

Camp News

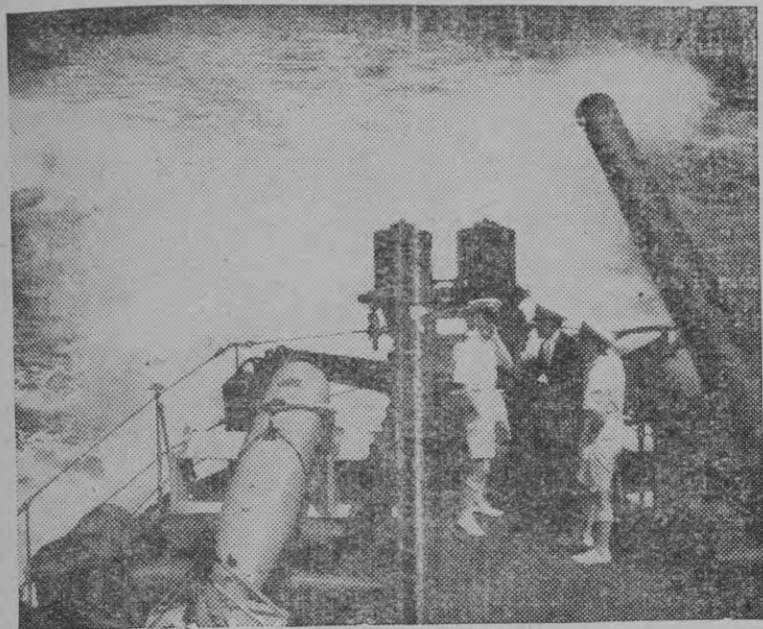
GRATIS TO
H.M. FORCES

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE WEEKLY 8 PAGES PRICE . . 2d.

VOL. 4. NO. 158

Wellington, Friday, January 22, 1943

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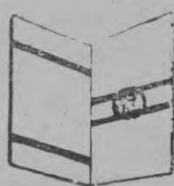


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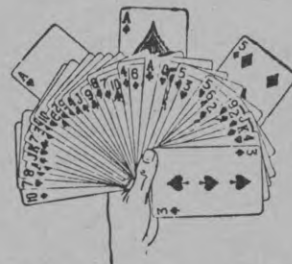
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Camp News

As this is not an official publication of Army Headquarters of the New Zealand Military Forces, all matters intended for publication should be addressed to The Editor and reach this office not later than 2 p.m. Mondays. Correspondence is invited on topical items of interest. Only business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Extra copies of "Camp News" may be obtained on application to the Manager, "Camp News," 3rd Floor, Whitaker's Buildings, 11 Manners Street, Wellington.

VOL. 4. | NO. 158 Wellington, Friday, January 22, 1943

Stalin's Secret Generals are now in action

(From the "Daily Mirror," London.)

All reports from Moscow emphasise the gravity of the situation in Russia, where the mightiest battles that history has ever seen are being fought.

Von Bock's forces are pushing on towards the Caucasus, and the Russians who oppose them are commanded by Stalin's "Big Six" group of Generals.

Few of their names are known outside Russia; two of them are men in their late fifties. The other four are young men. Only now can the stories of the Soviet military Big Six be revealed.

Tall, slim and not unlike Timoshenko in appearance is Lieutenant-General Pavel Kurochkin. He was a baker's boy, and used to get up at four in the morning to help knead and bake the bread, before trundling it around to cottage doors in his father's cart.

Then, anxious to do something with engines, he became a railway labourer, cleaned locomotives, and later got a semi-skilled job in the Krassny engineering works helping to build tractors.

In his spare time he did military training, and showed himself to be a useful sort of chap with mechanised forces, knowing a few things worth knowing about tractors, tanks and caterpillar diesels of all sorts.

Now he's a Lieutenant-General under Timoshenko and is taking a big part in the Caucasian fighting.

Even younger than 42-year-old Kurochkin is Lieutenant-General Pavel Rychagov. These two men with the same Christian name are in adjacent commands—but Rychagov is equivalent in rank to an R.A.F. Air Marshal, and is one of the leading commanders of the Red Air Force.

He is stumpy, grim-looking sort of chap, with a Napoleonic expression. Timoshenko and a few others fought in Tsarist days, but as Rychagov is in his early thirties, he is almost entirely a Soviet production!

Payel is a brilliant fighter pilot, and has devised his own methods for beating Nazi tanks by his Stormovik dive-bombers—and now the Stukas and Messerschmitts in Russia try to copy the aerobatics thought out and then tested by Pavel Rychagov!

Older than these two Pavels is grim-looking General Zhukov, No. 3 of the Big Six, who is still in charge of the Moscow area.

He took over the Moscow front when Timoshenko went South, held it in its darkest days and drove the Nazis back. It was Zhukov who gave the order that turned the German tide—and perhaps the tide of history.

The man who executed the order and sprang the biggest surprise on the Germans was Zhukov's team-mate, Major-General Byelov. They are still working together.

Byelov is a Cossock, a farmer's son, an expert horseman. On that night when 70,000 mounted Cossacks took the sleeping Nazi panzers by surprise, Byelov proved that he was a good General.

No. 5 of the Big Six is Marshal Budenny. He was a Cossack villager, and it was he who organised the historic 250-mile raid into the Tsarist Russians' rear at Tsaritsin.

Stalin gave him charge of the Ukraine front where Hitler attacked. This front broke, as Stalin knew it would. Budenny saved the bulk of his armies—as Stalin knew he would!

And now? Nothing has been heard of Budenny for months. But he is very much in the thick of the fighting.

And No. 6? That place is reserved for Boris Shaposhnikov, a 58-year-old Tartar from the Ural mountains. He was a Tsarist, a colonel in the last war.

If that surprises you, remember this—Shaposhnikov, like every other Russian, has only one loyalty to — Russia. Stalin accepted that loyalty, and made him his principal military adviser and Chief of Staff.

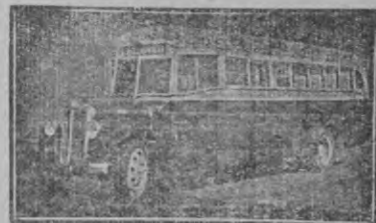
Boris is a cold, unemotional man who has no interests outside military affairs. His hobby is writing military primers which are reckoned to be the world's models in their subjects.

It has never been officially stated, but I believe it to be a fact that Shaposhnikov and Wavell met in the Caucasus in September to co-ordinate plans for the joint defence of the oil.

As Britain's 10th Army now stands ready in Iran—a short distance from Boris Shaposhnikov's command — it is more than probable that No. 6 on the list will have the job of co-operating with British forces.



Men of the British R.A.M.C. carrying stretcher cases from a smoke-wreathed ambulance during fighting in the Western Desert.



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The Ministry of Supply has notified the publishers of "Camp News" that, owing to the shortage of paper, the publication must cease as from 31st January, 1943.

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BEHIND JAPANESE LINES

Scouting In Solomons

A.I.F. COLONEL TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES

"The Japanese have made the bush their friend in many ways, but they are lacking in true bush sense. The average Australian or American bushman can lick them kite high. Papua and the Solomons have proved that." These are the words of a New Zealand-born colonel of commandos of the Australian Imperial Force, recently attached to the United States Army forces on Guadalcanal Island and now in New Zealand recuperating from an attack of blackwater fever.

The colonel actually visited Guadalcanal before the United States Marines landed there, and is therefore well acquainted with the area and with the jungle conditions in which he has been operating. He has been leading parties into the Japanese back areas, forming estimates of numerical concentrations, marking down the positions in which the concentrations are sited, locating gun positions, searching out supply dumps, and finding out the enemy food position.

The parties normally consist of the colonel, an American officer, and three or four native Solomon islanders. The latter are either ex-policemen, boys, or guides, and are intensely loyal to the Allies and fanatically anti-Japanese. The colonel says that many Japanese have been wiped out by the island natives. He is personally acquainted with the native police sergeant whose gallantry was recognized in the recent New Year's Honours List.

Warning of Attacks.

Not the least important duty of the scouting parties was to ascertain if the enemy was preparing to attack, and, if so, to discover the direction and objective of the attack. Warning carried back to our lines would then permit the necessary dispositions to be made to counter the enemy moves.

It takes time to train a city dweller to bushcraft, the colonel says, but the natural bushman knows how to keep his eyes open and what to look for. He can detect the Jap. every time.

"The Japs use the trees, and know which they can cut down for food. They know which fruit is safe to eat and which vines to cut to get water. They know enough to keep off the jungle tracks, but when they get off them leave so much sign that it is easy to see where they have passed. They are good with their fires. Whenever they light one there are always three or four men to wave branches over and disperse the smoke so that it filters imperceptibly upward through the trees. Their camouflage is very good, and it is very easy for anyone not sufficiently vigilant to walk right up to one of them and not know he is there. And they are very treacherous, too.

"I would not say the fanatical character is universal among them," the colonel said. "Certain of them are fanatical by instinct, and the others feel ashamed not to follow their example. They have a one-track mind. They formulate a plan and try to force it through irrespective of what modification of the expected circumstances may arise. This has proved very costly to them in some of their enterprises."

"The Japanese owe a good deal to their use of smokeless powder," the colonel continued. "They are not good shots and

for that reason hold their fire till their target comes close. Their mortar work is very good and accurate at longer range. This is probably due to the knee-high type of weapon, which has no sights. They find their target, and being very used to, and accurate in, estimating range, know just what angle of elevation at which to fire them.

"Their gunpits are very well camouflaged, but fortunately they do not have very much artillery on Guadalcanal. The artillery fire is very erratic and does not compare with ours. Some of the guns which at one time shelled Henderson airfield were set in caves.

"They keep very poor local security behind their lines. I don't know whether it is that they are so confident that we cannot get among them. Their positions now are mainly in the hills and valleys of the high country, and their observation posts are very efficient. In my type of work, however, they are very clumsy.

"When I came away from Guadalcanal the enemy were getting in a bad way for supplies. Some were being dropped by parachute to them, and they were attempting to float barrels of rice ashore. As to the numerical strength remaining to them there, I would say that war correspondents' estimates I have seen recently are very much too high.

Japanese Diaries.

"Practically every Japanese soldier keeps a diary," the colonel stated, "and quite a number of them in English. It would astound you how much those Japs know about us. I personally don't think there is much they don't know."

The colonel's description of his experiences when on scouting expeditions behind the enemy lines makes it clear that it is a hazardous and arduous job. The scouts cannot smoke for fear of revealing their positions. Most of the movement is carried through at night, and they have some very close calls. If combat does occur, firearms are only used in the greatest extremity, for the noise reveals position and entails the transference of activity to another area. Knives are relied on as far as possible, and the life and death struggles kept silent.

"I have had one or two close calls myself," the colonel says. "I have been within a yard of a Japanese sentry and managed to escape observation by lying absolutely motionless close to the ground.

"We take canned rations into the jungle with us, and pick up what native foods we can. This is also supplemented with natural foods from the bush.

"During the last stunt I was on before coming away from the island we managed to sort out the positions occupied by more than 1500 of the enemy, and they were later dealt with from the air."

The colonel has been away from New Zealand about 20 years. He was born in Waihi and attended Napier High School and Dannevirke High School before going to Australia. He is a mining engineer in civil life and has been in South America, Malaya, Borneo, New Guinea, Siam, Burma, Japan, China and Africa while following his profession. He had just arrived back in Australia from the West Coast of Africa when the war broke out and enlisted in the A.I.F. in Western Australia.

He has a brother and sister in Wellington, and met them for the first time for 12 years a week or so ago. The sister is a sergeant in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps.

"As soon as I'm fit again I'm going back into it," he says.

"I've decided to take young Sharpe into my business as soon as he and my daughter get back from their honeymoon."

"But I thought you had no time for the fellow."

"I changed my mind. I told him he couldn't have her unless he had £5,000 in the bank. He asked me to put that into writing, then he went and borrowed the money on the strength of becoming my son-in-law. Such business ability must be put to use."



GURKHAS IN THE WESTERN DESERT BATTLES: Gurkhas from Nepal are among the Indian troops fighting in the Western Desert. They have their own ways of fighting and their own weapons, and have been in many battles. A Gurkha cleaning his knife after being in action. They take great care of their weapons.

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REPLACEMENT WITH LESS FIT SOLDIERS

Grade I men whose military service has been postponed because they are engaged in essential industries are to be replaced in their civilian occupations, wherever possible, by men of lower medical grading already serving in the Army, according to a statement by Mr. E. D. Thompson, secretary to the Christchurch No. 2 Armed Forces Appeal Board. Mr. Thompson said a start had been made with the work, but it would probably be a fairly long process. The appeal boards, which understood the Army position, were co-operating with the manpower officers, who had full information about industrial needs.

In accordance with a plan to replace Grade 1 men in the farming industry with Grade 2 and Grade 3 men, appropriate lists are now being prepared by the National Service Department for the information of armed forces appeal boards. The Christchurch No. 1 armed forces appeal board is now engaged in reviewing all appeals for or by Grade 1 men, and it is expected that when lists of suitable Grade 2 and Grade 3 men have been completed by the National Service Department, Grade 1 men on farms whose appeals have been adjourned will, in many cases, be released from the industry and transferred to the Army. At the same time men in the Grade 2 and Grade 3 categories who will be required for farm labour will be released from the Army. This procedure is likely to take some time, pending the compilation of the necessary lists by the National Service Department.

"FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE OF MORESBY."

When the white women of Papua were evacuated to Australia, one of their number was left behind. She was Matron Vera Morton, of the Red Cross Convalescent Home, "Rouna." Mrs. Morton stayed because there was nobody to carry on the work at the home.

There she worked, assisted only by native labour. The home was very busy and absolutely necessary to the welfare of the Australian Forces. The

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patients called her the "Florence Nightingale of Moresby."

In course of time other arrangements were made for continuing the home, and Mrs. Morton returned to Australia. That might have ended what was really a heroic episode, but the troops have not allowed it to end.

A movement was started in Port Moresby for the presentation of an illuminated address to Matron Morton, and it was not long before every soldier who had passed through her hands had signed it. The address has since been presented at the Queensland Division's annual meeting by the Governor, Sir Leslie Wilson.



"TOUGH TACTICS" TRAINING IN MIDDLE EAST — HUMAN BRIDGES OVER BARBED WIRE: Soldiers demonstrating ways of overcoming barbed wire. They throw themselves bodily on the obstacles and allow the rest of the detachment to advance over their bodies.

Everyman's Hut

"... And they that were ready went in with him to the marriage; and THE DOOR was SHUT."—Matt., ch. 25, verse 10.

"Yet there is room!" the Lamb's bright hall of song,
With its fair glory, beckons thee along.

Room, room, still room! Oh, enter, enter now!

It fills, it fills, that hall of jubilee!
Make haste, make haste; 'tis not too full for thee.

Room, room, still room! Oh, enter, enter now!"

Yet there is room! Still open stands the gate,

The gate of love; it is not yet too late;
Room, room, still room! Oh enter, enter now!

Pass in, pass in! the banquet is for thee;

That cup of everlasting love is free;
Room, room, still room! Oh enter, enter now!

Louder and sweeter sounds the loving call;

Come, lingerer, come; enter that festal hall,

Room, room, still room! Oh, enter, enter now!

Mother's "Letter"

(The One for which she waits.)

If you have a grey-haired mother
In the old home far away,
Sit you down and write the letter
You put off from day to day.
Don't wait until her weary steps
Reach heaven's pearly gate,
But show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.

If you have a tender message,
Or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it,
But whisper it to-day.
Who knows what bitter memories
May haunt you if you wait,
So make your loved one happy
Before it is too late.

The tender words unspoken,
The letters never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent—
For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some loved ones wait;
Show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.

—George Bancroft Griffith.

Ere night that gate may close, and call thy doom;

Then the last low, long cry: "No room, no room!"

No room, no room! Oh, woeful cry! "No room!"

Last week we were looking at a door that was shut — a door with Christ shut out, seeking admittance, and you on the inside, with liberty to open the door and admit Him into your heart and life, or to hold it shut against Him until He leaves you. This week we have another door that is shut, but the circumstances are reversed. He—the Christ—has entered into the feast with His own, and has shut the door. Those who would not open the door to Him, now find His door shut against them, with themselves in the outside place. Ten went to meet Him with their lamps, but only five were ready and went in. The other five had no oil and while they were away seeking it the door was shut against them. We live in what is

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called a Christian country, but how many professing Christians have only an empty lamp and no oil? When He shuts the door, will you be among the 50 per cent. who are inside or the 50 per cent. outside? And be very sure that the door will be shut. For nearly 2000 years the door has stood wide open. At Calvary the dispensation of the law was completed. Under it man had failed to reach God's standard as set out in His law and commandments. No use to pray "Lord incline our hearts to keep Thy law." He that is guilty of one point is guilty of all. Only one man has ever kept God's law in its entirety—the One Who gave it—the man Christ Jesus. And by His death He satisfied the full demands of the law and completed it. Now God deals with man in grace; "for by grace are ye saved through faith," but just as the day of the law ended, so surely will the day of grace end, and the door will be shut. Can you afford the risk of being shut out? Heed the knocking at your heart and open to Him—the Lord and Giver of Life.

EVERYMAN'S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK.

Conscience warns us as a friend before it punishes us as a judge.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

Instructions as to the insertion or withdrawal of advertisements in the "Camp News" must be in writing. Advertisements received without such instructions will be inserted until countermanded and charged accordingly.

Alterations to standing advertisements should be handed in by 12 noon each Monday.

While every care is exercised in regard to the insertion of advertisements, the Proprietors do not hold themselves responsible for errors or non-insertion through accident or from other causes.

All business communications should be addressed to the Manager. Letters to the Editor, News Items, etc., to the Editor.

We cannot be held responsible for errors in advertisements transmitted by telephone.

STEWART, LAWRENCE & CO., Ltd.,
Proprietors.

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