

JANUARY 2023

THE BRIBIE "BUGLE"

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Produced and edited by Graham Bradshaw

IT HAPPENED IN JANUARY

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR 2023

HMAS TOBRUK IN ACTION



HMAS Tobruk in Korean waters. Photo: RAN.gov.au

HMAS Tobruk bombarded North Korean forces at Chomi Do on the **7th of January 1952**. This action

helped forestall a

North Korean invasion of Yongmae Do Island. HMAS Tobruk operated as part of the United Nations Naval Force in Korea. Her tour of duty ended on the **25th of January** after steaming 39,000 miles and firing 2,316 rounds from her 4.5 inch guns.

2nd AIF SAILS OVERSEAS

The Second Australian Imperial Force sailed for the Middle East on the **10th of January 1940**.

ALLIED ATTACK SANANANDA

As the battles for the New Guinea beachheads continued in to **January 1943**, and Buna had fallen on the **2nd of January**, Australian and American forces began attacks on the Japanese positions at Sanananda on the **12th of January**. The battle raged on until the **25th of January** when the Japanese finally retreated.



Walking wounded at Sanananda



AWM Photo: 014178

Australian Tank at Sanananda—AWM Photo 030258/09



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

NEW COMFORTS FUND FORMED

The Australian Comforts Fund, (originally formed during WWI), was re-established on the **9th of January 1941**. This second organisation

was then dissolved in June 1946.

EVACUATION OF CAPE HELLES

The British and French forces had landed on Gallipoli at Cape Helles on the 25th of April 1915 and managed to evacuate by the **9th of January 1916** with hardly any losses. They took with them 35,000 men, 3,600 horses and mules, 300 vehicles and 125 heavy artillery pieces.

FIRST METEOR ATTACK

The RAAF Meteor jets launched their first rocket attack against North Korean ground forces on the **8th of January 1952**. The meteors had been forced into the ground attack roll because they were not capable of air to air battles against Russian built Mig fighters.



Photo Graham Bradshaw 2008

Gloster Meteor

FRANK HURLEY DIES

James Francis "Frank" Hurley was one of the 1st official AIF photographers appointed in 1917. He continued with his work during WWII. He passed away on the 17th of January 1962.

1RAR ATTACKS V.C. TUNNELS

1RAR, which was attached to the US 173rd Airborne Brigade, attacked a series of tunnels in Binh Duong Province, believed to house a Viet Cong HQ during Operation Crimp on the **9th of January 1966**. This operation by 1RAR and two brigades of the US 1st Infantry Division uncovered a vast network of tunnels stretching for 200 kilometres. They were unable to destroy a sufficient number of tunnels to prevent the enemy from using the network, which they did for the rest of the war.

77 SQUADRON MUSTANGS

On the **19 of January 1951**, Mustang aircraft of number 77 Squadron RAAF, attacked Chinese positions at Pyongyang firing rockets. Pyongyang had been captured by the UN forces in October 1950 but was abandoned in early December 1950 because of Chinese intervention.



Arming 77 Sqn Mustangs with rockets

AWM Photo: PO0337.009

HMAS SYDNEY IN KOREA

HMAS Sydney began its seventh and final patrol in Korean waters on the **16th of January 1952**. Sydney carried 24 Hawker Sea Fury and 14 Fairey Firefly fighter bombers. These aircraft were operated by Nos. 805 and 808 squadrons. Ninety nine aircraft were hit by enemy fire and nine were shot down. Three pilots were killed and six wounded.

Photos; RAN.gov.au

L. Sea Fury aircraft over HMAS Sydney.

R. Fairey Firefly bombers



AFC SAILS FOR FRANCE

No. 4 Squadron, the last Australian Flying Corps squadron to be formed at Point Cook during WWI, sailed for England on the **17th of January 1917**. The squadron was equipped Sopwith Camels and arrived in France in December 1917. They flew the first patrol over German lines on the **9th of January 1918** followed by the first combat action on the **13th of January**. In late 1918 the squadron was equipped with Sopwith Snipes which they flew until the end of

the war. Casualties suffered during the remainder of the war were 35 killed and 16 wounded.

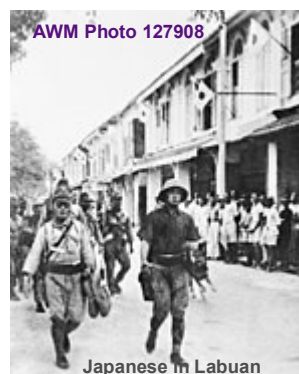
AWM Photo: EO2662



Officers of C Flight, 4 Squadron

BORNEO SURRENDERS

The oil rich British Borneo Territories surrendered to the Japanese on the **19th of January 1942**. They were to be occupied for over three years during which time the local people were subjected to "Japanisation"



AWM Photo 127908

Japanese in Labuan

WIRRAWAYS OVER RABAUL

Eight RAAF Wirraway aircraft of number 24 Squadron engaged 100 Japanese bombers and Zero fighters over Rabaul on the **20th of January 1942**. In just ten minutes, out-numbered and out-gunned, three were shot down, one crashed on take-off and two others were damaged in crash landings. The remainder of 24 Squadron withdrew to Townsville on the **22nd** and Rabaul fell to the Japanese on the **23rd of January**.



AWM Photo: PO2885.001

RAAF Wirraway in New Guinea

Lt. Col. Charles Groves Wright Anderson

South African born, Charles Anderson, 2/19th Battalion, was the only Australian recipient of the Victoria Cross in any January. He was awarded the VC for his actions from the **18th-23rd of January 1942** at the battle of Muar, Malaya, including his efforts to lead his men in a fighting withdrawal. He personally led attacks against enemy position for a desperate four days before being forced to let the men flee south. During his captivity he worked on the Thai-Burma railway until the Japanese surrender in 1945. He was well respected by the men for

his attempts to win better conditions for the prisoners. Charles Anderson had served during WWI in Africa with the Kings' African Rifles and later migrated to Australia to a farm in southern New South Wales. After the war he was elected to the Australian parliament as the Member for Hume from 1955 until his defeat in 1961. At the battle of Muar his Brigade had destroyed ten enemy tanks and in 1963 when I travelled south from 3RAR's base at Terendak, Malacca, I can remember seeing several wrecked tanks still lying in the paddy fields near the Muar River, Parit Sulong bridge.



WAR MEMORIAL WWII BOOKS

At the December meeting I said that I would expand on my talk about the issue of these books, copies of which are held by the Sub Branch Library. During the War the Australian War Memorial decided to publish a series of Christmas Books written by members of the defence forces. These books were very popular and held great sentimental value. They also helped lift troop morale and provided a link between the men on active service overseas and their families at home. Money raised by the sale of the books was to go towards the completion of the War Memorial in Canberra. The Memorial published the first book "Active Service" in 1941. The initial print run of 94,531 copies was the highest print order in Australian history at the time. "Active Service" eventually sold 138,208 copies, however, the sales record is held by 'Jungle Warfare', the 1944 Christmas book which had an initial print run of 230,407 and total sales of 268,278. Books continued to be published after the war had ended with the "As You Were" series running from 1946 until 1950. "Victory Roll" was published in 1952 and the last three editions "On Guard", "Signals" and "RAAF Saga" were printed in 1953. In all, twenty books were published. I could not find the original cost of the books.

The Christmas book list is as follows:- HMAS (1942), HMAS MkII (1943), HMAS MkIII (1944), HMAS MkIV (1945), Active Service, (1941), Soldiering On (1942), Khaki and Green (1943), Jungle Warfare (1944), Stand Easy (1945), On Guard (1953), Signals (1953), These Eagles (1942), RAAF Log (1943), RAAF Saga (1953), Victory Roll (1952) As You Were (1946), (1947), (1948), (1949), and (1950). We are fortunate to have two books in our library which are in the original cardboard post office dispatch boxes (see photos below).

"Soldiering On" was sent to Mrs. J Clarke, 4 Victoria Avenue, Woollahra, Sydney by her son Val for Christmas 1942. Val was Private Val Leigh Clarke, NX18057 of the 2/1 Anti Aircraft Regiment RAA. "Jungle Warfare" was sent to Val himself for Christmas 1944. Val enlisted at Paddington, Sydney, on the 28th of May 1940 and was discharged on the 23rd of November 1945. Val's service record has not been digitised, however, unit records indicate that he could have, and most probably did serve in Palestine, North Africa, Darwin, New Guinea and Borneo manning 40mm Bofors and 3.7 inch anti aircraft guns.

Post Office Staff preparing books for dispatch

