

# GUINEA GOLD

## JAPS FORCED BACK TO LAST DEFENCE LINE

### ALLIED "SQUEEZE" ON BUNA TIGHTENS

### ENEMY LOSES MORE SHIPS

**O**VER-RUNNING the enemy's main defensive positions on the right sector of the Buna front, Allied troops have driven the Japanese back into a last line of defence in this area.

This success, and smashing blows at enemy shipping, including the sinking of a destroyer and a 5,000 ton transport, are reported in General MacArthur's communique issued last night.

**R**EPORTING the land fighting the communique states: "On the right of the Buna area, in a double envelopment, our troops over-ran the enemy's main defensive positions, and drove him back into a last line of defence in this sector. It centres on Giropa Point and extends approximately a mile in length along the coast with a width of between five and six hundred yards. It is a prepared and fortified citadel of resistance."

As a result of the latest "squeeze" on the Japanese, our forces control practically the whole of the main Buna aerodrome.

#### ATTACKS ON SHIPPING

The communique reports very successful bombing attacks by Flying Fortresses and other type American bombers on enemy shipping.

Three Flying Fortresses attacked and sank a 5000 ton transport at Gasmata (New Britain), and one of 15 Zeros which attempted interception was shot down. Two others were damaged and forced out of the fight. We had no losses.

The enemy lost another three Zeros when nine attacked one of our bombers on reconnaissance duty over Kavieng. Two others were damaged, and probably destroyed.

One of our big bombers raided the airfield at Cape Gloucester (New Britain), and another plane attacked an enemy tanker with unknown results near Admiralty Islands.

In the Timor area, the communique adds, our attack planes strafed enemy installations near Fuilore starting fires, and an Allied reconnaissance plane attacked and destroyed an enemy sea-plane in the Aroe Island area.

## "AUSTRALIA'S THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU"—Prime Minister

**A**USTRALIA'S fighting forces, wherever you may be, whatever you may be experiencing, I give you this message on behalf of the Government and the people of your homeland.

You are constantly in our thoughts. Your struggles, battles, anxieties, dangers and discomforts are our chief pre-occupation. Our national economy, our way of life, our very existence are all wrapped up in the war you are waging.

Sailors on the seven seas; soldiers in embattled Britain, in the deserts of the Middle East, in steaming, foetid New Guinea and Papua, in Timor, at battle stations in and around the Commonwealth; airmen in Britain, Canada, the Middle East, India, Rhodesia, Russia, Iceland, Malta, Iraq, and Australia's front line: women's auxiliaries everywhere, Australians stand to arms—you are our sword and buckler.

**W**E stand free, here in Australia, because of you. Your courage, determination and peerless gallantry have kept this soil of ours, your soil, inviolate.

You have carried the fight to the enemy, wherever you have met him. We, here at home, carry on the fight so that your strength will be maintained and so that you can go on—never back—until the last crushing blow has been struck at aggression.

Australians approach this Christmas period, after three years of war, without knowing the horrors of physical contact with war. To you, our fighting men, and to the forces of the United States, we owe a debt of gratitude we feel incapable ever of discharging. You, our fighting men, with our American allies, have a New Year's message to deliver to Tojo in 1943. It is this:—

"There are Australians locked up in Singapore. There are Americans in the Philippines. There are Dutch and Indonesians in the N.E.I. There are Chinese in occupied China. They are going to be released. You can't stop free men fighting in a free cause."

Give Tojo that message in bullets and bombs and shells. We'll keep the supplies coming to you. The Australian people have just subscribed £100,000,000 and there's more to come.

Good luck to you all, and may God's blessing be with you.

### ARMY MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**G**ENERAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY, as Commander-in-Chief Australian Military Forces, has received the following message from Mr. Forde, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Army:—

"PLEASE accept for yourself, and all officers and personnel of the Australian Military Forces in the South-West Pacific Area, the best wishes of the Government and the people of Australia for Christmas and the coming year.

"For months past we have followed with intense pride the efforts of the Forces in New Guinea against the enemy under terrible difficulties of climate and terrain, and we have rejoiced in the great successes which have been achieved, and which are vital to the immediate security of Australia. A splendid chapter has been written in the annals of the Australian Army.

"To those who are serving away from home, either on the Mainland or in New Guinea, Timor, or any other station, I wish to say that the thoughts of all Australians are with you at this season.

"We wish you all good fortune, and assure you of the utmost support in all your future undertakings."

## Greetings From The U.S.

**B**ELOW are published Christmas greetings from American leaders to the Forces.

**F**ROM Henry Stimson, U.S. Secretary of War, to the men and women of the Army:—

"In the year now drawing to a close your efforts have brought new honor to American arms. You have met the enemy on many fronts. He has tested not only your courage but your military skill, and your conduct in battle has been an inspiration to a grateful nation. All this I have in mind as I send you my Christmas greetings. Because of your example we may approach this Christmas season with a firm confidence of final victory. Through your fortitude we may believe that the Star of Christmas will once more shine hopefully over a peaceful world."

**F**ROM General Marshall, the U.S. Chief of Staff, to General MacArthur and the units, both Australian and Americans, of his Command:—

"You have my admiration for the splendid campaign you have accomplished.

"Your difficulties include those of terrain, climate and transportation. In addition, your enemy offered resistance of the most desperate character. You have seized an initiative which presages victory for the future as your forces increase.

"You can count on my doing all in my power to bring this about."



MR. JOHN CURTIN

# Australian Highlights and Brevities

## TASMANIA

**W**INNER of last week's £10,000 Tattersall's consultation was Mr. Ken Smith, of Smith Stret, Hobart. Mr. Kelly was in Collins street on a recent Friday morning. He had a £1 note in his pocket, and wanted some small change. He chose Tattersall's instead of an hotel to get it—and he left 5/- for a ticket. It turned out to be the winning one.

**T**HE Tasmania Government may buy an area of land at Mowbray Heights, Launceston, as a site for an experimental community school, proposed by the Progressive Education Group.

**T**HE Director-General of Manpower (Mr. Wurth) has announced that the Minister for Labor and National Service has approved his recommendation that Mr. B. O. Plummer be appointed Deputy Director of Manpower for Tasmania in succession to Mr. M. S. Wilson.

Mr. Plummer has been acting Deputy Director since October 1 last, following Mr. Wilson's retirement. On the establishment of the Manpower

## ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON

**W**HEN they called at a house in a Melbourne suburb late on Monday night, following a report that it had been broken into, a Police Wireless Patrol found that six private detectives, three of whom were women, had entered the house in search of divorce evidence.

A fight occurred, and three of the private detectives, including one woman, were injured.

They were treated at Royal Melbourne Hospital for head injuries.

Directorate in February last, Mr. Plummer, previously an officer of the Department of Defence Co-Ordination, was made deputy to Mr. Wilson. He has had wide experience in industrial and rural matters.

**MR. P. J. PICKERING**, manager of the Bank of Australasia, was elected chairman of the Associated Banks of Tasmania at a meeting of the banks at Hobart.

Following a discussion on health matters at a recent meeting of the Glenorchy Council, the council received a letter of resignation from the medical officer (Dr. D. S. Henderson). The council decided to ask Dr. Henderson to continue as medical officer until March 31.

**A**T the monthly meeting of the executive committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society, five applications for assistance were granted. Since the previous meeting, 17 families, consisting of 51 persons, have received relief.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**A**T a meeting of the South Australian Y.M.C.A. Defence Force committee, Mr. J. O. Curtis was welcomed to his new position as Deputy Assistant Commissioner, S.A. L. of C. area. A minute of appreciation of the services of Mr. A. L. Gibbs, who will take up the position of Assistant Commissioner at Army Headquarters, Melbourne, was passed.

**NURSE T. SCOLLAN**, who was severely burnt when her clothes caught alight while she was refilling a kerosene lamp at the Parkwood Private Hospital, East Terrace, city, has died.

**T**HE monthly statement of cash deposits and repayments issued by the head office of the Savings Bank of South Australia shows that depositors' balances increased during November by £169,765, to £28,152,501, compared with £24,778,544 at November 30, 1941.

The number of accounts of all classes increased during the month by 1129 to 621,710. A year ago there were 607,660 accounts.

**HIS** Excellency the Governor and Chief Scout for South Australia (Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey) sent the following message to the Governor of Malta:—

"Scouts of South Australia send best Christmas wishes to their fellow Scouts of Malta. They have collected £300 sterling as an appreciation of their wonderful work. This sum is being cabled to headquarters in London to be drawn on by you."

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**M**AGNETS have been introduced in women's hair-dressing saloons in Sydney to retrieve bobby-pins and hairpins dropped by operatives.

**T**HOUGH the N.S.W. wheat area is 30 per cent. less than before the war, crops are well up to average yield this season.

**T**HE New South Wales Trades and Labor Council has carried a resolution supporting an application to the Minister for Customs, Senator Keane, for the reintroduction of pint and half-pint glasses into hotels.

The view was expressed that the United Licensed Victuallers' Association was running the industry to suit its own ends, and appeared to have more power than the Prices Commission or the breweries.

**MR. C. T. CLARK**, president of the Stockowners' League told the Committee appointed by the Federal Committee to inquire into complaints about the dipping of cattle for tick eradication, that, while he was in the Court House at Grafton, N.S.W., ready to give evidence, officials had seized and dipped his 89 cattle, eleven of which had died.

## VICTORIA

**T**HE new president of the Melbourne Legacy Club is Mr. O. Gawler, Victorian Government Statist. Metropolitan members of the club entertained 300 children and mothers at a Christmas party in Centenary Hall at the week-end.

**T**HE Victorian Legislative Assembly on Wednesday passed a Bill to grant permission to the Metropolitan Gas Company to increase its capital from £1,500,000 to £2,000,000.

The money is needed to increase the company's plant.

## FIRST WOMAN ENGINEER

**MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY** has turned out its first girl Bachelor of Engineering.

She is Diane Lemaire, not yet 20, and daughter of Lt.-Col. Lionel Lemaire.

**MILDURA** has experienced its first heat wave for the summer. The temperature reached a maximum of 109 degrees on Friday.

Echuca and Wangaratta have also had their first century readings.

**A**T the annual meeting of the Pahraran Patriotic Society it was stated that money raised during the year totalled £17,753, and that 33,190 articles had been distributed among the services and various patriotic organisations.

**MRS. DRAKEFORD**, wife of the Minister for Air, launched a new war vessel at a Victorian dockyard last week-end.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**T**HE Acting Coroner (Mr. T. F. Christie) returned a verdict of accidental death at the inquest on William Gornall, 46, of Vincent street, Mt. Lawley. Gornall was knocked down and killed by a tram in Beaufort street on November 17.

**T**HE Minister for the North-West (Mr. Coverley), on behalf of the Minister for Police, informed Mr. McDonald (Nat., West Perth) in the Legislative Assembly that during the year ended June 30 last, three agents selling lottery tickets received commission in excess of £750. The amounts were £1927/16/9, £1249/12 and £764/5/.

**A FINE** of £7 and costs was imposed in Perth Police Court on Irene Walsh, 27 years, dressmaker, on a charge of keeping premises as a common gaming house. A police witness said he saw the defendant making bets in the shop with a crowd of men.

Eight men were similarly charged, and four others were charged with having obstructed the traffic.

The fines in these cases totalled £775.

## QUEENSLAND

**MR. T. F. BARKER**, general secretary of the Queensland Social Service League, died on Sunday last after a brief illness.

As general secretary of the Social Service League, Mr. Barker was brought into close touch with thousands of needy families in Brisbane, and because of his wide experience and the confidence which Brisbane firms and charitable organisations had in him, he was able to help all genuine cases of distress.

**NOMINATIONS** for Labor candidates for the two vacant seats in the Queensland Parliament, Mackay and Barcoo, caused by the resignations of Messrs. Forgan Smith and Bulcock, will close on January 9, at Mackay and Blackhall, respectively. The plebiscite will be held on January 30.

The Queensland Central Executive of the Australian Labor Party will not select the candidates.

**MRS. ALVA YVONNE WILLIAMS**, munition worker, whose husband is in the Navy, was found dead in her room at a private hotel in Brisbane. It is believed that she died some hours before her body was discovered. A bottle containing poison and a glass were found near the body.

**VIVIENNE PLAW**, 3, whose parents live at the Nudgee golf links, was killed near her home. She had alighted from a motor truck, but retained her grip on a rail as it moved off. She fell beneath the truck and a wheel passed over her.

**MONDAY**, December 28, has been appointed by the State Government to be a holiday throughout Queensland instead of Friday, January 1.

**MR. LIONEL E. MELLISH**, who for 27 years was secretary of the State Health Department, and who retired from the Public Service in 1934, died at his home, Wyarra, Park Road, Yeronga, at the age of 75.

A French Canadian, born at Toronto, he came to Queensland with his parents at the age of 17. He first became associated with the Public Service in 1885 as a clerk in the Police Department, with which he remained until 1907. Then he was appointed secretary to the Commissioner of Public Health.

**A PUBLIC Safety Act** regulation issued last week relieves members of friendly societies who join the navy, army, or air force from obligations to pay contributions or levies to any benefit fund of their societies from the date of their joining the forces, and until six months after the war.

The regulation, which was made on the application of the Queensland Friendly Societies' Association, also provides that if at the start of the period members concerned have been enrolled in their societies for 12 months or longer, they shall be entitled to funeral benefit, but not sick pay benefit.

# Why The War Could End In 1943-44

## WOMEN FOR PARLIAMENT

A PROVISIONAL committee was appointed at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Weber, Victorian M.L.A. last Saturday, to forward the movement favoring the election of women to Parliament.

The first speaker was Miss Vida Goldstein, who was the first woman to stand for Parliament 39 years ago. Mrs. Helen Maxwell announced that she would nominate as an Independent for Balaclava at the next Federal election.

Miss Marjorie Morris has been pre-selected to stand for the St. Kilda State Seat at the next election.

## DUTY LIFTED ON U.S. GIFTS HOME

Gifts for service men abroad to relatives in the United States will be admitted duty free if the value does not exceed 50 dollars (£A15/12/6).

Announcing this, the San Francisco Collector of Customs (Mr. Paul Leake) said that he had received hundreds of protests against heavy duties levied on Christmas gifts arriving at San Francisco from Australia and other Pacific areas. In some cases duty amounted to 50 per cent. of the value.

TED LYONS, White Sox 20-year-old pitcher, has been ordered to take up active duty as first-lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

## EXPERT DISCUSSES LIKELY MOVES

THE recent statement in New York by the British Minister for Production (Capt. Oliver Lyttleton)—that the war could be won by next June—was a sober estimate based on intimate knowledge of Anglo-American mobilisation, writes Harold Callender in the "New York Times." He gives reasons why the war may end in 1943-44.

CALLENDER, who is the newspaper's Washington correspondent, says that authoritative American observers think privately that Italy might be knocked out during next summer, but they do not expect such an early end in Germany.

There is fairly general agreement in Washington military, naval, and political circles on the following probabilities supporting Captain Lyttleton's statements:—

The United Nations will be able to make a major offensive in Europe next year.

A similar offensive in the Pacific may be expected in 1940.

### Slower Pacific Offensive

The Pacific offensive may develop more slowly because of the greater distances, also because the full force of the offensive could be attained only after the knock-out of Italy and Germany permitted the transfer of naval and air power from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Specially qualified observers, therefore, predict a Nazi breakdown about the end of 1943, and Japan's defeat a year or more later.

It is pointed out that German war production has reached its limit, while that of the Allies is increasing rapidly.

Economists contend that intensified bombing of Germany next year may dislocate production and demoralise the Germans into surrender. Military experts are doubtful of this, recalling that air power could not conquer Britain, which was a smaller target. But they admit that a breakdown of morale in Germany might result in a collapse.

### The Factors Involved

The main factors upon which the predictions are based are:—

Firstly, several hundred thousand United States troops arrived in the European war theatre eight months before the German General Staff expected them.

Secondly, British air power is already qualitatively and quantitatively superior to that of Germany.

Thirdly, Anglo-American naval power, particularly in destroyers, is rapidly growing.

Fourthly, confidential reports indicate dissatisfaction among both Italian and German troops in Russia, also that Italian morale is very low, and German morale has been on the down grade in recent months.

## ITEMS FROM AMERICA

DEATH of Marshall Langhorne, formerly of the American Foreign Service, has been announced. He was Charge d'Affairs of the American Legation at The Hague in the first World War. Langhorne was identified with the Foreign Service for nearly 20 years.

AN advance of seven billion dollars, jump of 56 per cent. over the corresponding period in 1941, was made in United States exports in the first 11 months of 1942, it was announced by the Department of Commerce. Total exports in November, including lend-lease shipments, but not materials shipped to American armed forces abroad, were 785,092,000 dollars.

FRED UTFAL, radio artist who runs a broadcast programme called "We Love and Learn," is contesting a separation action by his wife, Madeline.

Before their marriage, Madeline said, they vowed to make a perfect union.

But, afterwards, she found Fred "given to rages without provocation."

He threw her to the ground, choked her, and said: "You aren't even good looking."

She tossed a drinking glass at him.

BASED on national income figures, economists predict that Christmas shopping this year will reach a volume never before attained. It is anticipated that the national income in 1942 will exceed one hundred and fifteen billion dollars. In 1941 the total income of the population was ninety-five billion.

An unprecedented high of one hundred and thirty-five billion dollars is the estimated income for next year.

BILL WALSHINGHAM, vice president of the St. Louis Cardinals, has been commissioned lieutenant (junior grade) in the U.S. Navy.

UNABLE to pay a fine for a traffic offence, schoolteacher Winifred Hunt, of Los Angeles, was ordered to do "lines" in court.

The judge produced a black-board, and told her to write 100 times, "I will obey the traffic laws."

THE Navy Department has announced a new policy which is expected to fill the roster of commissioned officers in the Marines in short order. Henceforth men between the ages of 20 and 31, who successfully have completed two years college and have had two years, subsequent business experience, are now eligible to apply for induction in officer candidate schools leading to commissioning as Marine Second Lieutenants.

GARY CROSBY, 9, Bing Crosby's son, made his film debut in Paramount's "Star Spangled Rhythm," with Dorothy Lamour and Paulette Goddard.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

IN his first fight against a southpaw, Tommy Burns, 10.7½, Queensland welterweight champion, outpointed Filipino Rush Milling, 10.5, at the Brisbane Stadium last Friday.

The decision was not popular with a section of the big crowd, many thinking a draw would have been the correct verdict.

Burns was not seen at his best. Milling forced the pace almost throughout.

ARTHUR FISHER, who until this year was Bondi Icebergs' sprint champion, has joined Bondi Amateur Swimming Club and Bondi Surf Club.

He is training to qualify for the bronze medallion of the S.I.S.A.

EROL BEACROFT, former star sprint swimmer in Bondi Icebergs' Club, and one of its best cricketers and golfers, has been reported wounded, while serving with the A.I.F. in the Middle East.

Beacroft, and "Icebergs" Jack Grill, recently wounded, and Arthur O'Reilly, killed in action, served in the same anti-aircraft battery.

A MINER from Ipswich, Queensland, won £2000 on Sir Neith in last Saturday's Three-Year-Old Handicap at Randwick.

He said a pickpocket robbed him of £2000 after a big Randwick win while on a visit to Sydney last year.

"I expected to win this back on Sir Neith, but did not think book-makers would be mad enough to bet 6/1," he added.

In Queensland, the miner is regarded as one of Brisbane's biggest punters.

He is reported to have won £10,000 one year, but has not given up mining.

ACTOR, a French horse imported to Australia by Mr. Sol. Green, was represented by his first winner when Lemact finished strongly to beat Pickway and Reply Paid in the Manumbar Handicap at Mentone.

Lemact, who had not won previously, was well backed at long prices.

DERBY ADONIS was disqualified by the stewards after running third in the A.T.C. Handicap at Harold Park on Saturday.

J. D. Watts, driver of Derby Adonis, forgot to weigh in.

## LOST AND FOUND

(Unless otherwise stated, owners of property mentioned may contact finders through "Guinea Gold.")

FOUND: Black tobacco pouch.

LOST.—Black-faced dial Elgin deluxe wrist watch, Dr. T. D. Arlook engraved on back. Reward.

LOST.—Omega stainless, waterproof watch, early Sept. Name on watch, G. Lyons.

LOST.—Black wallet, containing notes, U.S.A. Defence Bond, Money Order and personal papers.

FOUND.—Wallet, containing pay-book, and note case containing money. No. 31,008,872, Sgt. William D. Ardito.

Pte. Bacon please call at "Guinea Gold."

## MISSING FRIENDS

(Unless otherwise stated, replies c/o "Guinea Gold.")

Wound L.A.C. fitter Mackintosh, T. M., No. 24631, R.A.A.F., communicate with QX 8636, brother "Vic."

Cpl. McKinnon would like to contact Bunny Boyd and Len Fernor.

Bdr. Peter Arthur Tate, desires to contact Cedric Simpson and Oliver Simpson, of Banya, Brisbane, and George Tate.

E. Monico, Manly, desires to contact Cpl. W. Casimay, of A.S.C.

Wound QX11835 Lieut. Phil Fynes-Clinton and Sgt.-Observer Ron Thomas, R.A.A.F., please contact QX11739 Cpl. P. Fynes-Clinton.

QX15765 A/Cpl. M. L. Gordon required to contact QX32399 Pte. C. G. Roberts.

Malcolm Greening, R.A.N., please leave address at "Guinea Gold" Office for Frank Lynch.

# RUSSIANS ADVANCE 87 MILES IN EIGHT DAYS HUGE AXIS LOSSES

**A FURTHER** general advance of 15 miles on the Middle Don front is announced from Moscow.

This brings the total advance during the last eight days to 87 miles. In furious fighting 8,000 Germans have been killed, and 16,400 captured.

In addition, 143 German tanks and 1,800 guns have been captured, and 235 guns, 120 tanks and 85 transport aircraft destroyed.

**C**ORRESPONDENTS at Moscow report that the Germans are retreating in complete disorder at many points, and are leaving masses of equipment littered across the snow covered battlefields.

Two powerful Red Army tank and infantry columns are advancing from the north and east near Millerovo, key railway-junction on the Rostov-Voronej-Moscow railway.

They are disposed in a semi-circle around the north of Millerovo, and have captured places 14 miles north-east and 30 miles north-west of the town.

The London "Times" correspondent says that German counter attacks are purely local, and have nowhere stemmed the Russian advances.

The fact that the Russians have taken large numbers of prisoners, he states, indicates a break-down in enemy morale, and demonstrates the superiority of Russian tactics and supplies.

The prisoners are said to be in a mood of mental demoralization, not previously found in captured Germans.

While forging ahead on the Middle Don front, the Russians are blocking determined counter-attacks south-west of Stalingrad.

Here the Germans are thrusting forward in strong columns around Kotelnikovo in a major attempt to relieve von Hoth's trapped forces, but the Russians claim to have repelled all attacks, and to have gained some ground.

## GAOL BREAKER RECAPTURED

**WILLIAM AUGUSTINE McENTEE**, who has been arrested in Sydney and charged with breaking and entering, and with the theft of £1000 worth of property, is alleged to have escaped from Beechworth reformatory prison in 1940 by scaling an 18ft. wall. He had previously escaped from Yatala Prison (S.A.) and Ararat Gaol (Vic.).

When he escaped from Yatala, in 1921, he and another prisoner removed an iron bar in the tailoring department, but they were only free for a week. When recaptured, both prisoners had to serve an additional three years' imprisonment.

While on remand in Ararat Gaol in 1932, McEntee made his second break by cutting a hole in a partition, and obtaining a key with which he unlocked a gate. He was recaptured in the following May.

## MALTA HITS BACK

**M**ALTA, which for so long has been a target for enemy attacks, is now hitting back with increasing strength.

The British Admiralty announced on Wednesday that in the course of a series of operations, supplies and reinforcements had been landed on the island without major interference by the enemy.

Bombers based on Malta scored two direct hits on ships in Tunis harbor, and motor torpedo-vessels sank an enemy supply ship and its escort off Tripoli.

## Corvette's Gallant Fight

**FORTY** of the complement of 83 officers and men of the corvette, H.M.A.S. Armidale, the loss of which was reported yesterday, are missing.

The remainder were picked up from lifeboats, and have reached Australia.

Announcing this yesterday, the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin), said reports showed that the Armidale had been heavily attacked by enemy aircraft, including torpedo-bombers.

During the action, the Armidale had shot down at least three enemy planes.

## DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

**ON** the recommendation of the Victorian Cabinet, the Governor-in-Council has approved commutation of the death sentence passed on Frederick Francis Green, 32, timberworker, of Carlton, to twenty years' imprisonment with the usual remissions. This will probably shorten Green's imprisonment to about fifteen years. He was sentenced to death for the murder of Mrs. Catherine M. Whitley, aged 65.

## Earthquake In Turkey

**SIX** hundred people are known to have been killed in an earthquake in the north-east section of Turkey. An earthquake also shocked a district in Ankara where the death roll is 65.

## May Become Minnie The Mocher

**A** BIG decision will face Minnie The Cat when the staff of David Jones' Market St., Sydney, Store moves out to make way for the Ministry of Munitions.

When the old Cambridge Hotel occupied the site, Minnie was the toast of the saloon-bar customers. Later she looked over the new store and selected the ground floor for her home.

Now she must decide whether to move out with the chef, or remain on the Austerity diet of the Ministry of Munitions.

## INDIAN NAVY EFFICIENT

**A** TORPEDO training school which was opened on December 18 for the Indian Navy, is only the second of its kind in the Empire.

Instruction will be given in the use of torpedoes, mines, depth charges, and electrical equipment connected with these.

Admiral Sir Herbert Fitz-Herbert, commanding the Indian Royal Navy, said that it was now as efficient as the Royal Navy. In the establishment of this school a great step had been taken towards the defence of India.

## JAPAN'S EMPEROR MAY BE USEFUL TO ALLIES

**T**HE EMPEROR HIROHITO may play a useful role following Japan's military defeat. That is the basis of American policy towards Japan, says the Herald-Tribune.

**T**HIS is a deduction from the fact that American broadcasts on the war have made no mention of King Victor Emanuel, of Italy, or the Emperor Hirohito.

The Director of War Information (Mr. Elmer Davis) explains that the Japanese people regard Hirohito as a god and attacks on him would arouse public feeling.

It is known that the Secretary for State (Mr. Cordell Hull) is behind the policy.

The first intimation came last July when Mr. Hull repeatedly mentioned "Hitler and the Japanese war lords," pointedly omitting mention of the King of Italy or of the Emperor of Japan. Mr. Hull blamed events in Manchuria on "the Japanese war lords."

American propaganda to Japan is based on Mr. Hull's principle. It is hoped, eventually, to create a rift between the Japanese people and their military leaders. Any revolution would not be against the Emperor but against the militarists.

"It is evident that after an armistice is arranged some sort of Japanese

## North Africa

## ROMMEL STILL RETREATING

**T**HE main body of the retreating Axis forces in Tripolitania has passed Misurata, and is moving towards the port of Tripoli, 120 miles further west, according to Morocco radio.

Advanced elements of the pursuing British Eighth Army are approaching Buerat, 95 miles S.S.E. of Misurata.

Vigorous patrol activity in Tunisia by advanced units of the British First Army is reported in an Allied Headquarters communique.

It says that French forces in the north of this sector have forced an enemy detachment to withdraw, and have captured some prisoners and equipment. French forces further south are in close contact with the enemy.

Allied fighters carried out an offensive patrol over the forward area on Tuesday, and destroyed three enemy planes without loss to themselves.

British paratroops, who were dropped behind the line at one point, captured a convoy of trucks, carrying rations, and motor cycles. The paratroops used the trucks and motor cycles in an attack on an enemy aerodrome, and destroyed six grounded planes.

British submarines have sunk another enemy supply ship in the Tunisia-Bizerta area, and have probably sunk a second.

Light naval forces have sunk an Axis supply ship near the North African coast.

## BURMA RAIDS

**A** NOTHER raid by U.S. bombers on Rangoon in Burma is announced from New Delhi.

RAF planes attacked Akyab, the Japanese occupied port on the Bay of Bengal. There is no further news of land fighting.

In three raids on eastern Bengal, Japanese planes dropped bombs in the Chittagong and Basali areas. Casualties and damage were light.