

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> January 1941  
Battle of Bardia by 6<sup>th</sup> Division**



**5<sup>th</sup> January  
Bardia Captured**

**9<sup>th</sup> January 1941**

**FAREWELL SOCIALS to Soldiers and Airmen 'CAMDEN'S FOURTH FUNCTION.'**

That the Australians serving in the present war would bear themselves with courage, dignity and self-sacrifice, and add imperishable lustre to the glorious heritage established by their fathers on the slopes of Gallipoli and on the fields of Flanders in 1914-1918, was the prediction of Alderman Herbert Whitford, who represented the Mayor and citizens of Camden at the fourth farewell social arranged by the Camden District Soldiers and Citizens' Association at the local Agricultural Hall. The same deep confidence in our men if the three fighting services were shared by the association president, Mr. V. S. Cruikshank, and Q.M. Sergeant Lincoln Gibson, M.S.M. The latter, assisted by his brother (A. G. Gibson) made the presentation to the guests. Each of the following men received an inscribed wallet, containing a 10/- note, from the association: Bombardier T. Inglis Moore. Lance-Corporal W. S. Salt, Private Hugh Roberts, Private Athol Kennedy. Private G. Franklin. Signaller Rodney Brew. Aircraftman George Ping. Aircraftman Roy Berglund. Mr. C. Evans, M.S.M. received farewell gifts on behalf of his son: Sergeant W. A. Evans. Early in the evening a presentation was made to: Private James Patterson. The above soldier also accepted presents for his brother, who is now active service in the Middle East: Private Edward Patterson. Owing to the possibility of troop movements, presentations were made the following men prior to the function: Private Basil Donohoe. Private Charles Hansen, Leading-Aircraft man James Clark. A further presentation of a handbag containing hand-knitted socks and other useful articles was made to each soldier and airman by the Misses Freestone, on behalf of the Women's Voluntary Services (Camden Centre). Bombardier Moore, Private Salt and Aircraftman Berglund responded for the recipients. The W.V.S. later entertained the guests at supper. Musical and dance programmes were arranged for the evening. Mr. H. V Taplin was the community-song leader, while stage items were contributed by Mrs. C. Evans, Mrs. H. S. Kelloway, Misses Dennis, Messrs. Albert Baker and Lionel Huthuance.

**OFFICE SAFE ON ROADSIDE** An office safe, the property of St. Ives Golf Club, which was stolen on Wednesday night of Inst week, was found on the roadside between Menangle and Douglas Park on Friday. The back of the safe had been cut open and the contents removed. Sergeant Porteus and Constable Neal, of Camden, later found the club's minute book and a number of cheque in a water-hole, about n mile from the site where the safe had been opened. Police state that bank notes to the value of £104 are missing

### **"INDIAN SIGNS" ON HIGHWAYS (Contributed by the Road Safety Council to the "Camden Advertiser.")**

How we used to thrill at the stories of the Indian scouts, those skilled pioneers who hunted "Indian signs," danger warnings from a freshly broken twig, a tiny bit of buckskin caught on a thorn, or the faintest false note in a bird call. Our highways to-day has their "Indian signs" just as did the wilderness of pioneer days. The alert driver finds and interprets these signs. He knows where and when to look for most of them and what to do about them. For others he relies, as did the pioneers, on concentrated attention to the work on hand and the road ahead, and is always alert, expecting the unexpected. He knows, for instance, that mud tracks appearing suddenly on the asphalt warn that another road is near or that the paved surface is about to end. The call of screeching brake ahead tells him to slow down and be on the alert. He is on the look-out constantly for bad spots in the road and for bits of glass on the highway. A half-concealed country road calls for unusual alertness on the main road, and he proceeds cautiously for live stock, a car or a farm wagon may appear suddenly on his path. In short he is prepared for almost any emergency that may arise because, like the Indian scout of early days, he had learned to find, interpret and act upon the tell-tale warnings of danger ahead. Above all things, the careful road user knows that road signs, which need no searching after, are there no warnings to him and that disobedience of them inevitably leads to an accident. He respects those signs, he interprets the double centre line in the correct way and he passes curves and danger spots absolute safety; provided the other fellow exercises equal care and courtesy and commonsense.

### **16<sup>th</sup> January 1941**

**WOUNDED IN ACTION PRIVATE E. A. DAVIS** We regret to report that Private E. Alan Davis, of Theresa Park, was wounded in the Australian action against the Italians in the Middle East. He is the first of our Camden district lads to become a casualty on active service during the present war. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Davis, of "Avondale," Theresa Park, have been officially notified. No details of his injuries were given in the telegram; it is thought that he received his wound when the Australian troops, together with the British forces, brilliantly captured Bardia.

### **21<sup>st</sup> January 1941**

#### **Attack on Tobruk began**



### **22<sup>nd</sup> January 1941**

#### **Tobruk Surrenders**



### 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1941

Supper's Front-Line Message: In a dug-out in the Australian front line in the Middle East, Sapper W. Mundell penned the following message on January 2 and forwarded the letter by airmail to a Sydney friend. It was bitterly cold and the guns were booming as he wrote: "Bet you'll never guess what we had for Xmas dinner (The good old bully-beef and biscuits' The Q.M. came to light afterwards with half a bottle of beer per man, so we didn't do too bad.

### 27<sup>th</sup> January 1941 6th Division fighting at Derna, Lybia



### 30<sup>th</sup> January 1941

**CAMDEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** Greek War Relief Fund In response to a request from the Consul-Gen era I for Greece and the Honorary Organiser of the Greek War Relief Fund, the Camden Municipal Council has decided to open a Public Subscription List with a view to inviting monetary gifts for the purpose of providing comforts and equipment for the members of the Greek Armed Forces. Contributions will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Manager of the local Banks, namely, Bank of N.S.W., Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, and the Rural Bank, or may be remitted direct to the undersigned. K. B. WILSON, Town Clerk

**When Tobruk Fell:** An A.I.F. War Correspondent reports that when the Commander of the Tobruk Naval Base, Admiral Massimilians Vietina, surrendered to an Australian brigadier at the Italian headquarters in Tobruk on January 22, there were perhaps 2,000 Italian naval men and soldiers in that part of the town, and only about 15 British combatants in Bren carriers. The report further states that the fifteen eluded "a cavalry major from Camden, the major went out into the courtyards and fired half a dozen Verey lights into the sky as a signal that the town was in our possession. Before long there was one of his Bren carriers in every Cross Street, and men of the infantry battalion which had been systematically carrying out an entry into Tobruk from the west, soon began to stream in. There was a big crowd of Diggers in the square in front of the naval headquarters, and a column of Italian naval men, who had already formed up and were being marched out. They watched while a Digger's hat was hoisted high on a flagpole in front of the admiral's headquarters.

**"Tank Pioneers"** The Australian mechanised cavalry who fought through the Bardia and Tobruk battles at one stage during the battle had 11 Italian tanks in action in addition to their own Bren carriers," continues the report. "The cavalymen who were first into Tobruk will be looked back upon as the pioneers, as they were the first Australians to go into battle in an Australian tank unit. Each captured tank has painted on it a large white leaping kangaroo, copied from the kangaroo on the penny-piece." Also at Derna: A late report states that the Australian mechanised cavalry have been in action against Fort Chreiba, only five miles from

Derna. Ian Filchett, official correspondent with the A.I.F., says in his story: "The Australian carriers were well in evidence along the road. They are commanded by a major from Camden (N.S.W.), who is a member of a famous pioneer family . . . Towards mid-day it was announced that the tanks and Australian carriers were on a landing ground beyond Fort Chreiba, but, at we left to get our stories back, heavy enemy gunfire was still to be seen on the skyline." A Major from Camden: One of the very first Australians to enlist for active service in the present war was Major Denzil Macarthur Onslow, who is with the 6th Australian Division Reconnaissance (mechanised cavalry) Regiment. His A.I.F. number is NXI35. His two brothers are also in the fighting services. Major Edward Macarthur Onslow is 'somewhere abroad' with the 2/2 Machine Gun Battalion, which contains in its ranks a number of other Camden district men; and Flying-Officer Andrew MacArthur Onslow, who is at the Tamworth R.A.A.F. Flying School. They are the sons of Mrs, Sylvia Onslow, of "Hassell Cottage," which adjoins the R.A.A.F. Central Flying School grounds at Macquarie Grove, Camden.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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