

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Friday, January 8, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO LAND MORE TROOPS AT LAE

TWO BIG TRANSPORTS SUNK, ONE DAMAGED; 18 ZEROS DOWNED

ATTACKS BY OUR BOMBERS CONTINUE

AN enemy convoy of troopships and escorting warships, totalling 10 vessels, making for Lae with reinforcements, has been successfully attacked for two days and nights by Allied bombers.

One transport of 12,000 to 14,000 tons, heavily laden with troops, was sunk with all on board, in a night attack. Another large transport was disabled by a direct hit, and seen enveloped in flames. It later sank. A third large transport was directly hit by a 500lb bomb.

Eighteen of the strong forces of Zeros used as air cover for the convoy have been definitely destroyed, five others were probably shot down, and four were damaged. Our losses were relatively light.

THE communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters last night, states that our attacks took place in Huon Gulf, on which Lae and Salamaua are situated, and that they are continuing.

THE CONVOY WAS FIRST SIGHTED OFF GASMATA (NEW BRITAIN) ON WEDNESDAY. AS IT HEADED TOWARDS THE NEW GUINEA COAST, FLYING FORTRESSES, LIBERATORS, MARAUDERS AND MITCHELL BOMBERS SWEEPED TO THE ATTACK AS WELL AS LIGHTNINGS AND AN R.A.A.F. MANNED CATALINA.

The Catalina scored a direct hit with a heavy bomb on the 12,000 to 14,000 transport early on Thursday morning and the crew saw the vessel burning fiercely. Later they saw wreckage and lifeboats in which there were only about 100 survivors.

A Flying Fortress scored a direct hit on the stern of the second transport that sank.

Lockheed Lightnings again did a great job against the Zeros. On Wednesday, they shot down nine Zeros for certain, and probably destroyed three others, and yesterday they shot down two fighters.

Flying Fortresses accounted for five Zeros, and Mitchell bombers bagged two.

LAE DROME ATTACKED

THE aerodrome at Lae was attacked yesterday by Lockheed Lightnings and Havoc attack bombers.

Hits were scored on A.A. positions, and on blast bays containing several enemy aircraft.

Zeros attempted interception without success.

General MacArthur's communique reports that an Allied heavy unit bombed the runway at Gasmata, starting oil fires.

Reconnaissance only was reported in the North-western sector.

Allied Aircraft Active In Burma

BRITISH and American aircraft, operating in support of Allied forces advancing in Burma, have again made widespread attacks on enemy shipping and transport generally.

On Monday night, Wellingtons attacked the railway marshalling yards at Mandalay, causing many fires.

Later, they bombed the Mandalay railway junction. All planes returned.

BRITISH SUBS' SUCCESSES

A BRITISH Admiralty communique says that British submarines, operating in the Mediterranean, have torpedoed three more Axis supply ships. A large troop transport was definitely destroyed, and another two probably destroyed.

R.A.F. OVER RUHR

FOR the second night in succession, British bombers were over the Ruhr on Monday night. No details of the damage done are yet available, but pilots declare they saw the glow of fires through the thick clouds which hung over the target. Intense A.A. fire was encountered.

RING TIGHTENING AROUND 22 GERMAN DIVISIONS

THE Russian ring around 22 German divisions trapped to the west of Stalingrad, is now 80 miles thick at its thinnest point. Within the area held by the Germans, mopping up operations continue.

The Red Army is still advancing everywhere, but on Wednesday night Moscow emphasised the stiffening of German resistance, especially on the Stalingrad-Salsk railway, along which the force which took Kotelnikovo a few days ago is advancing.

MOSCOW Radio also announced several enemy counter-attacks south-east of Kotelnikovo in the past two days. The Germans here have brought up tank and infantry reinforcements.

Wednesday night's communique from Moscow said that on that day the Russians had occupied 14 more localities as well as two railway stations in the northern Caucasus, and eight more in the Middle Don area.

In this area, the Red Army is now in possession of the entire eastern region, and is spanning out to the west, apparently with the intention of making for the dense network of railways in the Donetz basin.

It is officially announced that in two areas south-west of Stalingrad, the Germans lost 20,000 killed and 6,500 prisoners taken between January 1 and 5.

Booty taken by the Russians during the same period included 27 aircraft, 56 tanks, 529 machine guns, 3,000,000 shells, half a million aerial bombs, 15,000 rifles and 20,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition.

In the same period they destroyed 82 aircraft, 118 tanks, and 122 guns.

In these two areas, 144,000 prisoners have been taken since November 19, when the Soviet military offensive was launched.

Munda Pounded From Air And Sea

THE Japanese airfield at Munda, in New Georgia, was bombarded by an American task force of surface units early on Tuesday morning. As the force retired it was attacked by Japanese dive-bombers. Wildcats intercepted the enemy planes, shot down one for certain and probably two more. There were no American losses.

An aerial attack on Munda airfield was made a little later, but results were not observed. During the afternoon, heavy bombers attacked enemy warships at Buin, but in this case also results were not observed.

Australian Highlights and Brevities

VICTORIA

OF about 6000 single women between 18 and 29 who have returned the questionnaire recently distributed by Manpower authorities in Melbourne, all but 200 have been shown to have obligations which render their allocation to essential work impossible.

Similar questionnaires have now been sent to about 1500 single women between 30 and 35 in the metropolitan area and main Victorian provincial cities.

BILL, the bulldog mascot of the naval depot, who has led several Melbourne street parades, was taken to Royal Melbourne Hospital on Tuesday for X-ray, but could not be treated because 16 humans were waiting for treatment. An honorary doctor at the hospital took Bill to his Collins Street surgery, and treated him.

MR. G. B. COOPER, a member of the executive of the Australian Comforts Fund (Victorian division), has been appointed A.C.F. Commissioner in London, with the rank of squadron leader, and will proceed there shortly to establish the first A.C.F. hostel in London. This will be for the benefit of members of the R.A.A.F. and other Australian units in Great Britain.

A FIRE fighting school is being held this week for senior officers of Victorian camps. Mr. Daw, Deputy Chief Officer of the Country Fire Brigades' Board, is in charge, assisted by others experienced in fire fighting. The school began in Melbourne, and then was transferred to a country area for a few days.

INSTRUCTIONS have been issued to the general officers commanding Lines of Communication to bring the V.D.C. up to its authorised strength. All supernumerary personnel will now be issued with uniform clothing.

THE comedian, Jim Gerald, who served as Lieut.-Colonel in the A.I.F. Entertainment Corps in the Middle East, and was recently discharged from the Army through ill-health, will return to the Melbourne Tivoli in March.

CAMBERWELL (Vic.) has been chosen as the first city in Australia in which a concerted drive will be made to establish war-savings groups in every street. The staff of the National Saving Organisers, assisted by a number of voluntary workers, began canvassing on Tuesday.

IN addition to a claim that he is the oldest resident of Trentham, Benjamin Watson states that he has slept in the same room for 83 years. It is still called "the boy's room."

THEFTS of cars and trucks in Victoria during 1942 were 400 fewer than in 1941, and 700 fewer than in 1940. Of 1649 vehicles reported stolen last year, only 30 had not been recovered at December 31.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SCALING a 20-ft. wall, Lionel Stephen Stere, 25, escaped from Albury gaol on Wednesday. He was serving three months for stealing, and at the end of the sentence in Albury would have been handed over to penal authorities in Victoria for having escaped from Beechworth gaol in November. How he climbed the wall is a mystery. Police, assisted by warders, are searching the locality.

U.S. Soldiers To Be Decorous

ACCORDING to a Sydney report, American Army authorities are determined that troops on leave in the city shall never forget they are soldiers. With that object in view, stricter discipline is being exercised over men on leave, and a new regulation just issued orders them not to put their arms around a female companion in a public thoroughfare in a manner unbecoming to a soldier.

REVEREND FATHER HUGH CONAGHAN, one of the best-known priests in Sydney Archdiocese, died on Saturday. He studied for the priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Manly, and was ordained 30 years ago. For several years he was parish priest at Balmain, and he was stationed at several other Sydney parishes.

MAITLAND "Daily Mercury" was one hundred years old yesterday. It was first published on January 7, 1843, and is the second oldest surviving newspaper in N.S.W. The Sydney Morning Herald is the oldest. The Mercury became a tri-weekly in 1856, and a daily in 1893.

RAILWAY earnings in N.S.W. for 1942 reached the record of £31,955,875, which is an increase of £7,501,000 over 1941 figures. Railways Commissioner Hartigan said that railway refreshment rooms had provided a daily average of 7500 meals to servicemen proceeding on duty, in addition to satisfying civilian requirements.

YOUNG English orphans sent to Australia after the war will be accommodated at the British Orphans' Adoption Society's new home at Aylmerton, near Mittagong, N.S.W. The B.O.A.S. which is working in close conjunction with the British Society is already making plans for the reception of children. During the war, the home will be used as a kindergarten home for children of Australian servicemen now serving overseas.

AN all time record of divorce petitions for N.S.W. was reached last year. The total number was 2897, an increase of 517 over 1941.

TASMANIA

MR. J. ALLAN GUY, M.H.R., has approached the Minister for Supply, Mr. Beasley, with a request that American oil experts who are visiting Australia be asked to examine the possibilities of Tasmanian shale oil.

MEMBERS of the Launceston Boys' Club were entertained by the Governor and Lady Clark at Government House, Hobart, on Tuesday. The boys were shown over Government House, and several of them sought the autographs of their hosts.

IT does not seem desirable for Tasmania to export confectionery and import it from Mainland States, the Minister for War Organisation of Industry (Mr. Dedman) has stated in a letter to Mr. Guy, M.H.R. in reply to his letter on the shortage of sweets in Launceston.

Steps would be taken to ensure that Tasmania's needs were met by Cadbury-Fry-Pascal Pty. Ltd. before that company exported confectionery to the Mainland for civilian needs as distinct from service needs.

THE death occurred last week, following an illness extending over some months, of Mr. P. J. Cherry, editor of the "Advocate," Burnie, for nearly 40 years.

Born in Melbourne, he moved to Launceston, where as a boy he joined the literary staff of the now defunct "Daily Telegraph." In 1897 he secured a position on what was then the "Wellington Times," a tri-weekly paper founded in 1890 by Mr. Robert Harris and his two sons, Messrs. R. D. and C. J. Harris. When the "North-western Advocate" and the "Emu Bay Times" was launched in 1904, the late Mr. Cherry was appointed editor.

A NEW case for a higher price for milk for Launceston milk producers would be prepared for presentation to the Deputy Prices Commissioner (Mr. L. C. Johnson), said Mr. J. Hiscock, general secretary of the Tasmanian Producers' Organisation, last week. He said he would be prepared to consider a case from Hobart and Launceston producers.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WALTER LINDRUM, famous world champion billiards player, has arranged to tour South Australia to raise money for comforts for the fighting forces.

A PUBLIC opinion poll taken in South Australia shows a two to one majority in favor of a compulsory call-up of unmarried women for war work.

NAT SOLOMONS, well known to diggers and others as Adelaide's leading tobacconist, died on Saturday. He was one of the pioneer promoters of the moving picture business in South Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STRONG representations were made recently by the Perth Children's Court magistrate (Mr. A. Schroder, S.M.) for Government action to control child delinquency. Mr. Schroder said that criminal tendencies could be checked in refractory youths were called up to military discipline labour corps. Though crime statistics for the last year showed an increase, the number of offenders who appeared before the court indicated no increase. One gang of juveniles had been responsible for a large number of offences.

NOTWITHSTANDING the greatly reduced number of motor vehicles on the roads due to petrol rationing and restriction of imports, the steady decline in recent years of the number of horses in this State continues. The annual report of the Department of Agriculture gives the horse population of W.A. for 1941-42 as 124,472, which is 5625 less than the statistical return for the previous year. Cattle decreased from 798,111 in 1940-41 to 638,077—a reduction of 110,034. Sheep increased by 202,548, the total being 9,715,821.

The Breed Holds Good

WARRANT-OFFICER JOHN CHARLES LACE, of East Perth, who is a gunner in the Royal Australian Navy, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He is a great grandson of Gunner Lacey who was wounded in H.M.S. Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.

It is alleged in the Lacey family that the bullet that killed Lord Nelson first passed through Lacey's arm.

PERTH beer drinkers are complaining bitterly at the action of certain hotels in refusing to sell bottles of beer while serving bottled beer in glasses and schooners. There is considerable interest in test prosecutions to be heard in Perth police court shortly.

QUEENSLAND

A SON of Mrs. R. J. Spence, Coorparoo, and the late Mr. Spence, who was a well-known pastoralist of Central and Western Queensland, Flight-Lieutenant Spence, was recently awarded the D.F.C. after considerable service with the R.A.F. in the Middle East.

THE Commonwealth Government has declared dengue fever a notifiable disease in all States.

The Queensland Government has agreed to co-operate with the Army Medical Service in the administration of the regulations to be issued to implement the plan for combating the disease.

Sport, American And General News

KINDERGARTEN TO RACE IN MELBOURNE

According to an Auckland (N.Z.) source it is the intention of the connections of Kindergarten to concentrate on Melbourne and not Sydney for autumn racing.

MR. E. N. FITZGERALD, a farmer, owns Kindergarten, and he is keen for the champion to make amends for his unfortunate visit to Sydney as an early four-year-old.

After "Kindy," as New Zealanders affectionately term their new champion, had won the Auckland Cup on Boxing Day with 10.2, and run two miles in 3.22, Mr. Fitzgerald said: "Kindergarten is the greatest horse ever foaled south of the line, and I am not forgetting Phar Lap. I am making arrangements to send 'Kindy' to Melbourne for the autumn, and I do not think they will fall through.

"When Kindergarten steps out on to the track at Flemington, Australians will see the best New Zealand horse ever sent across the Tasman."

Maybe the opinion is sound enough from Mr. Fitzgerald's point of view, but even allowing him to flippantly dismiss Phar Lap in half a sentence,

he has obviously forgotten that the mighty Carbine was bred, and first raced, in New Zealand. Kindergarten is great, but he has yet to prove himself as great as Phar Lap and Carbine.

J. T. Jamieson, successful trainer in N.Z. and Australia, saw Kindergarten win the Auckland Cup, and with his usual brevity refused to rank Kindergarten the equal of Phar Lap.

Better Lighting For Better Work

WITH the object of improving Australia's war production, the Minister for Labor and National Service (Mr. Ward), has ordered a number of protected engineering firms to improve the lighting of their factories. Electricity supply undertakings have volunteered to survey the factory lighting of consumers, free of charge and to provide layouts of necessary improvements.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

TEMPLE CHIEF, winner of the Perth Cup, is being spelled. Temple Chief is a son of the Tracery horse, Pantheon, who sired many good horses, including Peter Pan, winner of two Melbourne Cups. Pantheist, another of Pantheon's sons, and winner of the W.A. Derby, started at 7/4 in the Cup and finished third.

A. B. ("SON") BURGE, one of four brothers known to Rugby union and Rugby league followers, died at Hornsby, N.S.W., on Monday night. He played for Australia and N.S.W. in Rugby union, and toured Great Britain with the Wallabies in 1908. A powerful forward, Burge played with South Sydney and Glebe Rugby league teams.

BOXING champions who are in the armed services or who may enlist in the future need not worry about their titles. They will be frozen for the duration, according to a decision announced by the National Boxing Association. It is believed the N.B.A. made that decision mainly to protect Joe Louis' heavyweight title.

BALGAY JIM continues to be the most discussed of 14 finalists in the West Australian Trotting Cup, to be decided at Gloucester Park tomorrow. Royal Sheik, second favorite has strained a tendon and may not start. Broad Again is regarded as having good prospects.

AT Sydney stadium, Jack McNamee outpointed Joe Delaney, of Newcastle, after a fierce two-fisted fight.

BROWN BREAD, Queensland's turf veteran, has had his last race. He has been sent to Bald Hills where he will spend the rest of his days in retirement. Nine years old next August, he has won a number of races in Brisbane and the country.

Undelivered Mail

PERSONNEL named below should notify their addresses to Base Post Office so that mail awaiting them may be forwarded:—

NX107042, Dvr. Idstein; N170074, Pte. Jones; N381599, Spr. Jones; N212728, Pte. Jackson; NX111692, Pte. Jordan; NX106931, Dvr. Johnston; VX74209, Pte. Johnson; N213218, L/Cpl. Johnson; NX85746, Pte. Kentwell; VX72878, Pte. King; VX51247, Dvr. Kearney; NX74034, Pte. Kenny; NX121730, Pte. Locke; NX124971, Cpl. Llewellyn; N286667, Lynch; SX18697, Landon; NX127530, Sig. Lukes.

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST.—Waterproof wristlet watch with tortoiseshell wristband. £2 reward. VX24015, Pte. H. J. Banks. FOUND.—Postal authorisation belonging to Pte. E. R. Wright.

MISSING FRIENDS

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

Ken Justins please contact Harold Wilson. Pte. F. E. Cross would like to contact Dvr. J. Waddell. NX57089, W. A. Francis is asked to contact NX87822 Pte. K. C. Smith. Dvr. J. W. Scarffe, wishes to contact A.C.1 Dick Fletcher, R.A.A.F. QX39299, Sig. Cassidy wishes to contact Pte. F. C. Barry and Pte. J. Summer.

LIQUOR PRICES SKYROCKET

A POLICE official in Sydney on Wednesday said that the shortage of beer and spirits was skyrocketing "black market" prices, and sly grog shops and many taxi drivers were reaping a harvest. Servicemen and the public were paying up to £4 a bottle for whisky and as much as 4/- a bottle for beer.

Frisco Quake Makes Buildings Rock

EARTHQUAKE shocks were reported in widely-scattered parts of San Francisco last week.

Top stories of city buildings rocked, and suspended lights swayed. No damage has been reported.

An earthquake in San Francisco, in 1906, followed by fire, killed 500 people and caused £120,000,000 damage.

Preference For Returned Men

THE Central Executive of the R.S.L. is determined to secure preferential employment for those who have served in the defence of Australia.

To formulate a uniform Bill with this objective, a meeting will be held early this month in Melbourne.

NEWS ITEMS FROM AMERICA

ARMY and Air Force laboratory officers at Wright Field have demonstrated the Sikorski helicopter, which flies backwards, sidewise, forward, hovers motionless, and comes to rest on no more space than required to park an automobile.

THE United States Department of Agriculture predicts that butter, lard, and other fats and oil will be rationed soon because of export and military demands.

URSULA PARROTT, popular American novelist, has been arrested on a charge of having aided and abetted a U.S. soldier to desert. She has been remanded on £300 bail.

Ursula Parrott's books, including "Strangers May Kiss," are well-known in Australia.

Mrs. Parrott is 40 and has been married four times. The soldier in the case is 22. She turned him over to G-men after a quarrel.

Before being called up, the soldier was a guitar player in some famed bands, including Benny Goodman's and Arty Shaw's. He once played at the White House.

Outdoor Girl



Film star Anne Gwynne displays her favorite outdoor hiking costume. Her quoted remark on reaching the hill-top was: "My, the view is wonderful." No question on that score.

GROWING Congressional opposition to certain features of President Roosevelt's war programme, particularly his home front measures, may lead to the formation of a Congressional committee on the conduct of the war—a self-constituted "watch dog" on the administration.

SUNDAY SERVICES

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
St. John's, Port Moresby—0800 and 0930, Holy Communion; 1030, Parade Service; 1900, Evening Service.
Holy Communion at N.G.F., 0730; Murray Barracks (Y.M.C.A.), 0830; (Thirty Club), 0910; Ward's Look-out, 0900; C.C.S., 0800; A.G.H., 0830; Base Hospital, 1000.

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

JEWISH SERVICE
Jewish services will be held tonight at Moresby Y.M.C.A. at 1915.

JAPS. AT SANANANDA FACE ANNIHILATION PAPUAN CAMPAIGN IN FINAL PHASE

THE communique issued from General MacArthur's headquarters last night stated that the Papuan campaign "is in its final closing phase".

It added: "The Sanananda position has now been completely enveloped. A remnant of the enemy's forces is entrenched there and faces certain destruction. With its elimination Papua will be entirely cleared of the enemy."

"ONE of the primary objects of the campaign," the communique stated, "was the annihilation of the Japanese Papuan Army under Lieutenant General Horii. This can now be regarded as accomplished. This Army was approximately 15,000 strong and comprised identified elements of the 55th Division, 5th Division, 38th Division, and 104th Division; the Yokosuka No. 5 Naval Landing Force, Sasebo No. 5, Naval Landing Force, and the Kure No. 3, Naval Landing Force.

"In addition, several thousand troops of unidentified units were drowned or destroyed attempting to land.

"Enemy aircraft individually identified as lost or destroyed since July 23, the opening date of the campaign, are as follows:

Destroyed	333
Probably destroyed	89
Damaged	117
Total	539

"In addition undoubtedly many more were lost because of incidents of combat and flight.

"Naval losses inflicted by our aircraft since July 23 are as follows: "Sunk or destroyed or seriously damaged:

6 Cruisers
13 Destroyers
1 Destroyer Tender
2 Seaplane Tenders
2 Gunboats
44 Large to medium merchant ships.
39 Small to medium merchant ships.
150-200 Landing barges."

CHIANG DISSATISFIED WITH ALLIED PACIFIC STRATEGY

AMERICAN Associated Press states that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has recalled the Chinese military mission from Washington because, it is alleged, of dissatisfaction with the Allied strategy in the Pacific.

A CHINESE spokesman at Washington has confirmed the report that the mission has been ordered to return home, and another Chinese informant reveals that the Chungking Government is seriously dissatisfied with what is considered to be the minor role assigned to China in Allied strategy, and also with

the inability of Gen. Hsiung Shih-fei, head of the mission, to impress China's viewpoint upon the military authorities in Washington.

Gen. Hsiung believes that there is no likelihood of a large-scale offensive against Japan in the near future, only a continuance of the present guerilla type of warfare in the Pacific and in China itself.

New Zone For Our Cavalry Horses

THE Australian Cavalry horse, which has served in previous wars in France, the Middle East, India and South Africa, is serving in a new theatre in this war. He now finds himself against the strange background of coconut palms and exotic vegetation.

According to Winston Turner, Melbourne Herald newsman, an American cavalry regiment, based on one of the south Pacific islands, arrived there dismounted. Its entire requirements were shipped from Australia.

More than half the cavalrymen are Texans. They speak highly of their remounts, most of which are Queensland bred. The horses are acclimatizing rapidly.

Iron Guard Plot In Rumania

A REPORT from Budapest says that Rumanian police have arrested more than 4000 people as a result of the discovery of an Iron Guard plot against Antonescu's Government. Eighty of them have already been executed.

The arrested include Julius Maniu, an ex-Prime Minister, and a present leader.

Axis troops are reported to be guarding the streets of Bucharest with machine guns.

Soviet Foresight In The Urals

PRESSURE of war needs has hastened the process of industrialisation throughout the Urals, which was set going by the long-range planning of M. Stalin, initiated in 1927 under the first five-years plan.

An article which the "Times" has republished from the newspaper "Pravda" reveals for the first time that since the outbreak of war, the Urals' war production has increased threefold generally, and in some factories sevenfold.

The writer says:—"There is a 300 per cent. expansion at the Nizhnytagil heavy metallurgical centre in the North Urals, which to-day presents a picture of great new factories dwarfing the old buildings in the key point of the region, which, since the loss of the Ukraine, Krivoirog and Donetz Basin, has become the principal arsenal and workshop of the Red Army."

The writer gives details of the immense natural wealth under the soil along 2500 miles of mountains and leaves no doubt that the Urals' part in the programme is ahead of schedule.

RATING DISPENSES FREE BEER

An Allied naval rating dispensed free beer in a Sydney street on Wednesday.

A number of nine gallon kegs, left over from a dance the night before, was mounted on a waggon and all and sundry invited to have a drink. Passing soldiers and sailors were given preference.

BRITISH COMMANDOS' AFRICAN SUCCESS

IN their attack west of Mateur in Tunisia on Wednesday, British commandos and paratroops captured Djebel Azaag and other points in the vicinity.

REPORTING this, the latest North African communique adds: "Our forces are mopping up isolated machine gun posts, and have repulsed counter-attacks against one of our newly-won positions. During this action effective support was given by fighters and Hurricane bombers which attacked enemy troops and vehicles."

Tunisia Reports

Reports from southern Tunisia indicate that the enemy is regrouping east of Foondouk, and the French are regrouping south of the town. This was the scene of an abortive attack on French forces a few days ago.

There are indications that the Axis forces in Tripolitania may make a stand against the British Eighth Army near the Wadi Zem Zem on the Tripoli coast. Eighth Army patrols are testing Axis defence positions covering the approach to Misurata, the next town of importance on the coastal road.

GLIDER A TOY NO LONGER

THE glider, which up to a little more than a year ago was regarded merely as a toy, has now emerged as a vital war weapon.

Engineers have evolved a relatively simple device by which gliders can be picked up from the ground by an airplane in rapid flight.

The device is an adaptation of the mailbag pick-up by a plane in flight, which has been in air-mail service for several years.

New U-Boat Menace

THE German News Agency states that special under-water craft have lately been operating with U-boats. One type is comparable with a floating dockyard, and can repair damaged U-boats on the high seas. Another carries supplies. There are also tank submarines operating far from home.

The announcer referred to "a coming battle against enemy merchant ships on the seven seas and to the doors of enemy key ports."

PENSIONS INCREASE

BEGINNING with the next fortnightly instalment, due to-day, invalid and old age pensions in Australia will be increased by a shilling a fortnight. With the exception of a small number of cases in which a person is also receiving a service pension, the increase will be payable to all pensioners.

Railway Council Purged By Hitler

HITLER has announced a purge of the railway council responsible for organising transport of vast supplies for the Nazis in Russia. Nine of the 14 members have been sacked and 11 have been brought in.

Stating that the "council has been reformed and brought more closely in line with the needs of the party and the State armament industry," Gunther, Minister of Transport, who has returned from the Russian front, added: "Railway transport has become the innermost part of our strategy. We have learned from bitter experience. We are taking all measures to ensure the transport which will bring the success we expect."