

PAYNE, LIONEL ARTHUR

AWM 65

[4138]

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

21

SURNAME PAYNE NUMBER 1
CHRISTIAN NAMES Leon D. Payne
AIR FORCE RANK AND MUSTERING 2/0
DEGREES ETC.
DATE OF BIRTH 15-2-18 PLACE Cardland
EDUCATED
DATE OF ENTERING SERVICE 8-11-41
PREVIOUS SERVICE EXPERIENCE
PLACES OF TRAINING
CIVILIAN CAREER AND ACTIVITIES Railway Signaller
SPORT (TEAMS REPRESENTED) CLUBS ETC.
FATHER H. P. Payne
WIFE G. E. Payne
HOME ADDRESS 6, Gable Ave. Prospect Cardland
W. H. KENNY S. A.
SIGNATURE
DATE
DATE OF EMBARCATION

HEADQUARTERS USE ONLY - DO NOT FILL IN

AWARDS
CATEGORY INTERVIEWS.....

RADIO OTHER REFERENCES

Personal file - W/O L.A. Payne
9
SW

Melbourne
12.5.45

DEPARTMENT OF AIR

AFTERNOON PRESS RELEASE

Directorate of
Public Relations
Bulletin 5135

"BRITISH HERE! JAPS GONE!"

RANGOON P.O.W.'s SIGNAL BOMBERS.

When a flight of R.A.F. Liberators flew over Rangoon a few days ago, an Australian bombardier spotted hug roof-top signs painted by Allied prisoners of war, proclaiming: "British here!" and "Japs gone!"

The Australian bombardier, Warrant Officer L.A. Payne, of Kilkenny (S.A.) was among the first to drop medical supplies and food to the prisoners of war who had been imprisoned in the Rangoon central gaol. The prisoners waved wildly with their shirts as the heavy bombers circled low. Some clambered on to the roofs, producing, miraculously, a Union Jack.

When the aircraft had taken off early in the morning, the exact military situation at Rangoon was unknown. "We didn't know whether the Japs had gone or not," said Payne.

"Our instructions were to try and get medical supplies to the prisoners in the central gaol. It was believed that the Japs had made some prisoners march out, but others, who were sick, were thought to be still there, including Britishers, Indians and Americans.

"These prisoners required aid until help arrived from the ground forces. We approached the city warily, wondering what the score was. Then on the roof of the gaol we saw a huge notice BRITISH HERE -- JAPS GONE.

"To make sure there wasn't any ack-ack, we circled at 1,000 feet and then went low to drop our stuff into the gaol area. The prisoners started waving like mad. It seemed as though there were about two hundred of them."

Crews of other bombers said they saw prisoners collecting the parcels as they were dropped to them.

Authorised by D.P.R.