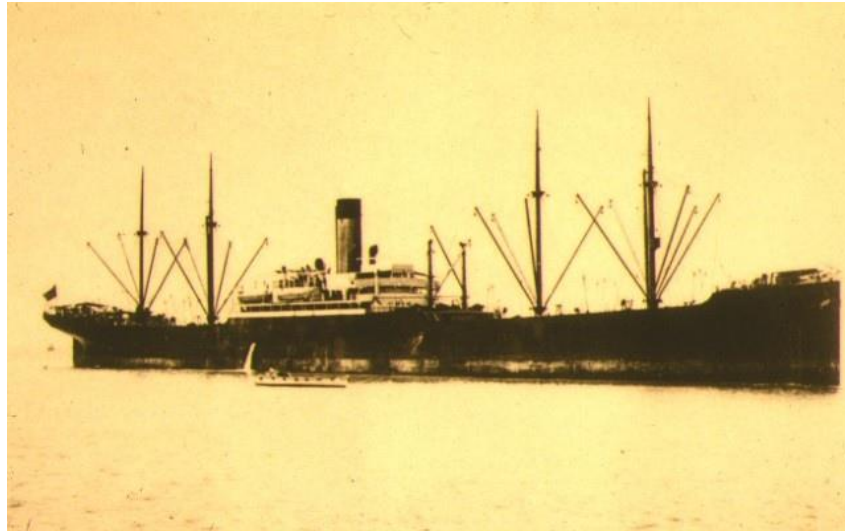


**Historical Officers Report
From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser**

7th November 1940

**Mines of Wilson's Promontory British Freighter sunk
S.S. Cambridge**



Writing from the Middle East on October 18 last, Sapper W. Mundell, in an air-mail letter, says: "We have at last witnessed an air-raid; in fact, in the last couple of nights we have seen four raids all told. So far we have been fortunate, as no bombs have dropped near us. The raids were over Alexandria, and from here we were it was a wonderful sight. The searchlights "pick-up" the raiders and hold them while the anti-aircraft guns blaze away at them. The trouble is that the "dagoes" are not game enough to come low, with the result that they do very little damage, as our shore batteries cannot reach them. The results are usually negative in both cases, though they do break the monotony.

14th November 1940

NEW MILITARY CAMP

Between Narellan and Cobbitty

For 4,500 Men

Green's corner (Bringelly Road intersection), situated midway between Narellan and Cobbitty, is reported to be the site for a new military camp to be built within the next few weeks. It is expected that portions of the "Orielson," "Denbigh" and "Oran Park" properties will be included in the camp area. The site was surveyed some weeks ago. The distance from

Camden is approximately four miles. A "S.M. Herald" report states that the new camp will hold about 4,500 men, and will be similar to that of Wallgrove, where there are huts for administrative offices, kitchen, and messes, but the troops sleep in tents. Such a camp will cost only about £90,000, compared with about £300,000 for a completely hutted camp of similar size.

Young Airman

"Passing Out" Dinner at Camden

At the Royal Hotel, Camden, on Tuesday evening, thirty-six members of the No. 1 Recruit Squad—the very first to complete their preliminary training at the R.A.A.F. Central Flying School at Camden, celebrated the historic event with a "Passing Out" dinner. The lads were naturally very proud that their initial courses were successfully undertaken at the Central Flying School, which is regarded as the "nerve centre" of the Empire Air Training Scheme in Australia. As an instructors' school, the C.F.C. is the tap-root from which the ever increasing Royal Australian Air Force is growing. The Royal Hotel dining-room was transformed into a small banquet hall with the neatly-set tables. Mr. Frank Podesta and his staff certainly provided an excellent four-course repast. A photograph of His Majesty the King and the R.A.A.F. emblem draped the walls.

19th November 1940

No. 3 Squadron first Aerial engagement with the enemy, near Sofafi, Four Gladiators were attacked by 18 Italian Fiat CR42's. Several enemy aircraft were shot down; one Australian pilot was killed



21st November 1940

Twenty-five members of the Camden Returned Soldiers' Volunteer Defence Corps attended a review in Centennial Park (Sydney) on Sunday, when the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, took the salute.

The sale of poppies at Camden on Poppy Day realised £21/11/-. Half of this sum was forwarded to the United Returned Soldiers' Fund, from the balance; the Camden sub-branch of the R.S. and S.I.L. has donated £5/5/- to the local branch of the Great Britain Civilian War Victims' Relief Fund. The local ex-servicemen had previously denoted £2/2/. to the same fund.

PARS OF INTEREST

Since petrol rationing began, one of the tendencies of motorist is the practice of coasting wherever possible. "This is a valid practice but it raises the point of control of the vehicle in an emergency, states the Road Safety Council, which advises motorist readers of this newspaper to make constant checks to determine the safe condition of the brakes, the steering; and of all other vital parts.

The flood-lighting of St. John's Church tower at Camden is not a centenary commemoration. The lighting was installed and is being maintained by the Commonwealth Department of the Interior as a safety-first measure for the R.A.A.F. planes during night flying. It appears that the heavy bomber type of plane would have some difficulty in attaining a sufficient altitude to clear the church steeple in so short an air-distance from the Central Flying School field at Macquarie Grove

28th November 1940

SERGEANT JEFF BATE

Member on Final Leave

Sergeant J P Bate M.L.A is spending much of his final leave period in visiting different parts of the Wollondilly Electorate. In view of his enlistment in the A.I.F. for active service overseas, the U.A.P. branches within the altered boundaries of the electorate have dispensed with the selection of a candidate and endorsed the sitting member, Mr Bate, as the U.A.P candidate for Wollondilly at the forthcoming' State elections. (This decision is said to be subject to the approval of the Party executive).

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer