

NEVER IN DOUBT

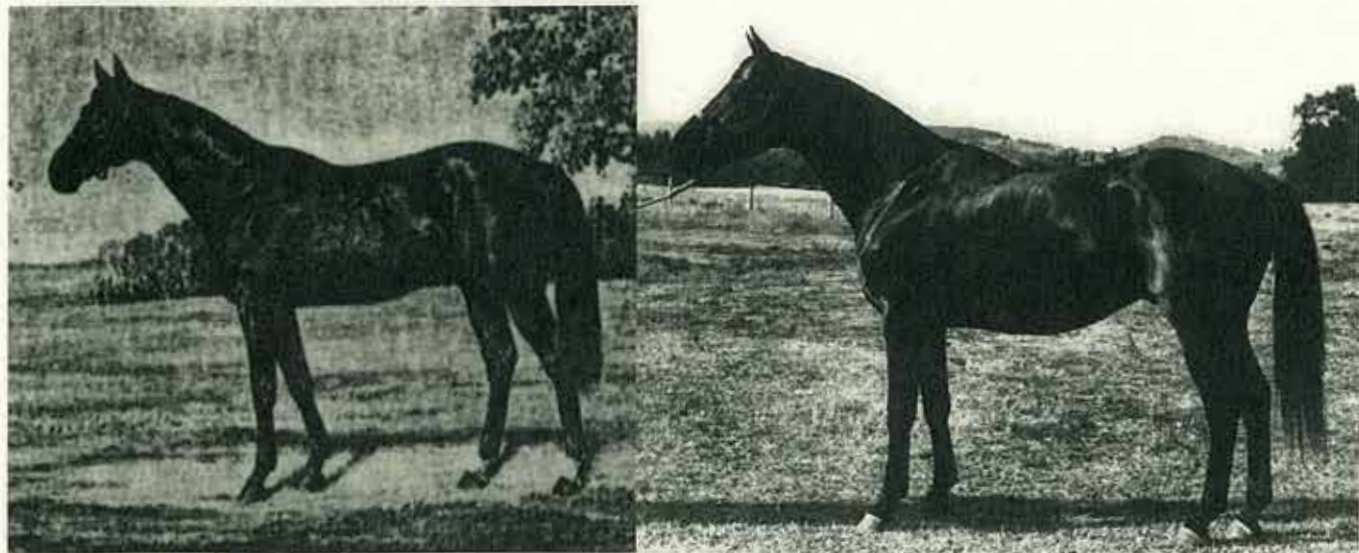
Towards the end of his career, NEVER IN DOUBT had the distinction of being the last sire son of the champion Thoroughbred sire, Nearco [Italy - 1935] left alive in the World. You would have expected that the Jack Johnston stallion would have been inundated with mares, being by such an illustrious sire and out of a Stardust mare but amazingly, nothing could have been further from the truth. Very lightly used by Thoroughbred breeders he only produced in his lifetime 148 runners for 68 winners.



In England NEVER IN DOUBT started 10 times as a racehorse for two wins, three thirds and one fourth. In 1961 as a 4 year old he was imported to Australia by AP Tyson of Wagga Wagga who retired him to stud.

"I remember him well," said well known Thoroughbred breeding expert, Brian Russell. "I worked for the now defunct 'Country Life' for a number of years and, at one stage, I published a photo of NEVER IN DOUBT in that paper that was seen by Jack Johnston of Tyrone Stud in Scone and Jack said, 'I've got to have that horse!' so

	Pharos	Phalaris
		Scapa Flow
Nearco		Havresac II
	Nogara	Catnip
NEVER IN DOUBT (FS) ASH Reg: 35024		
	Stardust	Hyperion
		Sister Stella
Strange Lady		Bahram
	Bibijan	Mirawala



NEVER IN DOUBT's sire Nearco (left) and one of NEVER IN DOUBT's most successful sons HAYDON NEVER DOUBT (right)

he leased him from AP Tyson and he was with Jack for the rest of his life. As a Thoroughbred Sire he had very limited opportunities."

Brian was kind enough to send me a list of his most prominent winners and the races they won and the thing that stood out was the number of races his progeny won. Flying Trapeze won 14 races, Benakin [13], Bookkeeper, Country Belle, D'Orange Lad [12], Yankee Clipper [11] with numerous progeny having 5 and 6 wins.

The number of his Australian Stock Horse progeny, although numbering 50, suffered greatly in real terms as many were only foal recorded and were never carried on with in their registrations. What makes this desertion by mare owners of NEVER IN DOUBT even harder to understand, is that

one of his daughters, NABINABAH EASY GOING was Champion Polo Pony of the International Test Series Australia versus England in 1977. After playing in the Australia versus England Polo Test Match, Easy Going was described in glowing terms by the English Captain, Howard Hipwood, who rode her during the match and "fell in love with her" and Australia's greatest polo player, Sinclair Hill, stated after the match, "She is the finest polo pony in the World!"

NEVER IN DOUBT's Foundation Stallion status was left to a very small handful of his progeny to obtain and the old saying, "quality versus quantity will win any day," certainly applied to this neglected stallion.

Two of his daughters proved stalwarts for him, each producing one of the most successful sires of the modern

era. The first of these was the Kyabra mare, KYABRA LADY KAREENA, dam of the highly successful Queensland sire, KYABRA CATTLE BARON, now owned by and standing at the famous Boonara Stud of Huon Smith. This stallion, at current count, has 223 registered progeny and is very highly regarded.

The second mare was the champion polo mare, NABINABAH EASY GOING who produced the outstanding sire, NABINABAH EASY GUN who has 195 progeny registered with the Society. Speaking to Clem Barnett recently, he reported that he felt Easy Gun had served his last mare and was now finished as a sire. This news will be a great blow to many people who have had such success breeding Champion polocrosse, polo, campdraft, working and really any type of



Champion Polo mare NABINABAH EASY GOING

Looking at photos of HAYDON NEVER DOUBT, his sire NEVER IN DOUBT and his sire Nearco, there is a striking similarity between the three horses. They are what I would describe as classical ASH/TB types measuring around the 15-1 to 15-2 height.



riding horse you want from him.

"When I bought NABINBAH EASY GUN as a young horse from David Archibald at one of his Nabinabah sales," said Clem Barnett, "David rang me after the sale to say how pleased he was that I had bought him as he knew we would do something with him and I think David would be pleased with what Easy Gun has achieved."

NABINBAH EASY GOING also produced the sire son, NABINABAH ARJUNA (14 progeny).

The third horse that helped tremendously was HAYDON NEVER DOUBT, a sire extensively used in the famous Haydon Stud. This horse has 80 registered ASH progeny. The Haydons obviously loved this line as they bred another sire



Well known stallion KYABRA CATTLE BARON has produced BOONARA QUICK SILVER (top) and BOONARA HOPE (below)



by NABINABAH EASY GUN that they called HAYDON EASY SUN that has 53 registered progeny.

Peter Haydon said, "If you would have seen NEVER IN DOUBT you would know what we liked. He was the most beautiful type of horse you could imagine, his progeny had such beautiful temperaments and when we had the opportunity to get HAYDON NEVER DOUBT who was by him and out of a Galloway type Thoroughbred mare we jumped at the opportunity."

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HAYDON NEVER DOUBT [80 progeny]

was NEVER IN DOUBT's most successful sire son. The famous Haydon Stud produced some of their most outstanding polo ponies by him. His progeny also proved outstanding in the showing. His first crop of foals when shown as 2 year olds ran 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the 2 year old filly class, his yearling fillies ran 1st and 4th, a yearling gelding won his class and Never Doubt was declared the "Most Successful Sire" and the Haydons "The Most Successful Exhibitors" of the Hunter Branch Show.

However, it was as polo ponies that they will be most remembered. In 1985 three different ponies by him won individual Champion pony awards as well as a Champion team of ponies over four consecutive weekends. Haydon Emerald was in the Champion team of ponies at the RAS in 1986 and the Queensland Gold Cup with many of them playing high goal polo at Ellerston.

Other sire sons of NEVER IN DOUBT with registered ASH progeny were TRILBY CHIEF [15 progeny] and WANRUA SELF ASSURED [16].

A very good campdraft mare by NEVER IN DOUBT was Ken MacCallum's very attractive taffy mare MANDALEA ZANZARLEE.

"From memory," said Ken MacCallum, "I won the ABCRA Novice Horse of the Year with Zanzarlee in about 1986. I think I won six Open Campdrafts on her. She was a lovely type of mare with a beautiful temperament, you couldn't stir her up. She would have made a beautiful polocrosse mare. I have kept mares out of her that I am breeding from. NEVER IN DOUBT was a beautiful type of horse, not over big. I had seen a couple by him racing, I recall one was called Yankee Clipper and I thought what lovely neat types they were. MANDALEA ZANZARLEE was out of Zulieka III, a half sister to the Foundation Stallion, SAGE KING. Both were out of Zulieka II but SAGE KING was by Eclipse whereas Zulieka III was by Caban's Puddledock Flicka. I only had the use of the mare for one season to get a foal and she wasn't an over good mare to get in foal, so I decided to send her in to NEVER IN DOUBT at Tyrone Stud as Jack Johnston had the vet out there every day and I thought that was the safest way to make sure I got a foal."

Ken would never have regretted the decision to send her to NEVER IN DOUBT, breeding such a beautiful mare.

Records show that NEVER IN DOUBT was foaled in Great Britain in 1957 and it is easy to see why he could be the last remaining son of Nearco as his sire died

in the same year as NEVER IN DOUBT was born. Nearco was bred by the man many consider to be the greatest horse breeder of all time, the Italian Thoroughbred Breeder, Federico Tessio who also bred the great Thoroughbred, Ribot. Nearco, the sire of NEVER IN DOUBT, retired undefeated after 14 starts and was sold in the 1930s for 60,000 pounds!! Probably Nearco's best win was the French Grand Prix De Paris in 1939, a Group 1 race over 3,000 metres. He also won the Italian Derby.

According to the Wikipedia Encyclopedia, Nearco was bought by British bookmaker, Martin Benson and sent to the Beach House Stud Farm in England where he remained all his life, dying there on the 27th June, 1957. Here he proved an outstanding sire, counting among his descendants his grandson, Northern Dancer, Ballymoss, Never Say Die, Nasrullah, Nijinsky II, Royal Palace and Sir Ivor. Many people consider him the most influential sire of the 20th Century.

Between 1945 and 1953 Nearco produced many listed race winners. His sire, Pharos [GB 1920], also produced 9 Group Winners of 12 Group Races. He was by Phalaris another outstanding sire who produced numerous group winners in turn by Polymelus, a very well thought of sire in ASH breeding, who is by the ASH Taproot Sire Cyllene [GB 1895]

Nearco was out of Nogara [Italy 1928] who was out of the Irish mare, Catnip [Ire 1910]. Catnip produced two daughters who produced stakes winning foals. Catnip was by Spearmint [GB1903] who was by Carbine [NZ 1885].

Havresac II the sire of Nogara is interesting in that he had a double cross of St Simon, and Scapa Flow [GB 1914] the dam of Pharos also carried a cross of St Simon.

NEVER IN DOUBT is out of Strange Lady [GB 1947] who won ten races and was the dam of nine winners and was by the outstanding sire Stardust, the sire of possibly Australia's most influential Thoroughbred, Star Kingdom who is also a Tap Root Sire of the ASH Society. Stardust was by Hyperion [GB1930] six times champion sire in England. Stardust's dam Sister Stella also goes back to the ASH Taproot Sire Cyllene through Friar Marcus [GB 1912] and Cicero [GB 1902].

Strange Lady is out of the mare Bibijan [GB1941] who was out of Mirawala [Ire 1923]. Mirawala proved a very successful broodmare producing six foals, one of these, Stafarella was the dam of Tehran [Ire 1941] a well known sire who was a listed race winner himself and produced five listed winners of 14 Principal races in three countries Ireland, Great Britain and

Australia. Mirawala was also the dam of Sind the sire of two stakes winners of three stakes races in Argentina, and Becti who was the dam of Trovato, also sire of two stakes winners of three stakes races. Mirawala was out of Miranda a sister to the great Pretty Polly, a great race mare and Matriarch of one of racings most sought after families. Bibijan was by Bahram, unbeaten winner of the Triple Crown and sire of Persian Gulf, Big Game and Faux Tirage.

In a dissection of the breeding of NEVER IN DOUBT it is easy to see that he had great Thoroughbred bloodlines on both sides of his pedigree and looking at his conformation he was the ideal Thoroughbred to breed Australian Stock Horses. Those who were wise enough back in the 1970s to discern this, reaped the rewards by breeding outstanding stock that have gone on to produce exceptional descendants. 🐾



Clem Barnett competing on BARNETTS HARMONY (By NABINBAH EASY GUN) in 2002 at Dungowan



NABINBAH EASY GUN (above) has produced many great horses including BARNETTS MODEL (below) who was sold to the USA

NEVER IN DOUBT is like so many stallions, it is only when someone sits down years later and works out what he achieved that we realise the greatness of the horse.

