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C.J.E. RAE  
Tal Tal, Tucks Road,  
Shoreham, Vic. 3916.

2nd/3rd AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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# “TAKE POST!”

Newsletter of the  
2nd/3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft  
Regiment Association

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## RE-UNION NOTICE

The Re-union will be held on Monday 24th April, 1989 from 12 noon until 5 p.m., lunch and drinks provided. The subscription this year is \$15.00.

The venue is the same as last year, namely the Air Force Convention Centre, 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra.

*Cec. Rae, Hon. Secretary.*

(1990 marks 50 years since the formation of the Regiment. Make a note to be present at the 1990 Re-union.)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the A.F. Convention Centre 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra at 11.45 a.m. on 24th April (just prior to the Re-union).

Nominations for the Committee must be lodged with the Secretary 7 days before the meeting.

*Cec. Rae, Hon. Secretary.*

## 2nd/3rd AUSTRALIAN LIGHT ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

**President**  
JIM PATON

**Hon. Secretary**  
CEC. RAE  
Tal Tal, Tucks Road, Shoreham, Vic. 3916.

**Hon. Treasurer**  
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**Newsletter Editor**  
RON BRYANT  
6 Blanche Avenue, Parkdale, Vic. 3195.

**W.A. President**  
GORDON CONNOR  
6 Exton Place, Spearwood, W.A. 6163.

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A few copies of our history, “On Target”, remain.  
Obtain your copy at the Re-union, for \$29.00

**PLEASE ADVISE OF YOUR CHANGE OF  
ADDRESS!**

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## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 1988 Annual Re-Union was a resounding success. We are fortunate to have such a fine venue at the Air Force Convention Centre with its staff who look after us so well.

As we age, we mellow, and our re-unions are all the better for that. The majority decided that we should continue to have afternoon re-unions. So it is easy to use public transport if there is .05 concern and it avoids a late night out.

Over 100 members attended; a couple for the first time, several from interstate and many from the country.

Anzac Day itself saw a record number of marchers in total; but we were light on with only 35 members. I've heard all the reasons why some don't march. Some reasons are good, such as physical disability, being interstate or on holidays; but some reasons aren't so sound. Watching the March on T.V., do you ever get the feeling, "I should be there"!

As time goes on and memories fade, it seems important not to allow the sacrifices which have been made by servicemen to be forgotten. Tens of thousands of men, women and children, including numerous new Australians believe this and attend the Anzac march to assure us they do.

I saw several inspiring placards held by children like the one that stated "It was your courage which enables us to live safely here"!

As we march and approach the Shrine, it's then uphill, but we straighten our backs, hold our head high, put our chest out further than our waist, the band music stirring us, the wonderful people cheering and the kids waving flags. We right dress, march to attention, and for a few moments we are young again, being carried back to nearly 50 years ago.

We pass the official dais, look the Governor and Premier in the eye, then suddenly, left wheel steadily on our axis, march another hundred yards and it's over. Coffee is served by the Army. It's time to talk, to go back and watch for mates marching with other units, to give the Vietnam men a cheer, to stare in wonder at trim Army girls with rifles and bayonets, intermingled with the fine boys of the Reserve and to clap the great bands so willingly inspiring the marchers and the crowds.

Of course, there is an impressive service at the Shrine after the March.

God willing, what about planning to "Take Post" behind our proud banner in 1989.

To close off this note I draw your attention to the year 1990 which will mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Regiment. Your Committee is already thinking about how we will celebrate this event at the 1990 Re-Union and we will keep you informed of what is planned.

Meanwhile interstate and country members, I suggest that you think about your travel and accommodation plans to attend that important Re-union.

*Jim Paton*

## CONGRATULATIONS WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH OF OUR ASSOCIATION

Good news! We now have a W.A. Branch. The main office - bearers are President Gordon Connor, Vice President Ian Grieve, Hon. Secretary Gordon Fellows, Treasurer George Howat and Auditor Theo Fitzhardinge.

Committee members are Mrs. Isa Fellows, Mrs Beris Sleigh and Charles Sleigh. Twenty gunners and ten ladies attended the inaugural meeting. Clive Rose (RHQ) and his wife Phyl attended the next meeting, were warmly welcomed and gave helpful advice.

A banner is being made by members, to march behind on Anzac Day. Lunch meetings, ladies included, are planned for the year ahead. News of some of our gunners we left in the West follow:-

Good golfers are Theo Fitzhardinge, Jim Moyes, Alan Rowe and Bob Vansittart.

Many are bowlers, the most fanatical being Allan Cook and his wife Daphne. They spend so much time at Rockingham Bowling Club that it's necessary to write for an appointment if you wish to call on them.

Norm Anderson and Evelyn converted their tennis court into a vegetable garden and have fine flower gardens. Norm's friend takes the grapes from his vine on the pergola to make a modern version of jungle juice which tastes like furniture varnish. Gordon Fellows and Isa, with 4 wheel drive and caravan, search the goldfields for that elusive metal, with detectors. They don't let on how much they get or where they get it in case they push down the gold price. Apart from gold, Gordon seeks fish at Warnbro Sound.

Wally Parkinson delves back into the history of his forbears. He's back as far as the Norman invasion.

Arthur Harper, not content with playing his part in World War 2, heard the bugle blow for the Korean War. He fronted up again and served with 3 Battalion, RAR. Presently he is much involved with his RSL Sub-Branch.

Good soldiers battling on are:-

Keith (Flame-thrower) Dyer, has had a couple of strokes, is paralysed down one side, but still drives a car with hand controls.

Jack (Nap) Croft has had an operation for tummy ulcers but is OK at present. Nap lost his wife a few years ago, but has a fine family who keep an eye on him.

Harry Harper gets treatment for emphysema.

Cliff Scott and Charles Sleigh have both had problems but stay on parade and attend meetings.

Lost in the West are Barry Buck, Billy Glatz, Jock Mentiplay, Mick Parnell and Vic Sharp. If found, will they report in to Gordon Connor, 6 Exton Place, Spearwood, 6163.

*Apologies to members who submitted other stories,  
which we hope to produce later. Meanwhile, send  
any further news to the Editor*

## RECOLLECTIONS FROM A DIARY

Although many members of the Regiment kept diaries of some kind during the war, few of those who were P.O.W. were able to bring their records home. Bill Dellar's careful recording of dates, people and events provide the following detail which will stir the memories for many of our less-fortunate mates who were P.O.W. and will be of interest to others.

'ON TARGET' (pp 100-102,134,140) records the series of events involving survivors from the "HEREWARD" via Rhodes, Bari to Capua P.O.W. camp where the glow from Mt Vesuvius was visible at night.

- 1/7/41 - Train to Prato Isarco, to be accommodated in two-storeyed former brewery in the valley of the Isarco River.
- 29/10/41 - Train to Gruppignano camp N.W. of Trieste with a view of snow-clad Julian Alps to N.E.  
Following "The Hair Raid" (ref. O.T.p.134,141) 14 men of 7Bty entrained for Chiavari Camp 52 from where British planes could be heard bombing Genoa. A footbridge provided access to the camp while a flying fox delivered stores.
- 13/9/43 - Following Italian capitulation Germans took over camp. Entrained for five day journey to LAMSDORF and STALAG V111B. At the same time Italian soldiers and civilians were also transported to work in German mines and factories and on farms. Kammandos work parties) were based here amidst undulating country and nearby pineforest.
- 18/9/43 - Among 7Bty men were:- G. Prince, T. Hill, H. Newstead, L. McMaster, L. Jeffrey, R. Buchanan, H. Woodward, T. Carlyon, P. Garner.
- 4/2/44 - Bomber Mannix said to be in STALAG V111C.
- 8/2/44 - T. Hill sent out on a Kommando.
- 16/2/44 - Alf Sutherland made a bucket.
- 17/2/44 - W. Holmes in hospital.
- 19/2/44 - R. Buchanan received nine months for refusing a German order.
- 1/3/44 - J. George has X-ray at Breslau.
- 4/3/44 - G. Batty left with N.C.O.s for Bavaria.
- 1/4/44 - Arthur Sutherland in hospital.
- 15/4/44 - Letters now addressed Bdr. W. Dellar
- 24/4/44 - 7 prisoners escaped last night.
- 5/5/44 - Alf Sutherland and C. Kaighin out on Kommando.
- 18/5/44 - Big search for 7 who escaped by tunnel dug from Barrack 7.
- 6/6/44 - Our clandestine radio says second front started yesterday.
- 7/6/44 - Russian P.O.W. digging slit trenches outside the wire.
- 6/7/44 - Harry Newstead kept wickets for Australia v England match.
- 16/7/44 - L. Smith, 8Bty came in from Oderburg.
- 21/7/44 - Rumor says that Hitler has been wounded.
- 30/7/44 - Roy East in gaol after escape and being free 42 days.
- 4/8/44 - Rumor of Allied landing in South of France.
- 15/8/44 - C. Sleigh arrived from STALAG V111A.
- 23/8/44 - Big Allied air raid on BLAKHAMMER east of here. 37 P.O.W.s killed, 19 injured.

- 1/9/44 - Few crystal sets in STALAG.
- 3/9/44 - 5 years of war today.
- 15/9/44 - Rumored that Hitler has ordered execution of all Jews.
- 20/9/44 - Note from C. Kaighin says R. Crawley, H. Anchen, G. Phipps in Switzerland.
- 10/11/44 - First fall of snow. Germans now taking soap in their searches.
- 25/11/44 - J. Henry in hospital for hernia operation.
- 6/12/44 - Every day one sees chaps digging in the refuse heap for small potatoes.
- 11/12/44 - Jerries found barrel of jungle juice in RAF compound.
- 24/12/44 - Reg Thomson and C. Kaighin in, off Kommando.
- 15/1/45 - Some repatriates left the STALAG today.
- 16/1/45 - Bubby Dowell in from Gorlitz.
- 19/1/45 - German salient in Ardennes cleaned up. Russians said to be 15 m. in from the Silesian border.
- 21/1/45 - News says Russians penetrated 20m. into Silesia on 60m front.
- 22/1/45 - Explosion at night. Half STALAG moved out at 3 p.m.
- 23/1/45 - Remaining occupants moved out with two days German rations, 1 R.C. food parcel & 50 cigarettes each carrying surplus clothing or pulling home-made sleds over the snow. Civilian population also evacuating with convoys of horse-drawn farm wagons. Guns from Russian front heard clearly.
- 5/2/45 - After 14 days march arrived at Gorlitz Stalag. Met J. Goddard, T. Baker-Williams, J. Morphett, O. Winter, some suffering from severe frost-bite.
- 10/2/45 - 3000 Lamsdorf P.O.W.s and 1000 Russians marched west again.
- 12/3/45 - Column arrived at Ziegenhein STALAG 1XA. 967 men quartered in 3 large tents on bed of pine needles and straw. All fatigued, weak from lack of food and dysentery rife.
- 30/3/45 - General Patton's troops captured STALAG.
- 9/4/45 - Taken by truck to drome & flown in Douglas aircraft to Westcox near Oxford.
- 11/4/45 - Arrived Eastbourne Reception Camp in Sussex. Met T. Hill, G. Schmutsch, B. Grace, P. Bannister, Lieut. Guest, C. Kaighin, R. Tonkin, A. Young, J. & W. Knight, R. East, T. Baker-Williams.
- 8/5/45 - Churchill announced VE Day. Streets bedecked with flags. Pubs open till 2 a.m.
- 14/5/45 - C. Bremner, R. Wettenhall, L. Eager, C. Spears, J. Anderson arrive.
- 21/5/45 - J. Sloane, 8Bty, on cookhouse duty.
- 24/5/45 - King and Queen put on garden party for P.O.W.s at Buckingham Palace.
- 16/6/45 - W. Holmes married at Langstone, K. Robertson best man.
- 20/6/45 - W. Wigglesworth, M. Webster arrive after 17 months with Partisans in North Italy.
- 27/7/45 - "Rangitiki" sailed from Liverpool with 1200 P.O.W.s via Panama for Australia.

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

It is with sincere regret that we report the passing of former comrades :-

E. C. Maher	7
R. N. Tonkin	7
C. K. Butler	8
M. L. Butterworth	8
W. J. Crowley	9
E. H. Anderson	9
C. J. Humphries	9
E. J. Stringer	9

## GETTING YOUR GOAT

During their recent visit to the Middle East, Dave Humphreys and his wife Helen met with a touring group of South Africans.

On board the vessel sailing towards Crete, the South Africans were interested to learn that Dave had served there with 7 Battery during the war and that he was returning to retrace his steps. They invited Dave and Helen to travel with them on their trek across the mountains to the south coast - a track Dave had covered during the evacuation.

As the party travelled down through the rugged Samaria Gorge towards Agia Roumeli, a small village on the coast, Dave mentioned among his experiences of the events during those hectic days in 1941 that he had helped consume half-raw goat meat near that place.

One of the South Africans related this story to the inn-keeper of the only establishment providing for the comfort of visitors to Agia Roumeli and that gentleman presented Dave with a bill for 250,000 drachma and an accompanying note which read:-

"Dear Sir,

We like to remind you in 1941 you have killed one goat for your hunger. That will cost you 250,000 drachma. Normally it is not so expensive one goat but you have stop the life of this for bringing new ones. This is the reason for being expensive. This is your receipt thank you

Oct. 10 1987  
signed Georgia Tzatznake  
Agia Roumeli Hotel  
Sfakia."

The South Africans reported the incident in their group's regular magazine accompanied by fine photographs of Dave and Helen and a shot of the party in the Samaria Gorge with the comment:-

"One of the best moments of the tour was seeing Dave hopping uneasily from foot to foot when he was invoiced for the goat he had helped plunder at the mouth of the Gorge back in 1941"

Another comment made reference to Dave's acquired reputation for careless handling of the truth with some of his stories. Incidentally Dave was able to settle the account with the inn-keeper by handing over one Australian Rising Sun badge he had providently taken with him.

## Tobruk Truth

Members who served in the Siege of Tobruk will remember the newsheet "Tobruk Truth", sometimes known as "The Dinkum Oil". This was produced by Sergeant Bill Williams on single sheets of foolscap, with a circulation of some 600. "Tobruk Truth" passed on excerpts from the BBC news - good or bad - and was eagerly read by our gunners who were leading such an isolated existence while besieged.

After World War 2, Bill Williams became a newspaper journalist and author. Sadly, Bill passed away recently. "We will remember him."

## Halt! Action!

THE ARTILLERY DISPLAY TEAM. Bendigo, is preparing a 40 mm Bofors A.A. gun for public display purposes. The team is basing the display on the guns used by our Regiment and are appealing for negatives or photographs of gunners on or around the gun, the guns, and Morris tractors. They are also appealing for information on camouflage colours, and for any item suitable for public display purposes.

The Team has the support of this Association.

Items should be forwarded to Dave Humphreys, 52, Mill Street, Bendigo. 3550; or to the Team Secretary, P.O. Box 88, Bendigo. 3550.

## THOSE FAMOUS GUNNERS - THE GOSCHENS.

Readers of "On Target" and of John Grimwade's "Eleven Troopships" will remember the references to Captain John Goschen, M.C. and Bar, of 1 RHA, whose driver became a good friend of John and his Breda crew, Bob, Bill, Cal, Jim and Maurice.

In 1987 John visited John Goschen's elder brother, Brigadier Geoffrey D.S.O., M.C. at his home in Tetbury, Glos. and spent some happy hours with this fine old warrior and his charming wife Jane.

Sadly, Geoffrey, who was born in 1911, died in April, 1988, from a heart attack, in his garden after a good lunch with Jane who says that that was just the way he would have wanted to die, suddenly, not lingering as an invalid.

The Daily Telegraph reported how he won the Military Cross, when an outpost he was commanding on the Egyptian border in September, 1940 fought off an Italian column of 100 vehicles protected by 12 guns. The enemy force had the advantage because the outpost party was in full view, but, after about an hour, the Italians fled, abandoning 47 trucks and 7 knocked-out guns.

Geoffrey Goschen was a member of a gallant military family, the son of Major General Arthur "Jumbo" Goschen, who won the D.S.O. three times in the 1914/18 War. Geoffrey joined the Royal Artillery in 1931. During World War 2 he served in India and then the Middle East, where, in six months he won two M.C.s and a D.S.O.

He was taken prisoner in 1942, his gunners firing at point blank range until they were over-run by German tanks. He survived the war as a P.O.W. - but that is another story.

## Crete Re-visited (Eric Allpress)

From England, my wife and I made a two weeks visit to Crete. I had often expressed the wish that I might return there some day, but little did I think that the opportunity might arise.

We flew into Herakleon and had a two hour coach trip to our hotel. This afforded the first surprise. We travelled along a four lane motorway to Rethymnon (I recall that the war time spelling was Retimo) and this was in no way similar to that on which we traversed in 1941 - this was then little more than a track.

Rethymnon is a busy tourist resort - our hotel (the Kriti) was just across the road from a beautiful beach. Every second house had a sign which indicated "Room to Let". The tourist brochure said that the beach extended for 15 miles. At first sight it was a mass of sun tanned brown bodies. Scandinavians were in the majority, then English.

We were on a coach tour every second day and one was the day we visited Suda Bay and the War Cemetery.

The Cemetery is well cared for. It was extremely sad to read on most headstones - "A Soldier of the Second World War" then a space, and then "Known unto God".

Embossed on a stone at the Gateway is the following:  
 "The land on which this Cemetery stands is the gift of the Greek people. It is the final Resting Place of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen who are buried here."

Crete is now one of the most popular holiday resorts for Europeans and well it might be. We were there in the summer and it was packed with tourists.

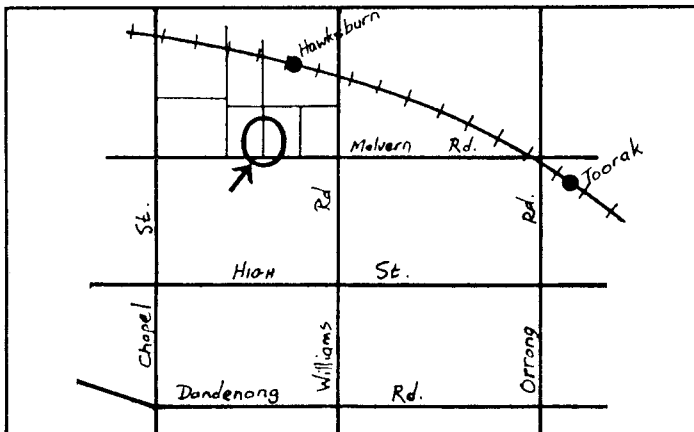
From the cemetery, the guide pointed out to me St. John's Hill where our gun was placed before we made the trek to Herakleon. We had a pleasant stay at Rethymnon. The only sad memory is that of the Cemetery; but softened by the manner in which it is maintained.

The Airport is in no way like the strip on which our gun was sited up to the night of the evacuation. In fact, I could find no-one who could tell me that the airport is on the same site as the old war-time strip

(Editor's Note. At the Suda Bay Cemetery, there are 1498 graves, of which 139 are named Australian graves and 57 unknown Australian graves. Many of the remainder are of unknown nationality.

The only headstones marked as 2nd/3rd Light Anti-aircraft Regiment are for Gunner John Hawke, age 41, and for Gunner Douglas Layton, age 26.

On the hill overlooking the old Maleme Airstrip is the German War Cemetery, also well cared for, with 4,465 German graves. The names of those lost at sea are not recorded at either cemetery.)



## TROOPSHIP DUNTROON AND USS PERKINS

by Ken Spence.

On page 299 of On Target, reference was made to a collision by the troopship Duntroon with an American destroyer the first night out of Buna. At the time I did not realise the gravity of the situation. There were only a few seconds between the destroyer ramming us, in which case, there would have been a horrendous loss of life, as the Duntroon was full of troops homeward bound.

I learnt that the name of this ship was U.S.S. Perkins. The Perkins served as escort for a refuelling tanker together with the heavy cruiser Chicago, in the Solomons area in early 1942. It was part of an attack group involving aircraft carriers on a big raid at Tulagi Harbour. The Perkins assisted in picking up downed flyers who had bailed out in the water. This ship was part of Task Force 17 making attacks on enemy surface vessels in the Solomons. The cruiser CHICAGO and destroyer PERKINS participated in the "Battle of Sydney Harbour" the night of 31 May 1942. The CHICAGO had been sent to Sydney for overhaul and repairs after the Battle of the Coral Sea and was moored near the naval station on Garden Island, the PERKINS alongside, and nor far from the destroyer tender DOBBIN. The PERKINS AND DOBBIN joined with the R.A.N. corvettes in depth bombing the harbour. The only casualty reported from CHICAGO's ricochet was a lion in Sydney Zoo!

The PERKINS was also part of a task force organised 29 Nov. '42 to attack an enemy force of six Japanese destroyers escorting six transports attempting to reinforce Guadalcanal. (so it was believed). But it was discovered that the six transports were in fact larger combatant vessels. These forces met off the island of Tassafaronga, and resulted in a large sea battle. The PERKINS used up all her torpedos in this engagement.

Two weeks before the Lae landing, a group of four destroyers headed out at night from Milne Bay. One was the PERKINS. Its mission was to sweep the Huon Gulf clean of Japanese shipping between Finschafen and Salamaua. Nothing was found, so, not to make the foray wholly wasted, the ships swept close to Finschafen at 15 knots and shelled it for ten minutes, catching the invaders completely by surprise. The PERKINS formed part of the escort for the LST's during the invasion of Lae, as protection against attack by Japanese naval and air attacks. This ship went ahead at the final approach stage, and raked Red beach with shell fire.

It seems a great pity that a ship like the PERKINS should have come to such an inglorious end, having survived all those combat operations, only to be sunk by an Allied ship, and a troop transport at that!

I recall it was a pitch black night and neither obviously saw the other. The Duntroon must have been blacked out very well.

I was sleeping on deck when it happened and my first thought was that we had run aground. Then voices yelled we had hit a ship. For a while, all the lights came on, and we would have been sitting ducks in the water for any Jap submarine which happened to be close by. Fortunately, the pick up of survivors went without incident.

### ← RE-UNION LOCATION

A. F. Convention Centre  
 4 Cromwell Road, South Yarra  
 (See Melways)

## Sergeant Takasuka

An interesting article, by D.C.S. Sissons, on Murray Takasuka (7 Battery) and his family, appeared in "Hemisphere", a research paper, held at the National Library of Australia.

It is impossible to do justice to the article in this newsletter and because of the brevity of these notes, there is really injustice to the family; but the following notes will be of interest to all of us who knew Murray Takasuka:-

In May 1940, a few months after the outbreak of war in Europe, a farmer from the nearby town of Fosterville drove into the Victorian city of Bendigo to volunteer for the Australian Imperial Force. Born in Swan Hill and aged 30, he was sound in wind and limb and of good character. He was rejected. The regulations excluded recruits who were not substantially of European origin. His name was Mario Takasuka and he was of pure Japanese descent.

He was not only a man of strong patriotic sentiment; he was also a man of perseverance and resourcefulness. He tried again locally with the same result. Then a bright idea struck him. The following month, when the Battle of Britain was at its height and large numbers of recruits were being processed every day, he took the train to Melbourne where he was not known, quietly joined the long queue outside a drill hall - and was accepted.

By the end of the year he was in the Middle East with the 2/3 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. On 20 May, 1941, the day the German invasion of Crete began, he was the layer (the man who sets the sights) on No.3 gun of C Troop defending the vital aerodrome at Heraklion. The gun brought down one German plane and scored hits on two others. The men fought until their ammunition was exhausted and then, when their position was cut off by German troops, they took to a rowing boat and pulled out to sea. Five hours later they were picked up by the British destroyer, Kingston, which, after further fierce encounters with the Luftwaffe, took them to Alexandria.

The following year he received a written commendation from his General Officer Commanding for his part in rescue operations after a head-on collision between a troop train and a local train at Gaza in Palestine on the night of 1 February 20-21, 1942. Despite the danger to themselves from falling coal, he and two comrades had worked for an hour freeing the fatally injured fireman who lay crushed under the contents of the upended tender.

When Japan entered the war, Army Headquarters made strong attempts to keep him in a rear area. These were vigorously and successfully resisted not only by Mario but also by his commanding officer, who reported as follows: "His record as a soldier both in and out of action has been exemplary and in consideration of his outstanding service on Crete I selected him for promotion as a bombardier. The rest of the unit shared this view and when it embarked again for overseas service (this time for Oro Bay in New Guinea) Mario, now promoted to gun sergeant, was with them.

The story of the Takasuka family in Australia began five years before Mario's birth when, on 13th March 1905, his father (Jo)

and mother (Ichiko) together with his brother (Sho - aged 5) and sister (Aiko - aged nineteen months) disembarked at Melbourne from the S.S. Empire. After the enactment of the Australian Immigration Restriction Act in 1901, practically the only Japanese permitted to enter the country (apart from a few tourists and students) were divers and boats' crews engaged by Australian pearlers, and merchants engaged in the export and import trade. Jo Takasuka was among the handful of the latter admitted with their families on twelve-month permits. These permits were renewable but, in order to prevent permanent residence, were normally not extended beyond three years.

There were at that time about three and a half thousand Japanese in Australia. Just over half of them were employed in the pearling industry. Most came from coastal villages in Wakayama prefecture. The next largest group (which probably amounted to less than four hundred) were those who had come to work on the Queensland sugar plantations in the 1890s and had remained after the completion of their contracts. These were mainly younger sons from farm households in prefectures like Kumamoto and Hiroshima.

Jo Takasuka came from quite a different background. He was born on 13 February 1865 at Matsuyama, in Ehime prefecture, the only son of Kahei Takasuka who had been granted samurai status for his services as chef at the castle of the local daimyo.

After two-years study at the Keio Continuation School in Tokyo, Jo enrolled in the Economics Faculty of Keio University in 1892, but shortly afterwards went to the United States where he studied at De Pauw University (Indiana) and Westminster College (Pennsylvania) where he graduated B.A. in 1896.

On his return to Japan he in March 1898 successfully stood for election in the local constituency in the House of Representatives on behalf of the Rikken Seiyukai party. In July of the same year he married Ichiko, daughter of Michimoto Maejima, a judge of the local District Court. She had received secondary education at a famous Tokyo school for young ladies, the Watanabe Saiho Gakko, the predecessor of today's Tokyo Kasei University. In 1900 a new electoral law greatly enlarged the franchise and changed Takasuka's seat into a smaller, single-member constituency. In these circumstances he did not contest the 1902 elections.

His first eighteen months in Australia were spent in Melbourne where he operated under the name "Takasuka, Dight and Co - Japanese Importers", with premises at 136 Queen Street in the City and at 20 Boyd Street in the suburb of Richmond

(Here our extract from a fascinating story must end; but it must be said that the Takasuka family subsequently set a wonderful example for immigrants in the way that they overcame tremendous difficulties and contributed so much as fine citizens of Australia. Murray now lives at 3, Sandwell Street, Peterhead, South Australia, 5016, Telephone (08) 494075.)

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### Haven't heard of him in ages!

ALEX BARNETT (8) Retired pharmacist, now at 2 Hassal Street, Port Macquarie, N.S.W. 2444. (Telephone: 065-820-609) Has boat, goes fishing - would welcome old friends.

SYD HAMBLING (RHQ) Has had stroke, would like to see old friends. 187 Forest Road, Orbost, Vic, 3888

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