

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Thursday, February 4, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

BIG NAVAL AND AIR BATTLE TAKING PLACE IN SOLOMONS

THE U.S. Navy Department yesterday confirmed reports that a naval and air engagement of "some magnitude" is taking place off the Solomon Islands. Both sides have suffered losses.

The communique said: "During the last few days there have been a number of sea and air actions between U.S. and Japanese forces in the Solomons. Increased Japanese activity indicates a major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area. Both U.S. and Japanese forces have suffered some losses, but to release details of the engagement at present would endanger the success of our future operations."

Tokio radio claimed on Tuesday that two U.S. battleships and three cruisers had been sunk by 10 Japanese suicide torpedo bombers off Rennell Island, 100 miles south-west of Guadalcanal. Washington's answer to these claims is that they are "greatly exaggerated".

DETAILS of U.S. air action against enemy positions in the Solomons were given in a special U.S. Navy Department communique. It said: "Last Saturday American bombers twice attacked Munda airfield on New Georgia Island, starting fires. On Sunday a U.S. destroyer shelled Japanese barges in the Guadalcanal area."

"On Monday formations of American dive bombers and torpedo planes, escorted by Grumman Wildcat fighters, again attacked Japanese positions on Munda. The result of this raid is not yet to hand, but it is reported that two U.S. dive bombers did not return."

"On the same morning Flying Fortresses and fighters bombed and secured three direct hits on a large Japanese cargo ship off the Shortland Islands without loss."

"Later on Monday, Fortresses which again attacked enemy shipping off the Shortland Islands, were intercepted by 20 Zeros. Three Fortresses did not return, and a fourth was badly damaged, but managed to reach its base safely."

LAVAL FORMS MILITIA

PRO-GERMAN PIERRE LAVAL, who is now head of the French Government, has formed a militia force to "inspire the public life of the country by its vigilance and propaganda activity, to maintain order, and, if necessary, participate in the defence of the territory."



Announcing this, Laval said the threats facing the country were becoming more serious, and one danger dominating all others was Bolshevism. "France should realise that she should be body and soul with Germany to prevent such a calamity," he added.

Raceless Saturdays To Continue

NATIONAL interests demanded that the monthly raceless Saturday should continue, the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) said in Canberra on Monday. He was commenting on the report that the Lord Mayor of Sydney (Alderman Bartley) intended to ask the Lord Mayors of Brisbane and Melbourne to discuss with him in Sydney today a suggestion that racing be restored on the raceless day. It was intended that profits on the restored day be given to the Australian Comforts Fund.

New Move In Burma

THE latest Indian communique states that Allied patrols are operating in a new area in Burma—the upper Chindwin district on the Assam border. The communique also reported fighting on the Mayu Peninsula, where strong Japanese resistance was encountered.

U.S. FORCES HAVE LOCAL SUCCESS IN TUNISIA

TUESDAY'S Algerian communique announced the destruction by American columns driving towards the east coast of Tunisia of three companies of German infantry, and 18 lorry loads of reinforcements at Sened.

FOLLOWING this success the Americans pushed on to the north to join up with other American troops.

The enemy made a slight gain in the hills south-west of Pont du Fahs, but Allied forces counter-attacked and restored the position.

Artillery duels between the Eighth Army and the enemy rearguard west of Zuara were reported in Tuesday's communique from Cairo. Apart from attacks on shipping, air activity was on a small scale.

V.C. Winner's Body Found

THE body of Flight-Sergeant G. H. Middleton, V.C. (NSW), has been recovered from the sea near Dover. He had previously been posted as missing.

Middleton was awarded the V.C. last month for courage described as "unsurpassed in the annals of the R.A.F." The full story was published by "Guinea Gold" in its issue of January 30.

AUSTRALIAN ON BIGAMY CHARGE IN U.K.

WHEN Frederick Catherwood, 27, described as an Australian research engineer, was charged with bigamy at Chester (England), his wife said she last saw him in September, when he gave her a cheque for £1000 which was dishonored.

The evidence disclosed that he married Eileen Hogg at Wreckenton, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. There were two children.

Margaret Balmer, 20, of Kingsley, gave evidence that she went through the form of marriage with Catherwood at the Moorgate (London) Registry office last September. Eight days later, at the hotel at which they were staying, Catherwood was arrested for theft. Catherwood was committed for trial.

Powers Bill Rejected

THE Tasmanian Legislative Council yesterday rejected the Commonwealth Powers Bill on the second reading by 10 votes to 7. Tasmania is the first State to take this action. A referendum may be necessary unless the decision is reversed.

Sweeps Over France By 200 Fighters

BRITISH bombers again made a sweep of railway yards in France and Belgium on Tuesday. More than 200 planes took part. The chief targets were the railway yards at Bruges and Abbeville.

Enemy fighters were in the air but did not intercept. All the British planes returned safely.

PRISONERS-OF-WAR RE-CAPTURED

TWO German prisoners of war, in pyjamas, and dressing gowns, escaped from a Melbourne institution on Tuesday, but had only six hours of freedom. A constable saw them in the street and held them until the arrival of a patrol car. The men were under medical treatment.

Churchill Went To Cyprus

THE British Ministry of Information announced on Tuesday that Mr. Churchill had visited Cyprus, in the Mediterranean, following the talks he had with the Turkish Prime Minister.

In an address Mr. Churchill told the people of the island that the United Nations represented the strongest group of human beings ever marshalled under arms in the history of the world to march forward and exact just punishment from those who had plunged the world into chaos, havoc and ruin.

LUFTWAFFE OVER U.K.

THE Germans sent four Focke Wulf aircraft over England on Tuesday. They dropped bombs in a south-east district causing some casualties and damage.

Dedman Sets Up As Business Adviser

WHILE the Minister for Labor (Mr. Ward) is preparing to tap manpower resources in retail industry, the Minister for Organisation of War Industry (Mr. Dedman) is being flooded with complaints that any further draining will dislocate business.



Yesterday, he said that owners of any retail stores where staffs were disorganised by manpower restrictions should appeal to the Government, which would be pleased

to inform them how to save manpower.

£10,000 DAMAGE IN BRISBANE FIRE

DAMAGE estimated at about £10,000 was caused when a fire destroyed the premises of Peanut Products Pty. Ltd., and part of the Fish steam laundry, Winn Street, Valley, at 12.30 yesterday morning. Firemen fought the blaze for hours, but were unable to prevent the loss of valuable machinery and stocks, and considerable stocks of clothing.

NATIONAL LOAF FOR AUSTRALIA

EXPERTS will be asked to consider the desirability of introducing in Australia a national wholemeal loaf of bread similar to that introduced in England.

Clare Luce A "Political Phenomenon"

NEW GUINEA BOYS HELPED TROOPS



As American and Australian forces moved forward against Japanese positions on New Guinea, air supply systems became increasingly important. Among the enthusiastic helpers at a United States airfield were New Guinea islanders. These residents of nearby villages flocked to inspect the first American plane that landed in their vicinity.

HAS BEAUTY, RICHES AND A GOOD PRESS

CLARE BOOTHE LUCE, Republican representative from Connecticut, who made her first appearance in Congress wearing a blue bow in her hair, is described by Elizabeth Riddell, Sydney "Daily Mirror's" Washington correspondent, as the "strangest" political phenomenon of the year, and probably the most influential woman in America.

Chewing Gum Princess Weds

THE daughter of the chewing gum king, Blanche Wrigley, has married Ensign William Hag-enah, a Princeton graduate.

Value of Lease-Lend Explained

THE lease-lend administrator (Mr. Stettinius), in evidence before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, declared that American lease-lend had made the British Isle an impregnable base for offensive operations.

Mr. Stettinius was testifying on a measure for renewing the Lease-Lend Act. He said that the question was not whether America should continue to send her Allies supplies, but why hadn't she sent more.

"We have hammered out the principle of total co-operation among nations," he remarked. "It is the only principle on which a war of alliance can be successfully waged."

"There is only one war. What we sent to Russia is all part of the war effort. The guns, foods, and camps we receive throughout the world as lease-lend is reversed are a vital factor in the supply of our troops."

MISS RIDDELL says: "Some of Clare Luce's quality may be gathered from the fact that even with the Flynn's, both Ed and Errol, and such weightier matters as the North African situation and gas rationing, she has managed to nudge a little space for herself in newspapers and magazines almost every day."

"This phenomenon is the wife of Henry Luce, 'Time' tycoon, and she has from time to time acted as correspondent abroad for her husband's picture magazine, 'Life.' But neither Clare Luce, nor any of the things about her, would be of more than passing importance, except for the fact that her husband's 'Time' sells over a million copies per week, and his 'Life' over three million copies, and that both reflect her policy."

According to Miss Riddell, Clare Luce is probably the most influential woman in America to-day through her husband, and because of her riches and beauty and cleverness, which is real in spite of not always being on top.

"She can be made a fool of," Miss Riddell says, "and was by Dorothy Thompson during the last Presidential campaign, but she has more influence than Dorothy Thompson ever will have, even if it doesn't show so much on the surface."

"Although it is clear that Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Democratic Party is going to continue to conduct the war, there can be no doubt that the Republicans mean to conduct the peace, and Clare Luce will be right in there helping."

M.O. SAYS MANY DRAFTEES UNFIT

CAPT. DAVID J. FLICKER, of the Army Medical Corps, stationed at Camp Blanding, Fla., believes that "tens of thousands" of men who are mentally and nervously unfit are being inducted into the Army because of insufficient time allowed for mental examination.

Writing in "War Medicine," published by the American Medical Association, he estimated that only one-fourth of the nervously and mentally unfit are being detected at induction centres, because "even trained neuro-psychiatrists must rely largely on hunch, guess, and intuition when their time is too limited."

Capt. Flicker recommended that induction centres be supplied with case histories by draft boards, schools, and social service agencies, and that a minimum of five minutes be allowed for psychiatric examination. He estimated that from 5 to 10 per cent. of draft age men have psychiatric disorders which would cause them to break down under military life.

Impressed Samoans

A NATIVE colored boxing champion in Samoa knocked out many American Army and Navy heavyweights and eventually challenged Marine Barney Ross, former boxing champion. Ross knocked out the local idol in the sixth round, whereupon an enthusiastic native chief offered the hand of his daughter and a share of his crown.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS FROM HOME

TOO MANY COOKS

THE Rubber Administrator (Mr. Jeffers) at a Government conference, demanded that "Army and Navy loafers be kept out of war plants to allow managers to get out the production we need," states the Baltimore correspondent of the "New York Times."

"We have got too many so-called expeditors in war plants," he said. "We have also too many experts in Washington. If interference were ended we could produce sufficient synthetic rubber for the needs of civilians as well as the armed forces."

AIRMEN DECORATED: Air medals have been awarded to five officers and one enlisted man for a hazardous mission over enemy territory in North Africa, involving dropping American Parachute Troops from aircraft lacking defensive fire power. Those honored were Captains Ralph E. Lehr, Frank J. Miller, First Lieutenant William M. Tharpe, Richard O. Johnson, Joseph M. Oblinski, and Staff Sergeant Gail L. Bahr.

REPLACING MEN OVER 38: The rate at which men over 38 will be discharged from the Army will be accelerated as soon as new "teen age inductees have received sufficient training to replace older men," War Department has announced.

BOND SALES RISE: Many persons, stirred by President Roosevelt's trip to Africa, telegraphed to the White House ordering more war bonds.

MISSING NAVY PLANE

THE Navy transport plane which was missing for 10 days on a flight from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco, was found wrecked and burned in the mountains near Ukiah, California. All 19 aboard were killed, including Rear Admiral Robert English, Commander of the Pacific Fleet submarine force, eight other high naval officers, and a navy nurse.

REGIMENT'S BADGE FOR CARRIER: London Press reports that Lieutenant-General Sir Geoffrey W. Howard, Colonel of the Essex Regiment, presented a silver replica of the regiment's badge for the new United States carrier, Essex. Lieutenant Howard said he thought it was the first time a United States Navy ship had received a memento of a British Regiment.

CAPTAIN ACQUITTED: Henry Nelson, captain of the transport President Coolidge, which was sunk by American mines, in the South Pacific in December in an interview said that a navy court-martial had acquitted him of all blame.

COMMERCE SECRETARY JONES estimates gross value of manufacturing products in 1942 was 121 billion dollars contrasted with 94 billion dollars in 1941.

MAY SOON BE IN ARMY: The featherweight champion, Jackie Wilson, has taken an Army physical examination and if accepted will be assigned to a negro regiment in March.

Airman Are Hitting Hard In Battle

IN 11 months in 1942 United States Army flyers had shot down or probably destroyed 1349 enemy aircraft for the loss of 309 planes, said the War Secretary (Mr. Stimson).

Air operations on all fronts had been brilliantly successful, he added.

Referring to the North African campaign, Mr. Stimson said that, despite Rommel's efforts to destroy air bases near Tripoli and to block the harbor, both would soon be in use by British and American forces.

Women On Marriage For Soldiers

IN a poll of women's opinion conducted by the "Women's Home Companion," it was revealed that American women believe it is right for men in the armed forces to marry, but that war couples should not have children until after the war.

On the question of whether men in expeditionary forces should be permitted to marry abroad, they were evenly divided.

Ex-Champ in Army

JAMES BRADDOCK, the American boxer who took the world championship crown when he beat Max Baer in 1935, and who later defeated Tommy Farr, is now a lieutenant in the United States Army Transport Service.

He was given the choice of going into the Physical Education Division of the Army or to the Transport Service, at the docks, where he spent many months as a laborer during hard times. He chose the Transport.

Sanananda Action A Nightmare Says US General PRAISE FOR FIGHTERS

NO one in Australia or America could have an idea of what Australian and American troops had endured in the swamps and jungles of the Buna and Sanananda areas, said Lieut.-General Robert L. Eichelberger, in a broadcast to Australia.

"One could not imagine a more unfriendly country or worse conditions under which to fight," he added. "The whole campaign has been a nightmare."

GENERAL EICHELBERGER, who commanded the Australians and Americans in those areas, said both had played a wonderful part.

The men had behaved with grand courage. The Australian infantry, tanks, and artillery had fought magnificently.

The Japanese positions had seemed impregnable, and the Japanese had been well supplied with automatic weapons. Almost every weapon found was a light machine gun. Some of these guns were American, probably captured in the Philippines. He had noticed that the Japanese were using American trucks, no doubt obtained by the same means.

General Eichelberger expressed gratitude for the co-operation of his Australian colleagues. He added a word of praise for the New Guinea natives for carrying supplies and assisting wounded. The success of the campaign had relied very largely on the Air Force, he said.

Dutch Slaves Urged To Blow Their Noses

RADIO-ORANJE is urging Dutch workers in Germany to waste Hitler's time by blowing their noses. "The job takes at least 15 seconds," the station says. "When 300,000 slave workers blow their noses, whether it is necessary or not, they waste 1250 hours or 125 working days—which is four months of Hitler's time."

SYDNEY BUILDING GUTTED BY FIRE

DAMAGE estimated at many thousands of pounds was caused when fire gutted a three story building at the corner of Mountain and Small Streets, Glebe.

The premises were occupied by S. Plotkin, sporting goods and canvas goods manufacturer, and the Veneer Woodwork Company.

This is the second fire in same area in the last four months, and it was only 50 yards from the place where the five-storied Wendourie House was gutted last October.

Firemen had a miraculous escape from falling masonry as they prevented the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings.

Minister Denies H.M.A.S. Sydney Rumour

A RUMOUR circulating in Sydney and Brisbane that members of the crew of HMAS Sydney are held by the Japanese as prisoners of war has been officially described as "absolutely without foundation."

The Navy Minister (Mr. Makin) has issued a warning that persons circulating "such callous and cruel rumours, which tend to upset relatives," render themselves liable for drastic punishment under National Security Regulations.

WIN FOR LANG

SUPPORTERS of Mr. Lang had a decisive win at a meeting of the Lang Electorate Council in Sydney at the week-end. A resolution was adopted unanimously opposing Mr. Curtin's militia proposals and asking the official A.L.P. executive not to proceed with the loyalty pledge.

Astronomer At Errol Flynn's Trial

THE trial of Errol Flynn on a charge of statutory rape is nearing its close. Gruelling cross-examination has failed to shake Flynn's emphatic denial that he assaulted either Betty Hansen or Peggy Satterlee.

A somewhat bizarre touch was given to the trial when the prosecutor called an astronomer, Professor Cleminshaw.

Armed with celestial charts, blackboard, and a pointer, he sought to establish that Peggy Satterlee could have seen the moon from a porthole on Flynn's yacht. Cross-examination, however, confused the savant, who admitted that if the ship was going north on the night of the alleged offence, Peggy could not have been a port-hole moon-gazer.

Freddie McEvoy, Flynn's erstwhile host, flatly denied that Flynn ever took Betty Hansen to an upstairs bedroom. He also swore that Flynn was not out of his sight more than five minutes during the party. He described Betty as "a gatecrasher who planted herself on the arms of Flynn's chair."

MAINLAND BEER SUPPLIES

MORE equitable distribution of beer supplies in Australia will probably follow a review of quotas, particularly those in country areas, now being made by the Customs Department. Beer supplies are short in some towns, while supplies in others, especially near military camps, are more than sufficient for civilian demands because when the quotas were allocated the population was increased by the number of troops in the town.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT

ENGLISH Test cricketer L. Hutton, who has been invalided from the Army after fracturing an arm at a gymnasium in 1941, and following several operations, is returning to cricket. He has signed to play for Pudsey St. Lawrence, in the Bradford League, and may play for England at Lord's in the August holiday match.

THE 1943 Brisbane yearling sales will take place towards the end of April, and will be held at Trainer A. G. Anderson's at Hendra. This arrangement embodies two radical departures from custom, but both should appeal to intending buyers, partly because the yearlings will have a month more to develop before being sold and partly because buyers will not have to run the risk of taking youngsters through city traffic.

PETRUCHIO, winner of the Phillip Handicap at Randwick on Saturday possibly has had more owners and trainers than any horse racing in Australia. Now a seven-year-old he has changed hands at auction four times and has been trained by five different trainers.

BONDI BELLE



Here, for a change, is an Australian girl—without Hollywood make-up. She is Bernice Brown, of Flemington, Sydney, and she is seen with the wind in her hair at Bondi Beach.

WORLD'S NEWS IN BRIEF

BRIGHTER SUITS FOR MEN: British men will soon be wearing lighter and brighter suits. The 1943 color range issued to tailors by the British Color Council contains less of the popular dark blues, browns, and greys, and instead there are spicy yellow browns like clove and cinnamon. Some business suits have a purply hue, and even tweed will be woven with the purply yellow tinge. All this is necessary because of wartime dyeing restrictions.

BRITAIN'S WOMEN RAIL WORKERS: One hundred thousand women are doing vital war work on British railways, transforming locomotives from coal-burners to oil-burners, assembling steel-framed waggons, and similar jobs. They assembled 1000 waggons so quickly that one was turned out in 37 minutes.

Higher Pay Sought

THE Australian Workers' Union has decided to ask the Federal Government to increase the pay of the Australian fighting forces to the Canadian standard.

DIVORCE SOUGHT: Film actress Karen Morley has sued movie director Charles Vidor for a divorce, charging cruelty. Morley asked for the custody of their nine-year-old son.

"SCRAP" FROM BATTLE ZONE: American ships are bringing back "battle scrap" from war zones, at rate of approximately three thousand tons monthly, and it is quickly being converted into new weapons for use against the Axis, Navy Department revealed.

AMBASSADOR IN SCANDAL

SLIM, 57-year-old Dino Alfieri, "glamour boy" of the Fascist Party, and Italian Ambassador to Berlin, has been caught up in scandal in Germany, according to an Axis "outlaw" radio station.

It declares that Alfieri was horse-whipped by a German Army captain, who, returning wounded from the African front, found his wife in the Ambassador's arms.

The German Army is demanding Alfieri's dismissal and recall.

The captain submitted the case to his general, asking permission to challenge Alfieri to a duel, but this was refused.

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST: Wallet containing paybook and approx. £8 between Moresby and 12 mile.

LOST:—"Argus Cintar" 35 mm. camera between 8-mile and 3-mile. Valued as presentation. Reward.

LOST:—Near Press hut, 4 mile, Silver Elgin wrist watch. Great value as keepsake. Property of Pat. Robinson. £10 reward.

FOUND:—Bag containing personal gear. Property of Pte. W. J. Mangiviona.

MISSING FRIENDS

Sgt. G. S. MacDonald is inquiring for Cpl. J. Patrick, RAAF. A letter awaits L/Bdr. J. A. Driscoll.

NX95027 Dvr. J. J. McGregor, wishes to contact his brother, Pte. J. H. McGregor.

NX80774 Cpl. H. H. Ross would like to hear from Cpl. A. A. Frew.

Ernie Driver, formerly of Cowra (N.S.W.) is asked to contact Sig. Jack Newling.

Anyone interested in Egyptology is asked to communicate with Anzac.

OBEY THE RULES, AND YOU'LL BEAT MALARIA.

HIGHLIGHTS of the last round of

Melbourne cricket was a century by Dick (University), who is on service. Frederick, former State player took 4 for 12, including the hat trick. McDonnell, recently returned from the Middle East took 5 for 24 for Northcote and Reynolds, football star, 5 for 25 for Essendon. St. Kilda and Carlton had exciting victories in low scoring games against Richmond and Melbourne.

FOR the first half of the present racing season, Sydney (N.S.W.) racing clubs have distributed £79,000 added money, a decrease of £41,000 compared with the same period last season when the total was £120,000.

FEARS that football in Victoria could not be played on raceless Saturdays are said to be groundless, inquiries from Canberra resulting in an unofficial announcement to that effect.

R. GRIFFIN, 56-year-old jockey, who has been riding with more than average success in the Bundaberg district, applied for a licence to ride in races in Brisbane. The application was refused, probably because of his age.

24 Generals and 3,400 Other Officers Taken In 23 Days STALINGRAD BOOTY

FURTHER details of the Russian success at Stalingrad have been released by the Soviet High Command. A special Moscow communique issued on Tuesday night said that between January 10 and February 2, 91,000 Germans were captured, including 24 Generals and 3,400 other officers.

DURING the general offensive over the same period, according to Moscow, the Russians captured 750 aircraft, 1515 tanks, 6700 guns, 1562 mortars, 8000 machine guns, 90,000 rifles, 60,000 lorries, 7000 motor cycles, 480 tractors, 320 radio transmitters, 66 locomotives, 1000 railway trucks, 235 ammunition and arms dumps and large quantities of other equipment.

It is increasingly clear that a German Army at least as large as that destroyed before Stalingrad is facing a similar fate in the Caucasus. Escape is possible only across the Kerch Straits, the Sea of Azov or the narrowing gap to Rostov, and already Rostov is coming within range of Russian heavy guns.

On the Voronej front Soviet columns are reaching out towards the railway line linking Kursk and Kharkov and there are signs that here, too, the Soviet plan is to outflank the entire German position.

The Russian propaganda chief in a broadcast from Moscow on Tuesday night said: "The Soviet High Command has prepared a victory plan which will affect every part of the front. The German Army in the Caucasus will suffer the same fate as the Germans at Stalingrad."

The Russian offensive, he said, was only in its early stages.

11 Axis Spies Shot

ACCORDING to the American Press in North Africa, the French have announced that five Germans, three Frenchmen, and three Arabs, all Axis spies, who landed by parachute, were publicly shot at Biskra.

China Facing Collapse Says Ambassador's Wife

CHINESE resistance to Japanese aggression is facing collapse because of the Allied failure to send promised food and munitions, Madame Wellington Koo, wife of the Chinese Ambassador to Britain, told a war chest gathering in Philadelphia (U.S.A.).

"We have come close to our limit," she said. "Let's not kid ourselves. China is nearer collapse on the economic front than at any time during the war. If the Chinese Government is forced to negotiate for peace, it will not be because her soldiers shirked fighting, and it will not be because we have had enough. We have fought practically without guns, planes and ammunition. It will be because the people are ravaged by sickness and are starving."

Breakfast In England, Dinner In New York

BREAKFAST in Southampton; tea in New York. That service is envisaged by engineers of Short Brothers, designers of the famous Short Sunderland flying boats.

The idea behind the plan is an Atlantic stratosphere ferry service by giant British-built flying boats, each carrying 100 passengers, also freight at 400 miles an hour.

The present Sunderland has an all-up air lift of about 27 tons.

South Africa's War Effort

THE growth of South Africa's war effort was described by the Minister for Munitions (Senator Conroy) yesterday. When South Africa entered the war she did not have enough war material to keep 10,000 men in the field for two hours, he said. Since then, the Union had provided an army of 150,000 men with first-class equipment, and the value of munitions, guns and other war materials sent to Britain or Allied countries was £200,000,000.

FORTRESSES AGAIN HIT AT RABAU

FLYING FORTRESSES were again over Rabaul in darkness early yesterday morning, when both sides of Simpson's Harbour were bombed. The crew of one aircraft reported seeing an explosion through the glare of searchlights and ground haze. Results of the bombing could not be fully observed.

Cape Gazelle area, to the south of Rabaul, was bombed, as was Gasmata runway. Later, Gasmata was again attacked, this time by a Liberator. Fires were started, and one fuel dump received a direct hit.

Another Liberator on armed reconnaissance bombed the runway at Cape Gloucester. A third, on reconnaissance over Wide Bay, southeast of New Britain, sighted an enemy cruiser and dropped a number of heavy bombs, but no hits were observed.

This aircraft was intercepted by 15 Zeros and in combat which followed two of the Zeros were damaged. The Liberator warded off the attack and continued to complete its mission, although one engine had been put out of action and another had been damaged.

Citizens' Register For National Emergencies

FOLLOWING the despatch of 500 Victorian A.R.P. men for fruit picking, a move is on foot to establish a volunteer register to enrol citizens for national emergencies. It is a register to be kept at every Town Hall. Citizens could then be called for harvesting, bushfire fighting and other urgent work lacking manpower.

R.A.F. OVER GERMANY

BRITISH bombers were over Germany again on Tuesday night, but no details are yet available. The Copenhagen Radio went off the air for three hours, but no reports have been received of bombs on Copenhagen.

Aleutians Attack

A U.S. Navy Department communique reports Japanese air raids on American positions in the Western Aleutian Islands on Sunday and Monday. No damage was caused.

BLATHERSKITE!

"THE Italians received the news of the occupation of Libya with manly Roman calm," Roman Mussolini, addressing Fascist youths on Tuesday.

"Only after 32 months of the hardest fighting was our No. 1 enemy able to claim success. Fifty million Italians will continue to set their eyes to Africa. They, more than any nation, have a sacred right to be in Africa. Together with our Axis comrades, we reply to the mad, criminal propagandist at the Casablanca meeting that we will never slacken. So long as we have the strength to grasp a weapon we will never give in."

14 Seamen Scalded To Death

FOURTEEN seamen mostly Australians and Scots, scalded to death aboard a ship, were buried in the same grave in North Cemetery, Gibraltar, on Monday.

Captain John Nicholson, master, and Thomas Barraclough, chief engineer, stated at an inquest that the ship was in a convoy about 150 miles from Gibraltar when the accident occurred.

Britain's Work Stoppages

IT is officially stated that stoppages of work due to disputes in 1942 numbered 1281 in Britain, involving 455,000 workers, and the days lost totalled 1,527,000 compared with 980 disputes in 1941, involving 361,000 workers and 1,078,000 days lost.

MORE THAN 50 JAPS KILLED IN PATROL CLASH NEAR MUBO

JAPANESE forces in the Wau-Mubo area continue to be probed by Allied fighting patrols. There have been several isolated clashes in this area. In one of them, between 50 and 60 Japanese were killed at the cost of fewer than 10 Australian casualties.

FLYING FORTRESSES and Beau-fighters were active on reconnaissance work. The Beaufighters, working in co-operation with the ground troops, also strafed a fairly wide area.

A formation of Australian-manned Bostons heavily bombed and strafed from Komiatum to Salamaua. The track from Mubo north was bombed on both sides, and grass huts in the Waria River valley were strafed.

DESTROYER RAMS U-BOAT AND SAVES CONVOY

A CONVOY which has just arrived in England was saved from attack by two British destroyers which shelled and sank the only enemy U-boat sighted on the whole voyage.

After attacking the submarine with depth charges, the destroyers' guns were brought to bear on it when it came to the surface. The U-boat was finally rammed and cut in two by one of the destroyers.

Churchill's Tribute To Soviet Successes

"THE world struggle is proceeding with gathering momentum towards a climax. So far as we have gone, we have every reason to rejoice," said Mr. Churchill in London on Tuesday.

"The German defeat at Stalingrad may well be decisive. Indeed, the situation of the Axis as a result of Russia's resounding victories may prove permanent and fatal."

After reviewing the Eighth Army's successes, Mr. Churchill said the army would follow Rommel wherever he went.

More Banks To Close

BY the end of the month, 17 per cent. of trading bank branches in Australia will have been closed down. The Minister for War Organisation (Mr. Dedman) said yesterday that 14 per cent. were closed at present.

Union Delegation To Be Restricted To Three

IT has been decided that the Australian Trades Union delegation to England will consist of three members.

An Australia-wide ballot will select two to represent the A.C.T.U. The other representative will be selected by the A.W.U., which has called for nominations. Mr. C. Fallon has declined to go.

Lower Speed Limit?

THE Federal Government's order of a 40 m.p.h. speed limit throughout Australia came into operation on Monday, but there are already suggestions that it may be reduced to 30 miles as the saving in tyres and spare parts will not be as great as was originally thought. The Minister for Transport (Mr. Lawson) will discuss the suggestion with the Transport Board today.

Scoring A Century

FOR the first time since publication began, to-day's Australian edition of "Guinea Gold" publishes 100 news items in its four small pages. Many are necessarily paragraphic, but editorial policy has been, and will continue to be to provide the widest possible cover of world and mainland news which rigid space limitations will allow.

During the past fortnight, more than 1100 items have been published, exclusive of photographs, advertisements and many U.S. home items in the American edition. Suggestions and criticism designed to improve the paper are always welcome.

Soviet Official Arrives

MR. ALEXANDER SOLDATOV, first Secretary to the Soviet Embassy, has arrived in Sydney with his wife and daughters. The Russian Minister (Mr. Vlasof) is on his way.

VESSELS FOR NORWAY: The transfer of two vessels by the U.S. War Shipping Administration to Norway for service in that nation's merchant marine has been announced.

Australian Singers In London

TWO Australian singers are at present prominent in London music. Joan Hammond, starring in the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, is playing in "Madame Butterfly" and Ruth Naylor will sing in "Hiawatha" at the Albert Hall on Saturday night.