

GUINEA GOLD

Vol. 1. No. 46.

In the Field, Monday, January 4, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE

JAPS. COMPLETELY DEFEATED

RABAUH HIT AGAIN

CONTINUING the air offensive against Rabaul, Flying Fortresses made another dawn attack yesterday on enemy shipping and harbor installations.

Cloud cover made observation of results difficult, but it is believed that a 1000lb. bomb, dropped from 8000 feet, landed within 50 feet of a large merchant vessel. Thousand pound bombs fell on or near two other ships, and 20 minutes later the crew of one Fortress saw in the distance a large fire presumably from a fuel dump.

The bombers encountered intense A.A. fire.

Gasmata, another town at New Britain, came in for some attention, the airfield being strafed.

Caught on the ground at Lae, a medium bomber was destroyed, and two fighters were damaged when an Allied unit bombed the airdrome.

Results could not be observed by the crew of a Liberator which bombed the enemy occupied town and airdrome at Madang.

Nine enemy dive-bombers attacked the Government Station at Tufi, but no damage was caused.

IN BUNA AREA

1200 ENEMY KILLED IN CAMPAIGN

THE Allies have completed a series of brilliant actions ending in the conclusive defeat of the Japanese in the Buna area. This, following on his defeat at Gona on December 9, has driven the enemy into his last limited stronghold west of the Girua River.

After the operations at Buna Government Station and Giropa Point on Saturday, over 700 Japanese bodies were counted in the areas. His losses during the campaign are estimated at 1200.

THE Buna campaign was in the nature of siege operations against a series of strongly prepared, mutually supporting positions established in considerable depth.

A carefully prepared plan of operations from a southerly and south-westerly direction, closely co-ordinated and controlled, grad-

ually overcame the enemy's strongholds, and his last central defences were captured on Saturday.

The Communique

The communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters last night stated:

"On the right we have completed the destruction of the enemy's defeated forces. His losses were heavy. The only remaining remnants of the Japanese Papuan Army are confined in a narrow salient extending from Sanananda Point, which we are preparing to envelope. The enemy's situation is now hopeless."

SFAX AND SOUSSE HARBORS "VITALLY DAMAGED"

ANOTHER bomber raid on Tunis was reported in Saturday's North African communique. There was no activity on land in the forward areas.

A correspondent in Cairo says reconnaissance photographs show that ceaseless Allied bombing has vitally damaged the harbors of Sfax and Sousse. This suggests that Gabes and Bizerta are the only workable ports the Germans have left to them in Tunisia.

THE Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Correspondent in North Africa has emphasised the need for getting modern equipment to the 50,000 French troops under General Juin in Tunisia. He says the French do not want to be relegated to a secondary part in the struggle, but their equipment is obsolete.

While this may be so at present, there is every indication that the French in the Pont du Fahs region have so far held the German column which is attempting to outflank the British First Army.

Yesterday's Cairo communique says that our patrols engaged enemy patrols and guns west of Wadi-el-Khebir, and

forced them to withdraw. The communique also reported an attack by Middle East Command bombers on the much battered Tunisia Harbor of Sousse.

Wild Run Begun On Italian Banks

RECENT air raids on Italy and fear of an Allied invasion of the Italian mainland from Africa have started a wild run on Italian banks, according to reports reaching banking circles in London, says New York Herald-Tribune's London correspondent. Wide-scale hoarding also has developed.

WAR SUMMARY

NORTH AFRICA:—Allied bombings smash Sfax and Sousse harbors. Little land activity.

NEW GUINEA:—Japs conclusively defeated in Buna area. Killed estimated at 1200.

RUSSIA:—Soviet forces continuing towards Volga from Veliki Luki. Axis admits loss of Elista.

GALLANT TIMOR COMMANDOS

AN Australian War Correspondent tells how, in the mountain wilderness of Portuguese Timor, less than 450 miles from Australia's north-west coastline, an A.I.F. commando force, which for 59 days was written off as lost, together with Dutch guerrilla troops, is to-day pinning down a large Japanese force, denying them conquest of the island and making hazardous any attempt to invade Australia from that base. Against odds of 100 to one they are killing Japanese at the rate of more than a hundred for every Australian or Dutchman lost in action.

Chinese Successes

CHUNGKING announced yesterday that the Chinese have recaptured Tsienshan, and Taihu, in south-western Anhwei. The Japanese have retreated further south to Sushung.

ADMIRAL'S PLAN TO STOP JAPAN'S MERCHANTMEN

JAPAN'S weakening merchant marine fleet should be fought with mines, in the opinion of retired U.S. Admiral William V. Pratt.

HITLER RECALLS AMBASSADORS

BERLIN radio has announced that Hitler has recalled the German Ambassadors in Spain, Sweden and Japan.

This may foreshadow a German attempt to renew political pressure on these countries.

"HER supply line must come from within closed seas, which we can mine from one end to the other," said Admiral Pratt. "The boundary lines extend from the eastern tip of Java to Borneo, from Sarawak to Saigon in Indo-China, and from Diamond Point in Sumatra to the opposite shore of the Malacca Strait."

"This entire sea area," he added, "is within 1800 miles of our air bases in Australia."

Australian Highlights and Brevities

VICTORIA

AN Australian record for long service as president of a sporting club is claimed for Mr. W. C. Bayley, president of the Hamilton Gun Club. He has been re-elected for his 43rd successive year. A foundation member of the Hamilton Gun Club, Mr. Bayley has been leading trap-shot in the Western district for more than 50 years.

THE death occurred in Melbourne last week of Harold William Conolly, 60, Superintendent of Mails in Victoria. He was educated at Newington College, Sydney, and entered the Postal Department as a messenger in 1899.

FAINT pink in color and as fine as talcum powder, a tiny phial of dust gathered on the historic battlefield of Tobruk by Major Mawson, of the Salvation Army, has been added to the collection of war souvenirs on show at South Melbourne Public Library.

ALTHOUGH fire at Hoyts Glenhuntly Theatre early one morning last week destroyed the lounge and part of the dress circle, doing damage estimated at several thousands of pounds, the show opened at the usual time the same night, with stalls accommodation only in use.

Dozens of utility workers from other suburban and city theatres who had been mustered for the purpose of clearing up the debris of the fire were aided in their efforts by fine, warm weather, which helped to dry carpets and seats.

BELEVED to have been walking in his sleep, John Donaldson, 11, of Queen's Road, City, fell from a window on the third floor of a flat where he was living and crashed to the ground. He suffered fractures of both arms and shock, and was admitted to Alfred Hospital. He was later transferred to an intermediate hospital.

EFFORTS are being made by the Premier to expedite the conference of Commonwealth and State representatives suggested by the Prime Minister to discuss the firewood position.

AMONG the donors of Christmas gifts to the children's ward at the Ballarat Base Hospital was Sapper R. Robinson, who wrote from the New Guinea battle front arranging for his relatives to provide a parcels of toys to mark the celebration of his 18th birthday.

BELEVED to have had access to duplicate keys, a thief stole £261 in two canvas bags from a safe in the manager's office at Eclipse Theatre, Bay Street, Montague, during Monday night.

THROUGH the work of two soldiers with a garden hose, the home of Miss S. Wright, in Old Violet street, Bendigo, was saved from total destruction. The brigade was able to confine the fire to three interior rooms.

NEW SOUTH WALES

IN a case in Sydney Central Police Court last week in which Raymond Tasker was charged with having had possession of goods reasonably suspected of having been stolen, Detective Constable Bennett Toms said that 86,000 razor blades and 20,000 cigarettes had been reported stolen from Sydney wharves. Tasker, in evidence, said that two cartons of American cigarettes referred to in the charge against him were bought from a soldier who claimed they were his own ration. Judgment was reserved.

Can You Beat This?

ABOUT 25 engine drivers employed at Toohey's Brewery, Sydney, went on strike on Wednesday because they did not receive their usual seasonal gift of a dozen bottles of beer each from the Company. Mr. J. Hastie, secretary of the union, said that the union had made arrangements with Senator Keane for the men to receive their usual Christmas gift, but the management had refused to supply the beer. All other employees have continued at work.

ELI KENSEY, 96, who was claimed to be Australia's oldest shipwright, died in Balmain Hospital on Tuesday. He was working at his trade until a fortnight ago.

MR. STANLEY TAYLOR, a Sydney barrister, has been appointed by the N.S.W. Cabinet as president of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales in succession to Mr. Justice Browne. Mr. Justice Browne resigned last June. The new president is a native of New South Wales, and was born at Rylstone in 1896.

THE body of the woman who fell over the Gap last week has been identified as Mrs. Marjorie Frances Broomhead, 34, of The Ferns, Springwood. She was a native of Malvern, Victoria.

REDFERN'S newly-elected Mayor, Ald. D. Jones, has sung in the choir of St. Paul's Church since he was seven. He is now 38, and familiarly known as "Davy Jones" to thousands of Redfern residents. He is a bachelor, and his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Woolley, will act as Mayoress.

AN application by William George Ambrose Tarry, of Dee Why, to be registered as a conscientious objector, was refused by Mr. Sheridan, S.M., at Manly Court. Tarry said he would defend himself short of killing if attacked. He would not kill a snake if it bit him. He would scarify the wound. He would not kill a Japanese if he attacked his mother and sisters. Tarry was remanded for sentence on a charge of refusing to undergo medical examination.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THERE were practically no unemployed persons registered at the Government Labor Exchange at November 30, according to the State statistical return for November, issued by the Assistant Government Statist (Mr. H. L. Semmens). At the corresponding date last year 397 persons were registered.

Comparative vital statistics for the January-November period are:—Births, 10,443 (9894 last year); deaths, 6290 (5722); marriages, 7482 (5812); and infant deaths, 418 (307).

JOHAN LOGAN, 31, of Hopetoun Avenue Kilburn, was taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital suffering from concussion, a broken collar-bone and abrasions, caused when his cycle collided with another cycle at Gepp's Cross.

MR. W. COCKINGTON, of Cedar Avenue, Woodville, has been notified that her youngest son, Sgt. Percival Cockington, is reported missing, believed to have lost his life on December 16 as the result of operations in the Middle East. Sgt. Cockington, before he enlisted, was on the staff of the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. His only brother, Bdr. F. J. Cockington, is serving in the Middle East with the A.I.F.

QUEENSLAND

NEW YORK SUN selects Sister Kenny, of Brisbane, as the outstanding woman of 1942. "Her gentle figure stands as a symbol of hope and courage," says the newspaper.

Sister Kenny, nursing daughter of a Darling Downs farmer, has had no easy road since she began her fight against paralysis 27 years ago. She has had to fight for, as well as with, her treatment.

Sister Kenny went to the United States in 1940 to demonstrate her treatment of infantile paralysis to American specialists and the American Foundation for Infantile Paralysis subsequently approved of her treatment of the disease.

MORE cheques passed through the banks in Queensland last year than ever previously. The total cleared was £275,600,000, against £251,300,000 in 1940.

Cheque clearings are a guide to business activity. Last year's total was swelled by Government loan raising and spending, and by higher prices.

SCHOOL attendance of children aged under six years, now prohibited in the Townsville and Cairns districts, will be restored after the midsummer holidays unless the war position deteriorates meanwhile.

WHEN a stack of sandbags fell on him at the Central Sugar Refinery, New Farm, Leonard Osborne Davis, 41, married, Ryan Avenue, Balmoral, was fatally injured. He received a fractured skull and several lacerations to the left arm, and died in the ambulance.

TASMANIA

THE Court of Criminal Appeal at Hobart quashed a conviction on one count against George William Payne, a prisoner in the Hobart Gaol, and reduced his sentence from five years to four years. Payne had been convicted on charges of forgery and uttering. The Court consisted of Mr. Justice Clark and Mr. Justice Hutchins.

ROYAL Hobart Regatta this year will be conducted for patriotic purposes, on similar lines to that held to celebrate the Tasmanian tercentenary. A decision to this effect was made unanimously by the Royal Hobart Regatta Association committee. The regatta will be held on March 6.

AT a meeting of the Bothwell Council a petition was received from ratepayers residing in the higher levels of the water area directing attention to the unsatisfactory state of the water supply in their part of the township. It was decided to investigate mains and service pipes for corrosion. It was decided also that the regulations fixing the hours for watering gardens be more rigidly observed.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FOR the six years since the combined districts diphtheria immunisation clinic has been in operation at Fremantle, 6,212 children have received treatment. Of this total 638 were treated during 1942 and 426 of these children were under 5 years of age. This year's total represents 88 per cent. of the normal increase in population.

DR. F. DURAS, Director of Physical Education at the Melbourne University, has arrived in Perth to direct the special course in physical education to be held in conjunction with the Adult Education Summer School at St. George's College from January 7 to 17.

TO celebrate the lifting of the ban on the Communist Party of Australia, members of the Perth branch held a rally in the Assembly Hall. Mrs. Barbara Boyd was in the chair. Many messages of goodwill and congratulations were read.

Another Award To Perth's V.C.

WHEN Mrs. Edwards, of Mosman Park, Perth, saw her son's picture in the newspapers last week, she momentarily feared that something had happened to him, but was relieved and proud when she read that he had been awarded the D.S.O. Her son is Wing-Commander Hugh Idwal Edwards, V.C., D.F.C. Now, with the D.S.O., he is the most highly decorated airman in this or the last war.

Last Fight Of "Mystery" U.S. Carrier

JAP PILOTS CRASHED PLANES ON DECKS

SOME extraordinary features about the last fight of the US Navy's "mystery" aircraft-carrier can now be revealed, writes Winston Turner, War Correspondent with the US Navy in the South Pacific. This carrier was sunk in the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands (October 25-26), but although Washington has admitted the loss of "a carrier" the ship has not been named.

THREE Japanese torpedo bombers crashed into her. One hit the stack, killing many officers on the bridge. One hit the stern and struck two five-inch guns, twisting the barrels. The third crashed into the side of the carrier between the flight and hangar decks.

This plane was diving at such a terrific speed that the metal propeller, engine, and fuselage tore through the carrier's steel plating.

The wings were torn off, but the rest of the plane ripped through the side of the ship, making a hole 10 feet in diameter.

The plane finished up in the elevator pit and burst into flames.

The attack on this unnamed carrier began on October 26 about 9 a.m. Her planes at the time were away, attacking Japanese carriers.

Eighteen Japanese dive-bombers and 20 torpedo planes attacked the American carrier.

"Shot In A Million"

First bomb to get home hit the carrier's central control station. "It was a shot in a million," a survivor told me, "and it wrecked our communication system."

Then three torpedoes hit the starboard side of the carrier. This first attack finished with the carrier listing and afire.

The cost to the Japanese was high. "Our guns loosed off thousands of rounds and the Japs. were falling like ducks," an officer told me. "We passed between three burning in the water. How many we got altogether I don't know."

But although we got their torpedo planes the Japs. loosed their torpedoes.

This attack left the carrier in bad shape. She was unable to get up steam, so a cruiser took her in tow. A destroyer came alongside to take off the men in her air department.

Second Attack

These men, and the wounded, were being transferred when nine Japanese heavy bombers and more torpedo planes appeared.

The destroyers hurriedly sheered and the cruiser cut the tow.

Dead in the water the carrier was an easy mark. The torpedo planes put three more "fish" into her. She stayed afloat two days, then she sank. Many of her planes flew to land bases.

A Peace For The Masses

THIS war was essentially a war of the masses of ordinary men and women; it was being waged by the common people, and must be followed by a peace for the common people, said the British Minister for Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps, on Friday, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration by 26 Nations of their determination to defeat the Axis.

He continued: "The thoughts, aspirations, and methods which the war has encouraged and developed will give the main lines to the architecture of the new world structure. The whole picture is not yet clear, because we are dealing, not with a carefully drawn design for an artificial world organisation, but with an organic growth gradually emerging."

He added that wartime collaboration would provide an invaluable weapon with which to fight poverty, unemployment and ill-health.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

LAUNCESTON CUP, on February 13, will be worth £400, an increase of £50 on last year's prize. For the Cup meeting, one of the two-year-old races has been dropped, and three trotting events will be included, one on Cup Day and two the following Saturday.

PLANS for the reorganisation of greyhound racing throughout N.S.W. have been submitted to the State Government.

These plans have been prepared by the Chief Secretary (Mr. Baddeley) as a result of "amazing disclosures" in a special police report on the sport.

Government supporters hint that the plans may provide for the control of dog racing on similar lines to the Government's racing proposals, which will be one of the first matters dealt with when Parliament reassembles.

THE Perth Cup winner on Boxing Day was Temple Chief (son of Pantheon) raced by Mr. W. Mack, for many years well known in racing circles in Adelaide.

Snored Way Out Of The Army

LEONARD WILLIAMS, has been discharged from the U.S. Army after 28 days because of his tremendous snoring. He slept in eight places, finally in hospital, and kept everyone awake, including a major, whose protests got results.

Jap Goods Withdrawn From Sale

MELBOURNE retailers state that there are practically no Japanese-made goods being offered for sale in Melbourne. Chain stores, which used to carry cheap lines branded "Made in Japan," have withdrawn from sale any articles they had on their hands.

PICTURE CIRCUITS

UNITS not receiving picture programme circuits are advised to telephone 12 Mile Exchange, Extn. 16.

NOTED HORSE DIES AT 28

ROISEL, three times winner of the Australian Hurdle Race and twice winner of the Australian Steeplechase, has died at the age of 28.

He had been a "pensioner" at Khancoban, in the Upper Murray district, for a number of years.

Roisel was 13 when he won his second Australian Steeplechase.

Services Canteen Opens To-day

GRILLED steak or chops, with fried onions for 1/3 will be the costliest dish obtainable at the canteen to be opened today in the town area for members of all services.

The building has been refurbished and decorated, and will be something more than a place in which to have a hurried snack.

Musical programmes will be provided each afternoon and night by Jim Davidson's band, and there are reading and writing rooms, and a library.

American "soda jerkers" will dispense a wide variety of soft drinks from new refrigerators. Most of the cooking will also be done by Americans. As opportunity offers, fresh fruit will be made available.

The canteen has arranged for a daily supply of locally caught fish.

Food stocks on hand already include a ton and a half of lamb, a ton of beef, and two tons of ham.

Service will be on cafeteria style. The canteen will be open between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Undelivered Mail

UNDER this heading each day will be published the names of servicemen for whom unclaimed mail is waiting at the Base Post Office. Personnel concerned should notify their address to Base Post Office so that this mail may be forwarded:—

NX9237, Abbott, Sgt. F. G.; V504021, Atkins, Pte. J. H.; V225723, Atkins, Pte. H.; NX111438, Ashley, Cpl. L.; NX82181, Adams, Spr. R. J.

NX132699, Bellamy, Pte. R. A.; QX27235, Bresch, Pte. G.; N17476, Bourke, Cpl. L. J.; NX87778, Bradhurst, Spr. P. B.; V215092, Buxton, Pte. E.; SX4231, Bentley, Sgt. N.; NX89931, Barton, Pte. J. J.; V X 6 8 0 2 0, Bourke, Cpl. R.; NX111653, Brown, Pte. D. G.; N227577, Bailey, Pte. A. H.;

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST. by L/Cpl. W. J. Clarke, Pay Book, £1/10/-, and Driver's Licence.

LOST.—Steel helmet branded Hoves 33204.

LOST.—Identity discs with key attached. H. Deans, VX 53837.

FOUND, on boat at Moresby.—American's photographs in envelope. FOUND.—Haversack and kitbag, L/Cpl. D. M. Mitchell.

MISSING FRIENDS

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

Would NX 66351 Dvr. Hastie, D. M., please advise "Guinea Gold" of his whereabouts or postal address.

A.C.1 Stewart, of Kingsford, wishes to contact NX 31272 Pte. W. Riley.

A.C.1 Dick Fletcher is asked to contact Dvr. Jim Scarffe.

Sgt. Denis Ryan, U.S. Forces, friend of late George Fitzell is asked to contact Gnr. F. Hyland.

Gnr. Phil Leake, please communicate with 54263 A.C.1 Moore, R.

Spr. E. Macdonald wishes to contact Dvr. D. Partridge.

AMERICAN press writers have selected Gloria Callen, who holds 31 national swimming records, as the outstanding woman athlete for 1942. Pauline Betz, National tennis champion, was runner-up.

CONNIE MACK, manager of Philadelphia Athletic team, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, expressed optimism in the prospects of baseball in wartime. He said he intends to take an active interest in the sport for a long time yet.

A former State legislator, Charles Claxton, and C. B. Prescott, a prominent sportsman, fought a gun duel in which both were wounded. They fought in the court house square Wrightsville, Georgia.

TORONTO d. Boston 7—2. These teams now are tied for the leadership of the National Hockey League.

ALL STARS defeated Washington Redskins, 17—14.

VICTORIOUS REDS ROLL ON

ONLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN LEFT IN VELIKI LUKI

THE brilliant Russian achievement in capturing Veliki Luki has switched public interest from the Middle Don front to the Central front.

According to messages from Moscow, Russian troops, tanks and guns are rolling through the streets of Veliki Luki towards the Volga, 95 miles away. Veliki Luki was captured from the west after fierce hand-to-hand fighting.

Correspondents say this once handsome town has been changed beyond recognition. Libraries, hospitals, club houses, colleges and schools have been destroyed, and only women and children who crept from cellars to greet the Red Army remained there.

BERLIN Radio has not yet admitted the fall of Veliki Luki. After maintaining a perplexed silence on the subject on Saturday, Berlin yesterday denied the Russian claims, and spoke of the resumption of ceaseless Russian attacks.

The German News Agency, however, admits the other main item in Moscow's New Year's Day announcement—the fall of Elista, capital of the Kaluk Republic.

It says that the town has been evacuated in order to shorten the German lines at some points of the Eastern front. It also admits some penetration of German defences near Lake Ilmen, between Veliki Luki and Leningrad.

At Rjev, which the Russian Army on the Central Front has been closely investing for some weeks, the isolated German garrison is desperately attempting to break out to the west.

Two-thirds of the town is now believed to be firmly in Russian hands.

Native Wins M.M.

THE Military Medal has been awarded to Acting-sergeant Katue, of the Papuan Infantry Battalion. He is among the eleven members of the Australian Military Forces who have been decorated for gallantry in New Guinea.

Sergt. Katue's citation states that at great personal risk, and alone, he penetrated the rear of the enemy lines for several miles and returned with valuable information of the enemy strength and dispositions. This enabled his unit to take up a strategic position and greatly retard the enemy advance. He repeated the feat on two subsequent occasions.

Other awards are:—

MILITARY CROSS: Lieut. (temporary Captain) N. M. Symington (W.A.); Lieut. L. McGuinn (N.S.W.).

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL: Sgt. G. E. Cory (Bendigo, Vic.).

MILITARY MEDAL: Corporal L. G. Pett (N.S.W.); Lance-Cpl. A. J. Lockhead (Essendon, Vic.); Pte. F. R. Dridan (Amphitheatre, Vic.); Pte. E. R. McFarlane (N.S.W.); Pte. C. A. Oliver (N.S.W.); Pte. V. Smythe (Merbein, Vic.); and Pte. W. H. Walker (N.S.W.).

Read "Guinea Gold"—Then Pass it on

Advance Going Well, Says Gen. Freyberg

THE Commander of the New Zealand forces in Libya, (Lieutenant-General Sir Bernard Freyberg), addressing New Zealanders at Christmas-time, said: "I think I can say that our advance is going well. Our high spirits this Christmas must be in direct contrast to those of the Axis forces. The Fuehrer and Mussolini must have very wistful thoughts about their African venture as our pincer closes."

Britain's Bumper Sugar Crop

BRTAIN'S bumper beet crop is nearly harvested, and more than 150,000 tons of fine sugar have been extracted and processed. It will now be possible to maintain the ordinary household ration, and also provide children's sweet rations and allow extra for jam making from home-grown fruits next summer.

This harvest is the result of a great sugar-producing drive, which refutes the pre-war belief that Britain could not produce sugar for the whole population.

General's Grand Tribute To A.I.F. In Middle-East

A DELAYED dispatch from Kenneth Slessor, Official War Correspondent, tells of a splendid tribute paid to the Australian 9th Division by the Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East (General Sir Harold Alexander), at the big parade in Palestine at Christmas.

"THESSE are great days we are living in," he said. "They are a time for deeds rather than words, but when great deeds have been done there is no harm in speaking of them."

"And great deeds have made history, and you are in the proud position of having taken a major part in that great victory."

"Your reputation as fighters has always been famous, but I do not believe that you have ever fought with greater bravery or distinction than you did during that battle, when you broke the German and Italian armies in the Western Desert."

"Now you have added fresh laurels to your already illustrious name."

"War Is Hard"

"Your losses have been heavy, indeed, and for that we are all distressed, but war is a hard and bloody affair, and great victories cannot be won without much sacrifice."

"It is always a fine and moving spectacle to see, as I do to-day, worthy men who have done their duty on the battlefield assembled in the ranks on parade, and those ranks filled again with young recruits and fresh reinforcements."

Germans Scuttle 10,000 Ton Ship

THE British Admiralty announces that our Atlantic patrols intercepted an enemy 10,000 tons merchant vessel attempting to run the blockade.

The crew, which was later taken prisoner, scuttled the ship when our patrols overhauled it.

Another "Marie Celeste?"

AN American warship on patrol in the Solomons a few weeks ago stumbled on a sea mystery with all the elements of the unsolved Marie Celeste case, reports a Melbourne Herald correspondent.

He says the warship came across a tug, and with it a barge loaded with petrol and high explosives. They were undamaged, but drifting.

After the warship's signals had failed to bring any response from the tug, a boat's crew crossed and cautiously boarded her.

They found everything in order, but not a living soul on board.

Good Start By Allied Airmen

FROM Burma, the Aleutians and Solomons comes news of New Year's Day attacks on Japanese positions.

In Burma the RAF began the New Year with an attack on an important railway bridge. Without loss, our medium bombers directly hit the north and south approaches, and the first span of the bridge.

American heavy bombers attacked Japanese freighters in Kiska Harbor. Escorted by Lightning fighters, they scored near hits on a small freighter, but cloud prevented observation of the full damage.

All American planes returned. One Zero was shot down.

In the Solomons, American planes bombed Kohungbono, where the Japanese are believed to have their headquarters at Guadalcanal. Medium bombers attacked Munda. All planes returned.

Wake Island Raid "A Sample"

IN Honolulu yesterday, Admiral Nimitz presented awards won by naval men in the Solomons. He said the raid on Wake Island, in which 76,000 lbs. of bombs was dropped, was only a sample of things to come.

Seven more Japanese ships have been sunk by submarines in Far Eastern waters. An enemy destroyer was damaged.

According to Chungking, Japan has completed two 43,000 ton battleships. They will be ready in the spring of 1943, and two more are scheduled for completion in the summer.

Sneak Raiders Kill Children

A SMALL group of sneak raiders bombed south coast towns in Britain on Saturday afternoon.

They wrecked houses and shops and machine-gunned the streets. Several children attending a cinema matinee were killed.

N.Z. SERVICEMEN NUMBER 160,000

THE total number of men in uniform in New Zealand is 160,000, or ten times greater than in September, 1939. The figures refer to the New Zealand army only.

The New Zealand Air Force strength, exceeds 30,000, compared with a very small number three years ago.

Naval Engagement Reported

THE German High Command has reported a naval engagement in northern waters on December 31.