

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

**7<sup>th</sup> August**

**LOCAL SOLDIER TELLS OF CRETE AND GREECE**

I doubt if the world will ever know just how much the little island of Crete cost Hitler in men and material" writes Sapper W. Mundell of Werombi, who has taken part in every Australian action since Bardia. "It has shown us just what a hopeless task he'll have if ever he tries to take England. If a handful of men can inflict such losses, what would England's armed forces be able to do? We had our first look at parachutists there, and believe me they had a hot reception. They were being shot down as soon as they landed, but as soon one lot were wiped out, there would be another to take their place. We also had a good insight into Hitler's methods, and I can assure you that next time he will find things even harder". Writing of the evacuation from Crete, Sapper Mundell stated: "It was one of the happiest moments of my life when I stepped on board that ship. Once more I uttered the oft quote: 'Thank God, we have a navy'. "Bill had a word for the sailors: "They are a wonderful lot of chaps and did everything possible to relieve us. We had gallons of tea laid on for us and it was like nectar, considering that we had not even a drink of water for two days. The Comforts Fund did n marvellous job when we arrived at "Alex", giving us cups of tea, cigarettes, chocolates, biscuits, clothes, shaving gear, and above all, a chit for three bottles of beer—Whoopee

"BEAUTIFUL GREECE Sapper Mundell, who had described the battle for Greece in an earlier letter, added the following paragraph: "Greece is a beautiful country and one cannot say too much about the city of Athens. Had only four hours leave there, but it was the nicest four hours I've spent since leaving Sydney. The people gave us a marvellous time; wherever we went we were the centre of an admiring throng. It 'darn d near' bro e our hearts when we had to evacuate a d leave Greece in the hand of the Germans". The writer said that the Australians gave the Huns more than he bargained for. The German losses were enormous.

**13<sup>th</sup> August Cabinet approves formation AWAS**



**14<sup>th</sup> August**

PRISONER OF WAR LIEUT. CHARLES STANTON Overseas records reveal that NX7550 Lieut. Charles Stanton, of Burraborang, is a prisoner of war. This information was gained by his father, also serving abroad with the A.I.F., who conveyed the news to an anxious mother, Lieut. Charles Stanton, who was reported missing in June after the evacuation of Crete, enlisted with his brother, Lieut. Frank Stanton, in October, 1939. He was one of the first to enter Bardia in January last, and came safely through the Libyan and Greek campaigns. "I have not had any official notice yet," Mrs. Stanton told this newspaper. "It is a great relief to us to know definitely that he is safe, even though in captivity; and the report that they are being well treated is very comforting. Lieut. Charles Stanton served in the same battalion as Lieut. T. C. Fairbairn (prisoner), of Campbelltown; Private A. Frank Pattison (prisoner) of Bringelly; Corporal H. G. Cullen (missing), of Narellan;

and Private Neil Donaldson missing of Oakdale. It would appear that this particular battalion had an arduous time in Crete.

THE EDITOR WRITES— Gunner A. L. (Tony) Whiteley NX210S8, of Camden, has been mentioned in despatches and recommended for a decoration on account of some outstanding feat in the recent Syrian campaign. This good news is indicated in letters received at Elderslie from his battery-mates, Gunners Harry Hall and Ronald Hughes. They do not, however, mention the particular deed for which Tony gained the recognition of his officers. Gunner Whiteley, who is about 22 years of age, was a dairy-farm hand when he enlisted last year. His father, who served in the Great War of 1914-1918, is believed to reside at one of the outlying centres of the Orange district. A former employee, Mr. R.H. (Bob) Murdoch, of Camden, told this newspaper that Tony Whiteley was a type that could not be bluffed. Prior to embarkation, he told Mr. Murdoch that if he ever got into a tight corner on the "outer-side," he never would give up.

The motor accident, in which Private Ernest McGrath, of Camden, met with fatal injuries on May 25 last, occurred in the Sinai desert, whilst his section was travelling by road from Egypt to Palestine. The section had halted for a spell when Ernest went to cross the road and was struck by a truck in a convoy of English vehicles, which was moving in the same direction. The information giving the location of the accident was contained in a letter from Sergeant Maurice Dowle to his sister, Mrs. Norman Hore, of Cobbitty. "It was just a plain, unfortunate accident," wrote Sergeant Dowle, who is with the 2/3 Army Field Workshop unit of the A.I.F. "It gave us all a jolt here, too, for he was well liked among the chaps of the unit," added the writer. Sergeant Dowle, who took part in the Syrian campaign, mentioned that he had returned to the Holy Land. "Mud better than the dust and sand of Egypt" he commented. Gunner Fred Matthews, of Silverdale, mentions in a letter to a friend, that there was practically nothing left standing after the Australian artillery bombardment of Syrian towns. Abandoned farms in captured Syrian territory provided the Australians with free meals of poultry, eggs, grapes, bananas, egg-fruit and tomatoes. The farmers had hurriedly departed when the "heavy stuff" was overhead. Gunner Harry Hall mentions this in a letter to his parents at Elderslie. "When peace was declared we were within eight miles of Beirut," he wrote. Smaller towns captured displayed the effectiveness of the shelling and bombing by the navy, army-artillery and the air force," he declared. Harry said that the A.I.F. is using a new method of fishing: "No worms or lines—just a Mill's bomb.

### **15<sup>th</sup> August 27<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 8<sup>th</sup> Division land in Singapore**



### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

Many complaints reached this office when water was unavailable until after 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning a number of Camden homes. It appears that a verbal announcement was made at the local schools to the effect that the water would be turned off between 8 p.m. on Monday and 5 a.m. on Tuesday. Several readers have suggested that the Water Board should adopt the more thoughtful policy of Camden Council which always advertises the hours when the electricity supply is to be interrupted.

For the first time on the screen, details of the interior of a "Flying Fortress" bomber are shown in the Paramount aviation film, "I Wanted Wings," which comes to Camden on Saturday and Monday, after a five

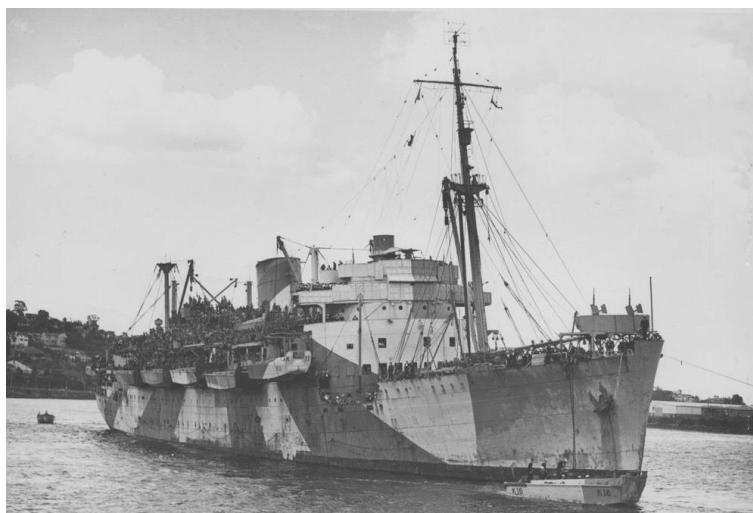
weeks' successful run at the Prince Edward. Sydney. Newspaper film critics class this picture as outstanding entertainment.

**25<sup>th</sup> August HMAS'S Kanimbla, Yarra sink sloop Babr**

HMAS YARRA



HMAS Kanimbla



Babr Class Sloop



Ray Herbert  
Historical Officer  
0417 223 263