

Historical Officers Report From the Pages of the Camden Advertiser

8th August 1940

LOSING £1,000 a MONTH

Camden District Dairymen's Plight
Business Firms Will See Premier To-Day

Camden District dairy farmers are being flung into indebtedness at the rate of £ 1000 a month as they endure the greatest local fodder-drought in this district's long history.

There is no doubt about the above figures, at the have been compiled by local business firms for presentation to the State Premier (Mr. Muir) at 2.30 o'clock on this Thursday afternoon. The deputation will comprise storekeepers from Camden, Campbelltown, Picton, Richmond, Windsor, and the South Const towns of Dapto and Jamberoo, and will be introduced to the Premier by Mr. J. Jackson, M.L.A. for Nepean.

The total losses by dairy farmer in all the above districts, during the first seven months of this year, are said to reach a staggering sum.

The deputation will ask the Premier either grant an increase in the price of milk to dairy farmers or at least pay them a temporary drought bonus of from 3d to 4d per gallon.

DISTRICT WAR WORK

Oakdale's £1 per Home

The Oakdale Citizens' War Fund has forwarded a further £15 to Camden Red Cross branch, making a total of £40 within the past few weeks. As there are only about forty homes in this famous little apple-growing centre, the residents have been responsible for n remarkable effort.

HAVE YOU ANY SCRAP METAL?

From 30 to 40 tons of scrap metal, suitable for steel manufacture have been collected on the Camden Park Estate and this will be sold to assist local war effort funds. The manager of the estate, Mr. J. S. Haddin, in conjunction with the originator of the scheme, Mr. B. F. Young of Werombi, will shortly circularise all suppliers to the Menangle Creamery inviting their Co-operation by donating any scrap metal on their farms to assist the movement.

Farmers will be asked to enumerate the items of scrap and the approximate weight; also if they can help to conserve petrol by delivering the metal to the dumping positions at Menangle or Camden during a routine trip to these places. If unable to arrange for free cartage, the metal will be picked up at the farms. Donors will greatly assist by placing the scrap as conveniently as possible for collection by the Lorries.

Mr. A. L. Ray, of Camden, has kindly offered the services of his lorry to pick up scrap metal at any of his places of call in the district.

It is expected that 200 tons of seemingly worthless scrap will by economical handling realise more than £400 within the next two months.

Each district centre will allocate its own funds raised in this effort as it considers most effective. Readers wishing to donate scrap metal are now invited to send detail of same to the following honorary organisers at local centres: — Mrs. J. B. Huthnance (Camden), Messrs. W. F. McMiles (Mount Hunter), J. S. Haddin (Camden Park). B. F. Young (Werombi), T. P. Taylor (Theresa Park). J. Clowes (Orangeville). W. F. Moore (The Oaks), C. Hurkett (Oakdale).

Interesting titbits concerning Palestine continue to come from the pen of Sapper W. ("Bill") Mundell, of Werombi who is serving abroad with the 6th A.I.F. Division.

In a letter to a friend, "Bill mentions that he saw a camel, a donkey, a mule and a cow hitched to plough, in the same field." "The men folk here do nothing," he adds, "the wives do all the work and always walk behind, while the husband goes in front on a donkey."

Another paragraph reads: "Now and again we go swimming at a nice little beach about 15 miles from here. The surf is not had at times but cannot be compared with the Sydney. "Bill" is camped at a place where a lot of fighting took place in the Great War of 1914-1918. "Even now it is not an uncommon sight to see Turkish trenches used in the Great War and to find old shell cases and in some places old rusted-up rifles," he adds. * * *

22nd August 1940

BURRAGORANG VALLEY IS ALSO DROUGHT STRICKEN.

The drought-stricken Burragorang Valley is described by a reader in that area. Nothing like it has been experienced within living memory.

In spite of many months of hand feeding, stock are rapidly losing condition, and if heavy rain were to fall heavy mortality would follow.

The oat crops were a complete failure, and the cultivation paddocks are now brown and barren. The rain, however, would save the pea crops, which have withstood the dry conditions in a remarkable manner. The early crops are the most affected. Practically all the creeks and springs are dry, but an ample water supply is available from the Wollondilly River, where snow waters have caused a flow.

Some exceptionally fine crops of cauliflowers and cabbages were produced under irrigation, but in some instances failed to return the growers' expenses when they were marketed. "One wonders what return the grower will receive for his products when good seasons come again," adds our correspondent. "It is certainly heartbreaking for the farmer, who works for 14 to 16 hours day pumping water onto his vegetable crops, and gets nothing in return for choice vegetables produced during the greatest drought on record.

Mr. Rupert Downes, who was an infantry lieutenant in the Great War, won the Military Cross for conspicuous work in the field, is the Commandant of Camden's Returned Soldiers' voluntary Defence Corps. His adjutant is Mr. J. Stibbard, a former warrant officer of 1914-1918 who served with a light-horse regiment. The officers were elected by secret ballot when the ex-

servicemen met last week. Parades will be held on each Tuesday night at the Camden Agricultural Hall at 8 o'clock-
It was decided not to confine this home defence movement to returned soldiers, and an invitation is now extended to all men Ineligible for the A.I.F. to train with the Voluntary Defence Corps.

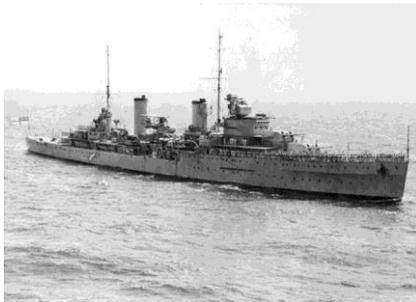
Thirty members attended the first parade on Tuesday night, when instructors from the Studley Park Military Training School were present. Some of the old Digger skill was noticeable during the initial drill period.

Members of the Women's Voluntary Services (Camden Centre) despatched parcels of comforts at the week-end to every Camden and district soldier on active service abroad. Will all local district men in camp (or their relatives*) please call at the "Camden Advertiser" office as early as possible, as the W.V.S. has left with us two pairs of hand-knitted socks for each man on our district roll. These should prove very, acceptable, particularly to the boys in the long march from Ingleburn to Bathurst

The Camden M.G. Militia Troop is now up to full wartime strength.

23rd August 1940

HMAS Sydney, Waterhen and Stuart bombard the Gulf of Bomba



HMAS Sydney



HMAS Stuart



HMAS Waterhen

Ray Herbert
Historical Officer