



# THE HIGHLANDER



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AT SEA

SUNDAY, March 25 1945.

## PATTON'S FORCES CROSS RHINE 20,000 Germans Cut off

GEN. Patton's 3rd Army has crossed the Rhine without air or artillery preparation and has enlarged its bridgehead.

Some 20,000 scattered Germans have been left on the wrong side of the river as the result of the 3rd Army's capture of their last escape route through Speyer.

On this front 100,000 Germans have been taken prisoner in the last 10 days.

There was a news black-out covering details of the operations of Field-Marshal Montgomery's army group of U.K. and Canadian troops, and now it is announced:— *Monty's Army has crossed the Rhine at 3 points.*

Tremendous preparations went ahead rapidly and for several consecutive days massive air assaults have been made on the German forces on this sector. As the result of continued air attacks, communications between the Ruhr and Central Germany are paralysed. Our airmen have created devastation amidst which the German High Command is trying to assemble forces to meet the next land blow.

For over 30 consecutive nights now RAF mosquitoes have visited Berlin.

Oil refineries near the German capital have been visited by Flying Fortresses from Italy to complete their destruction.

Fd. Marshal Kesselring, German C. in C. in Italy, has replaced Rundstedt as German Field Commander in the West.

### In the Pacific:

Close on 700 Japanese aircraft have been destroyed or damaged during the past week by carrier-borne aircraft attacks.

The loss last month of an American escort carrier off Iwojima has been announced.

THE Russians have continued to advance in Upper Silesia along the Czecho-Slovak border. They have captured a number of places and have cut the main German supply route for the Moravian Gap. They now threaten this historic passage through Czecho-Slovakia to Vienna.

### 1,055 N.Z. Hotels in Three Hands

A Licensing Commission is at present making an extensive survey of N.Z. licensing laws.

Evidence has been produced revealing that 1055 hotels are controlled by three private groups, and this state of affairs has caused considerable comment. One member of the commission went so far as to say.—

*"The present laws governing the sale of liquor have produced a battle of financial greed."*

Police reports have revealed that despite the increased consumption of beer—7,000,000 gallons in 1934 and 13,000,000 gallons in 1944—drunkenness has decreased and convictions are 50 per cent lower than in 1940.

In urging Trust control of the sale of all liquor, one speaker said—  
*"Our soldiers have had their eyes opened overseas and are impatient with the present licensing laws."*

### TONGARIRO RACES:

The opening sporting event of the season will be the HATCH PARK meeting of the Tongariro Racing Club to be held on Monday afternoon. All racegoers will be well advised to study form. Ship's officers, crew and all other personnel aboard are cordially invited.

PUNTERS! Here's your big day. Betting will take place at the Totalisator situated at the windows of the men's lounge. Minimum bets of Two Shillings (2/-) will be taken. Dividends to be paid on FIRST and SECOND placings.

Owners of placed horses will receive £1 and 10/- respectively.

For every £1 handled by the "tote" 2/- will be deducted for an accredited charitable organisation (See page 2 for the Fields.)