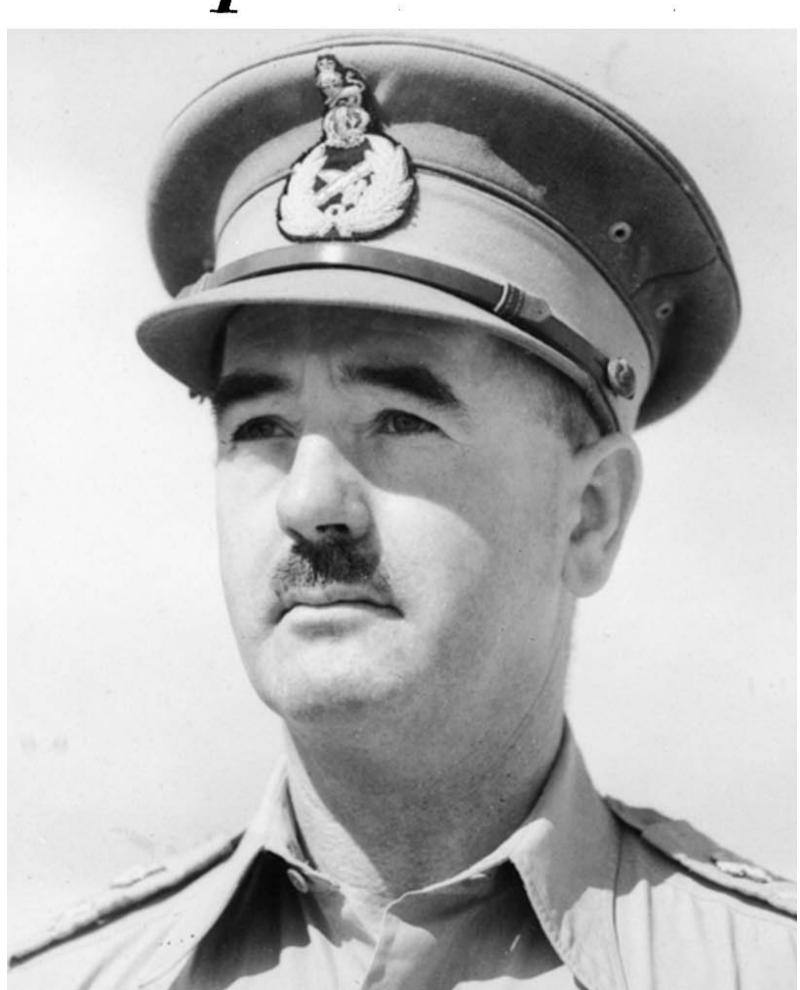
PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1942

The Man Who Stops Rommel



By M. H. HALTON

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EL ALAMEIN, Aug. 8.—A gallant company of British, Australian,

Lt. Gen. Sir Leslie Moreshead

New Zealand, South African and Indian soldiers waits now in the hot yellow desert's strange silence for the next phase in the battle for Egypt and the Middle East. Who will start it we can only guess. We only know it will be most decisive.

The Australian commander is Lt. Gen. Sir Leslie Moreshead, a smallish, red-faced,

leathernecked man who is beyond question one of the ablest fighting generals the United Nations have. He is the man who, with his troops, held Tobruk for eight months last year.

He entered the last war as a private and ended it commanding a battalion.

The Germans apparently are calling him

"Ali Baba Moreshead." We were not able

to mention the Australian's return to the desert early last month in our darkest hour until the enemy had learned of it. He learned with a shock. He expected exhausted men, but met fresh tigers. The German radio sneered:

"Ali Baba Moreshead and his 20,000 thieves have arrived in the land of the Pharoahs."

So now the Aussies sing:
"Old Jerry had us on the run, the news was far from hot;

He had his foot in Egypt and the sphinx

was on the spot.

The C. in C. with back to wall sent signals out in sheaves

To Ali Baba Moreshead and his 20,000

thieves.
So Leslie called his general staff, he whispered in their ears.

His message went to Auchinleck, 'Drink and drown your fears,

We'll make that blanker Rommel think he's got the desert heaves With Ali Baba Moreshead and his 20,000

thieves.'"
The word thieves derives from a slander assiduously spread by the Germans that

kindhearted men are looters and pilferers.

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these brown, tough, brave but actually very