



## **Jockey Frank Bullock: A Winner In More Ways Than One**

One of Australia's first truly international jockeys Frank Bullock (1885 – 1946) began his career as a mere teenager at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He rode Peter and Walter Mitchell's racehorses from Bringenbrong in Upper Murray races.

In 1912 in Berlin Frank Bullock posted a card to Walter Mitchell at Bringenbrong. Importantly a photograph on the card showed him mounted on Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany's horse Laudon. The caption on the card translates as 'Future Winner'. His winning streak had started almost a decade earlier. Frank explained to Walter, 'Been having a good time myself having won 78 out of 245'. I presume Frank is referring to starts.

Son of tough rider Constable Bullock from St Kilda, Frank left Corryong in 1903 for England where he had his first big wins that year on Xeny in the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood in Sussex and on Airship in the Manchester Cup. In 1905 Frank returned to Australia, on vacation but it was no normal holiday. In the 1905 Melbourne Cup, Frank rode Blue Spec to victory.

By 1908 Frank was first jockey at Kaiser Wilhelm's Royal Graditz Stud near Torgau on the Elbe River.

In early 1914 Cyklon was nominated to run in a number maiden plates in England and Frank was sent along as the Kaiser's jockey. On 4 August 1914 as England declared War on Germany, the British Government took possession of Cyklon. Distinguishing himself as a kind of equestrian businessman, Frank negotiated the sale of Cyklon for 125 guineas with the Department of Fisheries. James Scobie bought the horse for Mrs Richard Hawker in South Australia. The successful transaction was an unusual kind of win with far reaching consequences!

While due to injury Cyklon was scratched from the 1915 Melbourne Cup, he won the 1916 Birthday Cup in Adelaide where presumably the spectators regarded it as a treat to see the Kaiser's former favourite racing in Australia! Just like his former jockey Frank, Cyklon left his mark. He had a distinguished racing career and sired the 1927 Melbourne Cup winner Trivalve for owner Ernest Clarke. With Frank's influence Cyklon, originally wartime booty from Germany served Australian racing well!



In the early post First World War years, Frank's wins included the 1918 Adelaide Cup, two Caulfield Cups in 1918 and 1919, the 1918 VRC Oaks, and the Western Australian Derby in 1919.

Returning to Europe in 1920 Frank won the inaugural Arc de Triomphe on Comrade and went on to win the same race again in 1922 on Ksar. His winning streak in England included three Eclipse Stakes, the 1925 One Thousand Guineas and Oaks on Saucy Sue and the Ascot Gold Cup. After some heavy falls, in 1925 Frank retired as a jockey.

Coming from humble beginnings in Melbourne and the Upper Murray, Frank Bullock rose to stardom and an exotic career. Dying in 1946 in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War in England meant that Frank did not receive the accolades he deserved. Sixty years after his death in 2006 he was made a member of the Sport Hall of Fame. Now his story forms a rich part of the Upper Murray and Towong Turf Club history. One day we might hear the German side of the story!



Laudon - Jockey F. Bullock  
Sieger im Zukunfts-Rennen 1917



References

- Jockeypedia
- Racing Victoria
- [www.racingvictoria.com](http://www.racingvictoria.com)
- Sports Hall of Fame [safof.org.au](http://safof.org.au)

