

S.AFRICA ROLLS OUT PLANES AND BOMBS

Issue No. 1110.20/10/1941

Lines & Voice: Stagg.

Title: Rally Song.

Germiston racecourse was packed with thousands from Johannesburg and Pretoria for a display by the Air Commando. Flags of the South African Air Force and the RAF unfurled to inaugurate the meeting, as Field Marshal Smuts took his seat in the grand-stand. The Grand Old Man of South Africa was witnessing the opening display of the Air Commando's 5000-mile recruiting tour of the Union. One of the afternoon's big attractions was a captured ~~Caproni~~ ^{Caproni} bomber.

General Smuts looks to the nation's youth to maintain the Air Force on its victorious course.

New South African steel factories ease the strain on Empire shipping by supplying the entire war-needs of the Union. Bombs are made / ^{at this works} and in this shop the tail-fins are shaped. All the bombs required by the South African Air Force are made in South African factories. As in the Mother Country, women have left office and kitchen for munition work. Short training courses turn them into skilled hands. South Africa is putting its shoulder to the wheel.

The heavy bombs here are almost ready to have their fins attached. The factories are turning them out in numbers undreamt of at the outbreak of war - inconceivable five years ago. The steel industry is a lusty youngster. Helped by native labour, using ore from the well nigh inexhaustible Iron Mountains of the Transvaal, it keeps pace with the gargantuan appetite of war: it lays the foundation of a great industry of peace.

Johannesburg was en fete to give a rousing send-off to the Air Commando at the beginning of its recruiting tour of the country. The famous band of the South African Permanent force led the nine-hundred airmen and WAAFS.

The Mayor and Colonel Werdmuller - O/C of the Air Commando, were at the saluting base. Every town of size in the Union will be visited. Every town will give its young men to swell the ranks of the heroic South African Airforce.