

BLACK AIF OFFICER WEDS WAAF

MELBOURNE, December 2. —Lieut. Reginald Walter Saunders, 24, first full-blooded aborigine to be commissioned in the Australian Army, married a full-blooded aborigine WAAF.

Lieut. Saunders hid for a year in the mountains of Crete after the island's fall. His method of escape is still a military secret.

Lieut. Saunders' ship was sunk by bombs after the evacuation of Greece.

Lieut. Saunders spent months of nerve-racking fighting around Mubo and Salamaua in New Guinea, and as a sergeant took command of a platoon in the jungle for five months, after his officer had become a casualty.

Lieut. Saunders, who finished in the leading 10 out of 33 candidates at a Victorian officers' school, is modest, quietly confident, and well-spoken.

Next week he is going back to the traditional home of his tribal forbears in Portland (Vic.) district, where he and his family have been known and respected for years.

The family has a creditable record for service to Australia. Lieut. Saunders' father was on Gallipoli with the 10th Battalion, AIF, and his 22-year-old brother was killed at Buna in New Guinea.

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