

GUINEA GOLD

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In the Field, Wednesday, February 10, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE.

RED ARMY CAPTURES KURSK

KHARKOV & ROSTOV ARE NEXT TWO RUSSIAN OBJECTIVES

THE important railway junction of Kursk is now in Russian hands. A special Moscow communique says the city was captured on Monday in an "impetuous offensive assisted by a flanking blow from the north-west."

Kursk, says the communique, is the first important centre in the Germans' winter line to fall to the Russians. Much booty was captured and it is now being counted. Farther south, the Russians, after stubborn fighting have captured Korocha, one of the centres defending Kharkov from the north.

Violent fighting continues in the Rostov area. A Press correspondent in Moscow says that the Russians have drawn up their forces before Rostov, and may even have sent an ultimatum to the Germans demanding their surrender.

THE greatest outflanking battle in the history of the war appears to be developing with the Russian threat to encircle the Germans in the Donetz Basin.

Moscow correspondents estimate that the Germans imperilled by this threat total approximately 300,000—about the same number as was annihilated at Stalingrad.

By breaching the Isyum-Krasnylin line and capturing the industrial centre of Kramatorsk, the Red Army has turned the Germans' northern flank, and now the Russian spearhead of tanks has turned south. It has reached a point within 110 miles of Mariupol, on the Sea of Azov. Thus the Russians are in the rear of the Donetz Basin, and are aiming at the mining town of Gorlovka, the capture of which would cut off the German retreat west by rail from Rostov.

Kharkov is menaced by Russian drives westwards, which have reached points 50 miles north and 60 miles south of the city. Byelgorod, which protects Kharkov on the north, is imminently in danger.

Hunt For Melbourne Murderer

MELBOURNE detectives and the U.S. Provost Corps are co-operating in inquiries into the death of Francis Phelan, Melbourne taxi-driver, who was found murdered in Prahran on Saturday night.

Police found three spent revolver shells on the taxi floor and blood stains on the driver's seat. The probable murderer was seen leaving Phelan's taxi, apparently after dumping the body some distance away.

RUSSO—TURKISH ACCORD

A MESSAGE from Ankara (Turkey) says that M. Stalin has expressed to the Turkish Government his complete satisfaction with the result arising from Mr. Churchill's visit.

The British United Press correspondent at Ankara says that concrete developments in Russo-Turkish relations are expected soon.

TRAITOR SHOT
LIEUT.-GENERAL HENDRIK SEYSSARDT, commander of the Dutch Nazi Volunteer Legion, was shot dead outside his home on Friday.

MORE BEER SOUGHT IN AUSTRALIA

REPRESENTATIONS have been made to the Federal Government on behalf of industrial interests to have the present restrictions on production and supply of beer modified.

Experiences in city and country during the hot spell last week showed that supplies made available to the retail trade under the quota for January were insufficient for the public demand, and advance deliveries to many hotels last week from the February quota is expected to result in a complete depletion of beer stocks long before the end of the present month.

On present indications, the Government is not likely to agree to any increase in the volume of beer now being brewed.

AMERICAN FORTRESSES AND MARAUDERS HAMMER NAPLES

NAPLES was heavily raided in daylight on Sunday by American Flying Fortresses and Marauders of the Middle East Command. Brigadier-General Timberlake is quoted as saying that the attack was the most successful the U.S. Air Corps has carried out in the Middle East.

MONDAY'S Cairo communique, which reported the raid, said that direct hits were scored on three ships, and big fires were started on the waterfront. Three enemy fighters were shot down.

According to London reports, Rome radio admits great damage. Sardinia also was pounded by American aircraft operating from



This map of Russia, from Moscow south to the Black Sea, and from Voronej west to the Polish frontier, shows the area in which successful Red Army attacks are now taking place. The relative positions of Kursk, Kharkov and Rostov are also shown.

Ship Torpedoed Off Australian Coast

GENERAL MacARTHUR'S communique yesterday announced that a small Allied vessel had been torpedoed and sunk off the east coast of Australia. Fourteen survivors have reached port safely.

The chief cook, in an interview, said he was the only member of the crew who could not swim. He gripped a piece of wreckage until he was finally picked up by comrades on a raft.

Other survivors told how they dived overboard as soon as the torpedo struck the ship. They drifted around in the sea until they came across a raft. One member said that he was just about "all in" when his mate gave him his life-belt.

12.15 a.m. Flash

JAPS EVACUATE GUADALCANAL?

A JAPANESE communique broadcast by German Radio at 12.15 a.m. today, announced the evacuation of troops from Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons.

Tokio claimed that Japanese troops, "having achieved their objective," were transferred to another point at the beginning of this month.

CAR'S MAD DASH

WITH a dying man at the wheel, a car sped 100 yards along the wrong side of Cleveland Street, Sydney, on Monday, struck a motor lorry and truck, and finally smashed into a soft drinks wagon.

The driver, Alfred Rounds, of Randwick, had collapsed at the wheel. He died soon afterwards.

New Army Hostel In Sydney

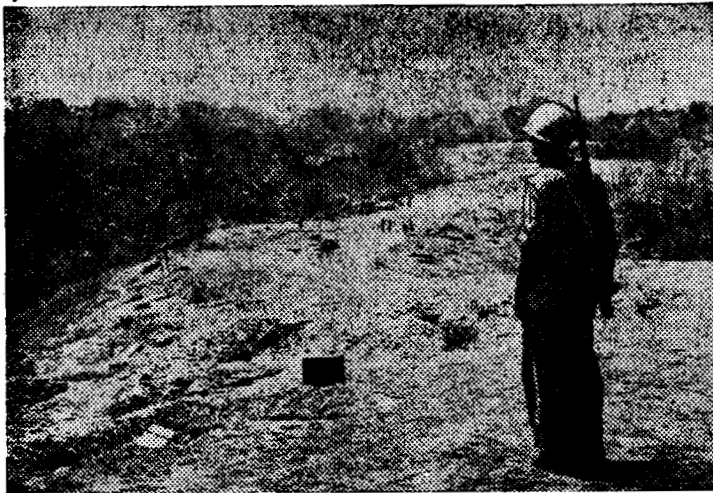
IT was announced yesterday that a new soldiers' hostel in Sydney would be opened next month. The Minister for the Army (Mr. Forde) said it would be the finest in Australia. The hostel will provide beds for 450 soldiers each night.

Valuable Flax Lost

SEVENTY-EIGHT stacks of flax valued at £40,000 were destroyed by fire at the Riddell, Romsey and Gisborne (Vic.) flax mills on Monday. An over-heated elevator bearing is believed to have been the cause of the outbreak.

Competition For Labor Is Raising Pay To Fantastic Level in America

600 JAPS. WERE KILLED HERE



This ridge, protecting the vital Henderson airport held by U.S. Marines on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon Islands, was assaulted repeatedly by Japanese troops, 600 of whom were killed in a futile attempt to force their way toward the airfield.

INCREASINGLY fierce competition between war plants for all labor, skilled and unskilled, is regarded in America as evidence that the nation is reaching full production of war goods, writes Lon Jones in a message from Los Angeles. Column length advertisements in the daily papers offer work to all comers in the shipyards and aircraft factories at fabulous wages. Unskilled labor is worth 95 cents (about 5/- sterling) an hour in the yards of Henry J. Kaiser, the shipyards wizard.

KAISER stresses that there are no physical examinations for jobs in his shipyards and that he will take aliens who have first citizenship papers. Not so long ago only American citizens could work in any defence plant.

Kaiser even tells workers that if they don't know one end of a wrench from the other, he will label the wrench "top" and "bottom."

Aircraft plants nearby have been unable to match Kaiser's wage offer, but they probably will be forced to if they do not want to lose their workers to him.

Six months ago America was confident that it had enough manpower to meet all requirements without resorting to a draft of labor. But

the production programme has been stepped up since, and the Army has lifted its sights to a total force of between 10,000,000 and 13,000,000 before the end of 1943.

By the end of this year there will be 4,500,000 women in war plants, and by the end of 1943 there will be more than 6,000,000. But this will not meet the shortage. Only the transfer of millions of men from civilian industry to war production will solve the problem.

Jobs Outnumber Workers

Not very many years ago U.S.A. had more than 12,000,000 on the unemployed rolls. Today there are actually more jobs than workers.

Skilled men are leaving vital jobs to enlist in the Army because they fear that if they wait to be drafted they will not be able to choose their Army job. Federal employees under a new order are now subject to transfer to any job without consent. This probably is the thin edge of the wedge for national drafting of all labor.

How Britain Repays Lease-Lend Aid

MAJOR GEORGE SPIEGELBERG, testifying before the U.S. Foreign Affairs Committee on the Lease-Lend Renewal Bill, said that all the United States forces in the United Kingdom had spent only 1,000,000 dollars (£250,000 sterling) for purchases from British commercial sources since last June.

"This is a drop in the bucket," he said, "compared with the cost of maintaining the army."

He added that all equipment, facilities and services required by the United States forces and obtainable in Britain was procured as reciprocal Lease-Lend aid. Supplies obtained ranged from black-out cloth to flame-throwers, from candy to laundries, from bombs to beehives.

OUTPUT OF U.S. PLANES RISES

UNITED STATES aircraft production passed the 5000-a-month stage last December, says the New York Times' Washington correspondent.

The War Production Board reported that December output of 5489 planes, which were delivered to the services and the Allies, beat the November production by 677.

It added, however, that engine production was exceeding plane production, and engine storage was becoming a problem.

Humiliating Defeat Of Jap. Air Force

THE U.S. Office of War Information says the re-organisation of the Japanese Air Force is an admission of humiliating defeat in the first round of the Pacific War. It adds: "Japanese aeroplane losses are many thousands, meaning the virtual liquidation of the first line planes and personnel, with which they entered on the war. The losses have considerably impaired the morale of air crews."

Reports received in Washington say that Japanese airmen openly blame deficient training for the heavy losses, also, in several instances, they have expressed a desire that they should not be assigned to dangerous positions.

Raiders In Pacific?

"GERMAN auxiliary cruisers are operating in the Pacific, after travelling through the Northern Arctic Ocean, along the narrow straits between Siberia and the ice zone," said Rear-Admiral Luetzow, broadcasting from Berlin.

He added that Germany staked her hopes of victory on co-operation between her auxiliary cruisers and U-boats.

"Our auxiliary cruisers are dovetailing with one another, and the whole of their activity benefits U-boat warfare," he said. "This is the secret of our future victory."

TOUGH ON MRS. WILLIAMS!

"WE couldn't possibly live on 25,000 dollars (£6000) a year. All we can do is live from day to day."

The speaker was Mrs. Harrison Williams, once known as the best-dressed woman in the world, and wife of a man reputed to have made 75,000,000 dollars on Wall Street.

Her statement was prompted by President Roosevelt's recent decision that incomes should not exceed 25,000 dollars a year.

Mrs. Williams feels the approach of poverty very keenly. She has closed four of her five homes, put eight cars in storage, reduced her household servants from 25 to 10, and shut all except two floors of the 30-room mansion on Fifth Avenue, where she now lives.

PRaise FOR SAPPERS

THE U.S. Navy Secretary (Colonel Knox) said that the tasks he had seen performed by American sappers during his recent visit to the south-west Pacific battle area were almost superhuman. He instanced the fact that a new airfield in the jungle was built in 17 days.

He found Noumea just a "little piece of America" set down in New Caledonia, and likened it to a mining town in the boom days. The natives had never seen so much money, and the wave of prosperity was beyond their wildest dreams.

Decoration For Objector

A CONSCIENTIOUS objector placed in the Medical Corps has been recommended for a decoration for rescuing wounded comrades in the face of machine-gun fire on Guadalcanal, states an A.A.P. message from New York.

State Bans Golfers' Trip To Argentine

THE four American golf professionals who intended to tour the Argentine this winter have been refused permission by the Department of State. The pros. were invited by the Argentine P.G.A. and were to have left by plane.

State Department officials ruled that transportation difficulties prevented the tour.

Those invited were Jimmy Demaret, of Detroit, the 1941 Argentine open champion; Craig Wood, of Mamaroneck, N.Y., national open champion; Ed Dudley, of Colorado Springs, Col., P.G.A. president; and Chick Harbert, of Battle Creek, Mich.

Manila Hemp From Abaca Plantations

BANANA plantations in Central America are solving two problems simultaneously, by partly switching to the cultivation of abaca, which yields manila hemp. Abaca is closely related to the banana plant. This will supply much-needed hemp while reclaiming abandoned banana plantations which have suffered severely from the loss of export markets. It is reported that the United Fruit Company, the chief banana grower in Central America, has contracted with the United States Defence Supplies Corporation to cultivate 40,000 acres, which are expected to yield at least 40,000,000 lbs. of dried abaca fibre annually.

BUMPER IDEA

A SAN FRANCISCO judge has offered to disregard fines for motorist offenders, if they contribute the bumpers of their cars towards the scrap metal drive.

GREW A MODERN PAUL REVERE

JOSEPH CLARK GREW, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and now hinted as U.S. envoy to Australia and the Pacific, would not bring a "Hitler first" mind to Canberra.

Mr. Grew has become America's latter-day Paul Revere, riding the countryside with a message for the people.

The message is the danger of the yellow flood surging across the Pacific.

Mr. Grew has never underestimated Japan's power. He now is disturbed and shocked by the complacency and over-confidence shown by those who regard Japan as the Axis "little brother."

"There's no room in the Pacific for us and for swashbuckling Tokio," he says.

NEWS FLASHES

NEW CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS: The Office of Censorship has issued new and consolidated regulations, approved by President Roosevelt, governing all communications entering and leaving the country. The regulations replace separate laws adopted for postal, cable and telephone communications.

HIRING CONTROLS ESTABLISHED: W.M.C. Chairman McNutt last night announced the establishment of hiring controls in the 32 United States labor shortage areas where the most intensive recruiting efforts have failed to provide the manpower need for essential activities. Objectives of the new policy, McNutt said, are the elimination of wasteful labor turnover in essential fields, reduction of unnecessary migration, channeling of the flow of scarce labor into more vital war industries, and maximum utilisation of manpower reserves.

WOOLLEN FABRICS: Officials of the War Production Board are discussing with representatives of the wool manufacturing industry plans for the increase of essential wool fabrics. The discussions cover civilian as well as military needs.

Lang Faces Expulsion From A.L.P.

MILITIA ISSUE MAY CAUSE PARTY SPLIT

The official New South Wales A.L.P. executive has decided by an overwhelming majority to summon Mr. J. T. Lang, former Labor leader, to appear before a special meeting of the disputes committee tomorrow night to explain articles he has written recently in his paper, "The Century." Members of the executive allege that the articles are causing disruption in the party.

A STRONG move is sure to be made for the expulsion of Mr. Lang from the Official Labor party. Executive officers are already saying he is "doomed," whether he attends the inquiry or not.

If Mr. Lang is expelled he will be unable to contest the selection ballot for the Reid seat at the next Federal election. He has already announced his intention to oppose the sitting member, Mr. Morgan, in the ballot.

If he is excluded from the ballot, it is known his supporters will strongly urge him to contest the seat as an independent Labor candidate. Lang supporters have already captured control of the Reid Electorate Council, which is the governing body of the official Labor party in the Reid electorate.

New Party Hint

The proposed expulsion is expected to precipitate an immediate split in the Official Labor party, and may lead to the formation of a rival party led by Mr. Lang.

The stormy ex-Premier has been leading the fight against the Federal Government's militia proposals which have been described in his paper as being tantamount to conscription. His supporters have openly organised against the official A.L.P. for the defeat of the proposals.

They have submitted demands for a special conference to review the decisions, and have claimed that the majority of the leagues and unions have supported them.

The leaders of the official A.L.P. rejected the demand for a special conference, and the tactics of the Lang faction since then have been to remain within the party with the object of attending the annual State Labor conference in June and removing followers of Mr. Curtin and Mr. McKell from control of the movement.

The latest move of the executive to expel Mr. Lang may checkmate these plans.

LOST & FOUND

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

LOST.—Jewish prayer book at Y.M.C.A., Pte. N. Finklestein.

LOST.—Chrome wrist watch in Army case (without straps). Probably left in truck at Murray Barracks.

LOST.—Felt hat, with white pug-garee. Pte. F. Dunner.

LOST.—Green shirt and wallet containing pay book, photos, etc. Left in American truck between Moresby and Keila turn-off. Reward.

FOUND.—Pay book V 150866, Cpl. J. J. McLinden.

Spr. R. W. Brown sends his thanks to the soldier who found and returned his wallet.

FOUND.—Pay book belonging to V.52974, Murray, W. Also wallet and papers.

FOUND.—Glasses in blue leather case; maker, J. S. Guilfoxy, Sydney.

WANTED TO BUY.—Immediately. Officer's trunk or suit case.

MISSING FRIENDS

Pte. N. J. Hacker wishes to contact Spr. C. Davies.

Spr. Norm. Cook would like to hear from Ken Blake, of Malvern.

Pte. P. V. Idstein wishes to contact Pte. Gerald Campbell, of Newcastle.

Pte. A. R. Wassell would like to locate Vince Brumbury, R.A.A.F.

Germany's Food Situation

GERMANY'S food situation is incomparably worse than Britain's, and, furthermore, is steadily deteriorating, it was stated at the conference of Empire journalists. Milk is given to babies only, while fruit is reserved for children.

British Commandos Raid Norway

"BRITISH commandos are reaching the Norwegian coast nightly," says London "Daily Mail's" Stockholm correspondent.

"Some of them arrive by parachute at dusk with instructions for a propaganda and demolition job. They are taken off by motor torpedo boats at dawn.

"A British destroyer recently penetrated Mallendal fiord at dusk, anchoring with the aid of Norwegian patrols, and at dawn sank a large German merchantman and so badly damaged another that the crew abandoned the ship.

"When German warships arrived on a salvage mission, Norwegian patriots showed the men the way ashore—across minefields laid by the Germans. As a result, 60 of the Germans were killed.

S.A. RACING BAN TO CONTINUE

ALTHOUGH the Prime Minister (Mr. Curtin) has told South Australia's Premier (Mr. Playford) that "the Commonwealth has no objection to racing and trotting meetings being permitted on the same basis as that operating in other States," Mr. Playford has repeated that while the power remained in his hands the ban on racing in South Australia would be sustained.

TRIMMER—AUCTION MATCH NOT LIKELY TO COME OFF

By "Alister," of the Brisbane "Telegraph."

AFTER Trimmer had won in Sydney with 10.13 recently, his trainer (F. Russell) issued a challenge to the Brisbane crack, Auction. Russell said he considered Trimmer Australia's fastest sprinter, and that he was prepared to find a large stake for a match with Auction over six furlongs—on a sand track or grass.

BUT Brisbane racing men haven't taken Russell's challenge very seriously because they believe it would be impossible for a handicapper to bring Auction and Trimmer together.

Says one bookmaker of experience, "Put weights on them from 9.0 to 12.0, and I will back Auction for whatever I have—house, car, bag, purse and all. I would say that £10,000 would be chicken feed to the real amount for which anybody who fancied Trimmer could get set."

A line to the relative merits of Auction and Trimmer is provided by Gold Salute. Auction, carrying 10.12 to Gold Salute's 9.2, defeated the chestnut pointlessly in the Newmarket Handicap run at Albion Park.

AUSTRALIAN BALLET GIRL



Here is an Australian ballet girl Gwen Bazely, of the J. C. Williamson Musical Comedy Company. With others, just as decorative, she is now appearing in Sydney.

Trotting In Tasmania

THE Hobart Metropolitan Trotting Club will conduct a carnival on February 13 and 20, and will give £1300 in stakes for the two days. Six races are listed for the first day. Stakes for H.M.T.C. Cup Day on February 20 will be £700, of which £200 has been allotted for the cup.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

DUTCH NURSES AT RUSSIAN FRONT: German authorities in Holland, according to a report received by the N.E.I. Government Information Service in Melbourne, have, owing to an acute shortage of medical personnel, mobilised 3000 Netherlands nurses and forcibly sent them to the Russian front. More than 1000 of the nurses are reported to have escaped during the journey.

FLYING BOAT FACTORY TAKEN OVER: The British Ministry for Aircraft Production has taken over the factory of Short Brothers, where the Sunderland flying boats are designed and built.

Eight Million Women In War Work

EIGHT million women have already registered in Britain for war work. Two and a half million of these are married with children under 14 years of age.

TOJO DICTATOR? Tokio official radio states that the Japanese Premier (General Tojo) has demanded from the Diet sweeping new powers permitting him and his Ministers to rule by decree.

RUSSO-JAP. PACT? Tokio radio reports Japanese Foreign Minister Tani as having said on Monday that Japan and Russia are negotiating a new Fisheries Pact.

ITALIAN P.O.W. IN SOUTH AFRICA: More than 58,000 Italian prisoners of war are maintained in South Africa at the expense of the British Government, Field-Marshal Smuts said last week. In the House of Commons the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. R. S. Hudson) said he expected to have more prisoners available shortly for farm work.

SPORT FLASHES

ERNEST EDWIN McQUILLAN, 38, manager for the Australian champion welter and light weight boxer, Vic Patrick, and other prominent boxers, has been refused exemption from military duties by Chief Industrial Magistrate Pryor. McQuillan, who is married with two children and is in Class 4, was given a month to wind up his affairs. He claimed exemption on the grounds of hardship.

TOMMY JOHNS, 9.9, may not be paid his share of the proceeds of his match with Les Fitzgerald, 9.6½, at Rushcutters Bay Stadium on Saturday night when he was disqualified for butting in the ninth round. Directors of Stadiums Limited have announced that they will withhold Johns' money until a report is received from the referee, Joe Wallia. They said they take a most serious view of fouls which have marred recent contests, and intend to stamp out these offences.

FRANK DEADY, skipper of "Mascotte" in the 18-footers' race on Sydney Harbor on Sunday, was thrown out of his own boat, picked up by a rival crew, and later swam from that boat to patrol launch. When sailing "Mascotte" near Valentia Street, he was struck by "Jean's Bimkin," and fell overboard. "Mascotte" capsized soon after he had gone overboard. The race was won by "Swansea" with "Ada A." second.

FLYING FISH had a runaway win in the Sydney Flying Squadron 18-footers' Handicap on Saturday. She won by five minutes from J. L. Glick and Aberdeen.

PRINCESS THAURA ran nine furlongs in 1.57½ during a trial for Launceston Cup candidates at Elwick racecourse on Saturday. The mare carried about 9.0 and pulled up well.

R.A.F. Forces Germans From U-Boat

Allied Progress In Tunisia

FRENCH have occupied an important hill near the valley of the Kebir River in Tunisia. Allied patrols have been active east of the Oussetia Valley, taking some prisoners and repulsing an enemy raid.

The British United Press correspondent at Cairo says that west of Pisida, British Eighth Army advance troops encountered opposition in the border region.

The new Algiers radio station, Radio France, states that advanced Allied troops are now only 50 miles from the Mareth line, which is about 60 miles from the border.

Some war correspondents suggest that Rommel may not attempt to defend the Mareth line if the Eighth Army threatens to prevent his joining up with Axis forces in Tunisia.

DSO For RAAF Pilot

AN Australian fighter pilot who shot down two of the four Japanese raiders which attempted to attack Calcutta last month has been awarded the D.S.O. He is Flying-Officer Charles Crombie, of Warwick, Queensland.

NEWSPAPER SAYS U.S. SHOULD RETAIN CONQUERED LANDS

THE 'Chicago Tribune' claims that one of America's legitimate war objectives is farthest from the minds of those talking most about peace plans. "That objective is permanent safety for the U.S., which is attainable only by the retention of all islands we have occupied," it says.

"ONLY an insane man or traitor would surrender land won by the lives of our brave men," the newspaper declares. "We do not say that this should include any part of Africa or Iceland and certainly not the British Isles, but it means all the islands in the western Pacific—New Caledonia, the Fijis, and the Solomons. The Japanese mandated islands are going to be ours by right of conquest.

"Although it required American troops and leadership to drive out the Japanese from Papua, we should evacuate from there after the war and require Australians to defend Papua themselves. Beyond that point, we believe the Philippines, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Malaya and Burma should be free for development by their own inhabitants."

TWO MORE D.F.C.'s.

FLIGHT-LIEUT. J. P. M. HAYDON, formerly of Duntroon, Canberra, and Flying-Officer I. H. Davies, formerly of Balwyn (Vic), have been awarded the D.F.C. for "great gallantry and determination in attacking targets in enemy-occupied territory." Both are in the U.K.

AIRMEN MISSING

Four sergeants of the R.A.A.F. are missing from training operations over the sea off the Australian coast. They are: Sgt. P. E. Goldsmith, pilot, of New South Wales; Sgt. N. B. Davey, observer, South Australia; Sgt. R. N. MacDonald, Victoria; Sgt. C. J. W. Kieth, wireless-air-gunner, Queensland.

FOOD FOR N. AFRICA CIVILIANS

BESIDES sending war materials to North Africa, the British Government had despatched 30,000 tons of foodstuffs for the civilians, said the British Minister to North Africa (Mr. H. MacMillan) on Monday.

"AUSTRALIA WILL BE THERE"

THE first Australian member of the British 8th Army to arrive on the southern Tunisian front was Pte. Frank Potter, of Melbourne. An Australian correspondent in Tunisia said he met Potter with a New Zealander, a Scot, and an Englishman in a southern Tunisian city. The four men were members of a patrol which had penetrated into Tunisia after a month of valuable reconnaissance.

DAYLIGHT RAID ON LONDON

LONDON workers were catching early trains and buses on Monday morning when the air raid alert went for the first time in three weeks. The all-clear was sounded shortly afterwards.

German raiders machine-gunned a passenger train coming up to London, but the driver was able to get it safely into a tunnel before any damage was done.

Enemy planes also machine-gunned several districts in the south and south-east of England, but caused no casualties or damage. Minor damage was done in the Home Counties area. One enemy plane was destroyed over the English Channel.

Base At Lorient EVACUATION ORDER

THE Germans are evacuating Lorient, Hitler's great U-boat base on the Bay of Biscay. The Berlin Radio announcement of this move followed closely on a heavy R.A.F. raid.

The German Newsagency yesterday amplified the official radio announcement, saying that Lorient and the surrounding district were to be completely evacuated. The only persons who would be allowed to remain for the present were those who had urgent business there, and even they would have to have special permits.

THE report of the latest raid on Lorient by R.A.F. bombers on Sunday night came from London, where one newspaper described it as a "double punch attack."

The first great flight of bombers made a concentrated attack and dropped many 4000lb. bombs. This was followed by a second formation of heavy bombers which were over their target for 45 minutes. They also dropped 4000lb. bombs.

Pilots who took part in the second raid said on their return to London that the whole of the target area was in flames. Great damage was done to the waterfront area.

Seven British bombers failed to return.

BUNN HEAVILY ATTACKED

BUNN, in the Solomons, was raided for the fourth time in five days when the airfield was subjected to a 2½ hours' attack by Catalinas.

General Headquarters' communique, announcing this raid, which took place on Monday morning, said that several big aircraft—presumably bombers—were set on fire on the ground, and much more damage was done.

Irresponsible Chatter Causes Concern

IRRESPONSIBLE and talkative people spreading vital information about troop and shipping movements are causing Sydney military authorities grave concern.

The information is being disseminated in restaurant and telephone conversations.

"It is impossible to over-estimate the danger to our troops caused by this gossip, and we shall prosecute in all cases reported," said a military spokesman yesterday.

South African M.P. Sees Early Victory

IN a speech at Cape Town, South African Minister for Lands (Senator Conroy) said: "I will not be surprised if before the end of 1943 we see the war end in total victory for the Allies."

Senator Conroy added that when South Africa entered the war there was not enough war material to keep 10,000 men in the field for two hours. Since then, however, she had been able to equip 150,000 and produce war material to the value of £200 millions sterling.

War News In A Nutshell

GERMANY: British bombers were out over German territory again on Monday night. Although no official announcement of the targets selected has been made from London, it is reported that Germany's most powerful radio station went off the air suddenly.

NORTH AFRICA: At a Press conference in Algiers, the British and American Ministers in North Africa (Messrs. MacMillan and Murphy) stated that there was no difference of opinion between their governments on the policy to be followed in North Africa. They also spoke of the complete co-operation now existing between the British and French representatives, and expressed the belief that General Giraud and General de Gaulle would eventually work out an agreement.

FRANCE: It was revealed in North Africa on Monday that the wives of General Giraud and General Bergeret (French leaders in North Africa) were recently arrested by the Germans.

BURMA: The latest Indian communique says R.A.F. Liberators dropped nearly 30 tons of high explosive bombs on targets near Rangoon. Other British aircraft maintained their offensive against small ships in the Arakan Coast area, and wiped out enemy transport units in the Toungoo area between Mandalay and Rangoon. All British aircraft returned.

ENGLAND: The Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) summoned Cabinet to a special conference on Monday to discuss with it what eventuated at the conference he had with President Roosevelt at Casablanca. The meeting was the second in 24 hours.

SOLOMONS: Latest news from Washington indicates that the sparing between American and Japanese surface and air forces in the region of the Solomons Islands continues. A U.S. Navy Department announcement on Sunday reported that the situation in the south-west Pacific remained unchanged. No communique was issued on Monday.

RAID ON MESSINA

MONDAY'S Cairo communique reported a heavy raid by R.A.F. bombers on the port of Messina, the closest town in Sicily to the Italian mainland. Targets in the harbor were especially attacked.

Youth Charged After Father Is Shot In Queensland Bush

"FATHER had to be done away with—he had been knocking Mum about," Sydney Morris Laverty, 20, farm hand, allegedly told police when he was arrested. At Brisbane on Monday he was committed for trial on a charge of having attempted to kill his father, Joseph Sydney Laverty, at Canungra, on January 20.

The youth, according to police evidence, admitted having hidden in a banana patch and shot at his father with a .22 calibre rifle. One bullet hit his father on the arm. Then Sydney Laverty ran forward and tried to strangle his father, who got the upper hand.

PATROL ACTIVITY AT WAU

PATROL activity continues in the Wau area with the enemy being steadily confined into further defensive positions in the Bulolo Valley.

Late on Monday afternoon a concentration of enemy troops was attacked by our infantry near Crystal Creek. The Japanese were driven from their positions with 50 or 60 casualties.

Think Before You Post That Parcel

IF you're thinking of sending a parcel home—don't forget that it will be opened by the censors, no matter how elaborately you seal it up. And if it contains prohibited goods like cigarettes, equipment or explosives, they'll be confiscated and you'll strike trouble.

Bucking the censorship is pointless and doomed to failure—so why waste time trying?

Mice By The Million

THE station master at Malcolm (W.A.), about 150 miles north of Kalgoorlie, and his wife compete each evening to see who can bowl over the greatest number of mice by throwing stones at them. The mice, which are still advancing across the Nullarbor Plain in millions, have reached towns north of Kalgoorlie in plague numbers. The drying up of natural foods along the trans-continental railway line where temperatures lately have been in the region of 120 degrees, has probably caused the migration westward.