

The jacket illustration of General Mackay is reproduced by Wilke and Company Limited from a photograph originally published by Australian Consolidated Press Ltd., Sydney.

Back: Extract from General Mackay's diary written prior to the assault on Bardia.

24/12/1940 at 03.50 hrs

Outline Plan for getting tanks through mine field
(mine line is 500 yds. long)

1. Select frontage of attack with Cont 16th Inf Coy, Comd. RT Bn., G.I. Attack, say, 0600 hrs. on Z day
2. Select 2 posts abt. centre of frontage & carry out raid on these 2 posts with say 1 Coy & box barrage. Raid early on Z day, say, 0030 hrs. later 0020
3. Raiding Coy. to be accompanied by section engineers.
4. Method of raid —
 - (a) 1 platoon to ea. post, 1 platoon in reserve. All take wire cutters with stout cord tied to cutting & chamber strap or sand net. Also in each section one or two sets of saws, & sledge hammers to knock down posts of barbed wire. Engineers also to take ropes or wires with hooks attached; also (7) Bangalore torpedoes.
 - (b) While infantry seize posts engineers

Iven G. Mackay Citizen and Soldier

CHAPMAN

Iven G. Mackay Citizen and Soldier

IVAN CHAPMAN



Lieutenant-General Sir Iven Mackay, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. & Bar, V.D., French *Croix de Guerre*, B.A., Hon. LL.D., was "a great Australian who never wavered from the high ideals he embraced as a young man, and whose sterling character and example throughout his long life inspired thousands of his fellow countrymen, in school and university and militia, as well as in two world wars. Never once was Iven Mackay found wanting in any tasks that he voluntarily tackled or had thrust upon him — and they were many, especially in war. As a soldier he did not always receive from authority, nor from the general run of his countrymen for that matter, the recognition that he so thoroughly earned and richly deserved; partly because he was never one to seek the limelight or publicity. But those who served under him and above him were never in any doubt as to his outstanding qualities, and their judgment will remain his best and most enduring epitaph" — Gavin Long and Arthur Bazley (*Stand-To*, 1966).

Ivan Chapman is an Australian journalist with a keen interest in military history. For twenty-one of his twenty-eight years in journalism he has worked in television news, mainly with the Australian Broadcasting Commission; and for several years with the British Broadcasting Corporation, in London. He has written and produced several major T.V. documentary films for the A.B.C. His first book *Details Enclosed* was a personal account of four years in German captivity, starting from the 1941 campaign in Greece where he served in the A.I.F. Ivan Chapman has also written a booklet *The Gurkhas* (for the Gurkha Welfare Appeal), and is a contributing author to the new magazine series *British History Illustrated*.