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JAPANESE LOSE 50 WARSHIPS

ONE OF THE GREATEST VICTORIES IN HISTORY, SAYS NIMITZ

AMERICANS OCCUPY TWO THIRDS OF LEYTE

Speaking from Pearl Harbour Admiral Nimitz reports that although figures are subject to constant review, the Japanese have lost 50 warships since they initiated their ill-fated attack on American naval units in the Philippines. Possibly not more than 5 Japanese ships escaped damage.

Describing the victory as one of the major battles of the Pacific war and possibly one of the greatest in history, Admiral Nimitz says that the Japanese Fleet "suffered the most costly defeat in the history of naval warfare." Never had a fleet been so completely vanquished.

LATEST FIGURES. Japanese losses:-

Definitely sunk:- 4 aircraft carriers, two light cruisers, 4 heavy cruisers, 2 battleships and 6 destroyers.

Probably sunk:- 1 battleship, 5 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers and 7 destroyers.

Damaged:- 6 battleships, 4 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser and 10 destroyers.

U.S. Losses were 6 warships including a light aircraft carrier (the "Princeton") and two destroyers. Some of the U.S. battleships taking part, it is now revealed, had been raised from Pearl Harbour where they had been ignominiously sunk in Dec. 44.

ON LEYTE U.S. troops have captured another big town and occupied two thirds of the island. One and a half million Filipinos have been liberated.

BRITISH TROOPS FREE BREDA

AMERICANS FALL BACK IN ONE SECTOR

Troops of the 2nd British Army fighting in Holland have liberated the town of Breda, important communication centre west of the recently taken Tilburg.

LINK UP. To the south British and Canadian troops have linked up in south Bavaria. In addition a town has been captured on one of the strategically important islands in the Schelde estuary.

TO THE EAST highly trained German paratroops, fighting as infantry, managed to push back American forces 3 miles on an 8 mile front. However British artillery is now supporting American infantry.

WORLD ITEMS

"TIRPITZ" HIT BY 12000 LB BOMB

It is reported that the German battleship, "Tirpitz" was hit by a 12,000 lb bomb when Lancasters, making a record 2,400 mile trip, attacked it. With low clouds obscuring their vision, the bombers made 4 or 5 runs in the face of heavy flak in order to ensure that their aim was true.

RUSSIA. Soviet troops have captured another town in Ruthenia, southern tip of Czechoslovakia. They are now only 40 miles from Soviet forces in Hungary.....The Germans claim that the Russians are also engaged in a large scale offensive in Latvia. Here, they say, they are resisting the attacks of 8 Soviet divisions.

BULGARIA. Terms of the Bulgarian Armistice have been announced. Bulgarian forces are to fight on the Allied side under the supervision of the Soviet Army, and Bulgarian shipping is to be at the Allies' command. All Allied property must be returned, including that stolen from Greece and Yugoslavia; reparations are to be considered later. Enemy nationals must be interned, Fascists squashed and Allied prisoners released.

GENERAL STILLWELL has been relieved of his American command in Burma. Reason given is that it is proposed to further divide this command. But, Washington admits, his inability to "get along" with Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek, was also considered.

GREECE British troops are driving to Salonika which town, it is reported the Germans intend to evacuate. Soon regular distribution of food will be made to the under-nourished population of Athens.

NEWS from HOME

SHE WOULD KNOW

"Our divorce laws are archaic" is the emphatic opinion of the Modern Woman President, Miss Helen McEntyre. She was expressing an opinion provoked by Mr. Justice Dwyer's dismissal in the Supreme Court last week of a divorce petition brought by a wife 30 years after she had been deserted by her husband. Petition was dismissed under a Divorce Law provision that there shall not be unreasonable delay in taking divorce proceedings. This is just another case which absolutely howls for a revision of our Divorce Laws when it is possible for a judge to put such a construction on them.

EAST KIMBERLEYS LAND 1/8d per acres. A million acre cattle station in the East Kimberleys carrying more than 12500 head of cattle, hundreds of donkeys and other stock, brought only one bid when offered by auction in Perth yesterday. A bidder, said to be representing Melbourne interests, offered £30,000 or 1/8 per acre but the property was passed in for private treaty. Area was the Lissadoll and Texas Downs station owned by the Lissadoll Pastoral Company and is said to be one of the finest properties there.

N.G. REVERTING TO PEACE TIME ADMIN. The civilian Administration is to be ready to control New Guinea on cessation of military Government, the Minister for External Territories, Mr. Ward said yesterday. Members of the services have been invited to apply for admission to any Army School of Administration which will open next January.

"SOUTHERN CROSS" TO FLY AGAIN. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's famous "Southern Cross", now 20 years old will fly in Columbia film version of the airman's life story. RAAF spokesman said the plane, which flew the Pacific Ocean and Tasman Sea is being reconditioned by the Air Force and probably an RAAF pilot will fly the plane in the making of the picture.

A MOTHER AUSTERITY XMAS FOR CIVILIANS. Civilian Xmas food supplies will be short again this year. Poultry will be almost unobtainable as feed shortage caused farmers to kill now instead of nearer Xmas. There are plenty of sultanas and currants but candied peel and raisins for cakes are scarce as well as hams.

FROGS AND RABBITS SCARCE. More than 2,000 frogs are urgently needed for the Syd. University for dissection and other scientific work. Frogs are so scarce that a Zoology practical course has been modified and stingrays have been used for dissection instead. Rabbits are also scarce and are so difficult to get that students have to share them instead of having one each to dissect.

GALLOP POLL ON ARMISTICES. A Gallop poll shows that Australians prefer to wait until Japan is defeated before celebrating victory. Of 2,000 people questioned, 85 % advised waiting until Japan's defeat, 12% favoured celebrating, 3% were undecided.

ITALIAN OFFICERS REQUEST WORK. Italian officer P.O.W are now being employed at their own request on fruit blocks at Mildura, and others are to go to Koowarup, where they will do dairying and other rural work. This is the first time that officer P.O.W have been used in Victoria and it was emphasised again that if it were found that they were replacing Australian workers they would immediately be withdrawn.

WOMEN WANTED !! Food Control and Manpower officials say that more than 3,000 women will be required to can this year's fruit crop in the Goulbourn Valley and in the Melb. Metropolitan area. Because of the drain on the labour pool for auxiliary services, country clothing factories and dehydrators there is likely to be a serious labour shortage for canning work.

A.T.C. PRaised BY RETIRING DIRECTOR GENERAL. Melb. retiring Director General of A.T.C., E.G. Theodore, said last night at a farewell function that work costing about £130,000,000 had been completed but work was by no means finished. It was the intention of the Commonwealth to evolve out of the present system a competent and authoritative Ministry of Works. Theodore paid tribute to members of the C.C.C. - older men, physically unfit and inexperienced, called up and sent to rough camps to which many were wholly unaccustomed, and the engineers who had performed miracles for the salvation of Australia.

GOING FOR THE DOCTOR. Insurance companies report that in Melb almost every day some doctor's car loses all its wheels, tyres and spares. Officials believe that thieves are concentrating on cars parked by doctors visiting patients, because they know that medical men receive a high priority rating and therefore their tyres are usually in first class condition.

AROUND THE AREA

PICTURES. Camp: "Honky Tonk". Pioneer: "Big Street" and "7 Miles from Alcatraz"
Capitol: "Phantom Submarine" and "The Amazing Mr. Williams."

SMOKY DAWSON FEATURED AT CAMP Theatre

SGT HOWARD WINS WEEK'S RADIO COMPETITION

Just before last night's edition of the weekly radio artist competition was due to go on the air one of the competitors suddenly announced that he or she (it doesn't matter which) would rather not perform, he didn't feel well, had a headache. One glance was enough to assure the compere that he had on his hands a very bad case of "mike" fright.

Backstage watching proceedings was Smoky Dawson, member of the visiting L of C Concert Party. A request and an assurance that he would not be unfairly competing was enough and second competitor of the night was a hillbilly singer in the novelty section. Later the hoax was admitted and the winner appeared as Competitor No. 1. The latter, Sgt. Howard from A.A.M.C., gave what one judge described as "a pleasant performance". Last competitor, Don Ryan from 122, lacked clarity of enunciation.

At the conclusion of the week's radio competition, Smoky Dawson walked on stage to give, in apology for his hoax, another number. Repeatedly encored it was all he could do to leave the stage after his fifth number.

Picture programme, "Honky Tonk" with Clark Gable and Lana Turner supported by shorts, will be featured again tonight and tomorrow. There will be a change of programme on Wednesday.

EVERYMAN'S MUSIC

Last night in the Methodist Church Hall, Samuel Shiffren, soloist with the visiting Yarraroos Concert Party, delighted a large and enthusiastic audience with a recital of compositions by Mozart and Chopin.

The first, the Sonata in A Minor by Mozart, was performed with a considerable degree of certainty and artistry which was, however, occasionally marred by technical difficulties plus a tendency to take liberties in time which were, strictly, non-Mozartian. Considering, however, that this work was rehearsed in a short space of three days, all credit is due to the clever pianist.

This was followed by a recorded group of four beautiful songs sung by the world famous soprano, Elizabeth Schumann.

The pianist began his second half with C Minor Prelude of Chopin. This was followed by a notable performance of the G. Major Prelude which makes such demands on the left hand. In this the rolling legato was not always quite as it might have been. The Prelude in E Minor was played with the necessary irregularity of rhythm without which there could be no Chopin.

The most outstanding item of the recital was an extremely artistic interpretation of the C Sharp Minor study. Uncertainty was apparent during the playing of the A Flat Major Impromptu which requires a technique of a very high order. There were, despite this, some very lively moments in this offering. A brilliant performance of the E Minor waltz concluded this bracket, receiving warm applause. As an encore a sparkling version of the G Flat Major waltz concluded the artist's recital.

Followed a recording of "Scheherazade" by Rimsky-Korsakov.

RUBATO

WEEK-END SPORT RESULTS

MOONIE VALLEY RESULTS

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| St. Albans Stks | DESTINATION (4/1) 1 | REVELL (4/1) 1 | 2 BEAUMELLE (3/1) 3 |
| Hurdle Race | STAR BOARDER (8/1) 1 | DAVID STAR (10/1) 1 | 2 ALL SAINTS (10/1) 3 |
| St. Albans 2nd | MACREADY (6/1) 1 | COAT OF ARMS (20/1) 1 | 2 MY FAVOURITE (12/1) 3 |
| W 3 Cox Plate | TRANQUIL STAR (7/1) 1 | LAWRENCE (1/2) 2 | 2 TAO CAKE (25/1) 3 |
| Valley Cup | QUINN MIDAS (12/1) 1 | TEMPLE CHIEF (15/1) 1 | 2 TWO VALS (5/1) 3 |
| Greenvals Hop | RAINBOW (7/1) 1 | ANTARES (15/1) 1 | 2 FORTUNES FOLLY (8/1) 3 |
| Phoenix Hop | GAY REVELL (12/1) 1 | THE BOHEMIAN (7/2) 2 | 2 PICKWAY (8/1) 3 |

ADELIDE WINNERS were AIR FOX at 5 to 4 on, PRINCE AFRA 7/4, IVERNIA 3/1, DOB BLA 6/1, HIDEAN 7/4, and EAST COAST 8/1.

INTERSTATE CRICKET. The first Interstate cricket match of the season (the Alice Springs Sheffield Shield) with Victoria opposed to all States except S.A. was held yesterday. The Rest won the toss and knocked off 149 before lunch, Slough making a very fine 78 and Skipper Wallis a real captain's knock of 33. MacKenzie, Vic. skipper carried the bowling honours with 6 for 36. Vic's innings were commenced immediately after lunch and their total was only two runs short of their opponents' 149. Best scores for Vic. were German 49, Hainsworth 27, Dowley 22 and the bowling for The Rest Raymond 4-46 and Slough 3-5. In their second innings The Rest scored 156 Wallis -(run out) scoring a faultless 63. Bowling for Vic. Mannix 4 for 15, Dowley 2 for 8.

TENNIS: A Grade, 2/163 6 sets 42 games def. HQ 3 sets 27 games. BIPED 7 sets 53 games def. AGE 2 sets 33 games; 121 9 sets 56 games def. AINE 0 sets 22 games. B GRADE: 2/163 5 sets 32 games def. Prov. 4 sets 27 games. AWO 5 sets 40 games def. AINE 4 sets 37 games. AGE 6 sets 41 games def. RAAP 3 sets 36 games; 121 5 sets 49 games def. HQ 4 sets 39 games. **LADIES TENNIS:** AWO (white) 4 sets 41 games def. AANS 0 sets 23 games. Through being unavoidably detained in Barracks AAS were compelled to forfeit their game.

AUSTRALIAN NAVAL LOSSES

The Royal Australian Navy has suffered heavily in proportion to its size since the outbreak of war, and has lost three cruisers, three destroyers, two sloops and two sweepers.

HMAS Sydney, 6,830 tons was sunk in the Indian Ocean by a German raider in November, 1941 when all hands (645) were lost.

HMAS Perth, 6,980 tons was sunk in an engagement somewhere between Java Australia early in 1942. The crew of 682 were lost or taken prisoner.

HMAS Canberra, 10,000 tons was sunk together with two American cruisers in a battle off the Solomons in August 1942. There were 193 casualties.

The destroyer Vampire, 1,090 tons was lost in the Bay of Bengal in April 1942. There were nine fatalities.

Two destroyers were lost in the Mediterranean in 1942.

HMAS Nestor, 1,690 tons was sunk and three men were lost.

HMAS Waterhen 1,100 tons survived a bombing attack but foundered while in tow, and sank. The crew was saved.

HMAS Parramatta, a sloop of 1,060 tons while on escort duty in the Mediterranean in 1941 was torpedoed. She sank with the loss of 141 lives.

HMAS Yarra a sloop of 1,060 tons was sunk off Java in 1942 and 151 men were lost.

HMAS Armadale, a minesweeper was sunk in battle off Timor late in 1942 and 40 men were posted as missing.

HMAS Wallaroo, another minesweeper, was sunk in a collision with an Allied vessel off the Western Australian coast last year when two men were killed and another was reported missing.

At March 31, 1944 the Royal Australian Navy had suffered 2,306 casualties - Killed 1,201; missing 532; POW 343; and wounded 230.

CROSBY TOPS SINATRA

HOLLYWOOD

Out-Sinatraing the "swoon" crooner-Sinatra, according to a US Army officer in New Guinea, Bing Crosby, crooning 10,000 miles away, made a s snake swoon in the jungle and saved a soldier's life.

Writing to Crosby, Lt-Col. Earle O. Thornton Jun. says: - "Several nights ago, after listening to your programme, I left the tent, and returning, was paralysed to see right where I was about to place my foot a 4 ft death adder, coiled with head slightly raised, facing the radio as if hypnotised, listening.

"Finally I jerked away, borrowed a machete from another tent, and whacked him in two. "Imagine, the whole thing took two or three minutes, and all that time the snake hadn't moved a muscle.

"Next time they throw Sinatra up at you tell them, 'Hell, I even hypnotise snakes at 10,000 miles."

THE FILIPINOS

American troops awaiting embarkation day at the bases where the vast convoys were assembled, were briefed by lectures and pamphlets on how to behave and what to expect when they met the Filipino people.

"You are about to take part in one of the greatest campaigns in the history of the United States," they were told. "Put aside all notions that you will be dealing with a primitive people. The Filipinos have 400 years of Christian culture behind them, first Spanish, then American. You will meet several types of Filipino - the cultured college graduate, the non-professional Filipino with school education, the Joe Doakes of the small towns and villages, and the civilised farmers and fishermen. There are primitive jungle natives in the northern mountains, and the fierce proud Moros of Mindanao - touchy Mohammedans, whose favoured weapon is a razor-edged kris. Treat them with horse sense. The greatest source of friction between Filipinos in the past has been the characteristic American blunt way of going straight to the point. The Filipinos have developed the Spanish soft-spoken approach.

"The Filipino women, though Western in dress, are sheltered and reserved and accustomed to the utmost respect. The 'Hi, Babe' approach is not appreciated."

Handbooks for the troops contain a guide to the Tagalog language, which ranks with English as the most common tongues used by the Filipinos.

The Philippines are a sprawling archipelago, consisting of 7,083 islands, 2,773 of them large enough to boast names, but only 462 larger than a square mile. The entire area is less than that of the British Isles.

The main island groups are Luzon and the adjacent islands in the north, the Visayas in the centre (comprising Samar, Panay, Negros and Leyte) and Mindanao and the Sulu Peninsula in the south.

A new series of stamps showing the heads of Hitler and Mussolini were issued. "These stamps do not stick very well," said one Viennese to another. "The stamps are all right," was the reply, "but people will spit on the wrong side."

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