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Group Captain Ashton reported to his new post, here, Thursday.

**TO HELP ESCAPEES**

LONDON (CP).—A secret committee composed of British, Netherlands, Polish and French prisoners of war has been formed in Germany to devise ways and means for prisoners to escape from internment camps, according to Vrij Nederland, Free Netherlands newspaper here.

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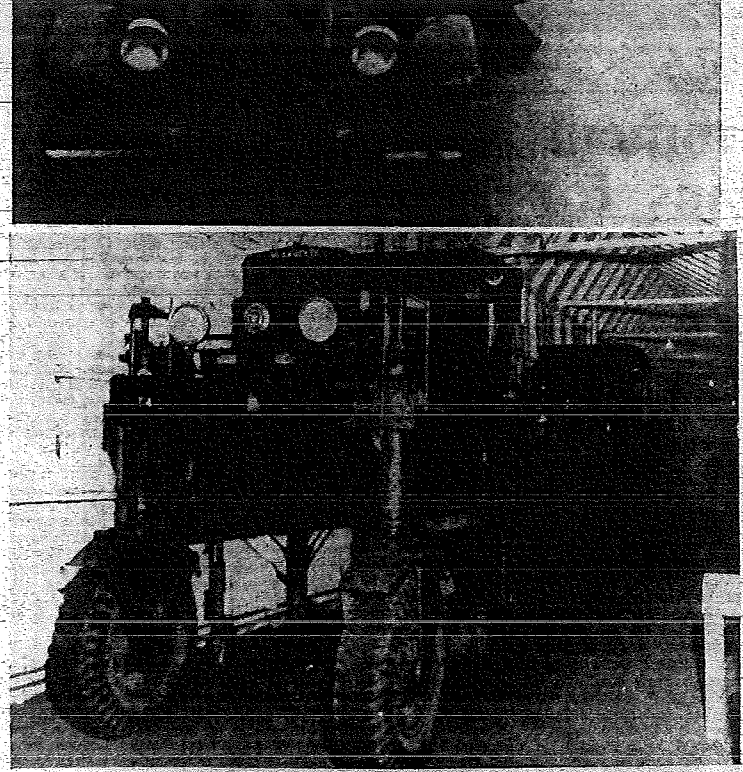
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**NAZI THOUSANDS KILLED IN RUSSIA**

Continued from Page 1

season would bring not the long threatened German counter-offensive but rather a continuation of aggressive action against Hitler's "born-out army."

Somewhere in the south (where Timoshenko was reported by Russian sources in London to be attacking with more than 1,000 men on a vast front extending from the Sea of Azov northward to the upper Ukraine) military dispatches announced two Nazi fortified areas had been smashed and spoke of toe-to-toe fighting in the streets of Donets Basin towns.

(The German High-Command admitted the Nazi forces were on the defence in the Donets Basin of the Ukraine, counter-attacking "strong enemy forces.") British military observers assumed that Timoshenko was trying to recapture the whole of the Dnieper River bend. His advanced troops already had been reported within thirty miles of the bend in the area northeast of Dnieperopetrovsk.)

**CLEARED OF INVADER**

Three southern front settlements, one of them a railway station, were cleared of the invader in tank, artillery and infantry fighting.

Action also was violent far to the north in the Kalinin sector north-west of Moscow, where concentrated German counter-thrusts were declared bloodily broken with 2,000 Nazis killed in a single action.

**APPEALS TO U.S. PEOPLE**

Continued from Page 1

Reviewing the progress made by Japan, Mr. Curtin continued:

"It therefore is but natural that within twenty days after Japan's first treacherous blow I said on behalf of the Australian Government that we looked to America as the paramount factor on the democracies' side in the Pacific."

He hastened to explain that he was not "belittling" Great Britain, "who with your help had won the equally vital Battle of the Atlantic," but that "you, as I have said, must be our leader; we will pull knees to save our weight."

"We looked to America," he went on, "among other things for counsel



**VANCOUVER** Island Japanese surrendered on Thursday nearly forty motor vehicles to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Most of the cars came in two caravans from points on Vancouver Island as far north as Cumberland. Arrival of the second and main caravan of nineteen passenger cars, five trucks and one motorcycle at the Exhibition

grounds shortly before 5 p.m., under escort of three British Columbia Police patrol cars, is shown in the top picture. In the centre picture are two lumber carriers which made the long trip from Cumberland earlier in the day in company with a single truck. Below, Sergeant A. B. Thornthwaite, R.C.M.P., is seen checking the engine serial numbers of a late model sedan.

and advice and therefore it was our wish that the Pacific War Council should be located in Washington.

"It is a matter of some regret to us that even now after ninety-five days of Japan's staggering advance

south and ever south, we have not obtained first-hand contact with America."

Mr. Curtin said Australia proposed sending H. V. Evans, her Attorney-General and Minister of External Affairs, to Washington not as a plenipotentiary but as a representative of a people "who, while somewhat inexperienced and uncertain as to what war on their soil may mean, are nevertheless ready for anything."

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**CONTINUE LECTURE SERIES**

Dr. R. E. Foerster, director of the Pacific Biological Station, at Nanaimo, will give an illustrated lantern lecture in the Provincial Museum this evening, commencing at 8:00, in continuation of the regular series of natural history talks. Dr. Foerster will speak to an adult group on the migrations of some British Columbia fishes and their significance. In the morning, G. A. Hardy will speak twice before organized school classes. Mr. Hardy, botanist at the Provincial Museum, will deal with a natural history subject.

Immigration to Canada from the United States in 1941 was the lowest ever since 1860

south coast of neighboring I ain, was subjected to a bombardment yesterday, the reported. It said all bombs target area, from which no smoke arose.

The raiders returned sal fighting off Japanese purs one of which was damaged

**DASH JAPANESE PL**

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An overland drive to t coast, fronting the Australi land across Torres Strait, harder than the advance Malay Peninsula, some s said.

As for sea assault, an spokesman said the onay fleet known to be within distance was that at S Northwest New Guinea, w at least seven ships in an tack Tuesday.

Prime Minister John Cu firming Washington repoi Australia had sent an li message to President Roose was awaiting a reply.

**COURT INQUIRY**

He also said that Justice the Victoria Supreme Court outhring into Japanese ag: Australia's northern port of to disclose if there were an comings among military of authorities.

The Cabinet decided to a national security regulator ing any resident of Australi form any duties in relatio occupation.

This could mean a comp on strikes during the war.

Edward J. Ward, Ministe bor and National Servie changes in the reserved-oc system would be made to eligibility for military servi

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# Commanding Officer Arrives to Assume Patricia Bay Duties

## Group Captain A. J. Ashton, Veteran Flyer of Great War, Had Interesting Career in Twenty-One Years With R.C.A.F.

FROM the most northern fringe of the frozen Labrador Coast, Hudson Strait, East to Newfoundland and West to the Pacific Coast with the rolling Prairies in between—the colossal grandeur of Canada's diversified scenery—Group Captain A. J. Ashton has seen it all from the air.

Into twenty years with the Royal Canadian Air Force, Group Captain Ashton, officer commanding the Patricia Bay Station, R.C.A.F., who has arrived in Victoria to take over his new duties, has crowded a wealth of experience that should prove valuable in his work here.

Group Captain Ashton returns to the Pacific Coast, where he was formerly in charge of the Jericho Air Station in Vancouver, after an absence of almost two years.

Those intervening months were filled with activity for this dynamic airman, who has found in the air force the adventure and excitement, civilian life after the First Great War, couldn't begin to provide.

### ORGANIZED SCHOOL

They were spent at Mossbank, Sask., where he organized and established the No. 2 Bombing and Gunnery School during the rapid expansion of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan.

"I think we had representatives of almost every nationality in the world at that school," Group Captain Ashton told reporters in an interview last night, in the Empress Hotel.

The new commander at the Patricia Bay station, who succeeds Group Captain P. D. Robertson, comes to his post with a deep appreciation of its potentialities and a keen interest in the prospects of a big job to be fulfilled in these crucial times. Yet, he maintains an interest and affection for Mossbank that time and distance are not likely to dim or diminish.

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He went overseas in the First Contingent with the 8th Battalion, enlisting on the outbreak in the "Little Black Devils," the famous Winnipeg unit. After two years in the army he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, in which he remained until the Armistice.

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# End of the Road for Japanese Cars



# ANNOUNCES LOSS OF TWO WARS

Continued from Page 1  
Announcement of the losses came as the Japanese pushing into the Solomon Islands in the Melanesian group whittlers Australia and New Zealand the east and north. The movement followed battering these positions on New Guinea New Britain by American Australian bombers.

This thrust apparently was at guarding the right flank Japanese venture against the trails; increasing the danger ply lines from the United States threatening the step-along which curve southward to New land.

### NAVAL FORCE SIGHTED

An Australian Air Force munition said a Japanese navy had been sighted three days Kessa, on the Solomon Islands Buka. A landing was not announced, but such an it subsequently was indicated.

Japanese planes scout-bombed sporadically in the British in January and February, are were reports that a Japanese plane crew on January 23, the deserted town of Kieta, (Gavinville Island, largest of the Australian reconnaissance reported the Japanese were at feverish speed to establish plane bases on New Guinea's east coast.

One such field, at Gasmata south coast of neighboring New Guinea, was subjected to a bombardment yesterday, the reported. It said all bombs fell target area, from which thick smoke arose.

The raiders returned safely fighting off Japanese pursuit one of which was damaged.

### DASH JAPANESE PLAN

Both on New Britain and the Australian and New Guinea raids were said to have Japanese plans for speedy conquest of the islands and creation of bases for the battle of Australia.

Australians said the big lack of roads, the cruel mountains and cliffs, its dense rain, forest valley jungles would slow down invaders.

An overland drive to the coast, fronting the Australian land across Torres Strait, was harder than the advance down the Malay Peninsula, some officials said.

As for sea assault, an Australian spokesman said the only Japanese fleet known to be within a distance was that at Sale, Northwest New Guinea, which at least seven ships in an attack Tuesday.

Prime Minister John Curtin affirmed Washington reports Australia had sent an important message to President Roosevelt was awaiting a reply.

### COURT INQUIRY

He also said that Justice Laidlaw the Victoria Supreme Court was quiting into Japanese air raid Australia's northern port of Port Moresby to disclose if there were any comings among military or civilian authorities.

The Cabinet decided to enforce national security regulations regarding any resident of Australia performing any duties in relation to occupation.

This could mean a complete on strikes during the war.

Edward J. Ward, Minister of Labor and National Services, changes in the reserved-occupancy system would be made to ensure eligibility for military service.

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# SUITS



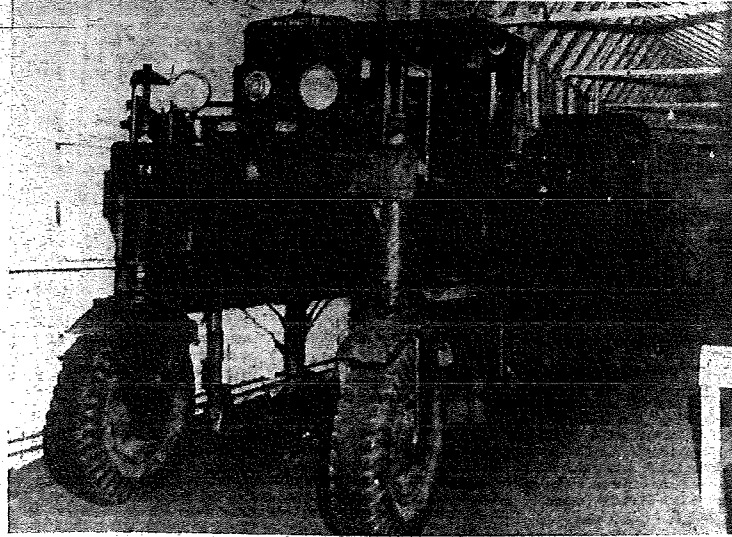
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**Held-Over**



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