

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Thursday, November 26, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

GERMANS LOSE 161,000 KILLED AND WOUNDED: BITTER STALINGRAD FIGHTING

OTHER FRONTS

Here is a one-minute summary of news from various fronts:—

NEW GUINEA: Two destroyers, attempting to reinforce enemy at Buna, sunk by Allied aircraft... Hard fighting near Buna and Gona.

SOLOMONS: Tokio says another naval battle in progress. "Guadalcanal secure", says U.S. report.

NORTH AFRICA: Major battle for Tunis expected.

CHINA: Japanese massing forces for major attack from Indo-China and Upper Burma.

The Red Army is still making substantial progress both south and north-west of Stalingrad. It is estimated that since the Russian offensive began, the enemy has lost 41,000 killed, and wounded now number 120,000.

Yesterday the Germans left 15,000 dead on the battlefield, and 12,000 more were taken prisoner. The Russian pincers are biting deeper into the enemy flank. If the pincers can be closed around the Axis troops about a third of a million men will be trapped. Winter is rapidly approaching to add further terror to the retreating German Army.

Would Delay Referendum

Non-Labour delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Canberra, at a private meeting yesterday, decided to move that consideration of constitutional changes be postponed until after the war.

Later, when the Convention met, the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Fadden) moved for a postponement on the grounds that so many Australians were pre-occupied with the war that it would be impracticable to obtain an informal vote on the matter.

Mr. Curtin later intimated that he would not agree to indefinite postponement.

Proposals Amended

On Tuesday at the opening session of the convention the Attorney General, Dr. Evatt, withdrew the Constitution Amendment Bill which he brought down before Parliament adjourned, and submitted a new measure intended to meet objections raised to the original Bill. In explanation he said the measures made a primary grant of power to the Commonwealth for post-war reconstruction, but safeguarded the High Court as an authority to safeguard the Constitution. Most of the objections to the original Bill were on the grounds that it undermined the power of the High Court.

USE OF C.M.F.

THE Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said yesterday that one army, under one command, for military operations in the S.W. Pacific was now a military necessity.

(Union supports Curtin—Page 4)

JAPS MASS FOR NEW OFFENSIVE IN CHINA

A CHINESE Army Spokesman in Chungking reports feverish Japanese activity for a two pronged drive into Western China from Indo-China and Upper Burma. Apparently the aim is to cut the air line between India and China and to obtain strategic landing fields.

OBJECTIVES of the drive are said to be Kunming in Yunnan province,—former terminal of the old Burma Road.

It is expected that the thrust from Indo-China will follow the route of the Indo-China railway to Kunming, The Chinese section of the railroad has been torn up.

It was officially announced in Moscow yesterday that the northern jaw of the pincers had joined up with the defenders in the northern part of Stalingrad. It is generally conceded that the battle is going exceptionally well for the Russians.

British Official Wireless says the enemy may have begun to disengage his armies between the Volga and the Don while continuing the pretence of attacking Stalingrad.

San Francisco radio, quoting Moscow reports, says that the Red Army's aim is to annihilate 300,000 Germans who are in the area which they are surrounding.

President Roosevelt has sent a message to M. Stalin, congratulating him on Russia's great success and expressing the delight of the United States people.

Soviet artillery and planes have wrought havoc with the enemy's communications. Heavy shells from long range guns fell on Divisional Headquarters, causing many casualties among high ranking German officers.

According to prisoners, the Russian attack caught the Germans napping.

Tokio Reports Big Naval Battle

Tokio has broadcast reports that a big naval battle is raging in the Solomons, but there is no official news of this from any Allied source.

A Washington Navy communique mentions only land and air activity. Since Monday, American forces have continued to advance west of Matankan River, and they now occupy a strip of about 16 miles by 4 miles deep.

The American Navy Secretary (Col. Knox) said the Japanese were not now likely to be able to reinforce Guadalcanal effectively.

About 30,000 Japanese troops have been massed on the west bank of the Salween river, with 300 planes in support.

Chinese, supported by the U.S. Air Force, have made all preparations to meet the threat. The offensive is expected at any moment.

MAINLAND NEWS ITEMS

U.S.A. NEWS

AMERICA'S PART IN POST-WAR REHABILITATION

It was announced at the White House yesterday that Governor Herbert H. Lehman, of New York, would resign on or about December 3 to become associated with the Department of State and Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations.

He will undertake the work of organizing American participation in the activities of United Nations in furnishing relief and other assistance to victims of war in areas re-occupied by United Nations forces.

This is a step in the President's program of mobilizing available resources of food, clothing, medical supplies and other necessities so that America may make an immediate and effective contribution to the joint efforts of the United Nations in the field of relief and rehabilitation. Governor Lehman's appointment assures that this country will play its part in such efforts.

MISSED ELECTRIC CHAIR

Seventeen months a prisoner in Sing-Sing, New York, Frank Davino has been cleared of guilt in the murder of a Brooklyn fireman in 1938, for which he was twice convicted.

During his incarceration Davino lost 30 lbs. in weight and his hair turned grey. Twenty-one of his cell mates went to the electric chair.

Thanksgiving Day At White House

It is announced in Washington that President Roosevelt has planned a service of song and prayer at the White House for Thanksgiving Day (to-day).

Government officials have been invited to attend. The services, which will be opened by the President's reading of the Thanksgiving proclamation, will be broadcast to the nation.

DEMAND ON ERROL FLYNN

A 13 year-old boy has been arrested in Los Angeles for sending an extortion note to the Australian-born film star, Errol Flynn. The note threatened death unless Flynn deposited \$320 at a sweet shop.

Flynn's trial on three charges of rape is due for hearing.

FORBES MAY FACE NEW INDICTMENT

The trial of Woolcott Forbes, former Sydney man, on charges of stock swindling in the New York area, involving £45,000 has been postponed till November 27.

NEW SOUTH WALES

For having played two-up in the Rookwood Cemetery, 52 men from the Chulora railway workshop were each fined 10/- at the Burwood Court.

Ellen Cecilia Barlow of Great Buckingham street, Redfern, was awarded £40 of her £400 claim against the Commissioner of Road Transport for injuries she suffered in a fall from a tram at Devonshire street in Sydney. "I don't believe a word Mrs. Barlow said, but she's an old lady who fell from a tram and £40 seems to me not excessive" stated Mr. Justice Shortland in the District Court.

Believed to have been fired from a pea rifle, a bullet injured Ernest Herbert Trimble, 50, tram driver of Rawson street, Waverly. He was struck on the left shoulder when the bullet came through a window. Police are investigating a report of practice shooting by a schoolboy nearby.

For having delivered short measure milk to Ralwaunc private hospital, Croydon, Allan Salisbury, milk carter, of Cromwell street, Croydon, was fined £20 with 8/- cost at the Burwood Police Court.

Tsutomi Moritomo, 68, Japanese laundryman, who resided in Australia for 44 years, 14 of which was spent at Cloncurry, Queensland, died in a N.S.W. internment camp. In the Ryde Court, the Parramatta District Coroner found that death was due to natural causes.

VICTORIA

CAPTAIN Thorold Fink, Melbourne lawyer, who was engaged in war service was driving a car between Melbourne and Geelong on Saturday when it overturned on a bend near Werribee. Fink, who was 45 and a son of the late Theodore Fink, received a fractured skull and other injuries. He died in an Air Force hospital. Major H. Sleight, who was a passenger in the car escaped injury.

A man knocked down by a double-deck bus in Bourke Street, Melbourne, was threequarters of an hour under the vehicle before he was extricated. The Tramways breakdown unit had to be brought to jack up the bus. The man sustained internal injuries, shock and abrasions and was admitted to hospital.

The Victorian Railways Department is to provide better protection at many level crossings, particularly those near schools. Safe locking gate appliances are proposed.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Indian delegate to the Empire Communications conference, has arrived in Melbourne.

QUEENSLAND

A cheque for £500 has been received by the secretary of the Clothing Union (Mr. Sparks) from a Brisbane clothing manufacturer as money due to 25 employees who had been paid short wages.

Private R. H. Williams, A.I.F., victim of a road accident at Gympie, had his right leg severed and his left leg broken in several places. He was riding a motor cycle which collided with a motor truck. Private Williams, who served in the Middle East, is now in a serious condition in a military hospital.

When Merle Woolmer, aged 11, poured petrol on a fire at her home in Beaudesert road, Cooper's Plains, the sudden explosion of the spirit caused bad burns on her left arm, hand, thigh, and leg.

Brisbane "A" Grade cricket premiers points are: Wests 30, University 24, Souths 23, Norths 18, Easts 14, Warehouse 13, Toombul 12.

Stony silence greeted the announcement at the Trades Union Congress in Brisbane that pipe tobacco was on sale at the W.A.A.F.'s cantens. One delegate said he had never seen a W.A.A.F. smoking a pipe and it was hard to understand why such tobacco was supplied to their cantens.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

It is estimated that the lambing season in the State will provide record figures for export. Already the lambs treated are 88,000 in excess of last season; 740,000 have been treated through Gepps Cross and 85,000 through Port Lincoln.

Adelaide branch of the Australian Workers' Union carried a resolution seeking abolition of the Senate and all State Houses of Parliament.

The Unley City Council has subscribed £10,000 towards the Austerity loan.

L/Sgt. Howard Winston West, canteen supervisor of the Australian Defence Canteen Service, was found not guilty at a Court Martial of having so negligently performed his duties as to be unable to account for £100/18/8.

Ten minutes after he received a report that a pair of boots had been stolen from a shelf in the doorway of a shop at Semaphore, a police sergeant saw a man wearing them.

In Port Adelaide Police Court fines and costs amounting to £6/5/- on two charges were imposed on Porter Adelaide.

TASMANIA

Pilot-Officer F. R. McCann, of Hobart, has joined a new R.A.-A.F. Spitfire squadron in England. He was a member of the famous squadron with which the late "Paddy" Finucane and the Australian ace, Keith Truscott, formerly flew. Advice of his new appointment has been received by his father, Mr. F. McCann, in Hobart.

When exemption from military duty was granted to Gordon Alexander McDevitt, 36, of Battery Point, the Police Magistrate (Col Clark) said: "It is men such as these who should be used to release fit men at the barracks for other services." McDevitt stated that military service would impose hardship on his mother and brother who could not work. The exemption was granted for 6 months.

A number of boilermakers and welders from the mainland have been made available for work on the Hobart bridge by the Allied Works Council. Satisfactory progress is being made with the construction of the bridge.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THREE girls, two of them sisters, were drowned at Guilford, a few miles from Perth. They were Elizabeth Jessie McKenzie, 13; Eileen Mary McKenzie, 10; and Elaine Constance Best, 11; all of Maida Vale. Police found the girls' clothing and bicycles on the river bank.

Referring to the assertion of the Archbishop of Perth (Dr. Le Fanu) that all schools should be re-opened, the Minister for Education (Mr. Kitson) said that the department had given serious thought to the matter and the schools now closed would be re-opened as soon as possible. Conferences with the military and other authorities had been held and it was hoped that an improvement would have been effected when schools resumed after the summer holidays.

A disastrous bushfire occurred at Milo Farm, Strawberry, on Sunday last when an area 4½ by 2 miles was completely burnt out and 4,000 acres of feed destroyed. Fourteen hundred sheep were saved, although 10 per cent. of them were scorched. It was the most disastrous fire ever to occur in this locality in November.

Phocion Fancied for Williamstown

**NINE YEAR'S GAOL,
£10,000 FINE
FOR WAR FRAUDS**

"YOUR crime is against the whole nation," said Mr. Justice Oliver at Liverpool Assizes when he sentenced Charles Roland Clare, city councillor, to 9 years' penal servitude and fined him £10,000 for offences in connection with war contracts and petrol regulations. The judge added: "The sentence reflects public horror and indignation and will be a warning to others."

Clare was the director of a firm which, among other irregularities, charged the Government for more men than it employed, also for more waggons that it used, thereby making thousands of pounds profit.

The judge also said that the head of Clare's firm, a man named Porter, who was found shot dead when the police were inquiring into the case, secured great masses of spoil, but Clare got at least £10,000. He was satisfied that Clare assisted Porter over a long period to cheat the country of not less than £750,000.

**LONDON POLICE SEEK
WAR DODGERS**

Thousands of "war dodgers" were trapped in the West End of London during the week-end.

Cars filled with plain-clothes and uniformed civil and military police drove to hotels, bars, clubs, railway stations, inspected registers, demanded identity cards and leave passes.

Object was to weed out deserters, fugitives from military service, and civilians of doubtful or criminal origin.

Plain-clothes detectives stood in the doorways of public houses and fashionable hotels.

They did not object to people entering, but allowed them to leave only after papers had been inspected.

Police knocked up sleeping residents in large blocks of flats and demanded identity proofs. The search continued until early morning.

The names of 6000 people without identity cards were taken. Many hundreds of men and women were told to produce their identity cards within 48 hours.

**LOW WEIGHT SHOULD
SUIT HIM IN CUP RACE**

By "Orleigh", the well known Melbourne Turf Writer

COLONUS won the Melbourne cup so easily that his owner and trainer decided to start him for the Williamstown cup at Flemington next Saturday. However, a distinct advantage in weights suggests that Phocion should have a splendid chance.

Present Worth £4000

Frank Manning, one of the youngest trainers of a Melbourne Cup winner, has received the greatest reward ever given to a trainer. Months before the race was run, Mr. L. O. Menck, owner of Colonus, promised Manning the training establishment in which he lived at Mentone if the horse won the Cup. The title deeds worth £4,000 will be transferred to Manning this week.

In many ways it will be the Melbourne Cup over again. Indications are that Colonus will be opposed again by the other placed runners, Phocion and Heart's Desire, while Son of Aurous—one of the oldest stayers racing in Australia—stood the strain of mud and slush on Saturday well enough to earn him a start in the Williamstown race.

Students of form and figures will not look much beyond Phocion for the Williamstown Cup winner. He has only 6st. 12lb. and now meets Colonus on 20lbs, and Heart's Desires on 18lbs, better terms than in the Melbourne Cup.

Phocion was favourite to-day for the Williamstown event, pressed closely by Sir Romeo, Colonus, Tranquil Star and True Flight. Sir Romeo did not race at Flemington on Saturday because of the heavy going, and he is exceptionally well treated at 8.4 in the Williamstown Cup.

Settling Day

There were more losers than winners at the Melbourne Cup settling yesterday.

A Pole won £24,000 on the two days of the meeting and among many other winning wagers backed Colonus for £7,000. On Derby Day his winnings amounted to £14,600.

He is a comparative newcomer to racing in Melbourne.

A man closely associated with Colonus backed the double with Tranquil Star for £5,000, and in addition, backed him straight out for more than £12,000.

It is understood that the lucky holders of the winning ticket in a big interstate consultation laid off £5,000 to the connections of the cup winner.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS DOINGS

**39 RACE DAYS
FOR NEXT YEAR**

Under the allocation of N.S.W. 1943 racing dates, announced by the Chief Secretary (Mr. Baddeley), there will be only 39 racing fixtures in the Sydney metropolitan area.

The meeting and the clubs are:—Randwick 11, Warwick Farm (at Randwick) 5, Rosehill 5, Canterbury 4, Moorefield 4, Tattersall's 2, City Tattersall's 1, Hawkesbury 1, Ascot 2, Roseberry 2, and Victoria Park 2.

**TROTTER TAKEN
FOR "JOY RIDE"**

Blue Major, well known Port Adelaide trotter, was taken from his stable recently without the consent of his owner and given a spin round the district. As a result, the horse returned stiff and sore and his owner got the police on the track.

At Port Adelaide, Joseph Henry Schoumack, of King Street, Alberton, was fined £1/10/- with £1/5/- costs for having illegally used a horse without the consent of the owner.

K.O. IN 1ST ROUND

Ron Conybear, 113 lbs. retained the Victorian Lightweight Championship by stopping "Kid" Delaney 135 lbs. in the first round.

**N.S.W. Swimming
Championship**

NEW South Wales Amateur Swimming Association will hold the State championship meeting on January 2, 9, and 16. Most of the races will be decided in the Domain but a few will be contested at Manly.

Noel Ryan, now a veteran, is expected to swim again. Queensland is anxious to conduct championships and the State Association is considering the possibility.

There is no lack of talent in the Northern State at the moment. Lads like Alan Davison, Ian Hinwood, Arthur Hodel, George Jones, George D'Arcy, Peter McTaggart, Max Emerson, Peter Lyons and Ivor Wright are all capable of good times.

Peter Lyons (breast stroke) is regarded as being exceptionally promising. His time for 100 yards last year (1 min. 27 2/5th secs.) established a record.

**Lynam Outwrestles
Pencheff**

George Lynam (15.5—215 lb.) defeated George Pencheff (16.3—227 lbs.) in an 8-round wrestling contest at the Leichhardt Stadium on Saturday evening.

Harry Warren (12.1—169 lbs.) thought he was boxing instead of wrestling in his encounter with Harry Revell (12.5—173 lbs.), and was disqualified in the third round.

**SIEVERS DISLOCATES
SHOULDER**

M. Sievers, of Victoria, who has represented Australia in Test cricket, dislocated his shoulder in a military camp in N.S.W. recently.

Since being in N.S.W., Sievers has played with the Cumberland club.

In Victoria he played with Fitzroy, coming to that club from the Brunswick Sub-District team.

Brisbane v. Services

Queensland cricket enthusiasts are anticipating with enthusiasm the match to be played on December 12, between Brisbane and a Service XI.

The Services team will include a number of players from other States. Harold Mudge, the N.S.W. State player has been shining in Toowoomba cricket and Rex Rogers, the Queensland batsman, has been at the height of his form in recent Army games.

The Services team will be announced soon.

Brisbane Fights

Lionel Orreal (9.6½—132½ lbs.) knocked out Alan Harry (9.9½—135½ lbs.) in the second round of the main contest at the Brisbane Stadium on Saturday evening.

Herb Cuke (8.13—125 lbs.) drew with Teddy Lawler (8.7—119 lbs.). Fred Foster (9.13—139 lbs.) knocked out Carl Fraser (10—140 lbs.) in the third round. These bouts were at Leichhardt (N.S.W.).

FUTURE OF BASEBALL

ONE of the most important conferences ever held in American baseball will be held in Chicago on November 30, to discuss the future of the game.

Difficulties ahead are numerous and programme cuts will have to be made. A 60 per cent. schedule compared with the present one is proposed in some quarters.

Baseball authorities realise that the war must be won, and will place war demands before those of the sport.

Two More Destroyers Sunk Off Buna

BROTHERS WIN V.C.

TWENTY-SEVEN years to the day after his brother had won the Victoria Cross in 1915, Lieut. Bill Turner of a British Rifle Brigade won a similar honor.

Lieut. Turner displayed conspicuous gallantry in the Western Desert when his battalion was attacked by 90 tanks. The attack was repulsed, 25 tanks being set on fire and 20 more put out of action.

Despite wounds, Turner, by his leadership and bravery, was an inspiration to the Brigade, the citation stated.

HARD LABOR FOR PROCURER

A soldier who induced a mentally deficient girl to embark on a career of prostitution was sentenced to 20 months' hard labor by Mr. Justice Philip in the Brisbane Criminal Court.

"This sort of crime makes one ashamed to belong to the human race," said the judge.

The prisoner, Leslie Alexander Gabell, it was stated, had been intimate with the girl, who thought she was pregnant.

Gabell told her he could "get her fixed up" for £125, and induced her to become a prostitute to get the money.

Gabell admitted, said the Crown Prosecutor, that he had received £40 of her earnings.

Married U.S. Sailor Then Soldier

A young woman, aged 19, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy, was sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment by Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy in the Criminal Court, Melbourne. Sentence was suspended on her entering into a bond to be of good behaviour for two years.

An American naval rating told his Honour that, although his wife had gone through the form of a marriage with a soldier only a few weeks after he had married her, he still loved her. She was again living with him as his wife, and he had forgiven her. He intended to take her back to U.S.A. after the war.

In passing sentence his Honour said that the woman had shown an impudent disregard of marriage. He warned her not to leave the Court with the idea that she could escape punishment for such an offence. He strongly advised her to become a model wife.

TURKS THINK GERMANS TRICKED

they are taking no part whatsoever or assuming any responsibility for negotiations in North Africa with representatives of Vichy.

LANDING ATTEMPT AGAIN DEFEATED

Another Japanese attempt to land reinforcements at Buna has been smashed by the Allied air force. Two destroyers—and probably three—were sunk early yesterday morning.

Land fighting along the coastal strip where the Japanese are being hemmed in is becoming increasingly bitter. The full story, as told in General Macarthur's communique, is as follows:—

"HEAVY fighting continues in low tropical jungle interspersed with swamp and tidal creeks rendering movement and manoeuvre slow and difficult. We are now encountering carefully prepared positions, strongly fortified with barbed wire, dug-outs, and all the defensive attributes of a fortress. Both our own and the enemy air forces are in constant action.

"Enemy naval forces under cover of darkness again attempted to land reinforcements to the beleaguered garrison, but were shattered and repulsed, and the attempts were unsuccessful. A light cruiser and four destroyers made the sortie.

"Our heavy and medium bombers intercepted with flares and 500lb. bombs in Huon Gulf, and sank two destroyers with direct hits and severely damaged a third. This latter was dead in the water for twenty-five minutes, and then was heading for land at a speed of six knots. It is probable she also sank, as our rear air echelons searched her possible area of position with no sighting. The ships were apparently heavily loaded with troops and those on the destroyed units were undoubtedly lost. The light cruiser and the remaining destroyer fled to the north.

Raids 88 & 89

Port Moresby's 88th and 89th raids on Tuesday night were carried out by a single aircraft. There were neither casualties nor damage.

New Turf Racket Investigated

THE Chief Secretary of N.S.W. (Mr. Baddely) has ordered an immediate investigation into allegations that well known race horses are being taken from the metropolitan area, disguised and entered for unregistered country meetings.

It is said that meetings have been held in well appointed paddocks on Saturdays, Sundays, and even on "raceless Saturdays."

Horses are usually ridden by disqualified jockeys. Hundreds of people attend the meetings and betting is conducted openly with many illegal games as side-lines.

USE OF C.M.F.

Militant Union's View

Newcastle Committee Management of the Federal Ironworkers Association on Tuesday followed the lead of the Waterside Workers in unanimously deciding to support the Prime Minister's proposal to use the C.M.F. anywhere in the South West Pacific Command area.

The Ironworkers' Association is one of the most militant organizations in Northern N.S.W. It has a membership of 10,000 and its management committee's decision is expected to have an important influence in the attitude of other industrial organizations.

British Minister's Son Wild About Britain, Stalin and Jews

JOHN AMERY, son of the British Secretary for India, is in Berlin. He went there from unoccupied France when the Germans crossed the demarcation line and has since broadcast over the Berlin Radio.

Amery claimed that after 2 years in a neutral country he was able to see through the haze of propaganda. He said the British alliance with people whose leader, Stalin, dreamt of nothing but destruction of their priceless heritage could sooner or later lead only to disaster and communism.

The speech became wilder as Amery declared that there was not a single London daily paper that was not Jewish controlled, and that, "of course, Emanuel Shinwell, M.P., and the rest of the Jewish clique, including Mr. Hore Belisha, M.P., did not care much about 2,000 or 3,000 Christians who died at Dieppe."

The remainder of the broadcast was on similar lines.

Mandalay Again Raided

BRITISH and American bombers have been busy again over Burma.

The Americans dropped several hundred tons of bombs to cripple the railway repair shops at Mandalay.

Married Man's Lover Aids Wife to Divorce Him

ANNNOYED with her married lover because he tripped her in a dance hall, and caused her to fall and break her hand, Mrs. Catherine MacLean, of Darlinghurst, Sydney, went to his wife and told her everything.

Mrs. MacLean told of this in the Divorce Court, when she confessed to a guilty association with another woman's husband, and gave evidence for the wife, Mrs. Evelyn Elsie Riley (31), of Malabar, who secured a decree nisi against James Ramsden Riley (40), on the grounds of his adultery with Mrs. MacLean. Riley did not defend the case.

Mrs. MacLean told the court that she wanted to give evidence against Riley, even though it branded her as an adulteress.

She said she first met Riley at a city dance hall, where she was learning to dance. He asked her to keep company with him, and she inquired if he was a married man. He told her he was, but that his wife "was always out hiking." She thought it would be alright, she said.

Riley, who works shift work at the Eveleigh Railway shops, used to come to her flat for midnight suppers, and leave in the small hours of the morning, she said.

LITTLE CHANGE IN TUNISIA

THERE is little change in the position in North Africa, but air activity is being intensified. Preparations on both sides indicate that there will be a major battle for Tunis.

In their drive across Libya, the British Eighth Army has occupied Agelabia, also the Gilio oasis, about 50 miles to the south east. There is still no sign of a stand, if a stand is to be made, by Rommel's retreating forces at El Agheila.

R.A.F. bombers have carried out further raids on Bizerta and Tunis. Allied fighters shot up a troop train and attacked enemy installations.

The placing of Dakar and other French possessions under Allied control is hailed by Allied commentators as of the greatest importance. Allied land and sea power, they point out, has increased substantially as a result.