

Doughty Matildas

Carnarvon Lad Skippers "Black Swan"

BOUGAINVILLE, May 5—Australian tanks on the Buin Road in southern Bougainville proved that their destruction of a Japanese 75mm gun yesterday was no fluke by repeating the performance today.

This morning it was the Matilda tank "Black Swan," skippered by Cpl John Marmion, of Carnarvon, that won the duel. The tank, moving out along the track ahead of our forward infantry units on an armoured patrol, was ambushed by the gun which fired two high-explosive shells at the tank from a distance of 70 ft. Both shells struck the tank but did no more damage than to put out of action a light machine-gun.

"The "Black Swan's" first shot with its 3in howitzer blew up the gun.

Australian infantrymen supporting the tanks are now heavily engaging a strong Japanese force entrenched in thick jungle on either side of the gun site. This second close-range encounter has proved that the enemy's desperate attempt to use field guns at point blank range to stop our tanks is ineffectual.

BLACK SWAN CREW

CREW COMMANDER.

CORPORAL J. E. R. MARMION

DRIVER

TPR W. H. DOYLE

GUNNER.

TPR A. G. DOYLE

GUN LOADER.

TPR R. WILKINSON.