

# GUINEA GOLD

Vol. 1. No. 104.

In the Field, Wednesday, March 3, 1943.

NOT FOR SALE

## TIMOSHENKO LAUNCHES NEW DRIVE IN LAKE ILMEN SECTOR

A **BIG** Russian offensive, directed by Marshal Timoshenko, has been in progress on the northern front, 100 miles south-east of Leningrad, for the past eight days.

In an assault on strongly fortified positions in the Lake Ilmen area, the Red Army has recaptured 900 square miles of territory, taken 8,000 prisoners and killed another 8,000 Germans.

A special Soviet communique, announcing the new offensive, reports the liberation of 302 inhabited localities and the capture of the fortress town of Demiansk and two district centres, 25 miles to the west. In addition to the prisoners taken, the Red Army has captured 78 planes, 97 tanks, 289 guns, 71 machine guns, and other war materials.

London commentators express the opinion that, in view of the strength of enemy fortifications around Lake Ilmen, Marshal Timoshenko's drive through the main defences must be regarded as a major victory.

THE Germans broke through the

Russian lines south-east of Lake Ilmen in September, 1941. Simultaneously, the German 16th Army pushed farther east towards Lake Maglino, and south to Lake Selguer. For the past 17 months, the enemy has consolidated his positions in this area, setting up a powerful fortress at Demiansk.

Reports of the fighting which started last week state that as the Red Army swept through their lines, the Germans, fearing encirclement, broke and fled. The places captured by the Russians, so far are considered vital strategic points in the defence scheme developed by the Germans.

### Russians Forced Back

In the Donetz Basin, heavy German counter-attacks have forced the Russians to give ground. Fierce battles are still raging for the railway junctions of Kramotersk and Krasnorameysk. In one day, the Germans launched 11 successive attacks with tanks and infantry. They had little success, although important ground changed hands many times.

The latest Soviet communique says that south-west of Rostov the Russians have occupied several fortified localities and repulsed counter-attacks, killing more than 200 of the enemy.

South-west of Voroshilovgrad, other counter-attacks have been repulsed, five tanks destroyed, and a whole battalion of the enemy knocked out.

In the Kuban area of the Caucasus front, the Red Army units have occupied several more villages, killed 300 Germans, and captured guns and booty.

**Boy Falls 50ft. From Cliff**  
JOHN GORDON BARRETT, 12, of Arden Street, Coogee (N.S.W.) was killed instantly when he fell 50 ft. from the cliff-top near Dunellham Reserve, on the northern side of Coogee area, onto the rocks late on Monday afternoon.

### THREE HOURS' WORK

IN a broadcast at 1 a.m. today, Moscow revealed that it took Soviet troops only three hours to dislodge the crack German 15th Army, from Demiansk, one of the most strongly fortified enemy positions on the whole of the Russian front.

### YOUNG MAN HURTLES 100FT. TO DEATH

HURLING 100 feet through the air and crashing through a reinforced glass roof into a lane behind Albany Court, Collins Street, Melbourne, yesterday, a young man was killed. He fell from the ninth floor. An identity card and a ration book in the name of Raymond Burkinshaw Smith, 25, of Glen Eira Road, Caulfield, were found on a landing where the man was seen before his fall. He had been ill.

### Textile Workers Divided On Strike Proposal

AT a meeting of textile workers at Leichhardt Stadium (N.S.W.) yesterday, voting was 1660 votes to 860 in favor of general stoppage in the industry. At a meeting at Liverpool it was decided to return to work immediately. A third meeting at Parramatta decided, by a seven to one majority, to continue work.

Thus, the metropolitan vote is about equal for and against a strike. Country returns will be known later. The Federal Council of the Textile Workers' Union will meet to review the position.



MARSHAL TIMOSHENKO, whose absence from the news has puzzled many people lately, is now revealed as director of the successful campaign in the Lake Ilmen area.

### Industrial Plants From America

THE U.S. Lend-Lease Administrator (Mr. Stettinius) disclosed in Washington on Monday that three complete industrial plants would be shipped shortly from the United States to Australia.

## NON-STOP R.A.F. AND U.S.A. BLITZ TAKES IN BERLIN

THE round-the-clock air offensive, begun by the R.A.F. and the U.S. Army Air Force on Thursday, has taken in Berlin. The British Air Ministry announced yesterday that Lancasters, Halifaxes and Stirlings had raided the German capital on Monday night.

FIRST news of the attack, however, came from the German News-agency, which described it as concentrated one, which started fires in the city area. All German radio stations went off the air just before 9 p.m. and did not resume until 1 a.m. yesterday.

The last British raid on Berlin took place on January 31, when a flight of Mosquito bombers sent Goering to an underground cellar at the German Air Ministry for over an hour, and later attacked again when Goebbels was due to make a public address. There were two raids on Berlin earlier in January.

Pilots' reports, following the attack on St. Nazaire, on Sunday night indicate that the "1000-ton attack" was the most concentrated yet made against the German submarine base.

Only 15 minutes after the first bomb load went down, the port was blazing like a torch for 30 miles around. One of the pilots who took part said that one explosion was so big that it eclipsed the flames of

### CONVOY BATTERED

AMERICAN bombers yesterday battered a Japanese convoy of 14 ships which was proceeding in the direction of the New Guinea coast. Full details appear in page 4.

### WOULD RATHER HAVE CHURCHILL HERE THAN AN ARMY CORPS

A MESSAGE of congratulation sent by the British Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) to General MacArthur on the defeat of the Japanese in Papua was released for publication yesterday by the British High Commissioner in Australia (Sir Ronald Cross).

Mr. Churchill said: "I look forward indeed to the day when we may meet."

To this General MacArthur replied: "I hope with all my heart that at an appropriate time you will visit this area. The effect would be almost magical. Personally, I would rather have you come than receive a fresh Army Corps."

### MacArthur's Warning

Featured in London

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S warning of increasing Japanese strength north of Australia made the headlines in leading British newspapers yesterday. The London "Daily Herald," in a comment typical of most newspapers, said: "It is a timely reminder to the British public, which has not concerned itself with the Far Eastern war. It clears up any thoughts some may have that the war in practically

all the other fires put together. The full blast of the explosion rocked his plane three miles up, while large columns of smoke reached other pilots flying even higher.

The raid swamped the German defences completely. Anti-aircraft fire was heavy at first, but it soon withered and died down.

\* This raid and others made on western Germany on Monday night cost the R.A.F. five bombers.

### CHURCHILL'S CONGRATULATIONS

IN a message of congratulation to the British Bomber Command Chief (Air Chief Marshal Harris) on the success of round-the-clock bombings of Germany, the Prime Minister (Mr. Churchill) said:

"During the month of February, operations by your forces have exceeded by half as much again those of any other month of the war. February marks a good advancement of our policy to which further improvements will be made."

## AMERICAN SECTION

# N. Africa Testing Place For U.S. Army

### U.S. POLICY TOWARDS FRANCE WAS SOUND

REAR-ADMIRAL YATES STIRLING declared in New York on Monday that the acquisition of Richelieu and other French Fleet units was a major United Nations' victory and vindication of Washington's policy in relation to France since the Franco-German armistice.

According to the United Press he said that continuance of diplomatic relations was necessary even when it was obvious that Vichy was assuming an increasingly pro-German tinge. Admiral Darlan had appointed the commanders of the French ships during the period of Franco-German collaboration and the crews, following the Parian policy, were anti-British, partly because of the British attacks on Oran and elsewhere.

American policy therefore had been directed towards moulding events to enable the French sailors to surrender to America and eventually to use ships to help free their homeland from German rule.

## AMERICAN MISSION TO STUDY PACIFIC ISLANDS' PRODUCTION

•Tf mission has been sent to the Pacific islands east of Australia to study measures to increase local production of foodstuffs and strategic materials.

•HE Board of Economic Warfare announces that a special mission has been sent to the Pacific islands east of Australia to study measures to increase local production of foodstuffs and strategic materials.

TT is pointed out that, due to wartime shipping limitations, the islands' normal trade and commerce have been curtailed, and stocks of goods are low. The mission's object is to relieve the situation by determining local requirements and evolving measures to meet them.

It is hoped to increase food production in order to save shipping of food to the troops stationed there; also to increase the production of copra, chrome and nickel. Any programme resulting from the mission will be developed in conjunction with the U.S. Navy and War departments, the lease-lend administration and the British and French colonial authorities.

### N.Z. OFFERS BASES TO AMERICA

TSJEW ZEALAND'S willingness to grant the United States permanent air and naval bases as part of a lasting, mutual defensive system, has been announced in Washington by the New Zealand Minister to the U.S. (Mr. Walter Nash).

This is the first response to Congress demands that the United States should obtain perpetual rights to strategic bases in the Atlantic and Pacific in return for Lease-Lend, states a Washington message.

Expressing the belief that such a system in the Pacific was what the peace-loving peoples in that part of the world desired after the war, Mr. Nash said it should include the reciprocal use of bases by all Pacific members of the United Nations, including Australia, Netherlands East Indies, Britain, China and India.

Asked whether he felt that the U.S. need share a large part of the burden of defending the Pacific after the war, he said: "The burden should be equitably shared. Each nation should make a contribution in proportion to what it has to defend, such as living conditions, resources and wealth."

### D.F.C. To Three Airmen

LIEUTENANT GENERAL GEORGE C. KENNEY, Commander of the Allied Air Forces in the South-west Pacific, has awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross to the following officers and enlisted men of the Air Corps, United States Army: Captain Clyde B. Kelsay, (Meeker, Oklahoma), First Lieutenant Francis R. Cappelletti (Barre, Vermont), Tech./Sgt. Louis F. Burleson (Albuquerque, New Mexico), Captain Kelsay, Lieut. Cappelletti and Sergeant Burleson were decorated for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights in the South-west Pacific Area from December 5, 1941 to November, 1941. During this period, each participated in more than 50 operational missions during which hostile contact was probable and expected. These flights included long-range bombing missions against enemy airdromes and installations and attacks on enemy naval vessels and shipping. Throughout these operations, each demonstrated outstanding ability and devotion to duty.

### BARNEY ROSS\* JOY

CORPORAL BARNEY ROSS, who was wounded at Guadalcanal, knelt and kissed the ground when he arrived at San Diego. He explained that sometimes during the fighting he doubted if he ever would see American soil again.

## SPORTS RESULTS AND GOSSIP FROM HOME STATES

**BOXING:** Boxing is having one of its best indoor seasons in history, and when Jimmy Bivins beat Anton Christoforidis over 15 rounds, as reported yesterday, the bout attracted over 14,000 hysterical fans. It was the first time Bivins had gone 15 rounds and he fought his best over the closing stages. In the fourth he opened a bad cut over Christoforidis' eye. The latter landed many hard hooks later, but Bivins weathered the storm.

Johnny Greco outpointed negro Cleo Shans in a ten-round bout at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

### New Carrier Launched

A MESSAGE from Washington \*\*\* says that an aircraft carrier and four destroyers were launched from a New Jersey shipyard during the week-end.

**FOOTBALL:** An echo of the Rose Bowl football game at Pasadena, is that to save the "Victory pants" of male fans, seats in the huge bowl were carefully smoothed down by wire brushes (wielded by Bowl employees). These brushes removed the danger of splinters which had ruined more than one pair of pants in previous years.

**COLONEL BENTLEY WOUNDED:** Colonel William C. Bentley, former American Assistant Military Air Attache at Rome, Tangiers, and London was included in a list of 20 officers and 318 enlisted men wounded in North Africa since early November. Colonel Bentley, who was wounded by bomb explosion shortly after the initial landing in North Africa, is back in the United States.

## WHAT RESULTS HAVE SO FAR SHOWN

JUST as Spain was the testing ground for German troops and their equipment, so North Africa is proving the testing ground for the United States Army. After analysing the strength and weakness of the American forces, a special correspondent of the "New York Times" sums up the position as "generally satisfactory".

TTIS says that the American soldiers' teamwork is developing rapidly. They have a fine spirit. Generals, like Fredenhall, and higher officers are as good or better than any German. However, the lieutenants and captains have not been so well trained and schooled as de-

It has been definitely proven that U.S. heavy artillery is superior, but the German intermediate weapons, such as the 88's and 75's, have a decided advantage over the Americans, who are using 37-millimetre anti-tank guns. These are useless against the German heavier anti-tank weapon.

General Sherman tanks are better armored than the Mark IVs, but our 74's are inferior.

The German tanks have a much lower silhouette.

The infantry is still queen of the battle. Although tanks, like planes, create breaches and provide cover, only the infantry can exploit the advantage. We are just beginning to realise that sufficient and good infantry is the answer to many problems, the correspondent adds.

The Germans' ground and air co-ordination has been superior, partially because of superior communications.

**BASKETBALL:** Latest matches resulted: Oregon State College d. Washington State Col., 51-35; Notre Dame d. Butler, 64-32; Maryland d. William and Mary, 51-36; Kansas d. Nebraska, 52-33; Wayne d. Albion, 55-40; Vanderbilt d. Georgia, 66-31; and St. Louis Uni. d. Mississippi Mines, 64-62. Other winners were William Penn, 52-30; Akron, 65-32; and Kansas State, 45-32.

**NOW WE HAVE THE WOWS:** That is the name given to the newly-formed Women's Ordnance Workers. They are not enlisted personnel, but include the girls who are employed in ordnance plants. But they have a trim, attractive uniform, complete with insignia and caps, and are another addition to America's glamorous army of women's war organisations.

**LYNNE OVERMAN DEAD:** Lynne Overman, dour comedian of Paramount pictures, has died as the result of a heart ailment. His last appearance in Australia was in "Reap the Wild Wind."

**NURSES AS HOSTESSES:** Twenty-four Army Nurses have been assigned as hostesses aboard hospital transports to and from Guadalcanal, a report from the South Pacific base, said. "All here" former airline hostesses

American bombers are better and more numerous, but our fighters are at a disadvantage against the Focke-Wulf and Messerschmitt 109. Moreover, our pilots are "green."

The German organisation and co-ordination has been developed through experience, and we must learn in this regard.

In other words, even with superior resources, materials, and manpower, we still cannot assume that we know everything, the correspondent concludes. We are fighting an experienced fanatical enemy. We must match his every improvement in armaments and technique. We surely are going to beat him, but there is everything to be gained by not blinking at facts.

### Three Medals In 3 Days

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LEROY C. SIMPLER, USN, Commander of the Fighter Squadron which shot down 77 Japanese planes and probably destroyed 16 others in the Bolsons, on Friday was awarded his third, medal in three days—the Gold Star in lieu of a second Distinguished Flying Cross.

### THIS IS RED CROSS MONTH IN AMERICA

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT appealing to Americans to contribute 125,000,000 dollars to the Red Cross, declared: "We are engaged in a war deciding whether our concepts of mercy and human decency are strong enough to survive. In the Axis nations mercy and decency are synonymous with weakness and decadence. We take part of our strength from the great tradition of mercy. The Red Cross was the beginning of the greatest single crusade of mercy in all history. By proclamation I have designated March as Red Cross month. All of us know how indispensable to victory is this great agency which goes on every minute of every day, and which is needed everywhere."

### Drive Beginning For Positions In Pacific

THE Associated Press Washington correspondent says in a broadcast that Admiral Nimitz, indicated that the American naval forces in the Pacific were about ready to undertake a drive for positions from where the Japanese industrial centres can be brought under a direct and devastating attack.

He asserted: "We are now at the cross-roads in the Pacific campaign. From now on, the going will be tougher as we undertake the task of driving the enemy from prepared positions in the conquered areas. It is our job to destroy his ships and planes, and neutralise his island positions as we drive towards them from which our shells and bombs can reach the industrial centres." The correspondent notes with interest the reference to shelling which presages the naval bombardment of vulnerable Japanese coastal cities by the heavy guns of the Pacific fleet.

# GERMANY REPORTED TO HAVE 300 DIVISIONS AND 12,000 AIRCRAFT

## 200,000 Troops In N. Africa

INTERESTING figures of Germany's estimated strength \* are contained in a dispatch from the well-informed Washington correspondent of the "New York Times."

It is estimated on reliable authority, he says, that Hitler has more than 300 divisions under arms, of which the total in Russia at any one time has been between 135 and 160 divisions.

THERE is believed to be 200,000 Axis troops in North Africa, half of them being Germans, and 40 or 50 divisions in France, Belgium, and Holland, 25 in Norway, eight in the Balkans, 40 in Germany, and three in Italy.

Germany's operational planes are estimated to number 12,000, with new production of from 2000 to 3000 monthly.

Germany also has 26 armored divisions, between 400 and 500 submarines, with a new construction of 25 monthly (which is twice the losses), five to seven battleships, and two others building, two new aircraft carriers, eight to 10 cruisers, and numerous destroyers.

An authoritative estimate places the German war losses at about 2 million killed, and four million total casualties.

### Luftwaffe Feeling Strain

Another angle on Germany's air strength comes from England. The Luftwaffe's weakness lies in a shortage of aircraft rather than of personnel, according to an R.A.F. spokesman. "The German Air Force's front-line strength is approximately the same as before the Soviet war," he said in London, "but its tasks have increased immeasurably and it is stretched to the limit in attempting adequately to fulfil all requirements."

### Australians Vote General Montgomery No. 1 Soldier

<<"THE War's No. 1 Soldier" was the title given to General Montgomery by a group of wounded Diggers who fought under him in the Eighth Army, and who have now returned in a hospital ship to Australia.

Driver H. McDonald, whose home is in Northern N.S.W., said General Montgomery took every man under him as completely into his confidence as possible. Practically all the plan of battle, except the exact liour of starting, was known beforehand. Knowledge of the support they were to receive gave the men all the confidence in the world, and they went into action without a thought of failure. They were told the Huns could not hold out longer than 10 days against a concerted attack, and on the 10th day they cracked.

### Hobart Boy Electrocuted

L'ENNETH GOUDIE, aged four, a son of Mr. Herbert Thomas Gou-3ie, of Warwick Street, Hobart, was electrocuted when he touched a live wire while climbing a post on to the roof at his home at the weekend.

### LOST & FOUND

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

LOST.—Silver watch with black band, town area.

LOST.—Black wallet, engraved "N. 3. Orme," containing photos, letters, money. Gift from deceased wife, toward.

### MISSING FRIENDS

Pte. J. H. Ireddell wishes to contact is cousin, Pte. Jim Riordan.

Harry Hannon wishes to contact Lenny Allan, of Freshwater.

If Cpl. R. B. Mecham calls at his office he will be supplied with Mr. O. H. Flannery's address.

"Any shortage of Luftwaffe personnel probably exists in ground crews, and it is probably this fact which has forced Hitler to call on occupied countries for skilled workers."

Experienced R.A.F. pilots say the present Nazi fliers operating on the Western Front are inferior to those they fought against in 1940-41.

## Goering Acquires Art Treasure

THE Belgian Information Office disclosed on Monday that Van Eyck's "Adoration of the Lamb," one of the world's greatest art treasures, which had been entrusted for safekeeping to the French Government, has been given to Goering.

The underground newspaper, "La Libre Belgique," says: "Early reports of the present a tion were received with scepticism, but investigation has proved them to be true."

"Adoration of the Lamb" belongs to Ghent Cathedral. The central panel, came into possession of the King of Prussia, but was restored to Ghent Cathedral under the Versailles Treaty in 1919. The Adam and Eve panels, which were removed in 1781 because the Emperor Joseph II. thought them too liberal for a cathedral, were restored at the same time.

### Publicans Defy Breweries On Schooner Issue

SEVEN publicans in Newcastle area (N.S.W.) refused on Monday to accept deliveries of beer until the breweries restored rebates on their accounts.

The hotel-keepers decided to make the stand late last week when three hotels at Wallsend lost their rebates because they had served schooners before 4 p.m. Four hotel-keepers who had not been so penalised, joined with the other three in Monday's refusal to accept deliveries.

A direct approach to the Prime Minister is likely to follow a protest meeting of unionists at Newcastle Trades Hall.

## Deferred Pay For Women's Auxiliaries; Post-War Training For Servicemen

AFTER six months' service, or immediately after their \* embarkation for overseas service, members of the women's auxiliaries and nurses will receive deferred pay. This was decided by Warj Cabinet yesterday.

It was also announced after the meeting that plans had been made for the reinstatement in civil life of members of the fighting services.

In conjunction with the Ministry for Post-War Organisation, a special Federal committee is to be set up to draw up a plan for the educational and vocational training

### Britain Makes Restaurants Pay

BRITAIN'S 2000th low-priced, \* State-owned, serve-yourself restaurant has been opened in Birmingham. Returns from 900 of the restaurants, the Food Minister (Lord Woolton) disclosed on Sunday, have shown a total profit of £27,000.

### CHINESE RECAPTURE FENGSI; AIRMEN ACTIVE IN BURMA

THE tone of news from Chungking is now more cheerful. Monday's communique reported that Chinese troops had recaptured Fengsin, 32 miles north-west of Nanchang, after a fierce struggle.

The Chinese have also captured six points in the Kiangsi Province, killing 300 Japanese and taking prisoner 400 "puppet" troops. The Japanese, who have been reinforced, are maintaining their attacks on Shantung and have occupied Menting.

A joint communique from New Delhi states that more than 50 Japanese soldiers were killed and others captured in a naval action off Ramree Island (Burma), 90 miles west of Promé, on Friday night. Heavily laden troop and ammunition launches were attacked. One of the launches was blown up and another left in a sinking condition. Other aircraft successfully attacked land transport.

## Marriage Message On Piaster Cast Leads To Altar

"I'll be home soon; we'll be married when Bill recovers," was the message which Gunner Reeves S. Hodgson, A.I.F., scribbled on the plaster cast enclosing a pal's injured leg as his pal left Darwin six months ago to receive treatment at a military hospital in the south.

Hodgson's fiancée, Miss Joyce Edwards, visited the patient and read the message. The patient has recovered, and on Saturday was best man at the wedding of Gunner Hodgson and his bride at Brunswick (Vic.) Baptist Church.

The bridegroom returned to Melbourne on leave a few days ago after 20 months at Darwin.

## Short Short Stories Are Now Being Judged

HUNDREDS of entries were received in "Guinea Gold's" Short Story competition, which closed on February 28.

The sorting and reading of entries will necessarily take some little time, and it has been decided that an appropriate time for announcing the result will be Sunday week, March 14, when "Guinea Gold's" eight-page Sunday edition will appear for the first time.

Full details of new features to be incorporated in the Sunday edition will be announced within a few days.

# Spotlight on Sportsmen

### Football

TWO former Collingwood (Vic.) League football players—Flight-Lieutenant Bruce Andrew and Engine-room Artificer Harry Rumney—are selecting sides for the first Australian Rules match in London since the war began. It will be a scratch game between the R.A.A.F. and members of the R.A.N.

ATORTH SYDNEY Rugby League Club will oppose Newton's application to play Rugby Union international Des Carrick this season.

### Athletics

T. DONOHOE, 47-year-old Newtown iceman, won the mile walking championship at the Catholic Association sports at Leichhardt Oval, Sydney, on Sunday. Donohoe was cheered at the finish, by his wife, 23-year-old twin daughter, and his 12-year-old son.

AT a meeting held by the Western Districts Amateur Athletic Club at West Park (S.A.) on Saturday, the main event, the 100 yards senior championship, was won by Sgt. Dick Bennett (R.A.A.F.) in 10 4/5 sec.

### Boxing

IN a featherweight boxing contest at Adelaide Stadium on Saturday night, "Buzz" Blucher (S.A.) defeated Tommy Varner (A.I.F.) on a technical knock-out in the 10th round.

### Turf

ENTITLE won the Hobart Turf Club Cup at Elwick on Saturday by two lengths from Princess Thaura. Lord Saltash was half a length away third.

WITH Harry Weld at its head, the recently formed Queensland Bookmakers' Patriotic Appeal Fund, which consists of Brisbane paddock, leger and flat bookmakers, has already distributed £1550. Every bookmaker operating in Brisbane voluntarily contributes a flat sum each week.

### RACE CLUB PRESIDENT OUT

TOR alleged improper practices, the president of the Bundaberg Race Club (Mr. C. W. Thornburn), trainer E. Brasch, jockey C. W. Betts, and the brown gelding Burnbar have been disqualified for 12 months by the Bundaberg stewards.

THE former West Australian Trotting Cup winner, Kolrock, and Lulu Mick, finished so close in the Great Southern Handicap at Gloucester Park (Perth) on Saturday that even experienced punters had to leave it to the judge. He awarded the verdict to the highly popular Kolrock.

PRIZE money of £1410 will be distributed at the Fremantle Cup meeting on March 20.

### Swimming

"THE outstanding young swimmer, Arthur Beard, swam nearly two miles in seven races in Sydney at the week-end, and won five championships. In the Metropolitan Surf championships at Manly on Saturday he swam in four races for wins in the junior belt and teams' races, and seconds in the senior and junior surf races. On Sunday morning he won the Northern District 110 yards title at the North Sydney pool, and later won the Dee Why junior surf title.

BOB TREND won another Australian State swimming title when he leisurely captured the 110 yards backstroke at a carnival in Perth

# Jap. Convoy Smashed Off Coast

## Baronet's £250,000 Gift To Britain

SIR RICHARD ACKLAND, the 15th holder of an English baronetcy, has given to the National Trust his 17,000 acres of estates in Devon and Somerset which his family has owned for 400 years. It is estimated that the land is worth £250,000.

The land comprises the Killerton estate of 4500 acres of farmland and 1500 acres of forest near Exeter, including the village of Broadclyst; and the Holnicote estate of 4000 acres of agricultural land and woodlands, and 6000 acres of moorlands which have already been leased to the National Trust.

Sir Richard Ackland, who is an Independent member of the House of Commons, said: "I have kept nothing except a roof for the family and myself." He declares that after the war he will be "just another, working man and nothing else."

## Four Women Nazis Killed By Bomb In Denmark

COPENHAGEN radio reported on Sunday, states a message from London, that a home-made bomb was thrown into a room at Kolding (Denmark), where 25 women members of the German army were having supper. It injured four.

The authorities have offered a reward of £500 sterling for the discovery of the culprit. The announcer warned that although this was the first time that the Wehrmacht had been attacked in Denmark, a recurrence would put the country in a dangerous position.

## ALLIES HOLD ALL AXIS DRIVES & MAKE PROGRESS IN TUNISIA

ALL six German thrusts made against positions held by General Anderson's First Army on a 70-mile front in northern Tunisia now appear to be under control. In the central sector, British and American troops are advancing south and east of Kaserin without meeting any resistance.

AMERICAN troops have entered Feriana and are close on the heels of the enemy retreating towards Oafsa. On the southern Tunisia front, activity is confined to British Eighth Army patrols which are probing enemy forward sections in the Mareth Line.

Yesterday's French communique announced an advance by General Giraud's troops in the central sector in spite of fresh enemy attacks.

Allied airmen are pounding enemy landing grounds, troops, mobile units and petrol tankers. As many as 50 Allied bombers are attacking in one batch.

Gagliani, in Sardinia, has again been raided by Allied bombers which plastered railways, docks and shipping in the harbor. The Italian communique admits heavy casualties. Two hundred people were killed and several hundreds wounded.

## "FIGHTING COCKS" OF THE R.A.F.

THE "Fighting Cocks," an all-Em-pire Hurricane squadron, has established such a reputation over the Mediterranean area that the Luftwaffe refuses to engage it. The squadron, which is led by Squadron Leader Michael Rook, D.F.C., of Nottinghamshire, includes Australians, New Zealanders and Canadians. It was the first Allied squadron to arrive in North Africa.

Prominent in the Battle for Britain, the "Fighting Cocks" have an outstanding battle record. They have shot down more than 130 enemy planes, and planes from the squadron have flown thousands of hours on sea convoy patrols in which not a single Allied ship has been lost.

TWO PAPAL ANNIVERSARIES "DOPE PIUS XII, celebrated yesterday the fourth anniversary of his election as Pope and also his 67th birthday. His ordination to the priesthood took place on April 2, 1899.

## Expects Finnish Peace Move Within Month

ALBIN JOHNSON, International News Service correspondent, who has just reached Stockholm from Helsinki, where he reported on Finnish elections, expects Finland to make positive peace overture within a month or six weeks.

Johnson claims that the Finns are prepared to retire to the frontier they occupied prior to their "winter war" with Russia, providing a neutral zone is established between the Finnish and Soviet forces. The Finns are also ready to ask Hitler to withdraw his troops.

## MILLION TO ONE

CHANCE CLIC\* PILOT-OFFICER TOM OMDAHL, of Clayfield, Brisbane, one of the most experienced Spitfire pilots with the R.A.A.F. in Britain, recently cheated death by a million to one chance.

In R.A.F. language, he "pranged a Spitfire in the drink," hit the seabed and lived to tell the tale. His Spitfire crashed into the English Channel at high speed and sank below the waves. Omdahl managed to extricate himself and get out of the wrecked plane. He was later picked up by a British destroyer.

# AT LEAST SEVERAL SHIPS SUNK OR BADLY DAMAGED

IN an unfinished battle against an enemy convoy of 12 vessels making for the New Guinea coast, Allied heavy bombers have definitely sunk two ships, left two in floundering and probably sinking, and seriously damaged three or more others.

The enemy has also lost five fighters for certain, and eight others have probably been destroyed in combat with our bombers and the Lockheed Lightnings protecting them. Fighter cover for the enemy convoy was between 20 and 30 aircraft, and all our attacks had to be made in the face of heavy calibre and intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire from escorting warships.

Our bombers were intercepted by 27 enemy fighters, and after a series of fierce combats three Japanese planes were definitely destroyed and five were probably destroyed. A formation of Liberators has joined in the attack by this time. They bombed a light cruiser and a 4000-ton cargo ship, but failed to score any direct hits. The Liberators were intercepted by 15 Zeros who were approaching the convoy, but the cover of Lockheed Lightnings drove the enemy fighters off. Lightning shot down two of three enemy fighters which attempted to attack the Fortress.

The first formation of Flying Fortresses to detect the convoy scored quickly, one of the bombers recording five direct hits and seven near misses on a transport of between 3000 and 10,000 tons. The vessel was immediately enveloped in smoke from bow to stern. About the same time a Fortress scored a very near miss off the bows of a 500-ton cargo ship. Flames burst from the vessel immediately afterwards, and it was seen to sink.

## Direct Hit Scored

A cargo ship of 6000 to 8000 tons received a direct hit amidships and two near misses from another Fortress. The vessel burst into flames, was seen to split open, roll over and sink within two minutes. The sinking was verified by the crew of another bomber.

Two bombers were intercepted by about 12 enemy fighters which made independent attacks. Three were probably destroyed. One Fortress was damaged and the co-pilot wounded.

When the convoy was off Satar Island, at the northern entrance to the Ampler Strait, it was attacked by a strong formation of Fortresses. One bomber scored a direct hit on the bows of a 6000 ton cargo vessel, and another scored two near misses. A third aircraft scored a near miss within 25 feet of the stern of a 6000 to 7000 ton cargo ship which it also narrowly missed with a cluster of three bombs.

## AXIS ENVOY RETURNS

THE German "Ambassador to the Vatican" has unexpectedly left for Germany. The presentation of Count Ciano's credentials has been postponed. No reason for this development has been given.

## Melbourne Constable Shot Dead

SENIOR-CONSTABLE EDWARD JONES (42), of Northcote, Victoria, was shot through the heart at the intersection of Bridge Road and Church Street, Richmond (Vic.) on Monday night.

Police inquiries disclosed that on Monday afternoon a man left a pea rifle at a house in Buckingham Street, Richmond. About 8 p.m., he arrived by taxi to pick up the rifle. He then ordered the driver to go along Bridge Road. At its intersection with Church Street, he fired a shot and then forced the driver to take him to Balwyn. As he left the driver, he fired a shot at him. Early yesterday morning, Norman Maxwell Searle (26), fitter and turner, of Richmond, was charged with the murder of Senior-Constable Jones, and with having fired on George Costello, taxi driver, with intent to murder. He will appear in court to-day.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K. SAVINGS CAMPAIGN "Wings for victory" savings Week organised by local savings committees in Britain, have set a saving objective of £300,000,000 sterling, including £150,000,000 for Greater London and £60,000,000 for Scotland.

BRITISH PROTEST: A spokesman for the Swedish Foreign Office reports that Britain has protested against Sweden's construction of "small boats" to Germany.

## Cricketer Divorced

IN the ground of desertion, Sidney Frederick Hird, former inter-State cricketer, now in South Africa, was divorced on Friday by his wife, Phyllis Isabelle Hird, formerly Smith.

N.Z. TO HOLD WAR ELECTION The Government of New Zealand proposes to hold a general election late this year, states a message from Wellington. In the House of Representatives on Friday, the Prime Minister (Mr. Fraser) gave notice of his intention to seek Parliamentary approval for a poll to enable the people, in accordance with their democratic rights, to elect their representatives.

BLOOD CLOT SAVES LIFE: A small clot of blood saved the life of a man whose jugular vein was completely severed by flying glass in a motor accident, states a message from Ottawa. It prevented him from bleeding to death from a type of wound which is usually fatal.

PUBLICITY ATTACK\* ON V.D.: The London "Daily Mail" a few days ago published a 12in. double column Ministry of Health advertisement giving 10 facts about the contraction, symptoms and cure of venereal disease. A special "Daily Mail" announcement on the front page described the item as an unprecedented advertisement and declared that venereal disease was increasing and that 70,000 new cases were reported yearly among civilians alone.