

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Wednesday, December 2, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

SIGNS OF CRACK-UP REPORTED FROM ITALY Germans Pour In Troops

Signs that the Italian morale is cracking are mounting rapidly.

The American Secretary of State (Mr. Cordell Hull) yesterday gave a broad hint that a civil disobedience campaign was being waged in Italy by the underground Socialist party. He said the party had issued a manifesto urging members to ignore Fascist decrees and not to pay taxes.

Another sign of unrest in Italy is revealed by the fact that within a few hours of Mr. Churchill's world broadcast on Sunday evening, extracts from his speech were painted on walls in Rome, Genoa, Milan and Turin.

Apparently the Germans have decided that Italian morale needs strengthening. More than 300,000 German troops and special police are reported to be in Italy in addition to 90,000 Gestapo agents and administrators.

ACCORDING to a Vichy message, the demobilization of the French armed forces has been completed. The Swiss frontier has been guarded to prevent disbanded soldiers fleeing to avoid service alongside Germans in North Africa.

Public fears are growing as the Allied forces gain a firmer hold on the North African coast, and these have not been eased by news of the progress of the British First Army.

Latest reports from Tunisia state that the railway between Bizerta and Tunis has been cut by the British and that our forces are now in occupation of several important strategic positions.

Australian war correspondent John Jarvie has described the paratroop landing of the British in North Africa as "The biggest force of its kind that has functioned in this war."

Gallant Australians Earn Desert Awards

PRIVATE Ronald George McGregor, infantryman, has been awarded the M.M. for gallantry in action at Tel El Eisa, Egypt, on July 22.

McGregor's machine gun sector was forced to withdraw from the post after one man had been killed and six wounded. He went forward again under heavy fire and carried back his Number one who had been wounded. He then returned, brought back his gun and assisted in manning it.

Lieut. John Wallace Overall, of the engineers, has been awarded a bar to his M.C. for courageous leadership in action at El Alamein in September. He fearlessly exposed himself to heavy fire to make a gap for tanks and other vehicles to pass through during bitter fighting.

Fortresses Destroy Cargo Vessel

A Washington message discloses that Flying Fortresses intercepted a convoy of two cargo vessels escorted by three destroyers off New Georgia in the Solomons and sank one of the cargo vessels.

Five direct hits were scored. When Zeros attempted to intercept three were shot down. The Fortresses were not damaged.

Submarine's Success

In Far Eastern waters an Allied submarine has sunk eight vessels recently off the Japanese mainland. Their gross tonnage is estimated at 70,000 tons.

WAR FRONTS

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

TUNISIA—Allies in possession of important strategic points following cutting of Tunis-Bizerta railway.

NEW GUINEA—Stiff land fighting near Buna and Gona as Allied air force mounts heavy offensive. Four destroyers sighted off coast near Buna.

RUSSIA—Red Army advances on Stalingrad and Central fronts. Germans leave 20,000 dead on battlefield during week-end.

FRANCE—Two French submarines reach Algiers after escaping from Toulon.

INDIAN OCEAN—French residents of Reunion Island rally to General de Gaulle.

MORE WARSHIPS SEEN OFF BUNA

LAST night an enemy naval force of four destroyers was again "apparently endeavouring to land reinforcements" in the Buna-Gona area.

This announcement is made in to-day's communique from General Macarthur's headquarters.

The Japanese have made two other recent attempts to reinforce their troops on the narrow beach-head which they still hold, but both attempts have resulted in the mauling of naval forces by Allied bombers.

On November 22, an enemy destroyer and two smaller craft were sunk, and three days later two destroyers were sunk and a third was badly damaged.

There was considerable Allied air activity over New Guinea during the night, but no results of bomber strikes are yet available.

Australian and American land forces are "slowly contracting their grip upon the enemy," to-day's communique states. "Our Air Force is operating in direct support of ground units."

An enemy dive bomber and two Zeros were shot down yesterday during operations which were on a scale seldom, if ever, before staged in New Guinea. Flying Fortresses, Havocs, Marauders, Kittyhawks and other air-

craft kept up a day-long pounding of enemy positions.

On the ground, American troops carried out flanking movements to form roughly a semi-circular line outside Buna mission. Supported by Australian artillery, they held a position 800 yards from the mission station.

Australian units have occupied the beach between Gona and a point 1,000 yards east of the village, and are advancing from the south and south-east. Heavy fighting is in progress.

More Internal Trouble

THE Associated Press states that, according to reliable reports from Europe, Mussolini is considering an operation for stomach ulcers, which first developed about 1938.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE MAINLAND

TASMANIA

A start has been made with the preparation of stacking beds for racking timber at a shipyard in Southern Tasmania, where it is proposed to build 20 wooden ships for the Commonwealth.

Two-up has been played at the Glenorchy Recreation Reserve with vigilant spotters to note the approach of the police. The Glenorchy Council is taking the matter up with a view of suppressing the game.

Malcolm Boyd, of Launceston, and Thomas Sullivan, of Deloraine, were fined £2 each for failure to furnish information required under the Sales Tax Procedure Act.

The possibilities of King Island for post-war land development impressed the Honorary Minister (Col. Taylor) who, with the Post-War Land Development Committee, of which he is chairman, visited the island last week to make investigations.

COMFORTS BY THE TON

THE largest single consignment of comforts—destined for the fighting forces overseas—ever to leave the Central Depot of the Australian Comforts Fund, consisted of 389 cases of cake, tinned fruit, chewing gum, and boot polish.

It was seventeen and a half tons by measurement. The goods were packed on an 18-ft. lorry.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

On a charge of having indecently assaulted a girl aged 13 years and three months at Brompton on November 20, 1940, Spencer Charles Barr, 20, sheet metal worker, of Gibson street, Bowden, and Walter Vivian Hutchins, 21, press operator, of Fifth street, Bowden, have been committed for trial. They were each allowed bail of £100 with two sureties for £50.

During a social in St. Matthew's Hall, Kensington, a cheque for £108 for the local prisoners of war fund was handed to the Mayoress of Kensington and Norwood (Mrs. Essery) as the proceeds of a concert which had been organised by Miss Lorna Badman and pupils. Miss Badman and her helpers have now raised £400 for this fund.

Pensioners at Morris Hospital and Bedford Park Sanatorium are not to have deductions made from their pensions for their maintenance in hospital.

This was announced yesterday by the Acting Premier (Mr. Rudall)

Hours of work are being spent in the choice and preparation of 1,000 books to be presented to eight Red Shield mobile units between Alice Springs and Darwin.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

For failure to enrol for military service, Eric Clive Newey, 40, of Rivervale; Corradino Giorgi, 38, and Peter Zuvella were each fined £5 in the Perth Police Court by Mr. W. J. Wallwork, S.M. Roy Green was fined £3 with 3s. costs for a similar offence.

The body of Cornelius Cull (64), married, a farmer residing at Armadale, was found by his wife hanging from a beam in a fowlhouse.

Temperatures have been soaring in W.A. Readings of 108 degrees have been recorded at Whim Creek, Onslow, and Anna Plains. Yet at Mullewa and Cape Leeuwin last week the thermometer fell to a minimum of 37 degrees.

About 2,700 tons of the 8,000 tons State potato crop has been dug up. Trouble is being experienced with aliens, 150 of whom were to be available for digging but only 50 of whom have so far been obtained.

While working at the Perth Roller Flour Mills on October 29, James Francis Lawrence David Gibbs (31), laborer, fell backwards from an unprotected ramp and received fatal injuries. At the inquest, a jury returned a finding of accidental death.

VICTORIA

PASSING through the gate at the rate of 150 a minute during the peak period on Sunday, a huge crowd saw the Japanese mid-gut submarines in Melbourne. Indifferent weather on Monday limited the crowd to less than 7,000. Proceeds will go to the Navy and Mercantile Navy relief funds.

Joseph Patrick Connelly, aged 30, of Egan Street, Richmond, was killed when the car he was driving overturned at the corner of Spring and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne, early yesterday morning. William Patrick Murphy, aged 44, a passenger in the car, sustained chest injuries and was admitted to hospital.

Totilisor investments for Williamstown races were £109,000

Chorus Of Protest

Unless a dispute between the chorus of the company and J. C. Williamson Ltd. is settled, "White Horse Inn" may not open at the Sydney Theatre Royal next Saturday. The chorus complained that the company offered them only half pay for five days' rehearsal for the show.

The manager of J. C. Williamson said: "White Horse Inn" will open. This is only a small domestic dispute."

NEW SOUTH WALES

Reaching the highest price this year, glasshouse tomatoes brought up to £2 a half-case at the City Markets yesterday. Retail price will be 2/6 a lb.

Both lager and ale, but no quarts of draught beer, will be available for Xmas in Sydney. Beer supplies to hotels will be forty per cent. above the normal monthly quotas. Hotelkeepers agreed to 10 per cent. reduction in May, June, July, August, and this was carried forward to December to meet the holiday demand.

James Chapman (38), oral surgeon, was committed for trial from Central Court on a charge of having falsely pretended that he had a plant at Burragorang Valley for production of synthetic fuel. Bail was fixed at £400. Chapman pleaded not guilty.

Following revelations of appalling conditions at the Lidcombe State Home for old men, the Minister for Health (Mr. Kelly) has announced sweeping improvements in the whole system of caring for the aged who cannot afford to look after themselves.

Alfred Henry Singleton (24), who recently burnt his way out of a Newton cell, vainly appealed to the Full Court of Criminal Appeal against a sentence of five years for assault and robbery.

Paragraphs From America

Louis B. Mayer Quits

Louis B. Mayer, American film magnate, has decided temporarily to give up racing in Australia.

He owns Dinkum Aussie, Yarrawonga, Corroboree, Bardia and Hughette. All will be offered for sale by William Inglis and Son at Newmarket Stables on Friday, December 18.

Planes And Ships

The Army, Navy, and War Production Board have jointly approved of a sharp cut in the manufacture of tanks, heavy artillery, and ammunition to permit the diversion of materials for increased aeroplanes and ship construction.

Ben Hogan's Trophy

Fred Corcoran, tournament manager of the Professional Golf Association, has announced that Ben Hogan has officially won the Vardon trophy and money-winning honors for 1942. Hogan finished with 400 points for the Vardon trophy and 13,143 dollars (£4,381) in winnings. Byron Nelson finished second and Sam Snead third.

Two Sporting Stars

Two sporting stars—Frank Reagan (football) and Tony Caputo (basketball) have received commissions as first lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

QUEENSLAND

Ration difficulties will change the procedure for the distribution of Christmas cheer to between 300 and 400 needy families in the metropolitan area.

The Brisbane City Mission has decided to issue a Christmas order on retail stores to each family recommended by its staff. The families cover 198 adults and 379 children of school age.

Of the 300,000 civilian males in Queensland who filled in civilian registration cards last March, 43,000 have no military record in the areas given as their places of residence.

If the City Council agrees to the Main Roads Commission's request that Nudgee water holes reserve should be used for national purposes, Brisbane's only remaining Bora ground will disappear.

(Bora grounds cover the scenes of an aboriginal ceremony at which young men became qualified to act as warriors and to sit at the councils of their tribes.)

A 12 ft. grey nurse shark, 5 ft. 6 in. in girth, was caught outside a reef at Queen's Beach, Redcliffe, by Messrs. P. Crawford, L. Marsden, and R. Clowes.

Mr. Hamilton Patterson, Brisbane manager of the Union Bank has retired after 46 years' service in Queensland.

EARTHQUAKES ARE PREDICTED FOR 1942

The troubles of the world are likely to be increased next year if the earthquake predictions by an expert prove correct.

The expert, Mr. Edgar Thrupps of Vancouver, says there will be an unusual series of destructive earthquakes next year. Most will occur within two long periods of continuous risks—March 25 to April 10 and October 6 to November 5.

Mr. Thrupp cannot say where they will occur, but he has sent warning to the Governments of countries subject to earthquakes.

U.S. PARACHUTE OF CREPE PAPER

A U.S. Army spokesman has announced the perfection of a new type of parachute, made with crepe paper, capable of effecting a tremendous saving of silk and nylon.

It is designed to lower 25lb. of supplies to earth. A device has already handled 50lb. successfully.

Simpler Living

Further drastic reduction in America's standard of living to a point commensurate with the demands of total war are believed to be inevitable as soon as the new Congress considers taxation in January.

Australians' Part In Rommel's Rout

D.F.C. FOLLOWS SCRAP WITH STUKAS

AUSTRALIAN airmen are playing a prominent part in the operations in North Africa. Several have been decorated.

Latest winner of the Distinguished Flying Cross is Flight-Lieutenant Russell George Foskett, of Sydney, who led a fighter squadron in an attack which resulted in the destruction of seven Stuka dive-bombers. Eight other Stukas were probably destroyed and several damaged.

FOSKETT SHOT DOWN TWO BEFORE HE WAS HIMSELF SHOT DOWN BY ESCORTING MESSERSCHMITTS. HE MADE A SAFE LANDING, AND WAS BACK WITH HIS SQUADRON AND READY FOR DUTY NEXT DAY.

Before he joined the R.A.A.F., Foskett was a well known Sydney swimmer.

CLOSING BANK BRANCHES

Bankers are finding difficulty in deciding what branches and how many are to be closed, despite demands from the Government that manpower must be saved this way.

Regulations have now been gazetted giving the Government far reaching powers to close any bank branch. Already about 300 have been closed and another 200 are to be added to the list.

PROFESSOR LABY RESIGNS

Professor F. Laby, who has occupied the chair of Natural Philosophy at Melbourne University, has lodged his resignation, which has been accepted.

In his letter, he referred to the recent hostility of the Engineering Faculty to the higher study of Physics by engineering students, the lack of discipline among engineering and science students during the year, and the failure of the University to assist in carrying out scientific war activities, which are the subject of an agreement with the Munitions Ministry and the Council of Science and Industry.

Professor Laby is one of Victoria's most picturesque figures and is highly talented.

Problem for Girls

Troops when they return to the Mainland will see some strange sights in the big emporiums. A pair of silk stockings costs a woman four coupons, and coupons are more precious than gold.

It has been suggested that stockings which have "laddered" can be worn when women are trying on new shoes. So don't be surprised, when your girl friend opens her handbag, if you see the feet only of discarded stockings; she is only on her way to buy a new pair of shoes and not going to risk good stockings as she tries on the shoes.

The provision of adequate housing was the greatest social need in Australia, and about 250,000 new homes were required, said Senator W. Cooper.

THREE TONS OF PETROL TAKEN

The petrol shortage, and the fact that the issue of ration tickets will not be made until next week, are given as reasons behind the robbery of an oil company's store in South Melbourne on Monday.

Using a motor truck the thieves removed seven 44-gallon drums of petrol, three 44-gallon drums of power kerosene and one drum of oil.

The total weight of goods removed exceeded three tons. They were valued at £177.

TOOK ANCHOR POINT OF GERMANS' LINE.

AN Australian war correspondent, in a despatch from Cairo, says it is now possible to reveal the highly important part played by Australians and New Zealanders near El Alamein when they smashed through a line which Rommel thought was impregnable.

THE entire northern tip of the Allied line was held by Australians, with their own artillery, tanks and Bren gun carriers, he says.

South of them were South Africans, Highlanders, and New Zealanders, backed up by British artillery.

In the Australians' sector along the coast road, Germans were still holding out in a strongpoint known as Thompsons Post.

On October 24, Australians, Scots and British forced their way through a minefield and engaged in large-scale hand to hand attacks.

Simultaneously, along the railway and the coastal road right at the seashore, Australian infantry and Bren carriers barged forward with troops shouting "Give 'em Hell for Tobruk."

Then began a slaughter which ended in the capture of Sidi Abed El Rahman,—anchor point of the whole enemy line.

One Legged Digger Joins R.A.A.F.

In the largest contingent of R.A.A.F. personnel ever to reach England is one-legged Sergeant Robert C. Dunstan (20), an air gunner from Frankston (Vic.), who lost his leg on service with the A.I.F. as a result of receiving a shell splinter in the knee at Tobruk.

The leg was amputated at Alexandria. On his return to Australia and discharge from the A.I.F., Dunstan immediately enlisted as an air gunner in the R.A.A.F.

Approximately 126,000,000 sheep were shorn in Australia this year. This record was made in spite of a reduction in the number of shearers available.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS NEWS

GOOD BOXERS FOR KONEDOBU

MANY prominent Australian boxers will be seen in action at the Konedobu Stadium on Saturday night, when an Inter-Services tournament will be held.

Among those who will appear are "Snowy" Clarke (welter), who has victories over Mickey Miller and Harry Cohen; Alec Stanton, hard hitting heavy, whose fight with Ambrose Palmer will be remembered, and who has been offered a title fight with Billy Britt on his return to Sydney; Billy Darcy, Queensland lightweight champion who was undefeated in two years, and Sgt. McCarthy, Victorian bantam champion.

Don Erpps, who fought a draw with "Snowy" Clarke over 15 rounds at the Melbourne Stadium, will contest one of the main events. Ben Davis who recently K.O'd. Les Fitzgerald in the first round in Sydney will appear in a six round bout.

These boys will meet American and Navy fighters. The preliminaries will be arranged between novice boys, and entries will be accepted at the ring-side.

The main programme is not scheduled to start until 8 p.m., but bouts between natives will commence at about 7.15.

W'STOWN PRICES

Prices for the placed horses at the Williamstown Racing Club's meeting on Saturday were:—

Rawdon: Scottish Maid 6/1, Crows Nest 12/1, The Vanquisher 14/1; Seddon Handicap: Cloudless 9/4, Clayton 25/1, Philander 8/1; Stand Handicap: El Reo 33/1, Amana 7/1, Star Simon 10/1; Williamstown Cup: Phocion 4/1, Pandect 12/1 Sir Romeo 16/1; Cup Steeplechase: Winterset 7/2, Lord Jevington 4/1, Soloicism 14/1; Ozon Highweight—First Division: The Decoration 11/2, Portico 7/2, Chamberlain 20/1; Second Division: Sunrocks 5/2; Strategy 20/1, Hero 9/2.

Randwick (N.S.W.) Nursery Stakes: Belle Pomme 6/1, Cock Crow 5/2, Water Hazard 20; Trial Handicap: Tidemark 7/4, Kiaree 14, Dinkum Aussie 50; Kirkham Stakes: Haddon Hall 14, Carion Call 4/1, Macarthur 3/1; Camden Handicap: Freckles 3/1, Hydra 4/1, Rimveil 5/1; Warwick Handicap: Angus 14, Panurge 12, Enderby 20; Welter Handicap: Rathlin 11/2, Pincero 12, Little Gungui 33.

Sydney's leading apprentice jockey, J. Thompson, was suspended for a month at Randwick on Saturday after being questioned about two cases of interference in the Warwick November Handicap.

WAVERLEY UNBEATEN

Lively Hand of V. Jackson

Waverley, still undefeated in the Sydney grade cricket, had a comfortable win over Balmain on Saturday. St. George had a narrow escape from a reverse when Randwick had dismissed 8 of them for 108 in response to their tally of 140. Then Bill O'Reilly 24, and J. Linwall 55 not out, got the needed runs.

V. Jackson, Randwick, scored 85 in 41 minutes, including five sixers and ten fours.

Scores were: St. George 9/177 Randwick 140; Paddington 9/223 Petersham 190; Marrickville 5/156 Gordon 153; Western Suburbs 176 defeated University 37 and 6/49; Globe 9/191 defeated Cumberland 186; Waverley 4/219 defeated Balmain 9/13; Northern Dist. 209 North Sydney 184; Manly 172 Mossman 6/64.

O'Reilly, Barnes and A. Mailey were in the Paddington side which defeated an Army eleven at Trumper Park and won by 17 runs. Proceeds were for war funds. O'Reilly took 7 for 44.

432 Perish In Boston Holocaust

SUPPORT FOR MILITIA PLAN

Support for the proposal to amend the Defence Act to allow the militia to be used anywhere in the south-west Pacific area came yesterday from the powerful Arms, Explosives and Ammunition Workers' Union which has many thousands of members.

The motion supporting the proposal was carried at a meeting of shop stewards, who are widely representative of rank and file members.

BABIES UP IN ARMS

IN Australia, it looks like father "carrying the baby" for some time to come, and mother doing the job minus pram when father is working.

In December, 1941, 950 prams and strollers were manufactured weekly in Victoria. Now an average weekly production is 450.

In 1938, the Australian birth rate was 120,000. The estimated number of births for 1942 is 141,000.

There is now a market opening for second-hand prams.

DREADFUL SCENES IN NIGHT CLUB FIRE

Dreadful scenes were witnessed at a Boston night club fire, when 432 patrons of the city's fashionable Coconut Grove were either incinerated or died later from burns.

Boston hospitals and morgues are packed to capacity with dead and injured.

At first it was thought the outbreak was caused by a cigarette butt, but later a young waiter told the police that a match he was using as a light while changing an electric light bulb ignited the supposedly fireproof palm tree decorations.

At the first flash of flame there was an immediate stampede for the exits, said eye-witnesses. The night club became a raging inferno within a few seconds and screaming women ran for the narrow doorways with their hair and clothes ablaze.

Those who stumbled and fell were trampled to death by the crowd rushing on behind them.

Nearly-nude chorus girls, who were changing for their next act when the fire broke out, jumped from the window of their dressing-room into the street below.

Scores of people reached the open only to collapse and die on the pavement. Insufficient ambulance stretchers were available, and helpers had to pile the charred dead in the streets awaiting removal.

There were pathetic scenes at the city's overcrowded morgues and hospitals, as white-faced relatives attempted to identify the charred bodies.

The disaster is stated to be the worst fire in the nation's history since the Chicago theatre fire of 1903, when 576 perished.

It is feared that the death-roll may mount even higher.

MORE RED ARMY SUCCESSES

NAZIS DRIVEN BACK FIVE MILES IN ONE SECTOR

FURTHER successes by the Red Army have increased the difficulties of the Germans both on the Stalingrad front and the Central front. At one point near Stalingrad, Marshal Timoshenko's troops have beaten back the enemy five times.

BETWEEN Friday and Monday, the enemy left 200 dead in this area alone. The Russians have captured another large city about 95 miles south west of Stalingrad. On the Central front bloody battles are raging at Rjev, which is now practically isolated.

It is announced that the enemy left 7,600 dead on the central front on Monday.

According to a German frontline reporter, broadcasting over Berlin radio, the weather on the Russian front is worse now than it was at the corresponding time last year.

POLICEWOMEN IN VICTORIA

The Victorian Chief Commissioner of Police (Mr. Duncan) has selected 38 young women for appointment to the force as auxiliary constables. They will release men for more active work outside offices. The women will work as typists, clerks, car drivers and switchboard attendants.

Reunion Conquest Complete

Reunion, the French island 400 miles east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, is now part of Fighting France. Its garrison, civil servants and people have spontaneously rallied to General de Gaulle's French National Committee.

LOST:—Black leather wallet with photographs. Property of R. S. Solomon. Finder please return to Editor, "Guinea Gold."

LOST:—Sam Browne belt. Finder please return to office "Guinea Gold."

French Subs. at Algiers

Two French submarines, which escaped when the French fleet was scuttled at Toulon, have arrived at Algiers. They were received with military honors. The third submarine went to Barcelona.

A considerable portion of the garrison at Djibouti has entered British Somaliland and has linked with the British Army.

Allies Release Airmen From Foreign Legion Camp

THREE Australian airmen, who were interned in French North Africa after they were forced down off Tunisia and released when the Allies invaded the country, are now in England. At one time they were confined in a stone cell only 4ft. 9ins. by 7ft. 6ins. in size.

The airmen, who were forced down on October 10 and rowed ashore in a rubber boat when their plane began to sink, are:

Pilot-Officer Bruce Sydney Meyer, of Kingsford; Sergeant-Airgunner Ken Glaziou, of Belmore; and Sergeant-Pilot D. H. Brown, of Perth.

They surrendered to the French authorities, who confined them in Sidi Cassem, the local gaol.

"We weren't in there long," said Meyer. "We tried to escape, but were recaptured after three days."

"As punishment we were confined in a stone cell only 54 inches by 90 inches, without bedding or lights.

"Our food was plentiful enough, but awfully prepared, and it made our stomach turn over just to smell it."

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Victoria Leads In War Loan Race

Victoria leads other States in the War Loan quotas drive, 22 city and country towns having gained their objectives.

Mitcham had to find £15,000 but it now has £26,000 in hand and Braybrook has doubled its quota of £48,000.

The Victorian branch of the Textile Workers' Union has offered £1,000 without interest.

RIGHTS OF RETURNED MEN

The Federal Congress of the Returned Soldiers' League yesterday sent a telegram to the Constitution Convention at Canberra, urging preference to returned service personnel in employment after the war.

NEWS FLASHES

Requiring only slightly more than 400 second preference votes, Councillor C. P. Stoneham, Mayor of Maryborough (Vic.), is practically certain to win the Maryborough-Daylesford seat in the Legislative Assembly for Labor.

"Bush lawyers" need not now be sought by servicemen. A special legal service has been established by the Government to advise members of the Forces and their dependants. There will be no charge.

American airplanes are being flown to India from U.S.A. in 98 hours. One heavy bomber took only 60 hours.

In the Criminal Court, Launceston, before Chief Justice Morris, Frederick Charles Garner pleaded guilty to having between July 1, 1941, and September 26, 1942, stolen £165/1/1, the property of Circular Head Amalgamation Timbers Pty. Ltd. A sentence of imprisonment for three years was suspended on Garner entering into sureties of £100 to be of good behaviour for 12 months.