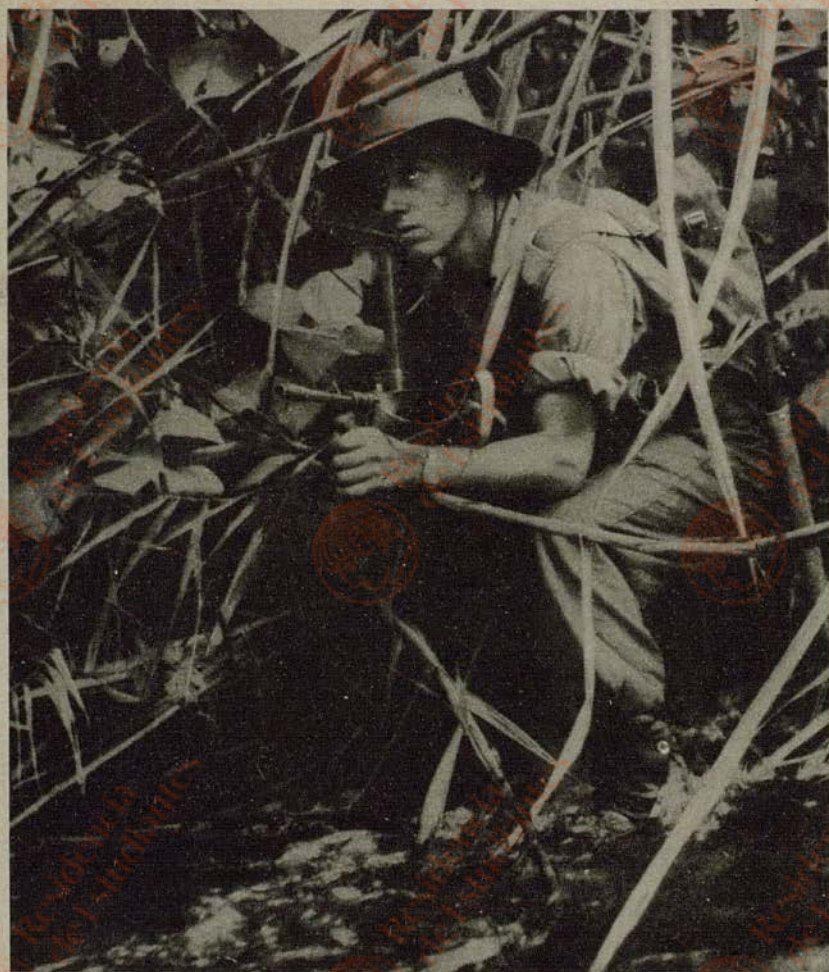


# WHAT AUSTRALIA HAS DONE



Price  
1/3





THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS CALL THE NATIVES "FUZZYWUZZY ANGELS"

# WHAT AUSTRALIA HAS DONE

EDITED BY

H. C. SMART, C.B.E.

(Department of Information, Australia House, London, W.C.2.)

## FOREWORD

WITHIN the scope of a small publication such as this it is obviously impossible to deal adequately with the various campaigns in which the Australian Forces have taken part, but only to refer briefly to some of the more outstanding actions in which they participated. In a few words, it is a brief survey of the job Australia has done in the World War—told mainly in pictures.

Australia has made a very substantial contribution to the common cause. In everything that has been done by Britain for Australia or by Australia for Britain, the reason for assistance has always transcended the bare duty of mutual aid without which our Empire could not long exist.

This war has confirmed Australia's nationhood. But it is a nationhood which is perpetually associated with the British Commonwealth of Nations.

*December, 1943*

1944

**EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, LTD.**  
14, 15, 16, BEDFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.2



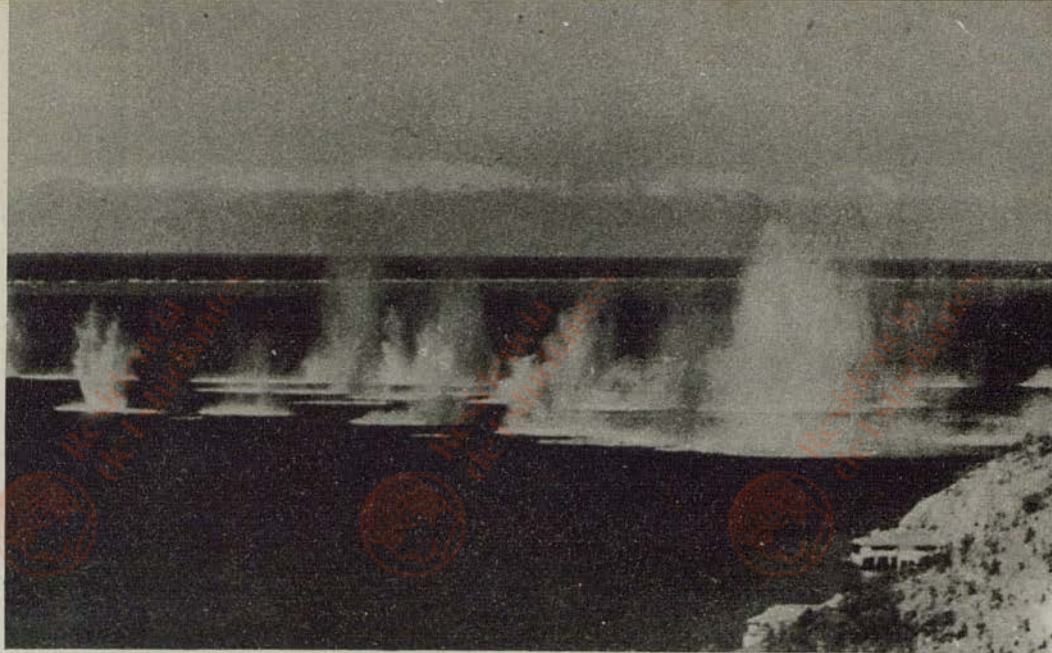


AUSTRALIAN TROOPS ADVANCING THROUGH THE JUNGLE TO MILNE BAY.  
THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY ARE FIGHTING THE JAPANESE

ON THE BEACH AT BUÑA







JAPANESE AIR-RAID ON PORT MORESBY

## AUSTRALIA AT WAR

*"We have paid the price of our seal to nationhood. We have paid it cheerfully, as a free people in a free cause, and we will go on paying it. It is the charter of our right to share in the common pool of Allied resources."*

JOHN CURTIN, *Prime Minister of Australia.*

AUSTRALIANS will never forget what Britain did in 1940. Then, but for Empire support, the Motherland stood alone. With Europe already under the heel of the tyrant, Britain saved, not only every British Dominion, but the Americas as well.

Australia has helped, and is helping, to the very limit of her resources—she sent large land, sea and air forces into nearly all the fighting theatres of the war. Her Navy has fought on every ocean.

The land forces have fought in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Greece, Crete, Malaya, the Netherlands East Indies, Portuguese Timor, New Guinea and Papua, and they have served in Britain. Her airmen have served in all these places; and over Germany, France, Italy, Russia and the Solomons as well.

Australia declared war on Germany on September 3rd 1939—just one hour after Britain herself had made a similar declaration. Her three services were then mere skeletons. Her arms output was negligible.



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN A NEW GUINEA VILLAGE

She was unprepared for total war. To-day Australia is completely geared for total war.

The population of the Commonwealth is 7,200,000. From 431,300 at the outbreak of war in the Pacific, the number of men who have been enlisted in the three fighting services has increased to 858,000. This is the gross enlistment figure.

This is almost two men in every three of the male population between 18 and 40, one in approximately three men between 14 and 65, one in approximately four of the total male population and is equivalent to 15,500,000 men in the United States and 5,000,000 in Great Britain.

Seventy-five per cent of all men in the three Australian Forces (excluding men discharged after enlistment) as members of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Imperial Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, have volunteered to fight anywhere in the world. This is equivalent to United States overseas forces of 10,000,000.

Japan had been grievously underestimated. It therefore devolved upon Australia not only in its own national interests, but also as trustee in the Pacific for Britain and the United Nations to discharge that trust by pointing out the terrible danger of allowing Japan to either advance further south or to consolidate its enormous material gains within the islands and territories seized from the British, the Americans, the French, the Dutch, and the Portuguese.



Within the next few months, convoys streamed across the Pacific. American planes, tanks and munitions took their place in the changed Australian scene. More than that, American naval units came to guard the sea-lanes, American airmen came to man American machines, and American land forces came in increasing strength to participate in the joint struggle.

This fusion of mutual interests was consummated before the year was out, when American and Australian land forces together went into action at Buna, for the first time since the smashing of the Hindenburg Line in 1918.

By the time the Japanese brought the war to the Pacific, Australian soldiers had fought on three continents 10,000 miles from home, taking part in five separate campaigns. Her airmen had flown over five continents, and her naval units had participated in all the major actions on every ocean of the globe.

For twelve months prior to December 1941, war clouds had been threatening the Pacific, but Australian forces continued to serve wherever the enemy was to be found in Europe and Africa. The second A.I.F. first went into action at Bardia a few days before Christmas of 1940. By the time Japan struck twelve months later the A.I.F. had suffered 13,335 casualties—the population equivalent to 80,000 British or more than 250,000 United States casualties.

Some of the original Australian volunteers found themselves in Britain,

#### AN AUSTRALIAN OUTPOST IN THE JUNGLES OF NEW GUINEA







AS A TANK BLASTS JAPANESE POSITIONS, AUSTRALIANS PICK OFF THE JAPS

but the great majority were directed to Egypt, where Italy was threatening the Mediterranean life lines. Side by side with British divisions the Australians fought over 300 miles from the Egyptian border in 34 days, smashing an army, helping to capture more than 100,000 prisoners, taking Bardia, Tobruk, Derna and Benghazi. It was an Australian unit that cleared up the last Italian stronghold in Libya in that campaign—the desert outpost of Jarabub where they captured another 1,200 prisoners.

Australians, battle-weary from the fighting in Libya, helped to hold the historic Pass of Thermopylae, to cover the retreat of 300 miles that enabled most of the Allied forces to get out of Greece. Many of the same Australians were in Crete when the Germans came like locusts in the glider campaign.

Australians, suffering 1,600 casualties, marched with the British, Indians and the Fighting French of de Gaulle through the tragic fratricide of Syria.

Australians were among the "Rats of Tobruk" who gnawed at the vitals of the besieging Axis troops and held down thousands of men whom Rommel badly needed to smash through to Suez.

Twelve months after Japan first attacked Australian territory, 30,000 Australian troops took part in the first smashing of Rommel's line at El Alamein 6,000 miles from their own homeland.

This is the way that beleaguered Australia interpreted global war.

Meanwhile, the handy little Australian Fleet, putting into operation the war plan for co-operation with the Royal Navy, found itself in action



THE AUSTRALIANS  
FOUGHT THE  
JAPANESE FROM  
NASSAU BAY  
TO MUBO.  
THE MEN ARE  
LOOKING DOWN  
ON SALAMAUA





WOUNDED AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS

wherever the Axis navies sought to give battle. Australia's full naval strength in September 1939 was two 8-inch cruisers, four 6-inch cruisers, five destroyers and two sloops with three auxiliary vessels. Losses up to January 1943, were three cruisers, three destroyers, and three auxiliary vessels, but with new shipyards working and with vessels made available by the British Admiralty, the Australian Fleet is still serving on the seven seas.

For twelve months the cruiser *Sydney* campaigned up and down the Mediterranean, claiming among her victims the crack Italian cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni*.

During the epic siege of Tobruk five Australian destroyers and one sloop assisted greatly in maintaining the now famous Tobruk ferry service to the beleaguered garrison, on every voyage running the gauntlet of land-based dive-bombers and torpedo-bombers. One R.A.N. destroyer and one sloop were lost whilst engaged in this service. The same destroyers together with H.M.A.S. *Perth* and destroyers provided by the Admiralty but manned by the R.A.N. participated in the operations in Greece and Crete, together with the evacuation of these places. One R.A.N. cruiser and four R.A.N. destroyers played a leading part in the battle of Cape Matapan.

An Australian cruiser helped to cover the évacuation of Somaliland, and another took part in the ill-fated and ill-starred attempt on Dakar. Armed Australian merchantmen took part in several battles, while unarmed Australian merchantmen shared the risks of the oceans in transporting troops, supplies and food in the common cause of freedom.





AUSTRALIAN STALKING A JAPANESE.  
VERY OFTEN IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE  
THE ENEMY EVEN TEN YARDS AWAY







JAPANESE DEFENDED THEIR PILL-BOXES TO THE LAST MAN

With war in the Pacific it was inevitable that some of the Australians who had fought with Wavell backwards and forwards across the Libyan desert should be brought home to give the benefit of their experience to the younger troops that were ready to meet the challenge of Japan. Nevertheless, one of Australia's crack assault divisions, with liberal reinforcements, was left in Africa for twelve months until the United Nations' strategy could arrange for its replacement.

During 1942, however, Australia's chief preoccupation was Japan. As it was thought that the enemy might strike at Singapore from the sea, Australian soldiers were placed in positions to counter such an attack. But the Japanese did not come by sea. They pushed their way down the Malay Peninsula and the Australians were among those troops sent forward to meet them.

At every step in the Southern offensive of Japan, Australian soldiers were present—in Singapore, in the Dutch East Indies, in Java, Ambon,





TYPICAL JUNGLE COUNTRY AND JAPANESE DEFENCES FROM WHICH THE ENEMY WERE DRIVEN BY THE AUSTRALIANS NEAR SALAMAU. FOX-HOLES WERE CONNECTED BY TRENCHES AND CLEVERLY CAMOUFLAGED

and Timor. In Singapore 18,000 Australians were posted missing—18,000 Australia is pledged to redeem and release.

In Timor a handful of Australians took to the mountains and in commando warfare, took a terrible vengeance of the Japanese hordes that sought to clear them out.

When 20,000 Japs invaded Rabaul it was garrisoned by 1,400 men. Before it retired to the mountains, this garrison took toll of 2,000 of the enemy. The early months of 1942 brought not only evidence of the United Nations' support from America, but the joint command under General MacArthur, which was a living symbol of the unity of purpose which bridged the Pacific.

When MacArthur gave the order for the enemy troops to be cleared out of New Guinea, the Australians smashed the Jap landing at Milne Bay, and joined hands with American troops to clear the enemy out of Gona and Buna. Again in this new theatre of global warfare, the





"OH—I'M ALRIGHT"

Australian Navy, augmented now by four modern destroyers, handed over by the British Government, accepted the responsibilities of the threatened invasion of its own homeland.

There is the story of the sloop, H.M.A.S. *Yarra*, which dared the dive-bombers near Singapore, to take off 2,000 troops from the burning liner, *Empress of Asia*.

Suddenly faced by three heavy Japanese cruisers and four destroyers when escorting a small convoy home, she threw down a smoke-screen, and then emerged from it to take the enemy fire in the vain hope of giving the convoy a chance to escape. It was one tiny ship taking on an armada, one tiny ship that was blasted to pieces, one tiny ship that will figure for all time in naval history. Meanwhile, portions of the Australian Fleet continued to serve in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. One of its cruisers, H.M.A.S. *Canberra*, was sunk while protecting the landing of American marines at Guadalcanal.

H.M.A.S. *Perth* was one of a handful of Allied warships which gallantly attempted to stem the Japanese offensive towards Java and after distinguishing herself in two actions against overwhelming odds was subsequently lost in a night action.

★

★

★





SALAMAUA: JAPANESE STRONGHOLD. THROUGH THE TREES  
IS SEEN A LONG COLUMN OF SMOKE RISING FROM A JAPANESE  
CARGO SHIP WHICH WAS BOMBED BY ALLIED AIRCRAFT

# JUNGLES AND JAPS

## SOME INCIDENTS IN THE NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN

"THE soldier of this war is akin to the soldier of the last war. Fundamentally, the characteristics of the Australian are those of his comrades from Britain and all the Dominions, although he has his own way of expressing them. There is in fact a Private Everyman who endures, laughs, shares in the collective optimism that is typical of British armies, grumbles at times, faces fire with courage, quenches misery in a joke, and has a contempt for heroics."

G. A. BLAMEY, *Commander-in-Chief, Allied Land Forces.*

THE preservation of New Guinea in the early stages of the Pacific War was a desperate hope—no more than that. There was nothing in New Guinea to stop a large-scale determined attack.

This is obviously not the full story of New Guinea—but only a few typical incidents of the part taken by the Australian Army in that campaign, and although the magnificent work of the other Services is only touched upon, there is a full consciousness of the tremendous weight that the other Services contributed towards the victory.

A garrison was sent to Port Moresby in February, 1942. That small original garrison had orders to hold the Japanese. They did not have to be told to hang on. They knew that, small as they were, the fate of perhaps the whole Australian Commonwealth rested with them. They knew that, if they failed, it would mean invasion of the mainland, and consequent fighting very near their own homes.

The Jap was expected at any minute. Among the men and their officers, plans were made to drop back into the scrub and fight from the hills, to fight their way home, if possible, through the islands. It was one of the grimmest prospects any garrison could be asked to contemplate.

They waited for the Jap to come—expecting him any minute after the fall of Singapore. Their defence depended, in those days, on five anti-aircraft guns, two Hudson bombers, and one Wirraway that had one wing off. It was like that in Port Moresby for nearly a month. The Jap could have had the place for the taking . . . if he had known. But he did not know. He turned aside to take Rabaul—and Moresby got its breathing-space.

It was obvious that the Japanese, in those days, over-estimated Port Moresby's strength. They sent over their bombers, strongly escorted by fighters—Port Moresby took it.

There was a shortage of nearly everything. The story is told of the





WOUNDED AUSTRALIANS WERE CARRIED OVER THE STREAMS  
AND MOUNTAINS OF THE OWEN STANLEY RANGES







NATIVES PADDLING UP-STREAM WITH ARMY SUPPLIES

arrival of a shipment of fresh eggs for the garrison—their first . . . real, precious, beautiful fresh eggs. The eagerness was so high that unloading went on, even through an air-raid. An Army Service Corps corporal, battling with a case as bombs fell, spat, gazed upwards, and cursed the raiders.

"If you b——s break so much as one of these eggs," he yelled hoarsely at them, "I'll come up personally and tear you apart, one by one!"

That was the spirit, and the now-growing confidence of Port Moresby. "Stuff" began to arrive daily. They could sense and feel their growing strength.

Then came the battle of the Coral Sea—the second phase. After that came the third—a stalemate, during which each side believed it was in no position to attack. During this period the campaign was purely an air war. But the tension was broken. Port Moresby's strength was growing swiftly, almost hourly. It was *visible* strength now . . . strength of the kind that puts high courage into the hearts of men.

Then came the day when the first R.A.A.F. fighter squadron arrived—a squadron of Kittyhawks. The garrison had been holding its breath, literally sitting on the edge of its chairs; for days the talk had been of nothing else . . . the fighters are coming—the fighters . . .

They arrived—gleaming, spick, brand-new machines that moved like shafts of light . . . the fighters. And within twenty minutes of their arrival a Japanese reconnaissance plane arrived over Moresby. A young pilot, named Wackett, climbed into a Kittyhawk and streaked into the air. In



a matter of minutes the Jap reconnaissance was hurtling, a flaming, smoking mass, into the sea.

It was like the breaking of a drought to those men who—for all eternity, it seemed—had stood and watched Japanese bombers play their insolent, unhindered havoc in the skies above.

\* \* \*

Then the real show began . . . with the Japanese landing at Buna in July 1942. The test was coming. There was a sense of expectancy, an undercurrent of excitement in the air. Within a short time of the landing, Japanese scouts were in the vicinity of Kokoda, sixty miles from the coast towards the Owen Stanley Ranges.

In the next few weeks, Australian soldiers were destined to learn many things. The Jap brought a bag of tricks with him—old tricks, so old they had been forgotten, like making a lot of noise to give the impression of large numbers, and infiltration, and calling to Australians in the English language. These, and dozens more, he brought.

AN AUSTRALIAN PATROL. THE MEN OFTEN CREEP RIGHT INTO THE ENEMY'S LINES SEEKING HIDE-OUTS WHERE THEY STAY FOR DAYS, SOMETIMES FOR WEEKS, TO GET THE INFORMATION WANTED







A BURIAL SERVICE FOR AUSTRALIANS  
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NEW GUINEA

For a while, they served the enemy. But the Australians had some tricks of their own. They learned the enemy's tricks as quickly as he could invent them; and they learned how to counteract them, and how to beat him at his own game.

There were men fighting who had received a lot of intensive training—some in the tangled, fœtid jungle of Ceylon, others in the Australian mainland jungles. The Australian soldier was not the untrained fool the Jap sometimes thought him to be.

And the Jap himself . . . he was a hard fighter. He was tough and fanatical. He rarely surrendered . . . he would much sooner hold a grenade to his head and pull the pin. But he was no superman. It was possible to beat him. That has been proved by the fact that he has been beaten—and badly at that; but he is as tough as they come.

By August, the Japanese were "active" around Kokoda, where advanced Australian troops stood across the path that led over the Owen Stanley Ranges to Port Moresby. Then, with dramatic suddenness, came Milne Bay—the first big Japanese defeat in New Guinea.

At every point the Japanese had been stopped, or hurled back . . . at every point, except Kokoda, a danger-spot deep in the wild heart of New Guinea, where he was concentrating, reaching out, infiltrating, scouting.





A FORWARD POST LESS THAN 30 YARDS FROM THE JAPANESE POSITION. THESE AUSTRALIANS LIVE AND FIGHT IN MUD AND WATER. THEY COULD HEAR THE JAPANESE TALKING BUT COULD NOT SEE THEM





CHURCH SERVICE BEFORE GOING INTO BATTLE

As the Australians forged over the old, heart-breaking, lung-bursting track, armchair critics wondered why they took so long to recover territory the Jap had taken so quickly. Some said it was perhaps because we were expecting a big Japanese trap somewhere along the trail. Perhaps it was because of this, or that.

It was because of none of these. The Australian advance was purposely slow and thorough. It had been planned that way. The first job in a newly taken village was to clean it up, and establish hygienic conditions. The advance paused, waiting for food and supplies to catch up. It was anything but a nice job, this cleaning up of lately occupied villages. The retreating Japanese had left indescribable filth behind them.

This is how the Australians described the advance over the Owen Stanley Mountains.

No one has yet been able to give an adequate description of the long, agonising fight back across the Owen Stanleys. Correspondents tried, some of them made a very good fist of it. Only those who fought back across the mountains know what it was like. They lived in sweat, rain, and mist, and mud. They strained upwards, always upwards, dragging not only their own lead-weighted bodies, but ammunition and guns and supplies.

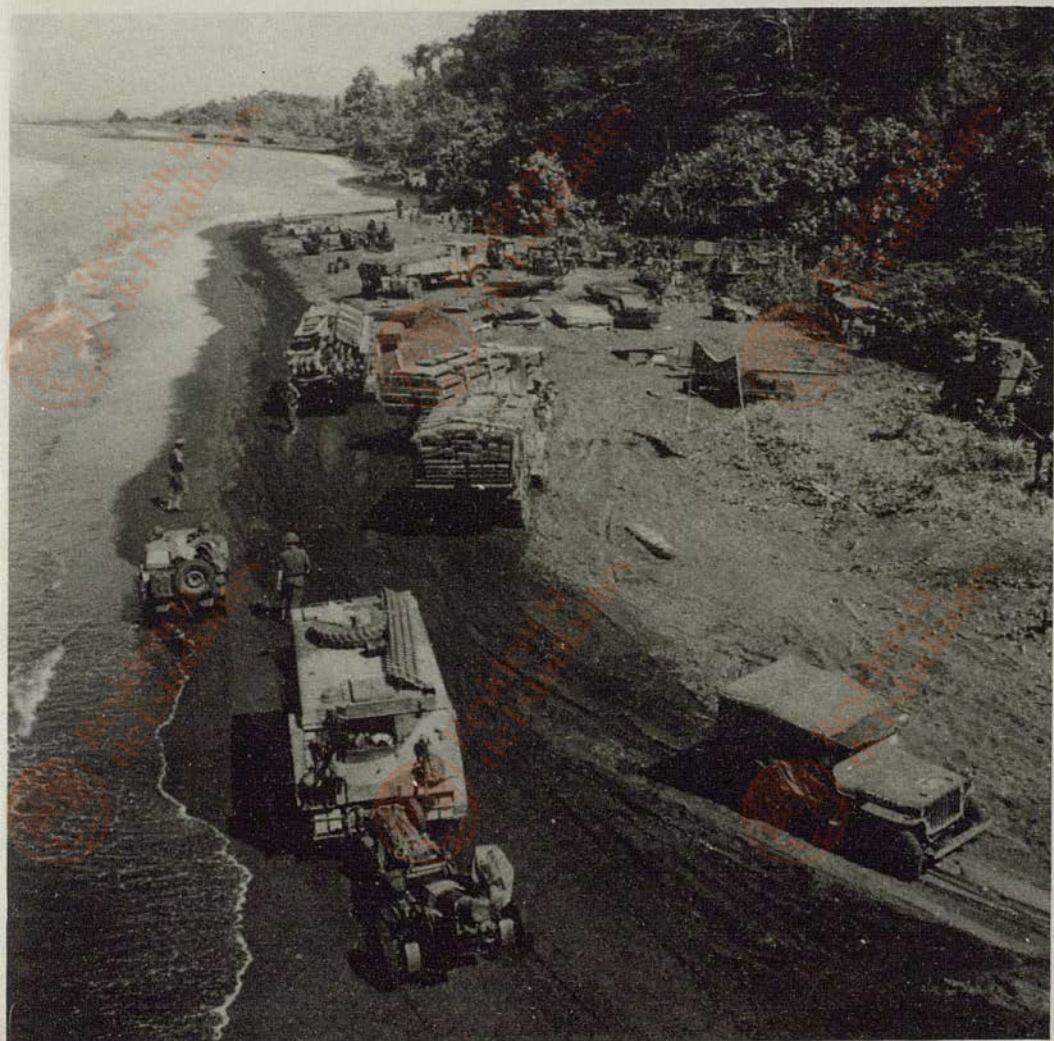
Day after day they went on, mechanically, their lungs threatening to burst at every upward step, threatening it seemed, to flush blood up into their mouths. Your head grows dizzy and tight with the blood that pumps



into it, and your body is wracked with every painful breath. That is just the effort of walking, of climbing, the effect of thinner atmosphere in the high ranges. But there was more to it than simply walking and climbing. You had to sleep where you fell, cradled among tree-roots, or cushioned on squelching, stinking mud with the rain beating in your face—rain that was eternal.

And when you went on there were leeches in their millions, and vines and roots reaching out to trip your dragging feet and the sweat that kept smarting your eyes. And sometimes you sweltered, and sometimes the cold wind-swept rain of the heights chilled your bones and set you chattering. And all the time you were doing things that no human should ever be asked to do, and doing them without complaint—fighting on, always

LANDING ON THE BEACHES FOR THE ATTACK ON FINSCHAFEN







BRINGING UP SUPPLIES

upwards then returning over parts of that nightmare track to help bring up more and more supplies, without which you would be forced to retreat again, as the Jap had had to retreat, living in constant tension—because, out of that silent, dripping jungle Japanese rifles might crash at any minute, Japanese machine-guns might rattle.

You got very little sleep if you were right up front. Nerves were strained dangerously. Men slept—half-slept sometimes leaning against trees—in ten, fifteen, twenty minutes' periods to come suddenly awake at the faintest strange sound: the snapping of a twig, a rustle of leaves, the hum of a new insect, a rifle shot. For men took no risks—they shot first.

There was no single word of complaint from those men. There are two things it is impossible to exaggerate—the torture of that nightmare trek across the Owen Stanleys—and the morale of the men. A strict code had sprung up amongst them—a taboo on grumbling. It is considered one of the sacred rights of soldiers to grumble. Yet there was none of it here. A grouser was called a squealer; and Australians will suffer anything in silence rather than be called that. They fought on up the track.

★ ★ ★

Their sense of humour—sometimes grim, sometimes even macabre, never deserted them. While a nation's soldiers can still laugh under the conditions these men endured, that nation is unbeatable. So they laughed, as Australians will always laugh, hoarsely, perhaps, through throats torn raw with panting, raspingly—but they laughed, nevertheless.



Near Kokoda, the retreating enemy had left one of his dead on a stretcher. When the Australians caught up, a myriad of ants had picked it clean, leaving only a skeleton with one arm thrown out towards the track. Many Australians passed that skeleton. Nearly every one of them carefully picked up the bony hand, and solemnly shook it—"Good on you, sport . . . you just lie there and take it easy," or, "You're lucky, sport—you got out while the gettin' out was good"—and always the solemn handshake.

No praise can be too high for the work done by the young aerial transport pilots and the native carriers of those days. Their difficulties were tremendous. The supplying of troops battling up the mountains was a day-to-day business. If the pilots or the natives missed out one day, or were held up, the troops went without food that day.

So, no matter what the weather, irrespective of difficulties, whether the Zeroes were out or not, the transport pilots came through—carrying supplies—unarmed. Lives were lost in the prosecution of that job—but the stuff went through to the men up front; and the men up front pushed on, slowly, grimly.

\* \* \*

The Jap had been blasted out of Ioribaiwa, where he had been preparing a jumping-off place for his drive on Port Moresby. Up that weary trail,

GENERAL BLAMEY INSPECTING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS IN NEW GUINEA







ON A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF NEW GUINEA

inch by painful inch, Australians had dragged 35-pounder guns. How it was done is now part of the glowing history of that campaign. Slipping, sliding, rolling, the guns went on and on, up and up—over tracks that had been churned into quagmire by thousands of pounding feet, through country that stretched straight up over your head without hint of a skyline, across ravines where a stone took seconds to hit the bottom, over racing waters that frothed madly away to the sea.

Luck was with them. They set up the guns at a point beyond which it was physically impossible for even Australians to take them and began firing almost at extreme range. The Jap got the shock of his life. He had not expected to meet artillery fire.

He left Ioribaiwa—leaving a valuable haul of military documents for the advancing Australians. His retreat was quickening under increasing pressure from Australians, eager with the smell of victory in their nostrils.

This was the beginning of the offensive General Sir Thomas Blamey had planned. We had abandoned defensive tactics in New Guinea towards the end of September; and now, for the first time in the South-West Pacific area, we were on the offensive.

Along with the development of our offensive, with its incredible mass of accompanying detailed and organised preparation, Australian and American troops undertook, on the north coast, one of the most daring adventures of the war—involving the air transportation of Australian soldiers and of their American colleagues. It was an operation that called for considerable imagination in its planning and for grim courage in its execution.





AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY USING 25-POUNDERS. THESE PICTURES GIVE SOME INDICATION OF THE TREMENDOUS TASK WHICH CONFRONTED AUSTRALIAN GUNNERS BEFORE THEY COULD GET THEIR GUNS INTO BATTLE POSITIONS IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE







AUSTRALIAN MORTAR CREW LAYS DOWN A BARRAGE AS INFANTRY ADVANCE TO ATTACK  
A JAPANESE PILL-BOX

No review of the Allied campaign in New Guinea would be complete without due praise being paid to air co-operation by the Allied forces. Their job went on and on. Without them, supplies could not have been sent to Australians advancing over the Owen Stanleys. They came, bringing supplies, to land on bumpy, hazardous, impossible little bomb-pocked fields high up in the ranges, and to take off again, dangerously, with wounded. They brought in troops. They kept up an incessant strafing of the Jap and his supply lines. They spotted for artillery.

And, above all, they put heart into the men toiling over the mountains. For those men, with Allied planes shuttling back and forth above their heads, spitting savage death at enemy aircraft, dropping their bomb-





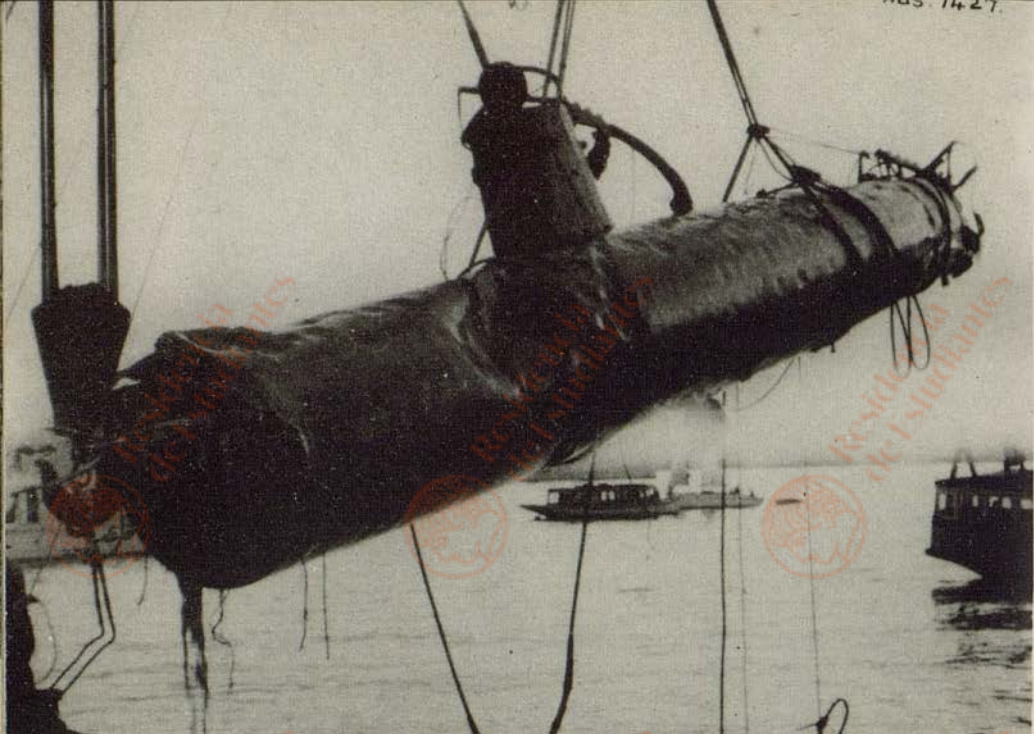
WOUNDED AUSTRALIAN: THE LARGE LEAVES STUCK IN THE GROUND PROVIDE SHADE FOR HIM

loads on enemy targets, felt content. For them there was no futile, angry, desperate fist-shaking at the skies, as Australian fists were shaken at Malay's skies.

There must be all praise, too, for New Guinea's natives—for their gentle, untiring plodding—the “Angels with Fuzzy Hair”. Their unswerving loyalty and gentleness has been written, by their behaviour, into the fadeless history of that campaign never to be erased.

There are no cheap heroics about that. There is no room for cheap heroics in a bitter campaign of the kind that is being fought in New Guinea, backwards and forwards across a vast island that is as wild and rugged as any on earth.





RAISING A JAPANESE SUBMARINE IN SYDNEY HARBOUR

### NINE GOT THROUGH

He was one of a patrol that came on a Japanese machine-gun post, well-hidden on the other side of an open patch of kunai grass. With its first burst, the gun had killed and wounded four of the patrol of twenty-five.

They took out the wounded, then lay in the grass planning how to take the post. A war correspondent lay there with them.

They might have been planning a fishing trip, or a pleasant Saturday afternoon at the races. They calmly weighed the distance between themselves and the post against their chances of taking it.

"There's twenty-one of us," Shorty said. "I reckon six of us ought to get through."

"You'll be one of them, you skinny little runt," one of the others said. "No Nippo could shoot straight enough to hit you."

"I dunno . . . they like us little blokes . . ."

"Reckon a couple more than six might get through," said another, laconically. "Maybe eight . . . that ought to make it easy."

"I'm stickin' near Squinty," said a tall Digger. "He'll probably run the wrong way an' I'll be able to follow him."

They agreed that six or seven out of the twenty-one would get through; that was a calculation based on experience. Then they were ready to go





MUCH HAS BEEN SAID OF THE WONDERFUL HELP WHICH THE NEW GUINEA NATIVES GIVE TO THE AUSTRALIAN TROOPS. THIS PICTURE ILLUSTRATES THE DIFFICULT COUNTRY FROM WHICH THEY EVACUATED CASUALTIES





OVER DIFFICULT TRACKS AN AUSTRALIAN  
PATROL ADVANCING THROUGH THE JUNGLE

—twenty-one men who knew that only a few of them would “get through”.

The tall Digger grinned, and winked hard at the War Correspondent, as he crawled away through the grass. “Give us a good write-up, won’t you?” he said.

Then he was gone, with the rest of them—yelling, bayonets flashing, a machine-gun chattering like the death-rattle of a giant. The tall Digger died in the attack. And Shorty—the correspondent saw him rolling over and over and then lie still right in front of the post. They were both dead.

But the spirit of men who can grin and wink and say, “Give us a good write-up, won’t you?” will never die.

Nine got through.

## THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER

(“The Times” New Guinea Correspondent, November 1943).

THE Australian Imperial Force in New Guinea is not a particularly young army. Combat troops are usually fairly young. Only young men could stand up to the physical strain. More than one battalion commander is still in his twenties. But in all the rear areas, even those just behind the front line, there is a surprisingly high percentage of middle-aged and oldish men. Some fought in the first Anzac Corps and have done in this second expedition; others are men who had large sheep stations or exten-





A SHAFT 30 FEET IN DEPTH UNDERNEATH THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JAPANESE COMMANDER FROM WHICH HE AND HIS TROOPS WERE DRIVEN BY THE AUSTRALIANS' ADVANCE TO SALAMAU



ONE OF THE FIRST JAPANESE PRISONERS TO BE BROUGHT IN BY AUSTRALIAN TROOPS DURING THE FIGHTING IN NEW GUINEA





AUSTRALIAN NURSES AT A GENERAL HOSPITAL IN NEW GUINEA

sive business interests, which they have entrusted to their wives or to overseers for the duration of the war. One cannot help admiring these older men, debarred by age from obtaining commissions, who have made such sacrifices to enlist from a strong sense of duty rather than from any lure of action. Nor in jungle warfare are the rear areas much safer than the front line. Attacks on lines of communications are rendered easy by dense cover, and in amphibious operations beach-heads and dumps where many men have to work are obvious targets for enemy bombers. Both at Lae and Finschafen men working in rear areas have had almost the same proportion of casualties as the forward troops.

It is customary to attribute a high degree of fatalism to the Japanese soldier, but no one could be more fatalistic than the Australian. His attitude towards death is simple. If one's number is up, well it is up, and there is nothing to be done about it. This is the only possible attitude for men who have seen a lot of death. In a casual, unemotional voice, which cloaks their true feelings at the loss of an old "Cobber", they will tell you that old Tom "copped it the other day", or that Bill "got knocked". Like all soldiers, they think often of their homes and families and long to go back to them, but they do not talk about them much. If their homesickness finds a vent, which is rarely, it is expressed in the form of wise-cracks and cynical jokes. It is never morbid or sentimental. They seem to think in terms not of peace but of victory. They would like to go home, but their immediate concern is to clear the Japanese out of New Guinea





CARRYING THEIR MATE TO AN ADVANCED DRESSING STATION





PULLING DOWN A JAPANESE FLAG FROM A TREE  
NEAR JAPANESE HEADQUARTERS AT RAMU VALLEY





AN AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER LEADING A LINE OF  
FUZZY-WUZZIES CARRYING AMMUNITION AND FOOD





AUSTRALIAN TROOPS RIDE THROUGH THE CAPTURED VILLAGE OF KAIAPIT, NEW GUINEA





BARGES LANDING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS FOR THE ATTACK ON FINSCHAFEN





IN ENGLAND : H.M. THE KING INSPECTING AUSTRALIAN TROOPS WHO AFTERWARDS FOUGHT IN NEW GUINEA





IN NEW GUINEA ; SOME OF THE SAME MEN WHO APPEAR IN THE OPPOSITE ILLUSTRATION NOW IN NEW GUINEA.  
THEY HAVE JUST COME IN AFTER WEEKS OF FIGHTING IN THE JUNGLE, WORN OUT WITH FEVER AND FATIGUE





UP TO THEIR KNEES IN MUD AND WATER, AUSTRALIANS FIRING A CAPTURED GUN AT A JAPANESE PATROL 60 YARDS AWAY





AUSTRALIAN MOUNTAIN GUN BOMBARDING JAPANESE POSITIONS ON MOUNT TAMBU FROM WHICH THE ENEMY WERE DRIVEN. THE POSITION FOR THE GUN AND A FIELD OF FIRE HAD TO BE HACKED IN THE JUNGLE





AUSTRALIAN ARMY DOCTORS DRESSING WOUNDED NATIVES AND CASTOR OILING THEM





NATIVES CARRYING SUPPLIES TO A FORWARD AREA





AUSTRALIAN SUNDERLAND FLYING BOAT. THIS SQUADRON  
HAS FLOWN OVER 2,500,000 OPERATIONAL MILES

## THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

A VARIATION of the old saying might well be that the sun never sets on the work of the Royal Australian Air Force. In four years of war the R.A.A.F. has multiplied its peacetime strength more than thirty times and sent its men to every part of the world. When hundreds of Australians are tumbling out of their bombers tired and weary after their long trip over Germany or Italy, the day has already begun for hundreds of other young Australian airmen attacking the Japanese on the other side of the world. When Australians in Liberators of Coastal Command are coming in to land at Iceland after long anti-U-boat or convoy patrols other Australian airmen are roaring out across India to attack enemy communications in Burma. In fact, it would be difficult to imagine any hour of the day when operations of some kind were not being carried out by Australian airmen in some part of the world. In the past they knew the skies of Malaya, Netherlands East Indies, Syria, Greece, Crete and Malta—to mention only a few places—and to-day they are fighting or training in countries as far distant as Canada and Iraq, Iceland and the Antarctic Sea, Italy and the Solomons.









A HAMPDEN TORPEDO BOMBER OF AN  
AUSTRALIAN COASTAL COMMAND SQUADRON

## PACIFIC THEATRE

Since December 8th, 1941, when Japan brought war to the Pacific, the R.A.A.F. has flown more than 325,000,000 miles in almost 3,000,000 hours of operational and training duties in the South West Pacific area and Australia.

Co-operation and good liaison between the U.S.A.A.F. and the R.A.A.F. in Australia have been firmly established. The unified command works smoothly. The days when Australia was divided into zones, each with its own fighter squadrons under centralised commands are probably passing. One does not think of a perfect defensive screen covering every part of the continent so much as gradually mounting offensive strength to strike at the Japanese aircraft, shipping and Pacific bases.

Already, the Allied Air Forces in the South West Pacific area have destroyed 1539 Japanese aircraft, probably destroyed 493 and damaged almost another 600 since those first days when they battled against overwhelming odds in Malaya. Then the Australians used Wirraways. Now they use Spitfires and other modern aircraft.

In this corner of the world, Australian airmen have fought with a gallantry often added to by poor equipment, primitive landing grounds and dangerous weather. Nearly 300 decorations—among them two Victoria Crosses—have been won in combats over Malay, New Guinea, the Solomons, Darwin and the islands and waters of the Pacific. The winning of every one of these crosses and medals has added stories of





AUSTRALIAN AIRMEN WHO WERE DECORATED BY H.M. THE KING

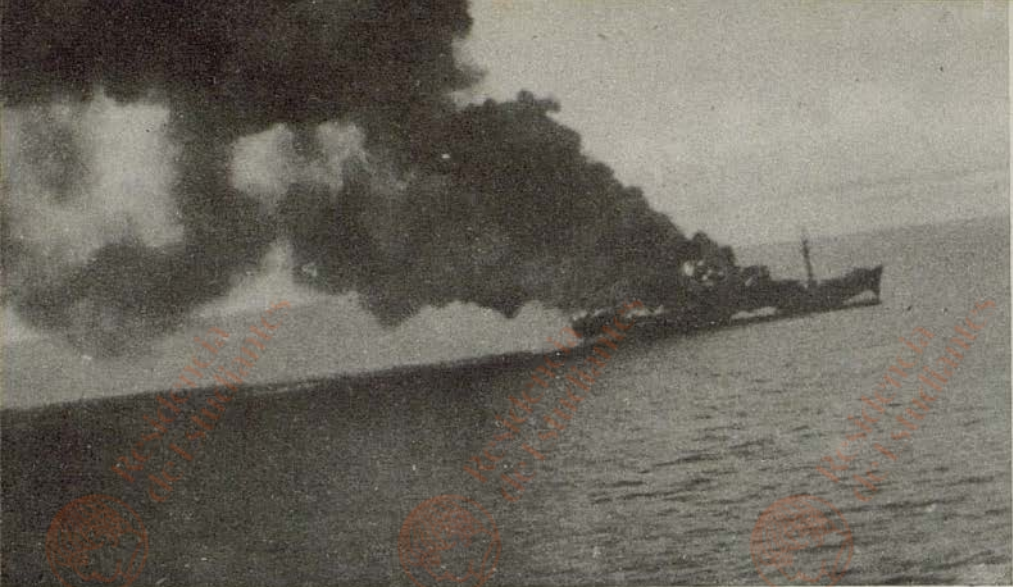
heroism and devotion to duty, but for honest-to-goodness pluck and red-blooded adventure it would be hard to beat that of F/O. W. L. Wackett who was shot down into a shark-infested sea off the coast of New Guinea, swam for many hours in his heavy flying suit, tramped four days through fever-laden jungles, slept in muddy swamps teeming with leeches, lived on yams and was finally rescued by the natives.

### UNITED KINGDOM

With the entry of Japan into the war and the consequent threat to Australia, many people assumed that all R.A.A.F. men overseas would be directed back home. Quite the reverse happened. Australian airmen continued to be sent overseas. The Australian Government was honouring its commitments under the Joint Air Training Plan to the Motherland. With a temporary break due to interrupted sea communications following Japan's entry into the war, and to the necessity of conveying airmen to Great Britain, the flow of Australian airmen to the Mother Country has never ceased since the outbreak of war.

The first air squadron from a British Dominion to go into action against the Axis came from Australia. It was the now famous No. 10 Squadron of the R.A.A.F. whose personnel had travelled overseas to pick up some of the 20-ton Sunderland flying boats allotted for patrol work in Australia. When war was declared and it was found that the R.A.F. badly needed these planes itself to keep open the sea-lanes to Britain, the Australian





AN AUSTRALIAN BEAUFIGHTER ATTACKED A  
JAPANESE SHIP IN THE BISMARCK SEA BATTLE

Government decided that both men and planes should stay in Britain.

In the Command itself, No. 10 is the proud holder of "flying hours" and maintenance records and has now flown over two-and-a-half million operational miles in approx. 20,000 hours. Over 10 U-boats and enemy ships have been destroyed and over 20 probably destroyed or damaged, in addition to 30 enemy aircraft destroyed, probably destroyed and damaged. Some time ago its two-thousandth sortie was marked up.

The younger Australian Sunderland Squadron has not been overawed by the achievements of its elders. In May last, it sank two U-boats and attacked several others. Its aircraft effected several dramatic rescues and fought bitter battles with packs of German aircraft over the Bay of Biscay. In one epic fight, four out of eight Ju 88's were shot down to earn the British Chief of Air Staff's praise that "this story will go down in history as one of the finest instances in this war of triumph of coolness, skill and determination against overwhelming odds". Formed on Anzac Day in 1942, the squadron has passed the five-hundredth sortie and is well on towards its first 1,000,000 miles, during which it has destroyed 4 U-boats and damaged 7 others.

Members of the third Australian Coastal Command Squadron fly Hampden torpedo-bombers in which they have sunk many enemy ships skulking down the coast of Norway and have helped to protect the sea lanes of Northern waters from bases in both Britain and Russia.

R.A.A.F. Bomber Squadrons in the U.K. have participated in 300 different raids and their crews have made more than 4000 trips to bomb over 80 different targets in Germany and occupied Europe. Several Australian Lancaster squadrons were out over Berlin on the three nights when



Berlin had 5000 tons dropped on it in less than a week. These heavy squadrons with the Australian Ventura and Wellington squadrons which have converted to other types of aircraft, have flown over 4,000,000 miles to bomb the most heavily defended targets in the Reich. Berlin has been visited 12, Cologne 13, Hamburg 17, and Essen 25 times, as well as the main Italian targets of Turin, Milan and Genoa. Two of the Australian bomber squadrons hold records for the number of aircraft sent out on single raids.

In one month, one R.A.A.F. Lancaster squadron flew over 400,000 miles in 270 sorties and dropped over a thousand tons of bombs. Some idea of the way the bombing offensive has been stepped up may be gauged from those figures when it is remembered that the whole of the R.A.F. dropped only 3500 tons in the first year of the war.

The R.A.A.F. has furnished three Spitfire squadrons in the United Kingdom. The best known of these was at one time led by the late Wing-Commander "Paddy" Finucane. With such fighters as Finucane and his great friend, the late Squadron-Leader "Bluey" Truscott, this squadron shot down 62 enemy aircraft in eight months and was the top scoring squadron in Fighter Command for three months.

These traditions were kept alive by the younger Spitfire squadrons and one of these units is now commanded by a youthful Queenslander who recently won the D.F.C. for his successful fight against 12 enemy fighters.

MORE THAN 18,000 MEMBERS OF THE R.A.A.F. ARE SERVING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND OTHER THEATRES OF WAR, APART FROM THE SQUADRONS SERVING IN THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC







FLYING FORTRESSES AS TRANSPORT PLANES LAND HOWITZERS,  
STORES AND GUN CREWS IN THE NEW GUINEA BATTLE AREA

One morning in October this year the squadron made unit history by destroying 5 out of 8 enemy fighters. In the same Command is an Australian Mosquito squadron which, since it converted from Beaufighters, has done great work in its role of a night fighter squadron as well as in the destruction of Axis communications in occupied territory. It has already damaged 26 trains, 4 power-stations and destroyed or damaged 7 enemy aircraft. A second Australian Mosquito squadron converted from Venturas, recently took part in a successful daylight bombing attack.

Altogether, Australian squadrons in the U.K. have flown almost 10,000,000 operational miles and completed nearly 10,000 sorties. But even these figures merely scratch the surface of the R.A.A.F. war effort in the U.K.

It is only when Australians like P/O. R. H. Middleton, V.C., S/Ldr. W. W. Blessing, D.S.O., D.F.C., and W/O. N. F. Williams, C.G.M., D.F.M. and Bar are mentioned for outstanding gallantry, that the general public hears of the many R.A.A.F. men serving in R.A.F. squadrons. But it is a matter of fact that in every air operation of any size or importance—be it the first 1000-bomber raid, Mosquito raids over Berlin, or the great attack on the Ruhr dams—Australian airmen are among the crews participating. One example will suffice. Of the 33 awards won in the Ruhr dams attack, eight of them—three D.S.O.'s, four D.F.C.'s, and one D.F.M. went to Australians.

In the United Kingdom alone, men of the R.A.A.F. had won, by the middle of November 1943, over 500 decorations, among them no fewer than 270 D.F.C.'s and 170 D.F.M.'s.





IN A COUNTRY WHERE ROADS CANNOT EASILY BE BUILT AND WHERE THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH CARRIERS TO MEET ALL DEMANDS, THE DROPPING OF SUPPLIES FROM PLANES HAS BECOME ROUTINE. THE CONTAINERS ARE ATTACHED TO PARACHUTES



## MIDDLE EAST AND INDIA

It is not possible to give even a bare outline of the varied achievements of R.A.A.F. airmen in these theatres of war, but one famous R.A.A.F. squadron in the Middle East has been fighting since Wavell's first campaign, moving back and forwards in those historic tugs-of-war across the desert, and serving in Syria as well. It went forward in the last great push westward, and by the time it had reached Tunis, had a total of 213 aircraft to its credit. No one can think of the Middle East air campaigns without also remembering S/Ldr. R. H. "Bobby" Gibbes, D.S.O., D.F.C. and Bar, who led the squadron through all its adventurous engagements and reached double figures for his kills of enemy aircraft. To-day, the same squadron is strafing the Germans in Italy.

Other Australian squadrons in this theatre are equipped with Kittyhawks, Halifaxes, Hudsons, Blenheims and Hurricanes. Their reputation is as high as that of the old Australian Flying Corps which fought over the same hot desert conditions 25 years ago.

Stories of courage like that of the Sydney boy who plodded for 27 days across the burning desert to take up the fight again, or that of the Queenslander who took 4 days to crawl back to his aircraft so that he could destroy anything of value to the enemy, have added lustre to the reputation of the R.A.A.F. and awards to a gradually lengthening list of decorations won by Australian airmen in the Middle East. The total is now approaching the 300 mark.

In India, Malta, North and West Africa and Iraq, hundreds of R.A.A.F. men are dispersed throughout R.A.F. squadrons. In Malta, a squadron detachment flew 311 sorties in 2065 hours between December 1942 and May 1943. In India, Flying-Officer C. A. Crombie, D.S.O., a Queenslander, has destroyed 10 enemy aircraft and damaged several others during night flights.

Total expenditure on the R.A.A.F. from the outbreak of war reads like a national debt. By August 1943, £223,823,000, including £68,779,000 for the Empire Air Training Scheme in Australia and Canada, had been spent on the R.A.A.F.

The Air Training Corps, formed in August 1941, is now a young giant of 12,176 members and 96 squadrons. Over 5000 A.T.C. cadets have already been enlisted in the R.A.A.F.

Decorations and awards have been won at the astonishing rate of almost one a day since the outbreak of war four years ago. The total is now nearing the 1300 mark. Among them are 2 V.C.'s and 18 decorations of Allied countries. The surprisingly high number of 203 awards to Australians in the R.A.F. is a reminder that there are hundreds of men from "down under" not in the R.A.A.F. serving with the Royal Air Force. One of them is G/C. H. I. Edwards, V.C., D.F.C., from West Australia.

R.A.A.F. casualties have been heavy, totalling over 7000. Of these well over half have been killed or are missing. Placed against the background of a small country with a population less than that of London these awards, spheres of service and casualties are achievements and sacrifices indeed.





GUARDIANS OF AUSTRALIA'S COAST LINE





AUSTRALIAN BEAUFORTS SECURED THEIR FIRST REPORTED SUCCESS AS TORPEDO-BOMBERS WHEN THEY DESTROYED A LIGHT CRUISER OR DESTROYER OFF GASMATA





TOBRUK. THE DEEDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NINTH DIVISION AT TOBRUK WON THE AUSTRALIANS WORLD FAME. BUT A TYPICAL AUSTRALIAN SAID: "WE BLOKES FROM TOBRUK THINK MORE OF THOSE NAVY BLOKES THAN THE WORLD THINKS OF US. AND THAT GOES FOR TOMMY TOO"

## TOBRUK TO TIMOR

### TOBRUK

FOR two-thirds of a year we held the German at bay. Tobruk was like a running wound in his side that paralyzed any movement on to Egypt. The battered town, the ugly wind-swept slope and rugged wadis all pock-marked and torn with the grey stains of tens of thousands of explosives; the lonely cemeteries up on the eastern rises, the harbour waters with the rusting spars and hulls of many ships, the cranes along the front lying awry as the bomb blasts had left them—rust and destruction—the record left by the Australians of one of the great jobs in this war. These were the men who within a month, were to help save Egypt and start the drive that ended in Tunisia with complete victory over the Axis forces in Africa.

SERGEANT IAN FITCHETT

*[Australian Official Observer with the Australians during the siege of Tobruk]*





TOBRUK. AUSTRALIANS IN A FRONT-LINE SECTION POST 400 YARDS FROM THE ENEMY SEND OVER A "HATE" AT FREQUENT INTERVALS JUST TO ANNOY THE GERMANS

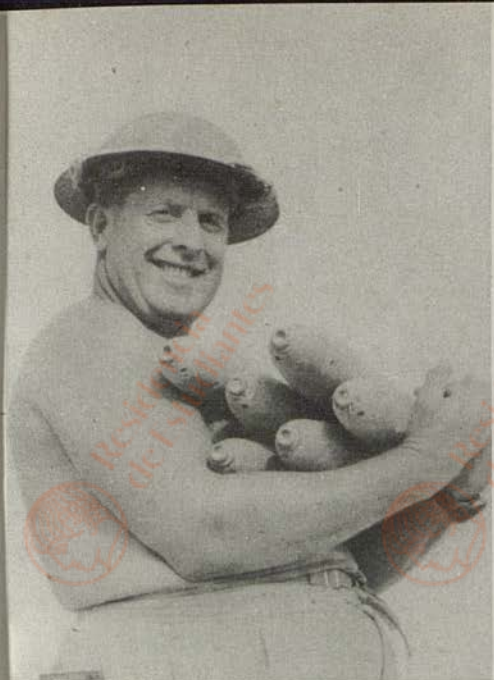
## GREECE

It was never supposed that our small army could hold Greece unaided. The Yugoslav collapse, followed by that of the Greeks, was due completely to inadequate equipment and the vacillating conduct of certain elements, which left us no alternative but to get out as best we could. It must be remembered, however, that if we had not gone into Greece the Germans would have come through just the same and without any cost to themselves. Our entry certainly upset the German plans. It cost her heavily in men and material. She had hoped for two puppet States to help her in her struggle against the democracies, instead she got two more hostile peoples to keep in subjection. The British forces in Greece—Anzacs and Tommies—fought the cream of the German army from Yugoslavia to Peloponnese. Their lines were never broken.

RONALD MONSON

[*War Correspondent of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph"*]





THE "RATS" OF TOBRUK. WITH MEN FROM BRITAIN AND SOME INDIAN TROOPS, THE AUSTRALIANS HELD TOBRUK FOR SEVEN MONTHS IN ONE OF THE CLASSIC SIEGES OF HISTORY AGAINST INCESSANT ARTILLERY FIRE, DAY AND NIGHT BOMBING FROM THE AIR AND INNUMERABLE ATTACKS BY LAND FORCES AND TANKS







AFTER MONTHS IN THE DESERT MEN OF THE A.I.F. WENT TO GREECE. BEFORE CARRYING ON THE TRADITION OF THE ANZACS THEY HAD TIME TO SEE SOME OF THE SIGHTS OF ATHENS





AUSTRALIANS WERE PART OF AN ATTACKING FORCE COMPOSED OF BRITISH, INDIAN AND FREE FRENCH WHO FOUGHT IN THE SYRIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1941

## SYRIA

The Syrian campaign, fought in mid-summer of 1941, was not a long fight, only lasting five weeks, but it was a difficult one, dour and exacting. The Australians were part of an attacking force composed of British, Indian and Free French. It was mistakenly expected that the opposing Vichy forces would have no heart for fighting. The Vichy troops fought as became a professional army and made every step of the offensive a hard one. Most of the fighting was in rugged hill country and the Australian units, often split into small commands, had to display the highest individual skill to overcome the enemy's clever dispositions, his superb manœuvring, and his great courage. But the Australians, who had never doubted the ability of the French, won through. The battle tactics of the Australian volunteers proved too much in the end for the professional skill of the enemy.

[From Official Australian Accounts]





AUSTRALIANS AT SINGAPORE. IN LONG STEAMING DAYS AND HORROR-FILLED NIGHTS, NEVER RESTING, THEY FOUGHT THROUGH SWAMP AND JUNGLE

## MALAYA

In Malaya, Australian troops fought hordes of well-equipped, well-trained Japanese who had an advantage, not only in the number of ground troops, but in armour and in the air. Yet the Australians made every inch of the fight a bloody one and took frightful toll of the enemy. Typical of the fighting qualities of the Australian, his resourcefulness and courage, is the epic story of Colonel Anderson's command, which was surrounded by the enemy at Labis. Without sufficient air support, short of food and medical supplies and having only a scant store of ammunition, this force fought its way through many miles of difficult country. In long, steaming days and horror-filled nights, through jungle and swamp, never resting, they fought and died, never losing courage, though many times the fight seemed hopeless and escape impossible. Ten times the Japanese called upon the force to surrender. Ten times the Australians answered with bullets and bayonets. Once the force lost contact with headquarters when a Japanese shell destroyed the radio. Three signalmen, two of them grievously wounded, patched it up and sent messages—making dots and dashes by contacting the ends of the wires. The Australians refused to give up even after learning that reinforcement was impossible. They stormed and broke through seven road-blocks set up by the Japanese. Finally they divided into small parties and sifted through the jungle to headquarters. They had suffered heavy casualties but they had outwitted and outfought the Jap. Theirs was the glory.

[From Official War Correspondents]





EL ALAMEIN. GENERAL ALEXANDER PAID THIS TRIBUTE TO THE AUSTRALIANS: "YOUR REPUTATION AS FIGHTERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAMED, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU HAVE EVER FOUGHT WITH GREATER BRAVERY OR DISTINCTION THAN WHEN YOU BROKE THE GERMAN AND ITALIAN ARMIES IN THE WESTERN DESERT"





ON THE LOOK-OUT AT TOBRUK

## EL ALAMEIN

Men of the Australian Ninth Division (part of the British Eighth Army) were sent into action against the enemy's strongest point at El Alamein. This was the toughest fighting of all the desert campaigns. For five bitter days the Aussies hammered at Rommel's veterans. They launched four major attacks and beat off incessant counter-attacks by enemy infantry and tanks. The main mass of Rommel's heavy and medium artillery was concentrated on the front opposing the valiant Australian Ninth. The whole of Rommel's Panzer Corps was arrayed against them. The entire allied strategy depended upon the Australians' ability to keep their front from being broken. That front was never broken. Complete victory over the Axis in the Western Desert was the result.

*[From Official Reports]*

## TIMOR

A small band of Australian Commandos who remained in Portuguese Timor after the Japanese landed in ten months have killed more than thirty officers and five hundred Japanese soldiers while losing only three of their own. These Australians before the war were kangaroo hunters,





A SMALL BAND OF AUSTRALIAN GUERRILLAS WHO REMAINED FOR TEN MONTHS IN TIMOR AND KILLED MORE THAN 500 JAPANESE SOLDIERS







AS A FRIENDLY GESTURE NATIVES BROUGHT IN CROCODILES TO THE AUSTRALIAN GUERRILLAS IN TIMOR

schoolmasters, civil engineers, bank clerks, miners, Jackeroos, plumbers, carpenters, bricklayers, college students, book-keepers. To-day they are among the world's toughest soldiers. Few of them are over twenty-five, but every day in the wilds of Timor has been a year of hazard for them. They live by their courage and daring whether on the mountain-tops, in the jungle, or in stinking, vermin-infested villages. Their game is an endless one of hide-and-seek with the Japanese. To be caught is to die. They are grim, merciless, hit-and-run fighters. Every shot must be a killing shot. They have matched grenade, tommy-gun, sharpshooter's rifle and bayonet against Japanese artillery, mortars, heavy machine guns and air support. They fight and live—and a few die—in country where the mountains rise sheer, where during the wet season, rivers are raging torrents, and jungle tracks are crazy winding trails. Their exploits have provided some of the most outstanding records of courage, gallantry, daring and self-sacrifice in this war.

[From Official Reports]



## A TRIBUTE TO THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

From Sidi Barrani to El Alamein Australians had already proved that in the new warfare of movement and machines they had retained all the military virtues which had made them famous from 1915 to 1918. Stubbornness in defence, the same dogged, stoical spirit that again and again staved off disaster in the Gallipoli peninsula, the swift, intelligent dash and mobility in attack that carried their infantry through the German lines in France and brought the Light Horse from Sharon to Damascus in ten days, all these qualities were manifested in Greece and Libya, in Syria and Crete. In New Guinea the Australians, who have borne the major burden of that campaign, have faced as difficult a task as any that has confronted a regular army during the last three generations. Apart from natural difficulties, a pestilential climate, trackless jungles, fever-breeding swamps, they have been matched against a more numerous well-equipped enemy who has shown abundant skill in jungle warfare and has almost always fought with a fanatical desperation that has made it almost impossible to claim the capture of a Japanese position until the last blockhouse has been stormed and its last defender killed.

[*"The Times" Sub-Leader, November 1943*]

★ ★ ★

MARCH PAST OF A.I.F.







AUSTRALIAN BREN CARRIERS IN THE WESTERN DESERT

FROM SIDI BARRANI TO EL ALAMEIN AUSTRALIANS HAD ALREADY PROVED THAT IN THE NEW WARFARE OF MOVEMENT AND MACHINES THEY HAD RETAINED ALL THE MILITARY VIRTUES WHICH HAD MADE THEM FAMOUS FROM 1915 TO 1918—"THE TIMES"





THE CREW OF H.M.A.S. SYDNEY BEING CONGRATULATED BY THEIR CAPTAIN AFTER THEIR FIGHT WITH THE ITALIAN CRUISER BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI WHICH THEY SANK. THE SYDNEY, WITH THE WHOLE OF HER CREW, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY LOST IN AN ENCOUNTER OFF THE NORTH-WEST COAST OF AUSTRALIA

### THE NAVY

The Royal Australian Navy, which has already been referred to in previous pages, is a well-balanced force of cruisers, destroyers, armed merchant cruisers, sloops, Australian minesweepers, auxiliary minesweepers, depot ships, boom defence vessels, examination service vessels and motor patrol boats of various types.

Ships or men of the R.A.N. have fought in Australian waters and throughout the south-west Pacific area, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the North Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, the Murmansk convoy route to Russia, in Britain's coastal defence, Singapore, Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies.

They have taken part in naval actions at Tobruk (where they assisted in running the "Ferry Service"), Dakar, Malta and Matapan, and served





A NIGHT ENCOUNTER BETWEEN BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN  
AND VICHY NAVAL VESSELS OFF THE COAST OF SYRIA

in the Somaliland, Greek, Crete and Syrian campaigns, Malta convoys, the North African landing, the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic, the Java Sea Battle, the Coral Sea Battle, and the Battle of the Solomons.

In addition to their service in R.A.N. ships Australians have made a valuable contribution to the war at sea by their service in ships of the Royal Navy in which some 600 of them, whose love of the sea found its outlet during peacetime in yachting, have given distinguished service as R.A.N.V.R. officers. Their previous experience of the sea and the qualities required of yachtsmen have fitted them admirably for service in the various types of ship which constitute a Navy.

Since the outbreak of war, 444 awards and appointments have been conferred upon Australian Naval personnel.

From the outbreak of war to August 31, 1943, R.A.N. casualties totalled 2,368.



# AUSTRALIANS WHO WON THE VICTORIA CROSS

LIEUT.-COL. C. G. W. ANDERSON, M.C., AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES  
*MALAYA, 18-22 January, 1942*



For four days, Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson set a magnificent example of brave leadership, determination and outstanding courage. His small force, restoring a vital position, destroyed ten enemy tanks. Cut off, he defeated persistent air and ground attacks, and forced his way through enemy lines for fifteen miles. Again surrounded, and with heavy attacks resulting in severe casualties, he personally led an attack which destroyed four guns. Throughout all this fighting Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson protected his wounded and refused to leave them. He obtained news of the enemy dispositions by wireless, and attempted to fight

his way back through eight miles of enemy-occupied country. This proved impossible, and as he could not be relieved, he was ordered to destroy his equipment and to make his way back as best he could. Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson was born in 1897. His home town is Young, New South Wales.

SERGEANT W. H. KIBBY, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES  
*LIBYA, 30-31 October, 1942*

The commander of the platoon to which Sergeant Kibby belonged was killed. Immediately Sergeant Kibby assumed command and the platoon was ordered to attack strong enemy positions. Realising the necessity for quick action, Sergeant Kibby dashed forward alone with his tommy-gun, killing three of the enemy, capturing twelve. With the posts silenced, his Company advanced. On subsequent days, he went out several times under intense fire to repair platoon line communications, allowing mortar concentrations to be effectively directed. On the night of October 30-31st, Sergeant Kibby's platoon came under withering machine-gun fire. Despite the fact that his platoon was being mown down from point blank range, Sergeant Kibby went forward alone throwing grenades to destroy the remaining pocket of enemy resistance now only a few yards away. Just as success seemed certain, he was killed. Sergeant Kibby was born in 1905, at Winlaton, Durham, England.



CORPORAL **J. A. FRENCH**, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

*MILNE BAY, 4 September, 1942*



The advance of the section of which Corporal French was in command was held up by fire from three enemy machine-gun posts. Corporal French, ordering his section to take cover, advanced and silenced one of the posts with grenades. Returning for more grenades, he again advanced and silenced the second post. Armed with a Thompson sub-machine-gun, he then attacked the third post. He was seen to be badly hit but he continued to advance. The enemy gun then ceased to fire and Corporal French's section pushed on to find that all members of the three enemy gun crews had been killed and that

Corporal French had died in front of the third gun pit. By his cool courage and disregard of his own personal safety, this non-commissioned officer saved the members of his section from heavy casualties and was responsible for the successful conclusion of the attack. He was born in 1914 at Crow's Nest, Queensland.

PRIVATE **J. H. GORDON**, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

*SYRIA, 10 July, 1941*



During a night attack on "Greenhill", north of Djezzine, Private Gordon's company came under intense machine-gun fire from a fortified post which completely covered the area occupied by our forces who had been ordered forward. One officer and two men were killed in the effort to advance. Movement by single individuals was almost impossible, and the two forward platoons were brought to a halt. Private Gordon, on his own initiative and with complete disregard of danger, crept forward over an area swept by machine-gun and grenade fire and charged the post from the front, killing the four machine-gunners with the

bayonet. His action completely demoralised the enemy in this sector, and his company advanced and took the position. Throughout the night and the following day Private Gordon fought with equal gallantry. His home town is Gin Gin, near Perth, Australia.



LIEUTENANT A. R. CUTLER, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

*SYRIA, 19 June-6 July, 1941*



On June 19th, when our infantry was suffering heavy casualties, Lieutenant Cutler, with another officer and a small party, established an outpost in a house. He went out and repaired a telephone line under machine-gun fire. When an infantry and tank attack caused casualties, Lieutenant Cutler manned the anti-tank rifle and drove off the tanks. After getting his wounded away, he went forward with a party of volunteers and established an outpost right in Merdjayoun, commanding the only road enemy transport could use. Cut off, he found his way back through the enemy lines after dark. His work in registering enemy

positions proved a big factor in the enemy's subsequent retreat. On June 23rd-24th, sent to our most forward defences in charge of a 25-pounder field gun, he silenced an enemy post which had held up our attack. At Dambour on July 6th, he was severely wounded when bringing a line to his outpost. A leg had to be amputated.

PRIVATE A. S. GURNEY, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

*TEL-EL-EISA, 22 July, 1942*



The Company to which Private Gurney belonged was held up by intense machine-gun fire from posts less than 100 yards ahead, heavy casualties being inflicted on our troops, all the officers being killed or wounded. Private Gurney charged the nearest enemy machine-gun post, bayoneted three men and silenced the post. He then continued on to a second post, bayoneted two men and sent out a third as a prisoner. At this stage a stick grenade was thrown at Private Gurney which knocked him to the ground. He rose again, picked up his rifle and charged a third post, using the bayonet with great vigour. He then disappeared from view,

and later his body was found in an enemy post. By this single-handed act of gallantry in the face of a determined enemy, Private Gurney enabled his company to press forward to its objective, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy. Private Gurney was born in 1912 at Perth, Western Australia.



**CORPORAL J. H. EDMONDSON, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES**

*TOBRUK, 13-14 April, 1941*



On the night of April 13th-14th, 1941, a party of German infantry, armed with at least six machine-guns, mortars and two small field pieces, broke through the wire defences at Tobruk. During our counter-attack Corporal Edmondson was wounded in the neck and stomach, but continued to advance under heavy fire, killing one enemy with his bayonet. Later his officer had his bayonet in one of the enemy, who grasped him about the legs, when he was attacked by another from behind. Corporal Edmondson, who was some yards away, immediately went to his assistance, and, in spite of his wounds, killed both of the enemy, thus saving his

officer's life. Shortly after returning from his successful counter-attack Corporal Edmondson died of wounds. Corporal Edmondson's home town was Liverpool, New South Wales.

**PRIVATE B. S. KINGSBURY, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES**

*NEW GUINEA, 29 August, 1942*



One of the few survivors of a platoon which had been over-run and severely cut up during two days in which they held a position in the Isurava area against continuous and fierce enemy attacks, Private Kingsbury volunteered to join another platoon for a counter-attack. Through terrific machine-gun fire, he rushed forward, firing his Bren gun from the hip, and cleared a path through the Japanese lines. Until he fell to the ground, shot dead by a bullet from a sniper hiding in a wood, Private Kingsbury continued to sweep the enemy with his fire and inflicted extremely high casualties. Throughout he showed a

complete disregard for his own safety. His initiative and superb courage made possible the recapture of the position, which undoubtedly saved Battalion Headquarters from falling to the enemy. His coolness, determination and devotion to duty in the face of great odds were an inspiration to his comrades.



*LIBYA, 25-26 October, 1942*



When attacking Trig 29 at Miteiriya Ridge, the platoon to which Private Gratwick belonged was directed to take strong enemy positions. Withering close-range fire killed the platoon commander and reduced the platoon to seven. Private Gratwick, with utter disregard of his own safety, at a time when the rest of the platoon was pinned down, charged the nearest post and completely destroyed the enemy with hand grenades, killing amongst others a complete mortar-crew. This task completed, and still under heavy fire, he charged a second post with rifle and bayonet. It was from this post that the heaviest fire had been directed.

He had inflicted further casualties on the enemy and was within striking distance of his objective when he was killed. Private Gratwick's unselfish courage in the face of the heaviest opposition changed a doubtful situation into the successful capture of his company's objective.

FLIGHT SERGEANT R. H. MIDDLETON, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

*28-29 November, 1942*



When his aircraft was repeatedly hit over Turin, Flight Sergeant Middleton was seriously wounded, a shell splinter destroying his right eye. He lost consciousness and the aircraft dropped to 800 feet before the second pilot, also wounded, could regain control. Facing an Alpine crossing in a damaged plane with insufficient fuel, Flight Sergeant Middleton expressed his intention of trying to reach the English coast. After four hours, the French coast was reached and the aircraft once more repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. When the English coast was reached fuel for only five minutes' flying remained. Flying along

the coast, he ordered his crew to jump. Five left safely, and two remained to assist Flight Sergeant Middleton, who headed out to sea to avoid crashing his plane on houses. The bodies of the two have been recovered but apparently Flight Sergeant Middleton went down with his aircraft.



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT **W. E. NEWTON**, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

*March, 1943*



Flight Lieutenant Newton served with No. 22 Squadron, R.A.A.F., in New Guinea from May 1942, to March 1943, and completed 52 operational sorties.

When leading an attack on an objective on March 16, 1943, he dived through intense and accurate shell fire, and his aircraft was hit repeatedly. Nevertheless, he held to his course and bombed his target from a low level. The attack resulted in the destruction of many buildings and dumps, including two 40,000 gallon fuel installations. Although his aircraft was crippled, with fuselage and wing sections torn, petrol tanks pierced, main-planes and engines seriously damaged, and one of the main tyres flat, Flight Lieutenant Newton managed to fly it back to base and make a successful landing.

Despite this harassing experience he returned next day to the same locality. His target, this time a single building, was even more difficult, but he again attacked with his usual courage and resolution, flying a steady course through a barrage of fire. He scored a hit on the building, but at the same moment his aircraft burst into flames. Flight Lieutenant Newton maintained control and calmly turned his aircraft away and flew along the shore. With great skill he brought his blazing aircraft down on the water. Two members of the crew were able to extricate themselves and were seen swimming to the shore, but the gallant pilot is missing. Without regard for his own safety he had done all that man could do to prevent his crew from falling into enemy hands.

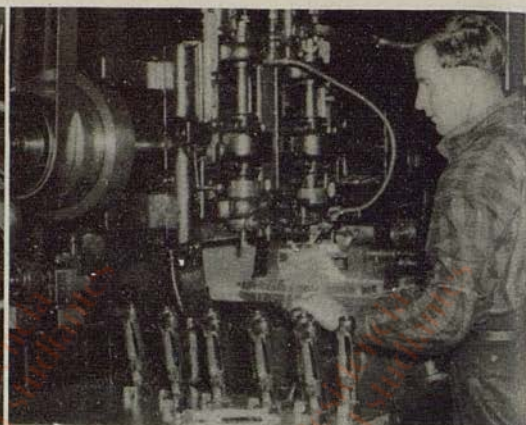
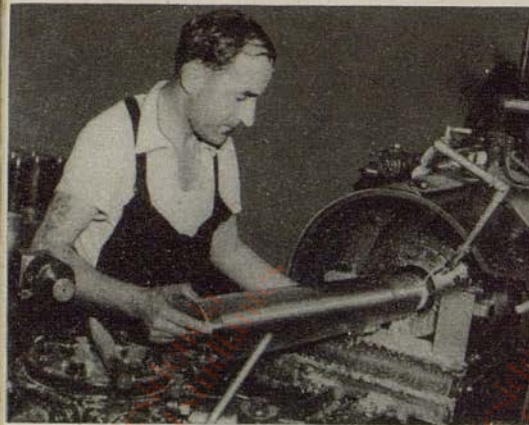
PRIVATE **RICHARD KELLIHER** AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

*13 September, 1943*

Private Kelliher faced death three times—twice to rout a Japanese machine-gun nest single-handed, and then to rescue a wounded comrade.

During an attack by his platoon on an enemy position at Nadzab, New Guinea, on September 13, 1943, the platoon came under heavy fire from a concealed enemy machine-gun post 50 yards away. Private Kelliher, on his own initiative and without orders, dashed towards the post and hurled two grenades at it, killing some of the enemy, but not all. Noting this, he returned to his section, seized a Bren gun, again dashed forward to within 30 yards of the post and silenced it. Private Kelliher next requested permission to go forward again and rescue his wounded section leader. This he did, though under heavy rifle fire from another position.





# FACTS AND FIGURES OF AUSTRALIA AT WAR

## MANPOWER

AUSTRALIA's manpower is now fully mobilised. Out of a total of 2,529,000 males now occupied, as many as 842,160, or 33 per cent, have been enlisted in the three Fighting Forces; 1,531,000 or 60 per cent, are engaged in direct or indirect war work. Only 117,000, or 4.5 per cent, continue to produce factory-made goods for civilian needs.

This figure of Australia's fighting forces means that two in every three of the male population between eighteen and forty, and one in approximately four of the total male population are in the Australian fighting services, which is equivalent to nearly 16,000,000 men in the United States, and more than 5,000,000 in Great Britain.

When Japan entered the war, 267,000 Australian men had volunteered to fight anywhere in the world with the A.I.F., the R.A.A.F., and the R.A.N.

To-day, volunteers to fight anywhere total 530,000—more than one in three of men between 18 and 40 and approximately one in seven of the total male population.







## LAND GIRLS OF AUSTRALIA

### WOMANPOWER

With the use of manpower in the war at saturation point, the Australian war effort is depending increasingly upon womanpower. Much has already been done to mobilise female labour. More will be done.

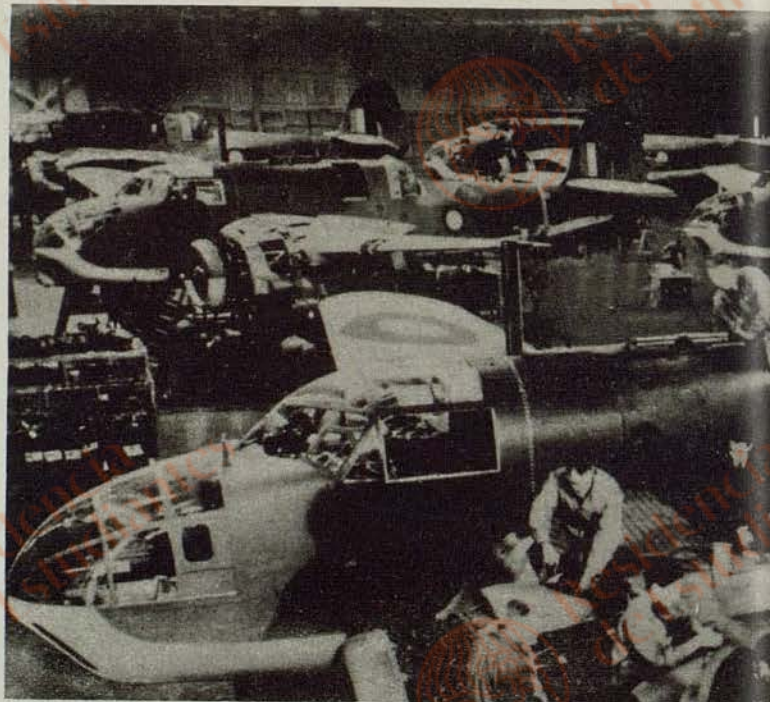
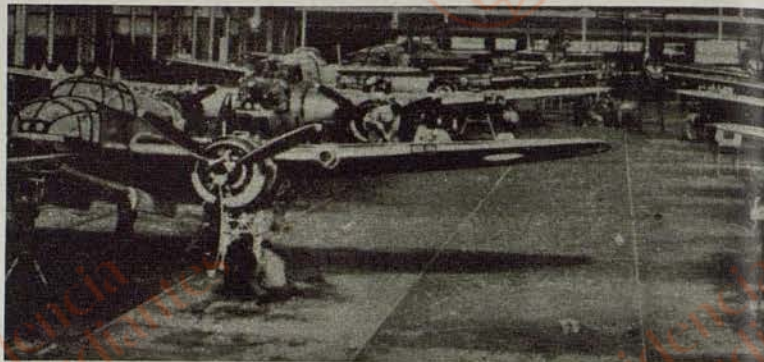
Nearly one-quarter of all occupied women in Australia to-day are engaged in direct war work, either serving in the auxiliary and nursing services or producing munitions, clothing and other war equipment. From practically nothing when war began, their numbers have increased steadily until they are now a body of expert war workers approaching 200,000 in strength.

Women are playing an increasingly important role in rural production. Between the outbreak of the European and Pacific wars, the number of women engaged in rural industry increased by only 5,000 from 20,000 to 25,000. The number now stands at 55,000, or more than 13 per cent of total employment in rural production.

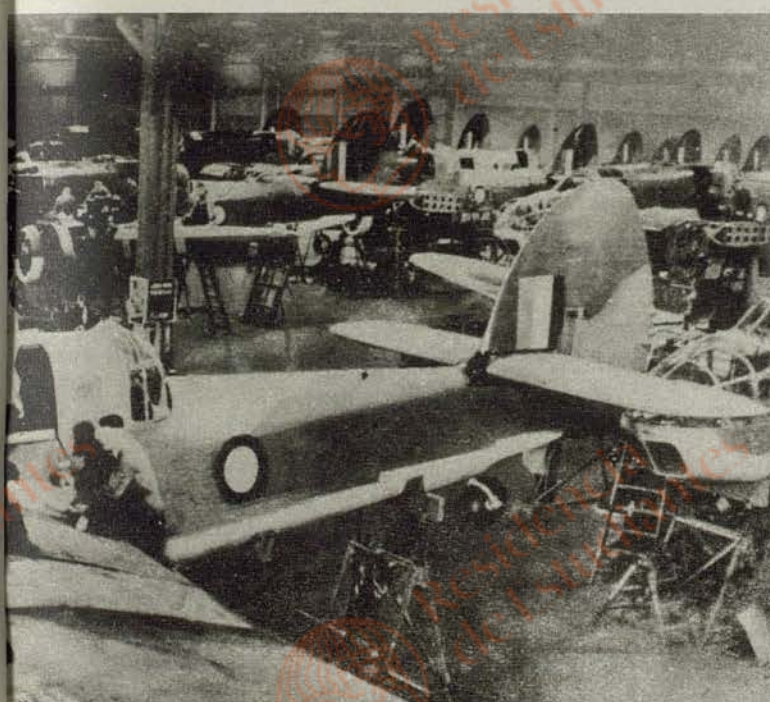
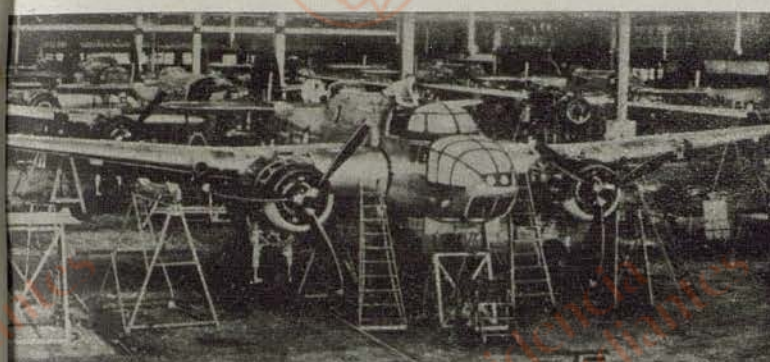
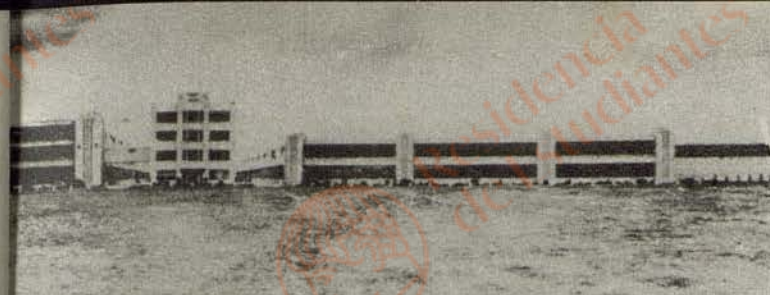
### THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE





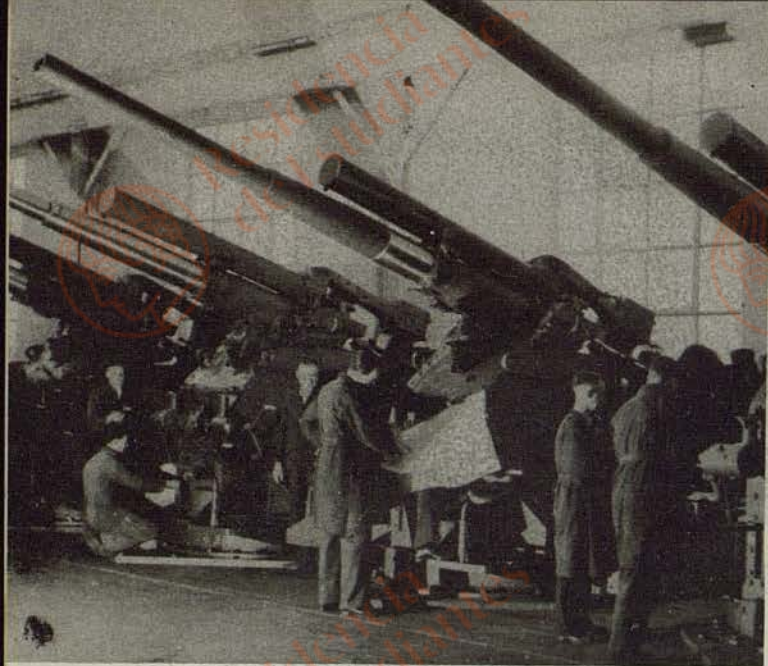


AT THE OUTBREAK OF WAR, FOUNDATIONS HAD BEEN LAID FOR THE AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION INDUSTRY, BUT THE INDUSTRY ITSELF WAS ONLY A PROMISE. TO-DAY IT IS A HUGE AND STILL-

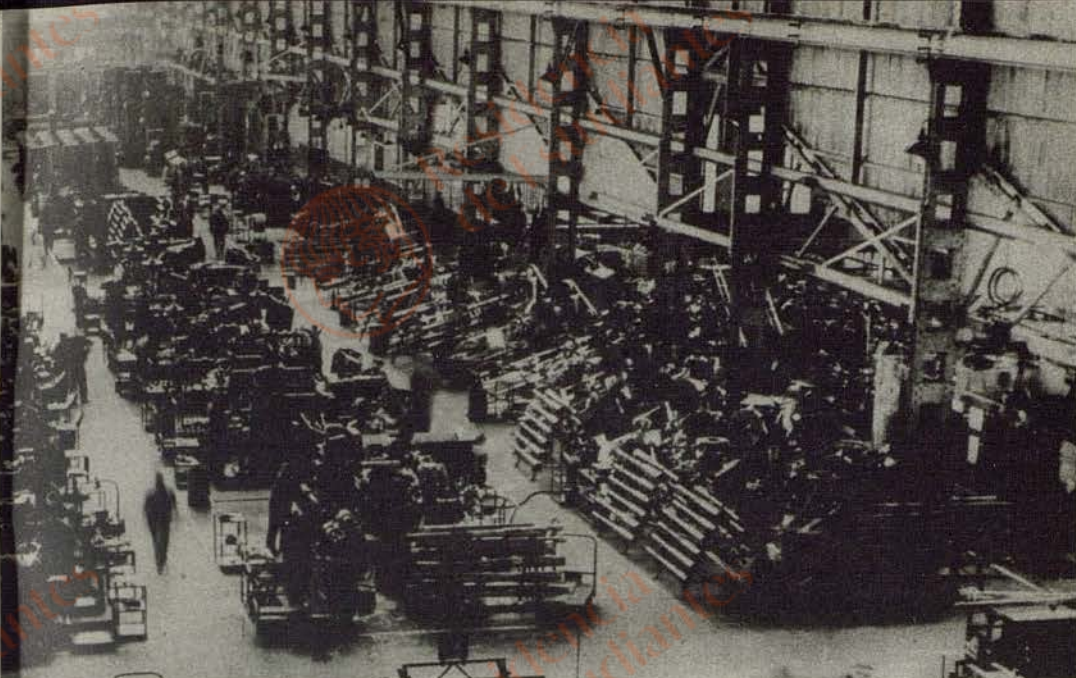


EXPANDING ORGANISATION. SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN AND HARDEST-HITTING AIRCRAFT TYPES ARE NOW INCLUDED IN AUSTRALIA'S EVER-EXPANDING AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION PROGRAMME





AUSTRALIAN-MADE 3.7 INCH ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS



A MACHINE SHOP WHERE BARRELS FOR ANTI-TANK GUNS ARE TURNED OUT

## MUNITIONS

By the end of May, 1943, the first—and major—stage of Australia's munitions programme had been virtually completed.

That meant that Australia—very largely from her own resources, supplemented to some extent from overseas—had fully armed and equipped her infantry divisions, which are largely mechanised, and had built up substantial reserves according to the limits set by the chiefs of the fighting forces.

Really intensive organisation of Australia's munitions programme did not begin until mid-1940 after the British Army had lost nearly all of its equipment at Dunkirk.

Yet, by mid-1943, production in many items of equipment was so far advanced that plans were drawn up for a far-reaching reshuffle of manpower involving diversion of many munition operatives to other and more immediately pressing skilled war work, such as food processing, the production of agricultural and food processing machinery, shipbuilding and repairing, aircraft construction and aircraft repairing.

Here is part of Australia's production range:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Cruiser tanks.  | Three types of anti-aircraft guns.                              |
| Combat warplanes, including engines.                            | Four types of tank and anti-tank guns.                          |
| Armoured universal carriers and cars.                           | Pistols, rifles, respirators, grenades, parachutes.             |
| Destroyers, corvettes, harbour defence vessels, and freighters. | All forms of pyrotechnics.                                      |
| Naval mines.  | Fifty-three types of radio.                                     |
| Aircraft bombs.   | Anti-aircraft predictors.                                       |
| Three types of mortars.   | Thirty-two other types of optical munitions.                    |
| Field guns including 25-pounders.                               | Searchlights and all-service electrical equipment.              |
| Two types of sub-machine guns.                                  | And she produces various types of ammunition for the foregoing. |
| Four types of machine guns.                                     |   |

In September, 1941, there were six Government munitions factories and 76 armament annexes in operation, with 25 Government factories under construction or authorised. They employed 37,789 persons. In May, 1943, there were 49 Government factories in operation or in an



advanced stage of construction and 178 annexes. They employed 79,000 persons—50,000 males and 29,000 females.

The total number of machine tools so far produced—ranging from small, high-precision units to those weighing up to 135 tons—exceeds 24,000.

Capital expenditure authorised on the Australian munitions industry (including shipbuilding and repairing, but excluding aircraft construction) totalled £141,600,000 at the end of May, 1943.

Since June 1943, engineering production in the Australian munitions programme has been concentrated more on aircraft production and shipbuilding than on armaments for the land forces.

## AIRCRAFT

At the outbreak of war the Australian aircraft industry was only in its infancy.

On the eve of the Pacific war, four types of aircraft were in production. Only one of them was an operational type; three were trainers. To-day, additional types of service planes are in various stages of production, the output of aero engines is considerable and sufficient training aircraft are being built to cover wastage. Aircraft in production include fighter and bomber types.

When Japan made war, Australia had produced a few Beauforts. Monthly production, now at a high level, is approaching a figure nearly twice as high as the average monthly output 18 months ago.

Annexes, spread over much of the Commonwealth and operated by undertakings already established before the outbreak of war, are producing a range of aircraft components that would have appeared visionary before the war.

Before the Government decided to concentrate production on operational types the Australian aircraft industry had built 2,000 elementary and advanced training planes.

As well as building planes the Department of Aircraft Production makes spare parts for both R.A.A.F. and U.S. Army Air Corps in Australia.

The current programme provides for the expenditure of approximately £1,250,000 for the establishment in Commonwealth buildings of engine overhaul shops, machine shops, hangars and workshops for air frame servicing in five of the States, as well as the extension of existing hangars and workshops in three States.

Both service and training aircraft are now being handled, including a large volume of work for the U.S. Army Air Corps, for which special maintenance facilities have been or are being established as a charge against Reverse Lend-Lease.

Some of the world's most modern and hardest-hitting aircraft types are now included in Australia's ever-expanding aircraft production programme. For the time being, their description and performance must remain secret.





FORGING HIGH SPEED TOOL STEEL

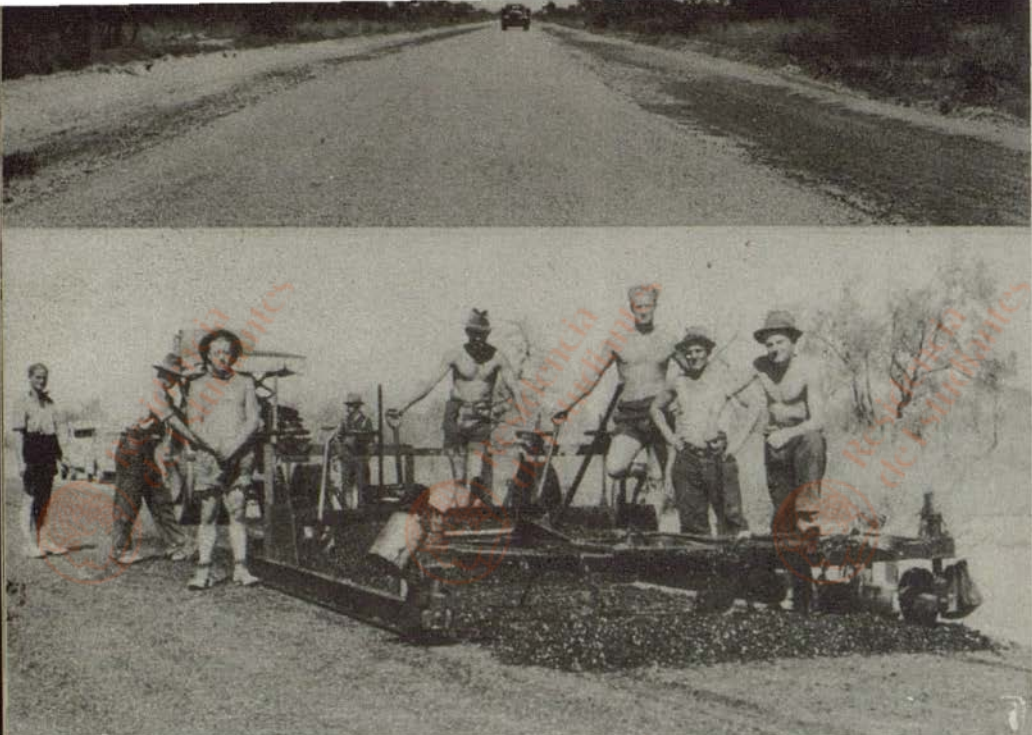


THE DRESSING OF A HEAVY BOMB  
IN AN AUSTRALIAN STEEL WORKS



CASTING THE HULL OF AN AUSTRALIAN CRUISER TANK





AUSTRALIA'S NEW NORTH-SOUTH TRANS-CONTINENTAL ROAD. FROM THE RAILHEAD AT ALICE SPRINGS THIS VITAL ARTERY NOW CARRIES ACROSS THE ALMOST UNINHABITED CENTRE OF THE CONTINENT STORES AND EQUIPMENT TO THE ARMED FORCES ON THE NORTHERN BOUNDARIES

### *ALLIED WORKS*

The Allied Works Council has in hand a programme of authorised works totalling £85,500,000. One project has cost more than £7,000,000. Others have exceeded £6,000,000, £4,000,000 and £3,000,000.

The Council's munition plant item is the largest building construction programme ever carried out in Australia on behalf of a single organisation. It exceeds £18,000,000 and embraces every State.

Members of the Civil Constructional Corps are working day and night in all climates and conditions. Small parties of them are at work at points as far apart as New Guinea on the north, and Tasmania on the south. Thousands of them are in Queensland, the Northern Territory, and other States.

For months past, the Council has been engaged on the production of mica, the all-purpose mineral, in Central Australia.

Thus, in converting Australia into an operational base, the Allied Works Council is simultaneously laying the foundations for the next era in the developmental history of the nation.





THE FIRST TRIBAL CLASS DESTROYER BUILT IN AUSTRALIA

## SHIPS

Australia's war-time shipbuilding industry has been enormously expanded in the past three years to meet three main types of demand:

- (1) The Naval programme.
- (2) The Commonwealth Government programme for merchant shipbuilding.
- (3) The demand for ship repairs.

The Naval construction programme comprises more than 100 vessels. Three main types have been announced—*Tribal* class destroyers, Australian minesweepers (commonly known as corvettes), and motor patrol boats. In addition, Australian shipyards have built boom vessels and many small craft for special duties, and are now turning out hundreds of barges and landing craft for both United States and Australian Forces in the south-west Pacific.

Two *Tribal* class destroyers of 1,970 tons—*Arunta* and *Warramunga*—have been announced as being in service against the enemy. Others in the same class remain on the secret list.

Australian-built corvettes are now being turned out at an average rate of three a month from slipways in four States.





ONE OF A PARTY OF 500 MEN OF THE A.I.F. WHO, AFTER MAKING HIS ESCAPE, CROSSED THE MOUNTAINS OF CRETE AND SAILED FOR THE AFRICAN COAST IN A SMALL BOAT WHICH BROKE INTO PIECES SOME MILES FROM THE SHORE. SUPPORTED BY A 2-GALLON WATER-CAN HE SWAM ASHORE

Numerically, the corvette programme for the R.A.N. is a substantial one. In addition, numbers of Australian-built corvettes have been delivered to the Admiralty and to the Royal Indian Navy.

The third main type of Naval shipbuilding is the construction of a fleet of hard-hitting motor patrol boats. They are now being turned out in considerable numbers.

Although Naval construction far exceeds merchant building, the Australian Shipbuilding Board is engaged on a programme for the construction of a large number of merchant ships of 9,000 tons.

### FOOD

War in the Pacific has expanded Australia's food commitments enormously.

These commitments are:

- (1) To feed every Australian and Allied Serviceman in the south-west Pacific war theatre, and in the south Pacific zone to the extent that New Zealand is unable to meet full United States requirements.
- (2) To feed the Australian civil population.
- (3) To maintain food exports to Britain at the highest possible level.

From the outbreak of war to June 30, 1943, Australia had shipped foodstuffs and beverages worth £219,000,000 to all overseas destinations—to Britain, to other parts of the Empire, and to Allied countries.



Of this total, exports to Britain accounted for £121,588,000 or 55.54 per cent of all foodstuffs shipped.

During the year 1939-40, when Britain was fighting desperately to build up her food reserves, Australia shipped to her foodstuffs valued at £45,303,000 or 73.45 per cent of total food exports for that year.

Feeding the vast armies based on Australia, victualling the ships that put into Australian ports, feeding the Australian civilian population, and maintaining food exports to Britain is a task of first magnitude for a reduced rural labour force.

Meat dehydration was on a purely experimental basis before 1939. Output in the year ended June 30, 1943, was about 1,000 tons. Total output for the calendar year 1943 is scheduled at 3,000 tons, and this will rise steeply to 5,000 tons a year.

So, just as Australia has rationed butter to supply Britain's essential needs, Australian civilians face reduced supplies of meat and certain vegetables so that supplies can be maintained to the food-processing plants now working at top pressure to meet Service demands.

Food targets for 1943-44 provide for substantial increases over 1942-43 production estimates in practically all major foodstuffs except wheat, of which there is an abundance. These increases will meet all essential demands.

WHEAT HARVESTING IN AUSTRALIA. HEADER HARVESTERS, INVENTED IN AUSTRALIA, TAKE OFF THE HEADS OF THE CROP, AUTOMATICALLY THRESH AND CLEAN IT, AND POUR IT INTO 200-LB. BAGS ON THE MACHINE





## SUPPLY AND RECIPROCAL AID

With the Netherlands East Indies in enemy hands, Australia is to-day drawing her petrol supplies from points twice as far away. In spite of this, reserve stocks of petroleum in Australia have been greatly expanded since Japan's entry into the war, and the production of substitute fuels is being expanded.

Scheduled output of shale petrol from Glen Davis is 9,000,000 gallons a year; four alcohol-from-wheat distilleries will give a combined output of 12,000,000 gallons a year; total distillery capacity for anhydrous alcohol is 7,500,000 gallons a year; coke-oven benzol is being produced at the rate of 5,000,000 gallons a year; and the output of wet alcohol rectified for use as motor spirit is 2,500,000 gallons a year.

In return for the aid which she is receiving from the United States, Australia has undertaken to provide as reciprocal aid, supplies and services to the limit of her physical resources.

This reciprocal aid embraces food, equipment, ammunition, stores, transport, strategic works and general services for the United States Forces in Australia and Australian territories.

In categories of supplies and services, and in quantities of goods furnished, Australia's reciprocal aid is high and is constantly expanding.

In November 1943 President Roosevelt stated that under reverse Lend-Lease enough beef and veal had been received from Australia practically to feed all the American troops based on that country, and, what was more, the total amount thus received was the same as the quantity of beef and veal which the United States was sending to the European theatre of war for the use of other than American troops. These items cancelled each other out, and he thought it was "amazing" when the saving it represented in transport and in other ways was considered.

## RATIONING

The Australian rationing system is based on two principles:

- (1) Equitable distribution within Australia of goods which have been forced into short supply by the impact of war; and
- (2) Australia's commitments to help feed and clothe her Allies.

## COST OF WAR

Australia is devoting half her total resources to the war—and the other half to producing the essential goods and services that keep a nation fighting.

Out of a total national income of £1,223,000,000 in 1942-43, £562,000,000 was spent on war.

To the end of August, the war had cost £1,194,000,000—an average of £166 a head, or £819,000 for each day of hostilities.

From the outbreak of war to May 31, 1943, subscriptions to war loans and other forms of national war savings totalled £430,000,000.





ON AN AUSTRALIAN CATTLE STATION. UP TO THE END OF JUNE 1943, AUSTRALIA PROVIDED BRITAIN WITH 1,619,530,000 CWT. OF MEAT OF ALL KINDS

AUSTRALIAN SHEEP, WHICH NUMBER 125,000,000, PRODUCE MORE THAN A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S WOOL REQUIREMENTS. THEY MAINTAIN A PRIMARY INDUSTRY WITH A CAPITAL ESTIMATED AT OVER £750,000,000







SYDNEY. THE LARGEST CITY IN AUSTRALIA,  
WITH A POPULATION OF 1,300,000

MELBOURNE. THE SECOND LARGEST CITY  
IN AUSTRALIA, POPULATION 1,076,000







ADELAIDE, CAPITAL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BRISBANE, CAPITAL OF QUEENSLAND

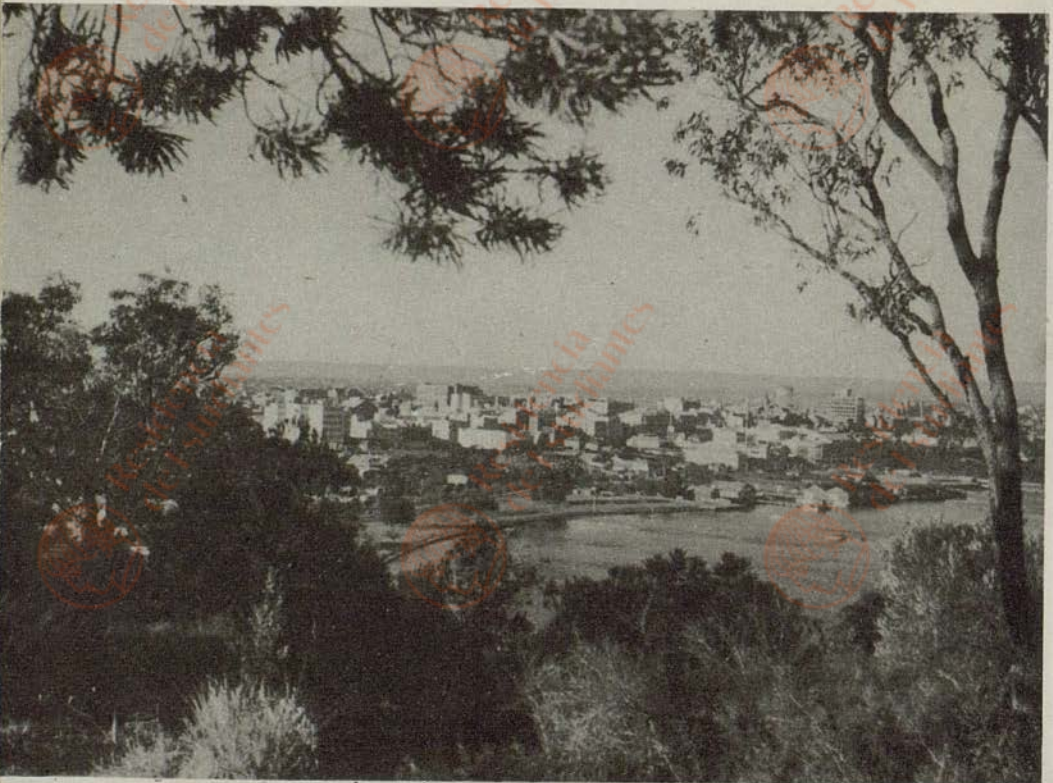






HOBART, CAPITAL CITY OF TASMANIA

PERTH, CAPITAL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA







A TYPICAL AUSTRALIAN BUSH SCENE





OVERCOMING INCREDIBLE DIFFICULTIES, THE NATIVES OF NEW GUINEA  
CARRY OUR WOUNDED THROUGH THE JUNGLE

MADE AND PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN  
BY JARROLD AND SONS, LTD., EMPIRE PRESS, NORWICH

06 98-547C  
GAK  
Fcto doc. / ~~XXXX~~  
S.XX / ~~XXXX~~