



VOL 2 NO. 660

H.Q. NO. 11 L OF C SUB AREA

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— 7th ARMY FIGHTS ON GERMAN SOIL —



HAGENAU FOREST SEALED OFF

THREAT TO COLMAR GROWS

AIR ASSAULTS CONTINUE

The 7th Army is on German soil. The 103rd division, which has been in action for less than a month, was the first unit to fight inside German territory. Commandator Vaughan Thomas states that the American forces are "on top of the world tonight" and are rejoicing in the fact that they will henceforth be destroying German towns and not French.

The area around Hagenau is hilly and densely wooded and it seems that pockets of German resistance lurk here. This morning's communique stated that the entire Hagenau forest area has been sealed off, and mopping up operations are expected to be completed shortly.

Further south the German bastion of Colmar is having increasing pressure brought to bear upon it. French forces of the 1st army are also striking south and south east from Mulhouse, hold many miles of the western bank of the Rhine, and are in control of all but a few stretches of the Swiss frontier. It

More than 650 American heavy bombers, with an escort of over 500 fighters attacked targets in Germany yesterday. The main objectives were railways and marshalling yards at Hanover and Kassel. 4 bombers

and 2 fighters are missing. German heavy bombers attacked Innesbruck, while RAF bombers attacked a German base on the Dutch coast with 1200 lb bombs. This had been used to shelter E boats, which harassed our convoys to Antwerp.

CANADIANS ADVANCE IN ITALY.

BRIDGEHEAD ACROSS CANAL

Canadians have consolidated a bridgehead more than a mile wide across a canal north of Ravenna, and are advancing steadily. In the last 3 days they have crossed 5 mountain rivers.

Fighting in Greece has spread to other parts of the country. In Athens Gen. Scobie has had talks with the leader of the ELAS guerillas, and in some quarters hopes are held for a settlement shortly.

GREEK INSURRECTION SPREADS

WORLD ITEMS

BRITAIN. His Majesty the King will make a Christmas broadcast to the people of the British Empire. This will be his Majesty's 6th wartime Christmas broadcast.

BURMA. The 11th army has recaptured a town and a village in its drive to reclaim Arakan. On the Chindwin river front further small gains have been made.

HUNGARY. No more information has come to hand about the fighting for Budapest, but a Red army communique gives prominence to the expansion of the drive northwards towards the border. Two towns have been captured in this area, and advanced units are reported to have crossed the frontier.

NEWS from HOME

EXPECTS PARTY TO GET ROUGH

Long before dawn a queue lined up before the Melbourne Tourist Bureau to book for holiday resorts over Christmas and New Year. First arrival was Alex Calder of St. Kilda who took up his position at 2.35 a.m. and he was later joined by others including three women at 4.30 a.m. The demand for tickets tomorrow is expected to be very great and Bureau officials are ready even to the extent of having ambulance men in attendance.

TASMAN AIR RECORD BROKEN. The trans Tasman air record was broken by four minutes on Wednesday by an RAAF transport Command Liberator. The plane took off from Mascot at 10.58 p.m. and landed at Auckland, 1300 miles away 5 hrs 52 mins later. First crossing of the Tasman was made by the late Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and late C.T. Ulm on Sep. 11 1928 in the Southern Cross and their time was 14 hours.

AUSTRALIAN P.S.O.N. In future Australian P.S.O.N. will not have deducted from their paybooks amounts earned for work as prisoners in enemy countries announced acting Prime Minister Forde, yesterday.

BEER SUPPLIES FOR BRITISH FLEET. The Commonwealth Govt. will see that there are adequate supplies of beer for personnel of the British Fleet to be based in Australia. It is expected that supply difficulties will be overcome by a readjustment of supplies now sent to Imperial Canteens in various parts of the world for naval use.

WINDY CHRISTMAS THOUGHT. The RAAF will hold their Christmas treat for 10,000 children at Flemington (Vic) racecourse today. All children will receive toys made by servicemen and women and other features will be the arrival of Father Christmas, Puppet shows, folk dances, slides and merry-go-rounds.

OH YAH 4 One would almost think that street S.P. Bookmakers were public benefactors, Mr. Maclean P.M. said at Prahran Court yesterday. From evidence given on their behalf in Court during the past few years it seemed they nearly always lost.

PREPARING GOV-GEN RESIDENCE. Yarralumla Govt. House, Canberra, is being refitted at small cost of a few hundred pounds in preparation for the arrival of Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. Special care is being taken of day and night nurseries for the baby princes William and Richard.

G.P.O. OFFICIALS WON. GPO officials said yesterday in reply to a complaint that there was no flimsy airmail service to Canada, that flimsy airmail letters can be sent to members of Australian and British Forces anywhere in the world excepting New Guinea and New Zealand to which ordinary airmail is cheaper.

VIC FISHERMEN CONCERNED. Victorian Fishermen's League yesterday discussed chaotic conditions at Melbourne Fish market, summer ceiling prices and glut of fish. Speakers claimed that the solution was that fishermen should sell and distribute fish through their own organisation. Others urged that market should be placed under one control and elimination of middle man should be pursued.

AUSTERITY SHIRTS TOO SHORT. Clothing Trade leaders yesterday warned shoppers that it might be a long time before less austere garments were permitted under Clothing Restrictions. Clothiers said men in particular would welcome the lifting of restrictions as short shirts were causing much discomfort to big men.

Today's RACING TIPS By "Beauford"

1st Race	BUNJARA	1	MURALIA	2	MARDI GRAS	3
2nd Race	LYNMOUTH	1	BISLEY	2	SIR MARFELD	3
3rd Race	APPROVE	1	PORT O CALL	2	LUNAR LARK	3
4th Race	PICKWAY	1	AZORES	2	CANADA	3
5th Race	ST BRIDE	1	THE RITZ	2	ANTOS	3
6th Race	EVIDENCE	1	MERMBRAN	2	ATTORNEY	3
7th Race	GREER GARSON	1	KRALLIS	2	JOCALARITY	3

ADELAIDE. THE MONK, TECHNIQUE, ALIUS, IVERNIA, METROPOLIS, VALOUR, WOOLCOMBE.

SYDNEY (N.T. Times). TACTICIAN (12.50, ANNE TIEN ET (1.25, MEL SWAN (2.00)

Hall Stand (2.35) KIAREE (3.10) RECKO OKA (3.45) WAR EAGLE (4.20)

The following horses were omitted from yesterday's acceptances in the 1st Division: - The Ritz, Charles Garvill, Lord Enfield, Amcona, Cloonia. In the 2nd Division: Royal Peter.

- AROUND THE AREA -

FIGURES. Pioneer: "Dr. Gillespie's New Assistant" Capitol: "Chatter Box" and "A Screen in the Dark". C.M.P. Hall: Last Performance "SONS O GUNS"....SUNDAY NIGHT "WHAT'S COOMIN'":...ART EXHIBITION at Beth Church Hall TONIGHT by Anthony Zemmitten in aid of Red Cross...WERTMAN'S MUSIC: Lieder Recital by Stefan Haag & Alfred Epplero.

Sat MENTONE Acceptances

Murray Hop 5 flgs 1.10 p.m. LATINA, Great Flash, Nuralia, Mardi Gras, Bunjara, Destiny Boy, Lybian Lass, Macaria, Wayuni, Imperious, Coroman, Maid of G-eece, Solitas, Pennyland, Sun Cup, Terracepa, Grand Act, Merry-maker, Futuria, Tilly Black.

Manumbar Hop 1.1 mls 1.40 p.m. LYNNMOUTH, Bis ley, Medicine, Sir Marfield, Brugnon, John Mac, Pure Gain, Evade, Chide, Greek Myth, Endula.

Mordialloc Stks 6 flgs 2.15 pm APPROVE, Distinction, Eastborough, Duomint, Busybody, Maemento, Fort O Call, Agrosan, Quozon, Regular Hope, Lunar Lynx, Spanish Legend, Lucifer.

Byson Cup. 108 flgs 2.50 pm. PICKWAY, Azores, Fur T, ader, Liberal Knight, Donor, Fairway Freddie, Coddil, Son of Aurous, Canada, Skyway, Bushlaw, Laughton, Whitten, Ampapejo, Hesitate, The Winger.

Welter 1 Div 1 ml 3.25 pm. VALENTINO, St. Bryde, Antos, Varieson, Prince David, Malekula, Grand Legend, High Palutin, All Talk, Gold Glide, Belle Patrol, Double Ray, Flying Comedian, Moss Duo, Silver, Yellima.

Welter 2 Div 1 ml 4 p.m. MEMMERAN, Solstar, Attorney, Triton, Marcius, Evidence, Star Supreme, Bidvale, Duroz, Malchett, Accelerate, Knockarlow, Sea Power, Barry's Pride, Celebes, Florette, Manawatu, Private Chat, Turnstile.

Chaltenham Hop 13 flgs 4.30. GREER GARSON, Laughton, Sir Archibald, Krallis, Not Guilty, Sweet Answer, Jocularity, Bonfino, Just Jill, Calawind, Cepheus, Cold Rein, Thous, Wallawn.

A degree of uncertainty exists as to starters in the 1st and 2nd Div of the Welter, which cannot be clarified in any press telegram. If there are any alterations "Mulga" will publish them tomorrow.

NORFORCE cricketers return NORTH

The visiting Norforce cricketers left early yesterday morning for their area, with the cricket rubber tucked away in their cricket bags.

That the margin in the third and final game - prior to Wednesday's game a match had been won by each side - was only ONE RUN matters not, the run was in the visitor's hands and that's all there is to it.

It could be added that 3 catches, all off Bagshaw's bowling, were not accepted by the Alice fieldsmen in the last 15 minutes' play, either of which could have spelt victory instead of defeat for the area team, but by the same order, Norforce early in their fielding missed chances in what was otherwise splendid fielding throughout by both sides - some of it positively brilliant.

That the game has been enhanced through the visit of Robin Gray and Roger Wotten's Norforce too, there is not the shadow of doubt and "Mulga's" unstinted congratulations are extended.

Particularly do we pay tribute to the two internationals, McCormick and Waite, not so much for their field exploits during the series but for their keenness and tenacity of purpose throughout. A high ranking officer during Wednesday's match said "To think that these chaps, accustomed as they are to playing before huge crowds on our own Aust. ovals, and on historical English ovals such as Lords, The Oval, Trent Bridge etc. clad in their nicely laundered flannels, can shirtless apply the same skill technique and enthusiasm on the Alice Springs dust oval with its many deficiencies, speaks volumes for cricket," and Mulga agrees.

Congratulations Norforce, both on and off the field you carried out cricket's highest traditions.

MULGA'S BOUQUET

In an endeavour to select the best player of the area during the series, Mulga went to no end of trouble. Many thought Bagshaw with his consistent bowling and fair batting took the place but an equal number thought Air Force Reform the star. Both performed excellently and under the circumstances Mulga's Bouquet will be equally divided between the two.

SUNDAY'S CRICKET DRAW

BIFOD V RAAF, AWC V 121, 2/163 V ACH, CIVS V SUPPLY, AEME - Bye.

SUNDAY'S TENNIS DRAW

A GRADE. BIFOD V HQ (Hosp Ct), AEME V 2/163, ADMIN V ACH, 121 - Bye
B GRADE. PROV V RAAF, 2/163 V AEME, AWC V HQ, ACH V ENGRS (Already played) 121 Bye.
LADIES. AWC (Blue) V AWAIS Sigs (Brks Ct), AWC (Red) V AWC (White) (117 Ct).

SONS O' GUNS NEW PROGRAMME A BRILLIANT ONE

Throughout last night's programme at the Camp Theatre, one couldn't realize that this party was giving their 71st show since they commenced their tour of the N.T. in Aug. Instruments shone, clothes were clean, nicely laundered and pressed, the curtains and tabs, cleverly arrayed and masked inside our own set up, plus the polish and freshness of the party, savoured of an opening night rather than the final nights of a long and tiring tour. An excellent performance, which will be repeated TONIGHT and TOMORROW at 2000 hrs.

ROYAL NAVAL SQUADRON FOR PACIFIC WAR

AUSTRALIA WILL BE BRITAIN'S PEARL HARBOR.

Not since the news that American forces were arriving in Australia, has there been such widespread interest as the anticipated basing of the British Pacific Fleet in Australia has aroused. Newspapers, Radio talks, and broadcasts have been busy speculating and interpreting the little information that the Government gives.

Vice Admiral C. S. B. Fraser, representative in a lighthouse of the C. in C. British Fleet, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, is summing up the effect on Australia of the arrival in strength of Royal Navy ships in the Pacific zone said, "Australia will be our base as Pearl Harbour is America's, and we shall be making heavy demands for the support of the British Fleet." He pointed out that Australia's contribution would fall into 2 classes: (1) Dock and depot facilities, (2) food. As Vice Admiral in charge of Administration, he will work in closest touch with Admiral Sir Guy Royle, RAN, and the Australian Naval Board. He also revealed that a Barracks was being prepared for Royal Navy personnel and a hospital had been taken over. Construction demands on behalf of the British Fleet would probably be heavy, and will be considered by a joint planning sub committee of British and Australian services.

C.C.C. AFFECTED. Because of the extensive construction work that will have to be undertaken, the Minister for Labour has announced that there will be no further releases from the Civil Construction Corps, which will be retained as its present strength of about 20,000 until the end of June 1945. The British Fleet will bring its own medical and nursing staff with it, and should not make demands on Australian personnel for these services. However the 2,000 skilled dock workers who are being sent to Australia will merely form a nucleus for training Australians in servicing the British warships.

FOOD, AMMUNITION TO BE SUPPLIED. Britain will pay in cash for the entire food requirements of her Fleet and will also use Australian made ammunition and depth charges where these are available in suitable types and sufficient quantities, although it is expected that most of the ammunition used will come from England.

AUST SHIPS TO BE ATTACHED TO BRITISH FLEET

Admiral Royle confirmed the transfer to Fraser's command of those Australian ships which had been attached to the eastern, now East Indies, Fleet, formerly under Adm. Fraser. They are the modern destroyers presented by Britain to the RAN-- Napier, Nizam, Nepal, Norman, Queberon, and Quickmatch. In addition some Australian corvettes or mine sweepers will join the Pacific Fleet, including Bandigo, Burney, Goulburn, Maryborough, Ballarat, Toowoomba, Wollongong. The cruisers Australia and Shropshire are at present assigned to Gen. MacArthur's command.

SERVICES TO COST £21 MILLION. Food is expected to account for more than half the estimated £21 million that Australia proposes to spend before June 1945 on services and supplies for the British Fleet. Important capital works costing about £10,000,000 will be made available. These works were carried out by the A.W.C. for the RAN but will be supplemented by works done for the U.S.A. forces. In addition the British Fleet will have the use of the largest and most modern graving dock in the Southern Hemisphere - Sydney dock, which has a capital ship capacity, and the recently opened Brisbane dock. The A.W.C. has carried out a gigantic programme of dredging to improve berthing facilities, and has constructed slipways to enable many ships of greater draught than previously to use Australian harbours.

FEMININE ANGLE

SHARPLY DRESSED BRITISH GIRLS TO ACCOMPANY FLEET

Australia will soon have its first glimpse of the Women of the British Naval Women's Auxiliary. Their uniform is similar to that of our WRANS apart from their perky black tricorne hats and their black rayon stockings. In Summer they will wear all white uniforms. Chief Officer Samuel who will be in charge of all WOMEN here is not new to Australia as she spent from 1931 to 1939 where she taught physical training, swimming and dancing. Joining the WRNS at the outbreak of war, she later went to Canada to help form the Womens Naval Service, and more recently was in charge of Wrens in France.

Second Officer Betty Tilley is an Adelaide girl who joined up whilst on holidays in England, and has returned to Australia after an absence of over five years.

JITTERY JAPANESE

Monitors of the Department of Information's Melbourne listening post are noticing peculiar changes in the tone of domestic broadcasts in Japan. Recent broadcasts by the Japanese commentator Ichiro Tokutomi have appealed to the authorities to tell the truth to the people so far as it would not jeopardise the nation. He said that early in the war the Japanese gained victories too easily and everyone lapsed into complacency. Now when explaining production shortages, people gave the excuse of lack of materials, when actually it was the bad organisation of the distribution.

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