

GUINEA GOLD

Vol. 1. No. 18.

In the Field, Sunday, December 6, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

FIERCE BATTLE IN TUNISIA

ARMIES TO PRESERVE PEACE

THE British Government believes that the United Nations must maintain armed forces after the war to preserve peace, the British Foreign Secretary (Mr. Anthony Eden) stated yesterday.

Mr. Eden said that, whether Britain liked it or not, she was the hub of Europe. After the war, she would have either to abdicate from this position or help Europe to work out its destiny. By ignoring Europe, Britain would be writing a charter for future trouble from Germany.

"The need is great for continued co-operation between Great Britain, America and Russia," Mr. Eden said. "There is no need for a conflict of interests between Britain and Russia. The Anglo-Russian Treaty signed this year is the basis of our mutual understanding."

Mr. Eden also said that, after the war, Britain would do everything in her power to relieve the food shortage in occupied countries and, in this connection, the Dominions could be of the utmost assistance.

LARGE-SCALE GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACKS NEAR TUNIS & BIZERTA

IN North Africa fierce fighting is raging about 20 miles South-West of Bizerta, and west of Tunis. Against increasingly violent Axis counter-attacks with tanks and planes, the Allies are consolidating their forces in this area. At some points the enemy has gained ground.

Algiers Radio says that Allied motorised units mopped up Axis paratroops who descended at the rear of the Tunis front to try to cut supply lines.

AN Allied commentator reports that our planes have bombed the docks at Bizerta in daylight, and that some day and night attacks have been made against the air fields at Tunis.

In these operations the enemy lost nine planes and the Allies eight. Our fighters have also been busy making sweeps over forward and coastal areas between Tunis and Gabes.

In the Southern sector, French and Allied forces and American paratroops have taken about 100 prisoners. Casualties among the French and Allied forces were fairly heavy.

On Wednesday night an enemy convoy bound for Tripoli was attacked. Two large merchant ships were sunk, and one was set on fire.

Shortly afterwards British light naval forces sank an Italian torpedo boat that was part of the convoy's escort.

Message To Frenchmen

Moscow Radio says that Lieut.-General Eisenhower, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces, has congratulated all in North Africa who have rallied to the United Nations to save France.

"All Frenchmen worthy of France's great past have forgotten small differences, and are ready to fight to assure the restoration of France," his message stated.

LATE CAPTAIN BLAMEY, D.S.C.

BY direction of President Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur has awarded the distinguished Service Cross posthumously to Capt. Jack Murray Blamey, A.I.F.

The late Capt. Blamey won the Cross for "extraordinary heroism in the Buna-Gona area in Northern Papua."

He was a nephew of General Sir Thomas Blamey, and lived at Manly, N.S.W.

Solomon Japs Short Of Supplies

THE Japanese on Guadalcanal are running short of supplies.

Announcing this yesterday, the American Naval Secretary (Col Knox) said the U.S. had won round three in the Battle of the Solomons, in as much as the last enemy attempt to land supplies and reinforcements was a complete failure.

P.O.W. LIST FROM JAPAN

The Army Minister (Mr. Forde), has released the first list of Australian prisoners-of-war in Japanese hands. The list includes names of 221 Australian soldiers from all States. Mr. Forde said any other names received would be communicated to next-of-kin by telegram with minimum delay.

GERMANS MAY HAVE SOME SHIPS OF VICHY FLEET

AN American report that half the French fleet is still afloat, and perhaps undamaged at Toulon, is discredited in well-informed circles in London.

It is considered possible, however, that the Germans did seize one damaged battleship, two cruisers (one damaged), six destroyers (three of which were damaged), and a number of submarines.

Original reports were that the whole of the French fleet at Toulon, comprising at least 60 vessels, had scuttled themselves to avoid capture by the Germans. The French Navy Commander (Admiral De La Borde) was reported to have announced that not one French warship remained afloat.

The Germans later claimed to have saved several ships, but this was denied by Vichy radio.

TWO DIVORCES IN SIX WEEKS

Jean Wallace Hoton, well-known New York society girl, has had two divorces in six weeks.

She was divorced at Reno from her first husband, Russell Wallace on October 11. Four days later she married Warren Holton, a cowboy, from whom she obtained a divorce this week.

ACTORS ANNOYED BY SABBATH LAW OF 1667

MORE than 70 theatrical stars, including Australians and the London stage's most notable, have begun a "disinterested sit-down strike" against the legal position of Sunday charity shows.

THESE stars, who have raised £1,000,000 for charity by Sunday performances in the past 10 years, issued a "proclamation" declaring:

"This strike is due to the persistent action of the Lord's Day Observance Society in upholding a law passed in 1667, which, not adjusted to modern requirements, bans a stage performance for charity or for which money is subscribed, on Sundays.

"We are pleased to think we are still at liberty to give free entertainments for the Forces, over which the Lord's Day Observance people have no jurisdiction."

Signatories include Australians Cyril Ritchard and Madge Elliott (his wife), Robert Helpman and also John Gielgud, Leslie Henson, Sydney Howard Bobbie Howes and Vivien Leigh.

News In Brief From The Mainland

NEW SOUTH WALES

The president of the Bank of New South Wales, Sir Robert Gillespie, said at the annual meeting that greater revenue could still be raised from taxation.

The greater use of bank credit might lead to inflation unless the public was prevented from outbidding the Government for resources needed for war, he said.

Mr. Justice Rich, in the High Court, directed that the assessment of Edmund Resch's income for tax purposes in 1929-30 should be reduced by £31,680 from £544,753.

On the original assessment of income Resch would have been required to pay £42,245 in taxation.

The death is announced in Sydney of Mr. John Garlick, formerly Sydney Chief City Commissioner, aged 67. He was connected with the N.S.W. State Public Service for many years but recently was assisting in the War Organisation Department.

New South Wales is having a record crop of divorces this year. Marriages are being dissolved at the rate of 3,000 a year.

"WHERE'SH MY RASHION BOOK"

DRUNKS are being preyed upon by coupon-book thieves, in the opinion of a spokesman of the Australian Rationing Commission. No more books will be issued to men who lose books when drunk.

"We have been getting quite a number of applications for new books from men who admit that they were under the influence of drink when they lost their original coupon book," said the spokesman.

Holding out his hands, both deeply scarred and mutilated, and pointing to his blinded eye, a white-haired Greek war veteran appealed to Mr. Prior, C.I.M., for exemption from further service.

He was Nikolas Papanikolaou, proprietor of the National Cafe, 591 George Street, and was granted exemption till May 23, 1943.

Of the 35 girl graduates of the Kindergarten Training College who will receive their diplomas from Lady Gowrie at the University, 33 have already accepted appointments. The demand for kindergarten teachers is so great that most of the girls have been offered more than one position.

One hundred and twenty Sydney University medical students want to milk cows, pick cherries, hoe turnips, and feed pigs during summer vacation. A large batch of schoolboys is going to Oberon for pea-picking. They are from metropolitan schools and Scout Associations.

JOCKEY AT 75

Billy Ross, who is 75 years old and swims hundreds of horses behind his boat at Mentone each year, was the star turn at Mentone, on Thursday, when he rode his horse Whirlaway in the fastest mile of the morning. He lost little by comparison with riders 50 or more years younger.

Ross has patched up more cripples than any other trainer in Melbourne. When the Mentone course was opened more than 50 years ago, he was a coachman who drove Governor Lóch and his Lady to the opening ceremony.

VICTORIA

Nearly 3,000 school and college cadets and 1,500 Air Training Corps cadets paraded in Melbourne streets, yesterday, in support of the Austerity Loan.

Swooping down on a group of men alleged to have been playing two-up on a small allotment surrounded by logs in Port Melbourne, wireless patrol police on Sunday arrested 17 men on a charge of having been found in a common gaming house. The police seized more than £69 in cash, a kip and 21 marked two-up pennies.

Robert Rebecca, of Donald Street, Prahran, was fined £50 at Malvern Court by Mr. D. G. Blair, P.M., on a charge of having sold more than 3 cwt. of wood to a customer at one time. He was also fined £10 on a charge of having sold wood otherwise than by weight, and £5 on a charge of having failed to give a weight ticket to a customer.

The rector of St. Patrick's College, East Melbourne (Father Thomas O'Dwyer) collapsed after offering Mass at the Convent of Mercy, Fitzroy, on Friday, and died later in hospital.

Champagne went for a proverbial song at the Police auction sale of confiscated and unclaimed liquor in Melbourne, when two bottles were sold for £1.

About 30 publicans, who comprised most of the bidders, found that the Prices Commissioner had fixed the price of beer at 19s. a dozen bottles, which is the price the public would pay over the bar counter for a dozen bottles—if it could get them.

Bidding was keen for whisky at £1 for a large bottle and £3/9, was paid for four bottles of brandy.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mrs. Annie Rice, 20, of Beaufort Street, Perth, was killed, and her nine months old son Victor, and her father Albert James Browning, 52, a soldier, were injured in a smash at Cullis level crossing about five miles from Perth. Two others and the driver were injured. The bus was carried on the train for about 300 yards.

QUEENSLAND

Gifts of £500 each were left to the Returned Soldiers' Associations at Sydney, Brisbane, and Longreach by Mr. Edward James Watt, grazier and racehorse owner, of Rose Bay, Sydney (N.S.W.), who died on May 2 last.

Because by the end of this month all available ground in the soldiers' reservation at Toowong cemetery will be taken, returned soldiers in future will be buried in a special section of Lutwyche cemetery. It will resemble the military cemeteries in Gallipoli and France.

Clifford Arthur Gordon Wicks, 36, clerk, who pleaded not guilty through his solicitor (Mr. H. H. Stone), has been committed for trial on a charge that on January 4, 1936, at Southport, being lawfully married to Laura May Ellem, he went through a form of marriage with Rosalind Lane during the lifetime of Laura May Ellem. Bail was allowed.

Scarcity of store cattle, because of lack of transport and droving facilities, is bound to affect seriously the fat stock supply. This warning was given by the president of the Brisbane Fat Stock and Produce Brokers' Association (Mr. D. E. Mactaggart).

Cpl. James Donald Cogill, 34, soldier, was fined £10 in the Brisbane Court for having stolen three military blankets and two military towels, valued £2/8/11.

Moreheads, Ltd., Brisbane, in conjunction with M. Selwyn Smith and Son, Beaudesert, sold by auction at Beaudesert, the Undulla Estate, near Beaudesert, for £11,500 to W. H. Heck and Sons, Pty., Ltd., Woonoolba. The sale, which was on a walk-in walk-out basis, was on behalf of the executors of the Late F. W. Wilbraham.

"We have no intention of using our services to quell military or civil riots. Our job is to put out fires," said the chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board (Mr. Currie) yesterday.

Members of the board questioned the presence of an engine from headquarters at a recent disturbance amongst troops in Brisbane.

Radio Reform

Most commercial stations will not be affected by the ban on all 'distasteful' advertising on Sundays.

They have had for a considerable time their own regulations, which accord with the principles now being enforced.

Mention of laxatives, the deodorising qualities of toilet soaps, and the effects of certain patent medicines is to be banned from January, 3, 1943. Liquor advertising is also prohibited on Sundays.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Miss Evelyn Penrose, a diviner from overseas, believes a large coalfield lies 100 miles north of Adelaide.

Large copper deposits lie elsewhere in the State. Miss Penrose, known as a water and minerals diviner, aims to prove to mining engineers that she can demonstrate the existence of minerals underground.

President of the S.A. Protestant Federation since 1936, the Rev. Duncan Reves has accepted a call to the Victorian Congregational Church pastorate of Seddon and Yarraville.

Rats which recently bit the two baby daughters of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Sauerwald, while asleep at their home in Magill Road, Stepney, probably used a cellar of the house as a breeding place, says the health inspector's report received by the St. Peters Board of Health last night.

On a charge of having stolen three pigs at the Abattoirs on October 21, Herbert William Guthrie, pig farmer, of Vista, near Teatree Gully, was remanded until December 11, by Mr. Muirhead, P.M., in the Adelaide Police Court.

The pigs alleged to have been stolen are valued at £8/11/, and belong to Sidney Stewart Sugars.

£13,000,000 Medical Plan Considered

As part of the post-war social security plan, senior Federal Ministers are reported to be examining a £13,000,000 a year National Medical Service scheme. The initial plans envisage about 450 centres throughout Australia. At least 2000 doctors will be required.

TASMANIA

Mr. F. W. Steele, a witness before the Grants Commission in Melbourne, said that as far as he knew, there were now only two people on the dole in Tasmania.

At the age of 14 years Miss Beryl Kimber, daughter of Mr. T. W. Kimber, of Hobart, has the distinction of holding the A. Mus. A. Degree of the Australian Music Examination Bd. The examiners, commenting on this young violinist's playing of Beethoven's Spring Sonata, stressed the dynamic quality and maturity of her interpretation.

The harvesting of the berry crop of Southern Tasmania has become a task of considerable difficulty. More than 2,000 pickers are required for the season now beginning through the usual channels, and a call is being made for volunteers.

Snappy Service Boxing At Konedobu

Lily Pons Presents Donizetti and Strip-Tease In N.Y.

Lily Pons, opera singer, startled an audience at the Metropolitan Opera House when she did a strip-tease act.

She was singing the leading role in Donizetti's opera, "The Daughter of the Regiment."

One critic wrote of the incident: "As the orchestra quietly played, Lily Pons prepared to retire to bed at the end of the first act."

"She stopped only when she reached what a fashion editor told me was her camisole."

"Her method was much more charming and discreet, but the idea smacked strongly of theatres a few blocks away."

"How times do change!"

Another critic remarked that "Donizetti and strip-tease came to the Metropolitan."

Drastic Domestic Servant Order

Employment of domestic servants throughout Australia will be drastically restricted from January 10, under an order issued by the Minister for War Organisation and Industry (Mr. Dedman), under the National Security regulations. Under the order, which will be administered by the Labor Minister (Mr. Ward), no person can, without a permit, employ or continue to employ a domestic servant for more than 24 hours in any one week.

Where a servant is employed in a household which includes three or more children under ten years, or for a period beginning six weeks before and ending six weeks after the birth of a child in the household, no permit need not be obtained.

The restrictions will not be placed on the employment of domestic servants in rural areas. The order applies to anyone performing household or domestic duties, including gardeners and chauffeurs.

SNOWY CLARKE WINS BY KNOCK-OUT

SPLENDID boxing was enjoyed by a large crowd at Konedobu Stadium last night.

Easily the best display was put up by Snowy Clarke, experienced Victorian boxer, now with the R.A.A.F. who met Ron Davies (Army) in a bout scheduled for six two minute rounds.

Clarke's weight was announced at 10.4—144lbs., while Davies weighed in at 10.2—142lbs.

Clarke got into his stride early, plastering telling blows on his opponent, who showed early signs of wilting. The gong saved Davies at the end of the 1st. round. In the second round a sold left hander from Clarke put Davies down for the full count.

For excitement and a copious spilling of red blood, the battle of 6 rounds between Jack Cummings (11.0—154lbs), Army, and Snowy Stapleton (10.12—152lbs), Army, held pride of place. What it lacked in skill, it certainly made up for it in ruggedness and courage. Cummings made matters willing early and appeared to have the upper hand, but in the 4th round Stapleton unleashed a battery of blows that put his opponent down on three occasions. Cummings turned the tables in the 5th round and put Stapleton down twice. In round six—the last—Stapleton came good again and knocked Cummings down twice to earn a points decision.

"Skinny" Moore (U.S.A.) a ringside volunteer, (10.6—146lbs.), kept up the reputation of his country by easily outpointing Bruce Dobson, Army, (11.11—165lbs.), over six rounds. Moore had a perpetual grin which Dobson could not remove, though he tried hard enough. The American won on a technical knock-out 4 seconds before the end of the 6th round. Moore has a good idea of

the game and is obviously a boy who can be matched against a stronger opponent. Dobson showed pluck.

Len Rowlands (8.12—124lbs.), had the worst of matters with Val Newman, (8.6—118lbs.), in a four two minute round affair. Newman won on points. They are Army boys.

Stanley, Army, (10.11—151lbs.), won on points from Syd. Bates, Army, (10.8—148lbs.), in a three rounds contest.

Unexpected Blackout

Anderson, (Army), at 11.6—160lbs., defeated Everson, (Army), 11.4—156lbs.), in four rounds. These burly middleweights put on a fair display. Everson's condition and craft were better. Just after the fourth and final round had started the lights went out and the referee awarded the decision to Everson.

Charles Ashendon, Army, (9.10—136lbs.) met Stan Ellis, Army, (9.13—159lbs.), in a 4 rounder. These lads are former N.S.W. preliminary fighters and gave a good exhibition. Ashendon won on points.

Tom Sullivan, Army, (8.6—118lbs.), won on points from Tim Tracey, Army, (8.4—116lbs.), in a three rounds bout.

Alex Stanton (R.A.A.F.) figured in an exhibition bout with Reg. Clarke (R.A.A.F.). Stanton is due to fight Britt when he returns to the mainland.

Quite an interesting night's boxing was witnessed. Pluck and bulldog tenacity were more marked than boxing skill and physical fitness, but everything considered, those who made the show by their bouts deserve high commendation.

VICTORIA TO TRY RACING BY AGES

Racing by ages, but not weight for age, is to be tried at Moonee Valley next month in an effort to keep fields down to reasonable proportions, and to get rid of some of the patriarchs cluttering up metropolitan fields these days.

For the meeting on January 9, one race will be for horses six years and under, and a sprint race will be for three, four, and five years only. In another race, only senior horses, from four to six years, will be allowed to start. Perhaps in this way scores of fourth and fifth raters will be put to more useful advantage—even to delivering the daily milk, or pulling military waggons.

ITEMS FROM AMERICA

BREVITIES

"Lid May Blow Off"

A hint that "the lid may blow off Italy soon" was given by the United States Secretary of State (Mr. Cordell Hull) at a Press conference in Washington.

Challenge To Willkie

Thomas Dewey emerges as the strongest candidate for Republican Presidential nomination in 1944, according to a Gallup poll. Dewey's success in the New York gubernatorial election has placed him ahead of Willkie in the Republican voter's favor.

Plan Model Life

Reginald Gardiner, the English film actor, and Nadie Petrova, photographer's model, applied for a marriage licence in California. They plan to wed on December 6. The film actress Lynn Bari, has divorced Walter Kane, her agent.

Broker Detained

Federal Judge Rigband has held C. W. Perry, Toronto securities broker, on 500 dollars bail as a material witness in the case pending in the Federal Court against J. Woolcott Forbes and A. E. Dowson.

New Canteen Sought

The American canteen at the corner of Creek and Adelaide Streets, Brisbane, has been closed temporarily.

For some time it had been recognised that the site was not suitable, and a more convenient place is being sought.

Chaplin on Russia

"The war has taught us the truth about Russia. We now understand the Russian purges. They liquidated their Quislings and Lavals."—Charlie Chaplin at a "Salute to Russia," gathering at Chicago.

Sunk 8 Ships

The commander of an American submarine which has returned to Honolulu from Far Eastern waters, claims to have sunk eight Japanese ships, totalling 70,000 tons, and to have damaged four others totalling 25,000 tons. These were probably sunk.

Race Change at Flemington To Remove Race Congestion

A STRONG move is afoot to abolish for the duration of the war, all handicap races run over 12 furlongs at Flemington.

If its sponsors succeed, it will mean that while the war is still in progress, distances of races such as the Caulfield and Williamstown Cups, the Bagot Handicap and events of lesser importance will be 13 or 14 furlongs instead of 12. Fields in most races from the Derby start these days exceeds 20 and often extend to 25 and 26. If the distance is a furlong or two further, all horses, no matter where they are drawn, will have infinitely brighter prospects than under present conditions.

Both Harold Badger and Neville Percival enthusiastically applaud the idea and stress that it would benefit

inexperienced apprentice riders who are at present all at sea in huge fields from the 12 furlongs barrier.

If races over 13 furlongs become a wartime emergency at Flemington, a new barrier will have to be erected in the straight.

Members of the Trainers' Association, supported by many experienced senior jockeys, have protested that unwieldy fields from the present barrier are causing horses to be knocked about and ruining the chances of some of them because of scrimmaging and scrambling for position in the short run to the first turn leaving the straight. There is much to appreciate in this movement which intends to place its case before V.R.C. committee early this month.

Weather Hampering Russian Advance

AXIS SUPPLY LINE AGAIN THREATENED

ON the two main fronts the Russians are still pushing forward, but their rate of progress is slow because of bad weather conditions and stiff enemy resistance. On the Central front yesterday some villages changed hands as often as ten times.

A British Correspondent in Russia states that, if the Russian central front offensive is successful, the German lines of communication with Smolensk will be threatened.

THE Germans are striving desperately to hold up the gradual and systematic advance of the Russians, who are using large numbers of motorised infantry.

Moscow Radio says our Allies have broken through another strongly fortified zone west of Rjev, and have captured a station on an advanced railway.

In the Stalingrad area the Russians' steel vice is gradually tightening around the Germans. London commentators believe that the enemy will have to stage a counter-attack from the south-west to save Von Roth's army in this area from destruction.

Commenting on the stiffening of the German resistance on the Stalingrad front, Reuter's correspondent reports that strong forces of Soviet troops are being brought in as reinforcements.

To Train Army Cooks

AN Army Catering Corps has been formed with a noted authority on diet as director. He is Lieut.-Colonel Sir Stanton Hicks.

The Army Catering Service was previously part of the Supply and Transport section. Now it will be directly under the Quartermaster-General.

An important work of the new unit will be the training of Army cooks and caterers.

Mrs. Glencross' Plan

Mrs. Eleanor Glencross, president of the N.S.W. Housewives' Association, has decided to stand for Federal Parliament.

"I am standing as an Independent, because I believe the time has arrived when independents will have a better chance, particularly if they are women," said Mrs. Glencross.

Britain Not Consulted

The British Government was not consulted about the creation of the French Imperial council in North Africa announced by Admiral Darlan, says a message from London.

Political developments in North Africa will be among the subjects discussed soon at a secret session of the House of Commons.

AMERICAN PRODUCTION OUTSTRIPS AXIS

THE United States alone is now turning out war equipment and armaments equalling the entire production of all the Axis powers.

This news was given yesterday by Mr. Donald Nelson, chairman of the American Production Board, who said that the United Nations were now producing twice as much as the Axis powers.

The first estimate of war expenditure for this financial year was 70 billion dollars. This is equivalent to nearly £A7000 very time the clock ticks.

VICTORIA REJECTS MILITIA PLAN

REBUFF FOR CURTIN BY STATE A.L.P. EXECUTIVE

THE Prime Minister's scheme for extending the sphere of operations for the Militia in the South-west Pacific was rejected by 17 votes to 5 by the Executive of the Victorian branch of the A.L.P. yesterday.

AFTER a long discussion, the Executive agreed to a motion by Mr. Caldwell, a member of the Federal Parliament, opposing the proposal on the ground that it was fundamentally the same as that which the Labor Government rejected during the last war.

If the Prime Minister's plan is to be adopted, it must be accepted by the Party Executive in four out of six States.

N.S.W. has approved it; Victoria has rejected it; and it now depends upon the attitude of Queensland, South Australia, West Australia, and Tasmania, three of which must accept the plan if it is to become part of the Labor Party's platform.

Greece Has 30,000 Guerillas

More than 30,000 guerillas are now operating in Greece, according to latest information reaching London.

Those in Crete include British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers, who did not get away when the island was evacuated in June, 1941.

News of British and Russian victories is reported to have stimulated guerilla activities.

The Lady Came Back

ONE thing a Melbourne woman fortune teller prophesied certainly came true. She told a policewoman that she would marry a tall, dark foreign man, that she was surrounded by uniforms and that the policewoman would come back to verify her statement. The policewoman came back with a detective and in the Melbourne District Court yesterday, the fortune teller was fined £10 for having pretended to tell fortunes.

SERVICE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

Newspapers and periodicals sent to members of the fighting forces, which are unclaimed or cannot be delivered, are to be sent to service hospitals or recreational centres, or distributed amongst servicemen.

All registered parcels and packets are to be handed to the Australian Red Cross if they do not contain the sender's name. Articles of value in packages, if the addressee is dead, missing, or a prisoner-of-war, are to be sent to the next-of-kin.

The Postmaster-General (Senator Ashley) announced yesterday that the normal concession rate telegram service to and from members of the forces overseas would be suspended from December 7 to 27 inclusive.

A special Christmas and New Year greetings service would operate in its place during that period. The Minister said this step was necessary because of the serious overloading of overseas communication channels which had occurred last Christmas and New Year.

Four Meatless Days for Victoria

Victoria is to have the longest meatless break on record at Christmas, and unprecedented scenes are likely to be witnessed in the Metropolitan butchers' shops on Christmas Eve. This will be the last day before the trade goes into recess for the four days fixed by the Commonwealth as holidays.

Employees working on any holiday will have to be paid treble rates, which amount to £2/2/6 in addition to the daily wage.

CHRISTMAS TURKEY AT 2s.6d. LB.

Turkeys and other poultry will be dearer this Christmas, but suppliers estimate there will be enough for normal public demand.

Turkeys range in price from 2s 6d to 3s a lb., a prime bird costing up to 36s. Drakes will sell at 16s, 17s 6d, to £1; ducks at 8s to 10s each; roasting fowls, 6s to 12s 6d; boilers, 5s 6d to 9s.

Last year turkeys were quoted at 2s to 2s 3d a lb.

Mission For Africa

A U.S. mission will go to North Africa soon to assist in reorganising the economic life of the territories which have joined the Allies.

FIERCE JAP. OPPOSITION IN BUNA - GONA AREA

Fierce opposition is being offered by the Japanese in the Buna-Gona area, and recent bitter clashes have been fought to a finish.

THERE was no appreciable change in the general situation yesterday, although Australian troops extended their control of the beach east and west of Gona village.

Americans in the Buna area were engaged in hard fighting near the new air strip.

North American Mitchell bombers (B25s) dropped 80,000lb. of bombs on enemy positions at and near Buna. One of the fires started suggested that a large supply dump had been hit.

The bombers were followed by Havoc attack planes (A20s) which poured thousands of rounds of heavy and light ammunition into the shrinking but heavily defended coastal strip held by the Japanese.

An amendment to military regulations issued in Canberra enables a discharge to be granted to a voluntarily enlisted soldier on compassionate grounds for family reasons.