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**RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION Inc.**
44 Victoria Avenue, ALBERT PARK, VIC 3206
Hall Phone (03 9690 5710) Monthly meeting normally on 4th Friday of each month
Starting at 10.30 am, see details below. *(No meetings January, April, July & December)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 15</td>
<td><strong>Tobruk Sunday</strong> ceremony at Rats of Tobruk Reserve opposite Tobruk House Albert Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.00 pm start followed by afternoon tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
<td><strong>ANZAC Day</strong>– Lunch after the march, at Tobruk House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost $15 nibbles until 12.30pm $35 Nibbles &amp; Hot Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 27</td>
<td>No General Meeting due to Anzac Day–two days before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>General Meeting + $6.00 per person—light meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 22</td>
<td>General Meeting + $12.00 per person—2 course meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY</td>
<td><strong>Note there will be no meetings in July</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST 24</td>
<td>General Meeting + $6.00 per person—light meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST 28</td>
<td>77th Anniversary Carpathian Brigade entry into Tobruk Service at the Shrine of Remembrance details to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 21*</td>
<td>General Meeting + $12.00 per person—2 course meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 26</td>
<td>General Meeting + $6.00 per person—light meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 23</td>
<td>General Meeting + $6.00 per person—light meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 9</td>
<td>Christmas Dinner-cost TBA (Sunday) 12.00 for 13.00 start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 28</td>
<td><strong>Note there will be no General meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile number</td>
<td>0432 232 502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Patron:**
Bill Gibbins
Committee of Management
President:- Bob Semple
Vice President:- Held over for 12 months
Secretary:- Graham Gibson
Treasurer :- Mike Kiernan
Hall Keeper:- Reg Lawrence
Other Committee Members:-
David Caple, Tony Codd, Glenda Garde
Bob Horton, Karolina Sevcikova

Email: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com
Hall number 03 9690 5710 (leave recorded message)

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**Deadlines**
**Editorial & Advertising**
**ISSUE:** June2018
**DEADLINE:** May 11th
We welcome all contributions from our community but cannot guarantee publication.
Email is preferred, with documents in Word and pictures in jpeg format but not essential.

Articles or letters that have no contact details, will not be published.
The President and ROTA Inc. members wish to extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to the families and friends of our departed comrades.

They shall grow not old as we that are left, grow old age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

HARDY, Edward Ernest, NX24816, 2/3rd Fld Coy, 27th January, 2018 aged 95 years
CONDUIT, Jean, Ladies Auxiliary, 18th October, 2017
MANNING, David William, PM/3925, HMAS Perth, 21st February, 2018 aged 94 years

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all families at this sad time.

Rats of Tobruk Association Inc.

Secretary’s Report, Victorian Branch - April 2018

To all members & friends of ROTA Inc.,

We say farewell to our Secretary/ Treasurer & Hall Keeper, Reg Lawrence as he retires from these roles and looks forward to a more relaxing lifestyle. Well may he. Enjoy a welcome rest after a his dedicated service. We are truly indebted to both Reg and June for the 17 years that they have dedicated to the Rats of Tobruk Association, its veterans and members. Thankyou to you both on a stirling effort, you will always be welcome at Tobruk House and in our hearts, come back anytime.

We were saddened to learn that David Manning the last Victorian survivor of HMAS Perth 1 died in February aged 94 years, may he rest in peace.

As we prepare for the 77th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk, we would like to invite you to the Tobruk Sunday commemorative service to be held at the Rats of Tobruk Reserve, Albert Park, on Sunday 15th March starting at 14.00 followed by a delicious afternoon tea at Tobruk House, Albert Park.

Flu shots are just around the corner and the advise is that they will be available around late April or early May. Please check with your G.P.

There are many on our sick list at the moment and we wish them a speedy recovery and a return to good health in the near future.

Thank-you once again We are always thinking of you.
Graham Gibson Secretary
Welcome to our New Affiliate Members

Robin Williams  Howard Guerin  Zac Guerin
John Goss  Kevin Spencer  Kaye Farmer
Christine Osbourne

MEMORABILIA

The committee would like to hear from anybody who has Rats of Tobruk memorabilia that they would like to either loan/donate to us to display at Tobruk House. Please feel free to contact our Secretary Graham Gibson and advise him of the item/s you have. The committee will look at the number of items and work out where and how to store them.

77th Anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk-
Sunday, 15th April, 2018
on the Rats of Tobruk Reserve
opposite Tobruk House,
44 Victoria Avenue, Albert Park
A Commemorative Service – starting at

14.00
Followed by light refreshments in the hall

For further details please call 0432 232 502

Limited parking is available in the area
For those wishing to use public transport, the No1 South Melbourne Beach tram passes the door.
Reg & June Lawrence have been the stalwarts for ROTA Inc. for the past 17 years, it has been their drive that has made ROTA Inc. what it is today. They have rallied the National Servicemen’s Association and the wives of the these men to lend a hand and pitch in to keep ROTA Inc. going and to improve a very shaky bottom-line into a thriving association that is in the black and looking to many prosperous years ahead. From providing catering and social stimulus to the Association and management of the hall, secretarial skills and book keeping (Treasurer) to name a few of this dynamic team’s achievements. They have been selfless in the way they have approached their dedication to the welfare and care of ROTA Inc. It is also with great pleasure that the committee unanimously agreed to present June with an Honorary Life Membership badge for the services and welfare that she has provided to our veterans & the wider ROTA Inc. membership and their families. From the ROTA Inc. family to you both—congratulations on an excellent job very well done, time to put the feet up and enjoy the quality time and memories that you both have created & will be able to share. Reg & June will always be welcome visitors to Tobruk House.....
My late father, L/Cpl Horace Arthur BAKER, SX7433 enlisted in June 1940 at the age of 20 and was attached to the 2/8th Field Ambulance, 9th Division as a stretcher bearer. After training at the Woodside Army Camp his unit sailed from Melbourne on the Mauretania to the Middle East. After 2 months in Palestine they were sent to North Africa and then into Tobruk on March 17th. They served there for 7 months until departing on October 21st. The unit also served at El Alamein before eventually returning to Australia in March, 1943. Jungle training in Queensland followed before they were sent to New Guinea in July ‘43 & he eventually returned to Australia arriving home and being discharged in November, 1945 after serving for just over 5 years & 4 months.

Dad kept diaries during his war service & the following extracts from the period whilst serving in Tobruk give some indication of the conditions our ‘RATS’ endured:

**March, Mon 17th** - Arrived in Tobruk at 3pm, one destroyer with us, other one left us at daybreak. Rode in lorries for 4 miles, then walked a mile to camp arriving 9pm. Eaten by fleas all night.

**Tuesday 18th**— Looked around camp, saw Italian dugouts, rifles, breeder guns, hand grenades, trench mortars & ammunition by the ton. Also 6 & 8 inch naval guns on cliffs with 100 shells.

**April, Sat 5th**—5pm, 3 Messerschmitt 110s swooped over our gully, AA opened up & scored direct hits but not on vital parts. Plane dived at AA but did not hit anyone. I was flat as a pancake under a bush in case he was looking for me.

**Sun 6th**—Set up ADS then at 5pm orders to evacuate and retreat 24 miles to Tobruk. Took rough desert road around Derna which was occupied by ‘Fritz’.

**Wed 9th**—At 9.30am, 6 ‘Fritz’ bombers started raid on Tobruk & 3 Messerschmitt’s appeared over us, AA shot one bomber which burst into flames. Four hurricanes came in and one fighting a Messerschmitt was shot down by our own AA but the pilot escaped uninjured.

**Mon 14th**—Over 40 planes raided today & 2 bombs landed 200 yards from us with shrapnel riddling an ambulance but no one hurt. Between AA & hurricanes, 22 ‘Fritz’ planes shot down. We had over 30 German wounded prisoners in during the day & a German Medical Officer working with us.

**Thu 24th**—Digging 20’ x 15’ x 3’ 6” hole for tent for convalescent patients.
Fri 25th—I knocked off in afternoon feeling crook, became 1st patient with sand fly fever.

May, Thu 29th—Still warm, air raids in morning then 100 planes raided harbour in afternoon but no serious damage.

Jun, Sun 1st—On water truck this morning, helped pull over 200 gallons up a 20ft well by rope & 4 gallon bucket

Mon 9th—Enemy planes again active at night, having a sing song on rocks bomb landed a short distance out in the water, boys scattered & sing song postponed

Wed 11th—7.45am, about 30 planes raided food dump, day hot & quiet, went swimming.

(continued on page 8)
Jul, Wed 3—Artillery duel started in evening, planes dropped flares & bombed artillery at intervals over night.
Fri 4—Artillery duel on & off all day & a few planes around. About 20 planes turned up during 7 pm parade & A A shot 3 down
Wed 16th—Digging in A GH beach hospital by 2/3rd rest camp and made cross of stones
Sat 19th—Still digging, engineers blew one end & found it to be solid rock
Wed 30th—Working in A GH, overnight planes dropped mines & bombs in & around harbour, with on landing on hill behind wharf and shook the whole town.
Aug, Mon 4th—Tomahawk flew over perimeter in morning, rather strange to see one of ours.
Wed 13th—10am, 2 bombs dropped in hospital area, one direct hit on ward 5, the other missed our ward 4 by 3 yards. Blew in all windows & doors in the ward & caused 3 minor injuries to patients. In ward 5, one killed and 7 injured with 2 of the injured dying later.
Sep, Mon 8th—On permanent barge squad, evacuated 36 stretchers & 35 walking on H M S Kipling
Thu 11th—Received 10 stretchers in afternoon & evacuated 36 stretchers & 35 walking at 11 pm on H M A S N apier
Mon 15th—Evacuated 36 stretchers & 38 walking on H M A S N apier at 11.30 pm, planes around during evacuation but they left us alone
Wed 17th—Headed for beach after breakfast to wash sheets, pillow cases & towels
Thu 25th—‘Hermann’ dropped a stick of 12, half a mile from our camp, otherwise quiet
Oct, Sun 5th—Took over ward 4 from B company, about 7.30 pm ‘Herman’ laid a few eggs & hit wards 6, 10 & 12. I was in ward 8 at the time. Only one injury, not serious
Thu 9th—Stuka raid on artillery in afternoon, 50 planes & again active overnight
Sun 12th—Planes quiet overnight but Bardia Bill was active, hit ward 3 but no-one hurt
Tue 21st—Packed up & left M D S about 9.15 pm for docks. Lighter left wharf at 10.30 pm & we boarded H M S A bdiel & sailed at midnight with 3 destroyers. H M S A bdiel is a minelayer carrying 180, one ton mines, has a speed of 43 knots & with her 2 sister ships are the fastest in the British Navy and this was her 13th trip to Tobruk in 8 months
Wed 22nd—At daylight saw 4 destroyers towing H M S Gnat, a gunboat that had been torpedoe by a sub. Reached Alexandria, loaded onto lorries and went to A I F staging camp about 1 1/2 miles from A myria.

My late father, L/Cpl Horace Arthur BAKER SX7433 enlisted in June 1940 at the age of 20 and was attached to the 2/8th Field Ambulance, 9th Division as a stretcher bearer. After training at the Woodside Army Camp his unit sailed from Melbourne on the Mauretania to the Middle East. After 2 months in Palestine they were sent to North Africa and then into Tobruk on March 17th. They served there for 7 months until departing on October 21st. The unit also served at El Alamein before eventually returning to Australia in March, 1943. Jungle training in Queensland followed before they were sent to New Guinea in July ‘43 & he eventually returned to Australia arriving home and being discharged in November, 1945 after serving for just over 5 years & 4 months.
Dad kept diaries during his war service & the following extracts from the period whilst serving in Tobruk give some indication of the conditions our ‘RATS’ endured.

A special thankyou to Bob Baker for sharing his Dad’s diary extracts, this paints a wonderful picture of life in Tobruk for future generations to read have some understanding what life was like there.
OUR NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING

www.ratsoftobrukassociation.org.au

ROTA’s new Website has been up and running for a few weeks now. The committee is very pleased with the very positive feedback we have received from our members. Obviously, the website has been well received. Thank you to all those who sent emails.

The Website can only get better with your help. It is important to let the committee know your ideas regarding content you would like included and any suggestions regarding other improvements.

Send your emails to: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com
Ernie Brough celebrates his 98th birthday at Werribee Park Open Range Zoo.

Keith Clarkson enjoys a surprise 96th birthday cake at Tobruk House as the girls line up in case his knife touches the plate. June was the lucky one.
Anzac Day-2018

Tobruk House will be open from 11.00 am
Costs are $15.00 nibbles only—until 12.45
$35.00 Nibbles & full roast meal
The full roast meal will be available from 13.00—please pay at the door

Please keep an eye out on the ABC TV presentation for our President Bob Semple who has been invited to Canberra to participate in the Anzac Day Ceremony

Reader's digest

Ernie Brough's story from his time in Tobruk then captured and his escape from the Italians during World Two, then joining up with the Partisans to work with them in the underground, will make for an enthralling story of courage and heroism.

(please watch out for the edition with Ernie’s story in it)
The following story was written by Dr Sarah Curnow who was awarded the ROTA Neuroscience Fellowship at the end of 2016; she undertook her fellowship during 2017.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

About Me

My name is Sarah. I grew up in Melbourne and then moved to Sydney to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor. I graduated from the University of New South Wales in 2008 with an MBBS (Hons) and BSc (Med). I then moved to Alice Springs where I worked as a doctor at the local hospital there for 2 years. This was a foundational experience for me – I loved the people, the landscape and the work, and hope to return there one day. I then moved back to Melbourne to start paediatric training and have been working at the Royal Children’s Hospital since 2012. My very first job at RCH was in the Neurology Department and I had a wonderful experience, inspiring me to undertake training as a paediatric neurologist in 2016. In amongst all of this, I met and married by husband, Samuel, who coincidentally, is a Cavalry Captain in the Army Reserve, and has a great interest in Australia’s involvement in the world wars. We live in the inner north and love cycling, music, community, faith and good coffee.

Role

I carried out the role of the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellow from 6/2/17 to 2/1/18. The responsibilities of the role involved oversight of patients admitted for Video EEG monitoring, reviewing and reporting Video EEG monitoring data, reporting all inpatient EEGs, reporting outpatient EEG on an allocated day, attending the operating theatre for weekly epilepsy surgery, preparing and presenting the weekly Epilepsy Case Conference and assessing and managing patients in the weekly Epilepsy Seizure Clinic.

Experience

During this Fellowship, I learnt a great deal about epilepsy and EEG.

I became competent in assessing children with epilepsy, making a provisional diagnosis, determining and then interpreting their investigations and creating an appropriate management plan. I learnt about the different medications for epilepsy, including when, how and which children to use them in. I gained exposure to the process of epilepsy surgery and deepened my understanding of when and how it should be utilised.

My EEG skills at the beginning of the Fellowship were very basic. I have now gained a high degree of competence in reading, reporting and interpreting EEG, including EEG performed in complex epilepsy. I have sound knowledge and understanding of the different EEG patterns seen in different epilepsies, how EEG aids in the characterisation of epilepsy and how it aids in treatment decisions.
and ongoing management. These skills enable me to be capable of reporting EEG on an ongoing basis and allow me to more than fulfil the training requirements set by the educational college. I will shortly be sitting an accreditation exam to further demonstrate my EEG knowledge and skills.

Conferences

During this Fellowship, I attended and had poster presentations at the following conferences:
- Epilepsy Melbourne (Melbourne, March 2017)
- Epilepsy Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting (Perth, November 2017).

These were excellent opportunities to meet a range of other clinicians and scientists working in the field and to hear presentations by experts from across the world.

I am also in the process of putting together an article for publication describing a series of patients with interesting and novel clinical features that I came across during the fellowship.

Impact

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to carry out the role as the Rat of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellow in 2017. I have had a fantastic experience and have worked with a wonderful group of clinicians, scientists, teachers and now, friends. I have met many children and families who are admirably contending with epilepsy, with all its accompanying challenges and burdens. I have gained an incredible amount of knowledge and so many valuable skills. These will be integral to my ongoing practice as a neurologist and will continue to impact on many children and families long into the future.

Thank you so much to the Rats of Tobruk Association for your generous support of this Fellowship!

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Thanks Dr Sarah for taking the time to write this story. It clearly demonstrates the important contribution the Fellowship makes to train future paediatric neurologists. The opportunities created are pivotal to the ongoing development of the specialised skills, which is important for the current and future care of children and young persons living with neurological conditions.

If you would like to support and be part of the vision of the Tobruk veterans who established the fund, you can make a donation by going to the following link (copy and paste this into your web browser):


Alternatively, you can send a cheque made out to the ‘Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation’, to The Secretary, ROTA, 44 Victoria Avenue, Albert Park, Vic 3206.

Another way you can support the fund is to consider making a gift in your will. You can find out more information about how to go about this by contacting Jessica Frean, Bequests and Planned Giving, RCH Foundation (03 9345 6389; email Jessica.frean@rch.org.au).
From a financial perspective 2017 was another good year, achieving a consolidated surplus of $7,189. This is the second surplus in a row; a $4,414 surplus was achieved in 2016. This is the second year where the financial results of the 'Patriotic Building Fund' (PBF) and the 'Rats of Tobruk Association Inc' (ROTA Inc), have been reported separately.

A summary of the results is shown below:

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<tr>
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<th>Patriotic Building Fund</th>
<th>ROTA Inc</th>
<th>Consolidated</th>
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<td>Receipts:</td>
<td>$ 1,760</td>
<td>$39,123</td>
<td>$40,883</td>
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<td>Disbursements:</td>
<td>$11,234</td>
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<td>Surplus / (Deficit):</td>
<td>($9,474)</td>
<td>$16,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Reserves:</td>
<td>$98,159</td>
<td>$28,864</td>
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There were 112 new Affiliate members for the year. This rapid growth in membership over the last few years has been helped by the efforts of Owen Carlton; thankyou Owen. At the end of the year there were 478 financial Affiliate members (391 last year). Merchandise sales grew to just over $7,000. Unfortunately, the Anzac Day Lunch incurred a loss of around $2,000 due to a significant fall in attendance. The printing and posting of the Tobruk House News continues to be a significant cost ($5,000).

Cash reserves for ROTA Inc have increased to just under $29,000.

(By Mike Kiernan, Accountant CPA, Proud Son of a Rat.)
UK Rat, Don READ of the 4th Battalion Tanks, 8th Army dropped into Tobruk House to say hello where he received a very warm welcome.

Don stands proudly under the ROTA insignia.

Don was presented with a ROTA cap during his visit.

Don receives a ROTA Inc. badge from our President Bob Semple, overseen by Don’s daughter Donna Mortimer and our Secretary Reg Lawrence.
Visitors Robert & Michele Lang from ROTA Rockhampton QLD enjoyed meeting our Rats Keith Clarkson, Tommy Pritchard, Bob Semple & Alf Jackson at Tobruk House at our February General Meeting & luncheon.

Yesterday the last sailor off HMAS _Perth_ I died. David Manning was 18 when his ship was sunk in battle against a Japanese armada in the Sunda Strait. David held onto a raft filled with fellow shipmates for about 19 hours until they reached shore. David was tough. He was captured and slaved on the Thai Burma railway. He returned to live a big and happy life. I am honoured to have known such a man. There is only one HMAS _Perth_ survivor remaining. Out of 683 officers and men. Many are still in the wreck of the ship. 

_Lest We Forget—David Manning_  

(David Abbey Save HMAS Perth)
The RSL Victoria Headquarters, Rats of Tobruk Association Inc & the Consul General of Poland are planning a joint commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of the Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade entry into Tobruk on the 28th of August 1941 to relieve the Australian troops' who were stationed there.

This will be the first commemorative service that has taken place since their entry into Tobruk.

Where:- The Shrine on Remembrance—Melbourne—in the Cenotaph
Date:- Tuesday, 28th August, 2018
Time:- 10.15 am for a 10.30am start
Afterwards:- light refreshments

There will be road & tunnel works in St. Kilda Road near the Shrine of Remembrance so please plan your journey with this in mind.

Thank-you

More details will be provided closer to the date.
Sir Leslie James Morshead

Sir James Leslie Morshead was born on 18 September 1889 at Ballarat. He grew up in country Victoria. He was good academically and also excelled at sport, captaining his school's football and cricket teams. Morshead qualified as a teacher and worked at a number of schools. During this time he became involved in the cadet corps.

Morshead's military career spanned both world wars. When the first world war broke out, he resigned his teaching position to enlist as a private in the 2nd Infantry Battalion, the first Australian Imperial Force. He served as a captain at the Gallipoli landing and later as a major at Lone Pine. His reputation for calmness and organisation brought him promotion to lieutenant colonel. He went on to serve in France where he developed under the eye of Sir John Monash. Morshead was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and mentioned in dispatches five times.

Back in civilian life after the end of the war, Morshead was a successful businessman working for the Orient Steam Navigation Co. During this time he was active in the militia, commanding a number of battalions. He was promoted to colonel and later temporary brigadier.

On 13 October 1939, Morshead was appointed to the A.I.F. Early in 1941, Morshead was sent to the Middle East; he was promoted to major general and placed in command of the 9th Division. As a leader, Morshead was vigorous and resolute. His insistence on discipline and hard work brought him the nickname ‘Ming the Merciless’, which in time became ‘Ming’. The 9th Division eventually reached Tobruk. By then they were almost exhausted but were still an organised force, eager to have a go. At Tobruk, Morshead initially came under the command of Major General John Lavarack. However, he quickly succeeded Lavarack as commander of the fortress of Tobruk. Talking to his men, Morshead famously said: ‘There will be no Dunkirk here. If we should have to get out, we shall fight our way out. There is to be no surrender and no retreat.’

Morshead was a brilliant strategist, often using tactics which were new to the Germans. Morshead and his mixed force of Australian, British, Indian and Polish troops won this important defensive battle. Not only had they denied the Axis powers the port of Tobruk, but they had also compelled General Erwin Rommel to hold a significant part of his army back from the Egyptian frontier for six months. After Tobruk, Morshead and his 9th Division went on to fight at El Alamein. In February 1943 they finally returned to Australia.

Back in civilian life after the war, Morshead was again a successful businessman. He attended many unit reunions and other special occasions, including the opening of Tobruk House. He was always received with acclaim by his men who greeted him with the rousing ‘Ho Ho’ cry of the 9th Division. Sir Leslie died of cancer on 26 September 1959.
Invitation to attend

The members of the
Juniors Rats of Tobruk Association– Geelong

Invite you and your family to attend

77th
Anniversary of the
Siege of Tobruk

Good Friday 30th March 2018
At 2.00pm
Geelong Naval Association Hall
Skene Street
Newtown
Geelong

Afternoon tea provided.
Enquiries. Shirley Wild 0447 873763
Judy Fogarty 0412 923337
Wally Bates who was wounded and taken prisoner on the 1st May, 1941, when his battalion (2/24th) was engaged with the enemy at the Derna Pass.

Wally enlisted at the age of 18 (putting his age up of course), at Caulfield on the 18th July 1940. After preliminary training he left Australia for the Middle East, where they were put through further training. Taken POW by the Italians, he spent one year in a camp somewhere near Naples and a further year north of Venice. When Italy capitulated, the Germans gathered up all the Allied prisoners in the north and transported them into their territories, Wally ending up a further two years imprisonment somewhere in Silesia where they were put to work in the coal mines.

The prisoners were marched out one day and had a long march in bitterly cold weather, not knowing what was to become of them. When they saw a huge convoy of tanks coming towards them, they feared the worst, but it was the Americans and so finally, Wally was released from imprisonment on the 1st May, 1945, exactly four years to the day he was captured.

It was during his Italian imprisonment, when he made the cricket ball that was used in a challenge match between the Kiwis and the Ozzies. The Kiwis won the match and someone kept the ball as a souvenir and today it is on display in the New Zealand Cricket Museum, Wellington.

Wally’s contribution was making the cricket ball used in the first unofficial Australia-New Zealand Test Match while a prisoner of War in Italy. The Italians were suspicious of spherical objects sent to the prisoners’, fearing that they were a grenade in disguise. So they would cut them in half on arrival to relieve their suspicions. To ensure that the match went ahead Wally was asked to make the ball to be used in the game. “I had been making baseballs for the Canadians in the camp” Wally recalled. The ball was produced from a mixture of various objects, a cork out of a shandy bottle was the starting point, he shaped the ball into a circle using the Red Cross parcels to build up the ball. The cover was made from heavy twine similar to binder twine used on hay bales. Wally remembers shaping a straightened sardine tin key into a needle to sew the final cover onto the ball. The ball had a similar weight to a standard cricket ball and also a similar bounce.

The match was played on a shortened wicket at the camp between the 19th & 20th of June 1943. New Zealand won by 43 runs.

(sent in by Myra Connelly sister of Wally Bates VX44349)
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<thead>
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<th>Description</th>
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<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Friend’s Bumper Sticker</td>
<td>Size: 65 mm dia</td>
<td>$2.00 each</td>
<td>Special: 6 for $10 inc postage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friend’s Stubby Holder</td>
<td></td>
<td>$9.00 each</td>
<td>plus $8 postage for single item or $10 postage for up to 6. Can also be used as unique pen/pencil caddy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rats of Tobruk Cap</td>
<td>Navy Blue – Baseball Style</td>
<td>$20.00 each</td>
<td>plus $12 postage and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA Rugby Top</td>
<td>Sizes: S, M, L, XL</td>
<td>$35.00 each</td>
<td>plus $13 postage and handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROTA Polo Shirt</td>
<td>Sizes: S, M, L, XL</td>
<td>$30.00 each</td>
<td>plus $12 postage and handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rats of Tobruk Tie</td>
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<td>$30.00 each</td>
<td>plus $5 postage and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s Lapel Badge</td>
<td>Size: 25mm dia</td>
<td>$5.00 each</td>
<td>plus $3.00 postage (up to 3 badges)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Poppy Scarf</td>
<td>(light weight) Colours: Grey, White, Bright Blue, Dark Navy Blue</td>
<td>$15.00 each</td>
<td>plus $6 postage and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats of Tobruk CD</td>
<td>Sung by John Turner The Rats of Tobruk No Surrender</td>
<td>$15.00 each</td>
<td>- including postage &amp; handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats of Tobruk Plaque</td>
<td>with ‘No Surrender’ scroll 15 cm x 20 cm on Rosewood base</td>
<td>$85.00 each</td>
<td>plus $15 postage and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobruk Siege Map Poster</td>
<td>59 cm x 42 cm (A2)</td>
<td>$20.00 each</td>
<td>plus $12 postage and handling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# The Rats of Tobruk Association Inc
## Merchandise Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost per Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Postage</th>
<th>Postage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s Bumper Sticker</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>S,M,L, X,L,XX,L</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s Bumper Sticker (6 pack)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inc in cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s Stubby Holder (1 only)</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$8 (1 only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend’s Stubby Holder</td>
<td>$9</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$10 (up to 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA “baseball” style cap</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A friend of the Rats Lapel Badge</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3 (up to 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA (rosewood) plaque</td>
<td>$85</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA tie (clip type)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA tie (traditional)</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Tobruk Siege poster</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA rugby top</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA polo shirt</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTA CD The Rats of Tobruk</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inc in cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Poppy Scarf (light weight)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Colour</td>
<td></td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When purchasing multiple items excluding the Tobruk Siege poster, postage is charged only on the item with the highest postage rate. If a Tobruk Siege poster is included in the items purchased, add an additional $12 postage.

Total amount to be paid: $____

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Payment must accompany this form. Payment can be made by cheque, money order, cash or electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Association does not have credit card facilities. *If you are paying by EFT, it is important that you include a unique reference for example the letters ‘MERCH’ followed by your surname.*

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

The EFT ‘reference’ I have used is: ________________________________

Delivery times will vary, depending on available stock. Clothing items could take up to 4 weeks from receipt of order. The Rosewood Plaque could take up to 6 weeks.

Purchaser’s Name: ________________________________  Contact Phone No: ________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Delivery Address: ________________________________

Suburb: ________________________________  State: __________  Postcode: __________

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

If you pay by EFT, you can scan this form and email to: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com

All enquiries to the Merchandise Officer (Glenda Garde) email: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com  Phone: 0419 318 924
Name: ___________________________ ___________________________  ___________________________  ___________________________
Title                Given Name (s)                Surname
Address:  ____________________________________    _________________________  ____________  
Suburb / State                                                      Post Code
Email:  ______________________ ___@______________________  Contact  Phone No: ___________________
Please Print Clearly
Are you over 18 years of age: YES or NO  Are you or have you been a member of the Military Services: YES or NO
Are you a descendant / relative of a Rat of Tobruk: YES or NO  If yes please print his details below:

Given Name (s)                        Surname
Service ID                     Unit
My relationship to the veteran is:  _______________________________________________________________________
Reason for wanting to join: ________________________________________________________________
Payment Details:
Payment of $60 ( $30 Joining Fee plus $30 Annual Subscription) must accompany the application. Payment can be made by cheque, money order, cash or electronic funds transfer (EFT). The Association does not have credit card facilities. If you are paying by EFT, it is important that you include a unique reference so that the payment can be matched to the application. A suggested reference is the letters 'NEW MBR' followed by your surname. e.g. 'NEW MBR Cummings'.
Bank Account Details:  Account Name: Rats of Tobruk Association  BSB: 013 223  Account No: 2102 51748
The EFT 'reference' I have used is: ____________
If you pay by EFT, you can scan this application and email it to:  ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com  This will ensure your application is processed promptly.
Privacy Clause:
Information requested in this application form is necessary for the association to determine your eligibility for membership, maintain the members register and to keep you informed about the association, its activities and products. It will not be provided to third parties for direct marketing purposes. As a member you have the right to inspect the members' register.
Promotional Photos:
At the Association's functions, photo's may be taken for promotional purposes and publication in the Tobruk House Newsletter. By attending any of these functions you give permission for the use of your image in the manner described above.
Annual Subscription:
By joining the Association, you agree to pay the Annual Subscription when it falls due on the 1st January each year. The amount of the Annual Subscription is set by the Committee of Management, prior to the start of each year.
Association Rules:
By joining the Association, you agree to abide by the Association Rules and policies approved by the Committee of Management from time to time.
Applicant's Signature:______________________________  Date:__________________________
Membership Approval: ______________________________________
Delegate of the Committee of Management

Contact Email: ratsoftobruk41@gmail.com  Contact Phone No: 0434 693 190
Monthly Remembrance Services are held on the third Sunday of each month for units no longer able to make the pilgrimage to the Shrine. Monthly weekday memorial services commemorate specific units and their efforts in conflict and peacekeeping missions.

**THE ART OF WAR**
**1st May 2018—6.00pm**

Australian War artists as historians, document and first hand witnesses, must confront their experience of the tragedies of war in partnership Linden Art Gallery join us for a special converse with two contemporary Australian war artists about their experience in war torn countries.

**CURTIN’S WAR**
**6th June 2018—midday**

In 1941 Australian troops were far from home fighting the Axis forces across North Africa and the Middle East. By 1942, Japan had advanced on Singapore and seized Australian Territories in New Guinea while America joined the Allies in the Pacific. John Edwards will discuss the leadership of Prime Minister John Curtin during this pivotal time in Australian history.

**NERVES of STEEL**
*The Royal Australian Navy in the Pacific 1941-1945 - South Gallery - Until July 2018*

**Talks and events**
Bookings (BR) are essential either visit shrine.org.au/bookings or call 03 9661 8100 to book.