

# GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Wednesday, January 6, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

## ENEMY SHIPPING SMASHED IN

### WAR SUMMARY

**NEW GUINEA:**—Allied troops close in on Sanananda.

**NORTH AFRICA:**—Fighting French repulse Axis attack at Sonnedok.

**RUSSIA:**—Progress being made by Soviet forces on all fronts. Huge captures of booty.

### NORTH AFRICA

## AXIS SPIES SHOT

A COMMUNIQUE issued by General Giraud, French High Commissioner in North Africa, states that the Luftwaffe has been dropping spies by parachute behind the Allied lines. They have been rounded up and shot.

Our armoured forces in the Medjez-el-Bab area on Monday made a reconnaissance in force without encountering effective opposition. The only other ground activity of importance was in the southern sector. The French reported that the enemy bombarded their forces at Sonnedok, following up with an attack with 30 or 40 German tanks.

Sonnedok is an important road junction about 20 miles west by south of Kairouan. The communique goes on: "After some initial enemy successes the situation was restored. Allied fighters and light bombers made heavy and effective attacks on the enemy forces. The French used American tank-destroying equipment. Two enemy bombers were destroyed on Saturday night."

There are no reports of any fresh developments in Libya, where the British Eighth Army is still pursuing Rommel's depleted forces along the road to Tripoli.

## GENERAL MARSHALL SENDS CONGRATULATIONS

GENERAL MACARTHUR has received the following message of congratulations from the United States Chief of Staff, General George Marshall.

"We are stimulated and encouraged by the news of the completing of the enemy's destruction in the Buna sector. I know the terrific difficulties under which you have operated, and the handicaps under which you initiated and staged your campaign. My thanks and congratulations to all concerned."

## RABAUL RAID

### NINE VESSELS HIT WITH 1000lb. BOMBS

AMERICAN heavy bombers wrought havoc among shipping in an attack on Rabaul harbor on Monday night. Nine vessels were destroyed for certain, and another was probably destroyed, their tonnage being estimated at over 50,000.

General MacArthur's communique announcing the raid states that a direct hit with a 1000lb. bomb was scored on a destroyer-tender with destroyer tied alongside, and eight other ships were hit with 1000lb. bombs and left either enveloped in flames or sinking.

The communique added that enemy fighters attempted interception, and that six were shot down in air combat. One of our bombers is missing.

FLYING FORTRESSES and Liberators were the planes used in the raid. On their return, members of the crews said that during the attack, the sky was festooned with A.A. bursts, and a large number of Zeros attempted interception.

Lae was again the target in yet

another attack, Mitchell bombers and Boston attack planes bombing and strafing. The pilot of one bomber believes that he scored a direct hit on the centre one of three grounded planes.

Attack planes bombed and strafed enemy installations and occupied villages in the vicinity of Salamaua, and an Allied heavy unit bombed Madang. The runway at Gasmata in New Britain was also bombed.

The communique reports that in the North-western sector our attack planes strafed roads along the north coast of Timor, and the Fuilore airfield where an enemy fighter and enemy trucks were destroyed.

## Allies Close In On Sanananda

OUR ground troops are closing in on the enemy at Sanananda, General MacArthur's latest communique reports.

Yesterday our medium bombers and attack planes bombed and strafed enemy installations causing a number of fires.

## Field Marshal Wavell



THE New Year's honors list discloses that Viscount General Gort and General Sir Archibald Wavell have both been promoted to the rank of Field Marshal.

The list includes many knighthoods and other honors for prominent industrialists and administrators.

The improved shipping position is recognised by the Companionship of Honor awarded to Lord Leathers, and the knighthood to Mr. Ralph Metcalf, director of the tanker division of the Ministry of Transport.

## Soviet Predicts Victory For Allies In 1943

THE Russians expect a decisive victory for the United Nations before the end of 1943. Broadcasting from Moscow on Monday, the Soviet Chief Political commentator, M. Viktorov, made this statement, and amplified it as follows:

"THE initiative on the eastern front and in Africa is entirely in the hands of Russia and her Allies. The British have crushing aerial superiority on the Western front. The American Army is reaching 6,000,000 men, of whom 1,000,000 are already overseas. The British Army is already the same size as the German, and is being armed with the most modern weapons, while the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition reserves are developing rapidly. Operations on the same scale as the Russo-German war will commence this year."

## Million Germans Out Of Action

MOSCOW correspondent of the British United Press states in a message on January 1, that, after the announcement of German losses for six weeks around Stalingrad, it was conservatively estimated that an army of 1,000,000 had been put out of action and enough equipment captured to equip several armies.

# Australian Highlights and Brevities

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**G**OVERNMENT action would be taken against citrus growers who had not delivered part of their crops for citrus juices, the Supply and Shipping Minister (Mr. Beasley) said in Sydney last week.

"The Government is gravely concerned for the health of the troops fighting under the difficult conditions in New Guinea," he said.

He added that the issue of citrus juices played a large part in keeping the men fit and avoiding illnesses which were so prevalent in the fighting areas.

### Sydney Dry For A Month

**T**WO of every three Sydney hotels were closed on Saturday. Half the hotels that remained open had no beer, and sold only spirits and wines.

Christmas drinking had exhausted the 40 per cent. reserve hotel-keepers had built up during the winter months.

Leading publicans say that Sydney will be practically beerless this month. The majority of hotels will be open for only two hours daily for the sale of beer.

**A**T the Wagga police court, James Gordon Murray, 33, laborer, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment on a charge of failing to attend a military call-up.

**I**T is reported from Sydney that 30,000 metal, building, meat and water-front workers were idle on Thursday despite official orders to the contrary.

All cases of idle factories are being reported to the Manpower authorities and action is likely. The men had demanded penalty rates for working.

**T**HE N.S.W. Minister for Transport, Mr. O'Sullivan, has announced that the Transport Department has cancelled the licences of some Sydney taxicabs, the drivers of which had been convicted of over-charging.

The Department had found it difficult to get convictions because passengers were reluctant to submit evidence that they had been overcharged.

**T**HE King's Police and Fire Services Medal has been awarded Sergeant-tracker Alexander Riley, of N.S.W. Police Force for distinguished conduct. In a special report to Police Commissioner Mackay, his officer said that Riley's long service since 1911 had been marked by exceptional loyalty, astuteness, policeman'ship and amazing ability as a tracker. He is the only Sergeant-tracker in N.S.W. Riley has assisted to catch cattle thieves, gaol escapees, and in one instance a murderer, and has also found many lost children in the bush.

**Read "Guinea Gold"—Then Pass it on**

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**T**HE head office of the Savings Bank of South Australia will be transferred from Currie street, Adelaide, to the bank's new building in King William street on February 1.

The new building is of nine storeys, is 156 feet high, has a depth of 212 feet, and a frontage of 105 feet. It is the biggest private building job ever undertaken in Adelaide.

**D**R. ERIC B. SIMS, has been appointed medical superintendent of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and has already taken up duty at the hospital. Dr. Sims was previously Registrar at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

**O**FFICIAL figures show that nearly 2000 more marriages were celebrated in South Australia in 1942 than in 1941. Births showed an increase of nearly 700.

**F**OUR hundred and seventy Boy Scouts from all parts of South Australia spent four days under canvas at Glenalta, at Christmas. Sixteen scout masters taught the boys to use their powers of bushcraft, initiative and resource. To test their ingenuity, the whole contingent went to the camp without food. Meat and farm produce were obtained locally.

**A**LAN EDWIN HUGHES, 18, only son of WO and Mrs. K. Hughes, of Høyleton, was fatally injured at Høyleton.

With companions, the youth had been on a rifle shooting trip, and was getting out of a motor car when a weapon held by one of his friends was accidentally discharged.

## TASMANIA

**A**T the annual meeting of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association at Hobart it was disclosed that although the association had been formed only seven months it was on a firm foundation. The membership stood at 71, including one member of the Second A.I.F. The association had affiliated with the Commonwealth body, so that there was an association in each State. A Launceston sub-committee had been formed. The credit balance was £15.

**W.** SWEENEY, who had been associated with the turf, chiefly in Tasmania as trainer and owner for 40 years, died in Malvern, Victoria on Sunday. He was born at Mathinna, Tasmania, and rode many winners for the Brock brothers, including Langloh in the Deloraine Cup.

**C**APTAIN WILLIAM SEATHE, who died at Hobart, aged 75 years, was a member of a family associated with river and coastal trading in southern Tasmania. He sailed the ketches Kathleen and Heather Bell in the trade between Hobart and the outports. As a young man he was a prominent boxer.

## VICTORIA

**E**IGHT persons were injured, two seriously, when two motor cars collided at the intersection of High street and Williams road, Malvern (Vic.). Elaine Watkins, 8 years, Milton road, Glen Iris, and Mr. James Watkins, 37 years, Marks avenue, North Fitzroy, were admitted to Alfred Hospital, the former with a compound fracture of the skull and the latter with injuries to the back and fractured ribs.

G. Howarthy, 72 years, Pearson grove, North Caulfield, Mrs. R. A. Walter, 42 years, and her two daughters, of the same address, and Mrs. Eves, 33 years, and her 6-year-old daughter, also of Pearson grove, were treated for head lacerations and shock. Both cars were extensively damaged.

**T**HE Premier has pointed out that the danger from bush and grass fires is greater than since the disastrous fires of 1939. Although country districts are better organised for the prevention of rural fires, and coping with outbreaks, the depletion of manpower in country districts has made it imperative that no unnecessary risks should be taken.

**W**ILLIAM O'MEARA, 65, of Humffray Street, Ballarat (Vic.), was driving a cart along Eureka Street when the horse became startled and bolted. O'Meara fell to the roadway. He died before reaching the hospital.

**I**N the 41st year of her religious profession, Sister Mary Immaculate (Susie Carmody), of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford (Vic.), has died. Solemn Requiem Mass was held at the convent chapel.

**U**NLESS the Manpower authorities ceased calling nurses away from civilian duties, suffering and serious discomfort would be caused, said Sir James Barrett, president of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association.

He added that the position would be somewhat relieved if nurses, engaged in other than nursing work, were recalled. With the higher salaries now operating, there was no financial reason why they should not rejoin the profession.

**T**HERE is no acute bottle shortage in Melbourne, but there is a shortage of labor to clean and distribute bottles banked up in marine dealers' yards. Sufficient new bottles are being manufactured to satisfy all demands, and soft drink merchants have all the bottles required because of the restrictions in manufacture.

**A** BUNDLE of bags which fell from a goods train is believed to have derailed a truck which caused an accident on Thursday night, when a passenger train crashed into the back of a goods train between South Kensington and Footscray. Five passengers in a Melbourne-bound electric train were admitted to hospital with serious injuries and 20 others were treated for shock and lacerations.

## QUEENSLAND

**H**OTEL and guest house proprietors have issued a warning to country visitors about the accommodation position prevailing in Brisbane. They said that country visitors should arrange accommodation before coming to Brisbane. Many country people had come to Brisbane and taken a risk about getting accommodation, they said. The manager of one city private hotel said that he had turned away as many as 50 in one day.

**T**HE net revenue of the Postmaster-General's Department in Queensland for the six months, July 1 to December 31, 1942, totalled £1,823,676, an increase of £431,460 compared with the figure for the corresponding period in 1941, when the total was £1,392,216.

Last month the revenue was £349,721, or £77,636 over the figure for the corresponding month in 1941, which was £272,085.

**M**R. CECELIA BELL of Stratton Terrace, Manly, celebrated her hundredth birthday on Sunday. She does not wear glasses, but occasionally when reading small print uses a magnifying glass. Until recently she was also a keen knitter.

Mrs. Bell was born at Dundee, Scotland, on January 3rd, 1843. She came to Queensland in 1873 in the sailing ship Greater Queensland, with her husband, the late Mr. Robert Bell, who died 36 years ago.

### DESERVED TO GET IN

**J**AMES CRAWFORD, 17, of Kihce Station, Eromanga, Queensland, swam a swollen river, walked 30 miles and travelled 700 miles by lorry and train to join the R.A.A.F.

Arriving in Brisbane for the first time in his life, he found his way to the R.A.A.F. recruiting depot, where he offered his services in any capacity.

His one wish was to "get a Jap," but he was rejected.

**D**ALBY has had two floods in 10 months. As sufficient warning was received on the second occasion, stock losses were negligible.

There was some damage to roads and fences, particularly to the approaches of the Patrick and Drayton Street bridges, where the bitumen was undermined and the railings were torn away.

**W**ILLIAM JOHN HURLEY, 23, married, of Somerset Street, Windsor, was drowned in the swimming enclosure at Shorncliffe late on Friday afternoon in about 4ft. of water. It is thought that he collapsed while swimming with his wife.

**B**RISBANE had 1752 points of rain in December, compared with an average of 481 points.

# Admiral Halsey Prophesies Japan's Defeat This Year

Victory for the United Nations and absolute defeat of the Axis, including Japan, this year, was prophesied by Admiral William Halsey, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied naval forces in the South Pacific, in a sensational interview at his battle headquarters, writes Winston Turner, War Correspondent with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific.

ADMIRAL HALSEY declared: "Japan will collapse this year. We are definitely passing to the offensive and we have the initiative. I hope to see the United Nations' offensive in all parts of the world in a very short space of time."

It was the most remarkable interview I have ever had with a United Nations leader, says Turner.

Admiral Halsey oozed confidence and good humor and three times we six correspondents asked him if he really believed that the war would end in 1943. Each time he replied, "Definitely."

He began his interview, interlarded with colourful cusswords, with these vigorous sentences: "I have a message I would like you to pass on to Hirohito, that they call the 'Son of Heaven.' Tell him, as Emperor and leader of a traitorous and brutal Japan during the years of her foul attacks on peaceful peoples, 'Your time is short.'"

"Tell Premier Tojo that when he released the treacherous and cowardly attack on December 7 he started something that, before he is finished, will make him wish he had died as a baby."

## Writing On The Wall

Asked: "Do you expect intensive bombing of the mainland of Japan in the near future?" Admiral Halsey replied: "I sincerely hope so—bombing from all sides."

Admiral Halsey was asked if he expected another major sea action in the Solomons. He said: "I foresee an action wherever we find them."

I asked him: "Do you imply by that, that the Japanese are getting harder to find?"

"Exactly," he replied, adding: "If the Japanese don't quit, I foresee all their ships will end up in Davy Jones' locker."

## LOST & FOUND

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

FOUND.—Leather Wallet, cont. Wrist Watch, and P.N.'s, payable to QX21830, Pte. R. I. Osborne.

LOST.—Shirt, cont. Paybook, QX32545, G. H. James.

## MISSING FRIENDS

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

NX96694, Sig. Francis, C. D., wishes to contact D. Woolford and G. Foseland.

Harold Reay and Tom Rudge, both of Dudley, Newcastle, are asked to contact N286265, Pte. N. Cockburn.

Ivan Hadgett, of Cobargo, N.S.W., is asked to contact Pte. W. Heaker.

## THREE SOLDIERS DROWNED

THREE soldiers were drowned during military manoeuvres at Glen Innes (N.S.W.). The men, all Queenslanders, were L./Cpl. Morris Hoare Barlow, and Ptes. Ed. Woolgar and Vincent Kelly.

The soldiers were marching in single file over a flooded ford when they came to a part deeply scoured by recent floods.

Woolgar and Kelly were swept into water 20ft. deep, carrying heavy equipment. Barlow attempted to give assistance to Kelly, and both disappeared.

## Chevrons For N.G. Men

MEMBERS of the A.I.F. and C.M.F. (Militia) who have served in New Guinea or Papua since January 1, 1942, except those who have gone there on visits of a temporary nature, will be entitled to wear one blue chevron, with an additional chevron for each completed year of service in those areas.

This has been announced by Headquarters Allied Land Forces on behalf of Commander-in-Chief (General Sir Thomas Blamey), states a message from Melbourne.

## Undelivered Mail

UNDER this heading each day will be published the names of servicemen for whom unclaimed mail is waiting at the Base Post Office. Personnel concerned should notify their address to Base Post Office so that this mail may be forwarded:—

Q145889, Dalton, Pte. H.; N15286, Dixon, Pte. W. R.; NX118024, Doolin, Pte. C. C.; N170818, Darling, Pte. J.; N90759, Douglas, Pte. A. J.; V123072, Dowling, Gnr. R. T.; SX16991, Davis, Cpl. E. F.  
N240865, Eacott, Pte. C. J.; 232843, Evans, L. W.

N17152, Flegg, L/Cpl. B. C.; NX116555, Foy, Pte. M. F.; NX1235663, Foster, Pte. R. E.; N213218, Forsyth, Pte. K.

VX67851, Gordam, Gnr. F. G.; N177060, Gordon, Pte. K. E.; VX19732, Gordon, Gnr. A.; NX80400, Gibson, Spr. W.; NX85651, Gibson, Pte. W.; VX56204, Giddings, Pte. A. W.; Q101769, Galanis, Pte. S. G.; V56627, Guest, Spr. C. W.

## THE OROKAIVA

BY F. E. WILLIAMS

"OROKAIVA" is only a nick-name. Among primitive people it is often found that large groups, whom we can easily recognise as "all one kind," have no general name for themselves. The smaller groups, or tribes, that go to make the whole "people" do have such names.

SO there are the Binandele, the Aiga, the Hunjovarehu and nine or ten other jaw-breakers, all tribes that go to make up the Orokaiva. But the Orokaiva at large simply had no name. They would say, "We are the proper people or the real men. Those fellows up in the mountains are somewhat different. They cannot speak properly because their mouths are crooked or their tongues wobble. We do have names for them—Biagi, Wowonga, Managalasi, and so on. But for ourselves, we don't need any name." The fact is that they were rather a world unto themselves; they named themselves simply "us."

When we meet this sort of thing, we just have to invent a name. It has been done many times in Papua. For instance, there are the "Gusiagu" of the D'Entrecasteaux Islands. Somebody called them Gusiagu for the simple reason that they were often heard using that expression. It means only "My friend," and was their common way of addressing strangers.

Then there are the "Suki" of the Fly River. We gave them that name because they always shouted "Suki, Suki!" when any white man visited them. The word means originally the dagger made from the thighbone of the cassowary; and when these people saw the new-fangled steel knife of the European, this bone dagger was the only thing in all their stocks of tools they could compare it to, so they called the knife a "suki", and when they shouted the word they were merely asking the European to come across with a present. That is what got them their nick-name of "Suki," and it has been accepted and has stuck. Nowadays, any one of those big black-bearded men who paddle their long canoes about the lower middle Fly will smack himself on the chest and say, "Yes. I am a Suki."

Similarly with the people of the Northern Division. Forty-nine years ago, when Sir William McGregor first ascended the River Mambare, he was greeted with cries of "orokaiva!" He called it the "password" and suggested it meant "man of peace." "At all events," he wrote, "it puts one on a friendly footing." Ever since that time (and no doubt long before) the people have been in the habit of crying "orokaiva!" (or more often simply "oro, oro!") when strangers native or European, enter their villages. Some tribes have other calls

such as "tepo!" and "javau!"; but "orokaiva!" is very general, from the north end to the south end, and so it came to be given as a nick-name to all the people of the Division.

It was never made clear what the word meant in itself. Sir William was certainly not right in saying it meant "man of peace," though it may amount to much the same thing. There is, however, a round-about explanation that may meet the case. If you were to visit the villages off the beaten track, where the tide of war has not been flowing, you would see some carefully-tended plants here and there among the houses, often surrounded by a little fence to prevent people walking over them; they are plants with broad soft leaves and small pink flowers; in fact, native tobacco. If you ask the name you may, it is true, hear a good many alternatives—kuku, hajojo, tonaki, masati, etc.—but perhaps the commonest of all is "orokaiva." It is possible, therefore, that when the villagers cried out "orokaiva!" on the stranger's approach they were merely inviting him to sit down and smoke the pipe of peace.

The writer of this article made a good many enquiries among the Orokaiva themselves, but none of them was ever able to give any explanation of what the "password" meant. In fact, they used to get rather impatient at being asked, saying: "It hasn't any meaning at all; it's just what we sing out!" So the explanation given above is only a guess. And there is one thing that makes it rather doubtful. The tobacco plant, as well as the queer habit of burning its dried leaves and inhaling the smoke, had got to Papua only a short length ahead of the white man (having passed West to East from America over three-quarters of the earth's circumference.) In the northern Division it was a pre-European habit, but only just, for there were parts of the Orokaiva country where tobacco was still unknown when the whites got there, and that was only half a century ago. It is a question which came first, "orokaiva" the tobacco or "orokaiva" the "password."

But it doesn't matter. They both, so to speak, hold good. If you enter one of those northern villages, the people will still probably call out: "oro, oro, orokaiva!" because they mean to welcome you. And if you respond with some of your own "orokaiva" in the form of tobacco, you will get on famously.

## War History Condensed

TO meet the demand for a condensed edition of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, for the purposes of popular reading, a short abridgement may be written by Dr. C. E. W. Bean, Australia's historian of that war.

## TWO AIRMAN KILLED

FLIGHT-Sergeants Raymond C. Charlton, 20, of Yarralumla (A.C.T.), and William E. Littlejohn, 24, of Shenton Park (W.A.), were killed when a plane from a Victorian R.A.A.F. station crashed near Ballarat while on a test flight last Thursday.



# 2,000,000 SHELLS CAPTURED BY RUSSIANS

## BIG HAUL OF OTHER BOOTY

**C**HERNYSHKAEVSKAYA, an important town and railway junction 125 miles west of Stalingrad, has been taken by the Red Army.

Its capture suggests that large forces are mopping up in the Middle Don region. At this important railway junction the Russians captured 17 undamaged planes, two million shells, half a million bombs, and supply dumps. Much booty was also taken.

**I**MPORTANT progress has also been made by the Red Army at other points. The ordinary Moscow communique, issued at midnight on Monday, says:

"The Russians on the Middle Don, south-west and south of Stalingrad, on the Central Front and on the Northern Caucasus, continued their offensives in the same direction. In the factory area of Stalingrad we destroyed German fortifications, and wiped out 200 of the enemy.

In the south-west and south of Stalingrad we captured a number of inhabited localities. A motorised unit dislodged the Germans from an important position, killing 300. The Germans abandoned two tanks and 14 guns."

The communique continued: "On the Middle Don Front we tightened the ring around the besieged garrison, and repelled repeated counter-attacks, killing 1000 men and disabling or destroying 24 tanks.

On the Central Front we carried out offensives on some sectors, and consolidated positions elsewhere. South-west of Veliki Luki we broke into inhabited places where street fighting is taking place."

A German report says that the Russians have also launched a powerful attack inside the Black Sea port of Novorossisk. In other Caucasus advances the Germans swept past Novorossisk, and were believed to have reduced the garrison. If the present report is true, they must have failed to do.

## Numbers To Beat Ship "Leaks"

**I**N future merchantmen carrying cargoes overseas from British ports will not be known by name. Each will be allocated a number by the War Transport Ministry.

This new regulation follows allegations in Parliament that the destination of convoys has been revealed by port names stamped on cargoes.

## 10 Charged Over Boston Holocaust

**T**EN people—including the City Building Commissioner, a police inspector and a fire lieutenant—have been indicted by the Grand Jury in connection with the fire at the Coconut Grove night club, at Boston, on November 28, when 432 people were killed.

## "Bazooka" -- A War Weapon

**T**HE new York Times' Washington correspondent wrote on January 1, that the Chief of Ordnance of the United States Army (Major-General Campbell) had disclosed to journalists a secret weapon, of which a quantity is being produced, and which "will make the American soldier the most dangerous fighter in the world."

Major-General Campbell added that the nature and the construction of the weapon, which the Yankees already have nicknamed "Bazooka," cannot be revealed—but "Bazooka" will make the most hair-raising exploits of the last war tame.

No other country possesses anything to compare with it.

## Darlan's Assassin Tells Why

**A**DAMIRAL DARLAN'S 20-years-old assassin said before his execution that he shot Darlan because of his hatred of him and Marshal Petain.

This was revealed on Thursday by the United States Secretary for War (Mr. Stimson).

Mr. Stimson said that the threats of further assassinations were "quite disturbing."

The new French High Commissioner in North Africa (General Giraud) said on Wednesday that those who plotted to kill Darlan also intended to kill him (Giraud) and General Frank Murphy.

## Australia Builds 9000-Tons Ship

**A** MERCHANT vessel of 9000 tons was launched on Saturday at an Australian yard. All the equipment and fittings, except the navigation instruments and certain engine parts, were made in Australia.

Mrs. McKell, wife of the Premier of N.S.W., performed the launching ceremony, and named the ship after a well-known Australian river.

The Minister for the Navy, Mr. Makin, expressed the hope that Australia would become a ship-building country.

## U.S. SHADES OF DRAKE

**A** U.S. submarine commander, who is also an expert bridge player, was interrupted during a recent game by a report that an enemy ship had been sighted, says the New York Times correspondent with the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour.

The commander carefully laid down his cards, went to his battle station, and sank the enemy vessel.

Then he returned, picked up his bridge hand, and scored a grand slam.

## Zukhov Replaces Timoshenko

**I**T is revealed in an A.A.P. message from London, dated January 1, that the man behind the big Russian victories west and south-west of Stalingrad is General Zuhkov, the man who worked "the miracle of Moscow" in the winter of 1941, when the Russians stemmed and broke the German attacks on the Soviet capital.

This revelation was made by William Downs, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, in a radio talk from Moscow to America.

General Zuhkov's appointment to take over from Marshal Timoshenko was a well-kept secret. It is not known what Marshal Timoshenko is doing at present.

## Leave In N.G. When Possible

**S**ENATOR GORDON BROWN said in Brisbane on Friday that, in reply to a question concerning leave for members of the fighting forces serving in New Guinea, the Army Minister (Mr. Forde) had told him that while certain troops may have been stationed there for two years without home leave, the number would be comparatively small.

Mr. Forde had added, Senator Brown said, that earlier in the year a leave scheme was introduced embracing all troops who had served in New Guinea for 18 months or longer, but, unfortunately, because of operational requirements, that arrangement had had to be suspended in July.

Recreation leave would accrue to all personnel serving in New Guinea on the basis of two days a month, and it would be granted as soon as relief could be provided.

## NEW YEAR HONORS

**T**HE Governor-General (Lord Gowrie) has announced that Commonwealth New Year honors have been conferred on 22 members of the Australian fighting services. They include four members of the R.A.A.F. who have been awarded the Air Force Cross.

Lieut.-Gen. V. A. H. Sturdee, C.B.E., D.S.O., former Chief of the General Staff in Australia, and now head of the Australian Military Mission at Washington, has been awarded the Companion of the Bath.

Other honours are: C.B.E. (MILITARY DIVISION) Paymaster-Captain Charles Parker (R.A.N.). Air Commodore Francis Bladin (R.A.A.F.).

OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE Commander Norman Calder (R.A.N.). Lieut.-Col. Walter Balchin (A.M.F.). Lieut.-Col. Harold Langford, M.C. (A.M.F.). Group-Capt. Thomas Marsden, D.S.O. (R.A.A.F.). MEMBER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Lieut.-Commander Francis Bayldon (R.A.N.R.). Lieut. Albert Edwards (R.A.N.). Major Roy Lenton (A.M.F.). Lieut. Herbert Hannaby (A.M.F.). Lieut. Eric Smith (A.M.F.). Warrant-Officer Stanley Dickens (A.M.F.). Squadron-Leader Gerald Jensen-Muir (R.A.A.F.): Flight-Lieut. George McCrae (R.A.A.F.). Flying-Officer Reginald Wood (R.A.A.F.).

AIR FORCE CROSS Squadron-Leader Colin Strickland (R.A.A.F.). Squadron-Leader John Macdonald (R.A.A.F.). Flight-Lieut. Raymond Winter, deceased (R.A.A.F.). Temporary Warrant-Officer John Morrison (R.A.A.F.). BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL (MILITARY DIVISION) Temporary Corporal Stanley Cummings (R.A.A.F.).

## U.S. WARSHIP'S INGENUITY

**T**HE destroyer McFarland has arrived in a U.S. port under its own power, with a temporary stern and jury rudder fashioned of telephone poles, which were installed in the Solomons, states an A.A.P. message from Washington.

Nine Japanese torpedo planes caught the vessel in the channel between Guadalcanal and Tulagi on October 16, while she was transferring petrol to tugs.

Much of the petrol cargo was saved, but casualties were heavy, and included walking wounded from Guadalcanal.

## U.S. Plans Vast War Expansion In 1943

**T**HE U.S. plans to double its munitions production in 1943. Factories will be geared to produce twice as many planes, with emphasis on bombers. The tonnage of merchant shipping construction is to be more than double that of last year.

A vast programme for increased production of combat ships and escort vessels will also be carried out.