

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Tuesday, January 5, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

TRAPPED AXIS TROOPS EAT THEIR HORSES

ROSTOV 35 MILES NEARER

RUSSIAN forces, which on Friday captured Veliki Luki, are pressing on towards Novosokolniki, the fall of which would isolate the German armies in the Leninograd — Lake Ilmen region.

Axis troops trapped between the Volga and the Don are being steadily reduced. They still have enough equipment and manpower for strong resistance, but are hungry. Prisoners have admitted that they have eaten all their cavalry horses.

SOUTH-WEST of Stalingrad, the Russians have advanced 35 miles nearer Rostov through the railway at Kotelnikovo.

On the lower Don, two Russian forces are converging on Tsymlyanskaya, and the advance on the Kalnuk steppes in the Northern Caucasus is continuing.

Discussing the recapture of Elista in the Northern Caucasus, Col. Bratt, military correspondent of the Stockholm Dagens Nyheter, states that the Germans will recoil from the latest defeat as if the nerves of a hand had been cut.

"It is even possible that the moment is coming when the Germans will be forced to make a supreme effort to prevent the amputation of the arm as well," he says.

"Latest German defeats may have fatal results."

Stockholm correspondent of the Daily Mirror says that there is increasing evidence that the Russians will soon recapture Smolensk (250 miles west of Moscow).

"If Smolensk falls it will mean the virtual collapse of the German front in the East," he states.

"It would make necessary an ignominious retreat to the line of the Beresina and Dnieper."

Ex-Ambassador To Berlin Dies

SIR NEVILLE HENDERSON, British Ambassador to Germany until the war broke out, died in London last week, aged 60.

Educated at Eton, Sir Neville joined the diplomatic service in 1905, and served in Russia, Japan, France, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, and the Balkans before going to Berlin in 1937.

Speaking at Oxford soon after his return to England, Sir Neville said: "If I were given a gun and told to take two shots, I would shoot Himmler, then Ribbentrop, and brain Hitler with the butt."

Independent reports from Moscow state that only now is it fully revealed how dangerous the position in the east Caucasus had been. The Germans had penetrated much further than was generally believed.

ALLIES PREPARE TO ATTACK SANANANDA

WHILE Allied land forces are regrouping preparatory to attacking Sanananda, last stronghold of the enemy in Papua, Allied planes are giving the Japanese no respite.

Yesterday Marauder bombers and Havoc attack planes bombed and strafed Sanananda, starting fires, one of which spread to an ammunition dump.

WITH the enemy defeated in the Buna area, yesterday's activity in that sector consisted of mopping up operations. Snipers were cleaned out, and some prisoners taken.

In addition to their operations over Sanananda, our planes paid another visit to Lae. The communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters last night stated that attack planes and medium bombers raided the air-drome and nearby installations destroying three grounded enemy aircraft, and starting fires in the hangar and building area.

Ships Strafed

An Allied reconnaissance unit strafed an enemy supply ship at Finschhafen, and another reconnaissance plane strafed an enemy schooner in Jacquot Bay (New Britain). The air-drome at Gasmata was again raided, a Liberator dropping 1000 lb. bombs on the runway. A direct hit was scored on a machine gun post.

In the North-western sector there was reconnaissance activity only.

Low Countries Hammered By 300 Planes

AMERICAN heavy bombers have carried out large scale raids on the U-Boat base at St. Nazaire. The raid was part of widespread air operations along the coasts of Northern France, Belgium and Holland in which nearly 300 R.A.F., and Allied fighters took part.

They kept up their attacks for five hours, bombing Bourges, railway targets in Northern France and a Dutch aerodrome.

From the operations over Northern France and the Low Countries not one of our planes is missing, but from the St. Nazaire raid several bombers failed to return.

WAR SUMMARY

NEW GUINEA:—Allied troops regrouping preparatory to attacking Sanananda.

RUSSIA:—Soviet forces press on towards Novosokolniki, fall of which would isolate large German forces.

NORTH AFRICA:—Allied planes gain big success over enemy planes shooting down 28 and damaging 34 for the loss of 7.

Palermo, Crete, Bombed

PALERMO in Sicily was bombed on Friday night. Our planes have again attacked targets in Crete.

The A.B.C. correspondent in Cairo says that the Allied day and night raids on Crete have been the heaviest for some months, and have done much damage.

R.A.F. Active Over Burma

A NEW DELHI communique announces more Allied attacks on Japanese concentrations in Burma. Hurricanes attacked an airfield at Magwe from a low level, and destroyed planes on the ground.

Blenheims bombed two airdromes near Akyab. Other planes attacked Japanese shipping, docks and military installations.

RAAF NEW YEAR HONOURS

The names of 68 Australian airmen appear in the New Year's Honours list as having been mentioned in dispatches. Advice of this was received on Sunday by the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) from the R.A.A.F. overseas headquarters.

SOUGHT, BUT COULD NOT FIND, JAPANESE FLEET

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the Sydney Mirror states that just before Christmas an American task force in strength from the Pacific Fleet of Admiral Nimitz cruised clear into Japanese waters, "looking for a Christmas present for the American people."

THE task force, which included an aircraft-carrier claimed by the Japs to have been sunk some time ago, swept 3000 miles into dangerous waters, but saw no Jap ships which they could bring to battle.

The U.S. Navy is convinced that the Jap Navy is strictly on the defensive around its home waters and at island bases in the Pacific. It is not clear whether this is from weakness or for the purpose of re-forming. It is evidently not a stratagem to draw the U.S. Navy into a trap.

Australian Highlights and Brevities

VICTORIA

EXCESSIVE overtime work is causing dissatisfaction among members of the Cold Storage Union employed in freezing chambers. The secretary (Mr. J. J. Healey) said that the union sought a reduction of the hours from 60 to 56, exclusive of time they could be employed on essential shipping work. The work was of an arduous character, and the men had to work in low temperatures.

Did Not Register; Got 2 Months Gaol

FAILING to produce an identity card when requested to do so by a constable, James McDonald, who arrived in Australia from Scotland in 1926, was arrested and charged with failure to register with the Manpower officer. He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

Mr. Mohr, P.M., said the offence was serious as it enabled a man to avoid his obligations to the country.

TWO members of the Army Provost Corps who were injured in an accident in Bernard Street, Bendigo (Vic.), were Corporal Norman Hector Wentle and Corporal Edgar Simmons. In being swerved to avoid a collision, their car skidded and crashed into a stationary car. Corporal Simmons received a compound fracture of the right lower leg, and Corporal Wentle a fracture of the right leg.

ST. KILDA branch of the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Fathers' Association, as a Christmas gesture, gave 700 books to the Heidelberg Military Hospital last Wednesday. The Red Cross branch is to take care of them.

MONTAGUE BROWN, landscape painter, died at his home in Neerim Road, Murrumbidgee, on Thursday, at the age of 72. He was a member of the Council of the Victorian Artists' Society for several years.

Mr. Brown studied art in France and Germany early this century.

WHEN his dinghy was blown out into Port Phillip Bay (Vic.) by a stiff northerly on Saturday, a young lifesaver swam a mile and a half through a boisterous sea. As a result his companion was rescued by a naval vessel which had to be called by wireless.

The swimmer was Alec Rundle, aircraft worker, and the rescued man, Edward Woodhead, fitter, both of Melbourne.

LEMONS have never been dearer in the last 20 years than they are now. For a case, 44/ is being paid at the Queen Victoria wholesale market Melbourne.

Retail, prices of good lemons range from twopence to fourpence each. Supplies are likely to become shorter than ever.

TASMANIA

AFTER the war there will be a great changes in methods of transport, and they would present tremendous problems to harbor authorities, said Mr. Robinson, M.L.C., after he had been re-elected Master Warden at a special meeting of the Launceston Marine Board.

Mr. Robinson has entered on his eighth successive term. This is the longest term of any master warden at Launceston for more than 60 years. The record is held by Mr. Richard Green, who held office for 16 years from 1862.

THE former Lord Mayor of Sydney, Ald. Crick, who ceased to hold office on December 31, and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr. T. S. Nettlefold, have been staying at the northern end of the Great Lake (Tas.). Each caught two fine rainbow trout. Cr. Nettlefold and Ald. Crick sent congratulations to the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Ald. John Soundy, who has been awarded a C.B.E. in the New Year's honours list.

HOBART'S beer drought broke in time, and city, suburban and southern country hotels had sufficient liquor supplies for the week-end. Because of rationing, draught beer was not available at several well-known hotels on New Year's Eve.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FORTNIGHT-OLD baby Brenton Anderson, of Hollywood, South Australia, has four great grandmothers still living, and also two great grandfathers. Youngest of these six "greats" is 74 and the oldest 80, and their combined ages make 456 years.

Four of the great-grandparents are on the mother's side, and two on the father's.

ANOTHER war plant costing £250,000 will be erected near Adelaide this year, the managing director of a large New South Wales company said on Friday.

It was intended to manufacture defence equipment. The factory would take a year to build and a start would be made early in 1943.

MR. ROBERT TODD, of Cremorne Street, Parkside, who died in Adelaide in a private hospital at the age of 56, had been manager of the engineering firm of J. Todd and Son, Ltd., Pirie Street, Adelaide, for more than 20 years.

He was born in Kew (Victoria) and was educated at Pulteney Grammar School. He left a widow, a son, and a daughter.

THE Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) has sent a special request to the Premier of South Australia (Mr. Playford) urging regulation within the State of all appeals for patriotic funds to help eliminate competition with National campaigns designed to raise money for a direct war effort. Hitherto, generous local support for community welfare efforts has tended to affect Commonwealth appeals.

NEW SOUTH WALES

AS a result of the outbreak of swine fever in certain parts of the State, 2000 pigs will have to be destroyed immediately, according to the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Dunn). He said his experts had informed him that the outbreak was a true form of swine fever, and a menace to pig breeding.

The Minister said that every available veterinary surgeon had been sent to the affected areas. All sick pigs will be destroyed, the buildings which housed them would be demolished, and the soil turned over.

MR. HARRY DEARTH, well-known Sydney radio personality, has received his commission as a Pilot-Officer in the RAAF.

He will leave shortly for a northern base to take up duties as a member of the Air Force Welfare Branch. These will include entertaining and watching the welfare generally of Air Force personnel.

WITH complete returns not yet available, 6000 cases of venereal disease have already been reported for 1942, the Minister for Health (Mr. Kelly) said.

To ensure a reduction in the incidence of the scourge next year, the Government was planning a publicity campaign which would embrace newspapers, films and the wireless, he added.

THE proposed amalgamation of the Muniton Workers and Iron Workers' unions will be discussed at a meeting of the Federal councils of the two organisations, to be held in Sydney on January 25. The combined membership will be over 100,000.

"I AM sending you to gaol for seven days because I consider the position in regard to petrol is very serious," said Mr. Farrington, S.M., at Redfern Court, when sentencing George Kidd (38) for stealing one gallon of petrol, valued at 2s. 10d., from Bird Bros., Alexandria, on December 28.

FOR taking bets in his barber shop at Railway Street, Lidcombe, Lochlan William Morton Johnson (52), was fined £40 at Parramatta Court. Police said he had nine previous convictions.

MR. CHARLES P. BARTHOLMEW, 82, a director of Amalgamated Wireless A/asia Ltd., and of Beard Watson's Ltd., died in hospital at North Sydney.

He was the first president of the Wireless Institute of Australia, when in 1910 it was formed as the first amateur wireless body in the British Empire.

AL.D. R. J. BARTLEY, recently-elected Lord Mayor of Sydney, on taking office, said that as the danger of air raids seemed remote, now was the time to overhaul the National Emergency Services organisation. He was concerned at the unfair responsibility placed on property owners if they complied with the law.

QUEENSLAND

BECAUSE of a plague of mosquitoes, epidemics of dengue fever and malaria are feared in Brisbane this summer. One local case of malaria has been reported already.

It is proposed to use A.R.P. wardens as honorary inspectors of household and business premises to enforce the Mosquito Control Regulations.

Boy Boot Blacks Make £15 A Week

THREE Brisbane boys on school vacation are earning up to £15 a week polishing the boots of Allied soldiers.

One proudly said: "I have never made less than £3 in one day." When asked what he intended doing with the money he said: "I want to buy a telescopic Daisy gun so I can get the Japs if they come down here."

WHEN escorting two Palm Island aboriginal escapees back to the north by train last week-end, a native policeman fell asleep, and when he awoke at Bundaberg he found that his prisoners had escaped.

The escapees, George Weasel and Ronald Landers, were located at Baddow, near Maryborough, by a squad of police in charge of Senior Sergeant D. Ferguson. They were handed back to the native policeman.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LIEUTENANT CHARLES FRANCIS GERALD MCKENZIE, of Western Australia, who has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in Portuguese Timor, where he led an air defence force which demolished Dilli aerodrome, has two brothers in the A.I.F., one in the Navy and one in the Air Force.

MR. ALEX CLYDESDALE, one of Perth's best-known sporting personalities, secretary of Goodwood Race Club, and member of the State Lotteries Commission, has married Miss Lillian Knights, who has been employed by the Lotteries Commission for the past 11 years.

WEST AUSTRALIA'S starting-price betting fines for 1942 totalled £33,000, a slight increase on 1941. The majority came from Perth Police Court, where the weekly average was £500.

THE Public Health Commissioner (Dr. Everitt Atkinson) expected V.D. cases in West Australia in 1942 to be as high as, if not higher than, the biggest annual total for the last war. In 10 months 818 cases had been reported.

ROBERT EWINS, a petty officer stoker in the R.A.N., died as a result of injuries suffered when struck by a train in the Fremantle Railway yards recently. The Coroner found Ewins' death was accidental.

Sport, American And General News

SERVICEMEN AT CRICKET

CHIEF sporting fixture in Melbourne on Saturday was a cricket match between the Training Depot and a combined Sub-District team. A number of players in each team had played for Victoria.

The Training Depot closed at 5 for 250 (Stuckey 115, Wynne 50, Frederick 26 not out, Caven 24). The weather stopped play after Sub-District had lost 3 for 62, Roy Gardner being the best bat. Stuckey won a trophy for scoring his first 30 in 23 mins.

Inter-Services events at the Athletic Sports Ground saw Sgt. Shapiro, U.S. Army win the 220 yards, and his section of the 440 yds. relay race. He was also second in the 100 yds. won by L. Foley in 10½ secs.

MADE 84 ON BAD WICKET

WHEN other Northern District batsmen were reluctant to go in first on a damaged wicket on Saturday, O. Elliott, 19-year-old King's School player opened, and with a brilliant 84 sent Waverley to its first defeat of the season.

Playing for St. George, O'Reilly took 8 for 61.

Tarzan's Creator In Australia

TARZAN'S creator, Edgar Rice Burroughs, aged 67, is in Sydney, having come to Australia as War Correspondent for the United Press. Burroughs began writing at 35, and before that had held more than 40 jobs including cowboy, assistant commandant, and cavalry instructor at Michigan Military Academy, and manager for a mail order house.

"A Princess of Mars" was his first book, and the Tarzan series began with his third book which he did not expect to sell. Since then he has written more than 22 books and innumerable Tarzan short stories. Tarzan strips have been syndicated all over the world. For the last two and a half years, Burroughs has lived in Honolulu.

U.S. Soldier Gave Dancers Feast Of Opera Numbers

An American soldier, who walked casually on to the stage at the U.S. Red Cross Service Club, Phillip Street, Sydney last Wednesday night held dancers in rapture as he sang to the music of the band.

THE occasion was the club's usual Wednesday night dance for the forces. At first the milling crowd paid little attention.

But, as the beauty of his voice penetrated the laughter and the chatting, the dancers stopped and listened. And little wonder. The songster

"ORLEIGH" GOSSIPS ON AFFAIRS OF THE TURF

FOR the first time in the history of Victorian racing—more than one hundred years—no race meetings were held on New Year's Day.

TO give an idea how war has upset racing arrangements, 26 race meetings were held in the festive season three years ago. This year the total was three, including a picnic fixture. The loss in stakes was more than £10,000.

Harold Jones, for years one of Melbourne's best known riders, has amassed a fortune since he went to India. A few days ago he won the Viceroy's Cup at Calcutta on ten-year-old Finalist, whom Jones has ridden in his four wins in the last five years. Finalist must be a remarkable horse as he has broken down time and time again, and yet comes up each year fit enough to win India's greatest staying race which is the local equivalent of the Melbourne Cup.

Lucrative did not race at Calcutta because of a splint. Finalist is trained by Alex Higgins, of Sydney, who has now won five Viceroy's Cups, the last three with Finalist and Baqlava.

The strangest apprenticeship indenture ever signed was lodged with the V.R.C. last week when the Adelaide

apprentice T. McNerhey became associated with the stable of Steve Masters at Flemington. McNerhey came to Melbourne when racing was stopped in Adelaide last February. In his transfer to Masters, a condition of it reads: "I agree to remain with Masters until a week after the resumption of racing in Adelaide."

Kindergarten must be one of the greatest horses racing anywhere in the world to-day. In winning the Auckland Cup with 10.2 he was easing up to run last three furlongs in 37 2/5. He must possess amazing sprint powers as he was last at the seven furlongs, but led into the straight, and could have won by ten lengths. Everyone in New Zealand must have backed him as he returned only £1/18/ for £1, odds of 10 to 9 on, in a tote pool of nearly £34,000.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

THE A.J.C. stewards reprimanded prominent jockey A. Knox, but took no action against the owner (Mr. S. Green or trainer (Mr. H. Fielder), when they concluded an inquiry regarding Amberspear which began at Rosehill on December 12. Knox was told that he had ridden an ill-judged race, but officials were satisfied that there had been no dishonest intentions. Knox was emphatic that interference had caused Amberspear's failure.

ACERDARE, former Australian champion, put up a remarkable performance in winning the Sydney Flying Squadron's Eighteen Footers' race on Saturday. She conceded starts ranging from 30 secs. to 6 mins. to her fourteen opponents, and had the race in keeping more than a mile from home. N.S.W. and Desdemona were in minor places.

COLIN HAY, former all rounder from Broken Hill and Vic. Trumper, co-operated for the R.A.A.F. in dismissing the Army for 69 runs in a N.S.W. country centre on Saturday. The Air Force team scored 126. Hay took 6 for 31 and Trumper 3 for 33.

ONE of the races champion Yaralla is being prepared for is Australia Day Handicap, a £1000 race to be run at Randwick on January 30.

The race is over seven furlongs and an important point is that handicapper Mr. G. F. Watson cannot give the champion more than 9.5.

GOLD SALUTE, who was bought a few years ago by Mr. Alan Cooper for £9000 was recently sold to a Sydney syndicate for under £600.

NEW TAXATION WILL BE "VERY HEAVY"

NEW taxes to meet most of the increased war expenditure of £70,000,000 in the current financial year, will be introduced in Parliament by the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) late this month.

A Government spokesman made it clear yesterday that the new income taxation would be very heavy.

The new imposts will be primarily income taxes and will affect a wide range of income earners. War expenditure in Australia in the current financial year is expected to exceed £460,000,000.

MR. SLATER IN RUSSIA

Mr. W. Slater, Australia's first Minister to the U.S.S.R. has arrived at the provisional Soviet capital. A Soviet Minister has been appointed to Australia, but he has not yet arrived.

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:—

N232826, Baker, Dvr. J. S.; VX 79832, Best, Gnr. M.; NX11807, Buckland, Pte. G. S.; N115257, Boyd, Gnr. F. R.

VX72367 Clarke, Pte. W. C.; V281307 Clarke, Pte. P. J.; N262983 Clarke, Pte. L. G.; NX44091 Cobble-dick, Pte. A. G.; NX106468 Cubis, Pte. J. D.; VX87108 Carrick, Pte. S. K.; QX31241 Chalmers, L/C. L. W.; N215383 Camiller, Spr. J.; Q136309 Carroll, Pte. E. J.; NX81043 Costello, Spr. D. H.; N202039 Crowley, Pte. C. F.; SX18622 Carter, Pte. R.; VX58471 Cook, Pte. R. A.

WHEN Maniototo won the Patriotic Handicap for three-years-olds at Flemington recently, he gave his owner, Mr. W. T. Hazlett, who always has a big team in training, only his second win in Melbourne since Sir Simper won the Toorak Handicap in 1934.

It is estimated that Queensland racing clubs have raised more than £100,000 for war loans and patriotic funds.

Brisbane clubs have contributed £50,000, and Rockhampton Jockey Club has raised over £6000.

EDDIE MILLER will fight Roy Connybear for the Victorian lightweight championship on January 23.

LOST & FOUND

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

FOUND.—Identity discs belonging to V502168, W. H. Whitfield.

FOUND.—Paybook, Richard Martin.

FOUND.—R.A.A.F. Glengarry, 401793, Smith, G. T.

FOUND.—Envelope of snapshots, apparently American.

LOST.—Blue Morocco wallet, wings on front and cont. photographs, stamps, identification card, paybook, shirt bush. N241774 Pte. Elford, E.

MISSING FRIENDS

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

VX 66007 Gnr. Cunningham. Suggest you write to Dept. of Information (Cinema Section), Canberra.

George Jacobsen is asked to contact NX91413, Spen Read.

L/Cpl. Noel F. H. would like to contact Pte. J. D. Condon, of Victoria Park.

Pte. R. K. Lalor would like to contact Pat. Egan, R.A.A.F.

ENEMY LOSES 28 PLANES IN NORTH AFRICA

ANOTHER 34 DAMAGED

THE destruction of 28 enemy aircraft in fierce fighting over Tunisia is confirmed in a communique issued by Allied Headquarters. Thirty-four enemy planes were damaged; seven of our planes were lost.

The first battle occurred when escorted Flying Fortresses raided La Goulette and shot down 19 attacking enemy aircraft for the loss of two machines.

The second big encounter took place when a strong enemy force of bombers and fighters, including some of the Focke Wulf 190s, twice attacked Bone. Spitfires shot down seven, and got another two in a forward area for the loss of five planes.

FRENCH forces in Central Tunisia have captured another strategic point near Kairouan, about 50 miles inland from the east coast port of Sousse. This is reported in the official communique.

Sunday's Cairo communique had nothing to report from our forces in contact with the enemy west of Wadi-bei-el-Chebir. It said that there was an increase in air activity over the desert on Saturday, and that some Messerschmitt 109s were destroyed.

General Le Clerc's headquarters report that Fighting French motorised forces have advanced several hundred miles from Lake Chad towards Libya. Fighting French aircraft have raided many enemy posts.

Wireless Patrol's Record

ALL previous records in the detection and prevention of crime were surpassed in 1942 by the wireless patrol section of the Victorian police force. The branch, which heads all others for achievement, is a veritable police station on wheels.

Crime returns for the year just ended show an increase of petty crimes, but there has been a big drop in serious crimes, particularly compared with pre-war years.

The main reason for the decline has been the improved mobility of the force with radio equipped cars, the effective State wide communication system and prompt reporting of crime by the public.

Boxing Tourney Abandoned

Owing to insufficient entries having been received, the boxing tourney which was to have been held to-night has been abandoned.

NOT SO SIMPLE, DR. WATSON

FINGERPRINTS from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada may help solve the murder of a wealthy man in a Baker Street flat, London.

The flat is near the address made famous by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,

Attacks On Jap Destroyers

ATTACKS on Japanese destroyers in the Solomons area are reported in the latest U.S. Navy Department communique. One destroyer was left burning and another appeared to be sinking.

The destroyers were attacked on Saturday afternoon, 30 miles south of Shortland Islands, and again a few hours later 30 miles north-west of Rendover Island in the New Georgia group.

On Saturday morning and again on Sunday, U.S. planes bombed Munda, and scored hits on anti-aircraft emplacements and other airdrome installations.

The communique reports that 30 to 35 Japanese were killed in a patrol action on Guadalcanal Island.

U.S. positions were shelled by Japanese artillery.

Dominion Wines for Britain

AFTER consultation with Australian and South African authorities, the Ministry of Food has agreed that, should shipping space be available, small quantities of port and sherry type wines may be shipped to Britain. The Ministry will grant import licences for 500 tons from each Dominion. The maximum retail selling price will be 10/6 a bottle. Arrangements are being discussed for the subsequent shipment of 100 tons of beverage wines from each Dominion.

English novelist and scientist, as the home of Sherlock Holmes.

Fingerprints found on a bottle in the flat near the murdered man are being checked with prints sent by air from the United States and Canada.

Police authorities may later check them with prints from Australia and New Zealand.

Soviet Supplies Via Iran

BRITISH, U.S., and Indian war supplies are pouring into Russia to back up the Red Army's triumphant offensive.

The supplies, landed at Persian Gulf ports, are sent forward to Russia by roads and railways, many of them newly-built, London Daily Telegraph Bagdad (Iraq) correspondent says.

They include tanks, aircraft, heavy engineering stores, ammunition, jute, and many other essentials.

"The stream swells week by week, soon it will be a flood," the correspondent adds.

"The way in which immense difficulties have been conquered will go down in history as one of the war's greatest feats of perseverance in defying distance and geography."

Help From Australia

Locomotives and waggons released by New South Wales Railways are helping to carry war materials for the Soviet across Iran.

Between them, the Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments released 63 big locomotives and 835 waggons for use in Iran.

The Australian equipment has been working on the 1000-mile long trans-Iran railway since early last year.

It is rolling over rails and sleepers which Germany sent into Iran, and which the Allies seized in July.

200 Airmen Interned In Spain

A MADRID message states that 200 British and U.S. airmen, who have made forced landings in Spain, are interned in the N.E. province of Aragon. They include 32 members of crews of 4-engined planes.

Wavell Commands Million Troops In India

IN a special dispatch to the Melbourne Sun Pictorial, De Witt MacKenzie, the New York Sun's foreign commentator, who is investigating Indian defences, cables from New Delhi that 1,000,000 men are defending India.

MacKENZIE continues: "It is good to be able to report, with certainty, that India's security is no longer a cause for anxiety."

"There is, of course, still an element of danger with the Mikado's barbarians sitting just across the Bay of Bengal, but defensive projects have reached a satisfactory state."

MacKenzie does not believe that the Japanese will even attempt to invade India as they already have gorged themselves with as much territory as they are able to digest.

"Still there is the possibility that Hitler will persuade the Japanese to strike against India to assist his Caucasian drive," MacKenzie adds.

"Thus it is a matter of immense satisfaction to see India's strength grow."

DRINKS ON THE HOUSE

OFFICIAL war correspondent, Kenneth Slessor, sends a new Digger yarn from Cairo.

Two Australians visited the town on leave and gave Cairo its first laugh of the New Year. They had wandered as far as Sheppard's Hotel, where they found that their combined resources were sixpence short of the price of a bottle of beer.

One of the Australians promptly retreated to the street, grabbed a sandbag from a heap outside the hotel, and returned to the bar, yelling: "Genuine Tobruk sand; take home a souvenir."

They promptly sold some to the waiter, who proudly bore his trophy away.

This is probably the first time on record that anyone has succeeded in selling sand to an Egyptian.

U.K. COLLIERY TAKEN OVER

THE British Government is taking over, under the Defence regulations, the whole of the issued shares of the Nottingham and Clifton Colliery Co. Ltd. The shares will be invested in nominees of the Fuel Ministry.

This proceeding is the first of its kind in Britain, the object being to give the Ministry complete control of the undertaking. The existing board of directors will be removed from office. Drastic measures have been threatened if any undertaking fails to respond to suggestions for increased efficiency.

Soldier Shoots Shark

A SOLDIER shot a big shark which was swimming towards a girl bather at Watsons Bay, Sydney, on Sunday. People on the beach saw the shark's fins cutting the water as it made its way towards the girl. They shouted a warning, and a soldier unslung his rifle and fired.

At Balmoral during the afternoon, a 12-ft. grey nurse shark leapt out of the water to snap at a rat running along the rocks near the waters edge. Its jaws closed just behind the rat.

There were also shark alarms at Queenscliff, Manly, Cronulla and North Steyne.