**Biggest Battle in History**

**FIerce FIGHTING FOR MOSCOW CONTINUES**

**Battlefield of Mud and Snow**

Describing the fight for Moscow as the biggest battle in the biggest campaign, in the biggest war in the history of man, an American correspondent states that intense pressure is being exerted around Maloyaroslavets on the Moscow front. Both sides are throwing in huge air resources in an attempt to win a decision.

"Despite bad weather, the outer defences of Moscow have been broken through on a small front from the south-west and west in the past few days," the German High Command stated today. "Our spearheads fought their way, at some points, up to 30 miles from Moscow. We heavily bombed Moscow last night."

Command of the Western Front, including Moscow, has been given to General Zhukov, former chief of staff of the Soviet Army. Marshal Timoshenko has been transferred to a secret post.

**RUSSIAN THREAT**

On the southern front a million and a half men are massed under Marshal von Rundstedt, against the industrial cities of the Donets Basin.

If the Germans succeed in piercing or bypassing Moscow, their defences they will be confronted by the main Russian reinforcements, on a line east of the capital. Preparations for a winter-long defence in depth are going on behind the battlefront.

"Our spearheads are fighting at Kostroma, two miles west of Moscow," the German High Command said. "If the enemy sets foot in Moscow he will find the city the same as Napoleon found it—a heap of charred ruins."

Moscow Radio broadcast today—

**GERMANS ON DEFENSIVE**

The whole Moscow battlefield is now blanketed with snow and swept by icy winds, while the roads are deep in mud.

On the Leningrad front the Germans are said to be on the defensive right down to Laver Ilmen.

Marshal Budenny's forces are struggling heroically to prevent the whole of the Donets Basin falling into German hands.

**R.A.A.F AND ARMY**

**Give And Take In Reeaualing**

**STOP PRESS.**


**CRISIS LOOMS IN PACIFIC**

Last night the A.R.C. reported that the Pacific crisis had grown worse, according to reports received from both Japan and America. The U.S. Secretary of War (Mr. Knox) has issued a warning to all his island dependencies. Mr. Knox states that Japan had no intention whatsoever of giving her expansion plans, therefore he feels it no longer possible to avoid a clash between the two belligerents.

**Army Minister's Greetings To Army News**

Mr. Forde said the Army News here today as follows: "I myself am interested in the publication of the first issue of Army News. I am confident that it will serve with true Zeal and with which it is concerned."

"I extend to readers of Army News my best personal wishes in the belief that it will serve an important part in the life of Darwin, in its role as a vital Australian Defence Station."

"The publication may at all times count upon my cordial and ready support as Army Minister."

**GREAT BARRIER REEF NOW A DANGER ZONE**

The Navy Office at Townsville, released the information recently that all openings in the Great Barrier Reef, from just south of Cooktown to the New Guinea coast, had been mined.

Two minefields were also laid well off Thursday Island.

The mined areas extend for almost half the length of the Reef—a distance of approximately 1,000 miles.

**WARNING TO SHIPPING**

The Barrier Reef, which is the world's largest coral reef, is notoriously dangerous. A great number of its channels still remain uncharted. Navigation of the channel between Cooktown and Thursday Island is so difficult that it can only be made by experts, with the assistance of a pilot.

Navy authorities had already warned shipping on September 13 that the mines had been laid. Since then the river has been nothing to do with Japan being armed an Allied air strike 179 miles north of Darwin.