

This copy of the Guinea Gold had the top of the first/second page missing. It should be the edition for January 18, 19 or 20, 1943, as it was stacked between the copies for January 17 and January 21, 1943. With it missing, some of the articles on page 2 are, of course, either missing or abbreviated.

ROMMEL STILL RETREATING

British & American Armies Join Forces For Combined Assault

THE British Eighth Army in southern Tunisia has been joined by the Second Army Corps of the U.S. Fifth Army, and the combined forces are hotly pursuing Rommel's fleeing Afrika Korps which has been forced from all positions in the Wadi Akarit.

It was reported yesterday that the Allies had advanced 20 miles beyond the Wadi Akarit and were keeping in close contact with the enemy, who was believed to be falling back to Sousse, his next line of defence.

Allied forces have now formed an unbroken line against the Axis. Rommel is pursued by the British Eighth Army and the Second U.S. Army Corps. On his left flank are American and French forces and farther to the north is the British First Army under General Anderson.

In addition, the guns of the British Navy are now menacing Axis forces near the coast and the Allied Air Forces are striking hard and often from above.

FURTHER details of General Montgomery's successful attack in the Wadi Akarit are now available. The first thrust was made at 4.30 a.m. on Tuesday, and two hours later Allied fighter aircraft blasted a wedge in the German lines. By afternoon, the Eighth Army dominated all key points in the defences, and as dusk approached, British tanks and motorised units swept through Wadi Akarit and beyond.

Correspondents point out that the fight was not all one way. German and Italian troops launched powerful counter-attacks early on Wednesday morning, but all were unsuccessful. While these actions were proceeding, American troops completed an advance of 15 miles east of El Ggettar to effect a junction with the British forces.

War correspondents emphasise that the air force played a vital part in Tuesday's action, 500 bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters sweeping the whole battle area. Their main target was Rommel's No. 1 air base at Sfax where more than 100 planes were bombed and strafed. They also ranged along the Wadi Akarit and far beyond, raining smashing blows on enemy vehicles, gun positions, tanks and communications. It was easily the most intensive period of

activity ever recorded in North Africa.

In combat, 33 enemy planes were destroyed during the day. Five of our aircraft were lost.

One war correspondent, describing the day's operations, said: "There has been nothing like these continuous air attacks in military history."

Messages from London last night stated that French troops who landed at Cape Serrat, 40 miles west of Bizerta last week, were consolidating their positions. Lively patrol activity was reported.

In the Mediterranean, British naval units and Allied air-craft have sunk another six Axis ships, and have damaged several others.

German Hint Of Gas War

A MYSTERIOUS broadcast by the German High Command spokesman (General Dietmar) has caused a general belief in Berlin that a gas war is coming this summer, says a Berlin report received in Zurich (Switzerland).

Dietmar said: "After her experiences in the winter battle Germany will apply means of warfare no longer connected with the production race in weapons and munitions. No concentrations of troops will be able to withstand this means of warfare."

STRIKING WHARFIES ADMIT DEFEAT

LEADERS of the striking wharf laborers now admit that defeat is inevitable.

A mass meeting of the strikers will be held at the Leichhardt Stadium to-day and a settlement of the dispute is expected.

It was reported yesterday that as a result of the approaches to the Federal Government and the Stevedoring Industry Commission, proposals for a settlement will be submitted to the meeting. These, it is stated, will mean a modification of the gang system.

Leaders of the strikers complained yesterday that they had received no co-operation from any kindred unions. They also alleged that the officials of their own union had "quietly sabotaged" the strike by refusing to allow them to extend the dispute.

Bolivia Declares War

A MESSAGE from New York says that Bolivia has declared war on the Axis, and has ordered general mobilisation. Bolivia, the twelfth of the Latin-American republics to declare war, is a large producer of tin and rubber.

Soldier Acquitted On Manslaughter Charge

ERIC GORDON PITTMAN, 30, soldier, who was charged with having unlawfully killed James Michael Callaghan, was found not guilty in the Criminal Court, Brisbane on Wednesday. Pittman was discharged. The Crown Prosecutor (Mr. H. T. O'Driscoll) said that according to the evidence, Pittman was standing with a woman and an American sailor outside a Valley hotel on January 6, when Callaghan, an elderly man, made obscene remarks to the woman. When told to apologise, he replied in much the same language, and Pittman struck him on the mouth with his fist. Callaghan fell, fracturing his skull. He was taken to hospital, where he died on January 14.

IMPROVED ARMY UNIFORMS

AUSTRALIAN army heavy uniforms of improved appearance are now being made, said Army Minister (Mr. Forde) in a letter to the Queensland branch of the A.W.U. which recently criticised Australian uniforms. The range of sizes, he added was being considerably extended, but the innovations would not be fully operative for some months as existing stocks had to be used.

Fadden Attacks Socialism

STRONG determination to combat what it termed "the socialistic experiment which is being foisted on the Australian people," was expressed at the conference of the Victorian Liberal Country Party yesterday.

"THE next election will be the most important in Australia's history. It will be the test as to whether private enterprise will survive or socialisation will take its place," said the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Fadden) addressing the conference. Socialisation was the most important plank in the Labor Party's platform, he declared. If Labor won the election it would have a mandate to implement socialism in post-war reconstruction. The Curtin Government had no mandate from the people, he claimed. The Opposition represented 50 per cent. of the people, but it was denied a voice in the administration of the nation. The Government lacked the courage to take resolute action in dealing with strikes. Men who had known the heat and flies and sweat of the desert had had to come back and unload ships because overpaid men would not work.

WEYGAND ACCUSED OF PLOTTING



A LETTER from the Nazi Foreign Minister (Ribbentrop) to Marshal Petain, accusing General Weygand of plotting against Germany, is published in the Swiss newspaper, "Journal de Geneve." The letter, replying to Petain's protest at the arrest and deportation of Weygand, says:

"We have certain knowledge that Weygand had conversations with the American Counsellor (Mr. Murphy). This was treason against his own Government. Mr. Murphy transmitted a message from President Roosevelt, which Weygand said he noted with satisfaction, adding that the total defeat of Germany was essential."

Doenitz Report Denied

BERLIN officially denies that Admiral Doenitz, Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Navy also.

CHIFLEY EXPECTS LONG WAR

THE Federal Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) said yesterday that the war had not yet reached the stage when the people of Australia could afford to be complacent. He warned that with the Japanese strongly fortifying their positions in islands north of Australia, the war was likely to continue for many years yet, demanding greater sacrifices by everybody in Australia.

Mr. Chifley disclosed that so far only £60,000,000 had been subscribed to the Third Liberty Loan by 30,000 subscribers. "This is not nearly enough as the loan closes in 10 days' time," he said.

Slater May Return Soon

MR. WILLIAM SLATER, Australian Minister to Russia is not enjoying good health, states a message from Moscow. The message adds that Mr. Slater will leave Kuibyshev soon for Calro, where he will have a complete medical overhaul. It is suggested that he may then return to Australia.

dicted. They have bought gold bullion, posing as licensed dealers, and counterfeited double eagles, rare gold coins in which form the gold was to have been transported from Chicago to the submarines.

MUST TAKE UP ESSENTIAL WORK

THE Director of Selected Services in Washington indicated yesterday that men between the ages of 38 and 45 who had been released from the Army might be re-inducted unless they were engaged in essential jobs. Men who had been released by the Army and who had not registered with Unemployment Services by May 1 for essential work, would be re-classified 1A and be available for any duties the Army called upon them to perform.



"We picked them out of the water, and the first thing they asked for was a gun at a battle station. We are engaged in a high speed war against the Japanese," he added. "Thirty seconds is a lifetime in battle. The slightest hesitation in making a decision means the life or death of a ship." Before he joined the U.S. Navy, 41-year-old Montgomery served in the American Field Service Unit as an ambulance driver in France, later sailing on British ships in the north Atlantic waters as an American observer.

New Jersey corporations and 11 individuals on charges of conspiracy to violate price regulations and "restrictions."

Those charged were said to have bought 10,000,000 pounds of meat in the New York area costing consumers 1,875,000 dollars in overcharges.

THE Office of Price Administration's investigation uncovered elaborate black market structure in which houses and packing establishments had been purchased by ring conspirators and huge quantities of cattle illegally bought, slaughtered and sold throughout the country.

Three Meatless Days

A message from New York states that hotels and restaurants in many big cities have announced that they will not serve meat meals on three days a week, including Fridays. It is estimated that under the three meatless days' plan, the quantity of meat consumed will be reduced between 60 and 80 per cent, thus helping to meet serious shortages reported from all over the country.

The authorities have rushed emergency supplies to several major areas where housewives have complained that their new ration coupons are useless since they are unable to buy food with them. Many housewives earlier in the

TIME RUNNING AGAINST US

CONGRESS representative M. J. Maas, who has returned from active Marine duty in the South Pacific, said that time was running swiftly and alarmingly against the United States in the Pacific.

"Unless we do something to stop the Japanese without further delay we can lose the war—or face a stalemate in the Pacific," he said. "If Japan is allowed time to organize its gains it will have power and resources so vast that all the combined fleets since the dawn of history will not dislodge them."

Early Moves In Pacific?

COMMENT in the "New York Times" on Wednesday supports the report of likely early moves in the Pacific.

"The statement by the New Zealand Minister to Washington (Mr. Nash) that an offensive in the Pacific simultaneously with the projected Allied Invasion of Europe, may be optimistic, but there are indications that things are moving," the newspaper states.

"Growing Allied aerial superiority in the Pacific, and the quick recovery of the American Navy have laid the basis for the campaign.

"The change in the Pacific plans may be the explanation for Japan's husbanding of her fighting forces and the statement by the Japanese Premier (General Tojo) that the war is becoming more serious and that, therefore, Japan must increase her fighting strength."

La Guardia Visualises Emigration to Australia

POST-WAR problems of over-population would be solved by the movement of people into new countries, stated Mayor La Guardia in New York on Wednesday. He mentioned Africa and the Pacific areas as zones which would absorb many people.

"We will see emigration from the United States to such countries as Australia," he said, and suggested that the United States should establish a trusteeship in the new colonies and allow the colonists to develop their own land as was done in America.

14TH AIR FORCE HAS FINE RECORD

A MESSAGE from headquarters of the U.S. 14th Air Force in China says that since it took over from the American Volunteer Group last July 4, more than 180 Japanese planes have been destroyed. In addition, 63 others have probably been destroyed. Thirty four American planes have been lost, but only 10 pilots have been killed—nine in combat and one by bombing.

U.S. aircraft of the Indian command shot down 21 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed another 25 and damaged 13 more for the loss of two of their own planes during last month.

Sports Flashes & News Brevities

MOSCOW MISSION DENIED: A message from New York says that the State Department has denied that America is planning a special mission to Moscow to improve Russo-American relations.

CHICAGO'S MAYOR RE-ELECTED: Edward Kelly, a Democrat, has been re-elected Mayor of Chicago for a third term by a majority of approximately 120,000 votes. Both Kelly and the Republican candidate, George McKibbin, scrupulously avoided national issues in their campaigns.

"MOTHER ROPER" DEAD: A message from New York says that Mrs. Janet Roper, known to merchant seamen throughout the world as "Mother Roper," died in Brooklyn on Wednesday, aged 72. Mrs. Roper had conducted a home for merchant seamen for 25 years. She was instrumental in tracing the whereabouts of many seamen who had been given up as dead.

TO AVENGE BROTHERS

GENEIVE SULLIVAN, 26, whose five brothers were lost in the cruiser Juneau, has joined the Waves.

RANK RESTORED: Congress has completed legislation restoring the rank of naval commodore at the request of the Navy Secretary (Col. Knox). The order will give flag officer status to officers heading small command groups. Commodore ranks below rear-admiral and corresponds to the Army brigadier-general.

Million Bombs On Aleutians

UNITED STATES planes dropped more than 1,000,000 bombs on the Aleutians Islands in March and intensified low altitude strafing of personnel, states an International News Service message from New York. It adds that the aerial offensive is aimed at neutralizing the base and is specially important in view of the Russian-Japanese fishing treaty permitting Japan to send fishing boats freely to Siberian waters only a few miles from United States territory.

Five Attacks On Kiska

THE U.S. Navy Department communique issued yesterday stated that heavy and medium bombers, escorted by fighters, carried out five attacks on Kiska, and one on Attu Island, in the Aleutians on Wednesday. Enemy positions were hit.

BLOW TO FOOTBALL: Professional football was dealt the severest blow of the war when Cleveland Rams withdrew from the National League. The action was taken because Daniel Reeves (president) entered the Army, and Fred Levy (vice-president) enlisted in the Air Force. The owners of the nine remaining clubs voted to continue playing, despite severe manpower shortage.

BOROTRA AND CARPENTIER: Fighting French sources say that the tennis star, Jean Borotra, previously reported to have been friendly with the Germans after the fall of France, has been jailed for criticizing the invaders. On the contrary, George Carpentier's bar is a rendezvous for German officers, and as a result Frenchmen will not speak to him.

BOXING: Beau Jack has cancelled his non-title fight with Ralph Zanelli, which had been fixed for April 16, because his doctor ordered him to take a month's vacation to overcome the vitamin deficiency responsible for the champion tiring rapidly in recent bouts.

MEDICALLY HELD UP: "Bunny" Austin was inducted into the Army at Los Angeles, but Army physicians have ordered his case to be held in abeyance pending further medical observations.

SUBSTITUTE RULE ADOPTED: The National Football League has adopted the substitute rule which allows a coach to substitute a player when, where and as often as he chooses.

NEW GUINEA LEAGUES

NAME OR ORGANIZATION.....TELEPHONE No.....

NAME WITH RANK OF REPRESENTATIVE.....

We are interested in entering Teams in the following (Mark with X):

Soft-ball..... Hard-ball..... Volley ball..... Outdoor basket-ball.....

Tennis..... Badminton..... Table tennis..... Horse-shoe pitching.....

Checkers..... Chess.....

* NOTE: Several teams from the same organization may be entered in any of the above sports. If sufficient Officers' or Nurses' teams are entered, separate leagues will be formed.

COMING ALLIED INVASION HAS AXIS AND EUROPE GUESSING ON LIKELY TIME & PLACE

NEUTRAL capitals are buzzing with rumors of the possible time and place of the anticipated invasion of Europe. According to some reports, the Germans expect an invasion of Holland next month.

Doubtless, many of the rumors are German "feelers," made in the hope that there will be some response that will give a clue to the Allies' intentions, but there is also a genuine and widespread feeling—especially in France and Italy—that the Allies are planning to land a substantial force in the near future.

THE German-controlled Paris radio asserts that there is great activity at Gibraltar "where many aircraft have arrived, and where 25,000 men embarked on ships last Monday."

Another report says that the British battleships, Rodney, Nelson, and Malaya, and the aircraft carrier Formidable have left Gibraltar for an unknown destination.

All southern Italy is in a state of alert after the terrific Allied raids on Naples and towns in Sicily, says the London "Daily Express" Stockholm correspondent. The Italians believe that the raids are a prelude to an invasion of Italy. Italian and German armored trains are being rushed southwards to form a "mobile defence system" along the coast and to enable the commanders to swing their forces quickly from one point to another. These trains are equipped with newly designed coastal defence guns.

The London "Daily Telegraph's" diplomatic correspondent says the Germans are taking ruthless measures to complete their western defences, particularly in Holland. Whole streets at The Hague are reported to have been blown up to make room for fortifications. Laborers are building new bunkers, tank traps, and underground passages linking up batteries hidden in the sand dunes.

"What we saw," says one Swedish journalist, "is no secret to the Bri-

tish who are extremely well-informed by daily reconnaissance and by countless agents throughout Holland. The German commander at The Hook, where 10,000 Dutch laborers were mobilised for fortification work, said that laborers were often caught making detailed sketches of tank traps and gun sites."

U.K.'s Invasion Armies Are Well Equipped

"ARMIES on the coasts of England are lavishly equipped with the best weapons Britain and its Allies can forge," states a message from London.

"Their training is ceaseless, varied, and strict. Men are fighting fit. The exhilarating air of early spring has acted as a tonic incentive to men who are eager for action, their keenness matching all round preparedness for defence or attack.

"Britain's coastal observers to-day see the undisputed passage of sea convoys through the Channel, though three years ago it was an extremely hazardous job for British seamen to run the gauntlet of the Luftwaffe in waters within flying distance of German airfields. Convoys sail unmolested though they are within only a few minutes' flying range of the Luftwaffe bases.

"PYJAMA GIRL" ECHO

THE Attorney-General for NSW (Capt. Martin) announced yesterday that no further action was called for in the case of Anna Philomena Morgan, probate of whose will was sought on the ground that she was identical with the "Pyjama Girl" murdered near Albury in 1934. He said the police had reported that she was, not the "Pyjama Girl."

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST: Consul chrome watch between 14 mile D.I.D. and Service Street. Reward. Cpl. B. F. Grant.

LOST: In Wau area, paybook (money enclosed), Kodak camera and Onoto fountain pen. Lieut. J. R. Menziel.

LOST.—Navy type belt containing sum of money in Moresby area. Reward if returned to No. 7 RAAF Postal Unit.

MISSING FRIENDS

Cpl. K. Makepeace wishes to contact "Nug" Makepeace.

Pte. Bellis: Yes, please send us the music.

F/O W. Wills and L.A.C. Bill Martin, of W.A., are asked to communicate with Dvr. F. D. Wills.

Pte. McMillan, R.N., wishes to contact Pte. D. W. Davies, of Kyogle.

Would George Cockram (N.O.I.C.) please contact Sgt. B. K. Leach?

Would Sig. Max Costelloe contact Sig. Kevin Birtles?

Spr. Adams wishes to contact Spr. Chadband.

S. Davies wishes to contact Darwin, formerly of Calder Road, Redfern.

Correspondent Answered

Cpl. Whiteman: Night Gang was not disqualified, but his then owner was, over a horse named L'Eclair.

GANDHI EXPECTED TO FAST AGAIN

IT is believed that Gandhi, who has not yet fully recovered from the effects of his last fast, is already contemplating another fast, this time "unto death," says the London Daily "Telegraph's" New Delhi correspondent.



He adds that the Government's refusal to allow Gandhi's physician, Dr. Chandra Roy, to see him surprised Gandhi. He attached great importance to Roy's opinion of his health and to his advice as to how long he is able to fast.

The correspondent says that there will be no change in the Government's policy. Gandhi will not be released until he repents and recants.

SPORTS FLASHES

NO more coupon permits for sportswear will be granted to sporting clubs. Coupons will have to be supplied for all purchases. A Rationing Commission official said in Melbourne yesterday that the amount of yarn used for thousands of football jerseys was more than the Commission could continue to allow without coupon control.

JOE GRANT and Tommy Jones will meet at Sydney Stadium to-morrow night for the first time. They have been fighting for six years and each has built up a sound record. Grant, who is a soldier, has asked to be matched with Bobby Fuller if he defeats Johns.

CREWS from the four Melbourne metropolitan public schools are in training for the Head of the River boat races on April 14, 15 and 17. Geelong Grammar and Geelong College will not be competing. Melbourne Grammar will meet Wesley on April 14, and Scotch will race Xavier on April 15. After resting a day the winners of the two heats will meet, and the losers of the two heats will meet on April 17.

SYDNEY CUP favorite, Moondarewa, ran right away from Heiron and Grand Fils in a nine furlong gallop at Randwick on Tuesday. Moondarewa was ridden vigorously, and recorded 1.58½.

RANDWICK AND MENTONE MAIN TURF ATTRACTIONS TOMORROW

(By Gwyn Jones, "Orleigh" of the Melbourne "Herald").

MAIN racing attractions on the Mainland to-morrow will be the Liverpool Handicap, in which many prominent Doncaster Handicap candidates will appear at Randwick, and the Ascot Cup, to be run at Mentone (Vic.).

ONE hundred and thirty five horses were balloted out of five races at Mentone. It is a record since balloting has been in vogue in Victoria. A ballot was unnecessary for the Ascot Cup, of 10½ furlongs and a splendid field is engaged with the winner, as usual, well concealed. The most important handicaps this season in Melbourne have been pitfalls for backers, and this race on paper looks no exception as half a dozen horses will be backed spiritedly.

Frank Godby is doing everything right, and Aldgate may add to his excellent Autumn record. Great Britain will be ridden by Victor Hartney after all, but Hartney will declare three pounds overweight to ride the colt at about 8.1. Even with this impost, the Derby winner is the pick of the handicap, but while he will go very well, he has had only one

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

TIPPING DENOUNCED: Tipping was described as humiliating, snobbish, undemocratic, degrading and demoralising during the debate on the Catering Bill in the British House of Commons on Wednesday.

BERETS FOR TOMMIES: A battle dress khaki beret is to be issued to British soldiers as soon as the stocks of field service caps have been exhausted. The berets have been found to be very satisfactory and comfortable by the Royal Armored Corps, commandos, and others.

NAZI AIR ACE MISSING

BERLIN Radio has announced that the Nazi air ace, Lieut. Hans Bersinger, who claimed the destruction of 150 Soviet planes, is missing.

RECONSECATED CHURCH OPENED: A message from London states that the Nazis, under pressure, have allowed St. Peter's Church, Hamburg, to reopen following its reconsecration.

VICTORY "V" SIGN BRINGS GAOL: Elizabeth Hofstadler (40), who was seen putting a "V for Victory" sign on a Hitler poster in Vienna, was sent to gaol for a year, states a London message.

DE GAULLE GUEST OF ROYALTY: Representatives of the Fighting French, including General de Gaulle, and members of the Czechoslovak, Greek and Yugoslav Governments, were guests of the King and Queen at an afternoon party at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were present.

Tom Walsh Dead

MR. THOMAS WALSH, the stormy petrel of the Seamen's Union of 20 years ago, has died, aged 73.

As secretary of the union he took a leading part in the most successful strike ever held by seamen in Sydney, and was later ordered to be deported. Walsh challenged the order, which was found to be ultra vires, and subsequently sued the Government for £20,000 for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment. He was awarded £25.

Born in County Cork, Ireland, Walsh went to sea as a cabin boy at the age of 12. He became general secretary of the Seamen's Union in Sydney in 1919 and subsequently general president.

Sunday Services

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St. John's, Port Moresby: Holy Communion, 0800 and 0930; Morning Prayer, 1030; Evenson, 1900.

Holy Communion at N.C.F., 0730; Murray Barracks (Y.M.C.A.), 1130; (Thirty Club), 0915; Ward's Look-out, 0900; C.C.S., 0800; A.G.H., 0830.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Holy Mass will be celebrated at the following centres:

Moresby, Holy Rosary Church, (near A.C.F.), 0700 and 0830; Korojebu, R.A.A.F. Recreation Hut, 0700; Murray Barracks, Recreation Hut, 0930; N.G.F. Church Tent, A.Q. Area, 0830; A.G.H., Bootless Rd., 0630 and 0800; Ward's Airfield, R.A.A.F. Area, 0915; Pitt Street, Roman Chapel, 0700; Eddy Avenue, Y.M.C.A. Hut, 0830; Ordnance, Recreation Hut, 0745; A.G.H., Church Hut, 0830 and 0930; C.C.S., Church Tent, 0830; L. of C. Workshops, 0730; Kaitaki, Con. Depot, 0645 and 0900.

On Good Friday, appropriate services will be held where and when Masses are celebrated on Sundays.

On Easter Sunday, April 25 (Anzac Day) there will be a General Communion for the deceased men of the Navy, Army, and Air Force.

O.P.D.

Y.M.C.A. tent, Service Street, 0830.

U.O.P.D.

A.G.H. (Y.M.C.A.) 1030, service followed by Holy Communion; 1915, Pleasant Sunday Evening.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICE

A Christian Science Service will be held Sunday evening at 1915. For location, phone U.S. Base Chaplain, Bell Switch 1.

MORMON SERVICE

Church services of Mormon faith will be held in the Chapel tent, 3 mile U.S. Evacuation Hospital, on Tuesday evening, April 13, at 1900.

Nazis Switch Attack From Izyun

EVATT REACHES SAN FRANCISCO

THE Minister for External Affairs (Dr. H. V. Evatt) has arrived in San Francisco. He is due to leave for Washington to-morrow. This was announced yesterday by the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) who disclosed that Dr. Evatt was accompanied by his wife, the Director of Post-War Reconstruction (Dr. H. C. Coombs), and his private secretary (Dr. Burton).

The Australian Minister to Washington (Sir Owen Dixon) will return to Australia for a short visit after the arrival of Dr. Evatt.

In the absence of Dr. Evatt, the Prime Minister will act as Minister for External Affairs and the Supply Minister (Mr. Berlesy), as Attorney-General. The Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) will take Dr. Evatt's place on the War Council.

German Birth Rate Falls

THE London "Times" correspondent on the German frontier says that a big fall in the German birth-rate is shown in official statistics, which recorded the number of live births in 1942 at about 1,240,000, or 290,000 fewer than in 1941. This means that almost the whole increase achieved by pressure under the Hitler regime has been lost.

Jap Infiltration Forces Allies To Readjust Positions In Burma

THE latest India joint war communique says that the Japanese on the Burma front infiltrated across the Mayu River during the week-end and succeeded in reaching points from which they might have made a direct threat to Allied communications in the narrow strip between the hills and the sea, north of Donbaik.

"THE necessary readjustments have been made in our positions on the Mayu Peninsula," the communique added.

On Tuesday, Blenheim bombers attacked enemy-occupied positions in north-east Burma, and at night dropped bombs on an enemy airfield south-west of Mandalay.

An enemy position west of Kainhwa, in Chekiang Province, has been successfully raided by Chinese forces, Chungking announced yesterday. An

WOMAN "POISON PEN" WRITER IS FINED £60

MYSTERY surrounding the sending of defamatory letters signed "Industrial Secret Service," and the writer of which became known as "Poison Pen," has been cleared up by the prosecution of Mrs. Alice Beck, aged 50, of Margaret River, a small township 250 miles from Perth (W.A.).

Since July residents of Margaret River and other parts of Western Australia, including Perth, have received letters which gave them cause for concern, but left no clue to the sender. Police and postal detectives finally concentrated on Margaret River, and Mrs. Beck was arrested on March 29.

She pleaded guilty and was fined £20 on each of three counts of having written and published defamatory matter. The only explanation Mrs. Beck gave the Court was that in recent years she had had a number of hardships to contend with, and writing letters seemed to be her one way of getting revenge.

423 TYPHOID VICTIMS

VICTIMS of the typhoid epidemic which broke out in the Moorabbin area of Victoria 22 days ago now number 423. All but 14 of these cases are in the Moorabbin area itself. Four more cases were reported yesterday.

IT'S THE TRUTH SO HELP ME—WHEN MAN BITES DOG, THAT'S NEWS! WHEN MOSQUITO BITES MAN THAT'S MALARIA!

BACK ON THE MAP

FOLLOWING a protest by the Lord Mayor of Hobart (Mr. Soundy) against the omission of Tasmania from a poster map urging support for the Liberty Loan, the Federal Treasurer (Mr. Chifley) has given an assurance that it will not occur again.

INDIA MAKING MIGHTY WAR EFFORT

LORD MUNSTER, Under-Secretary for India, when opening a debate in the House of Lords on Wednesday said that Indian forces were more numerous than those of any of the Dominions serving in the overseas theatres of war. Apart from the Fourth Indian Division, which had fought from Abyssinia to the Mareth Line, another army was carrying out vital duties on the Indian North-west Frontier.

Lord Munster continued: "Concurrently with the building up of the Indian Army, vast engineering projects have been undertaken by civilians in conjunction with the Services. India, since the outbreak of war, has received £400,000,000 from the British Exchequer and has spent more than £300,000,000 on her own defence. Indian taxpayers last year paid £184,000,000 compared with £34,000,000 before the war."

To Chugyev Area MORE TANK BATTLES

FAILING in their attempts to wipe out the Russian bridgehead at Izyun, in the Donetz area, the Germans have switched their attention to Chugyev, 50 miles farther to the north.

Moscow reported yesterday that the Germans were using large panzer forces in support of their infantry, but had so far failed to make any headway.

WHILE heavy fighting is taking place in this area, Soviet units farther south are taking advantage of the lull in operations to consolidate their positions at Izyun. At Byelgorod, north of Kharkov, Russian tanks have destroyed a battery of enemy artillery.

The Russians are maintaining their pressure on the last German bridgehead in the western Caucasus, and have obtained a foothold on the northern bank of the Kuban River in a vital region near the Kerch Straits.

Moscow reports that the Caspian-Volga oil route has been re-opened and a fleet of tankers from Baku has reached the mouth of the Volga with tens of thousands of tons of oil.

Russian aircraft and destroyers have sunk three enemy ships in the Arctic sea, while three more Axis vessels (totalling 13,000 tons) and two torpedo boats have been sunk by naval units in the Black Sea.

The Soviet Atrocities Commission has named the German Fourth Army commander, General Heindritz, as being responsible for the atrocities

in the Vyazma and Rjev areas. It has laid similar charges against the chiefs of several German infantry divisions, and the commander of the police corps attached to the Fourth Army.

This is the first time that the Atrocities Commission has named German generals and officers as being responsible for specific atrocities.

LAND ARMY GIRLS TOO GLAMOROUS

AT the United Country Party conference in Melbourne yesterday it was stated that many farmers were reluctant to employ Land Army girls because they were too glamorous.

Mrs. Horner, wife of a dairy farmer, said that the chief objection to the employment of Land Army girls was that they received £2 a week and benefits, and a glamorous uniform.

She added: "Daughters and sisters of farmers don't get these things. They get 15/- a week pocket money, their clothes and their keep."

A spokesman for the Land Army said that if a girl worked all day on a farm and still seemed glamorous at night, she was a glamorous girl by right and the uniform had nothing to do with it.

MACARTHUR SEA ?

SUGGESTIONS have been made in Washington that the name of the Bismarck Sea should be changed to either the MacArthur Sea or the Kenney Sea to commemorate the recent air victory.

ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE CITY CONGESTION

TO end peak hour congestion in Australian metropolitan transport systems, the Federal Land Transport Board may stagger shop and theatre closing times. The Board is considering the proposal as an alternative to the introduction of a priority system of travel in cities which most board members consider couldn't be worked.

Suggestions already made are that theatre matinees should end at 4 p.m. and shops in some areas open and close earlier. Women with parcels going home after 5 p.m. are one of the causes of traffic congestion. Melbourne has already staggered hours for theatres, but the trouble is to make women go straight home after matinees.

Woman Border Hopper

Taken From Train

A YOUNG woman claimed to be a "border hopper" was taken from a train when half way from Melbourne to Townsville, her reported objective. She is being returned to Melbourne for questioning by Land Transport Board officials who will decide whether she should be proceeded against under the National Security Regulations. The woman was located at Casino, northern N.S.W., but how she managed to make the first stage of the journey from Melbourne to Sydney without a permit is not yet known.

MASS - PRODUCED NAZI AIRMEN ARE WILTING UNDER PRESSURE

THE Luftwaffe is showing signs of being the first part of the German war machine to crack under Allied pressure, cables B. Maillard Stead, the Christian Science Monitor's special correspondent with the American forces in Africa.

"THIS is not wishful thinking," Stead says, "but is based on observed deterioration of the German fliers' skill and morale, and the half-hearted way that the Luftwaffe is fighting at present.

"This does not mean that Germany no longer has airmen of great skill and courage, but the average is steadily declining.

"German airmen, compared with the R.A.F., are now turned out like sausages. In the words of a high Allied commander, the Germans are only now learning the lesson that

quantity and regimentation do not pay the same dividends in the air as on land.

"The main forces of German bombers operating in North Africa at present are based in Sardinia and Sicily, and the Allied attacks on their supply lines now threaten the Axis striking forces with immobility.

"German aircraft production also has slowed down as a result of the Allied raids on Europe, but let there be no mistaking the fact that the quality of the Nazi planes is higher than ever."

STATION HAND WHO BECAME HERO

TWELVE years ago, Herman Bottcher was a station hand at Howes Valley, near Singleton (NSW) but he left his job to go to America. This week, Captain Herman Bottcher, D.S.C. and Purple Heart, of the U.S. Army, is returning on convalescent leave to the same station where once he worked.

Bottcher is the fourth man in the U.S. forces in the south-west Pacific to be promoted from sergeant to captain in the field.

He went to Australia from Germany in 1929 at the age of 20 years. On his arrival in America he entered college, and in 1937 went to Spain and fought with the International Brigade. He won the Cross of Valor at Barcelona.

Back in America, he enlisted in the U.S. Army the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and recently fought in New Guinea. He was decorated and promoted for conspicuous gallantry and leadership. Bottcher said yesterday that during the last war his father had fought for Germany and had been killed by Australian forces.

NIGHT CLUB WILL NOT BE ALLOWED

THE New South Wales Chief Secretary (Mr. Baddeley) said yesterday that he intended to take action to prevent the opening of a new luxury night club in Sydney. It was announced a few days ago that the proprietor of a beauty parlor and coffee shop intended to open such a club.

Mr. Baddeley said that if he did not have the necessary authority under the Theatres and Public Halls Act to prevent the project, he would take action under a new Act controlling fire risks in large restaurants and cabarets.