



No. 243 H.Q. No. 11 (CA) L of C Sub-Area, Tel. 12129

FRIDAY 20th AUGUST, 43.

SLOWER TEMPO IN RUSSIA.

Stiffening German resistance appears to be slowing down the Russian offensive through general progress is still reported. In the BRYANSK, 180 mile front offensive, 20 more places have been liberated and the Red Air Force has bombed railway junctions between BRYANSK-SMOLENSK. In the KHARKOV sector, Moscow communique speaks of a wedge in the German defences and progress of 8 miles presumably to the west of KHARKOV. Berlin announces that fighting has flared up at STARAYA Russa, where, following a heavy artillery barrage, the Russians launched an attack. Moscow is silent on the matter. It was here that the Russian offensive last March was held up.

ALLIES BLAST OCCUPIED EUROPE.

Steady continuance of air offensive rather than any single spectacular achievement has marked the war's progress in the last 24 hours. From Sicily day and night attacks on the escaping Axis troops continue. From RIGGIC, sole avenues of escape are two main roads and railways and favourite Allied Air Force trick is to create a traffic block by bombing bridges and bottlenecks and then straf the ensuing assemblage of vehicles with bombs and MG fire from fighters and fighter bombers. Malta based Mosquitoes had a particularly good day on Tuesday. So successful have their tactics proved that fleeing troops have been forced to use sea transport but here again our naval forces are giving them no respite. U.S.A. naval craft are attacking power installations and other accessible targets.

IS IMMEDIATE FULL SCALE INVASION OF EUROPE IMMINENT?

Consensus of opinion appears to be that a full scale invasion of Europe is about to take place. A significant Allied High Command broadcast yesterday appealed to the people of Europe to be prepared for a second front. Speculation is rife as to where it will be made. A simultaneous attack at several points is most likely. A drive through the restive Balkan States would obviously pay big dividends. Tightening restrictions on the restive Norwegians suggest that the German fear that, after two years of splits, another attack may come through Norway. A thrust from Syrian and Palestinian bases is also a possibility.

BOMBS ON BERLIN.

Last night bombers were over Berlin and industrial areas of France. Extensive damage was done to rail yards and air fields in and around AMIENS. The Germans lost 16 planes. We lost six aircraft. The two main roads leading from the toe of Italy are being continually blasted.

JAP DISCOMFITURE COMPLETED.

In New Guinea, destruction of the Jap air fleet at WENAK has been completed. Of the 220 enemy planes only 10 now remain. 28 Jap planes were shot down in the "hooping up" operations. Three supply ships in the harbour were left blazing. Allied bombers were over BORNEO and BUWA yesterday doing considerable damage. A Jap destroyer was sunk, two others damaged off the coast of BORNEO when Allied ships came under a number of barges, escorted by destroyers.

NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

GREEKS RESTIVE - Demonstrations and strikes everywhere in Greece have followed extension of the Roumanian occupation. 50 Germans were killed in a guerrilla action fought near PIRIUS. Ships and places of assembly are closed for long periods. All classes are participating in the disturbances.

TONIGHT - CMP - "Trail of the Vigilantes" and "Give us Wings".

CAPITOL - "The Escape" and "Wake up and live".

PIONEER - "The Body Disappears" and "No lives are not enough".

NEWS FROM HOME.

THIS ELECTION JOB. - 83,000 Victorians on Saturday will help the rest to vote. 2 1/2 million ballot papers have been distributed to 2250 booths.

ENGINEER SHORTAGE. - Shortage of 1st class Engineers in Australia is acute. Australia has only a few men capable or suited to take charge of construction of a £1,000,000 project.

COUNCILS CAN'T MAKE UP THEIR MINDS. - Two of Melbourne's most imposing avenues, St. Kilda Road and Dandenong Road, are threatened with sort of a temporary pruning blight by clash of opinion among various municipalities over extent to which trees should be pruned. St. Kilda and Prahran favour hard pruning and bollard etc. Melbourne and South Melbourne treat trees gently. Melburn and Caulfield think street and saw work can be much overdone.

YOUR PANTS, SIR! - Proposal that servicemen should leave trousers as deposit when getting a towel for showers at the Dag-Out, Melbourne was abandoned because it was found that trousers took up too much room.

COSMETIC SUPPLIES TO BLACK MARKET. - Breaking down the back doors of a Sydney Cafe Police Officers yesterday unearthed a plant worth £15,000 believed to have been supplying an extensive black market with cosmetics. The raid followed an effort to trace leakage in Australian oil supplies urgently needed for war purposes including treatment at Army Hospitals.

NOTED CYCLIST MISSING. - Harris Horder, 43, former Australian cycling champion is reported missing among crew Liberator bomber in New Guinea.

OK TO SELL CORIO FOR £2. - Commonwealth High Court has held that hotel licensees who sell liquor at prices higher than set out in U.L.V.A. lists are not punishable at law. It unanimously upheld a decision of a Melbourne Magistrate who dismissed a price fixing breach charge against a woman licensee. She sold a bottle of Corio whisky worth 12/6 for £2.

EXODUS FROM RURAL INDUSTRIES. - Over 51,000 male workers have left rural industries in N.S.W. since 1939. More than 5,000 share farmers have left holdings. In the same period, 9,000 females have taken up rural jobs. State wheat acreage has decreased while number of cattle has increased by 53,000.

YANK SOLDIER IN TROUBLE. - American soldier alleged in Sydney Court that he told a taxi driver he wanted to go to a party he was taken to, Surrey Hill house where he was later robbed of \$95.

GOOD N.S.W. RAINS. - N.S.W. Coastal areas have benefited by good rain in the past fortnight. Anxiety regarding crops is now dispelled.

PARTY MAKES ANOTHER FILM. - Australian War Photographer O. P. Smith is returning to Australia from New Guinea with 3,000 ft. of film which he believes are some of the best shots he ever made.

WEST HATER FAVORITE FOR AUSTRALIAN STEPLE. - West Hater is favorite for Saturday's big event. Next in demand are Victory March and Highland March. G. Shell is the only rider with a mount who has won the race.

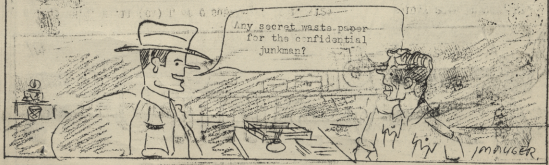
A. ... S. IN PERTH AUL. - Member of the Perth A. ... S. AUL for 3 months was found by the Postoffice living with a woman who has been arrested on a charge of harbouring her. AULS broke from custody and when Provost officers searched woman's home, she was found hiding in a cupboard.

TEACHERS GET LESS THAN CLENNERS. - Headmaster Stewart of Garravale (Vic) retiring after 26 years service stated that he was proud of the teachers and pupils but "disappointed at 'Shabby treatment by Education Department'". His lower paid teachers, the greater portion of the staff received less money than the cleaners. Staffs of wood, chalk, ink and other essentials were also inadequate.

BEUF SHORTAGE IN MELBOURNE. - With beef in short supply one leading Melbourne Hotel considering advisability of a beefless week.

MULGA WICK

SHOWING GOOD FORM



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