

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Friday, December 18, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

ALLIED AIR MIGHT BLASTS RETREATING GERMAN ARMY

THE German retreat in Libya is being dislocated rapidly by Allied attacks. Hundreds of fighters and bombers are pounding the Axis columns hourly. The enemy appears to have little air support, and is reported to have lost a big proportion of his petrol supplies.

A belief is gaining credence that Rommel will make his next stand 200 miles west of El Agheila, where there is an escarpment, as at Sollum and Halfaya.

The withdrawal from El Agheila was conducted in fairly good order, but traffic blocks are now providing good targets for our planes.

ADVANCED forces of the British Eighth Army have kept contact with the enemy's rearguard, and have taken some prisoners. The rearguard consists mainly of machine-gunners, supported by artillery and tanks.

At present Rommel's forces appear to be strung out between 50 and 100 miles west of El Agheila.

In Tunisia, bad weather continues to hinder land operations, and Axis forces have made no further move against Nedjez-el-bab.

According to Morocco radio, Flying Fortresses raided Tunis and Bizerta, doing considerable damage to installations and docks.

The Exchange Telegraph correspondent says that the main road from Teburba to Tunis is now free of Germans for several miles. The Germans are using transports and gliders to reinforce their positions.

British fighters attacked 15 transports in one air battle on Wednesday, and shot down four. One Spitfire pilot shot down three enemy fighters.

The heavy drain on Axis planes in both Tunisia and Libya is shown by the fact that British convoys recently sailed to Beirut and Malta without interception.

NO REVOLT IN ITALY YET

The Director of the Office of War Information (Mr. Elmer Davis) said in Washington that although chaos was increasing in Italy, advances to the United States Government indicated no immediate prospects of an Italian revolt against the Germans.

U.S. SUCCESSES IN SOLOMONS

A WASHINGTON Navy communique announces that U.S. patrols on Guadalcanal destroyed two Japanese machine-gun posts on December 13, and killed both gun crews.

Next day, 14 American bombers attacked an aerodrome at Buin on Bougainville Island. They met neither enemy planes nor anti-aircraft fire.

On December 15, Marine dive-bombers attacked Japanese installations at Munda in New Georgia. Again there was no interception.

TROOPSHIP LOST

THE U.S. Navy Department has announced that an Army transport, the President Coolidge, fully laden with 4000 troops, hit a mine and sank in the South Pacific. Only four men were lost.

HONORABLE ANANIAS

FANTASTIC claims of Japanese successes are broadcast from Tokio almost nightly. Some are laughable—some merely stupid. The one quoted below is both.

— FICTION —

BERLIN radio (quoting Tokio communique): "A strong formation of the Japanese air force made a strong attack on Port Moresby on the night of December 1. Direct hits were scored on runways and aerodrome installations. Storehouses and fuel dumps were hit. Searchlight installations were destroyed. Again the barracks near the aerodrome were hit and destroyed. All the Japanese aircraft returned safely."

New Command For Sydney Hero

CAPTAIN J. A. COLLINS, who commanded H.A.M.S. Sydney, has been mentioned in despatches for service in the Malayan campaign, the Naval Board has announced. Capt. Collins has been awarded the Order of the Commander of the Bath for the gallant action in which the Sydney engaged the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni, which was sunk.

He is now going to England to take over command of H.M.S. Shropshire, which will be renamed H.M.A.S. Canberra and presented to the Commonwealth by the British Government.

GERMAN TARS MISS THE BOAT

FRENCH sailors, who have reached Allied ports, say the Germans had 10,000 sailors ready to board the French ships when their crews scuttled them at Toulon.

Photographs taken 24 hours after the scuttling of the French fleet in Toulon, show 42 ships scuttled or partly submerged. Others, although afloat, are obviously damaged. The photographs were published in London on Wednesday.

Of the 64 ships in the harbor, 11 are, apparently, undamaged. They include two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, three large destroyers, and two old destroyers.

WAR SUMMARY

NORTH AFRICA—Relentless pounding of Rommel's retreating forces by hundreds of Allied fighters and bombers. Successful attacks by our planes on German transports and gliders in Tunisia.

RUSSIA—German attempt to relieve trapped army in Don-Volga sector frustrated.

NEW GUINEA—Our forces at Buna are gradually closing in despite strong enemy resistance.

Grip On Buna Tightens

SLOWLY, but surely, the Allied grip on Buna is tightening. The enemy continues to resist strongly, but our lines are gradually closing in.

THE latest communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters says:

BUNA AREA: In face of strong enemy resistance, our lines are gradually closing in. Our Air Force continued its attacks in direct support of our ground forces. Enemy refugees in the Kumusi delta were bombed by our medium units. A single hostile plane raided our rear areas during the night.

SALAMAUA: Our patrols maintain pressure on enemy outposts and are protecting friendly natives.

RAID ON TIMOR

The communique also reports a raid by our bombers on Mindelo, an enemy occupied town in Timor, and the strafing by an Allied armed reconnaissance unit of an enemy cargo vessel in the New Ireland area. Near New Britain an enemy destroyer was bombed.

DARLAN STATES HIS CASE

FROM Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Admiral Darlan has explained his attitude towards the Axis and his administrative policy. He said that French Africa was doing all it could to bring about the defeat of Italy and Germany.

Allied sympathisers had been restored to their positions, and many had been given important posts. Airfields and communications had been made available to the Allies, and French North-African shipping was joining the United Nations.

Australian Highlights and Brevities

NEW SOUTH WALES

WHEN their lorry failed to negotiate a bend and crashed over a hundred foot cliff at Austimmer, three soldiers were injured. They were Driver Leonard Carr, fractured skull and injuries to left leg; Pte. Raymond H. Jackson, fractured skull and lacerated wounds; Pte. John Lagelow, injuries to right knee and nose.

THE first public parking racks for bicycles in N.S.W. have been erected by Murwillumbah Council in the main streets of the town. There are 30 racks, each accommodating eight bicycles. These may be forerunners of similar racks in many other centres to help out transport under war-time conditions.

Brothers Meet After 58 Years

WILLIAM LINKLATER, 75, and Robert Linklater, Sydney brothers, who had not met for 58 years, had a reunion in Sydney recently. William had been 50 years in the Northern Territory, where he is known as "The Classical Swagman," and writes under the name of Billy Miller. Robert is a bootmaker from Adelaide. Their last meeting was in Adelaide in 1884.

ENDORING a complaint that listening to radio serials at night was causing lack of concentration among children, Dr. Shannon, Newcastle Medical Officer of Health, urged the restriction of hours of radio serials and control of their subject matter. The original complaint claimed a survey had shown that nearly every High School pupil listened to some form of radio serial at night.

MORE than 12,000 prisoners have been traced by the Apostolic Delegation Prisoners of War Information Bureau at North Sydney, which has sent 200,000 messages from relatives in Australia. These figures were quoted in the report presented at the third annual meeting of the Catholic United Services Auxiliary in Sydney.

TASMANIA

STATE Parliament will meet on January 15 to deal with the bill providing for the transfer of certain powers to the Commonwealth Government for post-war reconstruction.

The Premier (Mr. Cosgrove) has invited members of both Houses of Parliament to meet him before Parliament meets, to discuss the bill.

PROSPECTS of internee labor being made available for woodcutting are being investigated by man-power authorities. This will be in addition to the friendly alien camps, the first of which has been opened at Sandy Creek.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AFTER a fisherman living at Tapley's Hill Road, Seaton Park, South Australia, had missed £30 from a suitcase in his bedroom, in which he had placed £100, his son-in-law, living at the same address, admitted to the police that he had taken the money and hidden it under a stone. The son-in-law, Philip John Fenton, 30, munitions worker, pleaded guilty in Adelaide Police Court to having stolen the money, and was released on a £30 bond to be of good behaviour for 12 months.

LEAFLETS and circulars distributed by touts in other States are being posted to punters in Adelaide, and four-place cards are still in circulation. Police believe, however, that illegal bookmaking is now not nearly so prevalent in South Australia as in other States.

THE theft of £22 in two-shilling pieces from a tin trunk while it was in transit from Perth to Adelaide has been reported to the Adelaide police. The trunk, containing clothing and two tins holding £11 each, was placed on the train in Perth by Ada L. Lowe, old-age pensioner. The trunk was delivered to the woman's home in Hughes Street, Mile-End, later, and subsequently it was discovered the money was missing.

SPEAKING at a Commonwealth Club luncheon at Adelaide, the S.A. Agent-General in London (Sir Charles McCann) revealed that the King had a South Australian Shearer plough at Sandringham, and a Sunshine harvester at Hampton Court.

DUE mainly to import restrictions, there has been a substantial drop in the number of new motor vehicles registered in Adelaide. Last month only 20 cars and commercial vehicles were registered, compared with 46 in the corresponding month last year.

A WORDY WAR

THE Empire had lost many cable lines because of war, and had had to use radio for the transmission of many of its wartime communications, said the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin), at the opening of the Inter-Dominion Conference on Communications.

Cheap rate messages for fighting forces now exceeded 60,000,000 words annually, and Government traffic had assumed astronomical proportions. Press traffic over the Empire system, which in 1928 totalled about 25,000,000 words, had this year reached 92,000,000 words.

LEONARD KEITH DYETT, 28, of Carrington Street, Adelaide, laborer, with 47 previous convictions, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in the Adelaide Police Court when convicted on charges of having stolen three bottles of soft drink from a delivery cart belonging to Roy Leslie Ladd.

VICTORIA

THE "Maid of the Mountains" revival is now in its ninth week at His Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, and is still drawing good houses.

REV. FERDINAND FAITHFUL FELL, died last week at his home in Sturt Street, Ballarat. Until his retirement for health reasons a few months ago, Mr. Fell was Anglican Vicar of Learmonth, where he had been stationed since 1924. He has left a widow and two sons, Geoffrey (R.A.N.) and Stuart (R.A.N.V.R.).

THE Victorian manpower authorities have announced that boys and girls, who leave school this year, will be called upon to render some form of national service from the end of December or early in January.

GIRLS working in war industries should be tested regularly for tuberculosis, the chairman of the Victorian Health Commission (Dr. Featonby) believes. In addition to working long hours, many of them also do housework.

QUEENSLAND

THE Premier (Mr. Cooper) has been appointed president of the Church Army in Australia. Mr. Cooper is a member of the Diocesan Synod and secretary of the Parochial Council of All Saints' Church of England, Booval. At one time he was on the staff of the Diocesan Registry in Sydney.

AN outstanding war savings effort by children at a Queensland school has been reported by the State organising secretary of the war savings campaign (Mr. A. V. Porter). Set an objective on March 31 of £500 before the Christmas vacation, the scholars averaged weekly contributions of £15/8/8, and on the last collection day subscribed sufficient to bring the total savings to £505/3/6.

FREDERICK BARKER SYKES, late of Gympie, solicitor, left more than £15,000—£2709 realty and £12,606 personalty. Probate of the will was granted last week. Lily Mary Pelham Tompkins, late of Whetstone Station, Inglewood, left realty £5,092 and personalty £191.

TO be the first Queensland-born priest to attain his golden jubilee was a rare distinction, but it was only one of many outstanding features in the life of Monsignor FitzGerald, said Archbishop Dulhag at a concert given to the Rt. Rev. H. F. FitzGerald by the Holy Cross Convent School, Woolloowin, recently.

REV. Richard Bardon, of Mackay, who has been nominated by the Brisbane Presbytery for appointment as lecturer in theology and the Old Testament at Emmanuel College, was educated at Ipswich Grammar School and Sydney University, graduating with honours in philosophy.

Read "Guinea Gold"—Then Pass It On

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MEMBERS of the Perth Legacy Club were fascinated spectators of a new method of teaching arithmetic recently demonstrated by the originator, Mr R. G. Murdock, a retired school teacher, and six pupils averaging nine years, who worked out in seconds involved problems which most of the adults present would have required minutes to solve. These results, it was explained, were obtained after only a fortnight's tuition.

Newspaper Magnate Leaves £177,450

Sir Geoffrey Syme, of Melbourne "Age" Proprietary, left estate in Victoria sworn for probate at £177,450 gross. He directed that £1500 be given to charities.

A WARNING intended for shoppers that it might be necessary to restrict bus travel at peak periods was given recently by the Director of Emergency Road Transport (Mr. R. L. Millen). War conditions, he said, had placed a severe strain on omnibus services which were finding it difficult to cope with the loading at peak periods.

JUDGMENT for Central Perth Freeholds Ltd., for £181/6/6, on a claim for that sum from E. Robert Maslen and Mary de Luca, and representing arrears of rent and lighting charges, was delivered by Mr Justice Wolff in the Supreme Court.

MR. HOWROYD, M.H.R., has been informed that the wages board has fixed a minimum wage of £5 for a week of 48 hours for adult male workers in dehydration factories and £2/18/- for adult women. The award has not yet been officially gazetted.

MR. W. S. FREW has been appointed chairman of W.A. Tattersall's Club in succession to Mr. W. H. Melvin, who retired. Messrs. F. Gill and G. A. Sweetapple have been elected to the committee.

WHEN 11 offenders were fined £610 by Mr. W. J. Wallwork, S.M., in the Perth Police Court, for offences in connected with illegal betting, Perth betting fines for the month were increased to £2285.

Four offenders were each fined £80, and 3 others were each fined £75, with 18/6 costs, and Cecil Ballardie, 31, bootmaker, Newcastle street, Perth, was fined £25 with 2/6 costs.

CANBERRA

CLAIMING that savings effected by the Department of War Organisation of Industry had more than justified the department's expenditure, the Minister (Mr. Dedman) said in Canberra that bread-zoning in Sydney and Melbourne had saved about £600,000. The cost of the department was only £100,000 a year.

THREE BATTERED TO DEATH IN ADELAIDE FIRE FOLLOWS CRIME

THREE men, one of them a soldier, were murdered in a former city betting shop in Adelaide last week-end. The shop was then set on fire. Police consider the wounds were inflicted by either a tomahawk or a butcher's cleaver.

The bodies were found in separate upstairs bedrooms, around which the flames were hungrily licking when police and firemen arrived.

ONE of the civilians was still alive when discovered on the floor of the bedroom. He died early next morning.

The soldier, a militiaman, was Alan Davies. He had severe head injuries and was scorched. One of the civilians was Horace Heysed, about 50, of Parkside. He had a large open wound across the front of his face.

Midnight Blaze

Second civilian, believed to be Harry Nicholas, brewery worker, aged 50, had a fractured skull and a severe wound across the temple. He was also badly scorched.

The fire started about 12.20 a.m. in a disused betting shop at the corner of Hindley and Morphett streets.

The stairway leading from a back room on the ground floor was a mass of flames, and firemen had to climb ladders on to the balcony.

Wine Bottles Found

Near the staircase in a back room were several empty wine bottles and a pack of cards on a table. Firemen believe that the fire was started in the back of the house. Flames then ran up the staircase and badly damaged three upstairs rooms.

A woman who lives next door told the police that during the night she heard squabbling and fighting in the shop, and also thought she heard a woman's voice.

The Coroner has ordered a post mortem on the victims.

GOSSIP PARS FROM U.S.A.

HUGH HARMAN, veteran film animator, has announced the creation of the ultrascope, which permits unlimited photography of action and background from every angle of its 360 deg. spherical range. It has already been used in making training films for the armed forces, enabling mastery of complicated tasks to be achieved eight times faster than by other methods.

SEYMOUR CHOTINER, Hollywood attorney, has divorced Helen Gilbert, complaining that during five months' marriage, he had only one meal at home.

THE film star, Lana Turner, has announced that she expects to become a mother some time this summer.

AWARDS FOR CIVIL HEROES

FOR outstanding bravery on November 9, William Peel Peterson and Stanley John Willis have been presented with special medals and cheques for five guineas each.

The men, when 90ft. under water on the constructional work of the Hawkesbury River bridge, N.S.W., felt their way in the dark towards the surface in a bucket, and were almost suffocated by smoke in endeavoring to rescue Arthur Edward Preston, 36, who was trapped in an airlock with his clothing ablaze. Preston died in hospital.

MARJORIE LAWRENCE'S FORTITUDE

WHEN interviewed by the Mayor of New York (Mr. La Guardia) by radio, the Australian singer, Marjorie Lawrence, revealed that she was able to walk again after treatment for infantile paralysis of the legs.

Mr. La Guardia commented that the people of Australia were not despairing, even though they had been in a difficult situation. Miss Lawrence typified their patience and fortitude.

Marjorie Lawrence started her singing career by winning a Sun Aria contest.

BURGESS WHITEHEAD, former infielder of New York Giants, has been inducted into the Army. Footballer Cecil Isbell, of Greenbay Packers, retained the forward pass championship. Patrick Filley, left guard, was elected captain of Notre Dame 1943 football team. Jack Doyle, aged 66, famous betting commissioner, died from a heart attack at Florida.

DISPLAYING fast team work, H.Q. "T" team defeated the Repair team 61-37 in the United States basketball match in Brisbane.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has appointed Mr. William Phillips as his representative in Delhi. Mr. Phillips has had wide general experience, and has held the posts of Minister of State, and Ambassador to Italy.

Kindergarten, 10.2, Hot Cup Favorite

KINDERGARTEN, sensational New Zealand galloper, is a red-hot favorite for the Auckland Cup to be run at Ellerslie on Boxing day. He has the record weight of 10.2.

Kindergarten recently won the Canterbury Cup in a hand canter, and his owners believe that had it been possible to take him to Melbourne, he would have won the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups.

BRISBANE FIGHT

NO fight of recent years has aroused as much interest as the matching of Queensland welterweight champion, Tommy Burns, with the Filipino, Rush Milling, who will box 12 three-minute rounds at Brisbane Stadium to-night.

Milling has beaten Alan Westbury, Terry Reilly, Jimmy Purcell, Ron Coneybear, and Les Sloane in Melbourne, but the alst named turned the tables on him subsequently. Vic Patrick also defeated him, but at Sydney Milling beat Jack Day and Maurice Dremon by the short route.

NO RACES IN AUSTRALIA ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

By "Ascot" of the "Sporting Globe"

For the first time for many years there will be no races in Australia on New Year's Day (Friday, January 1, 1943). In the first place it will not be a public holiday. Secondly, since Mr. Curtin introduced the new design for living austerely, races are not permitted on Fridays.

SPORT FLASHES

MAJOR W. T. (BILL) WATSON, who has been awarded the D.S.O., was one of the best front-row forwards in N.S.W. Rugby Union. He won the D.C.M., M.C. and bar in the last war.

TASMANIAN Cricket Association has rejected a suggestion that a North v. South cricket match should be played this year. Members have expressed the opinion that, in view of war conditions, such a match could not be regarded as representative.

STAR winger Leo Merrett has been adjudged Richmond's "fairest and best" for 1942 by the club selectors. Merrett—just recovered from an operation for appendicitis—thus wins the J. H. Jones trophy, and his name will be inscribed on the Vic Thoup Memorial Shield.

J. Sharp, former Adelaide jockey, continues to bring home the winners in India. At Calcutta meetings Sharp rode 11 winners in four days. On one Saturday he won five races.

Waverley Club with 63 points maintains the lead in Sydney cricket competition. Northern Suburbs and St. George are next with 54.

Gaol and Fine For Income Lie

BECAUSE he lied about his income when appearing before the Income Tax Commissioners in London, a company director, Henry Rupert Hood-Barrs, 52, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment and fined £2500 with £700 costs.

He was ordered to stay in prison until the fine was paid.

Justice Humphreys ruled that a case heard before the Income Tax Commissioners was a judicial proceeding to which penalties for perjury applied.

Calling Westmead Old Boys!

ARE there any Westmead Old Boys serving in New Guinea?

If so, they are invited to send their names as soon as possible to Private P. V. Coyle, C/o "Guinea Gold," or Mr. F. Splaind, 2 Cambridge street, Granville (N.S.W.) The names are required for an Honor Roll which is now being compiled.

THE V.R.C. Standish and Bagot Handicap double, which has been the New Year's Day feature for more than 50 years, will be run at Flemington on Boxing Day (Saturday, December 26). The usual Caulfield meeting on Boxing Day has been cancelled.

In N.S.W. the A.J.C. will conduct its Summer Cup meeting at Randwick on Boxing Day.

In the days before "Austerity," the Boxing Day and New Year's Day fixtures were very popular. Besides metropolitan meetings there were hundreds of country gatherings. All these have gone.

The only country centres still carrying on in Victoria are Ballarat and Geelong. There will be a Bungaree Turf Club meeting at Ballarat and a picnic meeting at Pakenham on Boxing Day.

"Mick" Mather Back

PILOT Officer A. E. ("Mick") Mather, South Sydney rugby league forward, returned to Australia. He was in one of the first bomber squadrons in the Middle East, and took part in operational flights over Germany, and in the air battle for Malta.

U.S. BUILDING 12 BATTLESHIPS

16 ALREADY IN COMMISSION

AMERICA possesses at least 16 battleships—6 of them new—and 12 more are building, half of them in the 45,000 ton class, the New York correspondent of the Melbourne "Argus" reveals.

ONE of the new battleships is the 52,000 ton New Jersey, which was launched at Delaware Bay on December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

The correspondent adds:—"U.S.A. had 37 light and heavy cruisers in service and 54 building at the time of Pearl Harbor. An additional 500,000 tons of cruisers was projected, and despite subsequent losses the cruiser strength is mounting rapidly."

The report also states that in the destroyer category U.S.A. had 171 a year ago, with 191 under construction.

Another 900,000 tons of destroyers and escort vessels was projected.

Of the Navy's original seven aircraft, four have been sunk, but at least 13 other big carriers are building, and scores of merchant ships and cruisers are being converted into aircraft-carriers.

At the outbreak of war America had 113 submarines. Losses have been negligible, and nearly 200 more have been built or are building.

The naval personnel has increased from approximately 400,000 in the latter part of 1941 to more than 1,400,000 today, and by the end of 1943 it will total 2,000,000.

LOAN SUCCESS: ANOTHER ON WAY

A DELAYED message from Canberra states that the Australian £100,000,000 Austery War Loan was over-subscribed by several million pounds. Subscribers numbered more than 40,000.

For the next £100,000,000 loan, to be floated before the end of the current financial year, the Government will intensify its campaign for subscriptions in advance of the opening date.

WANTED KNOWN

Pte. C. B. W. Parker desires to contact S/Sgt. R. E. Leitz, U.S. Air Force, and D. Allen, R.A.A.F. Replies through "Guinea Gold."

Letters have arrived at "Guinea Gold" office for W.O. II Warr, and Bdr. Henshaw.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND.—Identity discs (T. M. Kearney). Owner apply "Guinea Gold."

LOST.—Haversack, between Port Moresby and practice artillery range. Owner Gnr. A. R. Upward c/o "Guinea Gold."

Reforms To Obtain More Nurses

TO increase the number of available nurses during the war, steps have been taken to ensure that their training will not exceed three years. Four years or longer have been taken up in the past in many instances.

Long periods of training, hard working conditions and comparatively low rates of pay, have been matters of complaint among nurses for many years.

Another reform is that in future nurses are to be permitted to sit for two examinations without waiting for nine months to elapse between them, provided the preceding section has been completed satisfactorily.

BID TO FREE TRAPPED AXIS TROOPS FAILS

A GERMAN attempt to relieve their trapped forces in the Don—Volga sector was nearly successful, a London "Times" correspondent states.

A WEDGE was driven into the Russian lines, but Soviet troops held it, and then began a steady pressure from both sides. This forced the Germans back.

Fierce fighting continues at Kotelnikovo, south-west of Stalingrad, where the Germans launched a full scale offensive a few days ago.

There is also fighting north-west of Stalingrad, in the Losdok area in the Caucasus, as well as on the Central front.

ABSENTEEISM ON INCREASE

INVESTIGATIONS made by the N.S.W. Manpower Director (Mr. Bellemore) disclose staggering figures of absenteeism at a number of factories producing vital war materials.

At one factory alone 1374 men absented themselves from work during a recent week—an average of 200 absent employees a day.

Mr. Bellemore said the week-ends—particularly Saturdays—were by far the worst periods.

"One Saturday at this factory recently no fewer than 345 men failed to turn up for work," he continued, and added that the average number of employees absent on Mondays at the same establishment was 90.

94 LOSE LIVES IN FIRE

AT least 94 people lost their lives when the Knights of Columbus hostel at St. Johns (Newfoundland) was destroyed by fire, says an A.A.P. message. More than 130 people were taken to hospital. Many servicemen were among the victims.

Robert Montgomery Hopes For Action

FILM star Robert Montgomery is hoping for action in the Solomons, and probably his wish will be granted before long. He is now a lieutenant serving on a cruiser attached to Vice Admiral Halsey's force in the South West Pacific.

Lieut. Montgomery was the first Hollywood star to take a war job. He drove an American ambulance in France until Dunkirk. He then returned to the United States, and obtained a commission in the U.S. Navy.

AUSTRALIA'S WAR BILL

AUSTRALIA'S total war expenditure for the first five months of the current financial year was £207,000,000, and for November was £48,000,000, compared with £46,000,000 in October. Of the war spending in the five months to the end of November, £38,000,000 came from revenue, and £169,000,000 from loans.

VANDERBILT HEIRESS AND HER UNPAID BILLS

GLORIA Vanderbilt di Cicco, 18-year-old heiress to £1,520,000, is alleged to have left £2500 in unpaid hotel bills in Kansas City. The City Sheriff said: "I cannot understand why people who are supposed to have so much money leave a mess like this. Maybe it's just lack of business ability."

The sheriff added: "Ever since Mr. and Mrs. di Cicco left several weeks ago, people holding the sack have come to me with attachment orders against them."

In May, Mrs. di Cicco admitted that her marriage in December last year to Pasquale di Cicco, Italian gardener's son and actor's agent, was "becoming expensive."

At that time she had to ask her estate trustees to allow another £250

Church Services

AUSTRALIAN and U.S. chaplains supply the following information for Services personnel.

Go To Church

Chaplains of both armies hold religious services in this area for men of all faiths. See your units bulletin boards for times and places.

Go To Church

Church of England

ST. JOHN'S.—Port Moresby, Holy Communion 0800 and 0930; morning service 1030, evening service 1900. MURRAY BARRACKS. 5 C.C.S.—Holy Communion 0800. BASE HOSPITAL.—Holy Communion 1000.

Roman Catholic

Holy Mass will be celebrated each Sunday at the following centres:—

MORESBY.—Holy Rosary Church (near Y.M.C.A.) 0700 and 0830. H.Q., N.G.F., (A.Q. area) 0830. MURRAY BARRACKS. (Y.M.C.A.)—0930. PITT St. (at M.D.S.)—0700. A.G.H.—0830 (Chaplain's Tent); 1000 (Men's Mess). BASE WORK SHOPS, 0700. C.C.S. 0815. BASE HOSPITAL (King's Hollow), 1045. At Y.M.C.A. (Eddy Av.), 0830. R.A.A.F. H.Q., 0730.

Other Protestant

Denominations

Church Services. MURRAY BARRACKS, 0900. ROUNA CONVENT HOSP., 1115. RECEPTION CAMP, BASE DEPOT, 0900.

NO ENDOWMENT EXTENSION

THE Federal Government has refused to extend child endowment to all children in the family instead of excluding the first child because it would cost £11,000,000 extra a year. Also, the present basic wage contemplates a family unit of three.

a month, making a total of £625 a month, for living expenses.

Her husband joined the U.S. Army as a private, after having struck an hotel clerk, and people said he ought to "keep his punches for the Japs."

Gloria received nothing from her aunt, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, who died in April and left her entire fortune to charities.

Mrs. Whitney fought a bitter legal battle in 1934 against Gloria's mother, and won custody of her niece.