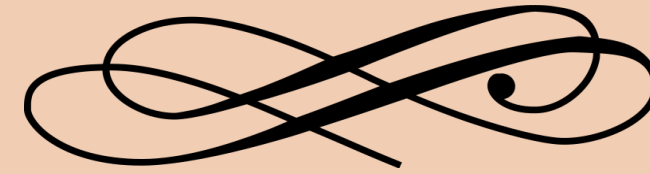
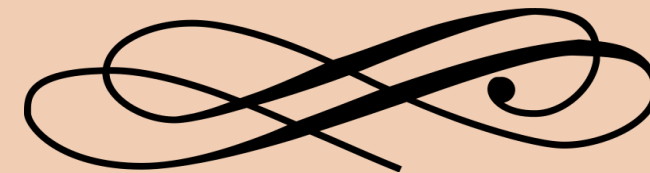


Soldiers enjoy a cigarette!

Smoko Point c.1939-1945

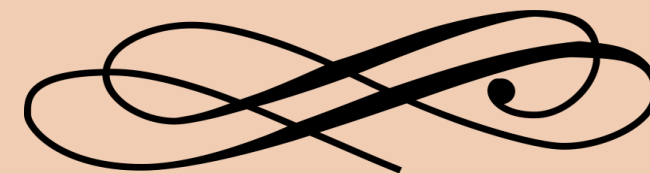


Between 1939 and 1945, a bus containing a platoon of new recruit soldiers as well as a support crew would arrive at Aberfeldy ready for a gruelling three day training march through the challenging local terrain. The idea was to toughen the troops before their deployment overseas.



During the march, they crossed the Aberfeldy River before a steep climb to their first resting point, here at what became known as Smoko Point. Being a fashionable and almost expected practice of the times, most of the soldiers would light up a cigarette whilst recovering from the climb. Some of them also carved their personal details into the nearby slate, most likely with the tips of their bayonets.

From Smoko Point the men journeyed to O'Toole's Flat to camp the night, before continuing two days marching along McEvoy's Track and over Mt. Useful. After this they looped back to Aberfeldy where their bus departed for Melbourne.



This practice march continued even after World War II, with the army apprentices based at the Balcombe Army Camp continuing the tradition.

Source: Grahame Code, Aberfeldy Historian