

# Raider Base in the Antarctic?

Sneaking upon its prey in the treacherous haze of evening, the black painted raider which attacked the Turakina in the Tasman Sea on August 20, met unexpected resistance, the one-gunned merchantman fighting for almost three hours. The story of that historic encounter cannot yet be fully told, because the few survivors of the Turakina are still prisoners in the Nazi pirate ship which destroyed their vessel.

But from the stories told by coloured seamen, who were captured by the raider and later released on Emirau Island, it is learned that the Narvik, as the pirate ship is known, was badly hit and had to run into hiding whilst repairs were carried out.

## RAIDER HIDES

Immediately after the encounter with the Turakina, the Narvik steamed to the far south and lay at anchor for a considerable period. During that time the captives on the raider were not allowed anywhere on deck. They did not know what was happening, but they believed that the Nazis were frantically repairing the damage done by the Turakina's gun.

Ordinary Seaman S. C. Waterhouse, a member of the crew of the Holmwood, told the story when he returned to Wellington. He learned it first hand from New Caledonian natives, members of the crew of the French freighter Notou, which was the first vessel sunk by the Narvik. They were battered down during the fight with the Turakina, and were not allowed to make contact with the captives from that vessel, but they were able to pick up scraps of information during their long detention on the raider.

## PRISONERS CONDITIONS

"We never made any contact with the black raider until we were put ashore from the Manyo Maru at Emirau," Mr. Waterhouse said. "No white prisoners were landed from the black raider, but some women captives were transferred to another raider after they had been on board for only a day or two."

"The Notou was sunk on August 12 and the members of the crew were the first captives to be taken on board the Narvik. The New Caledonian boys told me they were given very little liberty and were allowed on deck for only a few minutes at a time and then under the closest supervision."

"During the fight with the Turakina the prisoners were kept below. They did not know what was happening, except that the raider was hit a number of times. After the survivors of the Turakina were taken on board the crews were not allowed to mingle, but they managed to pass a bit of information through to each other."

"The New Caledonians told me that after the fight with the Turakina the raider went to some place where it was bitterly cold, and stayed there a considerable time. They had no idea where they were, as they were kept below the whole time, but it was their belief that the long stay of the raider at this place was for the purpose of carrying out repairs."

"Until the survivors of the Turakina are released we are not likely to learn the full story of what happened. None of the Turakina prisoners were allowed to speak to the other prisoners and the Nazis for some reason do not seem to want the world to hear their story."

"So far as I was able to see, the Narvik was not flying any colours and had no distinguishing marks. It was painted black and looked like a typical ocean tramp. Every time it came near us it was obscured by the Tokyo Maru."

## THE SECRET BASE

Have the Nazis a base at one of the uninhabited islands lying to the south of New Zealand? The story told by the New Caledonian boys that the Narvik, after its fight with the Turakina, went to a very cold place and stayed there for a considerable period, opens up the possibility of Campbell Island, which is about 400 miles south of Bluff, having been used as the repair base.

There are several good harbours at Campbell Island, which is mountainous and has a circumference of about thirty miles.

Port Ross, at the northern end of the principal island in the Auckland Islands, which are closer to New Zealand, being about 290 miles to the south of Bluff Harbour, has been described as one of the best harbours of refuge in the world. It may have been used by the Narvik, though its nearness to the New Zealand mainland would make it a risky place of refuge.

Another island which lies much further south than Campbell Island is Macquarie Island.

It has been assumed that the raiders' base is situated in the tropics. If this is so, it would seem that the reason why the Narvik went to some place in the far south instead of proceeding to the base in the tropics must have been that it was so badly damaged that there was too much risk of being intercepted while limping along at a reduced speed if it had attempted the much longer run to the north.

# The August Offensive

## ARTILLERY ACTION

High explosive shell was used by the 18 pdrs. for the first time on this occasion, and its effect on the wire was watched with interest. It was found, however, that low bursting shrapnel was much more effective. The 4th Battery did a lot of shooting on the enemy's trenches at both Lone Pine and Johnston's Jolly; but the lack of ammunition made the work piecemeal, and the heavy overhead cover on the trenches at Lone Pine remained intact when the infantry advanced. Hostile batteries were very active, and one of the 1st. Battery's guns on Russell's Top was put out of action owing to a broken buffer spring, but a new spring was rushed up from Cape Helles. The howitzer batteries (4.5 and 5 in.) were limited to a mere 30 rounds per battery on the day before the attack, and 40 rounds only were allowed each battery on the day of attack for their fire action from 4 a.m. to 3 p.m., though this was supplemented by "a quick rate of fire" from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. At the former hour an "intense bombardment" by all guns was commenced, and continued until the moment of assault.

## HARD FIGHTING

The gunners did their utmost throughout with the hopelessly inadequate material at their disposal; more they could not do. The wire had been well cut up by the 1st. Battery, which had expended over two hundred rounds on wire cutting since morning; about one half of the Turkish troops in the enemy fire trenches at the commencement of the bombardment were killed or wounded; but the result of the shooting in dealing with the massive overhead cover of the enemy's front line trenches was so inconsiderable as to be of little use to the infantry. After crossing No Man's Land in face of a storm of rifle and machine gun fire they found the overhead cover practically intact, and the weighty beams defied all individual efforts to remove them. Then came a pause while groups of the men bodily lifted the beams and then flung themselves in among the Turks.

The hand-to-hand fighting in the obscurity of these covered ways was of a bitter and desperate character, but by 6 p.m. all the garrison had been killed or captured, and the whole of the trenches seized.

## THE GUNS' TASKS

While the attack was proceeding the 1st. Battery directed its fire on the trenches at Johnston's Jolly, the 2nd. Battery engaging those opposite Quinn's and Courtney's Posts, while 4th (howitzer) Battery assisted a strong effort to neutralise the fire of enemy guns on Mortar Ridge. Enemy guns on Scrubby Knoll, Battleship Hill, Gun Ridge and at the Olive Groves were similarly made up of four 5 inch batteries, two 6 inch howitzers, the 4.7 in. gun, and the guns of the Australian Artillery. There was little abatement in hostile fire, however, and it was considered that the expenditure of ammunition by the old and worn 5 inch howitzers was not justified by results on this occasion.

## TURKS COUNTER-ATTACK

From the very commencement the enemy made it quite plain that he was determined at all costs to regain the important work which had been wrested from him in such indomitable fashion. Within the hour the guns were called upon to assist in repelling a heavy counter-attack which swept in wave on wave, both from the north and from the south, and nearly a week elapsed before the Turks seemed willing to relinquish their efforts and accept defeat. For three days the Australians had to meet constant counter-attacks and continuous and heavy shelling and bombing, the enemy's supply of bombs being apparently inexhaustible. During this period the 1st. Battery, in particular, and the 2nd. Battery and the 4.5 in. howitzers inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy's reserves. Time after time the guns of the 1st. Battery swept the enemy's ranks in a deadly enfilade as they pressed forward to the counter-attack, and more than once their fire was sufficiently destructive to break an enemy assault at its inception.

## WE TASTE SUCCESS

The battery was under heavy fire throughout August 6th and the following night, and the gun emplacements were so badly damaged that they had to be rebuilt. During the afternoon of the 6th, Nos. 1 and 2 guns were temporarily out of action, owing to the destruction of the emplacements, and several men were wounded. Notwithstanding this hostile shelling the battery was usefully employed during the night in shelling the enemy operating against Lone Pine, as well as his reinforcements arriving from the direction of Mule Valley, and at 6 a.m. it was largely instrumental in beating back with a heavy loss a local counter-attack from the direction of Mais Mais. The enemy came on a second time, but was again repulsed, the low-bursting shrapnel playing havoc in their broken ranks

# Mail From Major H. Flux

(Reprinted with grateful thanks by permission of Lt.-Col. C. F. Lowe, E.D.) 14-12-42.

We had a fair trip over although the first two days were choppy with rain squalls, but I managed to make it without seiling out. The boat did 18 knots and we did the trip in exactly three days. On arrival at Suva, we were brought out to the camp in M.F. It is quite a good camp and our quarters are excellent, although the food takes a bit of getting used to.

The native boys are just great and I feel sure they will make good gunners. They can lick our chaps hollow on foot drill and most of them have only been in for about a fortnight. Considering that quite a lot of them cannot speak English it speaks volumes for their keenness. As well as our own B.S.M. (Andy Still) we have a native one and there are also a number of English-speaking Fijian Bombardiers.

Of course the heat is terrific—to-day between 86 degrees and 90 degrees and they say that is cool! Bed clothes are quite unnecessary and we sleep under big mosquito nets. It rains quite a lot and the whole place gets very steamy. The day before yesterday, I took the whole Battery for a route march and a swim in the sea—three miles away and they have gone again this afternoon. The Fijians are wonderful singers and sing all the time when on the march. They are all barefooted and metalled roads do not worry them. Yesterday we had a church parade here with over 600 Fijians—and it is just impossible to describe their singing. The harmonising was great and I will never forget their rendering of "Silent Night" and "Abide with Me"; our chaps were very impressed.

Everything is very cheap here—beer 1/- a bottle (and good stuff!), cigarettes 5d. a packet. Drill uniforms can be made for £2. Shirts and shorts are 5/6 each. Drill, of course, is extra, but can be got for 1/6 a yard from Ordnance.

The tropical vegetation is very pretty just now, as a lot of the trees are flowering—vivid reds and yellows. The coconut palms, etc., are all very pretty.

The Fijian boys make great batmen and nothing is too much trouble. Mine (Vilame Radekedeke) is a gem and his attentiveness is almost embarrassing.

Cheerio,  
Yours sincerely,  
Harold G. Flux.

Major Flux's address for anyone caring to write is  
553931 Major H. G. Flux, N.Z.A.,  
c/o N.Z. Base Post Office,  
Suva.

# If Hitler Dies

If Hitler dies soon, as his astrologers have predicted, the Nazis are doomed, Rupert Hughes writes in "Esquire." He says that an analysis of the histories of other tyrants such as Herod, Peter the Great, and Charles I., indicates that Hitler's end will be violent.

If his death comes before peace is made, the article declares, it is almost certain that his newly-conquered empire will fall to pieces, because Hitler is not regarded as a monarch who can be succeeded by a general who can be replaced; he is regarded by the Nazis as a god, and his colleagues inspire none of the idolatry that is his.

If he dies while Germany is still at war, according to Mr. Hughes, his generals will fight each other, and in the ensuing anarchy revolt will sweep through the invaded nations. Long-suppressed Germans will speak and act, and exiles will come home. Roman commanders and emperors, and leaders of other conquering peoples, have been assassinated when things went wrong. He says that this may be Hitler's end.

Also, the article states, Hitler may die in an aeroplane or automobile crash, he may be hit by a bomb, or caught by a collapsing wall. Or he may die in some mysterious way, as Charles XII, of Sweden, did when he was an obstacle to peace in Europe.

While visiting a fortress on an inspection tour, the Swedish King went along the trenches and peered over. His officers found him lying across the parapet, his eye and skull pierced by a bullet from an unknown source.

The big question, Mr. Hughes points out, is not how Hitler will die, but when. In the meantime, he says, it's pleasant thinking.

as they were driven back. The Australians lost heavily in the initial attack, and they continued to suffer severely in the desperate intermittent struggles of the succeeding days. They had the satisfaction, however, of knowing that the enemy's losses were much greater, and that in the end he was reluctantly compelled to accept defeat.

(To be continued.)

Censorship of films is just a case of stop, look, and less sin.

# The Padre's Column

## NO ROOM IN THE INN.

"And Mary brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."—Luke, 2:7.

In all the literature of the world it would be hard to find another sentence as simple and as dignified, yet conveying a message of such tremendous importance for all mankind. It seems strange that the event which marks the great dividing line of history should be related in so few words and with such telling beauty—just one sentence yet it contains the full story of the coming of One beside whom the greatest men of all time pale to insignificance.

## EXPECTATION AND REJECTION.

For many centuries the Hebrew people had looked forward with eager expectation to the coming of a great leader. They longed for One whose advent would deliver them from suffering and oppression, and would give them freedom from bondage to a foreign power. He would come with dramatic suddenness, and Israel would rise and follow Him. The ancient glories of the nation would be restored, and the Kingdoms of the world would do homage before Him.

That was the expectation and hope of the Jewish race, but it was not fulfilled. Instead of coming in such manner as to attract the attention of everyone, the event passed almost unnoticed; so much so, that ordinary lodgings were denied the Mother and her Babe. The Messiah had been awaited long enough, but when He came the best shelter that could be found for Him was a stable.

One is inclined to wonder sometimes what would have happened if the innkeeper and his guests had known who it was who sought shelter for the night. Nothing would have been too much trouble, and all would have been zealous of the honour of having some association with the event that was to have such profound influence upon the world. But they did not know, so no one cared very much. At a time when so many people had come to Bethlehem for the census these strangers were lucky enough to have a roof over their heads, even if it was only the roof that sheltered the oxen.

## 1942.

Of course, all that was nearly 2000 years ago. The people of Bethlehem had no way of knowing that the unwanted guest was the Son of God. But we know more than they did. With our knowledge of Him we would not think of denying Him a shelter under our roof.—Or would we?

We may feel that the innkeeper was sadly lacking in courtesy, that the other guests were selfish in the extreme in not offering their rooms for the Baby. But the fact remains that the tragedy of Christ's rejection is repeated over and over again in our day. The extent of the chaos in the world is the measure of man's refusal to make room for Him. Time and again He is pushed aside to find shelter in some unwanted corner, out of the way of "more important" things.

## THE NATIONS.

Take this matter of international affairs. In the past any suggestion that Christ and His principles had anything to do with the relations between one country and another has been regarded as fantastic. The major issues are those of territory and trade. Agreements between the nations have been formulated through considerations of experience, or of commercial advantages. The questions of right or wrong, of justice, of the needs and welfare of others—matters which rest ultimately upon Christian principles have been ignored. The attitude has been that all these are well enough in their place, but they are not sufficiently practical. We are paying the price to-day, and it looks as if the so-called "practical" considerations are so impractical as to lead inevitably to chaos and misery. We are paying the price for giving no room to Christ in the affairs of the nations.

## WORK.

And so in our work and our business. What has He to do with commerce?—Everything, yet so often He is rejected there. "Business is business." Give consideration to others if it means greater profit, but if it means a lower return it must not be considered. That is the common feeling.

Yet Christ condemned competition in which each sought his own advancement to the detriment of others. He taught His followers to place service above self in every department of life. The competitive system that we know is absurd. It means injustice, waste and strife. Christ's way is rather that of co-operation, each rendering his service to the common good.

## INDIVIDUAL LIVES.

Of course, all these are great ideals. They are utterly incapable of fulfilment while there is no room for Christ in our individual lives.

If we neglect Him personally, we will

# Things We Want to Know

Is the Y bloke good at plating hair?

If it wasn't the crayfish, what was it that made the Q side so reluctant to leave "Freddie"?

Is it the habit of Gen. Maxwell to excuse innocent people? What did he say or do to make the certain little red head demand an apology?

Why does a certain L./Bdr. play golf in Feilding on Sundays? Is it really the golf links he enjoys or a certain little brunette that lives close by?

Did an officer in 4 frequent low dives in Wellington when on week-end leave?

Did Gen. Wenman sleep well last Friday night? Where did he learn to make beds?

Was last Friday night's tattoo strict? Who was the orderly m.c.o.?

How did the Padre sleep last Friday?

Why did the Duty Sergeant return so early last Tuesday morning?

How is the M.L.R. Bdr's. teacher coming along?

Who wiped an R.H.Q. Bdr's. eyes early last Tuesday morning?

Where does a certain musician get his practice for squeezing an accordion?

Who was the D.C.O. who put an A.F.V. officer off at the wrong station last Sunday night? Alright! Alright!

"There'll be one dozen roses—" Does this song bring back happy memories to an officer in R.H.Q.?

Where does lipstick come in during driving instruction with a T.S.M. of 4?

Is this week's R.H.Q. orderly runner's second name Mac?

Which Sig. Cpl. lost his 4d. bet at Dannevirke?

Does the uproar in Sigs. interfere with the work of Survey? Has new blood been imported?

Who was the A grade mechanic explaining the hydraulic system on a truck to an officer? Hard luck Mac! It was self energising!

Who were the S.M. and Sgt. seen walking across a nearby paddock with a young lady?

Who is the Sig. scone-door?

Which ex M.L.R. expert now in 5 has suddenly become interested in a certain Chinese ailment known as the WAAC?

Who burnt his scones when the "earthquake" rocked the camp,

Which D/R as a result of his anticaine activities is responsible for the new phonetic designation for a Despatch Rider?

Which Gen. bought an engagement ring but gave it to the wrong girl while in a fit of alcoholic depression?

never do more than pay lip service to Him, nor will we give Him any place in our daily work, or in the affairs of the nations. So the key to the world's tragedy is this, that men and women have no room for Christ in their hearts, and in rejecting Him they shut out One who comes to give that inward peace and joy that can be experienced only in companionship with Him.

Though Christ a thousand times  
In Bethlehem be born  
If He's not born in thee  
Thy soul's forlorn.

It is Christmas—a time of festivity and joy, because Christ was born, but our celebration is a hollow mockery unless there is room for Him as our honoured guest in the inmost sanctuary of our hearts.

That you may know the joy of His coming is the Christmas greeting of your Padre.

## TAKING NO CHANCES.

If, during a raid, a digger brought back a German prisoner he was awarded a week's leave.

One soldier returned with a German wearing a British tin hat, the digger being without one.

When he was questioned about it he replied: "Yes, it's my hat; you see, if he'd been shot, I'd lose my leave."