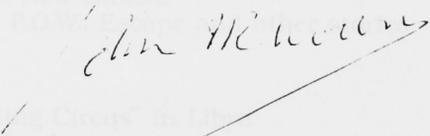

Foreword



When the Regiment was raised, the scourge of the dive-bomber and the low-flying aircraft was at its height.

Before the recruits, who had been personally selected by the Battery Commanders during visits to the various recruiting depots, were finally posted to the Regiment, they were addressed by me and told in precise terms what the role of the Regiment was:—
"To attack, fight, damage and destroy hostile dive-bombers and low-flying aircraft."

Every man accepted the challenge. How they did this, despite adverse circumstances, inadequate and unfamiliar equipment — in some instances captured from the enemy — restrictions on the use of ammunition and ever-changing demands on individual gun-crew's initiative, is told in the following pages of this book.


(THE BOOMER)

Colonel (Retd.), C.O. 2/3rd Australian Light
Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment
2nd A.I.F.

Preface

This book is about young men, some of whom left young families behind when they volunteered to give up their freedom for as long as it would take to restore freedom to those who had been deprived of it.

It is also about those young men, with inadequate training and inadequate equipment, given tasks which placed their lives unnecessarily in jeopardy.

The book is not about the glorification of war, but about the comradeship, the team spirit and the initiative of these young men.

It is written in memory of those who gave their lives, or who were maimed physically or mentally, and those who mourned or cared for them. This book remembers, too, the wives, the parents, the families and the sweethearts who were concerned for the men they loved.

ERRATA – “ON TARGET”

- Inside front cover: Map, for 'Gala' read 'Gaza' (Palestine).
- p.5, line 2 for 'whey' read 'when'; for 'voluntered' read 'volunteered'.
- p.15, line 46: for 'was' read 'were'.
- p.77: caption to photograph, for 'M. O'Connor (Sgt.)' read 'M. O'Connor',
for 'G Connor' read 'G. Connor (Sgt.)'.
- p.80 below both photographs, for 'May, 1940' read 'May, 1941'.
- p.105 captions to photographs, for 'May, 1940' read 'May, 1941'.
- p.125, line 32: for 'shall be able to get out' read 'shall be to get out'.
- p.147, line 4. caption to photograph, for 'burried' read 'buried'
- p.179: heading on top right of page, for 'Toburk' read 'Tobruk'.
- p.286, line 4: caption to photograph, for '(no. Strip)' read '(No. 3 Strip)'.

Please attach the enclosed label to the spine of the book.

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J. C. Paton
President 2/3rd Aust. L.A.A. Regiment Association