

Fought in many campaigns

DAVID GULBRANDSON

Soldier, farmer
Born: Sandgate,
 January 3, 1913
Died: Mooloolaba,
 May 23, 2008

AFTER the fall of Crete in 1941, Sergeant David Gulbrandson's family received a telegram stating he was Missing In Action.

However, over the ensuing weeks, he and several thousand other soldiers had made their way across the 2500m-high White Mountains and down the 300m-deep Imbros gorge to be spirited away one night in the British destroyer, HMS Hotspur, to Alexandria in Egypt, 450km south of the Greek island.

Half of the 6500 Australian soldiers on Crete spent the rest of the war in German PoW camps, 274 were killed in action and 507 were wounded. Of the 30 soldiers in his unit, only six left Crete alive.

David Deagon Gulbrandson (originally Gulbransen) was the eldest of four children of graziers Edward William Gulbrandson and his wife Anne Millicent Gulbrandson (nee Childs).

His father had owned a sheep station, Loobrook, at Camp Station near Tara, which was later sold because of the prickly

pear plague when David was aged only 17.

He was proud of his Norwegian heritage and visited Norway in 1990 to see the family house. His grandfather, Edward Gulbrandson, was a seaman who had come to Australia from Christiana (now Oslo) in the 19th century.

On his mother's side were the Deagons from Somerset, after whom the Brisbane bay-side suburb, Deagon, is named, and the Childs family from Devon, who emigrated to the Moreton Bay District, now Brisbane, in 1849 on the ship, Fortitude, after which Fortitude Valley is named. They later become pioneers of the wine industry in Queensland and established the Childs vineyard, now the Nudgee Golf Course.

He was educated at Toowoomba Grammar School and later worked as a jackaroo at Winton and Hughenden in northwest Queensland.

In 1938, he met Mona Greenbury. The couple married at St Barnabas Anglican Church, Ashgrove, in February 1940, and had four children.

Soon after the declaration of World War II, Mr Gulbrandson enlisted in the army at Brisbane's Kelvin Grove Barracks on October 22, 1939.

He joined the artillery unit, the 2nd/3rd Field Regiment of



THIRTY-NINER
 ... David Gulbrandson saw service in many theatres of war but Crete and its people stood out as something special.

the Sixth Division. In early 1940 the unit sailed for Britain aboard SS Queen Mary, a luxury passenger liner that had been converted into a troop carrier.

The Sixth Division became known as the "Thirty-Niners" and all were volunteers.

His unit trained on the new 25-pound Howitzers on Salisbury Plain during the Battle of Britain. They were then sent to the Western Desert where they had many victories over the Italians. They also had fought an impressive defensive withdrawal in Greece through mountain passes against an

overwhelming German force, including armoured divisions.

Sgt Gulbrandson, this writer's uncle, recalled that they often fired at the Germans through open sights as they were so close.

His artillery regiment lost only two of their 25-pound guns in the 482km retreat and, in one 12-hour battle, they fired 5600 rounds as a rear-guard action to cover the withdrawing troops.

After the Battle of Crete, he served in Syria and then against the Japanese in New Guinea at Aitape and Wewak.

He kept a 25-pounder shell, which he said was the last one

fired in anger in his theatre of the Pacific War. He later donated it to the Mooloolaba RSL, along with his service medals and those from the European Union for his service in the Battle of Britain, and from the Greek government for the Greek Campaign and the Medal of the Town of Rethymnon.

A fellow soldier in his regiment, and later journalist, Lew Lind, wrote of his experiences at Rethymnon in his book *Flowers of Rethymnon: Escape from Crete*, which later was made into a film.

Mr Gulbrandson was discharged from the army in 1945 and returned to Brisbane.

However, he was unsettled after the war and tried various jobs in the city before a stint of dairy farming at Maleny and Yatala, which he did until 1957, when he won a soldier settlement block of 2023ha (5000 acres) west of Tara. This allowed him to return to his first love of cattle and grain growing.

He stayed on the farm until he retired in 1975, during which time he also was a councillor for the Tara shire for nine years.

My uncle taught me bushcraft during many happy summers of

my teen years spent at his farm.

The Gulbrandsons first retired to Point Vernon, Hervey Bay in 1975. Mr Gulbrandson became involved in community services and started support and lobby groups for young farmers struggling on the land.

He also helped set up the first Air Sea Rescue Association in the area. He was involved with the National Flag Association, the National Party, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

In 1989, they moved to Mooloolaba, where Mr Gulbrandson again involved himself in the community. He also enjoyed reading and writing.

My uncle told me how he was helped by some Cretan partisans and, of all the theatres of war in which he fought, it was Crete and its people which he said stood out as being special.

Last month, as an ex-service-man myself, I made a personal pilgrimage to Crete. Ironically, I had been to my uncle's funeral only the week before.

Mr Gulbrandson is survived by his wife, Mona, children Malcolm, Colin, Robyn and Elizabeth, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Roger Allen

Readers' contributions are invited for consideration: obituary@thecouriermail.com.au; or Obituary Editor, The Courier-Mail, GPO Box 130, Brisbane 4001. Material is accepted for publication on the condition that Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, as publisher of The Courier-Mail, may edit and has the right to, and license third parties to, reproduce in electronic form and communicate this material.

Classified INDEX

- Brokers/Advisers** from page 75
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun, Tues to Fri: 12noon day before, Sat: 12noon Fri
- CareerOne** See Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 12noon day before. Sat: 6pm Thurs
- carsguide** See Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 2pm day before. Sat: 6pm Wed
- Business Opportunities** from page 84 - 89
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Wed: 2pm Mon. Tues, Thur, Fri: 2pm day before. Sat: 12noon Fri
- For Sale/Weekend Shopper** See Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 5pm day before. Weekend Shopper - Free ads 4.45pm Tues all others 6pm Wed.
- Garage Sales** from page 100 - 101
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone: 3pm Friday prior.
- Notices & Services** from page 92 - 93
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 6pm day before. Sat: 6pm day before (Exhib/Events 12noon Wed)
- Personal Notices** from page 101 - 102
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 6pm day before. Sat: 6pm day before
- Public Notices** from page 94 - 99
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 6pm day before. Sat: 5pm Fri
- Real Estate** See Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 2pm day before. Sat: 6pm Wed
- RentalAccom** See Real Estate Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 4pm day before. Sat: 6pm Wed
- Travel & Holiday** See ETC Liftout
DEADLINES: Classifieds by phone. Mon: 5pm Sun. Tues to Fri: 4pm day before. Sat: 4pm Wed. Sat/Sun or Sun only: 11.30am Wed

How to place a Classified ad:

Whether you want to sell your car in carsguide; put your home for sale in Real Estate; get rid of your pre-loved goods in Weekend Shopper; advertise a job in CareerOne; or make an announcement in the Personals, The Courier-Mail classifieds are an easy and cost-effective way to sell or announce just about anything! Simply follow these steps below:

By Phone: 132 202

Operating Hours: Phones open from 7am-6pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri; 7am-6pm, Thurs; 9am-2pm Sat and 12 noon-5pm Sun. Please note classification deadlines differ from operating hours. *Some classifications are pre-paid regardless if an ABN is provided.

By Mail:
 Classified Advertising
 The Courier-Mail
 GPO Box 130, Brisbane 4001,

By Fax: (07) 3115 8633

Fax/Email Deadlines: 1 hour prior to phone deadlines except Saturday employment - 4pm Thurs. Email: classifieds@thecouriermail.com.au Fax: (07) 3115 8633

Classifieds
 Courier-Mail
 call 132 202

The content of your advertisement may be included by us on a website owned or operated by the publisher of this newspaper, a related company or News Interactive Pty Ltd. You release and indemnify the publisher of this newspaper and the publisher of the relevant website in relation to any claims relating to the publication of your advertisement on that website.

Place FREE* ads online (Items \$500 & under) weekendshopper.com.au

*See couriermail.com.au/competition/terms - for details and terms.

HOW TO CONTACT US

PHONE - 132 202 FAX - (07) 3115 8350.

ONLINE - weekendshopper.com.au

MAIL - Weekend Shopper Classifieds, GPO Box 130, Brisbane, QLD 4001.

DEADLINES

FREE ADS - 5pm Tue by phone. 4pm Tue for mail/fax lodgements. 4.45pm Wed - On line lodgements.

GARAGE SALE ADS 6pm Wed by phone. 4pm Wed for mail/fax lodgements.

PAID ADS - 6pm Wed by phone. 5pm mail/fax lodgements

ATTENTION GETTERS - FOR ONLY \$5.00 MORE!

Attention Getters (logos) are designed to make your advertisement stand out from the crowd and grab that extra attention. The ones below are some of the most popular, however there are more than a 100 to choose from. Purchase an Attention Getter (logo) from the 100's available to include with your ad for only \$5.00 per ad.

- BARGAIN** B123
- love me** B114
- fluffy** B108
- CALL NOW!** B254
- \$\$\$** B073
- FREE BUY** B142
- CHEAP!** B080
- HOUSE TRAINED** B110
- Excellent!** B136

AD FORM

Name: _____ Phone No: _____ Suburb: _____

Street Address: _____ Price: _____ Logo no: (if applicable) _____

Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Phone Numbers: W: _____ H: _____ M: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive special offers from Queensland Newspapers via email?
 Yes No

Mastercard Visa Expiry Date: _____

Credit Card No. _____ Amount \$ _____ Phone No: _____ Suburb: _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Price: _____ Logo no: (if applicable) _____

Email: _____

ARTICLE 1 - Classification: _____ Item: _____
 Description: _____

ARTICLE 2 - Classification: _____ Item: _____
 Description: _____

ARTICLE 3 - Classification: _____ Item: _____
 Description: _____

Please print clearly it will help us to get your advertisement correct.

SEND THIS FORM TO: FAX - (07) 3115 8350 MAIL - Weekend Shopper Classifieds, GPO Box 130, Brisbane, QLD 4001

The content of your advertisement may be included by us on a website owned or operated by the publisher of this newspaper, a related company or News Interactive Pty Ltd. You release and indemnify the publisher of this newspaper and the publisher of the relevant website in relation to any claims relating to the publication of your advertisement on that website. From July 4th, 2005 all advertising must be pre-paid unless an ABN is provided.

WeekendShopper

Courier-Mail

call 132 202

CLASSIFIED LIST

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aircraft/Flying.....701 | Wedding & Formal Wear.....722 | Home Entertainment.....750 | Pet Accessories.....746 |
| Antiques, Period.....703 | Dancewear, Uniforms.....674 | CDs, Videos & DVDs.....752 | Pet Services.....728 |
| Arts & Craft.....705 | Email.....718 | TVs, DVDs & VCRs.....753 | Poultry & Birds.....743 |
| Baby Needs.....706 | Internet.....718 | Home Furnishings Gen.....733 | Photographic Equipment.....741 |
| Bicycles.....707 | Computer Software.....720 | Bedroom.....686 | Pools Spas Equipment.....751 |
| Bicycle Parts/Access.....708 | Computer Games.....666 | Dining Room.....685 | Radio & Communications.....658 |
| Books, Textbooks, Magazines.....748 | Fests & Markets.....661 | Kitchen.....684 | Sporting Equipment.....747 |
| Building Materials/Renovations.....711 | Garage Sales.....723 | Living Room.....683 | Billiards/Pool.....681 |
| Timber Bricks Tiles.....695 | North.....645 | Linens.....702 | Golf.....680 |
| Doors Windows Fittings.....694 | South.....646 | Floor Coverings.....682 | Gym Equipment.....679 |
| Bathroom Laundry.....668 | East.....647 | Lamps, Lights.....671 | Snow Gear.....676 |
| Business Equip/Fixtures & Fittings.....713 | West.....648 | Houses for Removal.....712 | Water Sports & Gear.....657 |
| Commercial Equipment.....690 | Regional.....649 | Jewellery.....670 | Disability/Health Equip.....678 |
| Office Furniture.....691 | Garden/Outdoor.....725 | Musical Equipment.....739 | Sailboards & Surfboards.....654 |
| Phones & Accessories.....659 | Mowers & Trimmers.....726 | Pets/Equipment.....724 | Canoes, Kayaks & Surfboards.....663 |
| Camping.....714 | Plants.....656 | Cats.....724 | Stamps Coins.....749 |
| Christmas Gifts.....715 | General.....727 | Dogs.....719 | Tickets Sell/Buy.....667 |
| Collectables.....664 | Health/Beauty Products.....660 | Farming Equipment.....738 | Tools/Equipment.....737 |
| Sports Collectables.....664 | Home Appliances.....731 | Fish & Aquariums.....744 | Toys.....675 |
| China, Crystal, Silverware.....704 | Fridges & Freezers.....730 | Greyhounds.....729 | Play Equipment.....669 |
| Clothing & Accessories.....721 | Washers & Dryers.....734 | Horses & Tack.....736 | Trailers.....677 |
| | Stoves & Microwaves.....688 | Livestock.....735 | Wanted to Buy.....755 |
| | Dishwashers.....687 | Pets.....742 | |
| | Sewing, Knitting.....673 | | |