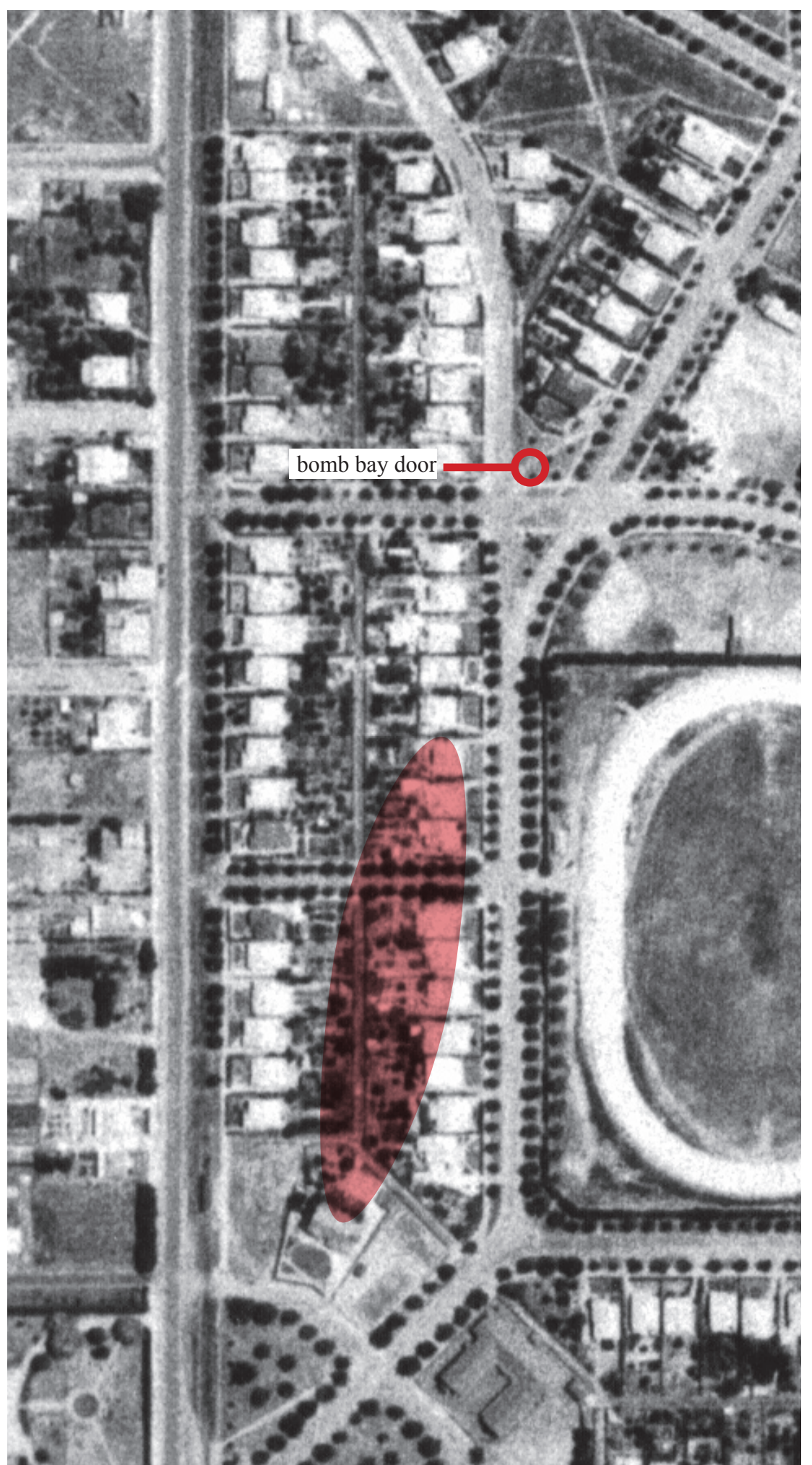


## The Bombing of Colonel Light Gardens.

On 22 August 1942, a US Liberator bomber 'bombed' properties on West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens. The newspaper reports of the time are produced here.

However, it appears that it was not the full story. There have been a number of reports of this in the *Adelaide Advertiser*, one in 1986 and then again in August 1999. John Mack contacted Rex Jory, of the *Advertiser* and provided additional information on the incident. Mr Mack provided a copy of his letter and it is also reproduced here.

A 1949 aerial photograph of the affected section of Colonel Light Gardens. The location of where the bomb bay door was as described by the (late) Peter Searles who had souvenired a piece on his way to CLG Primary School. The red oval area is the area described in the newspaper reports as to where the goods were found.





# NEWS

AUGUST 22, 1944

Registered at the G.P.O., Adelaide, for transmission by post as a newspaper

Price 2d.

FINAL  
EXTRA

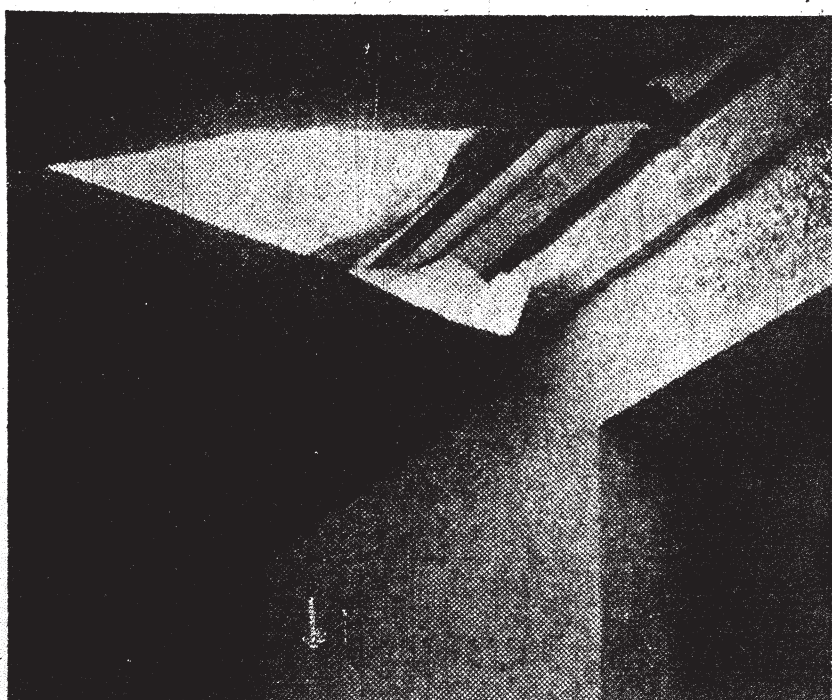
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122 FRIE ST. ADELAIDE.

## ER TOULON

### Bomb-Bay Door Falls From American Plane



EXAMINING a bomb-bay door (top) that dropped on to a road from a U.S. bomber in Colonel Light Gardens today. Standing (left to right): Captain S. Braithwaite and Major L. T. Sexton, and Technical Sergeant A. J. Parsons (U.S. Army). Lower—Hole in the roof of an enclosed verandah at the home of Mrs. L. F. McDonald, West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens, made by a carton of coca-cola that dropped from the plane.

## Soviet Grip On Baltic Broken

Australian Associated Press

LONDON, Monday.—Russian troops have evacuated Tukums, in Latvia, after inflicting

## Bomber Drops Liquor & Eggs On Adelaide

Residents of West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens, were showered with champagne, sparkling burgundy, beer, coca-cola, eggs, and oranges about 8 a.m. today.

The shower came in crates and bottles accidentally dropped from a big, low-flying American bomber. Part of a bomb-bay also dropped. The crates and bottles smashed holes in roofs of houses, ripped gaps in fences, and gave residents a nasty fright.

Several children had narrow escapes from injury, but no one was hurt.

### Narrow Escapes

THE general feeling in the district after the excitement had died down was disappointment that so much good liquor was wasted. Two bottles of champagne were reported to have survived the fall, but they could not be located.

Mr. P. W. Ryan, of Goodwood road, got two dozen unbroken bottles of coca-cola, and a soldier is reported to have rescued one bottle of beer which had had the neck knocked off. He reported that the contents had been unspoiled.

At the home of Mr. H. A. Pittard, of 98 West Parkway, one bottle of coca-cola smashed through the bathroom window, showered six-year-old Marlene Kingdon, Mr. Pittard's grand-daughter, with the drink—but did not hurt her.

John Kingdon, 21 months, was in the back yard when a crate of beer hit a lemon tree, took 6 ft. out of the fence on its way through to Mrs. L. F. McDonald's yard. John

ran inside looking for his mother, and then began to cry.

Mrs. McDonald, who has recently returned from hospital, was in bed when a carton of coca-cola crashed through her back verandah roof. That, with the roar of the plane, a four-engined Liberator, convinced her that the plane had crashed in the back yard.

Mr. Ryan, the man who collected the unbroken coca-cola, was in his yard, painting a chair, when he heard the roar of the approaching bomber, and saw it appear over the roofs to the north.

Then he saw objects falling from the sky as it flew at a height of about 150 ft.

He dashed into his garage for protection, realised that Mary, his six-year-old daughter, was still outside, ran back to get her.

By this time the plane had passed over their house, and three cartons of coca-cola had landed in the backyard. Mary was, crying, but unhurt.

### Eggs Near Fowlyard

MR. H. W. S. Wright, of 104 West Parkway, had been in the fowlyard at the back of his home a minute before a crate of eggs crashed into the lane separating his property from that of Mr. Ryan.

He heard the plane approaching, came out to see it flying very low, and when objects began to tumble from it, he thought they were pamphlets.

Later he found that it was beer and coca-cola which had ripped through the fence into his place. All the bottles were broken.

At the home of Mrs. O. Baust, 96 West Parkway, a bottle of champagne shattered on the front verandah, another hit the roof of a shed at the back of the house, and the pieces dropped on the path in the exact spot where she usually puts the baby in its pram.

A crate of burgundy landed on the front lawn at the home of Mr. J. Opie, knocked over an ornamental tree, took off a tap, skidded through the fence into the front garden of Mr. Mick Ellis, whose roof and front verandah were spattered with pulped oranges.

In the street just outside a bomb-bay door landed from the plane, and several of the back yards were lengths of timber which had apparently fallen from the plane, too.

Less than three hours after the accident, the pilot of the plane was on the scene, surveying the damage.

He had landed on an airfield some distance from Adelaide, and hurried to the scene to find out whether anyone had been hurt.

He would not make any statement beyond saying that the goods had not been dumped intentionally.

United States Army officials said later than an inquiry was being made.

(Continued on Page 3)

## U.S. SUBS SINK 19 JAP SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Monday.—A Navy communique issued today, states that U.S. submarines have sunk 19 more Japanese vessels in

### RAID ON KURILES

Washington.—Pacific Fleet communique says that Ventura, bombed and strafed Paramushiro Island in the Kuriles on Saturday. Three Japanese fighters took off but did not attempt to intercept the American planes.

### REFERENDUM IN W.A.

Perth.—Referendum major-



# LONDON INGS

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## ARLIAMENT TODAY

## Beer Hits A Lemon Tree



AFTER A CRATE OF BEER from  
a U.S. bomber had crashed  
through a lemon tree, in the  
back yard of a house occupied  
by Mr. H. A. Pittard, in West  
Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens,  
today, Graham and Marlene  
Kingdon (above) picked up the  
fallen lemons. The crate went  
right on through the paling  
fence on the right.

## Cyclist Sees And Hears Goods Drop

(Continued from Page 1)

MR. V. C. Robinson, of Rose ter-  
race, Springbank, was riding  
a cycle along West Parkway  
when he heard the bomber, and  
watched it.  
"It was flying so low that it  
seemed to be only about 15 ft.  
above the telegraph posts," he  
said. "It passed just about right  
over me."  
"Above the roar of the motors  
I heard something whistle down."  
"It was a piece of metal from  
the plane, about 2 in. square,  
which I picked up later on."  
"At the same time a bomb-bay  
door, about 8 ft. by 3 ft., fell away  
from the belly of the plane, flut-  
tered down like a piece of paper,  
and landed in a plantation on the  
road."  
"Then three pieces of timber  
fell out of the plane, followed by  
a lot of oranges, bottles covered  
with straw, and some crates."

## "CLEARED TREES"

"The plane went even lower, and  
I was sure it was going to crash  
into the houses. After that it must  
have risen to have cleared some  
trees on Daws road."  
Flying north after the accident,  
the bomber appeared to "barely  
clear city buildings."  
Later a member of the crew of  
the bomber said that he was most  
anxious that it should be under-  
stood that the goods were not jet-  
tisoned purposely. Such action  
would be taken only over the sea.  
United States Provosts visited  
the homes at Colonel Light Gar-  
dens, and took statements from a  
number of householders.  
Detectives Gully and Harper  
also took statements.

# LONG CABINET TALK COA

## Letter Mine

CANBERRA. —  
Cabinet has been  
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Before the Cabinet  
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Mr. Mighell was  
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Conference assemblies  
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## Today's Los 10,000 T

SYDNEY.—For th  
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Twelve collieries  
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result of breakdowns.  
The heaviest loss  
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land, and South Aust

## GOEBBELS ON WHY NAZIS ARE RETIRING

Australian Associated Press

LONDON, Monday. — Goebbels' latest directions to his propaganda agents throughout the Balkans are quoted by the "Daily Express" correspondent in Istanbul, who states that they reached him by means of a neutral diplomatic bag. Goebbels says: "The hour, always foreseen by the Fuehrer, when the German Army would withdraw within the inner fortress of the Reich's frontiers, has struck."

"Germany's action in leaving these sacred frontiers was never with the object of possessing herself permanently of territories belonging to others."

## Stamp to Mark Historic Flight

SYDNEY.—The issue of a special stamp to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary, on December 10, of the completion of the first England-Australia flight by the late Ross Smith and his brother Keith, of Adelaide, has been proposed.

Both brothers were knighted in recognition of their achievement.

The suggestion for the commemorative stamp has already been placed before several members of the Federal Cabinet.

On December 10, 1919, Ross and Keith Smith landed at Darwin 29 days out from London. Their actual flying time was 135 hours.

## SEEKS CHANGE IN A.L.P. PRE-SELECTIONS

A move will be made at the annual convention of the South Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party next month for all pre-selections for Federal and State Parliaments to be made by postal ballot.

Until last year, the A.L.P. had for several years appointed their Parliamentary representatives by vote of delegates at the annual convention. Last year the rules were altered to provide for postal ballots in districts where there were electoral committees.

This year's convention will begin on Monday, September 11. Among the 177 items on the agenda are resolutions urging the Federal Gov-

"Her sole object was to crush the gathering armies that were encircling her, and to destroy them."

"This has been achieved. France and Poland cannot again threaten the Fatherland for an entire generation. The Bolshevik hordes have suffered losses they will never forget."

"It is the Fuehrer's plan now to withdraw his faithful and glorious armies behind the unbreakable barrier of the Western Wall—the Siegfried Line."

"To break through into this inner fortress will inflict such terrible losses on the Jewish plutocracies that they will be forced to accord Germany a peace that will guarantee her a rightful place in the future Europe."

The correspondent adds that this revealing document was distributed on August 12 to Goebbels' agents in Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, Croatia, and Slovakia.

## PROBLEM OF WOOL STOCKS

With victory in Europe not far distant, it was time that the future of the wool industry received greater attention, said the chairman of directors of Elder, Smith and Co., Ltd. (Mr. J. R. Baker) at the annual meeting today.

By the end of this year, the accumulation of raw wool in the world would be at least 10,000,000 bales.

Competition of synthetic fibres had increased enormously, but there was a reasonable hope of much wider use of wool when peace came, particularly in such countries as China.

He was not pessimistic regarding the future of the industry, but wool interests could no longer afford to sit down and think they could hold their kingdom without fighting for it.

Mr. Baker said seasonal conditions in the pastoral areas were causing concern. The great menace to the outside pastoral country was soil erosion, which was steadily reducing its stock-carrying capacity. If strong action to counteract this peril was not taken promptly, large areas would become unsuitable for occupation.

## WIVES WORKED, 3 HUSB FINED FOR TAX CLAIM

Three husbands who wrongfully applied for taxati



## PLANE 'BOMBS' SUBURB

### Liberator Drops Many Crates

Flying across the southern suburbs of Adelaide at less than 200 feet above the ground, a four-engined United States Liberator bomber dropped a bomb door and several crates of beer, sparkling Burgundy, aerated cordial, eggs, and oranges on a dozen homes in West Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens, shortly after 8 a.m. yesterday.

Nobody was hurt, but several women and children had narrow escapes. The crates and bottles smashed holes in roofs, burst through fences, tore limbs from trees, and littered acres of ground with fragments of glass.

United States Army authorities in Adelaide are conducting an enquiry into the incident, and an official report will probably be completed today. It will then be sent on to US headquarters in Australia.

A spokesman said yesterday:—"It was clearly an accident, and there is no foundation for rumors that the crew were jettisoning cargo because they found themselves in difficulties. We appreciate the attitude of those affected. Actual damage will probably not exceed a few pounds, but compensation will be paid."

It is understood that the aircraft was on a routine flight, and that the articles dropped were portion of supplies going from one base to another. There were a crew of six and two passengers on board.

Many people who saw the Liberator said that it flew no lower than the Lancaster bomber last year.

The pilot and crew of the bomber, after landing at an aerodrome, raced out to West Parkway to see what damage had been done. The pilot told residents he had bombed the Japanese north of Australia, "but had never been so scared as when he accidentally 'bombed' Colonel Light Gardens."

#### Narrow Escapes

Yesterday morning West Parkway was crowded with residents and onlookers as police and US provosts questioned those affected.

Mrs. L. F. McDonald, of 100 West Parkway, was lying in bed when a carton of cool drink smashed through the galvanized iron roof of her washhouse, a few yards away. "A quarter of an hour later I would have been standing at the troughs," she said.

A crate of beer fell in her back yard and bounced over into an adjoining lane.

A crate of burgundy fell in the garden of Mrs. J. Opie, at 96 West Parkway, and a case of oranges in the yard of Mrs. Ellis. Oranges also fell on the roof of Mr. E. G. Windsor at 90 West Parkway.

Portion of a bomb bay landed in a plantation outside the home of Mrs. Mylius. Next door Mrs. C. H. Ball saw crates and boxes follow in quick succession, and thought the crew must be dropping leaflets.

The Rev. Fr. P. M. Horgan was sitting in a sun-room at the rear of his house in Oxford Circus. He heard the roar of the approaching plane and then a shattering of glass as a crate of beer ripped off the bough of a tree and burst through a galvanized iron fence, and a carton of coco cola landed less than three yards from the sun-room.

Insulators on an electric light pole in a laneway at the rear of his home were broken, and power was cut off in the neighborhood. The circuit was restored later in the morning.

At 102 West Parkway, Mrs. P. D. S. Mather's chicken house was smashed.

At the home of Mr. H. A. Pittard, 98 West Parkway, a bottle of cool drink hurtled through the bathroom window, drenching Mr. Pittard's six-year-old granddaughter, Marlene Kingdon, but doing her no harm. In the backyard, John Kingdon, aged 21 months, was narrowly missed by a crate of beer which hit a lemon tree.



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# CAMERA CONNOISSEUR

C. JOHN MACK



VICTOR HARBOR  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5211  
TEL: 085/52 2698

17<sup>TH</sup> August, 1999

Mr. Rex Jory,  
The Advertiser Newspapers,  
G.P.O. Box 339,  
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

Dear Rex,

Here are the circumstances surrounding the "Bombing of Adelaide" during 1944 by an American Liberator of the United States Airforce, 380<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group.

I was Warrant Officer in Charge of an Australian Army Cinema and Visual Education Unit at Adelaide River, Northern Territory.

We regularly exchanged our 16mm Australian films for feature films via the 126 American Signal and Radio Intelligence Unit at the 80 MILE. My mate there was one Jacob Perle, their film officer.

The Americans were leaving the area, and Jake "accidentally" left two nice 16mm movie projectors in the scrub for us when they went.

A Liberator went down to Adelaide for a collection of goodies partly paid for by a round-robin amongst the unit and one can imagine how pleased they were to lose most of the cargo over Colonel Light Gardens.

Liberators had a narrow aluminium cat-walk suspended by rods from the roof between the racks of bombs and of course above the bomb-bay doors. On these rods were handles which could be manually operated to get rid of errant bombs which had not dropped when the airmen got the order "Bombs Away".

MEMBER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTORS SOCIETY — VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAMERAS

On the Adelaide occasion a member of the crew tossed his personal pack into the cargo after the aircraft left Parafield, but the shoulder strap pulled down a manual release lever and the weight of the goodies burst open the bomb-bay doors - the rest is as you have reported it.

Security really was very good in Australia during World War II but on this occasion my mate told me of their sad loss some hours before it was news "Down South".

There was no mention of it in the Territory where we and the Americans only received our army newspaper!

I remember Jake saying "As you Aussies would say, it's not bloody funny".

Yours sincerely

(C. JOHN MACK)