly swung the
camera & took him



Some of H & Coy out on
a map reading march
Wadi Sharina



Bob Mackay examines
a lamb's tail. Mahmud
(commonly known as Mud)
looks on



Keith Hunter on camel
Terry Geary with rifle
Pop (Roy) Smith background
Wadi Sharina



Native sheep



Shepherd boy & sheep.
Wadi Sharina.

No, I don't know what



This is a little walaad (boy) holding
a black lamb. The sheep have a flap of
skin or fat hanging where the tail
should be & a little tail on that
They have ears like a cocker spaniel



Taken about 75 yards away
from our tent. The ploughs
are very primitive.



Arab shepherd. Note
the reed pipe



Another view of the ploughing
The long stick serves a dual purpose.
One end to prod the donkey or what
ever have you. the other end is flat &
covered with tin to scrape soil
from the front of the plough
The fields are ploughed in both di-
rections, but they have no harrows



Mackay Bromhead
Wood Clair



Shy bints



Veree sweet, verree clean
Very hygene



The nursery at Hulda



Monument at Hulda
Carved by a woman in
memory of her 3 children
killed in Arab rising



A youngster in the nursery
at Hulda



Adrian Simpson, John Wood & self
in the pine forest at Hulda



Degunyer Jewish Communal Settlement
Sea of Galilee in distance



These kids used to hang round our camp at meal time when we were camped on the beach training for the surf carnival at Tel Aviv



Performing Goat
Haifa



Sailing boats near Haifa



Coast near Haifa



Road making in a camp in Palestine
The girls are refugees



Refugee ships run aground
at Tel Aviv



Bill Mackay paying a boot
black in Haifa



Adrian Simpson in a cranky
mood owing to be embarked
& disembarked - ad lib, before
going on leave



Bill Mackay going on
leave



This is a painting in our hotel
room in Haifa. The Arab boy
who looked after us exclaimed
frequently on its beauty



Taken by Bill Mackay at Haifa
outside old German Sports Club now a
canteen
Bromhead, Purdon Brookes Gibson Clair



Aussie crazy diving
Palistine Swimming
Championships



In training.- Simpson Bromhead
Hunter Mackay



crazy diving display



2/2 Machine Gun Bttn. Team
Tel Aviv Surf Carnival.

L to R Back row Standing Stewart, MacKay, Brown, Ward, Neville Simpson Abbott
2nd row " Albertson, Churchyard, Watson, Lt Ferguson, Robinson, Neilson
3rd row Sitting Bromhead Freeman
Front row " Nouhaus Richards Mays, Purdon Hunter Maher



On leave with Bill Mackay



Arab village (El Mughar)
in Palestine



The Dead Sea



- Besanko & Shorty Burnand
1 AGH

L W goes swimming
New Years Day 1942



No, not sick - except
of the army



Still sick - of the army



J. R. complete with
black eye



and Monastery



Peach & almond blossoms in
a Lebanese village



Bridge at Btarran



terraced hillsides overlooking
the sea



Water pump at Btarran



Fib. a Lebanese village



Clock tower Tripoli (Syria)



Syrian desert at evening



Carrying a load of
camel grass into Tripoli
for the bakers' ovens



One of Amouns Churches
built on the edge of a cliff



Interior of Crusader Church
at Bosharre



Digging in the desert



Another desert snap. The intense light & glare makes it hard to get a good snap



Working on gun positions. Yes. That's me shovelling



Digging gun positions in the Syrian desert



Waiting for a review by a high Australian officer



Where I was billeted in Syria



Johnny Parkhill &
Paddy Webb



Our platoon cookhouse in Syria



Mixing camouflage paint



You press the sponge
when you want more
water



Sunday morning.
Bill Mackay taking things
easy.



Threshing on the edge
of the Syrian Desert
(They sit down to it here)



Harvest scene



Reaping in
Syria



Carrying in the crop



Two of the reapers - father & son
Note the hams on their backs to protect the



These women & children
follow the reapers, gleaning



Some of the gleaners
Hadova, Nusmaity
Salimai, Hamid



Threshing



These are the stacks at the threshing
ground, you can see the threshers
at work



Threshing



Our parade Ground at Bechmezzine



Yvonne Najer



A Syrian olive grove



Washer women in the
Lebanon



The terraced hillsides of Lebanon



Valley villages from
Crusader Church, Fih.



Lebanese gorges



Mountains with snow in background (Lebanon)



A view from the Cedars road looking down the gorge of the R. Qadisha. Bshayre (6000 ft above sea level) is on the right



Buildings at the Cedars



Note the terraces on top left hand side. The goats can find a feed anywhere (Lebanon)



The Lebanon Mountains note the villages



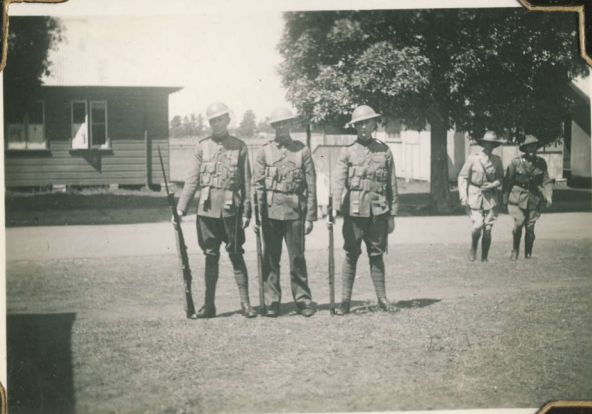
Amoun. A village in the
Lebanon



Lebanon Mountains



Pack Mules



Poles in Lebanon



At the Horns crossroads. Alep
is Aleppo & Damas, Damascus



The Arab Legion in
Transjordan



Transjordan customs & passport
control post at Allenby Bridge



New mosque in Damascus
The mouzzin is calling the
faithful to prayer



A street in the old part
of Damascus



Minaret in Damascus



New building in modern
Damascus



A brass workers shop in
Damascus



"The street called Straight"
Damascus, said to be the
oldest street in the world



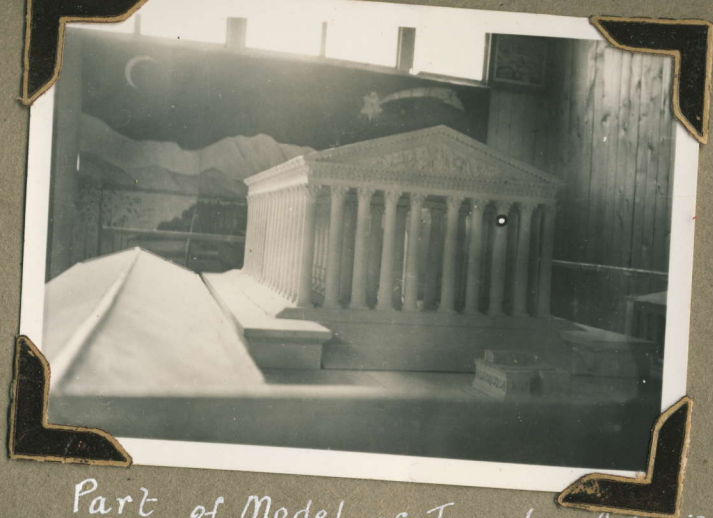
Ruins of the Temple of Jupiter
Baalbec



"A"
Columns of the Temple of
Jupiter, 12 feet high. Fallen
columns are about 7'6" high (diameter)



Ruins of Temple of Venus
Baalbec



Part of Model of Temple of Jupiter



This is the Temple of Bacchus
at Baalbec. The columns are 60 ft
high



Roman Ruins, Sebastia



Foul snap of yours truly
in front of fallen block
mentioned in snap marked A (Oppo page

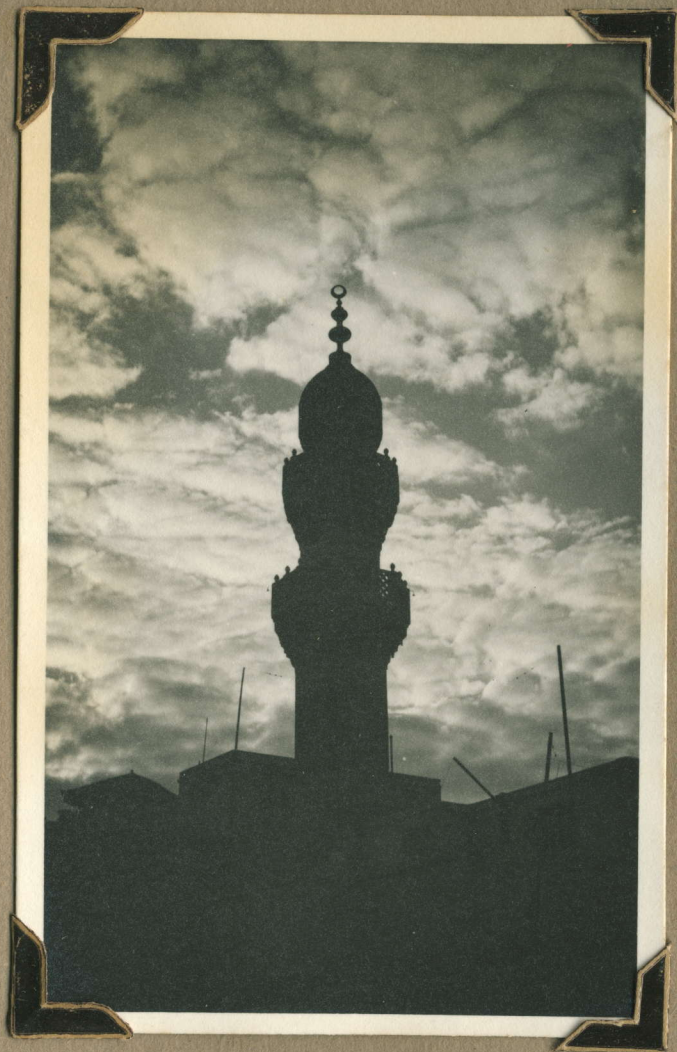


Enlargements of Snaps



Enlargments of Snaps







DAMAS - ENTRÉE DU MEIDAN



107 - Damas - Mosquée Tekieh et Solimanieh vue de la Rivière Barada

















R. C.

NX.56182 PTE. J.S.BROMHEAD

2/2 AUST. M.G. BN.

9 . 11 . 42





TELEPHONES:

MXV 440
CENTRAL 1102
CENTRAL 1103



EDB

DIRECTORATE OF WAR GRAVES SERVICES

VICTORIA BARRACKS, ST KILDA ROAD, MELBOURNE

CITY ADDRESS:

307 ELIZABETH ST.,
MELBOURNE, C1

Quote in
Reply A.G. 14/

22nd August, 1946.

Dear Mr. Bromhead,

Enclosed herewith is a photograph of the grave of the late Pte. J.S. BROMHEAD, who was laid to rest in the Heliopolis Mil. Cemetery.

The Cross depicted in this photograph is a temporary memorial only, and will be replaced by a permanent memorial after the cessation of hostilities. The design for this permanent memorial has not yet been decided upon, but you may be assured that it will be in keeping with the gallant sacrifice of our men.

Special units, whose duty it is to keep all War Graves in good order for all time, have been formed, and I trust that it will be some consolation to you to know that the grave of your loved one will be carefully maintained in a manner befitting one who has given his life in the service of the Allied Cause.

The Staff of the Directorate join with me in expressing sympathy in your sad loss, and, should you desire to make any enquiries, you may be assured that they will receive immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Chapman
(J. H. CHAPMAN)
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Director

TO _____

Wishing you a

FROM





2/2 AUST M.G. Bn * A.I.F. ABROAD * CHRISTMAS 1942



Foundation member, William "Bob" Bromhead as a young Spitfire Pilot on Malta in 1943. His kangaroo mascot was painted by a British ground crew member. Mr Bromhead recalls the difficulty he had explaining what a kangaroo looks like to someone who had never seen the 'real thing'.