

While warriors war, rich men
sich and poor men fret, dear me!
we can't spare Christmas yet for
the children's sake.

Merry Christmas, friendships,
great accumulation of cheerful
recollections, affection on earth,
and Heaven at last for all of us.

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First Section

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20,000 ITALIAN TROOPS TRAPPED AT BARDIA

French Colonial Governor, Petain To Hold Talks

Aged Marshal spends day trying to restore German-French relations.

VICHY, France, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Gen. Auguste Nogues, Governor of France's North African colonies, and Georges Scapin, blind deputy who has been negotiating for the release of French war prisoners arrived here tonight for conferences with Chief of State Philippe Petain. Nogues flew here from Morocco, after the old Marshal spent the day in long talks with members of his cabinet in an effort to put German-French relations back on their feet. (Most of this despatch was stopped by censor.) (Nogues has had recent conferences with Gen. Maxime Weygand, commander of the French African forces, whose continued stay in Africa has led to speculation that he is opposed to the German-French collaboration sponsored by the ousted Vice Premier Pierre Laval.)



BAGS 23 NAZIS
Plot Officer William Lidstone, D.F.C. and bar, has shot down 23 Nazi planes, according to word received by his father in Calgary. The young pilot last summer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross after shooting down four enemies in two days.

Nazi Press Harps on U. S. Jap friction

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Establishment of military and economic commissions to implement the German-Italian-Japanese alliance was agreed upon today and the action was regarded in some political quarters as a counter-move to United States aid to Britain. No authorized spokesman would say that formation of the commissions at this time was in answer to President Roosevelt's suggestion that materials be lent to Britain, but informally it was said "it is an action that speaks for itself." The timing was interpreted by some as a reminder of the pact's existence at the moment when the United States appears contemplating a great expansion of aid to Britain. The German press started a tirade of its favorite theme—friction between the United States and Japan.

Coming Events

- *Madame Doyl Readings, 26 Upper Hillsboro. L-596-12-20-21.
- *George Leightner Co., Water Street, buying dressed poultry, all kinds, top prices. Try us. L-751-11-2310 Dec. 21.
- *We have advanced prices on dressed chicken and fowl, sell to us for satisfaction. R. L. Dickieson. L-536-12-18-21.
- *Notice Cornwall School Concert Monday, December 23rd in hall. L-610-12-21-11.
- *Anyone wishing to contribute to the Children's Christmas at the Protestant Orphanage may leave parcels at 158 Prince Street. L-659-12-21-21.
- *Buying live and dressed poultry all kinds Monday, December 23rd, at our pens. Weights 50 to 80 pounds and must be in thrifty condition. Livestock Marketing Board. L-697-12-21-21.

Nazis show Concern over Italian losses

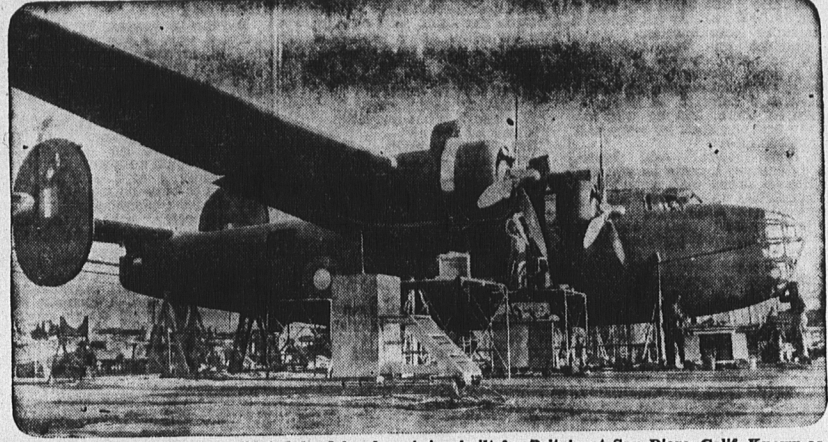
By Preston Grover Associated Press Staff Writer
BERLIN, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Enough evidence of concern over stumbling Italian military operations in Greece and Africa appeared here tonight to give some support to widely-heard reports that Germany has decided to place a crutch under her ailing ally. Any news of actual military plans could not be reported even if known. But occasional cluckings were heard over Italian reverses in Greece, were reported in strictly private quarters to have disappeared since the British fleet air arm launched its smashing attack on the Italian navy at Taranto and German forces compelled a precipitous withdrawal of Fascist forces in North Africa. (An informed Rome source confirmed a report that German troops are carrying Italian troops to Albania and said Italian-flown German dive bombers are in Italian Service.)

Roosevelt forms New office to Speed production

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—President Roosevelt announced today the formation of a new office on production management for defence to head the enormous program of re-arming the United States while producing arms for Britain. He called in reporters to say that the office would be directed by William S. Knudsen, production chief of the defence commission. The associate director will be Sidney Hillman, defence commission member handling labor problems. The Secretaries of war and navy—Henry L. Stimson and Frank B. Rowley—will be the other members of the four-man agency.

Plane drops Bombs in Neutral Eire

DUBLIN, Dec. 20.—(CP)—Two bombs from a single unidentified raiding plane fell within seven miles of neutral, brilliantly lighted Dublin tonight, injuring three persons and damaging several houses in the suburb of Dun Laoghaire (formerly Kilstown). The town is in Dublin County and seven miles from the city itself, and is a mail packet station for communication with Liverpool and Holyhead. Bombs also fell in Monaghan County, which is near the frontier of belligerent Northern Ireland.



One of the four-motored consolidated land-bombers being built for Britain at San Diego, Calif. Known as model 32 B24, they have a speed of more than 300 miles per hour, a range of about 3,000 miles, and a carrying capacity of approximately four tons of bombs. Wing span is 110 feet; length, 64 feet; gross weight, 40,000 pounds.

Italians, Greeks Revert to Trench Tactics In Cold

Newsman gives eye-witness account of fighting; Fascists fall back.

By J. Wes Gallagher Associated Press Staff Writer
WITH THE GREEK ARMY ON THE NORTHERN ALBANIAN FRONT, Dec. 20.—(AP)—A shivering Italian sentry at Bersaglieri camp furtively took an icy ledge as a zero wind whipped his coat about his legs. "We could kill him if we wished," a Greek officer at my elbow observed. I saw the sentry from a peephole in the observation post in one of the advanced trenches on this front. In this sector the fighting has reverted for the time being to trench warfare because of the terrific cold and heavy snows. A short distance ahead of us was a mountain where thousands of Italians are entrenched with a big

ATHENS, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Italian positions in the mountains behind Tepeleni and Kiliura were reported falling one after another to bayonet-charging Greeks today and a general Fascist retreat from the entire sector was declared imminent. The Greeks said their troops were proceeding methodically in cleaning up Italian resistance in these remaining outposts before making any attempt to occupy the two towns, which guard an important highway leading into Eastern Albania. With another Greek force battling up the Adriatic coast toward Chimara, the Royal Air Force command announced its bombers again blasted Valona, Italian port of entry farther up the coast. Military barracks, a gasoline dump and a transport park were declared reduced to flaming ruins.

assortment of artillery. Behind was a shell-riddled village on the right a wind-swept lake; on the left, the mountains held by the Greeks. The sky was lead grey, flecked with snow flurries. Trench mortar bombs thudded (Continued on page 10, Col 6)

Contracts awarded Are announced

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—(CP)—Contracts awarded in the week ended Dec. 13 by the Department of Munitions and Supply numbered 1,839 with a total value of \$7,536,183, the department announced tonight. Contracts valued at more than \$5,000 issued during the week included: Foodstuffs—Canada Packers Ltd., Halifax, \$4,658; Swift Canadian Co. Ltd., Halifax, \$6,581. Construction and defence projects—Acadian Construction Co. Ltd., Halifax, \$110,086.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—James (Gene) Tunney, former heavyweight champion and once a private in the United States Marine Corps, was commissioned today as a lieutenant commander in the naval reserve. He was ordered to active duty as co-ordinator of physical education at aviation training stations in the southern United States.

Fewer accidents In Flying Schools Than expected

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—(CP)—The percentage of flying accidents, having regard to the amount of flying done in schools of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada, is slower than was expected, the Air Ministry said in a statement issued today. Since the plan started operating, there have been 29 fatal flying accidents and in the same period 169,000 flying hours were put in. The statement gave a lengthy outline of the rules and precautions taken in the training plan at its creation. To prevent accidents, but said "Canada does not carry out the greatest air training plan ever conceived without meeting with some percentage of accidents." "It is a fact," the Air Ministry said, "that the R.C.A.F. due to extreme care and skill in operating its measures, has not thus far suffered the percentage of accidents which British experts anticipated of the training plan at its creation. And since the Canadian training system is the 'Gosport' system used by the R.A.F. in England, this is regarded here and in England as a creditable accomplishment." (Continued on page 10, col 5)

Polish Officers Reported in Prison break

BUCHAREST, Rumania, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz of Poland, who fled to Rumania 18 days after the German army invaded his homeland in September, 1939, was reported in flight again tonight, this time after a daring escape from the Dragoslav prison camp. An undetermined number of high-ranking Polish officers who were imprisoned with him were reported to have fled at the same time, but no details were available. (Diplomatic reports reaching Budapest, Hungary, said Smigly-Rydz had been smuggled aboard a Black Sea ship bound for Turkey.)

Suggests vast Night bombing Fleet be built

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—(CP)—Creation by the United States of a vast bombing fleet for Britain, to carry out night raids on Germany, was urged as a feasible project tonight by Eugene J. Houdry, French-born industrialist, president and founder of the pro-De Gaulle France forever organization in the United States. At a mass meeting in Carnegie Hall, Mr. Houdry urged that free France should be recognized as constituting a free nation, existing beyond the bounds of unoccupied France, and led by Gen. Charles De Gaulle. Mr. Houdry, a world-renowned expert on petroleum, told the crowded meeting that a group of military experts working under the sponsorship of France, for ever had come to the conclusion that Germany should start to feel the stress of defeat coming to her from the air in the summer of 1941 and that the Reich should be paralyzed, also from the air, in 1942. This can be achieved in practical terms, Mr. Houdry said, because Germany's petroleum supplies are limited, whereas those of Britain are unlimited. The solution the military experts propose, he said, is the building of a second air fleet entirely separate from the one that the United States is building today. This fleet should be built for one sole purpose—that of bombing at night.

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—(CP)—Brig. Eamshaw, officer commanding the Canadian troops in Newfoundland, has been given command of Newfoundland troops on duty on the island as well, the Department of National Defence announced today. Formerly director of signals at national defence headquarters, Brig. Eamshaw took over command of the Canadian garrison in Newfoundland last October. He is responsible to Maj.-Gen. W. H. P. Eids, officer commanding the Atlantic army command with headquarters at Halifax.

Shipping head Makes bid for More U. S. Craft

LONDON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—Britain's Minister of Shipping, Ronald Cross, made a frank bid today for Axis ships now in American harbors and for vessels from "the existing ordinary services" of the United States. In an interview with United States press correspondents the 44-year-old minister said that supplies of old American ships were almost exhausted, that it would take a year for American shipbuilding to be substantial of help to Britain, and added that "perhaps the United States can spare us something from her existing ordinary services. Also there are a number of enemy ships in the United States. I naturally cast a covetous eye on those vessels. These are the only way I see for replenishments of any consequence."

Shipping head Makes bid for More U. S. Craft

He was discussing the imroads of the submarine and long-distance plane on British shipping, the greatest threat to British lifeblood. It can be overcome, he said, only by increasing the number of destroyers on convoy and patrol duty and by new shipping. Mr. Cross did not go into the legal aspects of obtaining such ships of Germany and Italy which took refuge in the United States, a matter which naturally affects American strategy. (There are two German vessels, 27 Italian ships and 37 of Danish registry tied up in United States ports.) "We obviously can do with a great many more destroyers," he said. "We know how to master the submarine, given the equipment to do it, but we cannot expect to get the submarine menace so far subdued that it will not require an enormous amount of new construction to maintain the war effort at full scale."

EIRE STRENGTHENS DEFENCES

DUBLIN, Dec. 19.—(CP)—The Eire defence ministry today placed the ports of Galway and Sligo under military control, a further step in its preparedness policy. Since July the ports of Dublin, Cork, Kingstown, Bantry Bay and Lough Swilly have been under total military control. Special coastal defence measures have been in operation since the fall of France.

British Warships Run Italians Out Of lower Adriatic

(By Hugh Wagon, Associated Press Staff Writer)
LONDON, Dec. 20.—(AP)—British warships entering through the 50-mile-wide Strait of Otranto off the southeastern Italian coast have swept the lower Adriatic without being challenged by a single Italian fighting ship or encountering a single Italian commander, the Admiralty declared today. This, it said, was the first time since the fall of France that the fleet had been run to cover in the lower Adriatic as well as the Mediterranean. It put in great peril in Albania, was rounded off in a heavy assault by a separate force of battleships in the vital Italian supply port of Valona in southern Albania. In the bombardment, the Admiralty said, nearly 100 tons of high explosive shells were hurled at the port and in the whole operation "no opposition from the enemy was encountered."

The Admiralty's statement, which was characteristically sparing of language, did not mention damage to Valona, but other sources pointed out that such a heavy shelling could make rubble of the port facilities. This, it said, was the first time since the fall of France that the fleet had been run to cover in the lower Adriatic as well as the Mediterranean. It put in great peril in Albania, was rounded off in a heavy assault by a separate force of battleships in the vital Italian supply port of Valona in southern Albania. In the bombardment, the Admiralty said, nearly 100 tons of high explosive shells were hurled at the port and in the whole operation "no opposition from the enemy was encountered."

British Units Have Port In Iron Clutches

Move up reinforcements for final assault; Italians continue to lose heavily in desert warfare.

CAIRO, Dec. 20.—(AP)—The British and Imperial army of the Nile had completely surrounded Bardia tonight and was moving up reinforcements for final assault on the Libyan port. Trapped within the Italian base, 30 miles inside the Libyan border, were an estimated 20,000 Italians behind a 17-mile perimeter of concrete pill boxes, artillery batteries, machine-gun nests and tank pits. British advance forces were reported to be engaged in a fierce struggle with the Italians, who were pouring heavy artillery shells on Britain's slowly advancing tanks and motorized units. Encirclement of Bardia resembled a siege, with British batteries firmly established at all points around the town shelling its defences almost continuously, while the Royal Air Force fliers bombed the garrison repeatedly and warships pounded away at the waterfront. Other British forces mopping up in the desert area fought to oust an Italian garrison from the oasis of Giabarub, 30 miles due south on the coast and about 20 miles west of the Egyptian frontier. Tough mechanized cavalry from Australia engaged the Italians near the oasis for three days, it was revealed, taking some prisoners and equipment. The rest of the Italians escaped to a new position and were reported still holding out against heavy British pressure. The oasis contains buildings and monuments sacred to the Senussi sect and the British troops were said to have refrained from bombing the place for this reason. Only a small force was holding the oasis but there were indications of reinforcements from outlying posts, nevertheless, the garrison's line of retreat will be cut off, military sources said, if the British troops continue their advance along the coast. West of Bardia in Derna, 175 miles inside Libya, British air and naval units pounded the Italian line of retreat. (A bulletin issued in Rome by the Italian news agency, claimed the Italians now are facing 425,000 troops, 500,000 tons of warships and 1,500 airplanes in the African theatre. (There was no British comment on this claim, obviously issued in an attempt to explain reverses to the Italian people.)



MAY GET LONDON POST
Norman Armour, career diplomat and now U.S. ambassador to Argentina, has been mentioned in informed Washington circles for the vacant post of U.S. ambassador to Great Britain. He was formerly U.S. minister to Canada. He is a son of the famous U.S. meat packing family.

3 MORE SHOPPING DAYS

NEGLECTING OUR XMAS SHOPPING IS ALL IN A DAYS SHIRK

Nazi raiders Give pounding To Merseyside

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(Saturday)—Germany's raiders gave the Merseyside area around Liverpool its worst pounding of the war last night and early today. A record number of night bombers blasted the area and the incessant roar of anti-aircraft guns sounded in the industrial areas. One town was reported by the Press Association to be suffering indiscriminate bombing while at Liverpool a hotel was struck and several persons in the dining room were injured. While early estimates of casualties were low, they did not include possible victims being dug out of the ruins of a line of wrecked homes. Commercial buildings in Liverpool were struck, and broken glass strewn streets over a wide area. Earlier last night bombs fell over wide areas of Britain, including the east coast, inland and north Wales. In at least one coastal sector, anti-aircraft fire was so intense it shook houses.

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—(CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	1	4
Victoria	45	49
Edmonton	20	40
Regina	3	38
Winnipeg	10	23
Toronto	36	42
Ottawa	25	36
Montreal	30	37
Quebec	22	33
Saint John	17	42
Halifax	18	41
Charlottetown	9	34

FORECAST

Maritime Provinces: Fresh to strong winds; cloudy and mild with occasional rain; part snow in northern New Brunswick. Synopsis: The weather has been mild over the greater part of Ontario with light rain in the west. It has been fair throughout the West with considerably above normal temperature. High tide this afternoon at 3:32 and tomorrow morning at 3:34. Sun sets this afternoon at 4:21 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:35 p.m. Last quarter moon Dec. 21, 9:45 p.m. Summerside tide 18 minutes later than Charlottetown. THE CAR FERRY SAILINGS Leaves Bord'n 9:45 A.M. 1:00 P.M. Leaves Tormentine 11:00 A.M., 3:15 P.M.