

**Historical Officers Report
From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser
May 1941**

1st May: Allied evacuation of Greece Completed

800 PRISONERS CAPTURED BY FOUR AUSTRALIANS Rossmore Brothers in Great Feat, Writing to his wife at Rossmore, Private Fred Woollams now tells how he, his brother (Leo), and two other Australians captured 800 Italians at Bardia. Here is an extract from his letter "Fred Squires, Bill Dunne, Leo and I must nearly hold the record for the proportion of prisoners taken and that without a shot.

It was the result of a mistake. **We were sent to the top of a ridge at Bardia to take a few prisoners who had surrendered. When we walked around them we found we were on the top of another position about a mile long who had not surrendered. We could not turn our backs on them, so the four of us went on and brought them all in—800 men and 32 officers.** By the time that they realised we were alone and were only bluffing, we had all except about fifty rounded up. When the remainder did open fire with their artillery we were too close for them to bring their guns down on us; the shells just whistled over our heads. After a couple of minutes another section of Aussies came up; their No. 1 gunner walked in firing his Bren from the hip and just blew those (enemy) gunners off their guns, and enabled us to finish the job. That is just an instance; there were nothing heroic about it, there were no medals won or expected, it was done as a matter of course.

Polo Player with A.I.F.: Camden district's No. 1 polo player. Captain Max Wheatley, of "Bellevue," Rossmore, is the adjutant of an A.I.F. machine gun regiment now on active service abroad. With him are many lads from the Camden and Campbelltown areas. Like a great number of other local soldiers, Captain Wheatley received early military training in the ranks of the Camden Troop of the 1/21st Militia Light Horse Regiment, later to become a mechanised unit. He gained his commission in 1936

ANZAC SUNDAY Large Gathering at Camden Service More than 800 people—probably a record gathering attended the combined Anzac Service of Remembrance on Sunday afternoon last at Macarthur Park, Camden. Included in the assembly were members of many families whose loved ones fought in the Great War of 1914-1918, and other families who are represented by husbands, sons and brothers in the present conflict. The lawns and colourful park gardens gave an atmosphere of peace to the surroundings as we stood in front of the flag-covered Cenotaph. Many wreaths were in evidence at the base of the monument. A bitterly cold wind was blowing across the heights as the Camden District Band, which had led the march from the town hall, entered the park, followed by the returned men from the last war, members of several military units now in camp, the Camden Voluntary Aid Detachment, the Junior Red Cross, local Scouts and Cubs. We joined in hymns and prayers, and listened to an inspiring address by Flight-Lieut. Adam Chaplain at the R.A.A.F. Central Flying School at Camden. Other assisting clergy were the Rev. J. T. Phair (Cobbitty) and the Rev. Wesley Stocks (Camden). Wing-Commander Bates, O.C. Central Flying School, and Major Costello, Chief Instructor of the Eastern Command Training School at Narellan, were amongst the uniformed men present. Mr. Edgar Downes, president of the Camden sub-branch of R.S.S. and A. Imperial League, which arranged the service, was in charge of the proceedings.

LEST WE FORGET 1914-1918 The local district men who died on active service during the Great War and whose names appear on the Cenotaph; Private P. S. R. Brain. Lance-Corp. H. J. Chesham. Private J. C. Clarke, Signaller B. Gale, Private V.G. Gardner. Private E. Gibson. Private W. B. Gibson. Staff Sergt. V. F. Hansen. Corporal R. Hawkey. Private L. C. Hogan. Private F. A. Kelloway. Gunner W.G. Livesey. Lance-Corp H. C. Lilywhite. Signaller E. Lowe.' Capt. A. W. Macarthur Onslow. Private G. G. R. Mills. Lieut.-Col. A. J. Onslow Thompson, Sergeant F. H. Paul. Private W. J. Peckham. Flight Cadet H. K. Percival. Private E. C. Peverell, Sergeant J. R. Poole. Sergeant G. A. Price. Private F. Ross. Lance-Corp. H. Smart. Sergeant R. S. Smith. Private B. Straiten. Bugler M. Thornton.

A tribute to our comrades who have passed over since the "Great War 1914-1918," was the inscription on a large memorial card placed near the Cenotaph by local ex-servicemen on Sunday. The card contained the following names: John Adams. Abel Andrews. Douglas Armstrong. Cecil Clifton. Edward Edmunds. John Fitzpatrick (Boer War). James Hunt. Sydney Harbutt. Wallace Jenkins. Geo. M. Macarthur Onslow. James MacLeod. Arthur McLennan (Boer War). Bertie Roberts. John Roberts. Cecil Wheeler. Albert Windred, Corporal Viney.

8th May

Former Battlefields: During his movements in the Middle East. Private Owen Smart, of Cawdor, has visited many localities where the Australian Light Horse regiments fought in the last war. He describes some of them as "mighty rough places."

15th May

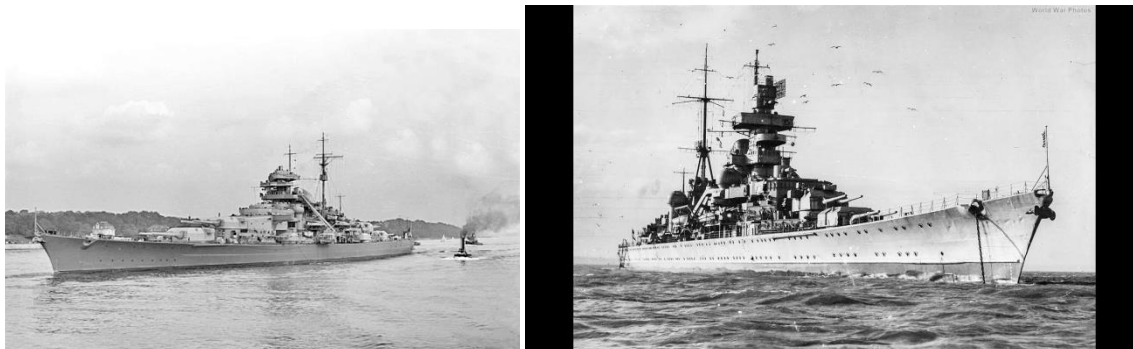
2,000 SOLDIERS to March through Camden on Sunday next led by a composite band, 2,000 men from the Narellan Military Camp will march in a formation of sixes through Camden at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon next. They are members of the Casual (Universal Trainee) Battalions which have been in training for the past two months. Major Wade is pleased with the military progress displayed by the lads, and is confident that this will be reflected in Sunday's march. The parade will move from the Narellan Camp at 12.45 p.m. and will proceed to the Camden Showground by way of the back stock route. The march through Camden is timed to commence at 2.55 p.m. The salute will be taken at 3 o'clock by Brigadier W. E. Smith, M.C., V.D. Commander of the 14 Infantry Brigade, at the intersection of Argyle and John streets. He will be accompanied by senior officers and the Mayor of Camden (Aid. H. S. Kelloway) at the saluting base. The men will not remain in Camden but will continue their return march to the camp, turning into Elizabeth-street from Argyll Street, after passing through the town.

Camden police warn motorists that a regulation is infringed if a motor vehicle is parked opposite any vehicular entrance to any property. This applies to both main roads and side streets. Action will be taken against offenders.

20th May German Paratroops invade Crete



22nd May RAN Squadron sail to engage BISMARCK and PRINZ EUGEN



AMAZING ESCAPES Local Wounded Digger Relates Experiences Details of amazing escapes before he was wounded at Bardia are now related by Private E. (Alan) Davis, of Theresa Park, in a letter to his mother. As his section charged through a hail of machine-gun fire, an Italian shell fell between Alan and his mate. The shell proved a dud; thus at least two lives were saved. Moving closer to the enemy, the pair came within point-blank range of a machine-gun. Several bullets actually passed between them in a direct line with their heads. The noise gave us such a start that we looked at each other and laughed in a most insane fashion declared Alan. On the next day a sniper fired straight at my head he continued. The shot missed and two Australians charged into the sniper's nest with their bayonets. - Alan is now able to walk about; he expected to be sent to a convalescent home, when he last wrote. Four of Alan's personal coppers were killed at Bardia. He is anxious to return to the line to even that score with the enemy. Alan stated that when he was wounded he immediately lost consciousness. "If I had been killed I would not have known it," he airily related, "but this uncanny hick of mine was with me all the way."

Troops from the Narellan Military Camp gave an impressive display of marching on Sunday afternoon when they entered the Camden Township, wheeled at the showground, and returned to pass the saluting base at the intersection of Argyle and John streets. The salute was taken by Brigadier W. E. Smith, M.C., V.D., Commander of the 14th Infantry Brigade, The Mayor of Camden (Aid. H. S. Kelloway) represented the local citizens. A large crowd of local residents and visitors witnessed the march, which was led into Camden by a military band playing "Colonel Bogey," a marching tune which has retained its popularity since the days of 1914-18.

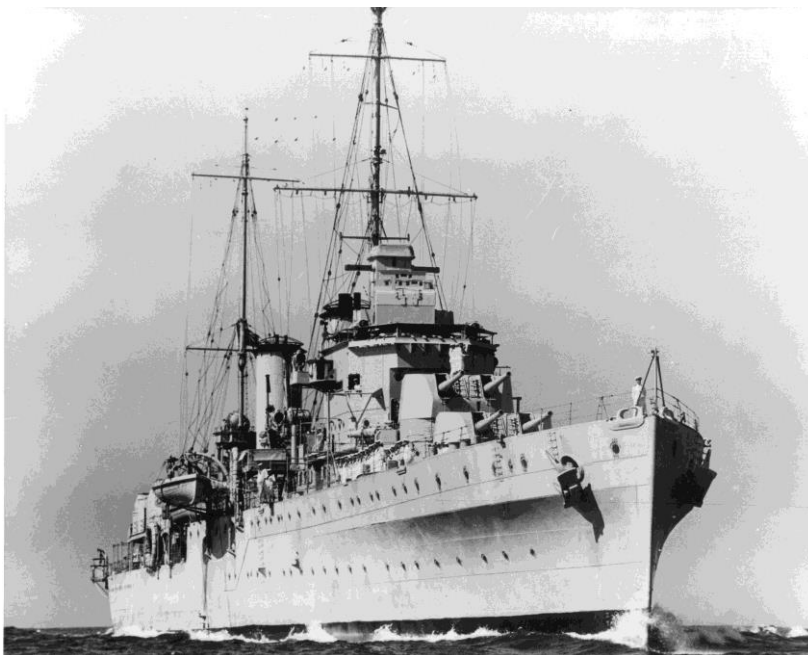
29th May

MISSING AFTER GREECE Silverdale Digger SERVING IN THIRD WAR Corporal Stanley Montefiore (NX5849), of Silverdale, has been officially reported "not evacuated from Greece." We regret to learn this news concerning an adventurous Australian who is serving in his third war. Leaving the King's School at Parramatta, he enlisted with the 1st A.I.F. at the age of 16 years. He was a bugler in the 3rd Division when he was wounded in France. Invalided home he became an oil salesman for the Vacuum Company in Queensland. In more recent years when things began to happen in Europe, Stanley journeyed to England and thence to Spain, where he fought in the Spanish Civil War. . Returning to England he joined a balloon barrage unit. His next move was to Australia, where he joined the 2nd A.I.F. on December 20, 1939. He was in the advance guard of the first contingent to leave these shores in January, 1940. Corporal Montefiore speaks three languages. His brother, Mr. C. G. Montefiore, of Silverdale, served with the British Expeditionary Force in the Great War.

Although petrol rationing has caused about 10,000 cars to be taken off the roads in this State, road accidents continue to pile-up. In sending me this information the Road Safety Council states that some motorists and pedestrians exercise less care when the road traffic is light.

The well-planned nine-hole golf course and a first-class tennis court in the spacious "Pomare" property at Cobbitty have been placed by Miss Keir at the disposal of the Cobbitty P. and C. Association on Monday, June 16 (King's Birthday), when a golf and tennis tournament will be held to assist Camden Red Cross branch funds.

30 May HMAS Perth damaged during evacuation from Crete



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