

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

4th January Japanese Air Attack against Rabaul

8th January LOCAL NEWS-PARS:

Mrs J B Huthnance reports. The December collection of waste paper from Camden and Elderslie homes realised 6/7/1. The money will be used to purchase comforts for local member of the fighting services.

The Editor Writes Local Lads Overseas.

Many appreciative letters and cards from our local district lads over Seas have been received in recent weeks by the Camden Women's Voluntary Services Centre. The boys were delighted with the parcels and Christmas hampers. They sent their good wishes and thanks to all W.V.S. members. Private Roy McLeod related that a Christmas hamper sent to him by the W.V.S. in September, 1940, was delivered to him in November, 1941, after having followed him to England and then to the Middle East. The mail from Malaya included messages from Privates Harry Crittenden, John Meredith, Robert Williams, Leslie Foreman, Geoff O'Laughlan, Gunners F. Orchard, Gunner Ernest Gibbs; Signalman Rodney Brew

Fourteen members of The Oaks Volunteer Defence Corps will commence military duties this week. Five have accepted full-time duty for the duration, while the remainder will be on half-time service. The list includes two men who were on active service in the Great War of 1914- 1918: W. F. Moore, who served with the 20th Battalion, 1st A.I.F.; and Arthur Cook, who fought with a British infantry regiment, Arthur was later captured by the enemy and spent 18 months in a prison camp

14th January: "B Company" 2/30th Battalion of the Eighth Division AIF ambush Japanese troops at Gemenchen Bridge near Gemas, Malaysia

Prisoner of War. Acting-Corporal W. (Jack) Adams, NX3097, who resigned the manager ship of the tea-rooms at Carrington Convalescent Hospital at Camden to enlist with the A.I.F., is a prisoner of war. He was reported "missing, believed prisoner," in August Inst. The later information was officially released this week. Corporal Adams' mother resides at Devonshire, England. He sailed with the first Australian contingent and served with a supply and transport unit. Before enlisting Corporal Adams was a popular figure at the hospital. He possessed a fine baritone voice and often sang at functions held there. He was also an excellent billiards'- player; his best break on the hospital billiards' table was .

THE EDITOR WRITES Scrap Aluminium Wanted. 'If each municipal and shire area in Australia can collect, one ton of aluminium scrap, there would be sufficient of this metal to manufacture more than 1000 aircraft. By advertisement in this issue the Wollondilly Shire Council invites the co-operation of all shire residents to contribute aluminium scrap. "The need is urgent-," slates Mr. H. H. Crakanthorp Shire Clerk. Camden Municipal Council has also issued an urgent appeal for aluminium scrap. Old pots, pans or other aluminium ware is required. The receiving depot will be at the residence of Mrs. J. B. Huthnance (local salvage controller), Barsden Street, Camden. Boy volunteers will be required to conduct a house-to-house collection of old aluminium at Camden and Elderslie.

Under the war-time lighting regulations it is compulsory for motor vehicle owners to apply to bumper bars and running boards, white paint or material not less conspicuous than white paint. As a result of experiments carried out by the N.R.M.A. motorists who prefer not to use duco or any similar preparations, are advised to use white tyro dressing. This is easily applied, dries quickly, and can be quickly and easily removed with petrol without damage to the duco finish.

Quick thinking gained an acquittal, last year for a Dutch woman who as prosecuted by the Nazis for listening to the B.B.C. programme. She pleaded that she had not listened in for a long time. Then she heard a Berlin broadcast that

the Germans would be in London within a fortnight and therefore, naturally, she had tuned in to London. What could her German judges do?

16th January: 8th Division in Battle of Muar



19th January: North Borneo surrenders to Japanese

20th January: RAAF sends 6 Wirraways against 100 Japanese aircraft over Rabaul



21st January: Japanese Air Attack against Lae and Salamanda

23rd January: Japanese land at Rabaul and Balikpapan

24th January: First Naval Battle of Pacific war temporarily holds up Japanese invasion of Java

25th January: Japanese Land at Lae

Full Mobilisation ordered in Australia



29th January: MESSAGE FROM MALAYA

Our Boys in Action SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE. Everyone will do his part towards crushing the enemy; we can each handle three of the enemy. We are confident and cannot be beaten! In the trenches at Johore, where A.I.F. units have since been engaged in fierce fighting to repel the Japanese invaders of Malaya, was Private Jack Meredith, a former Glenmore dairyhand, when he penned the above spiring message to this newspaper. "Some of our boys have already had some small clashes with very good results he added.

CAMDEN NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES PUBLIC WARNING: PRACTICE A.R.P. TEST

All Residents of the Camden Municipality and the Villages of Narellan and Cobbitty are hereby WARNED that the Camden N.E.S. Organisation intends to bold a Full-scale Air Raid Precautions Test on TUESDAY NEXT, FEBRUARY 3, between the hours 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. In order to duplicate as far as possible, an actual air raid, the town will be "attacked," and in this connection the A.R.P. test will be made as realistic as practicable. As a security measure, it is desired that where a resident is asked for information relating to any matter connected with landmarks, Aerodromes, Camps in fact any information which might be of use to a potential enemy the inquirers must be referred to the local Police or Military Officers. During the period referred to above, each householder is urged to comply with the "black-out" regulations, and to co-operate with and cheerfully observe the instructions of the Wardens, Police, and other officials. H.S. Kelloway, CHIEF WARDEN.

The Editor Writes Thoughtful Deeds "A fellow can't dance in these military boots, complained a young soldier to Digger Frank Coates, who was recently "doing his bit "as a doorkeeper at a Camden patriotic dance. "Here try these" replied the genial Frank, who pulled off his civilian shoes and swapped them far the soldier's "'gravel crushers" for the duration of the dance. Digger Coates, who fought with an A.I.F. machine-gun unit in World War 1, is now the honorary secretary of the Camden sub-branch of the R.S.S. and A Imperial League

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer
Camden RSL Sub Branch