

# GUINEA GOLD

## BRITISH ONLY THIRTY MILES FROM TRIPOLI ROMMEL GOES WEST

ADVANCED units of British Eighth Army are within 30 miles of Tripoli. Air reconnaissance suggests that the city may not be seriously defended.

The enemy is now streaming westward from Tripoli towards the Tunisian frontier.

The British United Press correspondent in Tunisia says the enemy on Tuesday made three separate attacks on Allied positions south of Medjez el Bab. Ground was gained at first, but British infantry, supported by tanks, in a counter-attack recovered all the ground lost and wiped out two companies of enemy infantry.

AXIS tanks, which attempted to advance on another sector, were engaged by artillery and destroyed or forced to retire.

A French communique reports that the enemy attacked 30 miles south-west of Tunis. It adds: "Our forces supported by Allied planes, repulsed a strong attack west-south-west of Pont du Fahs. The enemy failed to break our line, lost numerous tanks and suffered heavy losses. The battle is still in progress."

### RAID ON CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA was raided by Japanese aircraft on Tuesday night. The raid was made by only a few aircraft. No casualties have been reported, and damage was negligible.

### "WHISHT-WHISHT" SAYS MR. HUGHES

"WHISHT-WHISHT, I see the bogey man," was the comment of Mr. W. M. Hughes, U.A.P. leader, on a statement by Mr. Curtin, Prime Minister, that large sums were being used in a campaign to destroy the Government.

Mr. Hughes said Mr. Curtin would do well to get on with the job of winning the war instead of lading out transpontine thrillers to clear up the mess in his own party. All his troubles were home brewed. Never had an Opposition given a Govt. more wholehearted support.

### BASIC WAGE INCREASE

The basic wage in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth will rise 1/- a week from the beginning of next month, and in Hobart 2/-. There will be no change in Brisbane and Adelaide.

### Well Known Pilot Killed

Flt.-Lieut. Andrew William McArthur Onslow, of Campbelltown, N.S.W., was killed on Monday night when his plane crashed during low flying training exercises near Tamworth.

### Sweden Expects Attack Soon

THE Prime Minister of Sweden warned the people yesterday to be prepared for an attack on Sweden at any hour.

He said false orders might be given by traitors if an emergency arose, and if the people heard orders broadcast by radio instructing them to cease resisting the invader, they should be disregarded.

(See Sweden's Neutrality—P.3)

### ROYAL BABY

CANADIAN Information Service announced yesterday that Princess Juliana, of Holland, had given birth to a daughter the previous day.

The infant is the first child of any Royal House to be born in Canada.

### U.S. Offensive On Guadalcanal

IN a despatch from the south-west Pacific, Winston Turner, Melbourne "Herald" war correspondent with the U.S. Navy, says it can now be revealed that on January 10, American forces on Guadalcanal launched a major offensive.

A heavy dawn bombing was followed by an attack on Japanese positions. Combined Marine and Army forces then moved forward, and by noon an advance of 3000 yards had been made.

Latest official reports mention gains of up to 4000 yards in the face of stiff enemy resistance.

### GUERRILLA ARMY CARRIES OUT SABOTAGE IN VICHY FRANCE

THERE is a rapidly growing army of guerillas in France, says Ferdinand Grenier, former Communist deputy for St. Denis, Paris, who escaped to England.

M. GRENIER was sent by French Communists to represent them on General de Gaulle's French National Committee. He left France at night 10 days ago.

Guerillas had a huge clandestine Press, he said, and were executing a vast, co-ordinated campaign of sabotage. The overwhelming majority of French people no longer regarded the careerists and opportunists of Vichy as Frenchmen.

M. Grenier told a story of an anti-Nazi Paris professor, Georges Politzer. While he was being beaten by Vichy police, M. Bucheaux, Minister for Justice, arrived, and requested the pleasure of "having a go." For 10 minutes he enjoyed himself flogging the professor.

### R.A.A.F. Men Flew On Berlin Raids

THE destruction caused in Berlin by the British raids on Saturday and Sunday night is likened by German newspaper reports reaching Sweden to the spectacle presented by Cologne, Bremen, and Emden.

London messages say that Australians had a big part in the raid. A special correspondent of A.A.P. says 30 of them achieved their ambition to enter the word "Berlin" in their log books. Most of them were engaged in both raids.

Although Australians were distributed liberally among the bomber crews, there was only one completely Australian crew, and they had to bale out just after they had reached the English coast on their way back after the second raid. All of them reported back safely.

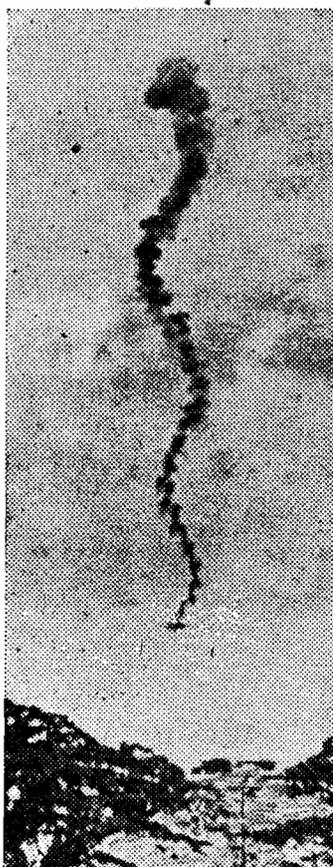
Their plane was hit by flak on the outward journey, but they went on, found their targets and managed to coax their plane back to the English coast.

### U.S. Subs. Sink 174 Ships In Pacific

FURTHER results of the naval war in the Pacific are announced in the latest U.S. Navy Department communique. Enemy vessels sunk by submarines include a destroyer, a large cargo ship, a medium sized transport, a medium sized cargo ship, and a small patrol ship.

A large tanker and small cargo ship have been damaged. The losses referred to had not been announced previously. Sinkings of enemy vessels by U.S. submarines in the Pacific now total 174.

### END OF JAP



A trail of black smoke marks the death dive of a Japanese bomber shot down by United States gunners who beat back a Japanese raid on American positions on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. In a recent raid, 30 out of 31 Jap. planes were downed by the United States forces on the island.

### Sir T. Beecham Divorced In U.S.

SIR THOMAS BEECHAM, the eminent musician, has been granted a divorce from Lady Utica Celestia Beecham on the grounds of extreme cruelty. Sir Thomas, who was not present in court, stated in his complaint that he had received from his wife "only carping criticism of my chosen work."

He added that he had contributed to his wife and their two sons about 1,250,000 dollars in 1932 on condition that there would be no further litigation, and he had also contributed an additional 500,000 dollars in 1937.

## U.S. HOME NEWS

# FAMOUS STARS MAY PERFORM IN AUSTRALIA

## CLEARING THE WAY FOR JEEPS



American troops in the Buna-Sanananda area are fighting in extremely difficult country. As positions have been consolidated during the bitter campaign, tracks have often had to be made by the men themselves. Picture shows U.S. soldiers clearing a road for jeeps.

## Flashes From Various Quarters

THE Army and Navy have jointly authorized the issue of medals for members of the armed forces on foreign service.

The medals will not be awarded before the end of the war, but ribbons will be available immediately. They possess an unusual feature, including, besides American colors, those of the enemies against which the holders are fighting. For example, an orange ribbon shows he has been fighting in the South Pacific, and is flanked with red and white Japanese stripes. The African green ribbon includes the Italian and German colors.

### Fame For Triplets

TRIPLETS were born to Mrs. James Thomas Branch, of Paragould, Arkansas. They were named Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, and Joe Stalin.

**TO BECOME AMERICAN:** British film star, Madeleine Carroll, has taken preliminary steps for American citizenship.

**NEW HOME FOR BING:** Bing Crosby, whose home was recently burnt, bought another in Los Angeles costing 300,000 dollars.

**GAOLED FOR SEDITION:** "Black Hitler" Leonard Jordan, leader of the Ethiopian-Pacific movement, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and fined 10,000 dollars (\$3125) for seditious activities. Three other West Indian negroes and a white man received terms of from four to eight years.

**SENATE PRESIDENT:** Senator Carter Glass has been re-elected President pro-tem of the Senate, defeating Senator Vandenberg by 43 votes to 29.

**BAN ON PLEASURE TAXIS:** The Office of Defence Transportation is planning a nation-wide ban on the use of taxis to reach sporting events, amusement spots, and other non-essential places.

**NAVY'S INCREASE:** Rear-Admiral Randall Jacobs told the Naval Affairs Committee that the Navy had tripled its size in 1942. Its personnel now numbered over a million. He added that 4500 male officers and 31,000 enlisted men would be replaced by W.A.V.E.S. before the end of the year.

**SYNTHETIC RUBBER:** The Rubber Administrator (Mr. Jeffers), announced that the first synthetic rubber plant will begin production this month. The plant's eventual estimated capacity is 80,000 tons a year. Mr. Jeffers admitted that the million-ton-a-year programme was a month behind schedule, but claimed that it would be ahead of schedule within six months.

**STEEL PLATE OUTPUT:** The War Production Board has announced that the U.S. 1942 steel plate production was 11,810,000 net tons, approximately double the 1941 output.

**"BARTER BAGS" IN AFRICA:** The War Department has disclosed that troops in Africa are provided with "barter bags," containing beads, scissors, cloths, candies, perfumes, cigarettes, and scarce foodstuffs, for the purpose of bartering local products.

**DON BUDGE FOR ARMY:** The world's top-ranking tennis player, Don Budge, has resigned his post as physical training director at Miami Aviation School to join the Army.

**TO SAIL 18-FOOTERS:** American servicemen will soon be sailing in crews of Sydney 18-footers. Fourteen U.S. soldiers were invited to watch Saturday's races, and the previous week there were a number of American spectators.

**RAY ROBINSON'S RIVAL:** Jake Lamotta (117) outpointed Jackie Wilson (105) in a 10-round fight at Madison Square Garden. Wilson is regarded as the only welterweight with a chance of beating world titleholder Ray Robinson.

Kid Cocoa won the Louisiana Boxing Commission's recognition as world negro middleweight champion by outpointing Holman Williams.

IN addition to comedian Joe E. Brown, whose impending visit has already been announced, other film colony celebrities may come to Australia to entertain the troops. This has been revealed by Joan Blondell.

### U.S. Distribution Of "Guinea Gold"

INQUIRIES by U.S. personnel regarding the distribution of "Guinea Gold" should be made to Lieut. Dillon, Base Section, Special Services, phone extension 62, between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

### Father & Three Sons Serve Side By Side

FOUR members of the same American family—a father, aged 45, and his three sons—are serving side by side under General MacArthur in Australia.

The father, Archie Clarence Vanshike, had 16 months' service in the American Expeditionary Force in the last war. The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he and his three sons, now aged 19, 20 and 21 respectively, went together to the recruiting office and enlisted. The three boys, each weighing nearly 13 stone, had been helping their father in his contracting business in Galveston (Texas).

All four were accepted, and went into the Army after arrangements had been made to complete work they had under contract. So that he may remain with his boys, Private Vanshike senior, has twice refused the opportunity to attend a school for officer candidates.

### Motorists Drive On Steel Rims

THE Los Angeles city fathers have discovered there is no existing law to regulate use of steel automobile rims on Los Angeles pavements.

The director of street maintenance has reported a noticeable increase in the amount of driving of automobiles on steel rims from which injured tyres have been removed. He stated this has caused a serious problem because the Government has frozen the use of asphalt products for street repair.

### Tanker Sinks at Dock

THE 16,500 ton tanker, Schenectady, the first built at Kaiser's Swan Island yards, sank in the fitting out dock. A workman reported hearing a noise as though the seam had ripped. The ship quickly settled down on the river's bottom. The ship was built in the record time of 115 days and was launched in October.

**"AMERICANS ON AXIS BROADCASTS":** Representative Celler has submitted a resolution to the House to amend the Article of War, enabling the military prosecution, in absentia, of six Americans, for allegedly broadcasting from Germany and Italy. They are Constance Drexel, Fred Kaltenbach, Douglas Chandler, James Anderson, Ezra Pound, and Robert Best. Mr. Celler said Chandler broadcasts as "Paul Revere," Kaltenbach as "Dean Harry," and Best as "Guess Who."

"AS 109 players have asked the Hollywood Victory Committee to send them anywhere in the world, I think it is safe to say that Australia may see some of us in the near future," she told an Australian correspondent.

Hollywood personalities are certainly getting around. Among stars now actively engaged in camp touring is Harry Ritz, who returned recently from the jungles of Central America.

Carole Landis, Kay Francis, and Martha Raye are in England. Harpo Marx is continuously camp touring in America, clowning for the boys with his famous harp. Harpo travels in a Red Cross Army truck.

Bob Hope, Joe Brown, and Frances Langford have toured Alaska and the Aleutians.

Hope and Edward G. Robinson are off to Ireland. Britain has already welcomed Merle Oberon, Allen Jenkins, Patricia Morison, and Al Jolson. Abbott and Costello have been to the Caribbean.

Joan Blondell has just returned from a six weeks' tour of camps in Newfoundland.

### Girl of 12 Married

THE doubtful distinction of being one of the youngest brides on record in the State of Virginia belongs to Dorothy Obiorn, a former resident of Newport News, who recently married Charles Edgar Murphy, 23, a carpenter. Dorothy is only 12, but her guardian signed papers agreeing to the marriage.

### High Death Rate Among Workers

THE National Safety Council has revealed that deaths of American workers on the home front have exceeded deaths of soldiers and sailors on the fighting fronts by a rate of more than seven to one since the war began.

According to the council's figures, casualties to the United States armed forces from Pearl Harbor to November 15, including the North African campaign, have been 5694 dead, 3435 wounded, and 29,827 missing or prisoners—a total of 48,956. Casualties to American workers through accidents in the same period of time have been 44,500 dead and 3,800,000 wounded.

### Grave Labour Shortage

AN indication of the acute labor shortage in the U.S.A. may be gained from the fact that the Army recently released 4,000 experienced mine workers from military service for vital mine work. The men were given special furlough, with the provision that they be employed only in mines producing copper, zinc, tungsten or molybdenum.

**MR. FLYNN'S SUCCESSOR:** The Chicago Democratic National Committee has unanimously elected Post Master Frank Walker as chairman, and adopted a resolution wishing every success to the retiring chairman, Edward Flynn, as Minister to Australia.

# Acrimonious Debate In U.S. Senate

## Edward Flynn's Nomination As Minister To Australia

DEMOCRATS virtually boycotted Senator Bridges when he launched an attack on Mr. Edward Flynn—President Roosevelt's nominee as U.S. Minister to Australia—in the United States Senate.

**DURING THE DEBATE, SENATOR CONNALLY SAID SENATOR BRIDGES WAS WELCOME TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD INVESTIGATE THE CHARGES, AND ADDED: "WE WILL HEAR HIM, BUT WE WANT EVIDENCE, NOT ORATORICAL EFFUSION. WE HAVE SANITARY FACILITIES IN THE COMMITTEE-ROOM WHERE HE CAN DISPOSE OF ANY BUCKET OF SLOP HE MAY HAVE."**

Obviously angry, Senator Bridges shouted across the chamber: "There won't be any bucket unless Flynn's in it!"

Senator Bridges alleged that Mr. Flynn was unfit to be Minister to Australia for the following reasons: Mr. Flynn, through the law firm of Goldwater and Flynn, has represented Serge Rubinstein, who had large Japanese interests, and was closely associated with Japan until a fortnight before Pearl Harbor; Mr. Flynn, as chancellor of the City of New York, has invested funds in the State Title and Mortgage Company, causing the city to lose more than 1,000,000 dollars, and Flynn's law firm subsequently became this company's general counsel; Flynn had appointed "Dutch" Schultz, noted criminal and murderer, deputy sheriff under Flynn when Flynn was sheriff of Bronx County; the grand jury investigating the paving blocks scandal was conducted by a political stooge of Flynn, to the disgust of at least one member of the jury, who would testify before the Foreign Relations Committee; the jury foreman, Daniel Daly, had received a Federal appointment about two months after the Flynn whitewash.

Referring to the absence of Democrats from the Chamber—there were never more than eight of the 56 Democrats present during the debate—Senator Bridges said he had the impression that the stench of Flynn's appointment had become so bad that most of them had "beat it for the cloakroom."

"Australia undoubtedly feels she

### LOST & FOUND

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

LOST.—Brown leather wallet inscribed K.D.K.

LOST.—Wrist watch on artillery rane, engraved "Presented to Pte. P. A. Grose."

LOST.—Brown leather money belt, containing £4/10/-.

FOUND.—Wallet, containing money and paybook. NX91804, Pte. C. J. Anderson.

FOUND.—Money belt, N 49610 Johnson, K. N.

LOST.—Conway silver pencil, inscribed. VX25491, A. T. McLachlan.

### MISSING FRIENDS

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

Sgt. L. Edwards wishes to contact Sgt. H. Schuberth.

Gnr. Wyock would like to locate Pte. Roy Bust and Gnr. George Sharpe.

Pte. Dwyer, C. N., wishes to contact ACI L. G. Lee, R.A.A.F.

ACI or LAC Frank Grange is asked to contact VX 100631 Pte. R. W. Lambert.

Would Tom Marks please contact Sam Hicks at this office.

Pte. P. A. Cavanagh wishes contact WO J. Fransicker.

Cpl. Rothwell, A., desires to contact his brother, Bdr. K. Rothwell.

Lieut. Bill Wade wishes contact Sgt. J. Wright, of Waverley.

Pte. J. Holland is asked to contact VX 103491 J. Pugh.

### QUESTION ANSWERED

Spr. W. H. Grenhaigh.—It was not.

must accept without public criticism whatever representative our President designates, but we here can object for Australia as well as for ourselves, for we know that Paving Block Flynn is not a fit representative," Senator Bridges said.

Mr. Flynn's associates have expressed complete confidence in the outcome of the Senate debate on Flynn's appointment. The debate is not finished.

## R.A.A.F. BOXING TOURNAMENT

BOUTS at to-night's R.A.A.F. boxing tournament (for location apply this office) have been arranged as follow:—

**Four Rounds:—**Cpl. Shay (U.S.A.) 112 lbs. v. Pte. Burns (A.I.F.) 114 lbs.; LAC Radley (R.A.A.F.) 129 lbs. v. LAC Murphy (R.A.A.F.) 122 lbs.; Pte. Ellicot (A.I.F.) 170 lbs. v. LAC Campbell (R.A.A.F.) 164 lbs.

**Six Rounds:—**Pte. Mitchell (U.S.A.) 154 lbs. v. Pte. Ashenden (A.I.F.) 154 lbs.; Pte. Riggle (U.S.A.) 160 lbs. v. Sgt. "Snowy" Clarke (R.A.A.F.) 163 lbs.

**Four Rounds:—**Cpl. Stanton (R.A.A.F.) 201 lbs. v. Pte. Rose (U.S.A.) 195 lbs.; Pte. Whelan (U.S.A.) 169 lbs. v. Pte. Mathews (A.I.F.) 166 lbs.; Pte. Brunell (A.G.H.) 112 lbs. v. Pte. Jackson (A.I.F.) 116 lbs.; Pte. Dubridge (A.I.F.) 154 lbs. v. LAC Clarke (R.A.A.F.) 160 lbs.; Gnr. Pettingill (A.I.F.) 140 lbs. v. ACI Tippett (R.A.A.F.) 136 lbs.

Boxers are requested to be at the dressing enclosure at 7.30 p.m.

Those willing to provide musical entertainment should contact Flying Officer Gibson.

## SPORT FLASHES

**VIC PATRICK** has recovered from an arm injury and began training yesterday. Directors of Stadiums Ltd. will decide who is to be Patrick's next opponent. Les Fitzgerald is anxious to meet him for the lightweight title. The claims of Ron McLaughlin and Hockey Bennell for a welter-weight title match will also be considered.

**SYDNEY Rugby League** district clubs will be able to buy jerseys and socks for the 1943 season without coupons. The Rationing Commission has advised the Rugby League to this effect, provided uniforms remain the property of the clubs.

**FOR the first time in racing history, no Melbourne entries were received on Monday for the Doncaster Handicap and Sydney Cup** because of the inter-State ban on the carriage of racehorses.

**THE V.T. and R.A., despite opposition from other clubs, has decided to persevere with the idea of providing for emergency starters for all races at its meeting to be held at Mentone on January 30.**

Wrestling at Leichhardt, Fred Atkins defeated Pat Meehan by two falls to one.

## HULA GIRL



**DOLORES MORAN**, Warner Bros. starlet, puts dark-haired hula-hula girls in the shade when she displays her blonde beauty in this sophisticated version of a South Sea costume.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

**R.A.A.F. PROMOTION SLOW:** Flight-Sergeant R. H. Middleton, of N.S.W., the first R.A.A.F. V.C. winner, had been waiting more than a year for a commission, said his father at the week-end. In a letter received last Wednesday, Flight-Sergeant Middleton wrote that he had been recommended for a commission for a second time, but at the time of writing he was still waiting. This emphasises the complaints of delays in the promotion of R.A.A.F. men serving abroad. Flight-Sergeant Middleton has since been reported missing.

**NEW AIRCRAFT FACTORY:** The "London Herald" says the Government is taking over another big aircraft factory. Sir Stafford Cripps is setting all details.

## 'Hostile' Music Banned

**A TOKIO broadcast** picked up by the ABC shortwave department said a ban had been placed on the playing in Japan of Anglo-American music, which the announcer referred to as "hostile music." The distribution of Anglo-American musical records had also been banned.

**CANADIAN SOLDIERS IN ENGLAND:** The Mayoress of Brighton, who is starting a club for British wives and sweethearts of Canadian soldiers, has discovered that considerably over 7000 Sussex girls have married Canadian soldiers and over 3000 babies have resulted.

**SWEDEN'S NEUTRALITY:** The Stockholm "Dagens Nyheter," outspokenly commenting on King Gustav's reiteration of Sweden's neutrality, indicated that Sweden, in the event of an Allied offensive through Norway, would refuse the passage of German troops. "It is out of the question for Sweden to give any concession benefitting a power against which our brother nation is fighting to the utmost," says the newspaper. "In such an eventuality, the transit agreement of 1940, which was so painful and troublesome to our policy of neutrality, must be dropped. There must be no misunderstanding."

## DOCTORS CLEARED AT UNIQUE GEELING INQUEST RE-HEARING

**For the first time in Victorian history, an inquest was re-heard last week, and comments made at the first hearing were reversed.**

THE second inquest took place at Geelong, where the City Coroner (Mr. Tingate) inquired into the death of Florence Brown, 43, of Geelong West, who died when an anaesthetic was being administered before an operation in the kitchen of her home on October 29 last.

He found no evidence of negligence as had been alleged against two doctors at the initial inquest.

At the original inquiry the Geelong Deputy Coroner (Mr. Ritchie, J.P.) commented adversely on the conduct of Drs. Wallace and Saleh, who were present to administer the anaesthetic and perform the operation, and declared that the evidence was just short of that necessary to commit the doctors for trial on a manslaughter charge.

Arising from this finding, the unusual procedure of an appeal against the coroner's finding was made. Before Mr. Justice Gavin Duffy in the Practice Court on December 17, a successful application was made to have the finding set aside and the inquest re-heard.

At the second inquest, Mr. Tingate said that he considered a proper degree of care had been used in the

selection of the anaesthetic and in its administration. Opinions differed as to the use of chloroform, but the fact that Mrs. Brown's death was brought about by it was not necessarily evidence of neglect.

The mere fact that the kitchen was chosen as the place for the operation was in itself no evidence of negligence, and no one had suggested that the place of an operation took any part in the cause of

## WHAT A COW!

**DAISY, an artificial cow, has taken up duties as a model for Land Army girls at a military depot in Melbourne.** Her construction comprises a wooden stand, miscellaneous bits of wire and rope, half a canvas water bag and four-moulded rubber tubes with perforated ends. When Land Army girls become proficient in handling Daisy they will be given practice on a real cow.

At her initiation Daisy gave her first and last taste of milk—as a grand gesture her canvas udder was filled with real milk.

# STIFF GERMAN RESISTANCE AT LENINGRAD

## RUSSIAN PROGRESS

**SOVIET forces continue to advance on all fronts, but they are meeting stiff resistance in the Leningrad area, where the Germans, after 16 months' occupation, have constructed many heavily fortified strong points.**

Tuesday's midnight communique from Moscow stated that the capture of Schlüsselburg, on the banks of Lake Ladoga, had taken seven days. Between Schlüsselburg and Leningrad, 470 great centres of resistance had had to be smashed by artillery and mortar fire.

APPROXIMATELY a third of the population of Leningrad was found by the relieving forces to have died during the siege.

On the outskirts of Leningrad, Russian troops have recaptured an important airfield on which Axis planes had been arriving at the rate of 500 a day to reinforce, equip and feed the German forces.

The field was pock-marked with craters from the heavy Russian bombings. Many disabled German aircraft were captured.

Correspondents in the Stalingrad area report that Axis troops trapped between the Volga and the Don now number less than 50,000 of the estimated 200,000 to 250,000 who were encircled at the beginning of the Russian offensive.

They emphasise that the final mopping up of these troops, who are short of food and equipment but are still resisting strenuously, is proceeding; and that accomplishment of this task will release huge numbers of Russian soldiers to prosecute the several drives on Rostov.

The ordinary Moscow communique reports the occupation of several more localities south of Millerovo,

and the tightening of the grip on the Kamensk-Millerovo-Voronej railway.

Correspondents report that Rostov, up to a few days ago, had not been named as a Russian objective. Speculation only had named this key town as the objective of the four drives in and north of the Caucasus. Moscow has now announced Rostov as the objective.

On the Voronej front the Russians have captured centres only 70 miles from Khar'kov, a base of extreme importance to the Axis.

### 90 AND 80

GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON

celebrated his 90th birthday on Saturday at his London home with a party for 90 people, including representatives of four generations of his family, also Mr. Winston Churchill and Lord Gort, V.C., Sir Ian's cousin.

Mr. D. Lloyd George, Britain's Prime Minister during the last war, celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday. He has received many congratulatory messages.

### Cost 1s., Sold For 5d.

REFRESHMENT service branches of the Victorian Railways have decided to close down temporarily on the sale of lemon drinks because of the prohibitive price of the fruit. Two lemons are used for each drink sold, but even last Wednesday, when lemons were being retailed at sixpence each, drinks were obtainable at the usual price of fivepence. In the six months to December 31, railway passengers purchased a million and a quarter lemon and orange drinks. This is a bad year for lemon crops.

### President Critical Of Federal A.L.P.

ACTIONS of the Federal Government seemed to conflict with all the things the Australian Labor movement stood for, said Mr. C. G. Fallon, A.L.P. president, at the annual delegate meeting of the Australian Workers' Union in Brisbane.

"If this position is continued I at least it will be obliged to reconsider my position and my allegiance to the Australian Labor party," he said. Mr. Fallon was criticising what he called the Federal Government's failure to protect the industrial and settled rights of the people, particularly of workers.

### Ship Torpedoed In Australian Waters; Only Two Men Missing

A SMALL Allied vessel has been torpedoed in Australian waters. All but two of the crew of 34 have reached an Australian port.

THE 32 rescued men were picked up by a fishing boat after being adrift for several hours in a life boat built to accommodate 16.

The Third Officer said yesterday that after the torpedo hit his ship he saw water pouring aboard. He rushed to the deck, clad in a single and underpants. The lifeboat was successfully launched despite a heavy swell and was rowed from the sinking vessel.

Fortunately for those in the lifeboat, a rain storm had affected visibility and possibly saved them from further attention from the submarine.

At dawn there was no sign of the torpedoed vessel.

The men were in good spirits when they reached port.

### Brisk Removal Job In Sydney

FOLLOWING a brief announcement on Friday that from Monday the officers of the Board of Factory Administration and the Board of Area Management of the Ministry of Munitions would be located in Castle-reagh Street, Sydney, at which was formerly David Jones' men's store, one of the biggest removal jobs ever undertaken in Sydney began. The staff involved in the move ran well into four figures, and equipment moved weighed about 200 tons. By the reopening hour on Monday the transfer to nine floors of the new location had been completed. The departments moved from Hunter Street.

### Boxed Pet Finds Freedom At Zoo

TWENTY hours after a small box had been deposited at the Spencer Street Station cloakroom by a soldier, officials, hearing a noise in the box, found it contained a little wallaby apparently expressing hunger and anxiety to be free from its cramped quarters.

A telephone call brought officers of the Fisheries and Game Department, and the animal was released at the Zoo.

### First-Aid Benefits For 100,000 Workers

MORE than 100,000 metal trades workers engaged in hundreds of factories throughout Australia will be given first-aid facilities following an order by Mr. Ward, Minister for Labor and National Service. Another order covering other industries will be issued later. The order makes it compulsory for metal trades employers to provide first-aid equipment and facilities for employees.

Mr. Ward said that three dates were specified in the order. The dates were: February 1, the date from which managements concerned will be required to provide first-aid equipment and facilities; April 1, the date from which a trained nurse or a qualified first-aid attendant must be provided in all factory premises; June 1, the date from which a suitable casualty-room must be provided in factories where the total number of employees exceeds 500.

### Liberators Shoot Down 12 Zeros

INTERCEPTED by 25 Zeros while searching for a convoy of enemy ships reported to be approaching Wewak in Northern New Guinea yesterday afternoon, a formation of Liberator heavy bombers shot down twelve of the enemy planes and damaged another six.

THE combat lasted three-quarters of an hour and continued eastward from Wewak for 100 miles.

The Liberators did not sight the convoy, which probably was diverted from its original course.

Throughout the attack by the Zeros, the Liberators maintained perfect formation despite desperate efforts by the Japanese pilots to break it up by attacking from all angles. Two Zeros even dived through the formation.

All our aircraft returned safely, but each was holed by enemy fire, and two of them each had one engine put out of action.

Liberators were also busy on armed reconnaissance duty. One attacked the runway and wharf area at Madang, where a building was demolished. The same aircraft attacked the runway at Cape Gloucester, scoring three hits on gun positions from which there had been A.A. fire. A second Liberator on armed reconnaissance attacked the runway at Gasmata.

Beaufighters made strafing attacks in the Kurenada Creek area, starting a series of small fires.

A strong formation of Mitchell bombers dropped 14,000lb. of bombs on supply dumps at Lae. As they left for home the crews saw three columns of black smoke rising to 100 feet from the centre of the target area and five or six small fires. Our forces continued mopping-up

operations in the Sanananda Village and Sanananda Point areas yesterday. Considerable progress was made against the two Japanese centres of resistance.

### Honeymoon Started With £10 Fine

IN Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross, Sydney, Kevin Joseph Lawler (20), airman, loudly tooted the horn of the car in which he was seated. Next day at Central Police Court he was fined £10 on a charge of having driven a car while he was under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

A constable said he saw Lawler and a girl in the front seat kissing each other. Lawler started the car and drove about a foot. The constable stopped him, and asked: "Were you sounding the car's horn?" "Yes," said Lawler, "I have just been married, and I am celebrating." He said he had had five or six cocktails, the constable alleged. He was unsteady on his feet. The girl, who said they had called at three hotels on the way from Haberfield, was sober.

Lawler, who had nothing against him previously, was given an excellent character by his officers.

### SHINY SHELL CURRENCY

A DUTCH Administrative officer from an unoccupied outpost of the Netherlands Indies left Melbourne recently feeling happy, as he had bags full of beautiful, shiny shells. He told the story of natives using them instead of money, but they came from a long way and the Japanese had cut off supplies which threatened to throw out of gear the entire economic system of the district. When he returns with his prize, deflation will cease to be a worry.

### WOULD ABOLISH WOOL AUCTIONS

THE Minister for Commerce (Mr. Scully) wants the Dominions to agree to continue the present wool appraisal scheme after the war. He proposes a minimum reserve price for wool to eliminate price fluctuations, speculation and auctions.

He said yesterday that wool would stand well against substitutes if the price was stabilised at a reasonable level, and some plan could be worked out to supply wool to countries needing it.

### RAAF Men Reach U.K.

A CONTINGENT of thousands of a new Australian, New Zealand and Canadian fleet air arm and R.A.A.F. personnel, also American forces, recently arrived after an uneventful voyage.

Mr. Jordan welcomed the Dominion troops. Mr. Bruce and Senator Massey were unable to attend.