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THE NEWSLETTER

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THE STORY: CHARLES WOOD

PRIVATE CHARLES ST CLARE BEDFORD WOOD WAS A CIVIL SERVANT WHO SERVED WITH THE 19TH REINFORCEMENTS, 2ND BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE, AND WAS DISCHARGED IN EARLY 1918 FOR MEDICAL REASONS. HE WAS BORN 20 MAY, 1890 TO ISABELLA AND CHARLES WOOD SR, AND RECEIVED A DIPLOMA IN ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE. CHARLES JR WAS APPOINTED A CLERK IN THE AUDIT OFFICE ON 6 NOVEMBER 1911 AND MARRIED MINNIE RUBINA SWINNEY IN SYDNEY IN 1915.

CHARLES JR. ENLISTED ON 21 FEBRUARY, 1916 AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 19TH REINFORCEMENTS, 2ND BATTALION. HE LISTED HIS NEXT OF KIN AS HIS WIFE. AT THE TIME OF HIS ENLISTMENT WOOD WAS 25, 5 FEET 5 INCHES, WEIGHED 130 LBS, AND HAD BROWN HAIR AND BLUE EYES. AFTER BASIC TRAINING, HE EMBARKED FROM SYDNEY ON 22 AUGUST, 1916 ON BOARD *HMAT WILTSHIRE*.

WOOD ARRIVED IN PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND ON 13 OCTOBER, 1916. IT WAS REPORTED THAT HE WAS ABSENT FROM THE TRAINING DEPOT FROM 7AM TO 4PM ON 25 OCTOBER. FOR THIS OFFENCE WOOD WAS CONFINED TO CAMP FOR TWO DAYS AND FORCED TO FORFEIT ONE DAY'S PAY. HE THEN PROCEEDED OVERSEAS ON 13 DECEMBER, 1916, BUT WAS TRANSFERRED BACK TO SIGNAL SCHOOL, WHICH HE ATTENDED FROM 16 MARCH TO 20 MARCH, 1917, WHEN HE REJOINED HIS UNIT. ON 2 MAY, 1917 WOOD WAS TRANSPORTED BY AMBULANCE TO A FIELD HOSPITAL, WHERE HE WAS ADMITTED ON MAY 3 WITH A SEVERE CASE OF TRENCH FOOT, CAUSED BY THE WET CONDITIONS IN THE TRENCHES.

AFTER SPENDING TIME IN HOSPITAL HE WAS DISCHARGED ON 17 MAY AND REJOINED HIS UNIT. WOOD DEVELOPED TRENCH FOOT AGAIN AND WAS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL ON 25 JUNE, 1917. AFTER SPENDING TIME IN SOUTH AFRICA RECUPERATING, HE WAS TRANSFERRED BACK TO ENGLAND, WHERE HE DEVELOPED NEPHRITIS, AN INFLAMMATION OF THE KIDNEYS. WOOD WAS THEN SENT BACK TO AUSTRALIA PER *HMAT BELTANA* ON 18 OCTOBER, 1917 AND DISEMBARKED ON 10 DECEMBER. HE WAS DECLARED MEDICALLY UNFIT FOR SERVICE, AND WAS DISCHARGED ON 17 JANUARY, 1918.

AFTER THE WAR, CHARLES WAS GRANTED A SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BLOCK IN GUNNEDAH, NSW. SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BLOCKS WERE LAND BLOCKS GIVEN TO VETERANS BY THE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE WAR. WOOD DIED ON 22 OCTOBER, 1945 AT A PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN SYDNEY.



AUSTRALIAN MEDICS CARRY COMRADES WITH SEVERE
CASES OF TRENCH FOOT AWAY FROM THE FRONT
NEAR BERNAFAY, FRANCE
(UNKNOWN, c.WWI)



A SOLDIER SETTLEMENT CAMP
(UNKNOWN, c.1921)

KEY DATES: MAR. - MAY

PRE-WWI

MAY 31ST, 1902: THE SECOND BOER WAR ENDS WITH THE TREATY OF VEREENIGING

MARCH 9, 1916: DURING THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION, FORCES OF PANCHO VILLA RAID ACROSS THE BORDER AND BURN COLUMBUS, NEW MEXICO

WWI

APRIL 6TH, 1917: THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WWI

WWII

MARCH 12TH, 1940: THE TREATY OF MOSCOW ENDS THE WINTER WAR BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND FINLAND IN THE SOVIET'S FAVOUR

MAY 27TH, 1941: THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP *BISMARCK* IS FINALLY SUNK BY THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY

APRIL 19TH-MAY 16TH, 1943: GERMANY SUPPRESSES THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING IN POLAND

APRIL 1ST, 1945: ALLIED FORCES INVADE THE JAPANESE HELD ISLAND OF OKINAWA

MAY 2ND, 1945: BERLIN FALLS TO THE SOVIETS

MAY 7TH, 1945: NAZI GERMANY SURRENDERS TO THE ALLIES, OFFICIALLY ENDING THE WAR IN EUROPE

KOREAN WAR

MARCH 14TH, 1951: SEOUL IS LIBERATED BY UN TROOPS

VIETNAM WAR

APRIL 30TH, 1975: SAIGON FALLS, OFFICIALLY BRINGING THE VIETNAM WAR TO AN END

POST VIETNAM WAR

APRIL 2ND, 1982: THE FALKLANDS WAR BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA BEGINS



GENERAL PANCHO VILLA (CENTRE LEFT) WITH OTHER
MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARIES NEAR CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO
(UNKNOWN, 1911)



THE GERMAN BATTLESHIP *BISMARCK*
(UNKNOWN, 1940)



A SOLDIER OF THE RED ARMY RAISES
THE SOVIET FLAG ABOVE BERLIN
(UNKNOWN, MAY, 1945)



BRITISH SOLDIERS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
(GETTY IMAGES, 1982)

DEPTH STUDY: THE WINTER WAR

IN LATE 1939, THE COUNTRY OF FINLAND WAS INVADED BY THE SOVIET UNION. DESPITE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF SOVIET FORCES, THE TINY FINNISH ARMY FOUGHT THROUGHOUT THE WINTER OF 1939-1940, USING THE TERRAIN AND EXTREME WEATHER TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. WITH NO OUTSIDE HELP DESPITE REPEATED PLEAS TO BRITAIN AND FRANCE FOR ASSISTANCE, THE MIGHT OF THE SOVIETS PROVED TOO GREAT, AND FINLAND WAS FORCED TO SIGN THE TREATY OF MOSCOW ON MARCH 12TH, 1940.

THE WINTER WAR BEGAN OFFICIALLY ON NOVEMBER 30TH, 1939. THE CONFLICT TRANSPIRED FROM DISTRUST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FINLAND WANTED TO EXPAND AND THE SOVIET UNION FEARED THAT FINLAND WOULD ALLOW ITSELF TO BECOME A BASE OF ATTACK ON THE USSR. ALTHOUGH DECLARING ITSELF NEUTRAL AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, DEMANDS FOR CONCESSIONS FROM THE SOVIET UNION MADE FINLAND INCREASINGLY WARY. FINLAND BEGAN TO CALL FOR HELP FROM BRITAIN AND FRANCE, BUT NEITHER COUNTRY ACTED. AFTER A FAKED BORDER INCIDENT, THE SOVIET UNION INVADED.

IN THE BEGINNING, THE WAR WENT HORRIBLY FOR THE SOVIETS. DESPITE THEIR MASSIVE ARMY, THEY WERE ILL-EQUIPPED FOR THE NOTORIOUSLY HARSH FINNISH WINTER, POORLY TRAINED AND POORLY LED. IN CONTRAST, FINLAND HAD A TINY ARMY, WHICH KNEW THE TERRAIN AND HAD EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, AFTER A BIT OF REORGANISATION, THE SOVIETS CONCENTRATED THEIR EFFORTS AND ON FEBRUARY 1ST, 1940 LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE FINNISH DEFENSIVE LINE. THE FINNISH ARMY WAS UNDER SUPPLIED, DEPLETED, AND TIRED AFTER ONE OF THE HARSHEST WINTERS ON RECORD. DESPITE PUTTING UP A MASSIVE DEFENSIVE EFFORT, THE SHEER SIZE OF THE RED ARMY EVENTUALLY PREVAILED. AS THE FINNISH ARMY COLLAPSED, THE GOVERNMENT BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. THESE TALKS CULMINATED IN THE TREATY OF MOSCOW, WHICH CEDED LARGE PARTS OF FINLAND TO THE SOVIETS.

THE WAR DID HAVE SOME POSITIVE IMPACTS ON THE SOVIET UNION. DESPITE THE HIGH CASUALTIES, THE POOR PERFORMANCE FORCED THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR WEAKNESSES. TROOPS WERE BETTER TRAINED, THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF THE ARMY WORKED HARDER TO COORDINATE, AND BETTER INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE CREATED. AS A RESULT, THE RED ARMY WAS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT BY 1941, WHEN NAZI GERMANY INVADED.

NEW ITEM

ONE OF THE LATEST ACQUISITIONS OF THE BERKSHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM IS AN AIR RAID PROTECTION WHISTLE MADE IN BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND AND USED DURING THE BLITZ IN WWII. THIS PARTICULAR WHISTLE WAS USED BY ARNOLD HARROP, AN AIR RAID WARDEN IN CLYDEBANK, A SUBURB OF GLASGOW, SCOTLAND. CLYDEBANK WAS A MAJOR NAVAL SHIPBUILDING AREA, MAKING IT A PRIME TARGET FOR THE GERMAN LUFTWAFFE. DURING THE DAY HARROP WORKED IN THE SHIPYARDS, AND AT NIGHT HE AND THE OTHER WORKERS TOOK TURNS WITH THE VARIOUS ARP DUTIES. CLYDEBANK WAS HEAVILY BOMBED ON THE 13TH AND 14TH OF MARCH, 1941, AND MUCH OF THE CITY WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. THE HARROPS WERE SAFE HOWEVER, AS ARNOLD WAS AN ENGINEER AND THEIR PERSONAL ANDERSON AIR RAID SHELTER WAS BUILT VERY CAREFULLY. THEIR HOUSE WAS DAMAGED BY AN INCENDIARY BOMB WHICH CRASHED THROUGH THE ROOF AND DOWN TO THE GROUND FLOOR BUT FORTUNATELY DID NOT IGNITE. THE HARROPS WERE SAFELY IN THE AIR RAID SHELTER AT THE TIME.



CLYDEBANK AFTER THE LUFTWAFFE AIR RAIDS
(MARCH, 1941)



A FAMILY AND THEIR ANDERSON AIR RAID SHELTER
(WWII)



THE AIR RAID PROTECTION WHISTLE

QUICK FACTS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR: DURING THE WAR, AMERICANS TRAVELLED TO QUEBEC, HOPING TO SPARK A REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH IN CANADA. HOWEVER, THE INITIATIVE FAILED.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: LINCOLN WAS NEARLY ASSASSINATED 2 YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH. HE WAS OUT RIDING HIS HORSE, WHEN A LONE SHOT RANG OUT. IT MISSED LINCOLN BUT SPOOKED HIS HORSE WHO TOOK OFF SO FAST THAT LINCOLN LOST HIS HAT. A BULLET HOLE IN THE HAT WAS DISCOVERED WHEN IT WAS RETRIEVED.

WWI: DURING WWI, DOGS WERE USED AS MESSENGERS. MESSAGES WERE PLACED INSIDE A CAPSULE, WHICH WAS ATTACHED TO THE DOG'S COLLAR.

WWII: ADOLF HITLER'S NEPHEW, WILLIAM HITLER, SERVED IN THE US NAVY DURING WWII.

KOREAN WAR: THE KOREAN WAR WAS THE FIRST WAR WITH BATTLES BETWEEN JET AIRCRAFT.

VIETNAM WAR: THE MAJORITY OF SOLDIERS WEREN'T DRAFTED, THEY VOLUNTEERED.



A MESSENGER DOG JUMPS A TRENCH
(UNKNOWN, c. 1917)



A NAVY PANTHER JET ON BOARD AN
AIRCRAFT CARRIER
(US NAVY, KOREAN WAR)

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