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FRIDAY 27th AUGUST, 43.

LOUIS MONTBATTON ASSUMES SUPREME COMMAND OF SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES.

Lord Louis Mountbatten second cousin of the King, has been appointed Supreme Commander of the South-east Asia Forces. Lord Mountbatten is the first British Officer to be appointed Commander in Chief, this war. Lord Mountbatten has been given the task of planning and directing the offensive against the Japanese in Burma and Ceylon. The London "Daily Mail" declares the appointment is the direct result of the Quebec Conference. They express the opinion that the time will come now following the momentous conference for an amphibious attack on Malaya, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies. Australia and India are quoted as the jumping off places for the offensive. As Lord Mountbatten is an expert on amphibious warfare he was the logical choice for the command. Lord Mountbatten is unique in that he holds the titles of Air Vice Marshall, Admiral and Lt-Gen. at the same time. He is described as a prodigious worker who expects his staff to do the same. He is of a mechanical bent and already has some of his inventions in actual practice in the Navy. His appointment to the Supreme Command is popular in Allied War circles.

RUSSIANS PUSH ON IN THE UKRAINE.

Latest news from the Russian Front gives small detail of the fighting there but Russian troops are still pushing forward into the Ukraine. Moscow Radio states that "A mid reconnaissance" is being carried out extensively. Resistance is stiffening near VOROSHILOVGRAD where the Germans have thrown in shock troops and armoured reinforcements. The Luftwaffe has been considerably strengthened near here. Despite this, the Russians have occupied a dominating height to the west of VOROSHILOVGRAD.

HANGKOW AND HONG KONG RAIDED.

China came into the news again with reports of American fighters and bombers active over HANGKOW. The city has been raided twice in the last four days. In Yesterday's raid the Japanese lost 19 Zeros. Two Allied planes were lost. The pilot of one was machine-gunned whilst bailing out. The Japanese News Agency declares that Hong Kong was raided twice yesterday.

THE WAR IN THE AIR.

On all fronts the war, for the moment, seems mainly confined to the air. Italy is still being blasted and Berlin was again visited last night. Fires are still raging in the German capital following Monday night's mass attack. The important rail and road centre of BOGGIA in Italy was heavily bombed yesterday. Lightning, Wellingtons and Flying Fortresses came over in a daylight raid. Considerable damage was done to marshalling yards and an important airfield. Five roads and railways are centred at BOGGIA. The Lightnings came over the railway so low that people threw stones at them. It was several minutes before any enemy planes were able to get away and 26 of them were shot down. The whole operation cost us 15 planes. The naval base of OTTANTO was also bombed.

GOEBBELS ADMITS GERMAN PERIL.

"Never before have we been in such peril" declared German Propaganda Minister Goebbels last night when broadcasting an appeal to the German public for greater production and sacrifice. The unrest in Denmark is quoted as being one of the prime causes of the broadcast. Further riots are reported from this area where an 10,000 ton destroyer was sabotaged yesterday. Demonstrations following the explosion, were fired upon by German Storm Troopers. Denmark is quoted as fast becoming the "Achilles' Heel" of German Occupied Europe.

ELECTION NEWS. - Though service figures will not be available until the middle of next week scrutineers will estimate during the day when the service vote will favour. Dame Edith Lyons is now 300 behind her Labor opponent Reece and estimates that without the service vote she would have won the Seat.

ARMY EDUCATION SERVICE - ENGLISH LITERATURE CLASS - 1900 HRS.

NEWS FROM HOME.

NURSING SHORTAGE IN AUSTRALIA. - Director General Manpower has warned that early steps will be taken to direct to understaffed hospitals nurses at present not practising their profession. Survey disclosed shortage of 1900 nurses on hospital staffs throughout Australia.

REGIMENTALLY UNDERESSED? - Police believe soldiers A.M.L. and criminals have been wearing naval uniforms to cover their identity. Naval ratings have been assaulted and robbed of uniforms. Two young men in sailors' uniform, Tuesday, assaulted an Allied soldier and robbed him of a gold wristlet watch.

PROFIT IN FLOOR POLISH. - Two Casino (N.S.W.) women who bought a jar of floor polish at a local store were amazed to find the jar contained £19.80 in bank notes. Police are endeavouring to find who put the money in the jar and how the jar got on to the store-keeper's shelf.

CAULFIELD RACE COURSE MAY RE-OPEN NEXT YEAR. - Racing is likely to be resumed at Caulfield early next year. The cost of re-fitting the course is estimated at £25,000 but the V.R.C. is hopeful that the next Oakleigh Plate in February will be run there instead of Flemington as has been the case in recent years.

GOVERNMENT TO OPEN FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN. - Prime Minister Curtin last night broadcast an appeal for subscribers for the Fourth Liberty Loan. The Government wants £125,000,000 and for this at least 750,000 subscribers will be necessary. The Loan opens on October 5 and closes on November 9. Interest will be at the rate of 2½% for 3-5 years and 3½% for 7-16 years.

PAST WORKER. - Because he is an undertaker is no reason why he should not be quick about it was apparently the thought of a Melbourne undertaker when charged with speeding. He said he had been to one funeral and was going to another.

THEY COULDN'T WAIT. - A bottle of Napoleon brandy vintage 1865, two bottles of Scotch whisky and beer, rum, gin and wine were stolen from Col. Litchfield's home in West Australia. The liquor was being kept for an Armistice party. The thieves apparently could not have been as optimistic as Mrs. Litchfield.

TOBACCO IN WEST AUSTRALIA. - Tobacco growing in Western Australia has been suggested as a means of repatriating ex-servicemen. There are already 1,000 acres under cultivation in West Australia.

RESUMPTION OF S.A. RACING. - Racing may be resumed in S.A. in October but no definite date has yet been decided on. First meeting after the resumption of racing will be at Morphettville, headquarters of racing in S.A.

TRAMS MAY REPLACE BUSES IN MELBOURNE. - Although Melbourne Tramways Board has made no decision yet it seems likely that electric trams will replace buses now running on the routes from Bourke St. and to Port Melbourne.

MELBOURNE BEER POSITION GLOOMY. - To enable them to keep their regular customers supplied till end of month several city hotels closed bars Tuesday. Hotelkeepers say the existing monthly ration is insufficient to permit normal trade every day of week and rather than disappoint their regular Saturday customers have decided to close on the day of least trade.

MUCH ADO BRINGS A SHILLING. - Damages of 1/- were awarded R.C. Bowers (A.I.F.) Journalist following a Supreme Court action in Perth. Bower who writes under the nom de plume of "John Digby" declared "The Listening Post" falsely published in the way of his profession. "One of the mysterious aspects of the great meeting at Casablanca is the statement that Mr. Stalin and General Chiang Kai Shek were kept posted as to what was happening. However neither of those eminent stay-at-home strategists Mr. Wedwards Beedy and John Digby were invited to the Conference. Surely this is an oversight by the foregoing."

AROUND THE AREA.

CAMP - No Show.
Before the divorce.

CAPITOL - "The Man who wouldn't die" and "The Fight
PIONEER - "American Co-ed" and "Miss Annie Rooney".

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