

# PROGRESS OF THE WAR

## **SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC**

### **Japanese Attack at Kokoda**

While Australian mopping up operations continue at Milne Bay, they are locked in close fighting with the enemy on the flanks of the Owen Stanley Range.

The Australian forces which were driven out of Kokoda are resisting stubbornly. In his statement on Milne Bay, General MacArthur stated that Japan had naval control of the waters north of New Guinea, and this would enable them to reinforce Gona and Buna as feeders for the Kokoda forces.

## **THE BATTLE FOR STALINGRAD**

### **Both Sides Make Supreme Effort**

LONDON, Wednesday.

The battle of Stalingrad has been renewed on a scale exceeding even last week's effort. The Germans have brought up heavy tank reinforcements, some being diverted from the Caucasus. The Russian reply has been a sally across the Don in the Kletskaya area, where two Italian divisions were cut up. The Russian drive is aimed at cutting the German route across the Don to Kletskaya.

A later message states that the Russians have made a further withdrawal to a new line in the south-

drawal to a new line in the south-west approaches to Stalingrad, making the fourth withdrawal in 48 hours.

Moscow reports savage battles in the mountain passes of the West Caucasus, where the Germans are throwing in crack Alpine units in an endeavour to burst through to Novorossisk, which place Vichy claims the Germans are bombing.

**LONDON, Thursday.**

While waves of bombers blast Stalingrad, 200 German tanks, assisted by swarms of Stukas and fighters, and supported by several divisions of fresh infantry are hammering incessantly against the Russian defences south-west from the city.

To the north-west of the city the Russians have captured an important road, but on the south-west the Germans continue to gain ground.

Vichy reports that an important landing of German forces has been made on the Black Sea coast.

### **SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER DISMISSED**

**LONDON, Thursday.**

The dismissal by General Franco of his brother-in-law (Senor Suner) as Foreign Minister is causing much speculation. It is suggested in some quarters that this action may have some effect on the relations with Germany.

### **THE SUBMARINE MENACE**

#### **A Heartening Report**

**LONDON, Thursday.**

More U-boats were destroyed in July and August than in any other two months of the war, said the First Lord of the Admiralty in his speech today. He added that many other U-

Lord of the Admiralty in his speech to-day. He added that many other U-boats had been damaged.

## **MAKING USE OF VICTORY**

### **President Roosevelt Broadcasts**

WASHINGTON, Thursday.

"We have profited by past mistakes. This time we will know how to make full use of victory," declared President Roosevelt in a broadcast. "This time the achievements of the fighting forces will not be thrown away by political cynicism, timidity and incompetence."

## **LEND-LEASE AGREEMENT**

### **Completed Between U.S. and Australia.**

It is reported that an agreement has been made between the United States and Australia under the Lend-Lease conditions by which the United States will continue to render military aid to Australia, and the latter will supply materials.

WASHINGTON, Thursday.

The United States, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and "fighting" France, have concluded a series of reciprocal aid agreements designed to clarify the principles of mutual assistance in the war against the Axis.

CANBERRA, Friday.

The Prime Minister said the Lend-Lease plan showed that Australia and the United States recognised the need for collaboration after the war. To reduce to a minimum the demand of each Government for the currency of the other as large a proportion as was possible of the articles and services which each provides for the other will be in the form of "recipro-

...vices which each provides for the other will be in the form of "reciprocal aid."

## **THE WESTERN DESERT**

### **Axis Movement Followed by Lull**

**CAIRO, Wednesday.**

There was a flare-up in the desert on Sunday after sunset, when artillery duels took place on various parts of the northern and central sectors. The German Army moved some 14 miles from its original positions, and was vigorously attacked by Allied artillery and Air Forces. The enemy was heavily attacked as he became entangled in a minefield.

British tank units were in action in the new battle, which has now entered its third day. The Allied air forces, operating over the battle area on Tuesday destroyed 11 Axis planes and damaged twelve others.

**LONDON, Thursday.**

Except for air activity, in which the R.A.A.F. is taking part, there was a comparative lull yesterday. It is claimed that 15 enemy planes were shot down by the Allied aircraft, which pounded enemy communication lines.

### **TWO JAPANESE MINISTERS RESIGN**

**LONDON, Wednesday.**

The resignation of Shigenori Togo, Japanese Foreign Minister, has been followed by that of his deputy, Haruhiko Nishi. It is significant that while Togo, as Japanese Ambassador to Russia, negotiated the Tokio-Moscow neutrality pact, Nishi was the minister plenipotentiary at that time.

Informed opinion in New York in-

informed opinion in New York interprets the resignation as a prelude to an attack on Siberia, although General Togo is reported to have stated that no change in foreign policy will be made.

## **THE WAR SITUATION**

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### **Review of Situation**

CANBERRA, Friday.

In the course of a review of the war situation in the House of Representatives the Minister for External Affairs (Dr. Evatt) gave heartening details concerning the aid to Australia from overseas. He said the contribution included combat planes, petrol, oil and materials.

## **AMERICAN SUBMARINE SUCCESS**

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### **Five Vessels Sunk**

WASHINGTON, Thursday.

American submarines operating in the Pacific are reported to have sunk five Japanese ships, including a light cruiser, bringing the total number of Japanese naval vessels sunk since the war began to 99.

## **EARLIER WAR NEWS**

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### **THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC**

The Associated Press has issued tabulations relating to the Battle of the Atlantic. The agency says that in eight months 449 Allied and neutral ships were sunk, 3000 seamen lost, and 13,810 rescued. June was the worst month with 109 sinkings, which thereafter dropped astonishingly in July to 45 and in August to 23.

### **ITALY'S SHIPPING LOSSES**

Official figures show that since Italy's entry into the war British air and naval forces have sunk or damaged 2,366,000 tons of Axis merchant shipping in the Mediterranean, which is equivalent to two-thirds of the merchant navy with which Italy entered the war. Axis warship losses in the central and eastern Mediterranean are equally striking, including loss of 4 of the original 7 and 8 inch gun cruisers, 5 of a possible 10 6-inch cruisers, about 50 destroyers, torpedo boats, and small craft, and numerous submarines. Italy has lost one of her original 6 battleships.

### **A SURPRISE FOR THE CANADIANS**

Two Canadian soldiers returning from the recent raid on Dieppe thought their boat was in danger of being swamped, so they threw out the body of a comrade to lighten the load. When they awoke in hospital they looked in the bed between them and saw a Canadian whom they thought they recognised. They looked again, and were sure it was the comrade whose body they had thrown out in the Channel. This proved to be correct. The "ducking" had revived the man, who was picked up by a rescue ship.

### **MILNE BAY A SURPRISE TO JAPANESE**

A cable message states that the first party of Japanese, about 400 or 500, to land in Milne Bay, were chattering and laughing as they started down the tracks to Gili Gili after landing. Obviously they were not expecting any resistance. They received a shock when a small Australian patrol opened fire.

# **TO-DAY'S LATEST.**

## **THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC**

**(Somewhere in Australia)**

A three-pronged Allied air attack was carried out yesterday against the Japanese-held islands in the Northern Solomons group, stated to-day's G.-H.Q. communique. In a dawn attack on the airdrome on Buka Island an Allied medium bomber unit made four direct hits on fuel dumps, starting large fires. Medium bombers also attacked enemy installations in the landing ground area on Kieta Island with unknown results.

Over Faisi Island an Allied offensive reconnaissance unit staved and damaged two enemy flying boats in the harbour. The lull in the ground fighting in Central Papua, around Kokoda, continues. Allied fighters, however, in two attacks bombed and strafed the enemy lines of communication.

Fighting of a guerilla type continues at Milne Bay.

Renewed Allied blows have been launched against Salamaua in New Guinea. Allied medium bombers and attack bombers yesterday struck at enemy installations in this vicinity. Bombs fell in the target areas, starting numerous fires. There was no interception. Reconnaissance activity only continues in the north-western sector.

## **THE SOLOMONS**

### **Small Japanese Landing Reported**

**Reported**

**WASHINGTON. Thursday.**

An official Navy Department announcement stated that small detachments of Japanese troops made fresh attempts to land on various islands in the South-eastern Solomons. Those who succeeded in landing are being sought out and engaged by the United States marines.

American planes, operating from a base on the Guadalcanal Island, attacked the Japanese ships engaged in the landing operations. Several hits are reported, but the extent of the damage inflicted is as yet unknown.

Despite periodic attacks by enemy planes the American positions in the Guadalcanal and Tulagi areas are steadily being reinforced and strengthened.

[Overseas news messages published in this issue are supplied by the Australian Associated Press to which "The Riverine Grazier" subscribes. The Association's exclusive sources include, in England: "The Times," "The Daily Telegraph," "The Daily Mail," "The Daily Herald," "The Manchester Guardian," and Associated Press of Great Britain, British United Press and Reuter's World Service; and in America: "The New York Times," and Associated Press, United Press and the North American Newspapers Alliance.]