

# GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Saturday, January 2, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

## COLOSSAL GERMAN LOSSES

### ROMMEL STILL RETREATING

OFFICIAL reports of land activities in Tripolitania, where the British Eighth Army is still in pursuit of the retreating Axis forces, refer only to patrol action west of the Wadi-el-Khubir, between Sirte and Misurata.

A London report states that the Eighth Army is only 175 miles from Tripoli.

The slowing down of the Eighth Army's advance is attributed by some correspondents to increased enemy resistance in the air, but is more probably due to General Montgomery's distance from his main base at Benghazi, nearly 400 miles away.

In Tunisia, the principal land activity is still confined to patrolling behind the enemy's lines.

A late message from U.S.A. states that a third contingent of Americans has arrived at Dakar.

### NO CHANGE IN BURMA

NEWS from Burma is again mainly of air attacks on Japanese bases, shipping and dock installations.

Thursday's communique from New Delhi reported attacks on Akyab, and on an airfield 20 miles to the north.

All our planes returned.

### 175,000 KILLED IN SIX WEEKS' FIGHTING

ON the Southern front in Russia, from the Middle Don to the South of Stalingrad during the past six weeks, the Soviet forces have surrounded 22 enemy divisions, routed 36 divisions (including six tank and seven motorised divisions) and captured 1589 localities.

The Germans have lost 175,000 officers and men killed, and over 137,000 captured. Equipment captured includes 142 aircraft, 2064 tanks, 4400 guns, about 8000 machine guns, 16,000 mortars and 400 ammunition and supply dumps.

Equipment destroyed includes 1500 planes, nearly 1200 tanks, over 1400 guns, and over 5000 lorries.

### Kaiser's Prediction

HENRY J. KAISER has predicted that his shipyards will build 1000 Liberty ships this year.

### Enemy Sub Damaged

WHILE returning from the dawn raid on Rabaul on Thursday morning a Flying Fortress attacked a submarine at Wide Bay (New Britain). With its guns firing continuously, the plane circled the submarine three times.

Observation was difficult but it is believed the submarine was severely damaged.

### Non-Stop Bombing Of Germany Predicted This Year

TWENTY-FOUR hours a day bombing raids on Germany in 1943, the year of air power supremacy of the Allies, are forecast by Mr. Oliver Stewart, editor of the journal *Aeronautics*, and air correspondent of the *London Evening Standard*.

"AIR power," Stewart says, "has been seen before, are being prepared by the Allies, and it is absolutely certain the enemy will put everything he has into the air battles of 1943."

"The technique of daylight raiding has been developed by the Americans, and they have made daylight raids deeper and deeper into the heart of enemy-held territory."

"The RAF Bomber Command has gone in for heavyweight slogging in the heart of Germany at night. American daylight operations dove-tail with those of the Bomber Command planes."

"The year 1943 should see the Allies wielding air power with a greater margin of strikes than ever the enemy had at the beginning of the war."

"Vast air fleets, such as never have

THESE staggering figures were given in a special Moscow communique on Thursday night.

The Russian advance is continuing along the railway line south-west and south of Stalingrad, where, in the last 48 hours, Soviet forces have freed hundreds of square miles of territory in a series of well-co-ordinated movements.

Their gains include the town and railway station of Oblodskaya, on the line north of the Don, and two regional centres, as well as large quantities of booty.

### Elista Next?

In the Caucasus, between the Volga and the railway line from Stalingrad to Tikhoretsk, Russian armies have reached Trotskoye, nine miles north-east of Elista, the capital of the Kalmyk Republic, which appears to be their next objective.

The Russians also threaten Salsk, the junction of the Rostov-Caucasus railway system.

On the Middle Don front, where four German divisions have been smashed, the Russians are pouring tanks through two gaps in the German defence system.

### MUNDA AGAIN ATTACKED

JAPANESE installations in the Solomons have been attacked again by American planes. The targets were at Munda, Japanese air base on New Georgia Island.

An Australian Associated Press message from Washington states that the Americans at Gaudalcanal have reduced 20,000 Japanese on the island practically to starvation.

### WAR SUMMARY

RUSSIA:—Soviet forces continuing to advance south-west and south of Stalingrad. Elista believed to be next Caucasus aim.

NEW GUINEA:—Fighting at Buna savage and desperate. Further gains by Allied troops.

NORTH AFRICA:—Eighth Army reported only 175 miles from Tripoli. Americans land at Dakar.

### BUNA FIGHTING SAVAGE AND DESPERATE

OUR troops gained further success yesterday in their attacks on the Japanese at Buna. General MacArthur's communique, issued last night, stated:

"On the right our ground troops, with tank and artillery support, launched an attack which drove through the enemy's defences to reach the coast, further splitting the enemy's forces in this sector."

"The fighting is savage and desperate, and is continuing."

### Naval Clash Reported

A COMMUNIQUE issued by the British Admiralty on Thursday night stated that Allied warships had contacted enemy warships in northern Mediterranean waters.

The communique went on: "During the ensuing engagement an enemy cruiser was engaged but withdrew. An enemy destroyer was severely hit, and was last seen in a sinking condition. The operation continues."

No further announcement has been made.

### Germans Steal French Gold

REUTER'S correspondent on the French frontier says the Germans are reported to have stolen 49 tons of gold from the Paris, Lyons, and Clermont-Ferrand branches of the Bank of France.

# Australian Highlights and Brevities

## VICTORIA

WHILE Capt. Noel K. Morris, commanding officer of Warrnambool (Vic.) V.D.C., and Brig. George F. Langley were examining some explosive substances a premature explosion occurred. Capt. Morris received the full force of the explosion, and his left hand was shattered. He also suffered severe cuts and burns on the face. Brig. Langley escaped with severe cuts on the face and shock.

The victims were admitted to Warrnambool Hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate Capt. Morris's hand above the wrist. Brig. Langley is with an Australian military force somewhere in Australia. He was visiting Warrnambool on leave. Some years ago he was head master at Warrnambool High School and before the war was head master at Bendigo High School.

RECENT criticism of N.C.O.'s and men serving with base units, and the inference that such ranks could be released for more active duty, was refuted by a report released a few days ago through H.Q., Victoria L. of C. Area.

Out of the total strength of warrant-officers, N.C.O.'s, and men at the headquarters in question, the report stated, approximately 6 per cent. were class A1 and 4 per cent. A2. Each of these men was a specialist, but, would be retained only until he could be effectively replaced. B class personnel constituted approximately 90 per cent. of the total strength, and were medically unfit for service in the field.

MR. F. MARZORINI, former Secretary for Labor, has relinquished his position as president of the Victorian Public Service Military Band, and Mr. Herbert Osborne, of the Parliamentary Staff, has been appointed in his stead. Messrs. J. Meagher F. A. Evans and E. Bardor have been elected vice-presidents.

THE increase in nurses' wages decided on by the Hospital Nurses' Wages Board would probably mean an increase of £120,000 overhead expenses for public hospitals on the register of the Charities Board, said Mr. C. L. McVilly, secretary of the board. One major hospital had already reported that the annual increase in expenses incurred would probably be about £9800.

THE Chief Commissioner of Police in Victoria, Mr. Duncan, on Monday inspected the new Corps of Women Auxiliary Policewomen. Afterwards, 30 of the women were allotted to their duty posts at police headquarters.

The first of the Auxiliaries to take up her duties was Miss. J. A. Silvester, who drove Mr. Duncan to his office after the passing-out ceremony. She is to be chaffeur and confidential typist to Mr. Duncan. One of the regular Policewomen has been appointed Welfare Officer to the Auxiliaries.

## QUEENSLAND

AN Englishwoman who was stranded in Australia during a world tour when the war broke out is one of the first W.A.A.A.F.S. to qualify as a commissioned officer. She is Assistant Section Officer Margaret Campbell, 38, who joined the W.A.A.A.F.S. 10 months ago. At one time she was managing director of a big cosmetic manufacturing company in London.

A.S.O. Campbell joined the W.A.A.A.F.S. in Melbourne, and did a special course in operational work in Townsville, and was in Townsville during the enemy raids in July.

## £28\* for Bottle of Whisky

FOR one bottle of whisky £28 has been paid in one of the smaller sugar towns in far North Queensland.

A civilian had the bottle in his possession when he was approached by an Allied serviceman, who asked him to sell it. He declined.

"I will give you this for it," said the serviceman, displaying a fistful of notes, consisting of two "tenners," a "five," and three singles.

"I cannot let this pass," commented the civilian, and the bottle changed ownership, making a record in spirit prices in North Queensland.

CLIFFORD INNES LINK, 23, dental mechanic, of Gladstone Road, South Brisbane, died suddenly in a Southport Ambulance on the way to Brisbane. A sufferer from bronchial asthma, he became ill at Surfers' Paradise, where he was on holiday.

FRANCIS ELWYN WALKER, 17, of Brighton Road, South Brisbane, rider of a motor cycle which collided with a pedestrian at North Quay, died in the General Hospital. His pillion passenger, Arthur Garland, of Atchley Hotel, is still in the General Hospital in a dangerous condition.

## TASMANIA

HEDLEY THOMAS DENT, 26, was injured fatally at the Cressy Research Farm yesterday week. He had just harnessed a horse to a dray when the horse became frightened and bolted. Dent was holding the reins and endeavored to stop the horse when he was crushed between the dray and a building.

ERNEST WATSON O'MAY (63), married, of Lindisfane road, Belterive, died at the Royal Hobart Hospital, following head injuries suffered when he fell from a bicycle.

MR. ROBERT CRUCKNELL, of Regent street, Sandy Bay, Hobart, one of the survivors of Tasmania's whaling era, has reached the age of 87 years.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

LATEST N.S.W. figures of motor vehicles operating on producer gas had proved that motorists had overcome their antipathy to this fuel, said Mr. H. E. Richards, Acting General Secretary of the National Roads and Motorists' Association.

Producer gas had come into its own as a real servant in critical times. A year ago the number of charcoal-burning outfits registered in N.S.W. was 1500. The figure to-day was more than 13,000.

JUMPING from the front seat of a moving car on account of a fire in the back, Mrs. T. J. Roberts, 51, of Casino, struck her head on the roadway and was killed instantly.

Her brother saw her preparing to jump out. He tried to prevent her but fell out of the car himself and is now in hospital.

A HUNDRED members of the Australian Medical Women's Service entered a training school somewhere in N.S.W. on Sunday. They comprised the third group to enter the school, and the majority are new recruits. The school is in charge of Lieut. M. B. Cave, formerly of S.A.

A SNEAK-THIEF snatched a handful of coins from a money-box in St. Francis' Church, Albion street, Surry Hills, on Christmas morning.

The money-box, which was nearly full, had been placed in the church for the aid of poor families. It is estimated that nearly £1 was stolen.

IN a judgment in the N.S.W. Industrial Commission, Mr. Justice Cantor said that for the duration of the war, employees who did not receive annual leave between December 24 and January 1, each year, should be given eight days' leave within six months from the beginning of January.

SOME anomalies are reported by the N.R.M.A. country inspector in the plan for the removal of road signs and place names of possible benefit to an invasion force. In some districts all road warning signs have been removed in addition to place names. The association has drawn the Main Roads Department's attention to this matter.

## CALLING ALL RUSSELLS!

MR. H. J. RUSSELL, of Milllett Street, Hurstville, rang up all the Russells in the Sydney telephone book, and wished them a Merry Christmas. It took him the whole of the evening to make 150 calls. He said all the other Russells were pleased and surprised.

There is no record that all the Jones, Smiths and Browns were also rung up by a member of their clan.

To do this would have meant starting a day ahead, and starting trouble on telephone switchboards, too.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AFTER three persons had been convicted in the Perth Police Court of having used a public air raid shelter for purposes other than for personal shelter, the Magistrate (Mr. W. J. Wallwork) asked the prosecutor (Sgt. W. C. Wyatt) what was the maximum penalty under the Civil Defence Regulations. "A fine of £500 or 12 months' imprisonment, Your Worship," replied the prosecutor. The Magistrate smiled benignly at the astonished defendants and said: "It is a lot of money, but I am not going to take a serious view of this case, so I will fine each of you 10/- with 3/- costs."

CAPT. ANSELL C. GREGORY, of Perth, a well known pearler at Broome and Darwin, died last week. Capt. Gregory was one of the most colourful figures in the history of W.A. He was an active member of the R.N.R. and at the outbreak of war was assigned to special duties. Just prior to his death he received acknowledgment of the outstanding work he had done.

A PLAN has been arranged whereby students at the Albany and Bunbury (W.A.) High Schools will be released from school for six weeks for fruit picking. Teachers also have volunteered to help and, if pickers are accommodated in camps, teachers may act as supervisors.

MARRIAGES IN W.A. from January to November last year were 4993. When last month's figures are added it is expected that the year's total will exceed the record figure of 5234 in 1940.

FREDERICK MCKENZIE (63), married, timber worker, Kirrup, employed by Millars' Timber and Trading Co., died at the Collic Hospital as a result of injuries received when a log rolled on him while working at a landing at Windmill Gully, near Noggerup.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE Commissioner of Police (Brigadier-General Leane) has granted an honorable mention to Plainclothes-Constable B. R. Harvey, of the Criminal Investigation Branch. The award was made "for consistent, good work in the detection and prevention of crime and the arrest of criminals and recovery of property."

Plainclothes Constable Harvey has figured in some of the most important cases before the courts in the last few months, and since April has made 14 arrests, including some of Australia's worst criminals.

AUSTERITY marked South Australia's 106th birthday celebrations at Glenelg on Monday. The smallest holiday crowd on record, estimated at 20,000, shunned the beach, and sat on lawns.

A small crowd lined the sports arena on Colley Reserve, and only about 100 spectators attended the commemoration ceremony.

# Armidale Survivors' Grim Ordeal

## MENACED BY BULLETS, SHARKS AND THIRST

HOW survivors of the minesweeper HMAS Armidale struggled in shark-infested seas after their ship had been sunk near Timor, was described by Ordinary Seaman John Parker on his arrival at his home in Middle Park (Vic.).

THIS young seaman, son of Mr. Percy Parker, keeper of Middle Park Baths, is a powerful swimmer and a man of exceptionally strong physique, and was one of 27 selected to row in a leaky whaler to seek help for other survivors who were floating about on rafts.

The Armidale, said Parker, put up a good fight for two days against the attacking enemy aircraft—bombers, fighters, and reconnaissance planes—until the knockout blow was delivered by a torpedo from one of the planes. For some time after the ship had gone down Japanese planes continued to fly low over the water and machine-gun survivors in the water.

### Motorboat Holed

When they had gone some of the men scrambled into a motor boat, while others managed to find places on rafts. Bullet holes in the motor boat were patched up with pieces of clothing and lumps of wood from wreckage. The more seriously wounded were taken on board this little vessel, and eventually taken toward the Australian mainland.

Rafts were made in the water with floating cans and lengths of timber lashed together with rope. For several days the rafts were paddled about, often threatened by sharks which

passed within a few feet of them and had to be constantly frightened away by splashing.

At the end of the third day a battered whaler was picked up and patched with pieces of canvas and other odds and ends, and 27 of the strongest men were sent off in it to row for help. Their sparse supply of food restricted each man to a mouthful of condensed milk and a like quantity of bully beef daily.

### Storm Brings Relief

For days they rowed along in the blistering heat, parched with thirst. To keep up their spirits they sang popular songs and exchanged jokes. On the seventh night a storm broke and brought rain that saved the men's lives. They caught the falling raindrops in their mouths; stretched out oilskins to catch it in larger quantities; and some even licked the rainwater off each other's arms and backs as it ran down.

The next day they were found by an Allied plane, which dropped supplies of food and water, and at night they were picked up by a steamer and taken to an Australian port. The bearings of these and the other survivors on the rafts had been given by those on the motor boat when it was picked up two or three days before.

Of the Armidale's total complement of 88, 40 (two officers and 38 men) are still missing.

### Rancher's Lonely Sea Voyage

ONE hundred and four days after leaving Capetown in the 40ft. yacht Vito Dumas, an Argentinian rancher and polo player reached Wellington (N.Z.) on Monday. Later he will continue his wanderings. He had no company on his lone voyage.

His yacht flies the flag of Argentine, which is one of the world's few remaining neutral countries.

### MESSAGE CAST UP BY SEA

WALKING along the beach at a seaside resort north of Brisbane on Wednesday, Mrs. S. W. Morgan, of Kedron, noticed a piece of bamboo about 14 ft. long lying on the sand. Carved on it were the words "Cpl. Merton Dord Taylor, Guadalcanal."

A shaved wooden stopper was stuck in one end and, when Mrs. Morgan removed it, she found a warrant stating that Taylor was appointed Corporal in U.S. Marine Corps.

### Navigation By Stars

The second talk in this series will be given at the Y.M.C.A. (Town Area) to-night at 1945 hours.

### Keep The Town Clean

DRUMS, painted white, have been placed at several corners in the Town Area for the reception of papers, tins, and other refuse. A clean town is a healthy town—Keep healthy.

### NO CLASH OF SPEEDSTERS

FRECKLES has not recovered from the injury he received before the Villiers, and will not start in the Carrington Stakes next Saturday.

His absence will leave undecided the debated question whether he or the three-year-old Bangster is the fastest horse in New South Wales.

Freckles has led almost every field he has raced against. He outpaced Yaralla from start to finish in the last Epsom.

Bangster won the Champagne Stakes last Easter, leading Hesione all the way.

He showed a return to form with an easy win at Newcastle last month.

### Bangster Claims

Newcastle enthusiasts claim Bangster would outstrip any racehorse in the State.

Racegoers are hopeful Bangster and Freckles may match speed in one of the important races of the autumn meeting.

He has been at Randwick for a fortnight preparing for the Carrington but he has had an easy time and has not been tried out against the watch in any gallop.

His owner (Mrs. J. Stirling) has announced that Bangster will contest the Carrington (6 furlongs), and the 6-furlong Challenge Stakes on January 23. Later he may contest longer events.

### SPORT FLASHES

BONDI swimmer and all-round sportsman, Bob Scrimgeour, who served with the AIF in England during the blitz period, and in Greece and Crete, where he had to swim a long distance to a British ship to evade being captured by the Germans, is in Sydney on leave.

A few days ago he married a Bondi girl.

SYDNEY jockey W. Cook has a splendid record in important races this season. He commenced by winning the Hobartville Stakes on Hall Stand, and then followed up with the Villiers Stakes on Riverton, and December Stakes on Clarion Call. In Victoria he won the Derby on Great Britain.

NEW ZEALAND'S new heavyweight boxing champion is Don Mullett, who knocked out Maurice Strickland in the fifth round.

CHARLIE BEARD, former secretary of N.S.W. Outdoor Handball Association, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the AIF Army Service Corps.

BEN CLARKE, former Narrabeen lifesaver and surf star, now a warrant-officer, who has been ill in a military hospital for some time, has rejoined his unit at an RAAF depot in Sydney.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC SUNDAY SERVICES

MORESBY: Holy Rosary Church (near Y.M.C.A.), 0700 and 0830 hours; H.Q., N.G.F. (A.Q. Area), 0830; MURRAY BARRACKS (Y.M.C.A.), 0930; EDDY AVENUE (Y.M.C.A.), 0830; PITT STREET (M.D.S.), 0700; 2/9 A.G.H., 0830 (Chaplain's Tent), 1000 (Men's Mess); BASE WORKSHOPS, 0700; C.C.S., 0815; BASE HOSPITAL (King's Hollow), 1045; AIR FORCE H.Q., 0700; WARD'S DROME, 0930.

### LOST & FOUND

(Unless otherwise stated, replies c/o "Guinea Gold.")  
FOUND.—Identification card and personal papers belonging to 34264721 Curtis L. Waites.

### MISSING FRIENDS

(Unless otherwise stated, replies c/o Guinea Gold.)  
Gnr. R. Kirby, formerly of Mt. Gambier, is asked to contact Capt. R. E. Britten Jones.  
N 250597 Dvr. T. M. Caffrey wishes to contact his brother Pte. K. B. Caffrey.  
L/Cpl. Costello wants Pte. Hedley Hunt to contact him.

Read "Guinea Gold"—Then Pass it on

## NEWS ITEMS FROM AMERICA

### RAIL CRASH KILLS 32

THIRTY-TWO people were killed and 125 injured when a Canadian-Pacific troop train crashed into the rear of a local passenger train, which was standing at Almonte (Ontario) station on Monday.

All of the dead and injured were in the two rear coaches of the local train.

### AGRICULTURE SECRETARY WICKARD

ANNOUNCED last week that he had ordered O.P.A. to ration canned, bottled, frozen and dried vegetables, fruits, juices and soups. Rationing will begin early in February under a "point" system.

NORTH AFRICAN press reports that Major-General James H. Doolittle awarded the Distinguished Service Medal on Christmas night to Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Naval operations in North Africa.

### NEW YORK SALES RECORD

NEW YORK had its greatest Christmas shopping season in history, with sales seven per cent. above the record-breaking 1941 season.

Many shops had to close their doors temporarily to reduce the crowds.

"THE choice of General Giraud as Admiral Darlan's successor in North Africa is a fortunate development for the United Nations," states the "New York Times." "The bitterness of his hatred for the Germans cannot be questioned. Best of all, he is a soldier, not a statesman. A soldier who has fought in North Africa, and who knows that country intimately and as a soldier his elevation to command emphasises the essentially military character of the present problem."

THE U.S.A. and Mexico have signed a reciprocal agreement calling for mutual tariff reductions in a long list of commodities, including petroleum.

# Direct Hits With 1000lb. Bombs

## Three Vessels Pasted At Rabaul

THE communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters last night stated that three vessels of an estimated tonnage of 10,000, 8,000 and 6,000 tons were hit by 1,000lb bombs and left enveloped in flames when Allied heavy bombers attacked enemy shipping in Rabaul harbor at dawn yesterday.

THE attack was made by B17s (Flying Fortresses) and B24s (Liberators). Liberators scored two direct hits on one of the larger vessels, and one direct hit on the smallest of the three. Flying Fortresses scored direct hits on the largest transport. When last seen the three vessels were burning fiercely.

Two of five enemy fighters attempting interception were shot down.

The Japanese lost another fighter, this one on the ground, when our heavy bombers dropped 1000-lb. bombs on the airdrome at Gasmata.

The airdromes at Venakanau and Lakunai (New Britain) were also attacked with 500-lb. bombs. A direct hit was scored on a searchlight battery. Buin aerodrome, in the Solomons, was attacked by an Allied medium bomber.

The communique reports that a formation of enemy medium bombers attacked the town area at Merauke (Dutch New Guinea).

## Growth Of Munitions "Prodigious"

AUSTRALIAN munitions production had become so prodigious that adequate strategic reserves of many armaments had been built up, said the Minister for Munitions (Mr. Makin) at Canberra.

Machines and labor used in making these armaments could now be switched over to the production of other munitions. Increase and extension of output were objectives for this year; flexibility of production and mobility of human forces must be the targets of 1943. It would be the duty of the Government to reinforce production services as well as the fighting services. Many persons of both sexes would have to leave their chosen avocations and take up posts in uniforms or overalls.

## GERMANS HEAR OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE secret correspondent in the Netherlands of the "London Times" tells how the organist in a small village near Eindhoven (the city where the Phillips factories were bombed by the RAF recently) frequently manages to play the British National Anthem on his carillon.

Of course the Germans are extremely annoyed with him, but as he contends that he is playing the old Netherlands folk song called "Oh, dearest place on earth," which is set to the same tune as the British National Anthem, there is little the Germans can do about it.

## ITALY'S WEAK DEFENCES

MOSCOW reports from Lausanne (Switzerland) state that the Crown Prince Umberto and members of the Italian High Command have protested to King Victor Emanuel that Italy is virtually undefended.

They have demanded in a strongly worded memorandum that Italy's main attention be diverted to the defence of Corsica and Sardinia and "the restoration of Italy's full independence and the elimination of foreign influence."

Among proposed measures for home security are demands that all Italian troops be withdrawn from the Russian front, that women's battalions for coastal defence be formed, and that 16-year-old boys be called up for military service.

## Blankets Made Of Paper

BLANKETS made of soft paper are making their appearance in New York shops because woolen blankets have become increasingly scarce as a result of Army demands.

One big department store advertises blankets as consisting of "many layers of soft crepe paper, providing millions of minute air spaces and creating a remarkable insulator."

## 2 BIRTHDAYS ON JAN. 26

AUSTRALIA'S National Day—January 26—now has added significance for the Allied Forces in the South-West Pacific.

It is the birthday of General MacArthur, the Commander-in-Chief, who, this year, will be 63.

## RADIO SET RESTRICTIONS

BY order of the Production Executive of the Federal Cabinet, essential parts for the manufacture of radio sets will be reserved for the fighting services, and the maintenance of existing civilian radios. The effect of the order will be to prevent, temporarily at least, manufacture of new radios for purchase by civilians.

## JAPS LOSE 300 PLANES A MONTH IN SOLOMONS

THE military correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune, Major Eliot, estimates that the Japanese since August have lost 1416 planes in the Solomons—an average of 314 a month.

THEY produced in the same time 250 to 400 combat planes a month, meaning that they have been losing almost their entire production.

This total does not include losses in New Guinea, China or the Aleutians, or operational losses in training, ferrying and convoying.

The Japs. are making the greatest efforts to increase their output, Major Eliot says, but are meeting insuperable obstacles, particularly the shortage of machine tools, fuel and lubricants, making it impossible to design or produce new models embodying recent fighting experience.

On the other hand, American designs are being steadily improved.

Furthermore, there is ample evidence that the Japanese pilot training programme is unable to keep up with losses.

## Shimada's Claims

According to Tokio official radio, the Japanese Navy Minister (Shimada) told the Diet that Japanese submarines had sunk 35 Allied merchantmen, totalling 270,000 tons, in the

Indian Ocean and off South Africa since May.

In the same period, the Japanese claimed to have destroyed 905 Allied planes in the New Britain and Solomons areas.

Shimada said the Japanese had sunk, among others, 11 Allied battleships and 11 carriers, while the Japanese had lost 52 naval vessels, including one battleship, three carriers, four cruisers, 15 destroyers, nine submarines and 20 various other types, also 65 merchantmen.

## Tojo Sees Danger

The Japanese Premier, Tojo, in a speech declared: "The real war is now starting."

"Japan is engaged night and day in providing against air raids and preparing for the future."

"In the Solomons, the Japanese are fighting the enemy under adverse conditions."

"Except for minor punitive operations in the Philippines, Japanese units are preserving peace and order and bringing to perfection all the measures required to meet any contingency in the Philippines and Malaya."

## Londoners Insure Against Sickness

A NEW "security against sickness" plan for Londoners was launched yesterday.

It was devised for the benefit of people who, because their incomes exceed £420 annually, are precluded from participating under the existing State contributory scheme.

The plan permits those below 60 years of age to cover themselves and their dependants against hospital and nursing charges, except maternity, throughout 1943, to a limit of £105. They still retain the privilege of a private patient, including choice of consultant, hospital, or nursing home.

It is hoped that the plan will encourage persons to undergo earlier examination and treatment. Because of financial circumstances, many middle class people defer operations as long as possible, even when X-rays show them to be necessary.

The subscriptions are: Single subscriber, £2 12s.; with one dependant, £4 4s.; two dependants, £4 16s.; three dependants, £5 2s.; subscriber plus all his dependants, £5 5s.

## World's Petrol Running Short?

A WARNING that the world's petrol resources might be exhausted sooner than many people think has been given by the chairman of the British Coal Utilisation and Research Association. (Sir Evan Williams).

"Sooner or later the world's petroleum resources will be exhausted, or at any rate so costly to work that liquid fuels from coal will be required to meet the insatiable demands of the internal combustion engine for land, sea, and air transport," he said.

"Without disclosing any of our secrets, I think I can say that we have made substantial progress in more than one of these important fields."

He announced a £1 million scheme to develop uses of coal.

## New Year's Gift For Taxpayers

MANY taxpayers in Australia received an unexpected New Year "gift" yesterday.

Taking advantage of the Government's cancellation of the usual holiday, the Taxation Department had the first batch of more than 500,000 assessments in the post.

## N.S.W. Gives £229,796 For London Relief

THE Lord Mayor of London, Sir Samuel Josephs, has sent a cable message to the Lord Mayor of Sydney, thanking the citizens of New South Wales who subscribed £229,796 to the Lord Mayor of London's Fund for the relief of civilian air-raid distress in Britain.