

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

2nd October

Water Appeal in Song SNOWY RIVER CAMPAIGN IS GROWING

The proposal to dam the Warragamba in preference to bringing pure water from the Snowy River to Sydney is condemned in the annual report of the Town Planning Association. The report states that the Warragamba catchment is not a clean one and that the water will have to be chlorinated before it reaches Sydney homes. "The supreme issue which has engaged the attention of the association for the past year has been the breakdown of Sydney's water supply, which has brought 1,250,001 people to the verge of a disastrous water famine, which the authorities directly responsible have done nothing to avert or relieve", the report states. The Association President (Mr Bertram W. Ford) has written two songs for his members to chant. They are entitled "Way down upon the Snowy" and "Every Gallon Counts". "Way down upon the Snowy River not far away, that's where the waters flow forever, But not yet Sydney's way. All up and down the Sydney catchment sadly I roam. Still longing for a drop of water Far from the old folks at home" are the opening lines of the Snowy River theme song. "Every Gallon Counts" deals in stirring fashion with the Manly reservoir and the threat to submerge a large part of the Burragorang Valley.

9th October

NARELLAN SMASH TRAIN WRECKS LORRY REMARKABLE ESCAPES

Thrown directly in front of the engine when the Camden train completely wrecked their motor lorry at Narellan level crossing on Wednesday morning, four Liverpool men had a miraculous escape from instant death. The engine with brakes screeching carried the lorry for 30 yard along the track. The engine crew and train passengers were amazed when three of the men crawled from the wreckage. The fourth man Thomas Leslie Crimson, aged 28 years; of Terminus street, Liverpool, the lorry driver, was found lying directly under the engine and parallel with the railway lines. His left foot was caught on a spike above the front wheels. This saved his leg from being amputated. Soldiers and airmen assisted the railwayman to release Crimson, who suffered from cuts to the head, face, body and legs, and was injured internally. Dr. Jefferies, of Camden, ordered his removal to Camden District hospital. The other three men on the lorry were Christopher Crimson (father of the lorry driver), of Terminus-street, Liverpool; Len Houlton, of 94 Northumberland-street, Liverpool; and Jack Smith, of 80 Castlereagh street Liverpool. They suffered from slight cuts, bruises, and shock; but pluckily assisted in making their injured companion comfortable on a railway stretcher, whilst awaiting medical aid. As the lorry wreckage fouled the train line, the local railway authorities engaged a fleet of taxi cabs to convey the train passengers to Campbelltown here a special train awaited to take them to the city.

More Trunk Lines at Camden: Steps have been taken to augment the telephone services between Sydney and Camden, report Mr. H. P. Lazzarini M.H.R. in a message to this newspaper. It is anticipated that the additional facilities will be available at an early date. (The telephone traffic has been exceptionally heavy since the establishment of the military and R.A.A.F. in this district).

The Editor Writes— "Advertiser" at Front.

Writing from Syria, Gunner Ron, Crane (Camden Park) tells me that the "Camden Advertiser" is now quite well known by members of his artillery troop. He recently met Gunner Ralph Larnach (Elderslie). They both send a cheerio to the "folks back home-" Gunner Ron. Hughes (abroad) said it was difficult to explain how much appreciated were copies of "The Camden Advertiser," which he had found enclosed in a welcome parcel of comforts from Camden W.V.S. Centre. In his artillery unit also are Gunners A. L. (Tony) Whiteley and Harry Hall. In the letter Ron confirmed this newspaper's earlier report that Gunner Whiteley's outstanding work during the battle for Syria had been brought under official notice. Private R. (Jim) Moffitt,

of Cobbitty, and his cousin, Lance Bombardier Ottey, have met in the Middle East. In a note to this office, Miss A. Moffitt, of Cobbitty, writes: "Both say how deeply the 'Advertiser' is appreciated."

Local Soldier in Syrian Victory. Although he was in the Syrian fighting from the first shot and had practically no sleep for the first twelve days, Gunner Ralph Larnach, of Elderslie, declares that his artillery unit did not experience the same strenuous time as the A.I.F. infantry, which, he writes, did a marvellous job and upheld the traditions of the Anzacs. The artillery which took part in four successes in different parts of Syria moved at night through the mountainous country to other positions. Enemy snipers were active en route. The Australian drivers displayed uncanny skill in the darkness by keeping their vehicles on the mountain roads, which mostly skirted ravines with a 1,000 feet drop. The artillery guns first attacked Fort Kyam in the central sector and the shells almost demolished the fort before the enemy (Vichy) troops retired. At the other three positions the fighting was particularly fierce. Our navy did a grand job, and it was very inspiring to see our Australian airmen bringing down the enemy planes he wrote. Ralph paid a tribute to the Vichy (French) pilots who displayed courage by flying low to bomb and machine-gun the Australian position. On the other hand, Italian airmen remained at high altitudes

Costly Lorry Thefts Camden district carriers are forced to set aside an allowance each year for goods stolen from their motor Lorries in Sydney streets. During the past 12 months on different occasions one local carrier has lost boxes of butter (value d at £15), a spare tyre, and 75 dozen eggs. Others have suffered similar losses. City gongs work with magical swiftness and are rarely detected. Country carriers believe that members of the gangs have adopted sneak - thieving as a permanent means of livelihood. To combat the thefts, a number of carriers place a sharp biting cattle - dog on the back of the lorry.

30th October

MIGHTY CHESTER Camden Horse Won Derby-Cup Double This headstone in the Camden district marks the grave of Chester, one of Australia's best racehorses and an equally famous sire. In thirty races Chester won 19 and was placed on eight other occasions. His owner, the late Hon. James White, collected one double bet of £10,000 to £400 from bookmaker Joe Thompson when Chester won the Victorian Derby and Melbourne Cup in 1877. After his retirement from the turf, Chester was No. 1 sire of the famous Kirkham Stud which stabled £200,000 worth of blood stock. One of his sons, Abercorn thrice defeated Carbine at weight-for-age. Chester's grave is close to the road in Kirkham Lane, about 400 yards from the main Hume Highway. Although the Kirkham Stud was closed in 1899, the stables which housed the thoroughbreds remain.

Narellan News. Not since the days of Jimmy Sharman has Narellan produced a boxer of promise as Max Quirk who recently won the 1941 light-heavyweight championship of the Teachers College at the Sydney University gymnasium on a technical knock-out in the third round, it was a particularly good performance considering that he was conceding his opponent 10lbs. in weight. Max is an all-round athlete, which his trophies testify. He represented Holy Cross College Ryde. Against all schools in running, swimming, diving and football, and was captain of the football team for the last two years of his term.

Menangle Park News: Since their arrival at Menangle Park, the white-backed swallows have increased and spread with remarkable rapidity. At a recent meeting of the Royal Zoological Society it was reported that white-backed swallows were seen at Cobbitty and were also noticed flying over the Chinese market gardens at Camden.

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