

# GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Sunday, January 17, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

## RUSSIANS CLAIM SUCCESSES ON LONG FRONT: NAZI RETREAT SPEEDS UP



THE transfer of Lieut.-General F. Herring to New Guinea was one of the best-kept secrets of the campaign," says the Melbourne "Sun," commenting upon General MacArthur's recent announcement of D.S.C. awards to senior officers who shared the direction of the Buna-Gona operation.

"This was the first official announcement of his promotion and presence in New Guinea," says the "Sun."

Lieut.-General Herring, who was a Victorian Rhodes scholar and King's Counsel, left Australia in 1939 as commander, Royal Australian Artillery, 6th Division, with the rank of brigadier. Later, he was appointed commander of the 6th Division, with the rank of major-general.

"When General Sir Thomas Blamey reorganised the Australian land defences, after consultation with General MacArthur, Lieut.-General Herring was selected for a highly important command, which was not disclosed at the time.

It was stated, however, that he might again see active service."

### BOMBERS, SPITFIRES RAID CHERBOURG AND LORIENT

BRITISH bombers, accompanied by Spitfires, made a heavy raid on Cherbourg on Friday. No fighter interception was encountered. The raid was made in daylight a few hours after a heavy attack on Lorient, which is the most important enemy submarine base in France.

U-boats are not built there, but major repairs are undertaken so that submarines no longer have to return to Germany for overhaul.

A few German raiders flew over the south-east coast of England on Friday and dropped bombs on a small town. Casualties included a few killed.

IN a more than ordinarily detailed communique issued at midnight on Friday, Moscow reported further gains by the Red Army on almost all fronts. The communique says:—

"On Friday in the Northern Caucasus we captured the town and railway station of Bladodarne, 60 miles north of Jeorgievsk and 75 miles east of Stabropol. We also captured the town and railway station of Alexandrovskaya (50 miles north of Pystigorsk), three other large inhabited places and a district centre.

"Our advanced units penetrated deeply into the enemy's rear, and destroyed his lines of communication. We completely routed the enemy's attempt to stem our advance, killing about 500, taking 400 prisoners, and also capturing booty which included 36 tanks, 1200 lorries, three trains laden with lorries, five trains laden with military equipment, and one laden with cattle.

### Australian Unionists To Visit U.K.

THE Federal Government has offered to pay the transport costs of an Australian Trades Union delegation to Britain.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin), in making this announcement last night, said the Government had approved the proposal of the British Council of Trades Unions to hold a congress in London, beginning in about three months' time.

WE captured 10 engines and 200 railway trucks in the northern Donetz. We also captured six inhabited localities including Litvinovka (60 miles north-west of Millerovo) and Glubokaya (35 miles south of Kotelnikovo). In the Stalingrad factory area our assault troops repelled counter-attacks and advanced 700 yards, clearing several more streets and wiping out 600 Germans in one sector alone.

"WE FOUGHT A FIERCE BATTLE ON THE LOWER DON, CAPTURING SEVERAL LOCALITIES AND REPELLING COUNTER-ATTACKS. NORTH-WEST OF VELIKI LUKI, WE ALSO REPULED ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACKS, INFLECTING HEAVY LOSSES AND TAKING 500 PRISONERS.

### High Jinks On The High Seas Alleged At Errol Flynn's Trial

AT the trial of Errol Flynn, Australian-born film actor, on two charges of rape, the Deputy District Attorney (Mr. Cochrane) told the jury that Betty Hansen would testify that she met Flynn at a dinner party in a house occupied by Fred McEvoy, Bruce Cabot, the movie star, and another man. She would swear that Flynn gave her a drink of some kind of liquor and later took her upstairs, locked the door, undressed her, and attacked her.

"ON August 1, 1942," the prosecutor continued, "Flynn took Peggy Saterlee, Buster Wiles and a woman Wiles had picked up at a sandwich stand aboard a yacht. Saterlee will testify that Flynn walked into her stateroom when she was scantily clad, and said he wanted to talk to her. Saterlee asked: 'Why pick on a nice girl?' Flynn kept coming forward. Saterlee was frightened. Flynn attacked her. Afterwards, he handed her a bathrobe, took her on deck, and gave her a glass of milk."

helped her on to a bunk to see the moon. He began undressing her. She kicked and scratched without avail.

Flynn's counsel (Mr. Giesler) told the jury he would prove that Flynn was innocent. He said the defence would attempt to prove that Betty Hansen was so keen on getting movie roles that she was willing to resort to intimacies. Mr. Giesler denied that Flynn violated her or Peggy Saterlee.

He said that Saterlee was unemployed at the time of the cruise, and was living with a sister in the apartment of a man about 40.

Flynn frowned frequently throughout the hearing, occasionally biting his finger nails. He jotted down frequent notes in a leather bound diary.

The hearing was adjourned until next Thursday.

CORRESPONDENTS say that the amount of equipment that the Germans are abandoning disposes of the theory that they are voluntarily shortening their lines. Five hundred wagon loads of bombs and shells, new aeroplane motors and planes were found on a mile and a half stretch of railway in the Caucasus, and 200 more waggons containing ammunition, tanks and planes on a neighboring stretch.

Small and hungry groups of Germans are reported to be wandering about the Don steppes seeking an opportunity to surrender. Some of them are attempting to pass themselves off as Rumanians, Hungarians and even as Poles.

There is still no confirmation of German reports of a Russian offensive near Leningrad, but references in the Moscow midnight communique of the capture of Litvinovka and Glubokaya, both of which are north of Millerovo, appear to confirm the German claim of a new offensive in the Voronej area.

### Back Taxes Will Have To Be Paid

IN 15 months of office, the Commonwealth Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) has not received one complaint about taxation from the troops, he claimed yesterday. He said that members of the forces would be expected to meet all their tax commitments eventually, including those incurred before enlistment or call-up.

# News In Brief From The Mainland

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEVERAL headmasters, as well as teachers and pupils, are spending their holidays at work in South Australian munitions factories. At least one clergyman and several theological students are also spending the vacation making parts for guns, tanks, and other munitions.

FIVE men were each fined £3, with 10/- costs, in the Adelaide Police Court on charges of having unlawfully played poker at the Maltese Club, in Hindley Street, City. They were Rasim Emin, laborer, of Hindley Street; Nikolai Koleff, gardener, of Owen Street, Woodville; Haki Suloman, sewerage hand, of Hindley Street, and Robert Allan Haigh, wickerworker, of Morphett Street.

FIGURES just issued show that war production and other factory work in South Australia last year exceeded £62,000,000 in value, against £43,000,000 the previous year. Sixty-eight thousand persons were employed, compared with 50,000 in 1941.

MEMBERS of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force in South Australia will soon have their own service police. Assistant Section Officer L. Dickson, who is attached to Service Police headquarters in Melbourne, has been selecting likely candidates. She will return to Melbourne today.

GERALD BURTON, salesman, of the Southern Cross Hotel, Adelaide, was fined £5, with 10/- costs, when he pleaded guilty to a charge of having unlawfully obtained liquor from the Hotel Richmond at 12.45 a.m.

EDWARD MICHAEL TEAGUE, munition worker, of Gies Street, Adelaide, and two Victorian soldiers, Murray George Bradley and James Smith Freak, were committed for trial last week on a charge of having broken and entered the wine shop of Caroline Mann, of Hanson Street, City, and stolen 12 bottles of wine and nine flacons of wine.

IN the next few weeks hundreds of South Australian skilled tradesmen will be called up, medically examined, and transported to other States for constructional activities under the supervision of the Allied Works Council.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### WILD FIG TREES MAY SOLVE OUR RUBBER PROBLEM

MR. V. JOHNSON, M.P., said in Kalgoorlie that the wild fig tree, which grows in profusion along rivers in the north-west of Western Australia might provide an answer to Australia's rubber shortage.

The tree grows to a height of more than 40 feet, and exudes a milky material which contains a crude latex.

## MONSTER GAOLED

CHARLES NORMAN SUTTON pleaded guilty at Perth to charges of rape against a young married woman, using personal violence against 72-years-old Mary O'Gorman, and breaking, entering and stealing, and was committed for sentence.

The rape victim said that after his attack, Sutton forced her to provide him with a meal. Mrs. O'Gorman described a struggle with him which ended when he hit her on the head, saying, "That will quieten you." Sutton was sentenced to three years' gaol for escaping from custody, and two years for a series of petty thefts and robberies.

## CHILDRENS' DEATHS CAUSED BY STRANGE ACCIDENTS

### NEW SOUTH WALES

A BOBBY PIN, swallowed nine months ago by a two-year-old girl, caused her death in St. George (N.S.W.) District Hospital. The child was Lynette Clarice St. Leger, of Princes Highway, Blakehurst, and she was in good health until about three weeks ago when she suffered severe pains and attacks of vomiting.

A post-mortem examination showed that a bobby pin was obstructing the lower bowel. Bobby pins were one of the few foreign bodies which failed to negotiate a curve in the bowel like a hairpin bend, said a Macquarie street specialist.

ENGLISH-BORN Mrs. Elizabeth Birrell, of Heathcote (N.S.W.), who celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, wants to meet the great G. B. Shaw. "Like Mr. Shaw, who knows what it is to find a slug in his salad, I am a strict vegetarian," Mrs. Birrell said. She had 10 children, and now has 29 grandchildren. There was nothing like having children to keep you fit and strong, she added.

AFTER spending six months in a lonely hut a mile up Mount Kosciusko on the banks of the Snowy River, and 40 miles from Jindabyne, the nearest village, Mrs. C. L. A. Abbott, wife of the Administrator of the Northern Territory, has returned to Alice Springs, where she will make her home at the Residency. In her mountain retreat, Mrs. Abbott wrote a book on her experiences in Darwin. The manuscript has been sent to London.

TWO women from Malaya have started a shopping service for the eastern suburbs which is believed to be the first of its kind. They call the service the "Peggie and Topsy War Workers' Errand Service." For 5/ they will do the families' whole shopping, including one trip to the city on two days a week.

One day's shopping cost 3/. The service has proved popular, especially with women munitions workers.

SEVERAL VICTORIAN guest houses have been compelled by the Prices Branch to make refunds to guests following investigations into allegations of overcharging.

FALLING INTO a vat of hot water while working at a jam factory in Richmond, William Dell, 18, Simons street, South Yarra, suffered severe scalds and was admitted to Alfred Hospital where he died next day.

## BARON IN BREWERY

A YOUNG Belgian baron, who could not speak English when he came to Australia in May, 1941, has passed in three Leaving examination subjects in Perth. The baron, 18-year-old Etienne de Crombrugge, got distinction in French. His father, Baron Marcel de Crombrugge, and sister, Baroness Chanpal de Crombrugge, work in a brewery at Merredin, about 150 miles east of Perth. The family are refugees from Java, where the elder baron had a rubber plantation.

SINCE an outbreak of swine fever was discovered in Western Australia on October 28, nearly 10,000 pigs, valued approximately at £30,000, have been slaughtered.

### VICTORIA

AT an inquest at Melbourne City morgue the opinion was expressed by Constable Callinan that a five-year-old boy had fallen into a copper of hot water, and collapsed after clambering out. Callinan said the lid had been found on the copper, but he believed it had fallen back into position after the boy had climbed out. The Coroner found that Brian Noble, of Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, met his death accidentally on December 22.

The mother of the boy said she had put a fire under the copper early in the morning, and later had used half of the water in it for washing. She found that her son was wet and, when undressing him, found he was severely scalded on the back and side.

## New X-Ray Plants For Army

WITH a capacity for treating 1000 men a day, at the rate of seven a minute, a mobile X-ray has been built by Mr. E. C. Lyall, of Melbourne. The army has ordered five.

Claimed to be the first of its kind, it is the outcome of a pre-war hobby of Mr. Lyall's in building trailers, and was started four years ago. It cost £2500.

The interior of the trailer is the replica of an X-ray theatre in a hospital. The master switch controls ceiling fan vents, a transformer capable of 100,000 volts, and 14 power points. There is 75 miles of wiring in the plant. Included is a dark room, fitted with taps for running water, dryers and necessary appliances.

## PLT.-LIEUT. JACK LYLE MACALISTER, R.A.A.F.

formerly of Essendon, is to have a Northern Territory aerodrome named after him in recognition of his distinguished service in the area. Macalister, who was a champion swimmer at Geelong College, was shot down over Timor last March and is now listed missing, believed prisoner of war.

SOUTH MELBOURNE detectives have seven 20-dollar bills (£48), which a 15 year old boy told them he had stolen from a U.S. navy rating at West St. Kilda foreshore one night last week. The boy said that the notes were in a wallet with the initials D.M. on it, and he thought the sailor was a Californian.

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DURING the week, 200 University students left Melbourne for Shepparton—the first batch to be sent under the students' fruit-picking scheme. Of this number 80 men are now doing tomato picking and 120 women are canning tomatoes at a factory there.

### QUEENSLAND

THE Victorian Branch secretary of the Seamen's Union (Mr. J. O'Neill) has been defeated for that position by Mr. W. Bird, the present Mr. F. Kennedy, former Townsville secretary of the Queensland branch. Mr. O'Neill said that the constant activities of Communists directed against him had been responsible for his defeat.

THE Home Security Minister, Mr. J. Hanlon, has stressed the need for civil defence workers to be always on the alert, and ready for service. He said on Friday that, though the possibility of the enemy landing and sweeping over Australia had, to a large extent, been removed, that did not lessen the likelihood that, angered by the frustration of his major objective, the enemy would attack coastal centres by plane raids and shelling from submarines.

THE nutron of a Brisbane private hospital has complained that she could not get whisky which had been ordered by a doctor for a patient 82 years of age. "Although I went to many hotels and to the Customs and showed the doctor's certificate," she said, "I was unable to get one drop. At the hotels they told me that the certificate must be stamped by the Customs authorities, but at the Customs House they would not stamp it for me. No reason for this refusal was given."

THE first instalment of the £2,000,000 of Commonwealth subsidy to the dairy industry is expected to be received by the butter and cheese factories, before the end of this month, for distribution to farmers. Queensland's share for 12 months to June 30 will probably exceed £400,000.

LATEST war-time "bad habit," souveniring spoons and crockery, is hitting Brisbane's already hard-pressed cafes, causing irreplaceable shortages. Both crockery and cutlery are scarce, and a "full house" finds cafes with insufficient to go round. Some customers now have to wait until others have finished their meals. One city fish cafe is providing only a fork with each meal.

## TASMANIA

FOUR women were injured seriously when a motor-lorry heavily laden with timber crashed into a tramcar on the Main Rd., Hobart. They were Una Cornish (60), unmarried, employed in household duties; Cicely Hallam, (60), married of Main Rd. Montrose; Eeryl Heagley (27), unmarried of Amy Street, Moonah; and Rhonda Crossingham (14), of Clifford St., Moonah.

FOR having taken children under the age of 7 years to the Book-makers' Club, Hobart, William Alexander McKay, Barney Tasman Allen and Leslie Noble were each fined £2 at Hobart Police Court.

APPRECIATION to those in Launceston neighbourhood who helped to make Navy Week successful is conveyed in a letter to the Governor (Sir Ernest Clark) from Admiral A. Smith, chairman of King George's Fund for Sailors, London, in acknowledging a cheque for £2500 for the fund.

Read "Cinea Gold"—Then Pass it on

# Nazi War Production Exceedingly

## Formidable \* OFFICIAL \* But Hitler Has His Worries

THERE is no doubt that German production has been maintained on an exceedingly formidable scale, states the Ministry of Economic Warfare. An official declared on Friday that new types of weapons had been manufactured, the quantity of German arms maintained, and an advance in new designs was going forward.

"Aircraft production has, along with land armament and submarines, been maintained on a great scale, but it does not look as if the production of aircraft is keeping pace with the requirements," he said.

"ON the air front, apart from the offensive, the enemy would surely like to maintain against Britain, he needs defensive squadrons almost all over Occupied Europe.

"To replace his casualties, Hitler has been constantly combing out his workers from the factories and agriculture and, as in the last war, the recruitment age for the German forces has been gradually reduced, and now boys of 17 are joining up. To fill the gaps in German industry and agriculture, 5,500,000 to 6,000,000 foreign workers are at present engaged in Germany, more than half in agriculture. More are still needed in industry where the quality of the labor force has steadily declined through the introduction of less skilled and less willing workers, through fatigue, and ageing workers, and the additional strain thrown upon the people by air raids.

"While the demands on German coal resources are going up, the productivity of the coal mines has been going down. The bombardments seem to have actuated in a greater or lesser degree almost all the enemy's economic problems. "Hitler's allies, as a whole, seem rather dissatisfied, and inclined to show their independence. Hungary has ordered its agricultural workers to return from the Reich. These number 15,000 to 30,000. Bulgaria has insisted that arrangements for the return of workers from Germany shall be handled by the Bulgarian authorities, not the German commissioners."

### U-Boats Using More Powerful Torpedoes?

FLOCKS of U-boats, estimated at about 300, are concentrated at four strategic points, one each in the North Atlantic, the South Atlantic, off North Africa, and on the northern route to Russia. Drew Pearson, who says this in New York Daily Mirror, adds that Hitler seems to be gambling everything on stopping supplies to the war fronts.

The sinkings of Allied ships in the early months of this winter, he says, have been amongst the worst of the war. The Nazi methods have much improved. Submarines crash dive, according to the U.S. War Shipping Administration, in an average of four minutes after launching a torpedo.

The torpedoes are apparently larger and more powerful, blowing ships in two, thus preventing the sending of SOS signals, which would reveal their position, and at the same time sharply increasing the casualties among the crews. The British estimate that they lose one-third of the crew of a torpedoed ship, Americans 33 per cent., and Norwegians 40 per cent.

### TURF

## 100-1 Shot Wins At Mentone

MATOURA, a 100/1 chance, defeated 7/4 favorite Azores, ridden by H. Badger, in the Rosebud Trial at Mentone (Vic.) yesterday. Other outsiders to score were Hiawatha (14/1), and Prairiedale (10/1).  
Details:

### MENTONE

BEAUMARIS HANDICAP: Portway (0/1) 1; Swaggar (0/4) 2; Tony Alasin (4/1) 3.

WOODLEIGH HANDICAP: Blue Valley (10/9 on) 1; Lemact (7/1) 2; Salrina (12/1) 3.

SORRENTO STAKES: Art Union (8/1) 1; Sunshine Boy (23/1) 2; David Copperfield (10/1) 3.

SUMMER HANDICAP: Prairiedale (10/1) 1; Emphatic (25/1) 2; Aurania (7/1) 3.

TALGARNO WELTER: Hiawatha (14/1) 1; Ellison (25/1) 2; Lucille (5/2) 3.

ROSEBUD TRIAL: Matoura (100/1) 1; Azores (7/4) 2; Inset (3/1) 3.

### CANTERBURY (N.S.W.)

THREE-YEAR-OLD HANDICAP: Flying Shuttle (5/1) 1; High Flight (5/1) 2; Angel (3/1) 3.

JUVENILE HANDICAP: Royal Peer (2/1) 1; Warlock (7/2) 2; Denton (10/1) 3.

TRIAL STAKES, first division: Little Gundi (8/1) 1; Montford (12/1) 2; Miss Leonard (12/1) 3.

PETER MOONE CUP: Salivant (8/1) 1; Rimvell (11/2) 2; Prince (8/1) 3.

TRIAL STAKES, second division: Usher (7/4) 1; Awarped (4/1) 2; Rivere (15/1) 3.

WELTER HANDICAP: Tel-Asur (14/1) 1; Glendower (5/1) 2; Rameo (33/1) 3.

MOOREFIELD HANDICAP: Lord Valentine (4/1) 1; Panurge (4/1) 2; Stylish (8/1) 3.

## Punters Forget To Collect £4278

FOR the financial year ended June, 1942, unclaimed totalisator dividends in Victoria totalled £4278, or about £82 a week. In the second half of last year, £1785 was unclaimed.

Dividends, which eventually go to consolidated revenue, are kept by the tote authorities for one month, and the Treasury keeps them in a special account for another six months.



H. Badger rode a winner (Blue Valley) at Mentone yesterday, bringing his total number of wins for the season to 22 and a dead-heat. He is well clear of R. Heather, who is second on the list.

## "Orleigh's" Gossip Of The Turf

HIGH TITLE, one of the fastest horses in Australia, and winner of the last Oakleigh Plate, will race again.

When injured in the last Newmarket Handicap, it was thought his racing career had ended, but after light stud duty, and a lot of road work, he is back again in Fred Hoysted's stable at Mentone.

Before he reached his old box at Hoysted's, High Title had to walk 140 miles from Wangaratta to Essendon, where a float picked him up.

MACARONI heads the Hobart Cup weights with 9.10. In the long history of the race, only three horses have been successful with more than 9.10—Duration 10.8, Assyrian 10.7, and Erisdale with 10.8.

THE totalisator provided £100,385 for Victorian hospitals in 1942. This represents 5 per cent. of the machine turnover. The other 5 per cent. went to racing clubs and Automatic Totalisators Ltd.

A.J.C. STEWARDS will report and make recommendations to the committee on certain matters concerning the ownership of Amberspear. The A.J.C. committee will meet on January 20. Amberspear's running in the race prior to his victory in the Summer Cup at Randwick was recently inquired into, but no action was taken against the parties other than to reprimand the jockey, A. Knox.

NIGHT GANG, who is rising 10 years old, has found a new lease of life, and is a winner at Ballarat at his last two starts. Night Gang was sold for more than 2000 gns. after he won the Adelaide Goodwood Handicap in 1937, but after winning good races in Melbourne he contracted rheumatism. He was thrown out of work for several seasons, and was sold for £50 to a man who never raced him. This man in turn sold him for £25 to Mr. Jack Tait, of Adelaide, who bred and owned Night Gang when he was sold for 2000 gns. Now, Night Gang is raced on lease from Mr. Tait by three young munition workers in Adelaide.

### SPORTS FLASHES

HOCKEY BENNELL defeated Jimmy Dundee on a technical knock-out at Leichhardt Stadium, N.S.W., on Thursday night. The referee, Les Pearson, stopped the fight a few seconds after the start of the ninth round. Dundee was down on his knees as a result of a right chip to the chin, and was so well beaten that the referee stopped the count at two.

CRICKET students claim that Cecil Pepper made an Australian record when he bowled nine of his 10 victims in the Inter-Services match in the country last week-end. Pepper, who led the Army team, took all 10 Air Force wickets for 40 runs. In one over, he took four wickets, including the hat trick. Wisden records that in England the Rev. F. R. Winch performed the feat twice—against the Gentlemen of Northamptonshire in 1879, and against Kettering in 1881.

### Millions Of Parcels For Prisoners-of-war

SINCE the outbreak of war, Allied Red Cross societies of the Empire have sent between 10 and 11 million food parcels to prisoners in Europe. These parcels included 500,000lbs. of egg flake in tins. Recipes using the flake as the main ingredient for omelettes, scrambled eggs, baked custards, and so on, are included in a special cookery book compiled by the Red Cross for use by prisoners.

### Unions Demand Five Day Easter Break

FOLLOWING serious absenteeism in New South Wales munitions factories and essential services on New Year's Day, because the Federal Government refused to allow a public holiday on New Year's Day, the Government is being confronted with a demand from some unions for five days' break from work at Easter.

The proposal is that the days from Good Friday to the Tuesday following Easter should all be public holidays. The request is based on the fact that Easter Sunday will also be Anzac Day, normally a public holiday. Since Anzac Day is a Sunday, it is contended an alternative holiday should be allowed and added to the Easter holidays.

The Government is considering the request, and will gazette a regulation relating to the Easter holidays soon.

AT the end of 1942 there were 272,162 old-age and 59,365 invalid pensions in force throughout the Commonwealth. State figures were: N.S.W., 110,013 old-age and 27,459 invalid; Victoria, 73,747 and 12,245; Queensland, 35,475 and 9,652; South Australia, 23,005 and 4351; Western Australia, 18,011 and 3388; and Tasmania, 10,411 and 2070.

### LOST & FOUND

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

LOST.—Would the officer who took by mistake a curved handle walking stick from the Officers' Club last night please return to "Guinea Gold." It has much sentimental value.

### MISSING FRIENDS

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

Gnr. C. J. Parsons would like to contact his brother, Spr. A. F. Parsons.

Pte. J. D. G. Miller is asked to contact Gnr. W. J. Dartell.

# £25,000,000 Social Security Scheme Being Considered

## Discussions At Canberra

A SOCIAL security plan to cost nearly £25,000,000 was discussed by Federal Cabinet on Friday night. Among the proposals considered were an increase in pensions, increased maternity allowances, and the payment of £1/5/- per week for four weeks preceding and following the birth of a child.

DETAILS were discussed in the light of financial proposals which the Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) has prepared to meet part of the anticipated gap between revenue and expenditure, caused by heavy war commitments.

It is already clear that taxation—direct or indirect—will have to be increased to meet portion of the country's rapidly rising war costs. In view of this inescapable fact, some observers are asking whether any ambitious social security scheme will be possible at the present time—no matter how desirable it might be.

## ABSENTEE PREFERS GAOL TO BOND

NORMAN JONES, one of 45 war workers who pleaded guilty in the Central Summons Court, Sydney, to charges of having absented themselves from work on New Year's Day, elected to go to gaol, when Mr. Atkinson, S.M., announced he would be released on a bond, in default 14 days' imprisonment.

The police stated that Jones was in a cell at the Central Police Station, and would be removed to Long Bay Gaol unless he changed his mind.

The remaining defendants, who entered pleas of guilty, were bound over in a bond of £20 to observe the National Security (Holidays and Annual Leave) Regulations. A total of 115 cases was dealt with by magistrates within the hour.

## Stepping Up Shale Oil Production

THE stepping-up of production of shale oil in Australia was discussed at a conference yesterday between Australian Ministers and members of the mission from the U.S. Board of Economic Warfare.

They reviewed a report on the question prepared by an Australian Cabinet sub-committee.

The Minister for Supply (Mr. Beasley) said later that much depended upon whether the United States could supply important equipment.

## Loan Not Open Yet But Subscriptions Roll In

MANY subscriptions for the next Federal loan, which is expected to open in March, have already been received.

Name, amount, and terms of the new loan will be fixed after the Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) has conferred with the Commonwealth Bank Board.

SIR CHARLES MCGANN, Agent-General for South Australia, has been appointed to represent Australian wool-growers on the International Wool Secretariat in London.

## Tempo Of Air War Quickening In Tunisian Zone

REPORTS from Tunisia say that improved weather has revitalised air activity. Heavy attacks are being launched by Allied aircraft against enemy landing grounds and troop concentrations, to the accompaniment of scores of air battles.

There is no further news of land activity, except by French forces in the south. The French North African communique says that in this area, French troops south-west of Pont du Fahs destroyed an enemy post, killing 20 of the enemy, taking prisoners, and capturing four machine-guns. A hundred more prisoners were taken during the capture of an important height about 18 miles north of Kalfouan.

## Moresby Raids 96 & 97

HARMLESS raids by Japanese medium bombers took place in the Port Moresby area on Thursday and Friday nights. In Thursday's raid, probably by one medium bomber, a few bombs fell harmlessly in the sea. On Friday night, a single medium bomber dropped several bombs in the bush well away from installations.

## FORDE PRAISES NURSES IN N.G.

IN a tribute to Australian nurses in New Guinea, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said no praise could be too high for them.

He added:—

"Wounded soldiers who appreciate most their kindness and devotion, are warmest admirers.

"There are more Australian nurses in New Guinea today than ever before. They work in complete harmony with the American nurses, with whom regular visits are exchanged.

"True to the tradition of the A.A.N.S., nurses in New Guinea are very particular about their personal appearance. Despite the humidity, they are able, when necessary, to appear in starched uniforms. Generally they work in their grey uniforms."

## Cigarette Duty To Remain

ONE reason why the Government will not lift the duty on cigarettes distributed to the troops was that trafficking in cigarettes from the camps was still fairly large, despite stringent regulations. Army and Treasury authorities said on Thursday. They said that, at present, there was no proposal before the Government to abolish the duty.

## MYSTERY WOMAN



DO YOU KNOW (his R.R.O. player? She is unidentified in "Guinea Gold's" picture library, the caption merely suggesting that she has sleek lines. Perhaps that's right, too.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

**LOSS OF CORVETTE MARI-GOLD:** The Admiralty has announced the loss of the corvette Marigold, which is believed to have destroyed the U-boat which torpedoed the Ark Royal.

**BRITISH WOMEN'S CALL-UP:** His Majesty has signed a proclamation lowering the age liability to call-up for women from 20 to 19 years. Single women born between July, 1922, and December 31, 1923, are affected. They are entitled to choose an industry instead of the services, or they may volunteer for nursing. The upper age limit remains at 31. The proclamation also extends the liability for National Service to men who have reached 18 since October 22, 1942.

**"COASTAL COMMAND":** Coastal Command is the title of the latest official war book. The book states the Coastal Command has escorted almost 5000 convoys, attacked 587 U-boats, and flown 55,000,000 miles since the outbreak of war.

**HITLER MEETS ANTONESCU:** The German News Agency states Hitler, on Sunday last, at his headquarters, received the Rumanian Premier, General Antonescu. The talks covered all questions concerning the military effort of the two nations. "Complete unanimity of view was established on waging the war against the common foe until final victory," the Agency states.

**ARREST OF CHARLES BEDAUX:** Mr. Cordell Hull has announced that Charles Bedaux, a former friend of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, has been arrested in French North Africa. Unconfirmed reports state he has been trading with the enemy.

**A.W.U. MEMBERSHIP DECLINES:** Mr. C. G. Fallon told delegates to the A.W.U. Conference that there had been a drop in the membership of the Union. For the seven months ended December 31, 1942, the total was 38,244, being a decrease of 8281 during the year.

**SEVEN FRENCHMEN EXECUTED:** Fighting French headquarters have announced the Germans executed seven Frenchmen, who included a man whose brother was executed a week previously, a workman whose wife is expecting her fifth child, also a 20-year-old man who leaves an 18-year-old wife and a baby.

## BOMBERS, ATTACK PLANES, BUSY FROM SANANANDA TO LAE

IN co-operation with the Australian forces advancing on Sanananda Point, Allied aircraft yesterday bombed and strafed enemy troops and installations.

TWO formations of American-manned Douglas Bostons (A20's) heavily bombed and strafed Sanananda Point, and they also made numerous strafing passes near the mouth of the Kumusi River.

Mitchell North America bombers (B25's) also bombed Sanananda Point, and started a series of fires. Mitchells were also employed in a heavy attack on Japanese supply dumps in the Lae area. They dropped 15,000lb. of bombs, which caused explosions in buildings. Large fires were started.

R.A.A.F. Beaufighters added to the activity over the Lae area. They strafed enemy store dumps and installations and villages occupied by the enemy.

On the return trip from Gasmata, where it had bombed the runway, a heavy reconnaissance unit bombed

an enemy cruiser with unknown results. Four Zeros intercepted the bomber, and made 10 passes at it. One Zero was shot down into the sea. Our aircraft returned safely. It had been slightly damaged by A.A. fire.

On Friday night Liberator heavy bombers dropped nearly 15,000lb. of bombs on the runway at Gasmata, and on enemy positions in the vicinity. Another heavy bomber dropped 5000lb. of bombs on the runway at Cape Gloucester.

Land operations at Sanananda yesterday were confined to patrol work.

## Christian Science Service

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE service will be held at 7.30 this evening. Inquiries regarding the location should be made at the American Red Cross building.