



No.299 H.Q. No.11 (CA) L of C Sub-Area. Tel.Ex.129

TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 43.



## Dnepropetrovsk at last !

DNEPROPETROVSK and DNEPRODZERZHINSK have been stormed by Soviet troops.

The usual 224 gun salutes has signalized this success in Moscow. With Reds cutting off their escape to the west and north, German troops are in a serious predicament and a superhuman effort will be required if they are to avoid their greatest catastrophe of the war.

The blow came with startling suddenness. It was known yesterday that portion of the KREMENCHUG force had turned eastward. First, Moscow reported that an east bank task force in a drive between the two cities was nearing DNEPRODZERZHINSK. A few hours later, came Berlin admission that the KREMENCHUG troops had effected crossings and established two bridge-heads in the vicinity of DNEPROPETROVSK. Moscow announcement of the major successes followed shortly after.

DNEPROPETROVSK has been in German hands since 1941. With a pre war population of 500,000, it is the third largest city in the Ukraine and an extremely important steel manufacturing centre. Almost continuous line of suburbs connect it with smaller DNEPRODZERZHINSK, 32 miles away with its 120,000 inhabitants and also industrially important.

**WHAT OF THE GARRISON?** - No prisoners are mentioned and we can assume that a large scale evacuation is in progress along the only avenue of escape. This is a single gauge line running to NIKOPOL. To KRIVOI-ROG by this route is 150 miles or double the distance along the main line which is already in Russian hands. Even this circumlocutory line is threatened as Red capture of a village only eleven miles from it was reported last night. Severance of the line would leave retreating Nazis with tracks only by which to effect their escape. Approaching winter will soon render these tracks impassable.

**THREAT TO CRIMEA.** - Latest news tells of the Reds swarming over the river opposite newly acquired cities to capture 40 more places. They have moved closer to KRIVOI-ROG and have advanced 15 miles along the Crimea road. They are now only 35 miles from KHERSON through which German troops are pouring in their efforts to escape from the Crimea.

**MASTELY RUSSIAN STRATEGY.** - German predicament appears to have resulted from a brilliantly conceived twin attack along with a miscalculation by Von Mannstein. Russian plan was to attack at MELITOPOL and drive from KREMENCHUG simultaneously. Thinking that KREMENCHUG move was an unimportant feint Von Mannstein was deceived into throwing in his strategic reserve at MELITOPOL. The "unimportant feint" became an irresistible thrust against which he was powerless. Von Mannstein's status as Hitler's favorite general is likewise imperilled. Hitler is not very tolerant of miscalculations.

**PROGRESS IN MOSCOW CONFERENCE.** - Moscow Conference entered a new phase yesterday when technical men were called in for the first time. This indicates that matters of specific and local importance are being discussed and definite plans made. General tone is one of cautious optimism.

### 5th AND 8th ARMIES STILL ADVANCE.

Despite strong enemy counter attacks 5th and 8th Armies continue to make progress along the whole length of the line from CAPUA to the Adriatic. 8th Army forced a bridgehead on the Trigno River five miles from the coast and in no place are they more than ten miles from it. 5th Army advancing in the centre of their front have captured an important town eight miles from CAPUA on the road to ROME. They advanced 3-4 miles. Germans counter attacked four times in this sector yesterday but without success. Terrain is hampering the advance into the mountains.

**JAPS TAPPED AT FINSCHHAFFEN.** - Jap position at FINSCHHAFFEN is now described as hopeless. Evacuating KUTIRA, they are now back at SATLEBERG where their forces are described as weak, of little significance and with negligible chances of escape.

## NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

**MEAT RATIONING BEGINS IN JANUARY.** - Prime Minister announces that meat rationing will begin in two months' time. Half of Australia's meat production is to go to civilian needs, quarter to the fighting forces and a quarter to Britain. This entails rationing on scale of 2½ lbs a week for those over and half that amount for those under the age of nine.

**TWICE AS MANY IN A.I.F. AS MILITIA.** - Australian Army numbers have increased more than fourteen fold since May 1940 and have doubled since outbreak of Pacific war. Not strength of the A.I.F. is now double that of the Militia.

**WATERSIDE WORKERS' STRIKE.** - Refusing to load foodstuffs into a rat infested ship, waterside workers went on strike for two hours in Brisbane on Thursday. Men claimed that the ship was swarming with rats and demanded that it be fumigated. On inspection nearly 100 dead rats were found.

**VAST ARMY HIRINGS.** - For 1800 hirings now in operation, £500,000 is paid by Commonwealth. One residential hotel was rented for Americans at £35,000 a year.

**LET'S GO TO NEW GUINEA.** - Eight theatre glamour girls will visit N.G. soon to entertain Allied servicemen. Girls are members of a troupe which has been playing to camps and hospitals in Australia. U.S. Army authorities have arranged the visit. By day, girls will wear an unofficial "uniform" designed by themselves and at night off stage regulation khaki trousers and long sleeved shirts as protection against mosquitoes.

**ROUGH HOUSE WRESTLING.** - "Chuck" Powell, American wrestler, made a sensational debut at Leichhardt Stadium on Saturday night defeating Joe Lynam in five rounds. Powell released a new hold "a buffer slam" which will either win him many matches or get him into trouble. His method is to rough opponent to the mat and then pick him up bodily and repeatedly smash him against the ring posts. Effects of this grueling was that Lynam could not continue.

**DO AUSTRALIANS KNOW THERE'S A WAR ON?** - Captain of Lancaster, Flt-Lieut Peter Isaacs, speaking to a crowd at Mascot strongly attacked Australia's attitude of complacency drawing a contrast between the 4,000 who visited the bomber on Sunday and the 45,000 who went to Randwick for the races on Saturday. He said "People here don't know there is a war on".

**COAST SNAKE AT LA CARTE.** - As professional snake catchers were travelling near Colac (Vic) on Saturday, their truck caught fire and more than 100 snakes were incinerated. They were caught near Stony Rises and Camperdown. They were destined for the Melbourne Zoo.

**SHARE OF THINGS TO COME.** - While inspecting water supply in forest near St. Arnaud (Vic) on Saturday, Premier Dunstan noticed a bee farm in which he took such interest that the Chairman of the St. Arnaud water supply said "Come on, you'll be stung enough before long". Remark proved prophetic as before the Premier left he promised to approve extension costing £50,000.

**NAVAL LOSS & GAIN.** British War Office announces loss of cruiser Calythius and destroyer Linburne in Naval actions off the French Coast last week. Both were relatively new. In a lightning attack on German shipping lying off one of the Dodecanese Islands units of the British and Greek fleets sunk two E-boats and several other craft. Allied craft crept into the harbour and pounded unsuspecting Germans.

**NO COMPLAINT ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S PRICES.** - Recently a Sydney man Mr. Reg Edwards just returned from Calcutta paid 9/- for a tube of toothpaste and 10/- for a bottle of Australian beer in that city. A new suit of ordinary style cost from £25 to £30. He regards Australia as a paradise after this.

## WHAT'S ON TONIGHT.

**CAMP** - "Bulldog Drummond's Bride" and shorts. **PIONEER** - "Four Wives" and "Money and Women". **EMERALD** - "Talk of the Town" and "Sweetheart of the Fleet".

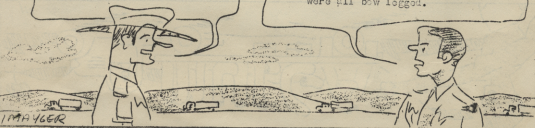
**ARMY EDUCATION HUT.** - "Post War Land Problems" discussion introduced by Col. Gandy.

MULGA TALK

A. HARRIS 24/10/43

Was the roof very low in the mine you worked in?

I'll say Mick! It was so low that one week we caught four mice and they were all bow legged.



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