

# THE NEWT

B ELIEVE IT WHEN YOU SEE IT IN "THE NEWT" 11 Sep 41

B I G RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE

STATE OF EMERGENCY IN NORWAY

## German Warships Attecked by Royal Navy

The 1a test Russian Communique repeats the usual cautious statement of "Stubborn fighting along the whole of the Front," but the Soviet spokesman has stated that following the Russian victory in the Central Sector the offensive will increase in volume as time passes by. This is the first time that the word "offensive" has been used in these communiqes. The operations are described as being a big Russian success - the smashing of eight German Divisions was no mean achievement. It was more than a "local success" and has had repercussions all along the front. Recent fighting has been on a scale never known in history. The whole of the Central Sector is aptly described as a "mincing machine". The Germans admit their troops have been engaged in heavy fighting against superior forces.

It is not quite clear if many of the messages so far received all refer to the area around **SMOLENSK**, but it is clear that the German Forces around **GOMEL** (about half way between **SMOLENSK** and **KIEV**) have been given a resounding blow. The Russians have been hitting back with fierce counter-attacks, smashing German mechanised and infantry forces, taking an additional 47 guns and much eqpt. Thousands of German dead are on the battlefield. A Moscow paper reports that German tanks are being pursued. The Russian Forces have been practically driving the German Forces off the field, and are reported to have destroyed 300 German tanks, and their casualties border on the 80,000 mark. This serious setback will probably prevent the Germans from swinging southward toward Kiev. In another attempt to cross the Dnioper River the Germans lost 4,000 drowned, and 238 tanks and 50 planes.

The Germans have threatened Leningrad with bombing atrocities on a parallel to those of Warsaw. It is thought possible if a frontal attack fails, the Germans may use parachute troops in large numbers, dropping them behind the defences. A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED IN NORWAY. Theatres, restaurants, are closed at night, alcoholic drinks forbidden, dancing not allowed, a curfew is set, all transport, except railways, has been stopped - and a cordon of German troops surrounds the city.

THE FIRST BRITISH NAVAL ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE RUSSIANS was announced yesterday - our light forces smashed German Warships conveying supplies to the Germans in the Far North. Four enemy ships were sunk, including a light cruiser, a destroyer, an armed trawler, and another vessel. The British forces suffered no casualties; SEVEN other enemy ships attacked - one off Norway, one in the Channel, and others in the Mediterranean.

OF THE 27,000 VICHY FORCES IN SYRIA 13,000 have joined the Free French Forces. THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF SPITZBERG ISLAND have been evacuated, and little now remains that could be of use to the enemy. The coal mines have been put out of order, and a dump of 150,000 tons of coal set ablaze. A wireless station, from which Germany received valuable weather reports, was wrecked. Canadian soldiers were disappointed at not coming to grips with the Huns.

THE ENGLISH FOREIGN MINISTER, Mr Eden, said that Axis legations in Iran had been told they must be closed. Italian and German populations must be handed over to the British and Russian Forces.

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER (Mr Fadden) said yesterday that Australia would spend £225 million on her war effort this financial year. The biggest active service measures since the war began are to be held on the N S W Coast.

ONE OF THE LARGEST CONVOY OF SHIPS EVER TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC has reached Britain. The journey across was uneventful. The record freight is now being unloaded for dispersal.

AMERICAN TANKS have arrived in Australia - announced Army Minister, Mr Spender, today. He added that such deliveries would be made at regular intervals from now. These tanks are to form part of the new Australian Armoured Division.

MAJ-GEN G. BRETT, Chief of US Army Air-Corps, has arrived in the ME after a 10,000 mile journey in a four engined Liberator plane. He will make a detailed study of RAF requirements in the ME.

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THE EDITOR Sgt D. Ahearn