

Historical Officers Report From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser April 1941

3rd April

AWARDED D.S.O. Major Denzil Macarthur Onslow "Richly Deserved" For conspicuous gallantry whilst serving with the A.I.F. in Libya Major Denzil Macarthur Onslow has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order. A cable to this effect was received at Camden on Tuesday. General Sir Ivan Mackay sent the message and added the following words: "Richly deserved." The Camden district will thrill to this reward for a former local boy.



OUR BOYS IN MALAYA Tom Guyer's Letter

"Our reception here was great" writes Private Tom Guyer in a letter from Malaya, "When we landed, he adds, hundreds of Malayan natives and a few white people, mostly soldiers, gave us a hearty welcome. The natives here are very friendly; most of them study English, "Malaya is quite a nice country , but it has a very humid heat, which rarely alters this is rather severe on us at present but it won't be long before we are used to it. 'The surroundings of Malay are jungle, rubber plantations, rice-fields, and lots of nice palms and trees. Natives work the rubber plantations, and they are very interesting to watch; both the women and men work very hard, tapping the trees and carrying in the rubber. The rice-fields are usually run by Chinese." Tom says that the animals in Malaya are tigers, elephants and monkeys, while the reptile family is represented by large snakes. All these harbor in the dense parts of the jungle. So far the boys have seen only a few monkeys. Tom intimates that he will be pleased to answer any letters from friends at Camden. His address is: "NX25835, Private T. J. Gayer, A Company, 2/20 Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces, Abroad." He sends a cheerio call to all Camden folks, especially the Biffin families; and adds greetings to all from Privates Tom Gall and James Auld. (Thanks' for your most interesting letter, Tom Keep an eye on Tommy Gall, as he many want to capture a few tigers in order to show the Malaya s that wild animals are easier to ride than Burragorang steers.—Editor.)

4th April First action by 2nd AIF against Africa Corps

6th April Germany invaded Yugoslavia and Greece



10th April Siege of Tobruk begins

Promotion on Field: Promotion followed for Digger H. G. Cullen, of Narellan, after he had participated in the battles of Bardia and Tobruk. His particular A.I.F. battalion was given a severe baptism of fire at Bardia, (Our congratulations to Corporal Cullen) * * *

Air Gunner! A former Camden Schoolboy. Aircraftman Edgar Johnson is in training for the position of an air Gunner in the R.A.A.F. at Bradfield Park. He will probably complete his course in Canada. Edgar is the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Johnson, of Collaroy. His father was former branch manager of the Commonwealth Bank at Camden. Yes, the years roll by Edgar will celebrate his 21 birthday on May 6 next. (Many happy return and all safe landings to you, Edgar)

In Malaya: Private Harry Crittenden, a former district resident, is now with an A.I.F. Infantry battalion in Malaya. He was employed as a farm hand by the late J. S. Rofe at Mount Hunter for a number of years.

In Early Battles: A recent letter from Private Jim Lee advised that he was "unscratched" in the battles of Bardia and Tobruk. When reading an old copy of a Newcastle paper, Jim was surprised to see his own photograph in print. The picture was taken in the early spring of last year, when he and his mates embarked for overseas, Jim's sporting activities at Camden embraced football and boxing. He was a regular challenger to visiting boxer at different Camden shows. Jim just loved to "mix it" in spirited boxing ring rallies, so the close-up stuff a Bardia wouldn't unduly worry this game little fighter.

Comforts during Battle: "The member of a certain gun crew gave heartiest thank for the thoughtfulness and kindness of the Ladies who donated the parcel, writes Bombardier Arthur Cairns in a letter to the Camden Centre of the Women's Voluntary Services. The particular parcel arrived when Arthur's Field Artillery Battery was in action against the Italians.

11th April Rommel launched violent attack on Tobruk



12th April Anzac Corps reformed in Greece by Gem. T.A. Blamey

13th April Cpl J.H. Edmondson VC at Tobruk



17th April Yugoslavia surrendered to Axis power

17th April

Digger's Historical Snaps: An interesting collection of photographs, taken during a leave period in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, has been forwarded home by Private Owen Smart, of Cawdor, Included in the collection are snaps of many old churches, the manger in which Christ was born, a photograph of His tomb, and another of the Jerusalem War Cemetery- In an accompanying letter, written on March 23, Owen wrote: "I want to have a smash at the Huns."

21st April Operation SARAWAK begins



21st April Greek Surrender signed



22nd April Evacuation of Greece Began



28th April Germans captured El Sollum, North Africa

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