

Historical Officers Report From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser February 1942

5th February: CAMDEN "BOMBED"

Realistic N.E.S. Test "Enemy" bombers dived from the clouded sky and heavily "staved" an aerodrome and the township of Camden shortly after 7 o'clock on Tuesday night, in a most realistically planned National Emergency Services "air-raid" test. Real fires occurred in the Main Street, side streets, and showground. These were quickly extinguished by the Camden Fire Brigade. Loud explosions occurred at many points. Debris was hurtled onto the roof-tops of two-storey buildings and the concussion vibrated the floors. Several windows in the Bank of New South Wales building were actually shattered by debris and concussion. There were a number of "casualties" in the streets. The test will have proved an invaluable aid should any real emergency occur. The work of the local N.E.S. appeared to run very smoothly. The officials will check-up on any weaknesses reported in order to strengthen the service on future occasions.

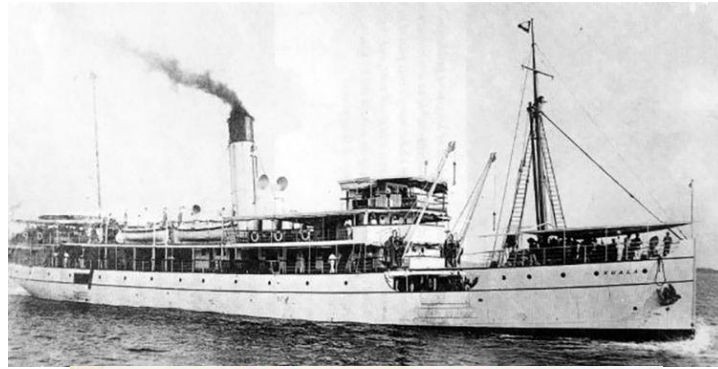
CHIEF WARDEN PLEASED "A very good show", declared the chief warden, Alderman H. S. Kelloway, after the "all clear" had sounded on Tuesday night. "It exceeded our expectations", he added. The chief warden paid a high tribute for their good work to the wardens and other N.E.S. workers, Camden District Hospital medical and nursing staffs, Voluntary Aid Detachment, fire brigade, police, telephonists at Camden Exchange, postal linesmen, Liverpool District Ambulance, the boy scouts and general public. Full co-operation was also given by the military authorities and the R.A.A.F. Land forces "attacked" the aerodrome when the "bombing" raid was in progress.

8th February: Japanese forces cross the Straits of Johore and engage 22nd and 27th Brigades 8th Division



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 125751

14th February: Sinking of SS Vyner Brooke, and the Banka Island Massacre



15th February: Fall of Singapore



19th February: Japanese bomb Darwin



19th February:

About 1500 gallons of petrol and 600 gallons of by-products per week are being produced from shale at the local petrol works.—"Mittagong Star"

LOCAL NEWS PARS TWELVE camouflage nets have been completed, roped and despatched by Camden C. W. A. and Narellan netting centres during the past month. Another dozen nets are completed and wait roping. The centres are anxious to increase their output. C.W.A. headquarters advised on Tuesday that ample supplies of netting twine were now available.

Circus and Zoo Sole Bros. Circus and Zoo will appear at Camden Showground on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3 and 4. Besides thirty International star acts, clowns, etc., wild animals and performing elephants.

LIVESTOCK AND FOOD: Emergency Evacuation Plans. The meeting tackled the serious business with commendable realism. From Constable McClure, of Sydney, it was learned that the Camden police district livestock would travel Burragorang Valley, where an organisation was being formed to receive them. Stockowner at Burragorang with Government assistance will arrange for water and feed in valley, continued the police officer. It was then expected that the stock would travel on to Oberon, and, if necessary, to a destination farther afield. The trek would be undertaken by approximately 9856 milking cows, 4356 dry cattle and 1945 horses, Mr. T. Donohue, of Camden, in answer to a question by the chairman, said that the Colong stock route to Mount Werong was through very rough country.

20th February: Japanese landed on Portuguese Timor

22nd February: Macarthur ordered to leave Philippines

23rd February: Australian Forces on Timor surrender to Japanese

26th February: LOCAL PILOT Describes Raids on Germany. His experiences during his first raids on enemy territory are graphically told by Pilot Officer James Clark, a former Camden Park cricketer, in a letter, dated November 30, addressed to Miss Heather McKnight, of Camden. "So far I have only been in three raids although I have now been at an operational squadron for 21 months", wrote Pilot Officer' Clark, who is with the R.A.A.F. in England. "My first and third trips were to Emden and the second one to Brest, where we had a crack at the German battleships 'Scharnhorst' and 'Gneisenau' continued the letter. (The battleships named, together with the heavy cruiser "Prinz Eugen", escaped from Brest on February 12 last and made their way to Heligoland.—Editor.) "Our first trip was rather eventful", added Pilot Officer Clark. "On the way back, across the North Sea, one engine failed when we were still about 200 miles from England, and we had to fly on the port engine. We could not hold our height until we got down to about 300 feet and from then on we were up and down between 30 and 300 feet, being carried on air currents. "On several occasions we thought we were going into the sea and were braced for impact with the waves, but each time we just managed to keep out of it. We had sent out an S.O.S. early in the piece we were quite confident that if we did go down and we had to spend some time in the rubber dinghy, we would be picked up sooner or later.

27th February: HMAS Hobart damaged by air attacks, West Java Sea



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