

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Thursday, December 24, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

GERMAN DEFEAT THREATENS TO BECOME A ROUT

THE German defeat in the Middle Don area of the Russian front is showing signs of becoming a rout.

A special communique issued in Moscow yesterday read: "Our offensive is continuing to develop in all directions, and the Red Army is pursuing the disordered Germans. Yesterday we captured several more inhabited localities, 10 of which were large and included Kamensk, 40 miles south of Millerovo.

We killed 7,000 Germans, and took 6,700 prisoners. In the last seven days we have taken 20,700 prisoners, and have captured 108 tanks, 1673 guns, 2369 machine guns, 6735 lorries, 5500 horses and 82 ammunition and supply dumps."

As the Russian offensive sweeps forward German military experts are making no secret of the gravity with which they regard the situation.

A German High Command spokesman, Dr. Dietmar, on Tuesday warned the German people that the situation had for the first time become "really dangerous."

Rommel Still On The Run

In its flight across Libya, Rommel's Army is now West of Sirte with the British Eighth Army still in hot pursuit.

Yesterday, the Axis rearguard grouped 88 millimetre guns to fight a brief delaying action with the British light armoured units, but was soon overcome.

A London Times correspondent with the British advanced forces says the enemy rearguard is showing less cohesion. His message states: "Although reports have been received that the Germans are digging in at various wadis, including Zem Zem, near Misurata, it is clear that the last defence lines have already been passed. The enemy's obstacle strewing is tantamount to tactics of despair. The Eighth Army is now closer to Tunisia than to Egypt. The countryside already carries better vegetation, and water supplies within two miles of the coast."

Another correspondent says that Axis troops lie hidden in wadis by day and continue their flight by night.

French Success

THE latest North African communique announces the failure of an Axis attack against French troops, which recently occupied an area near Kairouan in Southern Tunisia. The attack was beaten back with considerable loss to the enemy.

Australian Corvette Armidale Lost

THE loss of the Australian corvette H.M.A.S. Armidale, is announced in General MacArthur's communique issued late last night.

H.M.A.S. Armidale was bombed, and sunk in a recent action near Timor.

WAR SUMMARY

NEW GUINEA:—Our forces have breached many of the enemy's fortifications in the Buna area.

RUSSIA:—Moscow claims German defeat may become rout. Much booty captured in latest drive.

N. AFRICA:—Rommel's retreat shows no sign of stopping.

BURMA:—Wavell's advance continues without opposition.

Repatriation Act

Pensions Rise Forecast

INCREASED pensions for servicemen are expected to be included in the Repatriation Act amendment next week.

DETAILS of the amendment have not yet been confirmed by the Federal Cabinet, but they are likely to provide for substantial increases in partial pensions; increase in provisions for certain children dependents on war pensions; pension concessions for de facto wives; sustenance provision for ex soldiers and their dependents between the period of discharge from the Army and replacement in civil occupation, increased provision for vocational training of ex-servicemen.

The provisions are expected to apply to pensioners of the First World War as well as this war.

Aust. Army

"Approaching Maximum Strength"

THE Australian Army was fast approaching its maximum strength, and the time had arrived for a complete stocktaking, said the Minister for the Army, Mr. Forde, when reviewing the Pacific war strategy.

He said a search was being made to discover whether money was being wasted in any part of Army organisation.

Action was being taken to get rid of dithering, muddling officers, who held up Army business, and caused bottlenecks. The intensive training methods adopted earlier this year were now bearing results, as was shown by the efficiency of our fighting men in New Guinea.

COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE FORCES

In a Christmas message to the Forces, General Sir Thomas Blamey writes:—

AS Commander of the Allied Land Forces in the South-West Pacific Area, I send seasonal felicitations to all Officers and men, Americans and Australians, under my Command.

I congratulate you on your recent successes, which are but the forerunner of the great offensive action which will bring victory to our cause and peace to the Pacific. There will be hard and bitter fighting. Even heavier sacrifices will be demanded from us, but only by those sacrifices can we ensure the sanctity of our homes and the security of our countries.

Your successes have made it possible for our kinsfolk at home to commemorate this season with some of the traditional festivity. Participation in that commemoration is denied you by a savage enemy, to whom the spirit of Christmas is meaningless. But you will find compensation in the grand comradeship of arms. It is a continuing friendship which will carry you through the vicissitudes of the peace that is to come, as well as the tribulations and difficulties of war.

In that comradeship you will go forward to victory, which alone can preserve for our peoples the right to celebrate Christmas as it has been commemorated for almost 2000 years.



GENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY

Australian Highlights and Brevities

NEW SOUTH WALES

IF 20 fitters and turners can be obtained for the idle £2,000,000 Government munition works in N.S.W., a majority of the 3,000 women registered for service could be employed, said Mr. Bellemore, N.S.W. Director of Manpower, on Tuesday. The factory would start production immediately if these skilled tradesmen were made available.

RESULTING possibly from a visit by Dr. Evatt to the coal fields at the week-end, all N.S.W. northern collieries worked on Monday. It was only the second occasion for months that all mines were in production.

IN Sydney there is little indication in shops that spending is being curtailed because of austerity Christmas. With rationing in force, money is being spent on more expensive gifts. Christmas wine and beer are being sold on the quota system, and it is not unusual to see queues of buyers outside hotels and wine shops.

MRS. O'Dea, in Sydney on a visit from Temora, caused many heads to turn in admiration as she walked about the city wearing her sugar bag suit and hat to match. In Temora, where she is supervisor of the N.E.S. First Aid Centre, the outfit is known as the N.E.S. Austerity Suit. It did not cost the wearer anything in either money or coupons. She made it herself from four sugar bags.

WHILE teaching his sister to swim, Leslie Bruce, 16, of Edward Street, Wagga, was drowned in the Murrumbidgee River. Bruce could not swim very well and the river is full of snags.

JAMES HENRY DAVEY, 56, Karabah Road, Auburn, was fatally injured at Auburn railway station early on Thursday morning. It is understood that Davey was crossing the line when the accident occurred.

TASMANIA

THE Lord Mayors of Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, who were all born in Hobart, have arranged a celebration towards the end of the year. Ald. Crick (Sydney), who retires at the end of the year, and Cr. Nettleford (Melbourne) will leave for Hobart on December 27 to attend various festivities arranged by Ald. Soundey (Hobart).

PROFIT earned by Henry Jones Co-op. Ltd. and its subsidiary companies for the year to October 31 amounted to £272,796 after eliminating outside shareholders' equity, compared with £249,354 in the previous year and £263,008, in 1939-40. Of the latest profit £200,764 (£165,530 last year) was earned in Australia and £72,032 (£83,824) outside Australia.

Woman To Manage City Theatre

MISS LOUELLEN BAXTER has been appointed manageress of the Savoy Theatre, Melbourne. She is believed to be the first woman to assume management of a city theatre.

VICTORIA

TWO men who had been arrested in a two-up raid by Melbourne wireless patrol late on Tuesday afternoon were caught again in another two-up raid at night. They had been released on bail after being arrested in the afternoon. Sixty men were caught in a police raid on a social club above a furniture shop in Fitzroy. Four raids were made in the week-end on two-up players by wireless patrol police.

ROBERT ZIMMER, a cripple, aged 46, of Richmond (Melbourne) was unable to use his crutches because he had fallen and broken his shoulder trying to escape from a fire in his bedroom on Tuesday. He was rescued by Mrs. Thelma Thorpe, who lives opposite, and who saw smoke issuing from the house and heard cries for help. Zimmer was able to return home after his fracture had been set in hospital.

JAMES PARKINSON, described as an energetic worker for all patriotic efforts at a Victorian munitions factory, was fined £20 at Footscray Court on Tuesday on a charge of having conducted a lottery. On the application of the police £134, which they alleged to be money held in connection with a sweep on the Melbourne Cup, was forfeited. The sweep was said to be part of the munition workers' war effort. Mr. Pyvis, P.M., said that the weakness of the defence was that only a third of the money was given to patriotic funds.

THE death occurred in Melbourne on Monday after a short illness, of Mr. H. I. Cohen, K.C., who for many years took a prominent part in Victorian State politics. He was a member of the Legislative Council for 15 years till 1936. He also held a number of State Ministerial portfolios.

FOR having failed to attend at the military area office, Ripponlea, for a draft, of which he had received notice, Harold Ernest Roberts, 22, of Myrtle Street, St. Kilda, was sentenced at St. Kilda Court to one month's imprisonment.

JOHN LEE, 29, and his two sons, aged two and four respectively, of Palmer Street, Fitzroy, were injured when a car which Lee was driving collided with a motor-truck in Richmond on Tuesday. They were all admitted to Alfred Hospital.

QUEENSLAND

A LARGE drought area extending from Nelia to Richmond, south to Winton and westwards did not participate in the recent beneficial rains and the plight of graziers in this district is serious.

A grazier from the north-west said that losses of sheep had been occurring for some time in this particular area, and would continue until there was relief rain.

They did not regard the recent rains as the wet season and were hopeful that they would get relief within the next month or two.

THE large bakery of Thos. Keating, Pty. Ltd., Valley, is to be taken over by the Defence authorities as a training school for bakers.

THE death has occurred at Roma of Mr. Richard Bryant, aged 79. For many years he was associated with the firm of Bryant and McLean, stock and station agents. He retired from active business in 1935.

THE Boys' State school, One Mile, Gympie, claims a world's record, as in its 73 years' existence it has had only three head teachers.—Messrs. McLeod, T. B. Ferguson, and M. T. Fenelon, the present head.

Breaking-up day marked the end of the existence of the boys' and girls' schools as separate entities. When tuition is resumed next year they will be combined as one school.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AS president of the S.A. Bank Officials' Association, Mr. G. F. George recently handed to the Y.M.C.A. military service appeal chairman (Mr. Andrew Young) a cheque for £1448. This will be used to purchase and equip two heavy (30 cwt.) mobile units.

SIR CHARLES McCANN, Agent-General for South Australia, will begin a week's tour of the Murray fruit-growing areas on January 4, calling at Waikerie, Barmera, Berri and Renmark.

A tour of the South-East, including an inspection of the cellulose factory near Millicent, the Mount Burr sawmill, and South-Eastern forests, will also be made.

AT a conference between the R.A.A. and the Master Carriers' Association yesterday, it was decided to institute a vigorous campaign for the removal or masking of superfluous stop signs. Speakers declared that under the present conditions many of the signs were unwarranted and caused wastage of time and valuable fuel. In the case of horse-drawn traffic, unnecessary stops caused cruelty.

FOR having used a weatherboard and asbestos workshop and garage as a dwelling house without the consent of the Woodville Corporation, Adolphus James Levi, of Palm Avenue, Royal Park, was fined £1 with £1/11/- costs in the Port Adelaide Police Court.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A PROGRESSIVE decrease in the total number of sheep shorn in the pastoral areas of 2,609,397 in 1941—is disclosed in the annual report of the Under-Secretary for Agriculture (Mr. G. K. Baron-Hay). "The labor shortage in all districts—due to enlistments, call-up, and migration to other industries—has reached alarming proportions and depleted staffs undoubtedly will affect adversely the high standard of sheep and wool production," the report adds. "Unless a marked change occurs, a decrease in wool production is a possibility among larger flocks."

IN answer to a question by Mr. North (Nat., Claremont) in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Wise) said that expert attention had been given to the possibility of growing coffee in the North-West and tea in the South-West of this State.

THE Minister for Education (Mr. Kitson) has given a definite assurance that the Director of Education (Mr. M. G. Little) will visit Pingelly in connection with the school strike by parents, due to overcrowding and the demand for separate accommodation for half-castes at the school.

CHAIN DINNERS

CHAIN dinners have been hit upon by some non-Austerity diners in capital cities to get round the Austerity meal regulations, which impose a three course limit. This spirit of dining is against the spirit of austerity meals, but at present officials are powerless to prevent the practice.

MR. J. E. EDWARDS has been promoted from Clerk Assistant to Clerk of the Senate (First Division) vice Mr. R. A. Broinowski (retired) as from December 1. Mr. R. H. C. Loof, Usher of the Black Rod and Clerk of Committees will succeed Mr. Edwards, and Mr. W. I. Emerton, Clerk of the Records and Assistant Clerk of Committees, becomes Usher of the Black Rod.

UP to the middle of this month, 100 inquests had been heard in Perth and 9 more were listed. Last year only 85 inquests were held. In making these figures available, the Clerk of Petty Sessions (Mr. R. A. Smith) attributed the increase to more traffic accidents, many of which had occurred during blackout periods. Usually an average of only one inquest before a jury is held every two years.

A CONCERT by the Perth A.B.C. light orchestra inaugurated the first series of regular west-east broadcasting hook-ups. The vice-chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (Mr. P. G. J. Foley) gave a short talk before the concert.

Sport, American And General News

Reception, 9.12, Has Hard Task In Standish

By Joe Opie, "Ascot" of the "Sporting Globe"

THE handicapper has paid Reception a compliment in giving him 9.12 in the Standish Handicap next Saturday, a stone more than the second topweight, Crojick.

RECEPTION is the best sprinter in Melbourne, having won seven races, but 9.12 may prove beyond him. Amana (7.13) and Ortelli (8.12) are nicely weighted.

The lucky Robertson stable seems to hold the key to the Bagot Handicap with Throttle, fifth in the Williamstown Cup, and High Road. Throttle will be a strongly fancied candidate.

Skipton will not run in the Bagot Handicap, in fact he may not be ready for the autumn. Jack Fryer would like to turn him out until next spring, and he has told the owner so. Skipton is sore in the off foreleg. The trouble may have been there for a few weeks, and possibly accounts for his poor races recently.

Great Britain Sore

Great Britain is another "star" feeling effects of his spring racing. Great Britain was sore all over after the Ascot Cup. He was also touchy in the off foreleg, having struck himself. Trainer Harry Freedman is hopeful that the colt will freshen up in the next few weeks, and be able to go on with his preparation for the Futurity and Leger.

Jack Holt is making another attempt to get the imported horse Moonray fit. Indications are that Moonray has a better chance now of making the grade.

GREYHOUND RACING BAN PERTURBS MINERS

ACTION is to be taken by Wonthaggi (Vic.) miners against the greyhound transport ban.

Mr. J. McVicars, secretary of the Miners' Union, said that arrangements had been made to present a monster petition against the ban. Greyhound racing was the only sport that miners had in Wonthaggi, and it would be stopped if the ban was not lifted.

Miners had given up their holidays and worked long hours to play their part in the war effort.

Percival's Escape

NEVILLE PERCIVAL, had a narrow escape at Mentone on Saturday, while riding the Australian Steeple winner, Spirak, in the Cheltenham Handicap. At the back of the course, Lady Collingwood fell over King Silvius. Spirak, who was following, brought his jumping ability into play, and cleared the two horses, otherwise, says Percival, he would have been piled up with the others.

Riverton For Leger

RIVERTON, winner of the Villiers Stakes at Randwick on Saturday, has been nominated for the Carrington Stakes and Tattersall's Cup, but he may start in either race. Trainer G. Price said the colt might be eased up and later prepared for the autumn racing, with the St. Leger as his mission.

Perth Cup Fancy

Pantheist, a brown son of Pantheon and Ribstone, is the horse of the moment in Perth. He won the W.A.T.C. Derby brilliantly on Saturday and is a hot favorite for the Perth Cup, to be run on Boxing Day.

Newmarket Prize

THE V.R.C. committee has reduced the stake for the 1943 Newmarket Handicap by £500 to £2000. The stake for the Australian Cup remains at £3000. In reducing the prize-money for the Newmarket, the committee considered it would be better to build up stakes for the minor events than to let the stake for the big sprint race.

ITEMS FROM AMERICA

Newspaper Strike Ends In New York

WITH the end of the newspaper delivery drivers' strike, paper stands everywhere were rushed when sales were resumed a few days ago.

Mayor La Guardia, often critical of the press, came to the conclusion: "We can't get along without newspapers. We've learned that from the strike."

The New York "Sun," in an editorial, said a bright side of the strike was that its readers supported it to the limit. On one day 20,000 men and women called at the "Sun" office for their newspaper.

More than 40,000 copies were sold over the counter by the New York "Times" on Tuesday alone.

EX-WORLD boxing champion, Jack Dempsey, has been promoted to Lieut.-Commander in the U.S. Coastguards, says a U.S. message.

Boston Gives Talkie Outfit To A.C.F.

THE Boston (U.S.) Anzac division of the British War Relief Society, has given a donation to the A.C.F. to cover the cost of one of twelve portable outfits for showing talkie pictures to troops. The outfits were shipped to Australia recently.

BEST AT ATHLETICS

WESTERN Suburbs (Sydney) strengthened its hold on the season's inter-club competition on Saturday by defeating its closest rival Botany, by 59 to 43. Western Suburbs has only to beat the weakened St. George team to be undefeated for the season.

America's Second Wartime Xmas Will Be "Spotty"

AMERICA'S second wartime Christmas will be "spotty," War Production Board officials report. In most areas electrical appliances, imported hams, typewriters, silk ties, nylon hose, and gin are difficult to secure. A general survey shows:—

CANDIES: Plentiful stocks generally, despite sugar rationing; certain kinds, including chocolate bonbons, difficult to buy. CIGARS: Plenty of tobacco, including imports from Cuba, but growing shortage of workers prevents full time operation. JEWELRY: Gold is about the only metal now plentiful for civilian use, but gold mines are closing down, and alloys needed to make trinkets are going into war production. Wooden

and plastic jewelry is taking its place. TOYS: Wooden and gaily painted toys now, but they are slated to disappear; no tin soldiers, nickel-plated electric trains and guns.

LIQUOR: Cheaper grades of gin already disappearing, and expensive grades expected to be gone a year from now; Scotch, bourbon and rye supplies are available for three years, possibly five, even though all distilleries are converted to making industrial alcohol for war items. NECK-TIES: No silk or nylon ties left except in a few pockets; rayon, cotton and woollen textiles are ample. STOCKINGS: Women's and men's silk hose are vanishing. Nylon hose are also running out because it, too, is needed for parachutes and other war goods.

LINEN: Imports virtually have stopped, but considerable quantities in stocks. SPORT GOODS: Fishermen's and hunter's rubber boots are gone, golf balls and clubs are vastly different because critical materials are going into war industries; other sports items curtailed accordingly.

N.S.W. PICKS TEAM

THE N.S.W. team to meet the Combined Services in Sydney on December 26 and 28, will be O'Reilly (captain), Chilvers, Barnes, Chegwyn, Cohen, Fallowfield, Jackson, Laidler (who will be wicketkeeper), Longbottom, Sagers and Solomon, with Fitzpatrick twelfth.

The Combined Services team will not be finalised until it is certain that all members can obtain leave.

Dashing Cavalier Cup Fancy

DASHING Cavalier, topweight, with 9.3, is a strong fancy for the Summer Cup to be run at Randwick on Saturday.

A fortnight ago he won in good style at Rosehill, and many believe him to be in something like his best form. At his best he would win the Summer Cup easily, as the opposition is comparatively weak.

One of the dangers to Dashing Cavalier is thought to be Grand Fils, winner of the last Metropolitan, and place-getter behind Riverton in the Villiers Stakes on Saturday.

Amberspear, Angus, Lambeth and Chatham's Choice are also given chances.

Enemy Fortifications Breached: Japs' Position Desperate

Many Hundreds Killed

The Japanese are in a desperate position at Buna.

Latest communique from General MacArthur's Headquarters announces that our attack has breached the enemy's fortifications in many places.

"Many hundreds of his dead are being buried by our troops," the communique adds.

THROUGHOUT yesterday our air units were very active in their support of ground troops.

Beaufighters and Havoc fighter-bombers (A20s) bombed and strafed the Buna area, and northward along the coast.

New Britain Raids

Flying Fortresses and North American bombers were employed in attacks on the New Britain area. Three B25s (North Americas) raided the aerodrome at Cape Gloucester. Fragmentation bombs fell in the camp area.

Flying Fortresses over Jacquinot Bay bombed and strafed an enemy cargo vessel anchored off the shore.

Another Fortress on reconnaissance over the same area, shot down an enemy fighter and damaged two others.

FOOTBALLER KILLED IN ACTION

LIEUTENANT "Bill" Ryan, who was a centre three-quarter with the Newtown Rugby League team, and visited Queensland with the State team, was killed in action in New Guinea on December 7. He was 23 years of age. His brother, Bruce Ryan, another well-known runner and footballer, is also in New Guinea.

Colleagues Overseas Send Greetings To A.I.F.

GREETINGS from the A.I.F. in the Middle East, and from Allied troops in India, have been received by General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander Land Forces, South-West Pacific Area, and Commander-in-Chief Australian Military Forces.

Flying Surgeons In Tunisia

PARATROOPS have been dropped by the Allies at many points in Tunisia. Last week it was reported that over one aerodrome a complete surgical unit was dropped with a unit of British paratroops.

This is the first time in military history that a military unit has been dropped from the skies complete with surgeons.

KISKA AGAIN BOMBED

KISKA, Japanese base in the Aleutian islands, was again the target for a heavy co-ordinated attack by American planes on Sunday.

An American Navy Department communique states that bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the submarine base, causing heavy explosions, while camp areas and planes were bombed and strafed.

Many fires were started, and it is believed that the attack was very successful.

Attack On Munda

Flying Fortresses on Sunday raided enemy installations in the Munda area of New Georgia, in the Solomons. Another raid was made on Monday. No results have been received.

Other Flying Fortresses scored a direct hit and several near misses on two Japanese cargo vessels near Bougainville Island. One of them was last seen settling down by the stern.

BIG RAID ON MUNICH

PLANES of the R.A.F. bombed Munich, the first place of Nazism, for the first time on Tuesday night.

Heavy cloud prevented accurate observation of results, but the Air Ministry has described the raid as successful. A great weight of bombs was dropped and many large fires were started.

The bombers operated mostly above the clouds in bright moonlight, and many combats with enemy fighters took place. Twelve of our planes failed to return.

Synthetic Rubber Supply

THE U.S. Secretary for Commerce (Mr. Jones) told the House of Representatives banking committee that synthetic rubber production would reach approximately 1,000,000 tons annually by the end of 1943.

The committee's chairman (Mr. Sealrally) said the Government now had a rubber stock-pile of 700,000 tons. He thought the rubber problem would be eased by the middle of 1943.

Brazils Effort

The Rio de Janeiro correspondent of the New York "Times" states that the Brazilian Government is planning to increase rubber production to 50,000 tons yearly to meet the United States' war needs. It is sending 78,000 workers to the Amazon valley rubber fields on foot through jungles, swamps and mountains because of the closing of the sea routes to north-eastern Brazilian ports.

Verdict Of Suicide

A VERDICT of suicide was returned at the inquest into the death of Sir Delves Broughton, who died at Liverpool recently, from the effects of poisoning.

Sir Delves Broughton was acquitted in Kenya some time ago on a charge of having murdered the Earl of Erroll.

STILL NO OPPOSITION IN BURMA ADVANCE

THE Allied advance in Burma is continuing, still without encountering resistance from the Japanese.

THE London "Times" correspondent with Allied General Headquarters in India, says that part of the force which occupied Moundaw and Buthidaung last week, immediately pushed on to take Allethangiyoh, 11 miles south of Moundaw, and the Having landing ground on the coast nearby.

An Indian joint war communique issued in London on Tuesday, an-

Success For RAAF Pilots In Desert

AUSTRALIAN fighter pilots, swooping out of the clouds in a surprise raid on an Axis aerodrome at Hon, in the Libyan desert, destroyed seven grounded planes and damaged others.

Anti-aircraft fire accounted for two of our planes, but the pilot of one was rescued.

FOREST LANDS INADEQUATE

FOREST lands of Australia are too small, not alone for the future, but for present needs, according to Mr. Vincent (U.C.P., Raleigh), in a statement he made in the Legislative Assembly, N.S.W.

The war, which had cut us off from a supply of imported timbers, had disclosed the great weakness of our afforestation, Mr. Vincent said. New South Wales had retained only two per cent. of its total area for forestry purposes, and Australia, with only 20,000,000 acres of forest reserves, was worse off than any other country.

Between 60,000 and 70,000 acres had been added to the forestry reserves of the State since the last recitations had been made.

60,000 Domestic

THE Minister for War Organisation of Industry (Mr. Dedman) said in Melbourne, on Tuesday, that the labor power absorbed in domestic service in private homes totalled about 60,000 persons, mostly women. Figures indicated that Manpower Authorities could extend most sympathetic consideration to middle-aged and elderly domestics, and still make available for essential purposes significant amounts of labor power.

A Chungking message says that 181,867 of the 300,000 Chinese puppet troops armed by the Japanese since 1937, have deserted to the Chinese Central armies.

The message from Lieut.-General Sir Leslie Morshead, G.O.C., A.I.F. (M.E.) reads:—

All ranks of the A.I.F. in the Middle East join me in warmest greetings to you and all ranks of the A.I.F. and A.M.F., and in wishing you every success and good fortune throughout 1943. We are watching with the greatest admiration and pride your splendid achievements in New Guinea.

From General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief India, came the message:

"On behalf of all troops under my Command, I wish you and your gallant Armies all success in 1943."

nounced another enemy raid on Calcutta, in which only minor damage was done, and a strafing attack by Allied aircraft on enemy objectives in the Akyab area.

The attack resulted in damage to the Akyab aerodrome, and a gun post, and to a fair sized river steamer.

Other fighters met an offensive patrol off the Arakan coast, shooting down a Japanese plane. Two of our planes are missing.