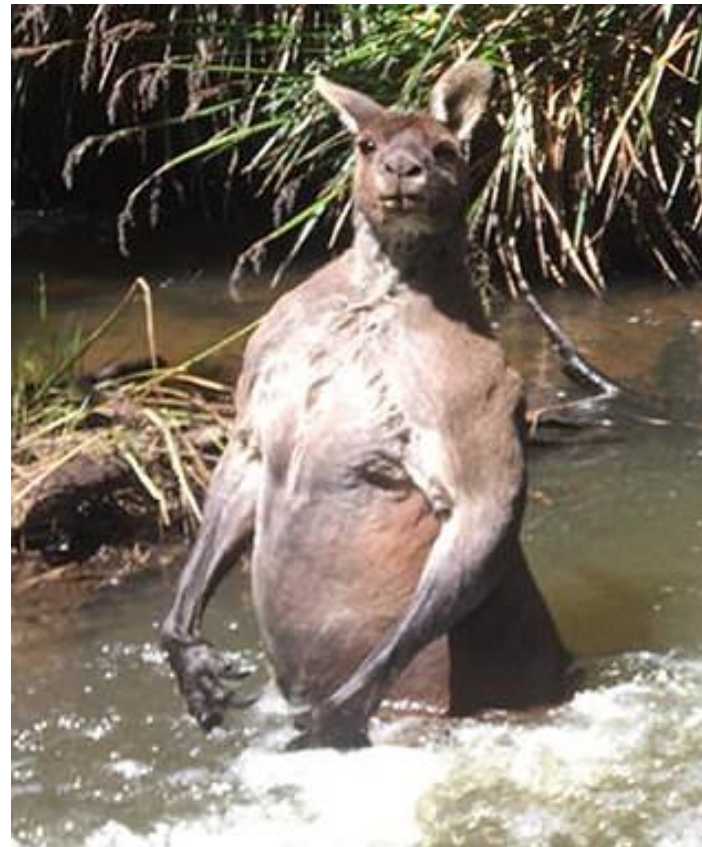


# DIGGERS

## SWIMMING, BATHING

### PHOTO STUDY – WW2 (PART 1)

**KANGAROO  
TAKES A BATH IN  
AUSTRALIA**



**1942: An ANZAC soldier enjoys a rare event in the desert battlefield, a bath.** (Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)



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Hulton Archive

**ONE MAN  
STANDS  
GUARD WHILE  
OTHERS SWIM  
AND TAKE A  
BATH.**







**BERRY SPRINGS, NT.  
Australia. 1943-07-  
14. HIGH DIVING  
TOWER AT THE  
SWIMMING POOL OF  
THE 18TH  
AUSTRALIAN  
PERSONNEL STAGING  
CAMP.**



**BRUNEI, NORTH  
WEST BORNEO 1945-  
11-24. A SMALL  
WATERFALL AND  
DEEP POOL MADE A  
DELIGHTFUL  
SWIMMING POOL  
FOR AUSTRALIAN  
TROOPS IN THE  
AREA.**



**CENTRAL AUSTRALIA -  
CONVOY DRIVERS SPEND  
THEIR DAY OFF AT THE  
SWIMMING POOL - L TO  
R G.L. RIDGE, F.D.  
SPARROW, G.J. CRONIN,  
LT. J. PITT, J.W. GASSNER,  
SGT J. KERR, C.J.  
CARMODY V.E. LENKE,  
W.M. FOSTER, L.G.  
POLLARD. ARMY. ALICE  
SPRINGS TO BIRDUM.  
1940.**



**COOLANGATTA, QLD. 1943-12-3/4. MEMBERS OF THE 4TH AUSTRALIAN ARMoured BRIGADE BEING TAUGHT TO SWIM. TO DATE, 500 NON-SWIMMERS HAVE PASSED THE TEST AND 97 HAVE PASSED THE SURF LIFESAVING BRONZE MEDALLION TEST. THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS TEAMS BRINGING PATIENTS OUT OF THE WATER ON TO THE BEACH. IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE: TROOPER F. J BARTLEY (1); TROOPER S. MURRAY (2); CRAFTSMAN E. A. NEWTON (3); TROOPER T. K. CONRICK (4).**





**Darwin area, NT.  
Australia.  
February 1943.  
Members of the  
RAAF enjoying a  
relaxing "off-duty"  
time in a beachside  
swimming area.**



**Darwin area, NT.  
1943-05-10. Naked  
members of the  
RAAF about to enjoy  
a swim in a water  
hole.**



**Darwin area, NT.  
1943-05-10. Naked  
members of the  
RAAF dive in from  
a river bank to  
enjoy a swim in a  
water hole.**



**Darwin NT. 1942.  
A graceful dive by  
an Australian  
soldier into a cool  
stream surrounded  
by jungle  
vegetation. These  
troops are  
normally on coast  
defence duties.**



**Darwin NT.  
1942.  
Australian  
soldiers on  
coast  
defence  
duties enjoy  
the  
relaxation of  
a swim in a  
cool jungle  
stream.**



**Darwin NT.  
1942.  
Australian  
soldiers on  
coast defence  
duties relax in  
a cool stream.  
Jungle  
vegetation  
surrounds the  
swimming  
hole.**



**Darwin, NT. June 1942.  
A welcome swim in a  
cool river for Australian  
troops during a break in  
training. The soldier on  
the tree branch (top  
left) guards the  
swimmers below from  
any unwelcome  
intrusions by crocodiles  
or other reptiles.**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

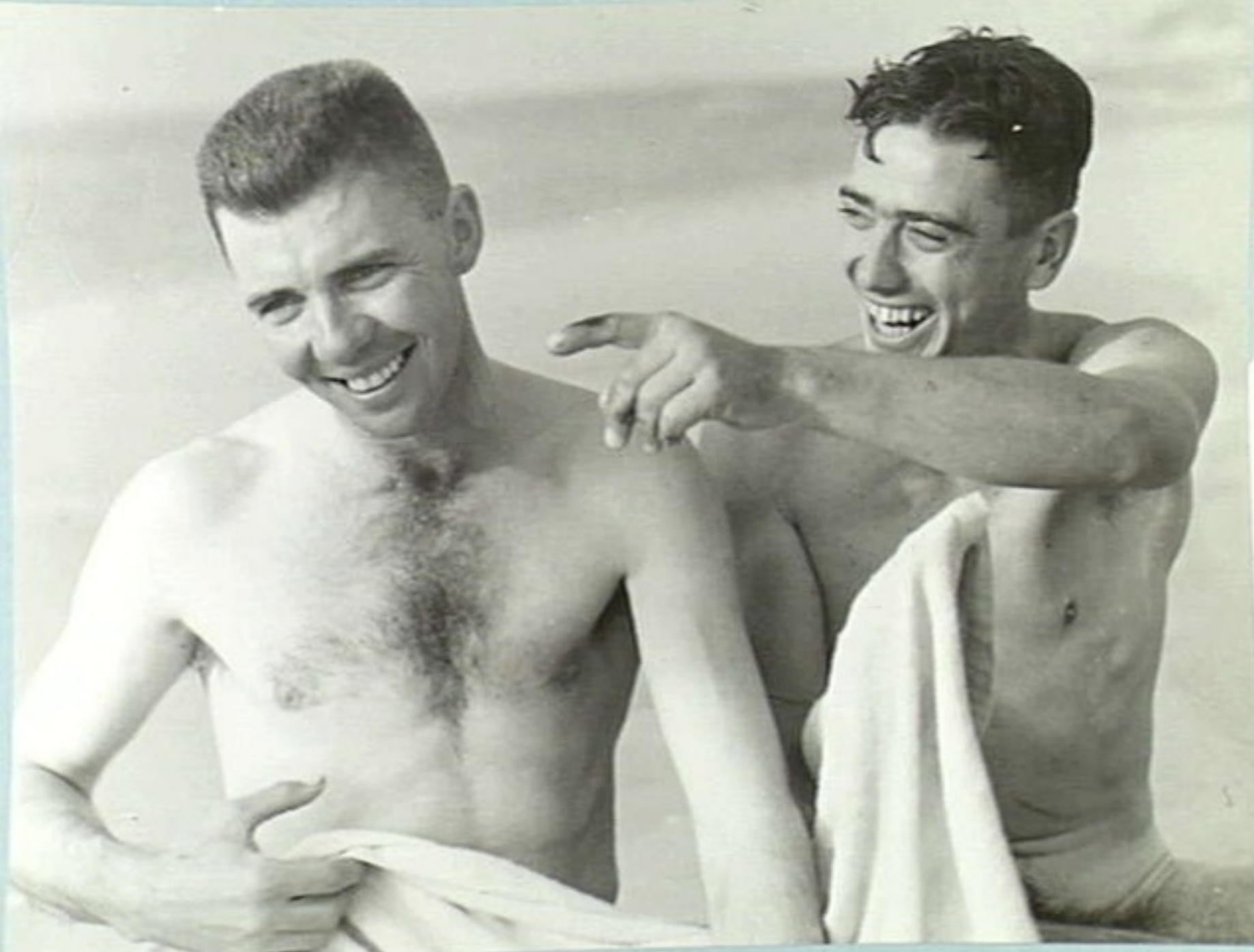
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**DEAD SEA, PALESTINE. C. 1916. A MOTOR LAUNCH, PART OF THE DEAD SEA FLOTILLA, WITH MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY ENGINEERS SWIMMING BESIDE IT.**





**DONADABU, NEW GUINEA.  
1943-11-09. TROOPS OF THE  
7TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY  
BRIGADE SIGNALS SECTION  
AND BATTERY SIGNALS  
PLATOONS HOLDING AN  
IMPROMPTU SWIMMING  
CARNIVAL IN THE LALOKI  
RIVER. SHOWN: QX47000  
LIEUTENANT L. HATTON, 7TH  
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY  
BRIGADE, SIGNALS SECTION.**

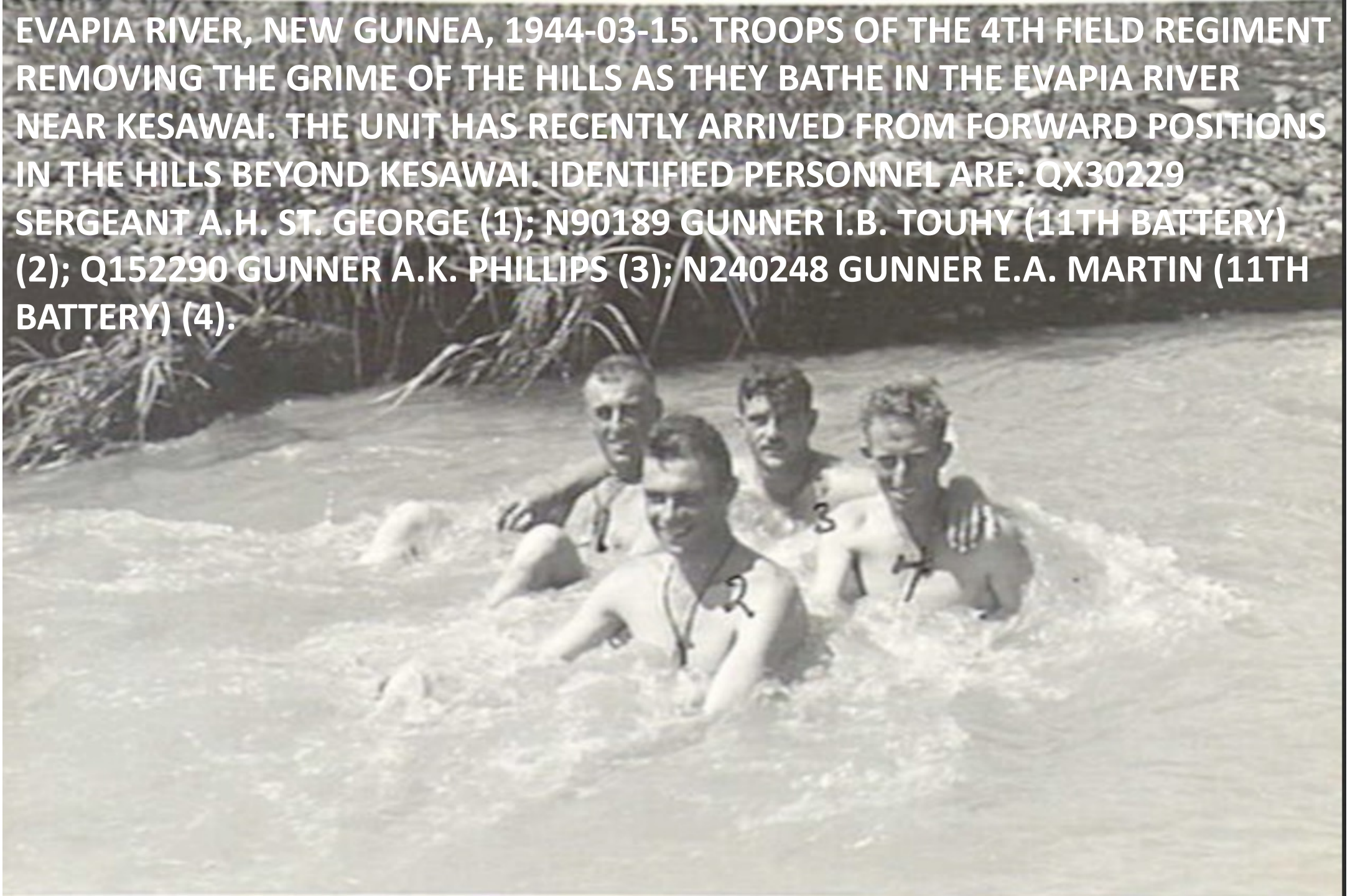


**ESKELON BEACH.  
AFTER THE SWIM.  
GUNNER A.E. LYNCH  
GUNNER F.E. BOLD.  
2ND/1ST FIELD  
REGIMENT. 1940.**



**Eskelon Beach,  
Palestine.  
Members of 2/1st  
Battalion relax on  
the beach.**

EVAPIA RIVER, NEW GUINEA, 1944-03-15. TROOPS OF THE 4TH FIELD REGIMENT REMOVING THE GRIME OF THE HILLS AS THEY BATHE IN THE EVAPIA RIVER NEAR KESAWAI. THE UNIT HAS RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM FORWARD POSITIONS IN THE HILLS BEYOND KESAWAI. IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE: QX30229 SERGEANT A.H. ST. GEORGE (1); N90189 GUNNER I.B. TOUHY (11TH BATTERY) (2); Q152290 GUNNER A.K. PHILLIPS (3); N240248 GUNNER E.A. MARTIN (11TH BATTERY) (4).



**FINSCHHAFEN AREA, NEW GUINEA, 1943-10-25. TROOPS OF THE 9TH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION SWIMMING BELOW THE FALLS ON THE MAPE RIVER NEAR THE TIMBULUM SAW MILL.**





**Finschhafen,  
New Guinea.  
Supplies in  
boxes and  
tins being  
landed at  
Kedam  
Beach. An  
unidentified  
soldier  
shoulders a  
box while in  
the  
background  
some  
soldiers are  
swimming.**





**FUKUYAMA, JAPAN.  
1947-07-26.  
TROOPS FROM  
65TH INFANTRY  
BATTALION RELAX  
AT A SWIMMING  
POOL AFTER A  
HARD MORNING'S  
TRAINING SESSION.**





**GAZA - "WE COVER THE WATERFRONT" - PTE. W.J. THORPE, F.A. CLARKE, J.A. MCGREGOR 17TH INF. TRAINING BATTALION, SAY AS THEY WERE SNAPPED WHILE LOOKING AFTER THE INTERESTS OF THEIR MATES ENJOYING A SWIM.**



**GOODENOUGH ISLAND,  
PAPUA. C. 1944. FLIGHT  
SERGEANT G. J. BEECHEY RAAF  
OF BALLARAT, VIC, KEEPING  
COOL SITTING NAKED IN A  
STREAM READING A PAPER.**



**HANSA BAY, NEW  
GUINEA. 1944-09-06.  
W20037 PRIVATE V.T.  
MURPHY, B  
COMPANY, 25TH  
INFANTRY BATTALION  
KEEPING SHARK  
WATCH ON THE  
BOROI BEACH WHILE  
HIS FELLOW UNIT  
MEMBERS ENJOY A  
SWIM.**



**HARVEY, WA. 1942-10-09.  
TROOPS UNDERGOING  
TRAINING IN RIVER  
CROSSING AT 3RD  
AUSTRALIAN CORPS  
TRAINING SCHOOL,  
STRIPPED AND SWIMMING  
OR WADING ACROSS THE  
RIVER AND PROPELLING IN  
FRONT OF THEM ALL THEIR  
GEAR WRAPPED IN  
WATERPROOF GROUND  
SHEETS.**







**INVERLOCH, VIC  
1945-12-05.  
PATIENTS BESIDE THE  
SWIMMING POOL AT  
THE RAN  
CONVALESCENT  
HOSPITAL.**

**JERUSALEM.  
WHILE ON LEAVE  
MANY OF THE  
BOYS AVAIL  
THEMSELVES OF  
THE  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO USE THE  
FACILITIES AT  
THE Y.M.C.A.  
THIS IS THE  
SWIMMING  
POOL. 1940.**







**JESSELTON,  
NORTH BORNEO  
1945-10-07. MEN  
OF "D" COMPANY,  
2/32ND  
BATTALION NEAR  
AN IMPROVISED  
DIVING BOARD  
ON ONE OF  
JESSELTON'S  
WHARFS.**

**GAZA - AFTERNOON TEA IS ALWAYS POPULAR AND AUST. COMFORTS FUND SEE TO IT THAT THE "DIGS" GET AS MUCH AS THEY WANT AFTER A SWIM AT GAZA. THE LADY HELPERS IN GROUP ARE WIVES OF BRITISH RESIDENTS IN GAZA.**





**KAJARVITKIN -  
CONVALESCENT  
DEPOT. PATIENTS  
RETURN FROM  
THEIR SWIM.**



**KANOMI  
BEACH, NEW  
GUINEA. 1944-  
01-04. TROOPS  
OF THE 9TH  
DIVISION  
ENJOY THE  
SWIMMING  
AND SUN  
BATHING  
WHILE  
AWAITING  
ORDERS TO  
MOVE  
FORWARD.**





**KARAWOP, NEW GUINEA, 1945-09-18. MEMBERS OF 2/6 CAVALRY COMMANDO REGIMENT PLAYING THE CARD GAME 500. FOLLOWING THE JAPANESE SURRENDER MOST OF THEIR SPARE TIME IS SPENT SWIMMING OR PLAYING CARDS.**



**KATHERINE  
RIVER, NT.  
1943-10-01  
TO 1943-10-  
08. MEN AND  
HORSES OF  
THE NORTH  
AUSTRALIAN  
OBSERVER  
UNIT,  
ENJOYING A  
LUNCHTIME  
DIP IN THE  
RIVER.**



**KEKRE CREEK,  
BOUGAINVILLE  
1945-08-30.  
MEMBERS OF  
2/4  
ARMOURED  
REGIMENT  
WORKSHOP  
SWIMMING IN  
THE CREEK.  
PORTABLE  
LAUNDRY  
OPERATING IN  
FOREGROUND.**



**KELANOVA AREA, NEW GUINEA. 1944-01-22.**

**TROOPS OF THE 2/15TH INFANTRY BATTALION  
WASHING THEIR CLOTHES AND SWIMMING IN THE  
FRESH WATER AT THE MOUTH OF THE SAZOMU  
RIVER, AFTER HAVING MARCHED FROM SIO THE  
PREVIOUS DAY. IDENTIFIED PERSONNEL ARE:-**

**QX30839 LANCE CORPORAL J.D. DUNN (1);**

**QX42042 PRIVATE J.R. GULLIFORD (2); QX5802**

**CORPORAL R.C. NORRIS, MM., (3); QX10533**

**CORPORAL O.D. LUCAS (4). (IN NEXT PHOTO):**



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

064055



**KILIGIA, PAPUA, NEW  
GUINEA. 1944-04-03.  
TROOPS FROM  
HEADQUARTERS 5TH  
AUSTRALIAN DIVISION  
ON THE 50 YARD  
BEACH WHICH IS JUST  
DEEP ENOUGH TO  
PERMIT BATHERS TO  
STRETCH OUT.  
SWIMMERS NEED TO  
PICK THEIR WAY PAST  
CORAL TO DEEP  
WATER.**



**KIRIWINA,  
TROBRIAND  
ISLANDS, PAPUA.  
1944-01-31. BEACH  
SCENE AT THE RAAF  
BATTLE STATION  
WHERE THE MEN  
FIND THEIR ONLY  
RESPITE FROM THE  
GRIME OF BATTLE IN  
SWIMMING AND  
BOATING.**



**KIRIWINA,  
TROBRIAND  
ISLANDS, PAPUA.  
1944-01-31. BEACH  
SCENE AT THE RAAF  
BATTLE STATION  
WHERE THE MEN  
FIND THEIR ONLY  
RESPITE FROM THE  
GRIME OF BATTLE  
IN SWIMMING AND  
BOATING.**

**LAKE BARRINE,  
QLD. 1943-08-  
16. PATIENTS  
OF THE 2/1ST  
AUSTRALIAN  
CONVALESCENT  
DEPOT, ON THE  
JETTY AFTER A  
SWIM IN THE  
LAKE.**





**LAKE EACHAM,  
ATHERTON  
TABLELAND,  
QLD. 1944-12-27.  
A HQ 1 CORPS  
MEMBER  
SUNBATHING  
OUTSIDE HIS  
MOSQUITO NET  
IN THE CAMP  
BIVOUAC AREA.  
THE MEN HAD  
MARCHED 12  
MILES FROM  
BARRINE TO  
SPEND A FULL  
DAY RESTING  
AND SWIMMING  
ON THE LAKE.**





**LAKE  
EACHAM,  
ATHERTON  
TABLELAND,  
QLD. 1944-12.  
1 CORPS AREA  
TROOPS  
ALONGSIDE  
THE DIVING  
BOARDS ON  
CHRISTMAS  
DAY. THE LAKE  
IS ONE OF THE  
TOURIST  
RESORTS OF  
THE  
TABLELANDS.**







**Madang, New Guinea, 1945-08-15. During their celebrations for Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day, RAAF servicemen from Headquarters, RAAF Northern Command (NORCOM), sit on an upturned boat or dinghy after enjoying a swim in the bay behind them. The men are stark naked except for pieces of foliage of various shapes and sizes that most of them have strategically positioned as fig-leaves. The group includes: Flight Lieutenant (Flt Lt) Gordon Grainger, wearing large fig-leaf (fifth from left); Flt Lt Toby Clay (sixth from left); 82586 Flying Officer (FO) Allen Robert Griffiths, Administrative and Special Duties (A&SD) Intelligence (seventh from left).**

**MALTA. 1946.  
MEMBERS OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN VICTORY  
CONTINGENT AND  
SHIPS COMPANY ENJOY  
A SWIM IN THE  
MEDITERRANEAN ON  
THE WAY FROM MALTA  
TO PORT SAID. THE  
DEPTH OF THE WATER  
HERE WAS  
APPROXIMATELY 1000  
FATHOMS.**





**MILNE BAY, PAPUA. C.1944-02. AIRMEN FROM NO. 75 SQUADRON RAAF DIVING INTO MILNE BAY TO COOL OFF WITH A SWIM WHILE THEIR SHIP IS WAITING FOR CONVOY TO LAE. NOTE THE MAN WITH RIFLE IN TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER TO SCARE SHARKS AWAY.**



**MILNE BAY, PAPUA. C.1944-02.  
AIRMEN OF NO. 75 SQUADRON RAAF  
LINING THE SIDE OF THE SHIP TO  
WATCH SWIMMERS (OUT OF SIGHT)  
HAVING A RACE ALONGSIDE THE  
SHIP.**



**MOROTAI ISLAND,  
HALMAHERA ISLANDS,  
NETHERLANDS EAST  
INDIES. 1945-04-29.  
JACK JARRETT, BILL  
RAFTERY, IAN CAMPBELL  
AND NORM LEYSON  
RELAXING IN THE  
WATER WITH A CRAFT  
POWERED BY A 3 1/2  
H.P. JAPANESE ENGINE.  
OTHER SERVICEMEN ON  
"STAND-DOWN" PREFER  
SWIMMING TO THE  
HEAT AND SWEATING  
OF FOOTBALL AND  
CRICKET IN THE  
TROPICS.**

2517



**MOUNT GARNET, QLD.  
1943-07-13. NX85007  
PRIVATE G. D. CAMPBELL  
(LYING ON ROCK);  
VX91419 PRIVATE B.  
BLAIR (IN WATER) AND  
NX104155 CORPORAL J.  
GARLAND (CENTRE  
BACKGROUND) OF THE  
2/12TH AUSTRALIAN  
INFANTRY BATTALION,  
COOL OFF IN WILD  
RIVER.**





**Near Suda Bay,  
Crete. 1941-  
04. A group of  
naked  
members of  
the 6th  
Division  
Signals  
relaxing on  
rocks after  
enjoying a  
swim at camp.**



**NEW GUINEA. C.  
1943. AIRMAN  
DIVING FROM A  
BOAT WHILE  
OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE RAAF  
LOOK ON.**



**NEW GUINEA. C.  
1943. NAKED RAAF  
AIRMEN BATHE IN  
A JUNGLE STREAM.**



**NEW GUINEA. C.  
1943-12. TWO  
RAAF AIRMEN  
ENJOY A SWIM IN  
A MOUNTAIN  
STREAM IN THE  
JUNGLE.**

**New Guinea. RAAF airmen enjoying a cool dip in an icy stream after returning from a bombing raid.**





**NEW GUINEA. 1944-03-10.  
VX10828 CAPTAIN J. SMITH (1),  
OFFICER COMMANDING THE 5TH  
DIVISION RECEPTION CAMP,  
WITH OFFICERS AND MEN OF  
THE CAMP WHO ARE HOSING  
EACH OTHER DOWN AFTER A  
BATHE IN THE BAY. THE CAMP,  
SITUATED IN A COCONUT  
PLANTATION, HAS FRESH WATER  
ONLY A FEW YARDS FROM THE  
SEA.**





**Nidania, Arakan, Burma.  
30 March 1945. RAAF  
pilots in No. 615  
'Churchill's Own' (Spitfire)  
Squadron RAF take a  
rubber dinghy with them  
for a swim on a surf beach  
in the Arakan. Left to  
right: 409953 Warrant  
Officer (WO) John E.  
Payne of Hampton, Vic;  
412782 Pilot Officer A. L.  
(Pud) Whiteman of  
Mosman, NSW, and  
formerly of Gunnedah,  
NSW; 409608 WO Ray  
Staff of Eltham, Vic;  
412579 WO D. G. (Blue)  
Fletcher of Manly, NSW,  
and formerly of Parkes,  
NSW.**





**NORTHERN PALESTINE IS NOTED FOR ITS MANY SPRINGS, AND THE EXCELLENCE OF ITS SPRING WATER. THE SPRING WATER IS LED IN CONDUITS TO WATER POINTS, WHICH HAVE BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF BATHERS AS WELL AS THE VILLAGE CATTLE. THIS OVERFLOW IS USED FOR IRRIGATION.**  
(PHOTOGRAPHER: R. HURLEY).



**PAPUA, NEW GUINEA. 1942-09. MEN OF THE 2/31ST AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION HAVING A BATHE IN THE BROWN RIVER, BETWEEN NAURO AND MENARI. IT WAS THEIR FIRST WASH FOR ABOUT 5 DAYS, DURING THE ADVANCE OF THE 25TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE, CHASING THE JAPS ACROSS THE OWEN STANLEY RANGES, THE BREN GUNNER ON THE LEFT IS ON WATCH FOR ANY STRAY JAPS WHO MAY STILL BE IN THE AREA.**





**PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.  
1942-08. YOUTHFUL  
AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS  
MANNING A  
FORWARD POST IN  
NEW GUINEA HAVE  
TAKEN UP RESIDENCE  
IN A DESERTED NATIVE  
VILLAGE. THIS PICTURE  
SHOWS THEM SETTING  
OUT FOR A SWIM IN A  
NEARBY RIVER.**



**PORT MORESBY,  
PAPUA. 1942-07.  
RELAXING AFTER A  
LONG ROUTE  
MARCH,  
AUSTRALIAN  
TROOPS ENJOY THE  
FRESHNESS OF A  
NEW GUINEA  
MOUNTAIN  
STREAM.**



**PORT MORESBY, PAPUA, 1942-  
07-20. HAVING ENJOYED A  
SWIM AFTER A DAY'S WORK,  
THESE AUSTRALIAN TROOPS  
LOOSEN UP WITH A BRISK RUN  
ALONG THE BEACH.**





**AT AN  
UNDISCLOSED  
OPERATIONAL  
BASE.  
AUSTRALIAN  
TROOPS COOL  
OFF WHILE  
MATES MOUNT  
CROCODILE  
GUARD.**



