

TEMPORARY AFRICAN LULL

Activity in North Africa is in the main confined to the air. Bizerte has been attacked by Flying Fortresses. Our fighters have conducted sweeps over the east coast of Tunisia and have destroyed three aircraft. From Tuesday to Thursday 33 enemy tanks were destroyed. East of El Aheila only patrols are active. During last week seven to ten enemy supply ships, two de-troyers, and one torpedo boat have been --- sunk.

FIRST AMERICAN AIR RAID ON ITALY

For the first time in the war American airmen attacked the Italian mainland. Liberator bombers raided Naples harbour. They hit two Italian cruisers, one battleship and many other vessels and an important dock railway. There was no enemy opposition and all the bombers returned. Italian sources admit great damage and claim that 160 people were killed. This is only the second daylight raid over Naples and the first raid of any sort for six months.

REDS PUSH ON

Fighting in blizzards the Red troops - infantry chiefly because of the conditions - are pushing on. Smolensk is threatened from the north and so is Rjev once referred to by the Germans as worth half Berlin. The Red offensive shows signs of broadening. The Germans are withdrawing troops from other sectors to meet the threat here. In Stalingrad the German troops are still hemmed in and many areas have been re-taken. The Red Army has also advanced in the southern sector of the Don elbow and is more than holding its own in the Caucasus at Tuapse. Today is the anniversary of the enemy being driven from the gates of Moscow.

AUSSIES STILL ADVANCING

The Australians on the Japs. left flank in New Guinea are past Gona. Samarander is next but much fighting remains to be done before it is taken. On the right flank the Americans are advancing slowly. Although they have failed to reinforce their troops the Japanese are securing supplies dropped from the air. The Allies are also making extensive use of air transport and are conveying 2-ton guns (presumably 25-pounders) from Australia to blast the Japs. out of their last positions.

PEARL HARBOUR ANNIVERSARY

Tomorrow is the anniversary of Pearl Harbour and of the first declaration by Australia of war on her own behalf. American comment runs: "The restoration of Pearl Harbour has been an amazing feat. When details are made public the world will gasp. It is now the strongest and most complete naval base in the world".

SNIPETS

Under the leadership of Calwell, MHR, and by 17 votes to five, the Victorian ALP executive has voted against the extended use of the Militia. The South Australian executive by a substantial majority, understood to be 3 to 1, agreed to the proposal. Russian youth delegates after an extended tour of Britain during which they visited 19 colleges and universities have returned to Russia. British morale is wonderful, they assert.

TOPICALITIES

Tomorrow (Monday) night 2000 hours, at Griffiths House. Tales of the Territory. The speaker - Chap Rentoul - the recommendation - Don't miss.

Projector Operators! All applicants for position of Camp Theatre Projectionist will apply to COs for permission to report to Staff Captain Amenities 1400 hours tomorrow (Monday) for interview.

CRICKET MATERIAL It will soon be impossible to obtain leather cricket balls. Comforts Fund have given us Compo. Balls specially recommended by Bradman which should be an effective substitute and they have asked us to test them. As use of leather balls only has been agreed to in the cricket competition we cannot order their use. BUT we appeal to you to test them in your match today.

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