MAXIMS OF A MERE MAN

In this wonderful world none can tell which of his actions is indifferent and which is not.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

MAXIMS OF A MERE MAN

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God.

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ROYAL NAVY POURS SHELLS INTO ENEMY POSITIONS

Where Will Big British Drive Be Launched?

Newsman discusses possibilities and selects Holland as logical spot.

CORKY WAS SWITCHED

No foolin', this really is Corky, mascot, taken overseas by the Toronto Scottish a year ago. Quarantined by English laws regarding dog "imports," Corky began to "waste away". Some of the boys got permission to take him special rations. Somebody found another airedale, somebody got hold of a skeleton key, a flashlight — and Corky was free. Now back in Toronto, he posed with Col. Christopher Thompson, O.C., of the regiment, who brought him home.

(Britons are talking of and building and training for an invasion of Germany. Hitler himself referred to the possibility in his speech last Tuesday. If that blow is struck, where and how will it come? Fred Vanderschmidt, who has been in Britain, the Netherlands and France during the war as an Associated Press correspondent, discusses the possibility in the following story.)

(By Fred Vanderschmidt, Associated Press Staff Writer)

NEW YORK, Dec. 15—(AP)—"If she (England) wants to gain a foothold somewhere on the continent, then we shall meet again. . . . and I hope we haven't forgotten anything, and the British will remember everything."

That is Hitler speaking. It is further evidence that not only Britons are thinking about the day when Britain will strike back in Europe, not probably, in 1941, but in 1942 or 1943.

Barring the miracle of utter German collapse, Britain can not win this war without a fairly successful continental offensive.

But where?

France is not likely, for there Britain would find a hostile government in the unoccupied zone, a heartbroken, disillusioned people, an army of occupation operating from well-prepared bases, and wide open flanks from which their expeditionary force might be squeezed.

Belgium?

Again no protection on the flanks, a doubtful reception from the people and an unfriendly King to deal with: a King who presumably still commands the confidence of millions of his people, despite his capitulation in the thick of the Flanders defeat.

The Allies tried to find a battlefield in Norway. The result was disastrous.

If the combination of British offensive successes in the Mediterranean—hand-in-hand with the Greeks in Albania, and in the western desert of Egypt—should knock Italy out of the war, the British might go back to the continent from the south, through the Bal

(Continued on page 9, Col 6)

No trace of two R.C.A.F. Planes

TORONTO, Dec. 15.—(CP) — A search by boat and plane for two missing planes of the Royal Canadian Air Force was pressed without let-up over the lake district 100 miles north of Toronto today, but darkness fell without any real clue to the fate of the machines and their four men.

The search was concentrated around the southern parts of Lake Muskoka, a sparsely-settled region from where came two independent reports late Saturday of two planes having been seen to collide over the lake.

The reports came from trappers on both sides of the lake. First attempts to reach the spot where wreckage would have fallen if the reports were correct were hampered by ice, thick enough to hold the weight of men near the shore, but treacherous and broken up further out.

The planes have been lost since Friday when they were engaged themselves in searching for a machine flown by Lac. C. P. Hopton of Cabri, Sask., who failed to return to the Camp Borden base from a routine flight Thursday. The wreck of Hopton's plane and the airman's body were found in a swamp five miles southeast of Camp Borden on Saturday morning.

As daylight passed today without success inthe searchfl Hope waned success in the search. Hope waned bell of East Preston, Sussex, Eng., and L. Francis, of Glamorgan, Wales, the pilots, and Lac. T. S. Bates, of Guelph, Ont., and Lac. M. L O. Warren, of Hampstead, London, Eng., observers aboard the planes.

Coming Events

—o—

**Talkies—Mt. Stewart Tuesday. L-378-12-14-3i.

**Come to Pownal School Concert in the Hall Wednesday, December 18th. L-423-12-16-1i.

**Christmas Concert Glenfinnan School Wednesday, December 18th. L-420-12-16-1i.

**East Royalty School Concert, Beartz Hall, December 19th. L-417-12-16-1i.

**George Leightizer Co., Water Street, buying dressed poultry, all kinds, top prices. Try us. L-751-1?-23to Dec. 31.

**Buying dressed poultry Thursday, December 19th. D. A. McPherson Store, Uigg. Signed Giltedge Creamery. L-300-12-12-14-16.

**Come to the Christmas Concert at New London on Thursday, Dec. 19. If stormy, Friday. L-434-12-16-2i.

Sees Action

Within two days after he arrived in England with the first class of Canadians graduated under the commonwealth air scheme, Pilot Officer Arthur Snell took part in a bombing raid on Boulogne. Born in Toronto, Snell qualified as a navigator, bomb aimer, wireless operator and gunner during training. His bomber started half a dozen fires to light the targets, then circled to unload its cargo of high explosives.

A. B. Purvis Is honored by King George

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(CP)—It was announced tonight the King has approved the appointment of Arthur B. Purvis, Director General of the British Purchasing Commission in the United States, as a member of the Privy Council.

Mr. Purvis will be sworn in shortly. He is in London for a series of conferences with the government departments with which his work in New York brings him in close touch.

The honor extended by the King to Mr. Purvis—which carries with it the style of "Right Honorable" — was in recognition of the work the Montreal industrialist has done since the war began in placing orders for vast quantities of merchandise of all descriptions.

Upon the outbreak of war, Mr. Purvis moved to New York and, with Frederic Bloch-Laine, French banker, set up the Allied Purchasing Commission. Upon the defeat of France, Mr. Purvis organization took over the activities and orders of his French colleagues.

Mr. Purvis, who is 56, was head of Canadian Industries (Limited, from 1924 until the outbreak of the war, except for a period beginning in 1936, when he was chairman of the National Employment Commission formed by the Ottawa government to deal with unemployment and relief.

He is a native of London and as a young man entered the services of Nobel Dynamite Trust Company, which later became Imperial Chemical Industries, a parent company of Canadian Industries. In 1914, although only 24, he was such a recognized authority on Britain's foreign business that he was rushed to the United States to buy up all the acetone for high explosives that he could get his hands on.

He spent $25,000,000 in a quick round-up of the substance, and was the first purchaser of war material for Britain in the United States.

Powerful new British ship Is launched

LONDON, Dec. 16 —(Monday) — (CP) — The Press Association said today "a formidable addition" to the Royal Navy was launched recently.

The ship was reported to be a fast vessel but its exact speed was not disclosed. All other details were a closely-guarded wartime secret.

Four Perish In Hospital Fire

Blaze sweeps Community Hospital at Bathurst, N. B.

BATHURST, N.B., Dec. 15.—(CP)—Blackened, still smouldering debris that was once a community hospital here hides the bodies of a woman and a baby who perished when the hospital was levelled by fire early this morning. In a nearby home lie the bodies of another woman and another baby, who died shortly after being carried from the flame-wrapped building.

The dead are Mrs. Robert Sealy, of East Bathurst, B.N., and her three-day-old baby; Mrs. Peter Melanson, of Petit Rocher, N.B., and a child of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Arsenault, East Bathurst.

The fire is believed to have originated from spontaneous combustiodn from coal in the cellar. Flames crept up the elevator shaft, accompanied by choking smoke that aroused Miss Anastasia Burke, secretary to the doctor who operates the hospital. Dr. W. H. Coffyn, and two domestics, Miss S. Chamberlain and Miss A. Boudreau. They ran through the building, attempting to awaken the 12 patients. Smoke seeping through window cracks attracted the attention of two men on the street outside They joined forces with the secretary and two maids.

Rescue Squad Works Doggedly

Stumbling along smoke-filled corriders and indiscriminate walls of flame that roared quickly through the 20-year-old building, the rescue squad moved doggedly from room to room until they had cleared the institution of its patients—all except Mrs. Melanson and the baby. A though police, firemen and a large number of citizens of the town had reached the fire scene by this time, further rescue efforts were impossible.

Mrs. Sealy and her baby had been taken to a neighboring home. They died there from burns received in the hospital. The other patients were taken to nearby Dunn Hospital.

One of the two men who had rushed to the help of the girls, was Jasper Desbrisay, of Petit Rocher. He couldn't "see any point" to revealing his name.

$45,000 Loss

Approximately $45,000 was the figure estimated as the financial loss. There was some insurance.

It is expected there will be an inquest.

The Gloucester hospital, as it was known, was operated by Dr. Coffyn 20 years ago. It comprised the entire upper floor of a two-storey, 85-foot long building and was modernly equipped. The lower storey was occupied by Dr. Coffyn's consultation rooms and optical department.

Adjoining this was the King St. Pharmacy, also conducted by Dr. Coffyn, with J. Harry Meahan as druggist. Also on this floor was a jewellry firm operated by A. I. Tower, and the remaining space was occupied by the National Shoe Stores.

Adjoining the hospital building is Grey's Restaurant and dental offices of Dr. E. J. Leger. The dental office sustained smoke and water damage as did the wooden building on the other side, owned by Philip Andrews.

Asks for Immediate aid

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 —(AP) — The British steamship Stornest flashed an SOS today that she had developed a "serious leak" in mid-Atlantic.

"Doubt if able to control. Request urgent assistance," the 4,265-ton vessel said in a message picked up here by MacKay Radio.

Several hours later the Stornest reported her leak partly under control but "still request somebody stand by."

Her position, approximately midway between St. John's, Nfld., and Ireland, was several hundred miles west of the scene of many recent submarine sinkings. She left New York for England Dec. 4.

The Stornest, built in 1921, is operated out of Newcastle by the Cliffside Shipping Company Limited.

SLIGHT DAMAGE AT MALTA

LONDON, Dec. 15.—(CP) —Reuters news agency reported that two formations of enemy aircraft caused "slight civilian casualties and little damage to property" in attacks Saturday on Malta. Royal Air Force fliers "challenged both formations, but no engagement took place."

Italian sub Is sunk by British ships

LONDON, Dec. 15. —(CP)—Sinking of an Italian submarine by a British destroyer in operations off the Sidi Barrani-Bardia battle zone in Africa was announced tonight by the Admiralty.

The statement said the Italian submarine Naiade "attempted to interfere" with a night warship bombardment of Bardia. Italian coastal base in Libya, and was immediately sunk by British destroyers.

The Naiade displaces 590 tons at the surface and carries 41 men normally.

The naval operations were support for the army driving against Italy's Libyan defences.

Earlier British warships dispersed an attack by Italian "Mosquito" torpedo boats.

Aircraft of the Fleet Air Aarm—apparently operating from a carrier —"successfully attacked" Trinoli on Friday night, when four tons of bombs were dropped and three direct hits scored on ships, the Admiralty said.

Petain blocks Nazi move to Aid Italians

Passage to German Troops is Refused Through Unoccupied France.

By Charles S. Foltz
Associated Press Staff Writer

BERNE, Switzerland, Dec. 16 — (Monday) —(AP) — A reported German attempt to send Nazi troops through France to Libya and Greece to help Italy without disturbing the Italian home morale was declared today to have been rebuffed by France with a flat "no" from chief of state Marshal Philippe Petain.

Petain and a majority of his ministers were said in advices from Vichy to diplomatic sources here to have considered the German move, reported made through Vice-Premier Pierre Laval before he was ousted last week from the French government, as an axis attempt to gain a foothold on the French Mediterranean bases.

The Germans, it was reported, sounded out Laval while he still was "No 2 man" in France, in an effort to find means of getting aid to the Italians, hard pressed by British and Greek troops, without passing through Italy.

It was feared, these reports said, that passage of troops through Mussolini's country to bulwark Italian forces in Greece and Africa would have a bad effect on Italian morale.

Germany, it was reported, wanted to send troops through unoccupied France to a French Mediterranean port, where they would be picked up —apparently —by Italian transports.

Nazis admit British raid On Berlin

BERLIN, Dec. 16 —(Monday) — (AP) — British planes attacked Berlin overnight, a Nazi communique said early today, but claimed most of them were driven off by heavy anti-aircraft fire.

The Germans claimed only a few plans managed to fly over a suburb of the capital, where a communique claimed, they dropped propaganda leaflets.

NEW TIMBER CONTROLLER

Loren L. Brown, vice-president and director of Dominion Tar and Chemical Co. Montreal, has been appointed to succeed H. R. MacMillan as timber controller for Canada. He has been deputy-controller in the department of munitions and supply since June. He will succeed Mr. MacMillan as a member of the wartime industries control board.

Nazi Bombers Raid Britain In Moonlight

LONDON, Dec. 16—(Monday)—Brilliant moonlight showed the way for widespread Nazi air raids over Britain last night and early today, with an east midland town receiving the heaviest attack—concentrated bombing of its industrial area that lasted several hours.

Elsewhere the raiding dwindled to minor proportions before midnight.

It was believed that mist over airdromes in France cut the general Nazi air activity short.

The east midland town was attacked despite a heavy anti-aircraft barrage, and serious fires were caused. Many incendiaries were dropped on neighboring villages.

Watchers reported hearing sounds of aerial combat during the attack and air raid wardens said they believed machine-gun tracer bullets seen in the sky were from a British fighter plane chasing a raider.

Flying in with the rise of the moon, the waves of raiders followed their usual tactics. In the midlands, two towns were bombed with heavy explosives and hostile planes were reported over Liverpool and a northwest town.

London heard anti-aircraft fire in the first raid in nearly 24 hours but the firing subsided and the all clear sounded after prolonged quiet.

Anti-aircraft fire rumbled when many planes were heard going over a southeast coast town toward the interior.

The raiders also were reported to have dropped a number of bombs in the northern midlands despite anti-aircraft fire.

Other raiders were reported over East Anglia and towns in southwestern and western England.

Fascists Seek Desperately to Prepare Stand

British drive carries over Libyan borders; Hard pressed attacks keep Italians on move.

CAIRO, Dec. 16—(Monday)—(Cr Reuters)—All night long units of the Royal Navy have been pouring shells into enemy positions along the North African coast, reports reaching here early today said.

Under the incessant bombardment, the Italians were said to be endeavoring frantically to consolidate their defence positions in an attempt to witnstand the full force of the land attack.

CAIRO, Dec. 15—(AP)—British forces were reported tonight to have carried their lightning desert offensive over the Egyptian frontier into Libya.

"It is well nigh impossible to give an accurate idea where the front line is," a military spokesman said, "but it can be assumed that some British forces already have crossed the border."

Bitter winds fouled the air with clouds of dust as the British mobile forces—tanks and armored cars and trucks carrying infantry and machine gun units—battled the remnants of Marshal Rodolfo Grazani's Egyptian forces in the Salum, Egypt, and Fort Capuzzo areas on the border.

Information from the fighting area was scarce, but a communique indicated the situation is "satisfactory."

Aircraftsman Killed

DUNNVILLE, Ont., Dec. 15—(CP)—Leading Aircraftsman J. D. Bilkey of Westmount, Que., was killed instantly when his Royal Canadian Air Force training airplane crashed near here yesterday afternoon.

LAC. Bilkey was a student at No. 6 sevice flying training school near here and was carrying out a routine solo practice flight when the accident occurred. His father is Paul E. Bilkey of Westmount, near Montreal.

WINGS PRESENTED

YARMOUTH, N.S., Dec. 15.—(CP)—Wings were presented yesterday to a class of air gunner sergeants of the Roya. Canadian Air Force. The ceremony at the R.A.C.F. airport was the first of its kind in the Maritimes.

The men receiving their wings included: A. W. Ryder, St. Stephen, N.B.; P. J. Miller, Manville, N.B.; M. R. MacKay, Forrester's Falls, Ont.; D. J. Phillips, Quebec City; and W. G. Barr, Port Arthur, Ont.

Fine weather Allows Greeks To push ahead

By Max Harrelson
Associated Press Staff Writer

ATHENS, Dec. 15—(AP)—Hampered for almost a week by snow and rain, the Greek counter-invasion of Albania is back in high gear under clearing skies, with gains all along the line, dispatches from the front said tonight.

The largest Greek advances appeared to be on the northern front, beyong Pogradetz, where the Italian line runs along the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier.

"In the northern sector, as soon as the weather mproved and snowstorms subsided," one dispatch said, "our units launched new attacks and made gains equal to one entire week's activity.

"On the northern front, Greek troops succeeded in making a general advance over a wide area in a mountainous region held by the enemy above Pogradetz where the Italians had concentrated all their reserves.

"Greek artillery, firing unceasingly for three days, has succeeded in its main objective, particularly in regard to permanent enemy fortifications along the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier and has smashed them.

"In this manner, the way was opened for stormy charges by Greek

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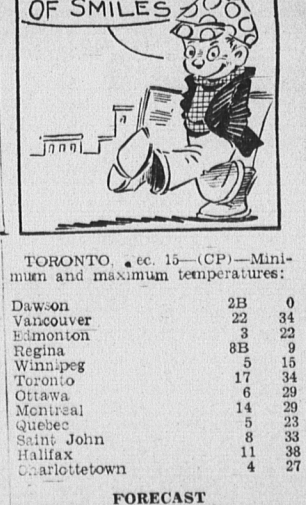
LONDON, Dec. 15—(CP)—Reuters News Agency in a dispatch from Athens said today that Italian non-commissioned officers who surrendered in Albania stated the Italian troops believe that Crown Prince Humbert has been interned by the Fascists somewhere in northern Italy.

8 MORE SHOPPING DAYS



TORONTO, Dec. 15—(CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	2B	0
Vancouver	22	34
Edmonton	3	22
Regina	8B	9
Winnipeg	5	15
Toronto	17	34
Ottawa	6	29
Montreal	14	29
Quebec	5	23
Saint John	8	33
Halifax	11	38
Charlottetown	4	27

FORECAST

Maritime East: Moderate to fresh winds; fair with not much change in temperature.

Synopsis: The weather has been fair over Ontario and somewhat milder in most districts. It has been generally fair throughout the West and moderately cold in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

High tide this afternoon at 12.18 and tonight at 11.39.

Sun sets this afternoon at 4.19 and rises tomorrow morning at 7.32.

Last quarter moon Dec. 21, 9.46 p.m.

Summerside tide 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

THE CAR FERRY SAILINGS

Leaves Borden 9.45 A.M. 1.00 P.M.
Leaves Tormentine 11.00 A. M., 3.15 P.M.

Hon. C. D. Howe Believed Safe After Torpedoing

Canadian Minister and officials were enroute to Britain; Rescue ship expected to dock today.

OTTAWA, Dec. 15—(CP)—Hope grew in the Dominion capital tonight that Munitions Minister Howe and three officers of his department were among those saved from the liner Western Prince, torpedoed early Saturday morning 400 miles off the Irish coast.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King was advised that most of the passengers and crew aboard the liner had been saved, but his information did not name any of the survivors, his office said.

It was not expected any definite information would be received here until after the survivors are landed safely in Britain. Since the attack on the big liner occurred so far from land, official reports were not expected until tomorrow, or later.

(In London, The Canadian Press heard reliably tonight that Mr. Howe was safe. The London dispatch said no statement was avail-

(Continued on page 9, Col 7)

Seek lifting of Ban on Gaelic in Wire messages

BADDECK, N. S., Dec. 15 —(CP) —The Cape Breton Gaelic foundation in a resolution today asked the federal government to lift its wartime ban on the use of Gaelic in telegraph messages.

The resolution termed the ban an offence to "every true Scottish Highlander, of which there are approximately 35,000 in Cape Breton alone." It said the language is distinctly British, pointing out a similar prohibition applying to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network had been lifted earlier this year.

FOR BETTER BAKING USE BLOSSOM OF CANADA FLOUR

Italian Officer Declares Egyptian Battle was 'Hell'

Captured Fascist says British drive took them completely by surprise.

By EDWARD KENNEDY
Associated Press Staff Writer

WITH THE BRITISH FORCES AT NIBEIWA, in the Western Desert, Egypt, Dec. 15.—(AP) — An Italian officer, captured here last week when the British troops opened their offensive, told me today the battle which raged for an hour around Nibeiwa was the "nearest thing to hell ever seen on this earth."

Nibeiwa is a strong desert fortress from which the Italians had intended loosing their first attack against the British lines in Egypt.

It was taken by surprise, and from what I hear, while not the greatest in Britain's smashing assault against the Fascist troops in Egypt, was perhaps the most decisive. For if this attack had failed it is doubtful that the offensive would have gone on.

It was absolutely necessary to reduce this fortress to permit the British forces to move on to Sidi Barrani on the coast, the main Italian advance base.

Nibeiwa stands on a circular plateau, about one mile in diameter, 15 miles due south of Sidi Barrani, and was selected as the base from which Gen. Pietro Maletti's crack troops, especially organized last July as the

(Continued on page 9, Col 3)

Still dig live Persons from Sheffield ruins

SHEFFIELD, Dec. 16.—(Monday)—(CP)—Persons still were being extricated alive tonight from wrecked homes and debris-covered raid shelters in which they were buried during last Thursday's heavy German air bombardment of this industrial city.

Many of these buried alive had sought refuge in Anderson shelters —the small steel huts usually erected in back yards with sandbag supports, it was learned.

The number of casualties in the raid has not been announced.

SUSSEX, N. B., Dec. 15—(CP)—S. C. McCully, 91, manager of the Sussex Cheese and Butter Co. Ltd., died suddenly at his residence here today. He was one of the oldest active business managers in Canada and played a prominent part in the agricultural life of the province.