

LISTENINGS

Perpetrated and illustrated by KEN ALEXANDER

MUSSO'S MUDDLE EAST

A FEW weeks ago Mr. Winston Churchill warned Mussolini that his African empire would be torn to tatters. Since then General Wavell has carried out a ripping campaign and Musso is practically non-suited in Libya. His pants are short and painful, and the tail of his coat has been trodden on so often that it is known as the door-mat of North Africa, but it hasn't got "welcome" on it. The British are constantly storming the breeches in his defence, and even the Rome radio takes off its hat to British achievement, all of which leaves Musso just about stripped to the shorts. It is not a comic strip for the Duce.

Strip poker is not unknown to the Aussies, and Italian prisoners are so numerous that there may be something in the suggestion that the Aussies win and lose batches of them at poker. Anyway, Private Bilabong, writing home after Bardia, says: "Had a bonzer game of poker last night, won three Italian generals, a camp kitchen, and two armoured divisions on four aces and a king; a bloke bet Mussolini on a dud hand and lost. He said it would



mandar-in-chief of my Italian forces. By combining the two armies you may be able to save me from my dear pal, Hitler—blast him! Seeing that you took Sidi Barrani, Bardia, and Tobruk from the Italians surely you can take Brindisi, Naples, and Milan from the Germans, not that I don't still think I'm a pretty bono tactician. If you had given me another six months I would have got somewhere—even if it were only back to Italy. But those Australianos who jump like kangaroos! They hop defences. Italy is not what it was. These Germans—they say, 'When in Rome do as Berlin does.' Hoping to see you march on Rome soon. If you don't march in I will have to march out. To Heil with Hitler!—Yours very muzzily, Muzzo."

And there's many a true word — Jest so!



probably take him a day or two to collect Musso, so he offered an I.O.U., but I accepted a mule and a coloured bat-man, which everyone reckoned was a generous substitute."

It is said that great numbers of Italians are so anxious to be captured that they almost impede the attack by rushing out in a body to shake hands with the attackers. It is rumoured that their battle songs are "Call Me Back, Pal o' Mine" and "It's a Hap, Hap, Happy Day."

If Mussolini were a man of logic he would write to General Wavell, saying, "Dear General: Seeing that you have taken two-thirds of my Libyan forces while Graziani holds only one-third you are the logical Head Man in Libya. As you will soon have the lot, including Graziani, I hereby appoint you com-

NATIONAL SAVINGS DRIVE

THE rate of increase in National Savings Accounts opened, since the daily figures were announced over the YA and ZB Stations at 9 o'clock every night, can be judged from the fact that in the first five weeks of the campaign just over 5000 accounts were opened, while in the second five weeks, when the figures were announced, 45,000 accounts were opened. On two occasions in December, the weekly total of new accounts exceeded 10,000.

Over the Christmas recess the daily totals were not announced, and on January 13 the total was seen to have grown to 60,000. In the week ended January 18, 4,588 new accounts were opened, and in the following week 5,285 were opened.

The campaign now aims at reaching the 100,000 mark, and with the concentrated publicity effort now being developed this should not take long.

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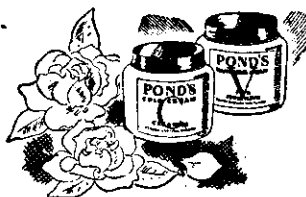
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