

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Thursday, December 31, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE.

ROSTOV OBJECTIVE OF FOUR SOVIET ARMIES

KOTELNIKOVO RECAPTURED

THE recapture by the Red Army of Kotelnikovo, a large town 95 miles south-west of Stalingrad was announced in a special Russian communique issued yesterday. The Russians occupied the town on Tuesday.

The Rostov objective of both the Middle Don offensive and the advance from Kotelnikovo has now become a bottle neck through which must pass all supplies for 30 German divisions in the Caucasus and south east of the Don.

YESTERDAY'S special Russian communique said: "We captured both the town and the railway station, and took a large amount of booty, including aircraft equipment, 17 planes and a train load of tanks."

The communique also announced the continuation of the Red Army's offensive on the Middle Don and Central fronts.

Expert's Analysis

Analysing the situation, Capt. Falls, military correspondent of the London Times, says that Rostov is threatened by four Russian Armies. The first is 75 miles to the north; the second 80 miles to the north-east; the third 140 miles to the east, and the fourth 200 miles to the south-east.

Army No. 1, after cutting off Millerovo, has moved on through village after village until it is now at the outskirts of Kamensk.

One portion of this army is advancing down the west side of the Voronej-Rostov railway, and has reach-

ed a point 12 miles north-east of Voroshilovgrad, while another part is racing towards Starovyelsk 50 miles north-east of Voroshilovgrad.

Army No. 2, sweeping on from Tatsinski, on the railway from Kamensk to Stalingrad, has brushed aside a German counter-attack, and is now 80 miles from Rostov.

Army No. 3 has taken Kotelnikovo, while Army No. 4 has struck from the east, south of Kotelnikovo.

Capt. Falls adds that there is no sign of the Russians out-running their strength.

Correspondents in Russia say that the Red Army's advances are proceeding by a sort of leap-frog technique. An armoured force attacks to-day, and rests to-morrow. While it is resting another force roars through its ranks to take up the attack. The next day that force rests, while the first makes another leap forward.

Thus, although the Russians are able to advance without strain, the enemy is subjected to unremitting attacks.

"ITALY'S ONLY HOPE IS ALLIED VICTORY"

MR. CHARLES POLETTI, Governor of New York State, in a broadcast to Italy, appealed to Italians to throw out their leaders, declaring that their only hope of peace and liberty lay in a United Nations' victory.

MR. POLETTI, speaking in Italian, said: "The American people expect that Italians will soon be liberated from the yoke of Hitler and Mussolini."

Fifty prominent Americans of German descent have signed an appeal, appearing in full page newspaper advertisements, calling on the

German people to overthrow "the regime which is the infamy of German history."

Among the signatories are Walter Damrosch, the composer, William Shirer, the author, and George ("Babe") Ruth, former baseball player.

An appeal will be broadcast to Axis countries.

BRIEF CLASH IN BURMA

THE British Army advancing in Burma encountered the enemy for the first time on Monday night, when a brief clash occurred near Rathdaun, 25 miles from Akyab.

The Japanese broke off contact after the first exchange of fire.

Tuesday's New Delhi communique states that on Sunday and Monday British planes made three attacks on the Japanese aerodrome at Magwe. Blenheims heavily bombed runways and buildings, while Hurricanes, attacking from a low level, strafed other buildings and motor transport, and severely damaged a river steamer on the Irrawaddy.

(On page 3 are references to "Burma's Importance.")

AXIS UNITS IN NORTH AFRICA RACE FOR TRIPOLI

AXIS forces in Libya still show no signs of making a stand in Libya. Their main transport units are racing for Tripoli.

The British Eighth Army is in contact with the Axis rear-guard in broken country along the Wadi-el-Khevir, about 40 miles west of Sirte.

ITS advance guard is making harassing attacks on the enemy, while the bulk of the Eighth Army regroups west of Sirte for another thrust forward.

In Tunisia, Allied forces in the Nedjez-el-Bab area, 45 miles south-west of Tunis have withdrawn from the height captured at Christmas.

This is announced in a North African Allied Headquarters communique which says:

"After inflicting severe casualties on the enemy, our units have now been withdrawn from the hill position, 6 miles north-east of Nedjez-el-Bab which was the scene of heavy fighting on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our fighters were in contact with the enemy during Sunday night, and our bombers attacked roads behind the enemy's lines.

Our artillery destroyed two enemy tanks. Light enemy units attacked one of our positions north of Nedjez-el-Bab without success."

In our patrols over the forward areas, a number of enemy planes were shot down.

Front line correspondents say that

WAR SUMMARY

NORTH AFRICA:—Axis units are racing from British Eighth Army towards Tripoli. Allied forces have withdrawn from height near Nedjez-el-Bab.

RUSSIA:—Four separate drives by Russians on Rostov are developing.

NEW GUINEA:—American troops have split the enemy forces at Giropa Point from those at Buna Mission. Much equipment captured.

SPANISH FLEET MOBILISED

PARIS radio announced on Monday that General Franco, Dictator of Spain, had ordered the mobilization of the Spanish fleet.

a constant stream of supplies is reaching the Axis Commander, General Nehring, despite Allied air and naval attacks on the Sicily-Tunis ferry service, and the bombing of Tunis and Bizerta.

Axis infantry, artillery and armoured forces have all been considerably reinforced.

French Somaliland has joined the Fighting French. All French territory in Africa has now joined the Allies.

Chinese Lose Hsihui

JAPANESE have captured the Hupeh Province town of Hsihui for the third time.

On the first two occasions Chinese forces successfully counter-attacked and drove them out, but the latest Chungking communique states that the Japanese are again in possession of the town.

In Shantung Province, Chinese repulsed an attack by Japanese artillery and infantry.

Australian Highlights and Brevities

VICTORIA

PROBABLY because of petrol rationing, no holiday traffic fatalities have been reported in Victoria since Xmas Eve. Other tragedies have brought the death roll up to ten, which is only one below the total for the nine days of the last Xmas and New Year period.

The last traffic accident fatalities occurred on Thursday last.

AIRWOMEN from all States have been selected to attend the 10th course for W.A.F. Officers, which has begun at Melbourne University, and will continue for two months. Flight-Officer Doris Carter, former Olympic Games representative, has charge of the trainees, many of whom belong to N.S.W.

U.S. Men's First Hot Xmas

U.S. troops, who are used to snow and freezing temperatures, found Australia's summer Xmas the strangest they have known.

A man from Massachusetts said in Melbourne at the week-end that the only Xmas touch for him was a letter from home, telling of the first heavy fall of snow.

U.S. soldiers found Melbourne's Xmas "deadly quiet." They missed the snow scenes and huge Xmas trees of their home States. The weather over most of Australia was warm. The maximum temperature in Melbourne on Sunday was 95.2 degrees.

NEVER before were so many telegrams sent to other parts of the Commonwealth and overseas from Victoria, as were sent during the past few weeks.

The volume of telegrams was the more remarkable because this Xmas it was impossible to send Xmas or New Year greetings unless the message was addressed to a member of the Forces.

MR. C. POUSTIE, aged 49, of Lara (Vic.), was treated at Geelong Hospital for a wound to his left ear, of which a large portion was missing. He alleged that he had been assaulted by two strangers in Geelong, and that one of them had bitten his ear.

THE Business Girls' War Service Bureau in Melbourne wound up a successful year's work with a Christmas dance for members of the fighting forces. During the evening a cheque for £1000 was presented to Mr. J. I. Richardson for the Prisoners of War Fund.

THE Governor sent a Christmas present of wine to the Heidelberg Military Hospital and the Caulfield Repatriation Home, to be issued at the discretion of medical officers to sick and wounded patients.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SINCE April more than 2000 single shop girls, between the ages of 18 and 26, have been diverted from metropolitan retail stores to more essential work, according to the Deputy Director-General of Manpower (Mr. Hunkin).

The order disemploying shop assistants had resulted in a substantial contribution to South Australia's war effort, he said.

ON six charges of having stolen postal articles, Victor Stanley Baker, 45, of Robert street, City, was remanded on bail until January 5 by Mr. Muirhead, P.M., in the Adelaide Police Court.

The Police Prosecutor (Inspector Crafter) said that Baker had been employed at the post office since November 24. He was detected stealing several letters, while others were found in his coat pockets. When questioned by the police he admitted having stolen many other articles which had been sent through the post.

SOME South Australian public servants on active service have been promoted in their civil jobs and had their pay increased. The Acting Chief Secretary (Mr. McIntosh) said this in commenting on the Sydney request that no permanent appointments be made until after the war.

FOR having mixed power kerosene, a prohibited fuel, with petrol in a motor vehicle, Charles B. J. McMahon, mechanic, of Avon street, Cumberland Park, was fined £20 with £2/12/- costs by Mr. Clarke, S.M., in the Adelaide Police Court.

TASMANIA

CONCERN was expressed by member of the Burnie Practising School Parents and Friends' Association at the number of teachers leaving the Education Dept. to enlist in the Services. It was decided to ask the Government that steps be taken to have teaching declared a protected occupation.

A EWE owned by J. A. Cameron's estate, Sulphur Creek, has given birth to five sets of twins, and this year produced quadruplets. It is a crossbred ewe, and the sire of the quadruplets was a purebred Romney Marsh ram, bred by Mr. Elton Heazlewood, of Whitmore. The lambs were weighed recently at the age of 15 weeks and averaged 83lb. each live weight.

MR. ROY. A. CRIPPS, secretary to the Lord Mayor and committee clerk, has completed 25 years of service with the Hobart City Council. He received congratulations from the Lord Mayor (Mr. Soundy, M.H.A.) and members of the staff.

MR. WEST, M.H.A., was appointed a territorial Justice of the Peace at a meeting of the Executive Council. Mr. F. J. Sharp was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Esperance.

NEW SOUTH WALES

AMONG the candidates selected for entry to the R.A.N. College as Cadet Midshipmen is Rory Ward Burnett, second son of the late Capt. Joseph Burnett, who commanded H.M.A.S. Sydney when she was lost. Patrick Richard Burnett, Capt. Burnett's eldest son, is also at the Naval College.

This is the first time in history of the R.A.N., that two sons of a man who has been on active service have been at the college at the same time. Successful candidates will enter the College early in February.

MR. J. A. BALLANTYNE, Senior Instructor of the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture, said on Monday that two new berry crops now being grown by Ralph Ridley at Robertson, on the N.S.W. coast, might prove a profitable commercial venture. The new berries are the Young berry and the Boysenberry, which are new to Australia but have caused a sensation in the United States. Most of the crop will be sold direct to factories for jam and jelly-making.

MANY thousands of Sydney houses were without ice on Xmas Day, and food wastage and deterioration was extensive.

Ice manufacturers state that a major health problem will face the city in the next three months, as call-ups and enlistments will make it impossible for more than a third of Sydney's homes to get the ice they want.

MR. E. R. T. REYNOLDS, K.C., of the Victorian Bar, and Messrs. J. W. Shand and F. W. Kitto have been appointed K.C.s by the New South Wales Executive Council.

HOSPITAL group contributions in seven N.S.W. country zones have amounted in a year to £33,000. There are 73 hospitals in these zones, which have a population of 840,000.

The Minister for Health (Mr. Kelly) said that he was thinking of linking the Metropolitan contribution scheme with the country schemes.

FOR the first time in the history of Bankstown Municipal Council, both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were decided upon by a draw from a hat. As a result, Ald. W. Flood became Mayor and Ald. W. Colechin Deputy Mayor.

Lay-By Deaths Now Controlled

FUNERAL funds subscribed by old age pensioners in New South Wales, which have been called "Death on the Lay-by," are to be brought under Government control.

This was reported officially in Sydney on Monday.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FIVE West Australian members of the R.A.A.F. figure in a list of awards recently approved by the King. Flying-Officer John Maclean Hampshire was awarded the D.F.C., and L.A.C.'s Aubrey Warne Ducat, Mostyn Lloyd Franklin, Robert Collyer Lindsay and Ernest Oldfield were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. A.C.I. John Henry Willmott has been mentioned in dispatches.

MR. A. J. WELLS, manager of the Rich Sign Co., will continue in office for another year as president of the West Australian Institute of Advertising. He was re-elected at the annual meeting.

THE latest report of the Council for the Development of Industries discloses that investigation is to be undertaken of the phosphate deposits in W.A. by the British Phosphate Commission. A representative of the Commission has arrived in the State and a suitable vessel, built locally, has been chartered for the work. Particular attention will be given to the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, near Esperance.

RATES for 1943 struck by the Perth City Council are in the aggregate 1d. less than were the rates this year. Comparative figures are: General 1s., last year 1s. 1½d.; loan, 11d. (11½d.); fire brigade, 1d. (1½d.); health, 5d. (3½d.); sanitary, 6d. (6d.). Pan charges remain unaltered at 26s. per annum.

QUEENSLAND

REV. PROFESSOR S. F. HUNTER, DD, of the chair of Old Testament Studies at the Theological Hall of Knox College, Dunedin, New Zealand, has been appointed principal of that seminary. Dr. Hunter, who is a son of the late Mr. S. F. Hunter, senior, of Brisbane, was born in Queensland, and at one time was in the Education Department's service in this State. Later he went to Glasgow as a Carnegie student and graduated there in arts and divinity. On returning to Queensland he served in the Presbyterian ministry.

JESSE H. T. O'BRIEN, employed in the fencing section of the Railways, was found near the railway track at Paget Junction, with both feet severed and injuries to the back and chest. O'Brien, who is a native of Rockhampton, was a passenger on the second division of the Northern Mail.

MR. S. FOUNTAIN, of the P.M.G. Department, who will be leaving at an early date to take up duty in Tasmania as Superintendent of Telegraphs in that State, was made a presentation by the councillors and staff of the Queensland Postal Institute, of which he has been president since 1941.

Importance Of Wavell's Task In Burma

"Reconquest Essential To Defeat Japan"

THE responsibility that rests on General Wavell's forces in Burma, and the vital part they will play in helping to decide the issue in the Pacific, are emphasised by overseas correspondents of the Sydney Sunday Telegraph.

IN a despatch from New York, Hanson Baldwin, Military correspondent of the New York Times, says: "Reconquest of Burma and reopening of the Burma Road are essential steps for a second front against Japan. Without a second front Japan cannot be defeated. The problem of supplying China over a reopened Burma Road with vast quantities of war materials must be solved, followed by seizure of air bases within range of Japan."

London's View Changes

The Telegraph's London correspondent, discussing the war in general, writes of the Pacific fighting as follows:

"Opinion here on the Pacific zone has also heartened, and there is no more talk of an easy conquest of Japan once Germany is settled. It is pointed out that Japan has still got her best ships intact, and, despite the toll taken in the Coral Sea, Midway, and other engagements, she is still a formidable naval power within a ring of island fortifications. If these islands have to be reduced one by one, then the immensity of the job can be gauged by Jap resistance in the Solomons and New Guinea."

China's Role

"The new year may see a re-orientation of Pacific strategy, in which China will play an increasingly important role. First step would be the reconquest of Burma, to open the Burma Road. Wavell's advance towards Akyab represents the beginning of this task, although it is as yet no more than a reconnaissance in force. Sea transport will play an enormous part in the Pacific theatre, while the U-boat menace still has to be met in the Atlantic."

Sydney Shooting Accidental

SYDNEY detectives are satisfied that the fatal shooting of Miss Mavis Hagan, 16, of Mullens Street, Rozelle in an air-raid shelter on Air Force premises in an industrial suburb of Sydney late on Sunday, was accidental.

It is believed that no charge will be laid against the young airman who was on sentry duty at the shelter. The girl went to the shelter with her sister to meet a friend. It was raining and the sentry is alleged to have asked the girl inside out of the rain. The girl was shot with a military rifle.

SPORT FLASHES

CAPT. BERT OLDFIELD who led the Army team in the holiday patriotic match in Melbourne, said that Victoria need have no fear of her cricket future. Play had revealed plenty of talent, and players of character. They would benefit from their taste of big cricket.

H. BADGER, leading Victorian jockey, is not meeting with much success at the moment. He resumed after two months' suspension at Mentone on Ascot Cup Day. He has had 17 rides for one winner, Gay Gown. Nevertheless, he is still well out on top in the jockeys' list with 19½ wins. R. Heather is next with eleven wins followed up by Ken Smith, H. McCloud, the best apprentices, with seven wins each.

Meenan has just taken the lead from Sweetnam among the cross country riders with five wins to four.

A. P. ("Tich") Freeman, one of the best slow bowlers England has had, has retired. He is now residing at Ashford Road, Maidstone, in a house he has named "Dun Bowlin."

Freeman visited Australia some years ago, and proved very successful in Test matches.

AUCTION, Queensland's sand track champion, ran third with 12.2 in the Open Handicap at Albion Park (Q.) on Saturday.

He gave his backers a splendid run for their money, but weakened over the last 50 yards. It was his first start for three months.

AT the Villiers Stakes meeting at Randwick, on December 19, and the Summer Cup last Saturday, £134,575 passed through totalisators. This was £62,961 more than in 1941.

Injured Mare Foals Twins

RED ROSEBUD, a mare who did not lie down to sleep for six months after she broke her pelvis in a race several years ago, is the dam of twins.

THE foals, a colt and a filly by Glen-ariff, were foaled at Mr. G. N. Magill's Erambie property, Moolong. Red Rosebud received her serious injury in a fall at Rosehill, and was in slings for 18 weeks, to keep the weight off the break.

To get her to his Rooty Hill farm, Randwick trainer Jack King built a special box around Red Rosebud while she was still in slings, and lifted the mare, box, and gear into his horse float.

Even after the injury had knitted sufficiently to allow her to walk, King would not allow Red Rosebud to lie down. Every night for another eight weeks she was walked into the slings again and was hung up until morning.

Veterinary surgeons say it is not unusual for a mare with a broken pelvis to produce foals, but know no other case of twins in such circumstances.

Lucky Punter Wins £8000

MICHAEL PITT, the Polish Jew, who has caused sensations by his coups in Melbourne lately, won another £8000 at Flemington on Saturday, including £7000 on Reception in the Standish Handicap. His winnings in the last two months are reputed to be much more than £50,000.

EXPLAINING his phenomenal success, he says he follows form, and a firm market. He keeps his eye particularly on a horse that firms, and many of his best bets are placed five minutes before a race begins. He starts off with £250 as his first bet for the day. If he loses, he places another £250 on his next pick, and so on. Total winnings always go into his next bet.

Pitt's best day was at this year's Derby, when he cleaned up £14,000, and his worst day was on November 8, when he lost £4500. He had £7000 to £55 about Colonus, winner of the Melbourne Cup, but that was through a challenge.—"Ascot"

Kindergarten Breaks Record With Five Lengths Win

KINDERGARTEN, sensational New Zealand galloper, outclassed his rivals in the two mile Auckland Cup on Saturday, winning by five lengths with the record weight of 10.2.

MAKING light of his big impost, Kindergarten ran to the front half a mile from home, and won easing up in 3.22, time which has rarely been bettered in Australia or New Zealand. The Australian record is 3.19 1/5, held by Spear Chief, and Wotan holds the Melbourne Cup record with 3.21 1/4.

Veteran racing men consider the performance the best ever witnessed in New Zealand, and Kindergarten is being classed the equal of Phar Lap.

Kindergarten suffered a mysterious injury during his visit to Australia in 1941. Prepost favorite for the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, he was coveted by several wealthy owners, and one is said to have offered £10,000 for him.

Kindergarten, when not fully wound up, failed in his first race at Randwick, and then before he could be seen in action again, he was reported to have been injured. He was returned to New Zealand soon afterwards.

From there rumors circulated that the five-year-old would not race again, but some months later Kindergarten reappeared and began a winning sequence which has yet to be broken.

Kindergarten was handicapped to carry 10.0 in this year's Caulfield Cup, and 9.13 in the Melbourne Cup, but because of transport difficulties he could not make the trip.

'Secret Pro-Allied Govt.' in Indo-China

A SECRET pro-Allied provisional government is functioning in French Indo-China, says Ta Kung-pao, leading Chungking daily.

The provisional administration has been set up by the All-Indo-China Anti-Imperialist League.

Its headquarters are "somewhere in northern Indo-China."

Its aims are: Immediate and complete independence after the war for Indo-China.

Collaboration with China and other United Nations.

Resistance against both French military forces and Japanese in Indo-China.

Brawl Victim Dies

FRANCIS LYONS, 22, of Buncl Street, North Melbourne, was admitted to Royal Melbourne Hospital on Saturday suffering from head injuries from which he died early on Sunday. He is believed to have been the victim of a brawl in a local hotel.

The police say that when Lyons went to his home he said he had been in a brawl. After having his evening meal, he collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

AMERICANS BREAK THROUGH JAP. DEFENCES ENEMY FORCES SPLIT

IN a series of tireless assaults, American troops yesterday broke through the one remaining Japanese defence zone down to the sea at Buna, and split the enemy forces at Giropa Point from those at Buna Mission.

Systematic clearing out of machine gun posts, foxholes and snipers, is now proceeding as the enemy is forced into an ever narrowing area.

A successful attack with Australian-manned General Stuart tanks is also announced in General MacArthur's communique issued last night.

IT says that in an attack on the right of Giropa Point, the tanks broadened and deepened the wedge in the enemy's line. Much equipment, including 3-inch Naval guns, anti-aircraft guns and machine guns, was captured.

Strafing by Havoc fighter-bombers (A20s) aided the attacking American troops in their assault. Havocs were busy throughout the day, strafing enemy positions and barges from the mouth of the Kumusi River right along the coast to Salamaua.

Ships Hit At Rabaul

General MacArthur's communique reports another successful dawn attack by Flying Fortresses on shipping at Rabaul. Two large vessels, of from 8000 to 10,000 tons each, suffered direct hits with 500lb. bombs and an 8000 ton transport was also directly hit in a mast high attack.

Huge columns of smoke and flame rose from the stern of one of the vessels, and a latter reconnaissance showed it beached and apparently gutted by fire.

"Skip" Bombing

In their attack on the transport the Fortresses "skip" bombed from 150 feet. Explosions were heard and large orange flames shot up from the vessel.

Searchlights failed to pick up our bombers, which survived intense anti-aircraft fire.

Seven enemy aircraft were sighted by the crews of the Flying Fortresses, and three followed them, but made no attempt at interception.

An Allied heavy bomber raided the airbase at Gasmata (New Britain) and Beaufighters strafed the airfield at Fuilore, Timor. Enemy occupied huts at Betano were also strafed.

"Kidnapped", Says Woolcott Forbes

WOOLCOTT FORBES, who has been indicted on several charges of fraud, has made a claim that he was kidnapped and taken from Mexico to the United States where U.S. officials were waiting to arrest him.

Forbes is still in a Federal gaol.

Huge Cover For War Damage

THE value of property insured under the War Damage Insurance Scheme was approximately £2,750 million and the estimated revenue for 1942 was £7,250,000.

This was revealed by the chairman of the War Damage Commission (Mr. A. W. Coles, M.H.R.) in a review of the first year's operations of the Commission.

Mr. Coles said that during the year considerable property was destroyed by enemy action in New Guinea, Papua and Darwin. Minor damage was recorded in Sydney, Newcastle, and the north-west coast of Western Australia. Wherever it was practicable to do so, losses were assessed immediately and properties were repaired.

In New Guinea, Papua and Darwin much work remained to be done by the Commission as soon as those areas could be safely re-occupied. Preparations to carry out that work were well in hand.

2000 IN SYDNEY BRAWL

MORE than 2000 people were involved in a serious brawl involving members of the military forces and civilians, which occurred at Bondi Junction late on Monday afternoon. The crowd was kept under control by a big force of police from Waverley and Paddington stations.

As a result of disturbances 15 people have been charged with riotous behaviour and 10 soldiers have been arrested by the Provost Corps.

The Royal Surrey Hotel at Bondi Junction was just about to shut when military police arrested deserters in the bar. They escorted them to the back of the hotel, but they were followed by a large crowd which attempted the rescue of those in custody.

A military truck was just about to start when it was blocked by another crowd.

A huge crowd soon collected and in a short time the position was so menacing that police had to be summoned from Waverley and Paddington stations.

GRAVE CHARGES AT A.W.C. INQUIRY

GRAVE charges concerning the administration of the Allied Works Council in Sydney were contained in a newspaper article and documents read at the opening of the Allied Works Council inquiry on Tuesday.

ALLEGATIONS made were that money was being paid to officials to obtain better positions, that exemptions were being granted on flimsy excuses, that book-makers were defying call-up, and that preferential treatment was being extended to certain individuals in certain parts of Sydney.

When the inquiry which had been directed under the National Security Regulations commenced, the investigator, Sir Harry Brown, ordered the reading of documents including telegrams and letters that passed between Mr. Curtin, the Minister of the Interior (Senator Collins), the secretary of the Federated Clerks' Union (Mr. J. R. Hughes) and other officials.

ALLIED ARMADA AT GIBRALTAR

AXIS expectations of an early resumption of the Allied offensive in the Mediterranean were revealed by Paris radio on Tuesday.

Great activity at Gibraltar clearly foreshadows an Allied offensive, it declared.

The announcer went on to say that about 100 transports and merchantmen were in the harbor at Gibraltar together with three battleships, three aircraft carriers, three cruisers, 13 destroyers and 12 submarines.

LOST AND FOUND

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

LOST.—Field bag, contents personal effects on ship. Owner Pte. Claude H. McMichael.

LOST.—Wallet containing Pay Book and personal effects of WX 4267, Pte. J. Toia.

FOUND.—Two U.S. identity discs belonging to Louis Le Blanc.

FOUND.—Tobacco pouch containing fountain pen.

MISSING FRIENDS

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

Sgt. Ardigo call at "Guinea Gold." NX 69299. L. G. Goodger is asked to contact N 69512 H. J. Robertson.

New Year's Eve Service

Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. John's Church of England tonight at a service beginning at 11.30 p.m.

Services Carnival In N.T.

THE biggest Servicemen's sporting carnival in Australia, was held in the Northern Territory during Xmas. Elimination contests began six weeks ago.

The boxing finals, in which Army and Navy tied, were conducted on claypans, the sides of which were ringed with spectators. The winning Army rifle shooting team included a Brigadier.

The final of the Australian Rules Football Carnival, and Hockey and Soccer finals, will be held later.

The swimming championship was conducted at a natural pool in the picturesque surroundings of an Army Rest Camp. Some of the teams travelled 1000 miles to compete.

Seaman Charged With Manslaughter

AT an inquest on Tuesday on the body of Harry Foy, barman and female impersonator, who died in Sydney hospital on December 23, an Allied naval seaman was committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

According to the statement of the accused, Foy had grabbed him several times and tried to kiss him. He repeatedly held Foy off, but he would not desist, and the seaman eventually had to strike him.

AXIS SHIPS ON "DEATH RUN"

BBRITISH submarines and planes in the Mediterranean during the last four weeks have destroyed more than half the Axis supply ships attempting "the death run" to North Africa.

THE successes catch the eye because it is possible to publicise them soon after the aircraft return to their base, but submarines are frequently out for many days, during which they must maintain silence.

A feature of the latest Mediterranean encounters is the speed with which the Axis merchant seamen abandon ship long before an attack is pressed home. The reason is that an increasing number of Marshal von Rommel's ships is carrying ammunition.

One submarine commander, describing the blowing up of a 7000 tonner, said: "Although we were a mile distant we received superficial damage from the debris. A 12-foot strip of steel framing became embedded in our starboard side."

Another commander described a monumental explosion. He said: "There was just time to get the gun crew under cover and the conning tower closed before we were showered with debris."