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FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 1941

THE UNION TRUSTEE COMPANY

INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA... AT THE HOTEL SYDNEY

CIRCULATION OF THE "HERALD"

Table with columns for dates and circulation figures for the Herald newspaper.

The Sydney Morning Herald

FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 1941

ANOTHER LIBYAN OFFENSIVE

Yesterday brought news of an event which the whole Empire has been awaiting for some time past. At dawn on Tuesday last a greatly strengthened Imperial force—the newly created Eighth Army—attacked the Axis positions in Libya on a front of 140 miles from Sollum, on the sea, to Jarabouh Oasis. The specific composition of the new army is naturally unclassified, but it is known to include British, Australian, New Zealand, and Indian infantry. Apart from the air operations, there are no reports of Australian units being engaged. The battle was opened with a concerted offensive by sea, land, and air. The air force was the power of the air attack, with clouds of bombers and fighters in a remarkable variety of British and American types. In relay air squadrons battered throughout the day every Benghazi and ruled the sky almost unchallenged. While the sea and air forces were heavily bombarded, Sollum and Matruh Pass, which the Germans had specially fortified, were reported to have been taken. The reports describe how even Matruh, which had been the stronghold of the Imperial forces, fell to British and American tanks and then thunder and bombardment. The initial line of attack included a "split" thrust in that which General Wilson followed in the brilliant offensive of last December—that is, a sweep and encirclement thrust which drove tanks toward the coast behind the enemy's main fortified positions. This time the attackers have the advantage of a force in the enemy's rear at Matruh ready to co-operate at the chosen moment. Nevertheless, as last December and again when the "Ironside" force took Matruh, the main thrust would be upon the outcome of the offensive until the results of the first three days of fighting are known. The problems imposed by the provisioning of a large dependent army in desert warfare demanded that the initial victory should be swift and complete. Moreover, the Imperial troops on this occasion are opposed by more substantial forces than those of last December. However, the air, sea, and land forces of the British Commonwealth attack furnish all the signs of an attempt, as in the Australian attack of a year ago, to knock out the enemy's "log" in a decisive way. The main force is to be the demands of the desert war situation, and the opening of the African campaign should be a decisive one. It is estimated that British offensive on the coast is imminent.

THE WAR, DAY BY DAY

Strategy of Libyan Attack

DAMEL'S PANZER DIVISIONS

BY OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

All the signs for some time past have pointed towards a general offensive as launched in the Western Desert early on Tuesday morning. The enemy attacks are clearly a prelude to a major operation by the army, in conjunction with the Navy and Air Force.

FIRM'S PRICES TO BE CONTROLLED

D. and W. Murray Ltd. "Declared"

CANBERRA, Thursday.—The Minister for Trade and Customs, Senator Keane, announced today that all branches of D. and W. Murray Ltd., wholesale and retail, throughout the Commonwealth, had been declared "Price Regulated" under the National Security (Prices) Regulations.

TEMPERING THE WIND

To temper the changes so far proposed are far from sufficient to meet the needs of justice, it is at least encouraging that the Commonwealth Government should have undertaken to modify the proposed features of the Income Tax Assessment Bill. Some results of Mr. Chifley's original proposals were so outrageous it is only a slight exaggeration to say that they represented the real intentions of the Labour Government. The imposition of taxes which would have brought the total direct taxation levied on taxpayers to more than 20 per cent of the pound for a man in point—Mr. Lazzarini has now announced that the Commonwealth will grant relief to the taxpayer who pays more than 18 per cent in proportion to the amount of the tax which is payable to the Commonwealth. It will be necessary to assume that did not contribute to the payment of the tax, but that the combined taxes are still not to exceed 18 per cent. The Assistant Treasurer is naturally unimpressed, but it is known to include British, Australian, New Zealand, and Indian infantry. Apart from the air operations, there are no reports of Australian units being engaged. The battle was opened with a concerted offensive by sea, land, and air. The air force was the power of the air attack, with clouds of bombers and fighters in a remarkable variety of British and American types. In relay air squadrons battered throughout the day every Benghazi and ruled the sky almost unchallenged. While the sea and air forces were heavily bombarded, Sollum and Matruh Pass, which the Germans had specially fortified, were reported to have been taken. The reports describe how even Matruh, which had been the stronghold of the Imperial forces, fell to British and American tanks and then thunder and bombardment. The initial line of attack included a "split" thrust in that which General Wilson followed in the brilliant offensive of last December—that is, a sweep and encirclement thrust which drove tanks toward the coast behind the enemy's main fortified positions. This time the attackers have the advantage of a force in the enemy's rear at Matruh ready to co-operate at the chosen moment. Nevertheless, as last December and again when the "Ironside" force took Matruh, the main thrust would be upon the outcome of the offensive until the results of the first three days of fighting are known. The problems imposed by the provisioning of a large dependent army in desert warfare demanded that the initial victory should be swift and complete. Moreover, the Imperial troops on this occasion are opposed by more substantial forces than those of last December. However, the air, sea, and land forces of the British Commonwealth attack furnish all the signs of an attempt, as in the Australian attack of a year ago, to knock out the enemy's "log" in a decisive way. The main force is to be the demands of the desert war situation, and the opening of the African campaign should be a decisive one. It is estimated that British offensive on the coast is imminent.

RELATIVE STRENGTHS

There is a doubt that the Allied position has greatly improved since the threat of last April regarding the Axis. It has particular reference to the Italian front action of last June. British and American supplies have been diverted to aid Russia, and there has been a corresponding reduction in the number of troops available to the Axis. The British and American forces have been reinforced, and the Axis forces have been weakened. The British and American forces have been reinforced, and the Axis forces have been weakened. The British and American forces have been reinforced, and the Axis forces have been weakened.

BUILDING SOLD FOR £106,200

Government Purchase

The Premier, Mr. McKell, announced yesterday that the Government had bought Rolle Chambers, 18-21 O'Connell Street, for the Public Trust for £106,200.

TWO NEW KING'S COUNSEL

The Attorney-General, Mr. Martin, announced yesterday that, on his recommendation, the Executive Council had approved the appointment of Mr. O. E. J. Barrett and Mr. F. A. Dwyer as King's Counsel.

S.A. PROPOSAL TO CONSCRIPT

The South Australian Government has proposed to conscript men for military service in the event of a general emergency.

DROP-HAMMER

CANBERRA, Thursday.—A drop hammer has been introduced in an attempt to speed up the production of munitions in the Commonwealth.

COMMITTEE GROWS

The committee of the Commonwealth War Service League has grown to include representatives from all parts of the Commonwealth.

AUSTRALIA'S EDUCATION IN WAR

Mr. Duff Cooper Impressed

II.—Cap Boarding

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT

The highest feature of war-time education in Australia is the fact that it is being carried out in a most efficient manner. The Government has made a great deal of progress in this regard, and the results are most encouraging.

EARL HIGHT WARNING

Earl Hight, a prominent Australian politician, has issued a warning regarding the current situation in the world. He believes that the war will continue for some time, and that the Allies must be prepared for a long and difficult struggle.

OUTLANKING MOVE

The British have made a move to outflank the Axis forces in the Western Desert. This move is expected to lead to a decisive battle in the near future.

SUSPICIOUS PRIDE

There is a suspicion of pride in the British forces in the Western Desert. This is a dangerous attitude, and it must be corrected if the Allies are to have any chance of winning the war.

HEALTH BENEFITS

The Government has announced that it will provide health benefits for all members of the armed forces. This is a most welcome announcement, and it shows that the Government is concerned for the welfare of its fighting men.

MARCH IN CITY TO-DAY

An Armoured Brigade will march in the city to-day to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of the British Commonwealth. The march will be a most impressive one, and it will show the strength and unity of the Commonwealth.

ARMY-AIR FORCE IN ACTION

The Army and Air Force have been in action in the Western Desert. The results have been most encouraging, and it is expected that the Allies will soon be in a position to launch a major offensive.

MINISTER WANTS NO DELAY

The Minister for War has expressed his desire for no delay in the production of munitions. He believes that the more quickly the Allies can produce munitions, the more quickly they can win the war.

SCENE OF BRITISH OFFENSIVE

The scene of the British offensive in the Western Desert is most encouraging. The British forces have made great progress, and it is expected that they will soon be in a position to launch a major offensive.

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