

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Saturday, December 26, 1942.

NOT FOR SALE

DARLAN ASSASSINATED BY YOUTH IN ALGIERS SHOT IN NECK AND LUNG

ADMIRAL Darlan, whose standing in international affairs in recent weeks has been obscure, was assassinated at Algiers on Thursday afternoon. He was shot at the office of the High Commissariat and died on the way to hospital. The assassin was arrested on the spot.

The B.B.C. correspondent in North Africa says that Admiral Darlan was killed by three shots fired by a youth, aged 20, who was concealed in the waiting-room opposite the Admiral's study,

At the time, Admiral Darlan was entering his office, accompanied by his aide, who also was wounded as he attempted to capture the assassin.

A NEWSPAPER report published in America, says that the first shot hit Admiral Darlan in the neck, and that the second pierced his lung.

Admiral Darlan collapsed in the arms of his aide.

An officer, described in the press report as the Commandant, arrested the assassin, who fired another two shots, one of which hit the Commandant in the knee.

In the previous few days, Admiral Darlan had paid calls on several officials, and had made courtesy calls on native chiefs.

"Murder in First Degree"

In a statement from Washington, the President (Mr. Roosevelt) described the assassination as "murder in the first degree!" The leaders of all the United Nations would agree with that statement, he said. Nazis, Fascists and military despots would do otherwise.

The President added: "I hope speedy justice will overtake the murderers."

No comment has been offered by the authorities in London, or by the Fighting French authorities.

An Allied H.Q. communique from North Africa stated:—

"Complete order reigns in Algiers notwithstanding the general indignation of the population."

A U.S. correspondent, referring to the Admiral's assassination, wrote: "This was the last appearance of the dapper little man who had tried to make himself leader of the Free French in North Africa."

The late Admiral Darlan was born on August 7, 1881. He married in 1910, and had one son.

In the Vichy Cabinet formed on February 24, 1941, and of which Marshall Petain was Prime Minister, the late Admiral Darlan was Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign

Affairs, Marine, and National and Empire Defence.

Reported Capture

When the Allies assaulted French North Africa on November 9, there was an unconfirmed report of Admiral Darlan's capture by the Allies. The same day, the Admiral issued an order to all Vichy forces in North Africa to cease fire. He was reported to have negotiated secretly with senior Allied officers. In his order Darlan said: "I assume authority over North Africa in the name of Marshall Petain."

Six days later, Marshall Petain, in a radio broadcast, deprived Darlan of his offices, and said that, in surrendering Algeria, he had acted in contravention of the wishes of the Vichy Government.

Less than a week ago it was acknowledged that there were de Gaulle and Darlan factions among the Free French. Darlan was reported to have held out the olive branch to de Gaulle by writing:—"I eagerly desire that all who wish to fight the Axis will do it in close union."

Australian Ships Quality Built

THE British Admiralty has praised the quality of vessels constructed in Australia, and has also announced that the period of completion of construction compares most favorably with that in the United Kingdom.

The Minister for Navy (Mr. Makin) said on Wednesday that vessels in commission had been well reported on. The Admiralty had stated that it fully realised the obstacles that had been successfully surmounted, and had indicated a high appreciation of the results achieved.

QUIET DAY AT BUNA

THERE was a lull on the battlefield at Buna yesterday.

General MacArthur's communique reported:

"On Christmas Day our activities were limited to routine safety precautions. Divine Services were held throughout the Command where possible."

MORE BURMA AIR RAIDS

BRITISH forces in Western Burma are moving steadily forward and consolidating communication lines through difficult country.

Allied air forces have continued their attacks on Japanese bases in Burma. On Wednesday, American bombers were over Japanese advanced headquarters in Burma, and our fighters also attacked Magive and oil refineries at Yenang Yaung.

In these and other raids no Allied aircraft was lost.

U.S. Attacks On Munda Airfield

A **N**OTHER bombing and strafing attack by American planes on the Japanese airfield at Munda in New Georgia, is announced in the latest Washington communique on the Solomons.

The communique states that results of the attack have not yet been received.

North Africa

DESERT CHASE STILL ON

FOR the third day in succession, the Cairo communique made no reference to major clashes between Axis and Allied Forces in the Tripoli area. The communique was issued on Thursday night.

Official statements, however, repeated reports that the retreating Axis forces had left an Italian rearguard at Misurata, and had continued their flight to the west.

Cairo correspondents report a pause in the desert chase. It is now known that Marshal Rommel is receiving few reinforcements. No shipping has arrived at Tripoli for two weeks, and it appears that the Germans are sending all their materials to Tunisia, evidently with the intention of holding Tunis rather than Tripoli.

General Eisenhower's communique states that the enemy has been dislodged from some high ground in the Nedjez el Bab area, and in Southern Tunisia that French troops have beaten off attacks against their newly-won positions.

About 400 miles to the south, Fighting French troops from Lake Chad have routed an enemy motorized detachment.

530 U-Boats Sunk By Navy

A MESSAGE from Washington states that a high British source has disclosed that British navy surface vessels have sunk or damaged more than 530 Italian and German submarines since the outbreak of war.

WAR SUMMARY

RUSSIA:—Soviet troops have begun a thrust in the Caucasus and are reported to have killed 3,000 Germans near Tuapse.

NORTH AFRICA:—Retreating Axis troops expected to make first stand at Tunis.

NEW GUINEA:—Allied activities routine only.

Australian Highlights and Brevities

NEW SOUTH WALES

DESPITE damage by stem rust in northern and central western N.S.W., the Marketing Bureau's final estimate for 50,000,000 bushels of wheat from this season's harvest still stands.

The Chief Instructor in the Department of Agriculture, Mr. H. C. Stening, reviewing the position, said that the damage done would be offset by increased yields as a result of favourable conditions throughout that month. The November rains, accompanied by generally cool weather, had helped to fill out the grain, especially in the later districts.

SISTER E. R. PALMER, daughter of Dr. C. R. Palmer, Main Road, Bulli, has been awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal for bravery at Malta.

WHILE in the bush at Bournda, 10 miles from Bega, W. Clarke sat down on some leaves.

He felt a wriggle underneath him and jumped up to find that he had been sitting on a death adder. He killed it.

TASMANIA

ORDERS for foodstuffs of a total value of more than £1,000,000 have been placed in Tasmania by the Army, according to the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. D'Alton).

The Minister said that the organisation to cope with the orders was well under way. The orders included many types of foodstuffs, among them, fruit juices.

THE need for maintaining at full strength the R.S.L. as an instrument in providing for the needs of soldiers who return from the present war, was stressed by the State President (Col. L. M. Mullen) at a smoke social of the Hobart sub-branch.

AS a result of the radiator of a tractor bursting, George Heather of Cockle Creek, suffered scalds to the face. He was admitted to the Royal Hobart Hospital in a serious condition.

VICTOR HALLETT (55), of Cromwell street, Battery Point, was admitted to the Royal Hobart Hospital, suffering from a fractured leg, which he sustained when he fell on a road in the Ouse district.

"One Parliament For Australia"

WITH the object of establishing in Victoria the "One Parliament for Australia" movement, Messrs. A. W. Anderson, founder of the movement, and H. Sterling have arrived in Melbourne from Sydney. Candidates are being sought to contest every seat at the next Federal election. The aim is to have a Parliament of Independents.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PLEASURE at the satisfactory results obtained in Adelaide by the change-over from buses to an early tram service for munition shift workers was expressed by the Minister for Transport (Mr. Lawson) in a statement received in Adelaide.

He said that the improvement in the loading and unloading arrangements had made it possible to despatch the trams 10 minutes earlier than with the buses, giving the workers 10 minutes earlier arrival at their homes.

THE inquest into the death of Ethel May Smith, 57, of First Street, Gawler South, whose body was discovered in a bedroom at her home on December 5, was adjourned at Gawler following an official statement that her 69-year-old husband, who has been charged with murder, was unfit to attend.

THIEVES entered the premises of Bruce Curran, butcher, of Port road, Beverley, and stole £3/10/- in cash and stamps.

Tools worth £3/1/-, the property of Henry Allenby Graefe, of Burke

Father Xmas Meets "Bogey Man"

FATHER XMAS and Mr. Dedman, Minister for War Organisation of Industry, met on the same platform at a Xmas party in Geelong, but Santa Claus had no present for the Minister, who distributed 800 gifts to children.

Mr. Dedman said that, although he might be referred to as the man who spoiled Xmas, his action had not affected seriously the children's enjoyment of it.

street, West Croydon, were stolen from Lawton and Sons, motor body builders, in Port road, Yark.

Detective Vogelsang and Plain-clothes Constable Cameron-Smith are investigating.

MORE than 98,000 penny-a-plane stamps have now been provided for children in hospitals and institutions to take part in the Comforts Fund drive.

IN a reserved judgment in the Adelaide Police Court, Mr. Ziesing, S.M., sentenced Frederick John Glastonbury, steward, of Hull street, City, to imprisonment for one month on a charge of having on September 26 been in the premises of the Amateur Billiards Association in Gawler place, City, for the purpose of betting.

WHEN intermediate students go back to school after the current holidays, the English lessons will seem strange. For the first time for many years there will be no Shakespearean play set for study for 1943. Instead, students will have three modern one-act plays, from a book of short plays issued by the London University Press.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FOR outstanding courage and daring in pressing home a low-level bombing attack on an enemy destroyer off the North African coast in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire, Pilot Officer Donald Charles Beaton, 32 years, of Perth, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Announcing the award, the Minister for Air (Mr. Drakeford) said that Pilot Officer Beaton scored three hits on the warship, causing a tremendous explosion, followed by a fire. The warship was almost certainly destroyed. He had also bombed and sunk two enemy freighters, and had always displayed excellent courage in bombing attacks.

WORRIED because he could not concentrate on his work after being an eyewitness of a fatal accident sustained by a fellow-worker, Arthur Stokes, of Nedlands, walked in front of a bus and was killed.

The coroner found that the driver of the bus was blameless.

A BIG fall of earth caused a cavity 500ft. deep on the Boulder-Perseverance mine lease.

It was due to a collapse of underground workings. The cavity is spreading, threatening the winding-engine room, air compressor, and office buildings of the mine.

The earth fall shook the Boulder block and caused a tremor in Boulder and Kalgoorlie.

WHEN a fire occurred in a yard at Henley Beach, 40 shell parrots and several smaller birds in an aviary were burnt to death.

Also destroyed were 10 ducks, a doll's house, and the contents of two sheds.

VICTORIA

FOUR occupants of a motor truck were injured in a collision with a Tramway bus at the corner of Geelong Road and Barkly street, Footscray. Patrick Desmond, 42, of Rose street, Fitzroy, was admitted to Royal Melbourne Hospital with a fractured spine. His wife, Winifred Desmond, 36, injuries to back; and Lindsay Bagne, 51, of Flinders Street, City, lacerated scalp, were detained for observation at the hospital. Bernice Truskin, 36, of Egremont Street, North Fitzroy, was given treatment for cuts and abrasions.

AT the Victorian Women's Amateur Swimming Association's championships last week-end, Judy Davies won the Victorian backstroke title for the fourth year in succession, breaking her previous record by a fifth of a second.

AMONGST the prized possessions of the late Canon Hughes, president of the Victorian Cricket Association, was a large and varied collection of tools, weapons, and ornaments of Aboriginal, New Guinea, Solomons Islands and Fijian origin.

They are being offered for sale at the rooms of the Australian Board of Missions at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne.

PRODUCER GAS FROM SAWDUST

PRODUCER-GAS units burning sawdust will soon be on English motor vehicles.

One bag of sawdust, costing 2d., will drive a lorry about 20 miles and an ordinary car or van about 50 miles.

In a test a car was driven 400 miles at a cost of 2/6 for sawdust and half a pint of petrol for making the initial start.

QUEENSLAND

THE gastric enteritis outbreak at Texas which resulted in the death early last week of two children—Mervyn Saunders (4) and Kevin Saunders (2)—has caused the death of Henry Roy Baker, 3.

The Saunders family live on the Texas side of the Dumaresque River and the Baker family on the New South Wales side. At one time there were about 11 persons, mainly from two families, in hospital at Texas. At present there are six in hospital.

AN "Ugly Sugar Man" competition held in Innisfail, raised £15- in four weeks for patriotic funds. The candidates were the managers of the district's three sugar mills, Messrs. G. R. Blair (Mourilyan), W. Richardson (South Johnston) and L. M. Smith (Goondi).

Virtually every public organisation at Innisfail participated in the drive in which votes were sold at 3d. each. Mr. Blair was the winner. At the coronation ceremony he was crowned with a large black hat by the president of the Innisfail Patriotic Fund (Mr. M. A. Vandeleur).

AS a result of the scheme recently introduced at the Collinsville State coal mine, production had been considerably increased and up to the present, the demands, particularly for the railways and for shipping, had been met, the Minister for Mines (Mr. V. C. Gair) said after a visit to the mine.

Mr. Gair expressed pleasure with the progress made to provide for the housing of the 120 additional mine workers who had gone to Collinsville.

"A survey of the construction work under the control of the Department of the Interior during October and November gives a striking indication of the extent of defence expenditure in Queensland," said Senator J. S. Collings, Minister for the Interior and Leader of the Government in the Senate.

During these two months alone financial authority for the expenditure of £2,600,000 in Queensland was given, and contracts for a further £175,000 were let.

Record Field In Today's Big Sprint At Flemington

ORTELI MAY BE BEST

From Joe Opie, "Ascot" of the "Sporting Globe."

A RECORD field of 34 will run in the Standish Handicap, rich sprint race at Flemington today. Actually 47 accepted, but 13 were balloted out. Orтели, last year's winner, may score again.

ORTELI seems to be nicely handicapped at 8.12, and she seems to have returned to her best form.

One of the good sprinters missing is Amana, but his stable mate, Millais, survived acceptances. Reception is top-weight with 9.12, and other good sprinters engaged include Crojick, Law Student, and Chatasan. It is a very open race.

Wilson will be Badger's mount in the Bagot Handicap. He has raced in almost every big handicap this season, but has rarely been anywhere near the winners. Evidently veteran Frank Musgrave still has hopes of Wilson, for he did not enter Pandect in the Bagot Handicap, although the Pantheon horse is still in training.

Has Three In Bagot

The Robertson stable is relying on Throttle, High Road, and Gay Invader. The lightweight Throttle, winner of good races at Flemington, probably will be Unkovich's mount. Mac Rob and Sir Romeo will be popular fancies on form, and both should run well.

The distance this year, a mile and three-quarters, will find out some of the doubtful stayers.

Final Acceptors

Final acceptors and barrier positions for the Standish and Bagot Handicaps are:—

STANDISH HCP.

Of £750. 6 furlongs, (2.55 p.m.). Reception, 21, 9.12; Crojick, 30, 8.13; Orтели, 13, 8.12; Law Student, 23, 8.10; Chatasan, 15, 8.8; Phoinex, 25, 8.8; Art Union, 8, 8.3; Cacique, 17, 8.1; Millais, 4, 8.0; El Reo, 6, 7.12; Moonray, 2, 7.12; Murruring, 7, 7.9; Director, 27, 7.7; Jenny Law, 26, 7.5; Celeris, 33, 7.2; Spain, 5, 7.2; Hiawatha, 1, 7.1; Nictate, 10, 7.1; Dame Law, 14, 6.13; Denko, 28, 6.13; Jocularity, 3, 6.13; Kuaka, 34, 6.13; April, 20, 6.12; Karmona, 12, 6.12; Arthur's Find, 24, 6.11; Eolian, 18, 6.11; Koonoomoon, 29, 6.11; Reserve, 16, 6.11; Bushlaw, 9, 6.9; Joe Innis, 22, 6.9; Miss Isklander, 19, 6.9; Stage Law, 32, 6.9; Florette, 31, 6.7; Haakoon, 11, 6.7.

BAGOT HCP.

Of £1000. About 1½ miles. (4.5 p.m.) El Golea, 18, 8.12; Sir Romeo, 14, 8.12; High Road, 15, 8.11; Mac Rob, 17, 8.4; Sun Belle, 1, 8.0; Portfolio, 10, 7.13; Saint Warden, 3, 7.13; Wilson, 6, 7.13; Gay Revelry, 12, 7.12; Gay Invader, 5, 7.7; Prairiedale, 4, 7.7; Throttle, 16, 7.7; Chief Watchman, 9, 6.11; Pandini, 2, 6.11; Cavallo, 19, 6.10; Hathersage, 7, 6.7; Salrina, 13, 6.7; The Macc, 11, 6.7; Timber, 8, 6.7.

FANCIES FOR RANDWICK

SEVERAL good performers are engaged in the Summer Handicap at Randwick to-day. They include Dashing Cavalier, and Grand Fils, winners of the last two A.J.C. Metropolitan Handicaps. Dewar (Tattersall's Cup), and Rimveil (Epsom Handicap).

Dashing Cavalier and Grand Fils may fight out the finish. Both are in good form, the former having won at Rosehill a fortnight ago, and Grand Fils having finished third to Riverton and Evergreen in last Saturday's Villiers Stakes.

Lambeth and Amberspear also have good recent form to their credit.

Chief sprint race will be the Chris-holm Handicap in which Mildura heads the weights with 9.8.

Final acceptors are:—

CHISHOLM HANDICAP

7f. 17yds. (3.30)
Mildura, 7, 9.8; Trimmer, 16, 9.5; Soho, 19, 8.8; Hesione, 17, 8.5; Martheus, 10, 8.4; Panchio, 3, 8.3; Lagoon, 4, 7.12; Double Birthday, 5, 7.8; John Halifax, 15, 7.4; Pannett, 11, 7.2; Faerie Queen, 18, 7.0; Irish Sea, 8, 7.0; Gallop, 13, 7.0; Montfort, 14, 7.0; Miss Hua, 2, 7.0; Flying Shuttle, 1, 7.0; Irish Express, 12, 7.0; Colonel Post, 9, 7.0; Don Byrne, 6, 7.0.

SUMMER CUP

1m. 5f. 22yds. (4.5)
Rimveil, 3, 9.7; Dashing Cavalier, 10, 9.3; Dewar, 11, 9.1; Grand Fils, 2, 8.6; Lambeth, 1, 7.7; Amberspear, 9, 7.5; Lord Valentine, 4, 7.2; War Trophy, 6, 7.0; Angus, 5, 6.13; Panurge, 7, 6.12; Enderby, 8, 6.11; Jymjon, 12, 6.10.

RELEASE OF FORMER M.L.C.

JUSTICE LUKIN, in Bankruptcy Court in Sydney on Tuesday, made an order for the temporary release from prison of Theodore Charles Trautwein, hotel-keeper, and former M.L.C., from December 25 until January 2. He will then report to the Court to await further orders. He has been confined to the Long Bay Gaol under a Contempt of Court Order.

FILM star Jackie Cooper has been sworn in for the U.S. Navy.

BIG V.R.C. FIELDS

THERE were so many acceptors for the V.R.C. races at Flemington to-day that ballots had to be conducted in three events to reduce the fields to the safety limits.

The Welter had to be divided, making seven events, for which there are 182 acceptors. This must be nearly a record for a programme of this length at Flemington.

Test "Keeper" Missing

FLYING-OFFICER C. W. WALKER, Test and S.A. cricketer, has been reported missing in air operations over Germany on the night of December 17-18.

He excelled as a wicket-keeper, and was a member of Woodfull's team which visited England in 1930. He was also included in the 1938 team. Walker joined the R.A.A.F. in 1941, and arrived in England in December of that year.

Malaria Mosquito In Victoria

THE first record in Victoria of the true malaria mosquito has been made by Mr. A. T. Hooker, Health Inspector at Ararat (Vic.), who has discovered it in Lake Bolac and in the mineral districts of the Shire.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

THE RAAF will pay two cricket matches at Lords in the 1943 season. The matches will be against Sir Pelham Warner's XI on June 5, and against the RAF in September. In addition, the RAAF will repeat last season's fixtures against the New Zealand airmen and the Combined Public Schools.

New players for the RAAF include Flying-Officer B. O'Connor, son of Queensland's wicketkeeper.

Sergeant B. Sheidow, N.S.W. left-hander, has been appointed secretary of the RAAF team.

SEVERAL of the two-year-olds nominated for the 1943 Tasmanian Guineas are Tasmanian bred. Sea Fort, owned by Mr. H. P. Rothwell, is by Bustard-Sea Offa. Mr. T. G. Johnston has a chestnut filly by Bustard from Polite. Multudo is the sire of Mowbray, a brown colt out of March the Fifth, and Mr. W. R. Menzies has nominated Lantudo, by Multudo-Lanarin. Sea Offa, Polite and March the Fifth raced in Tasmania.

RIVERTON and Hall Stand, two of the season's best three-year-olds, are racing in unusual circumstances. They are likely to go into the sale ring in the autumn as part of the estates of deceased persons.

ITEMS FROM AMERICA

THE Senate Civil Service Committee has unanimously approved a Bill providing increased pay for more than a million Federal employees, including time-and-a-half for hours worked above 40 a week, except those covered by Labor Board contracts, elected officials, judicial and Legislative employees.

The Bill provides for 10 per cent. increase in judicial and Legislative employees on all salaries to 2900 dollars a year. A similar increase to postal employees will be paid on a mileage basis.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbour 1126 Japanese residents of New Caledonia were interned, says a message from Noumea. At that time the Japanese formed more than 78 per cent. of the population. The number of foreign residents has since dropped from 1400 to 307. British now predominate.

The Ohio State Liquor Director has announced that a card system rationing liquor to a quart a day to every qualified individual will become effective on January 1.

THE New York Boxing Writers' Association has awarded Marine Corporal Barney Ross the Edward Neil Memorial Trophy, as boxing's man of the year, for heroism at Guadalcanal, where he was seriously wounded.

FORTY-YEAR-OLD E. Bartle, who is to pilot Dewar in the Summer Cup at Randwick to-day, has a splendid record in that race. He has won on Braille, King of the Forest, Dalton, Young Crusader, and Malagigi.

Last year Dewar started at odds on, but, to the consternation of his backers, he failed to gain a place.

LOUIS B. MAYER, Hollywood motion picture magnate, has sold the Australian performer, Reading, to Jack Casson, California contractor. Reading will enter J. R. Gregory's stable at Bay Meadows. Reading was successful at his first start in America.

One backer had reason to view with chagrin the success of Adjust in the Encourage Handicap in Sydney last Saturday.

Before leaving for the races he invested £50 on the mare but, on arrival at the course, he realised he had made a mistake, as he intended to back Siljust in the same race.

He left the course immediately and phoned his commissioner, altering the wager, and returned to see Adjust win.

Siljust finished in the middle of the field. The backer lost £700.

SOVIET DRIVE ON CAUCASUS

AXIS DIVISION ROUTED IN MIDDLE DON SECTOR

A NEW Russian offensive in the Caucasus was announced on Thursday night from Moscow. It was launched two days previously. Soviet troops are reported to have driven forward 12 miles and to have occupied a number of inhabited places.

It was reported earlier that the Russians had killed 3,000 of the enemy forces surrounding Tuapse, Russian Black Sea port.

SOVIET troops on the steppes in the Middle Don area, towards the Donetz Basin, have routed another German division, and have cut all the roads to Millerovo, key town on the Voronej, Rostov, Moscow railway.

They have captured a town due west of Millerovo, and another 12 miles north east.

Thursday night's Moscow communique says that Russian troops in the Middle Don area have made a further general advance bringing their total advance in nine days to between 85 and 120 miles.

5600 More Prisoners

They have occupied several more inhabited localities, including two large railway stations, and have taken 5600 prisoners.

Axis troops captured in this period on this front now total 52,200.

The Germans, on Thursday night, admitted that they were fighting defensive actions in this area against powerful and greatly superior Russian forces.

Correspondents in Moscow say the Germans have nowhere been able to counter attack in sufficient strength to weaken the momentum of the Russian Army's advances.

WOMAN MEDICAL DIRECTOR

THE appointment of a woman Medical Officer of W.A.A.A.F.s., one of 20 at present in service, to the Medical Directorate of the R.A.A.F., marks an important step forward in the plans for the complete welfare of this auxiliary service, and a recognition of the part medical women are taking in the war effort.

The woman Medical Director will undertake the inspection of all W.A.A.A.F. camps in Australia.

Unwarranted Slur

A MELBOURNE police patrol heard this message from headquarters: "Calling Car RAAF annoying girls working in factory in West Melbourne."

The patrol was moving off when this announcement came through: "Cancel last call. It was rats, not RAAF, worrying the girls."

Sicily—Sardinia Next?

"THE battle of the Mediterranean has not yet begun," states the military commentator of New York "P.M." "Naturally the next move is secret, but there are obvious limited objectives which would simplify invasion of Europe either by way of Italy or Southern France or the Balkans. The occupation of Sicily, Sardinia and possibly Corsica are vital requirements. After the capture of Tunis and Bizerta, a smashing air offensive against Sicily and Sardinia can be expected immediately.

Silly Predictions

"The current wave of optimism is a natural re-action after years of Allied setbacks, but it is not entirely justified. The North Africa coup was a victory of major proportions, but silly predictions about ending the war in January do not make sense.

"Hitler has 300 divisions of the finest troops in the world in Europe, and he holds a central position in which it will be a herculean task to defeat him. Hitler is a long way from being licked, no matter how good things look."

Cordial Factory For New Guinea

AN aerated water and cordial factory is to be established in New Guinea early next month.

This was stated in Melbourne on Thursday by an Army spokesman, who also said that, on an average Australian soldiers and airmen spend only twopence a day on beer in canteens controlled by the Australian Defence Canteen Services.

The spokesman also said that the volume of soft drinks sold had always greatly exceeded the consumption of beer. To keep pace with the demand, a number of aerated water and cordial factories had been established in forward areas by the Canteens Board.

MISSING FRIENDS

(Unless otherwise stated, owners of property mentioned may contact finders through "Guinea Gold.")
L/Cpl. Jack Fisher desires to contact John Radley.
Ray Howard is asked to contact QX 1119 Sgt. A. B. Ross.
Important information awaits Pte. V. Gilmore, resident of Annerly Road, Brisbane, at "Guinea Gold."

MAKE GUNS, LEND MONEY

ONE of the best results of Austerity Loan canvasses in industrial organisations came from the Commonwealth Munitions Department, where 20,027 of its approximately 50,000 employees subscribed £307,070—£60,000 in excess of expectations.

The number of subscribers represented one in three of total employees.

200 Questioned On Adelaide Murders

POLICE have now questioned nearly 200 people, many of them women, about the triple murder which occurred in a building in Hindley street, Adelaide, a fortnight ago.

The Acting Coroner (Mr. Zeising, S.M.) has announced that he will hold an inquest on Horace Lavis Heysed and Alan Gordon Davies, two of the victims, but that he will not hold an inquest on Edward Pate, the third victim.

It is believed that medical evidence has indicated that Heysed was the first to die, probably almost instantaneously. Pate was alive when firemen went to the building where the men were found. The firemen went to the scene to extinguish a fire which seemingly had been lit to cover traces of the crime.

The weapon used to kill the men has not been recovered.

MEXICO WILL BE IN FIGHT

MEXICO means to be in the fight when the Allies open their second front in Europe.

This was announced in Mexico City by the Minister for National Defence.

He said that commandos or rangers were being trained for overseas service, and it was hoped soon to have a contingent ready for overseas.

CHAIN-SMOKING WOMEN NERVY

MISS WILSON, a Footscray (Vic.) Canteens worker, told the Women's Employment Board in Melbourne that women working in munition factories were heavy smokers. She handles £800 worth of cigarettes and tobacco weekly.

She said that shift work made women smoke more heavily than some of the men.

A Collins Street doctor said that housewives who smoked tended to become chain-smokers and, in many cases, it was the cigarettes they smoked rather than the work they did which could be blamed for their tiredness. The average woman smoked too many cigarettes.

Smoking to excess affected the stomach and nerves and made women irritable and weary.

SOLDIERS ON SINKING SHIP SANG DITTIES

THERE was no panic among the soldiers when the troopship President Coolidge went down in the Solomons. Some of them sang ditties while awaiting rescue, wrote Ira Wolfert, the North American Newspaper Alliance's correspondent in the South-west Pacific.

"A SURPRISING number of soldiers were unable to swim," Wolfert continued. "I found a young soldier hanging on to a rope 15 feet short of the water. The coxswain shouted 'Jump.' The soldier replied, 'I can't swim.'"

"We all shouted, 'We will catch you, jump.'"

"After a profane interlude the soldier counted nine slowly, let go, hit the water off our bow, and sank like a stone. We waited with a boat-hook ready but it seemed that he would never come up.

"Finally he broke water and we hauled him aboard. Then we found that he had jumped with a fully-loaded cartridge belt around his waist, and this had carried him to the bottom.

"When he revived he spluttered, 'I told you I could not swim.'"

Officers Last To Leave

"The officers were the last to leave the ship. An Army captain had gone into the hold with the men and was too exhausted to haul himself up the rope. Another captain, a naval officer, and a civilian worker stood on the

edge of the hold and tried to haul him up.

"The last rescue boat was bobbing uneasily alongside, urging the three men to hurry. The trio, however, could not bring themselves to abandon the trapped officer.

Rescue Boat Leaves

"The rescue boat, fearful of being sucked down with the sinking ship, gave a last despairing warning. The three men did not even turn around, and the boat pulled away.

"Hundreds of men watched the scene silently, with eyes and hearts pulled to breaking-point.

"When the ship sank the heroic trio went down with her, but an air-bubble formed, throwing them to the surface and they swam to safety. The trapped captain died in the hold."

MAN'S ARM TORN OFF

JAMES CLEELAND, 40, of Renwick street, Leichhardt, had his right arm torn off by the wheel of a crane while working as dogman at Regents Park. Parramatta Ambulance took him to St. Joseph's Hospital, where his condition was stated to be serious.