**Historical Officers Report**

**From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser**

**August 1943**

**3rd August Lieut Hugh Randell Syme GC RANVR Mine Clearing**



5th August Fighting Men Are Poorly Paid. "The common soldier is bearing on his shoulders the destiny of Australia, but the National 'reward' is to apportion him the poorest pay among all classes directly employed in the war effort," states "Reveille," official journal of the R.S.S. and A. League. The article claimed that as the value of a soldier's services was without peer; his scale of remuneration should be higher than that earned by the civilian. "No one, other than the man who has been face to face with an angry enemy, has the slightest conception of what a soldier has to face and endure," added the Diggers' paper. "That may be why our legislators, as a body, are delaying the gracious gesture."

TWO OPENING BATSMEN in pre-war local cricket recently- met at a military establishment. They' are Val. Davis, formerly of Camden Cricket Club, and Warrant Officer George Jackman who played for Warriors C.C. George learned that Val had re turned from the Middle. East and was later wounded in the fighting against the Japanese at Milne Bay. When residing at Camden, Val. Davis managed the Camden Timber Yards for a city firm.

12th August Camden's First Snow for 48 Years. For the first time in 48 years snowflakes were in the air at Camden on Tuesday afternoon. T he flakes were about the size of small peas, but they did not settle on the ground. They were dispersed by a very light shower of rain. Alderman E. A. Davies, of Camden, first mentioned the matter to the "Camden Advertiser." Other readers said they noticed the small air-borne snowflakes. A similar occurrence was reported at Camden in the winter of 1895. Camden has experienced an exceptionally chilly winter this year, when a dry period followed the flood rains in May. The month of July and. the present August days have been the coldest for many years.

In Raids on Germany. The name of a former Camden boy, Sergeant Astley Cranfield (R.A.A.F.), was recently mentioned "over the air" as having taken part in the raids on the Rhur area, Germany. Writing from England to his mother, Astley had earlier reported that he was a wireless operator in a four-engine Lancaster bomber, with an all-Australian crew, skippered by an officer from the Katoomba district. His brother, Corporal Cecil Cranfield, is serving with the R.A.A.F. in New Guinea. Cecil was attached to the clerical staff of the Commonwealth Bank before he enlisted.

**19th August Japanese abandon positions in Mt Tambu**

Soldier Candidate's Colourful Career. By reason of his membership of a famed A.I.F. machine gun unit, led by a Camden officer and contains a number of Camden Campbelltown district residents, Sergt. Micheel Kartzoff, the soldiers' independent candidate, provides a real local touch to the triangular contest for the Werriwa scat at the Federal Elections on Saturday next. Sergeant Kartzoff was with the M.G. unit in the Middle East when it won its spurs in the battles of Tel Elisa and EI Alamein last year. He was born in pre-revolutionary Russia and had just matriculated at Naples University when the Fascist revolution exploded in Italy. He decided to leave unrestful Europe and came to Australia some 18 years ago. Here he varied his career as a journalist, bushman and prospector. He speaks six languages and has made an intense study of foreign affairs and social sciences. In 1935 he became an ardent volunteer member of the Militia Light Horse, and enlisted for overseas service early in 1940.

**21st August Australians Capture Homiatum**

26th August SERGT. FRED. MARDEN, of Camden, who is serving with an A.I.F. anti-aircraft unit, was hon. treasurer of Camden District Tennis Association for several years and a member of Camden Golf Club. Before joining the army he was employed by the Camden firm of F. C. Whiteman and Sons. His wife (formerly Dorcas McMinn) resides in Murray-street, Camden.

A.C.I BERT ALLEN, who recently enlisted in the Air Force, is the 18 year old only son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Allen, of Camden. Bert was born at Camden and attended the local public school. He was employed at the Paramount Theatre, Camden before he entered the R.A.A.F.

Ray Herbert Historical Officer Camden RSL Sub Branch