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TANKER TORPEDOED 60 MILES FROM LONG ISLAND

Axis Launch Big Air Offensive At Malta

55th Annual Meeting Of Board Of Trade Held

Mr. V. A. Ainsworth elected President; Year's activities reviewed.

Mr. V. A. Ainsworth was elected president of the Charlottetown Board of Trade at the 55th annual meeting held last night in The Charlottetown. The retiring president, Lt. Col. K. S. Rogers, occupied the chair.

Mr. F. Walter Hyndman was elected vice president of the Board and Mr. Wallace Higgins, re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, for the coming year.

The Council named includes the following: Messrs. A. B. Belcher, G. M. Avard, J. C. A. Gordon, J. P. Crockett, E. M. Bagnall, J. E. Richardson, Lt. Col. K. S Rogers and Lt. Col. G. E. Full.

Elected as arbitrators for the Board for the coming year were: Messrs. H. C. Bohaker, G. T. Hardie, R. C. Stoddard, A. B. Cutcliffe, J. E. Harris, A. H. Mould, T. W. L. Prowse, J. MacLure, F. J. Chappell, B. G. Rogers, J. M. Murley and W. Pickard.

A large number of members were present at the meeting and listened with interest to the comprehensive reports of the various committees. Matters of transportation, which occupied the attention of the Board a great deal during the past year, were again under discussion last night. Several other matters were also dealt with during the meeting.

A comprehensive review of the year's activities was given in the report of the President, Lt. Col. K. S. Rogers. The text of this appears below. Other reports presented were: Air Service by E. M. Bagnall; Transportation by F. W. Hyndman; Agriculture by Dr. J. A. Clark; Industry by V. A. Ainsworth.

(Continued on page 8, Col 2)

S'side woman Dies suddenly

HALIFAX, Jan. 14—(CP)—Mrs. Major H. Inman of Summerside, P. E. I., died suddenly today at the home of Mrs. M. MacKay here. Mrs. Inman, who was 24, had been visiting in the city for a few days when she was stricken.

She is survived, besides her husband, by her mother, Mrs. Jemima Hollett, Summerside, and five sisters, Mrs. S. Allen, Halifax; Mrs. Lloyd Inman, Borden, P. E. I., Mrs. Irvine MacDonald, Charlottetown, and Janet and Rena at home. Two brothers Clyde and Clinton of Borden, P. E. I. also survive.

The body will be forwarded today to Summerside for interment.

ENDS LONG POLITICAL CAREER

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan. 14—(CP Cable)—Retirement of Sir George Laurie Pile, C. B. E., president of the Barbados Legislative Council, was announced today, ending a political career of 58 years.

Sir George, now 85, entered the House of Assembly in 1884 and in 1905 took over the Council seat of his father, who had been Council president. He become president in 1938.

He is Barbados' largest land-owner and sugar producer.

Coming Events

—o—

Rate for Notices in this column 3 cents per word

**Talkies Souris Thursday. L-546-1-14-21.

**Talkies Montague Saturday. L-546-1-14-21.

**Wanted to buy Chicken, Fowl, Island Cold Storage. L-219-7-9-tf.

**Loading hogs at Colville until 1 P. M. Friday, January 16th. D. Leslie MacDowell. L-538-1-14-21.

**Buying pigs on the Market Square, Charlottetown, Friday. Knud Jorgensen. L-517-1-13-41.

**Loading Hogs every Monday (all day) at Souris. George Dingwell. L-301-12-31-1-2-Thu.-Fri.-tf.

**Reserve February 4th for dance and concert, Millview Hall, Millview Women's Institute for war purposes. L-554-1-15-11.

**Receiving live hogs for winter months as usual. Albany Station Thursday afternoons. Emerald Friday A. M. until 11 o'clock. Signed A .C. Green, Albany, G. C. Green, Emerald. L-557-1-15-16 then t w t tf.

World's largest Sub back in Active service

(By D'Arcy O'Donnell, Canadian Press Staff Writer)

The Surcouf, the world's largest submarine is plying the North Atlantic again, fully manned by Free French naval forces and ready to do her part in clearing the enemy from allied shipping lanes.

The 4,300-ton undersea craft, once the pride of the French fleet, took to sea after participating in the occupation of the St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands by the Free French forces Dec. 24 and again is a deadly menace to any enemy craft she may contact. And the crew of 140 officers and men, under Captain Louis Blaison, are anxious to swing into action.

I spent two days aboard the craft when she put out into the storm tossed Atlantic and although she didn't get into action I was given a good idea of what she can do on the offensive or defensive.

From bow to stern, from the top of the conning tower to the bottom, I was allowed to examine the ship and talk to the men. Of her 10 torpedo tubes several of them are ready to be fired at the push of a button. Guns crews have been trained to swing her two eight-inch guns and the anti-aircraft guns into action in quick time. Everything is in readiness for a dive which she can complete in two minutes.

Despite the constant alert there was no nervousness among the officers or men. They talked and laughed, slept and ate as though danger did not exist. There were

(Continued on page 9, Col 3)

Oliver murder Trial opens

SAINT JOHN, N. B., Jan. 14—(CP)— Fourteen witnesses, more than half the total number expected to testify, were heard today as the trial of John Oliver, charged with the murder of Sgt. Herbert Lobb, opened before Mr. Justice J. H. A. L. Fairweather.

Two eye-witnesses, Mrs. Lobb and a son, Richard, testified Oliver had shot the veteran army sergeant at the latter's home Dec. 27.

Other testimony was to the effect that Lobb saw Oliver strike a boy a short time previously and that Oliver fired the shot when Lobb told him he would be a witness to the scuffle with the boy.

Libyan battle Will hinge on Malta's fate

German And Italian Planes Batter Unceasingly At British Base In Mediterranean.

(By Edward Kennedy, Associated Press Staff Writer)

CAIRO, Jan. 14—(AP) A vast Axis air assault in the Mediterranean appeared to be well under way tonight as German and Italian planes battled unceasingly at the British island of Malta, bombed British communications across Libya, and attacked Imperial troops attempting to encircle the forces of Lt.-Gen. Erwin Rommel.

British planes also were increasingly active, and the future of the battle of Libya appeared to hinge more and more on Malta's ability to stand up under repeated Axis air attacks.

The small but mighty island fortress is only 60 miles from Italian Sicily on a direct line with Tripoli main African base for feeding Rommel's troops now drawn up on a 60-mile line between El Agheila and Marada at the gateway to Tripolitania.

The island has undergone more than 1,200 air raid alarms since Italy entered the war, and its defenders have a total bag of at least 80 Axis planes.

Evidence that the Royal Air force is firmly entrenched at Malta

(Continued on page 9, Col 2)

Rigid censorship At French Islands

(Canadian Press)

A rigid censorship has been clamped down on telegrams, cables, letters and news stories leaving the St. Pierre and Miquelon islands, occupied Dec. 24 by the Free French forces.

Telegrams and cables are censored by one of the senior Free French officials who took over the offices of the former Vichy administrator. News stories are mainly censored by Vice-Admiral Emile Muselier, commander of the forces that carried out the occupation, or by his chief of staff.

No set censorship rules are laid down, but the Admiral's censorship is unusual in that he often adds rather than deletes sentences from stories. Sometimes the stories are held up several hours because the Admiral or his chief of staff are occupied with governmental matters and cannot look at the copy.

Letters are given close scrutiny. Recently a boat arrived from Canada with about 2,500 letters and most of them were opened and read before being distributed.

War Situation Last Night

(By KIRKE L. SIMPSON, Associated Press War Analyst)

Compared with Germany's seven-league boot strides into Russia to overrun seven of the 16 Soviet republics, revitalized Red armies are as yet only inching their way westward again. But those inches may be more important strategically than all the hundreds of thousands of square miles of Russian territory still in German hands.

A Russian estimate credits the Red counter drive with having wrested 32,800 square miles from the Germans and their allies. That figure is substantially only 10 per cent of the ground lost in the great Russian retreat to the Leningrad-Moscow-Rostov front. Yet its loss confronts Hitler with portents of defeat for the first time.

* * * *

Viewed from a threat to communications angle, the 10-per cent territorial recovery by Russia takes on a meaning out of all proportion to its size. It sets the whole Hitler Russian "crusade" concept tottering.

For across the 300-mile-wide Moscow front from the Upper Volga to the Oka, the Russians have broken or gravely threaten every essential Nazi supply route east of the Dnieper valley. North of the Volga to the Volkhov they similarly threaten vital junction cogs Pskov and Nevel, sustaining the whole German northern front from Smolensk to the Baltic before Leningrad.

* * * *

Southward, the reported Russian encirclement of Orel and Red army stabs within close range of Kharkov are undermining the German flank in upper Donets basin.

Red army surges have already freed the great Moscow road-rail hub again for effective Russian use in shuffling forces from front to front. They have reopened Moscow-Leningrad communications to release Leningrad's garrison to join in the offensive. They have ended indefinitely Nazi hopes of early access to oil in the Caucasus.

All of that with only a 10-per cent recovery of territory. It proves again the modern military axiom that ground won or lost has no meaning except for what that ground contains in resources or means of communication behind the fighting fronts.

British Form New Line In Malaya

Fresh withdrawal brings Japs closer to big base at Singapore; Wavell arrives at Dutch Indies

(By C. Yates McDaniel, Associated Press Staff Writer)

SINGAPORE, Jan. 14—(AP)—Imperial troops established a shorter Malayan defence line northwest of this Island fortress tonight and authorities disclosed that only one remaining Federated State, neighboring Johore, remained under effective British control.

The new British line was formed in a drenching rain storm. Presumably it was in lower Negri Sembilan State and the adjoining Straits Settlement of Malacca. Both these states border on Johore.

Two days ago the British troops held a temporary line north of Seremban, the capital of Negri Sembilan, 150 miles from Singapore, but again they withdrew southward before superior Japanese forces.

The British revelation that Johore was the last of nine states not occupied or penetrated by the Japanese came through a postal order which said mail was being accepted only for distribution in Johore. The mainland state is separated from Singapore by a mile-wide strait.

This order did much to awaken Singapore's mixed population to the gravity of their situation. After less than six weeks of war they now realize that only about one-fifth of Federated territory and one-fourth of its population remains under the British flag.

Increasingly heavy Japanese air raids, however, brought home to most of the Asiatics here the impending battle for Singapore. The ministry of information said that yesterday's Japanese raid resulted in 55 casualties—the highest toll yet announced.

BATAVIA, Jan. 14 — (AP) — Netherlands troops successfully engaged the Japanese invader today in a skirmish on the wild mountainous frontier of Sarawak and Dutch Borneo, and allied aircraft beat strongly at the enemy from the waters of the Celebes Sea northward to the lower Philippines.

On the already smashed and blackened waterfront area of Tarakan off northeast Borneo— the Japanese-occupied oil-producing island to which the Netherlanders had applied the torch and hammer before yielding it to the enemy—Netherlands bombers descended in force and squarely hit at least one Japanese ship.

The jump in the tempo of the allied counter aerial offensive, which was ineffectively answered by unsuccessful Japanese attacks on the oil port of Balik Papan, in East Borneo, and the Rhio Archipelago near Singapore, coincided with announcement of the arrival in these islands of the allied com-

(Continued on page 8, Col 1)

New surge of Optimism in Great Britain

People Restless For Action This Year.

The New Year brought a new surge of optimism to Britain. Russell Landstrom tells what the British people are saying, how they feel toward the United States, what their life is like at this stage of the war.

By Russell Landstrom
Associated Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Jan. 14 — (CP)—The people of Britain are restless for action this year.

They're fed up with being on the defensive, with retreats, evacuations and being caught unprepared.

They want more news like the cheering reports from the Libyan campaign and the Russian front—and they want an antidote to inflation at home.

Despite a let-down in the first rush of buoyancy which swept Brit-

Find Mt. A. Fire accidental

SACKVILLE, N. B., Jan. 14—(CP)—Fire which destroyed the men's residence of Mount Allison University Dec. 16 was accidental, in opinion of a coroner's jury at an inquest today into the death of Joseph Fraser, Pictou, N. S., one of three students who lost their lives at the time. Another student died in hospital later.

The jury found that Fraser met death "through the effects of suffocation and fire," and added:

"Evidence adduced does not state specifically the origin of the fire but from consideration of testimony submitted it is our considered opinion the fire was accidental, and that it started in the vicinity of the tuck shop that was located in the basement."

Funeral of six R.A.F. accident Victims today

Seventh, A Charlottetown Boy, Will Be Buried At Private Service Friday.

Funeral services for six members of the Royal Air Force, killed in a flying accident at Souris port Monday will be held today. Services for one will be held at St. Dunstan's Basilica with burial in the Roman Catholic cemetery while services for the other five will be held from the R. A. F. drill hall at the Charlottetown Airport with burial at Sherwood Cemetery adjoining the station.

High Mass of requiem will be said at St. Dunstan's Basilica by Hon. Flight Lieutenant Rev. R. V. MacKenzie, Charlottetown at 9.30 this morning for Ac.1 J. F. Agar of Flintshire, England.

In the afternoon services will be held at the drill hall for Flt.-Lt. B. J. Rofe, Douglas, Isle of Man; FO. G. D. Calderhead, Glasgow, Scotland; Lac. G. W. Taylor, Tamworth, Staffordshire, England, Lac. E. L. J. Beaumont, Glasgow, Scotland; Ac.1 K. Ellis, Sheffield, England. The services will be conducted by Flt.-Lt. Rev. A. C. French of the Airport and Honorary Flight-Lt. Rev. T. H. B. Somers, Charlottetown.

A full Air Force funeral will be accorded the deceased and the ceremony will be attended by service personnel and the immediate friends in the Drill Hall at the Air Port.

The funeral of Mr. Philip Compton of Charlottetown, a civilian passenger in one of the two planes involved in the crash, will be held privately from the MacLean Funeral Home Friday afternoon. Interment will be at the People's Cemetery.

He was employed in the Y. M. C. A. canteen at the Reconnaissance School and was 16 years of age. He was the son of Mrs. David Compton, formerly of Belle River and Charlottetown.

His mother, accompanied by a daughter, Esther and a son, Wellington, arrived in the City last night to attend the funeral. They left Monday morning, the day of the accident, for Toronto where they intended to reside. However, they received word by telegram enroute of the regrettable accident and returned immediately.

Two other members of the family, Matilda and David, remained in the province and were living at Kinross.

S'side Pilot Is missing

Sgt. Irwin Ross of Summerside is "Missing, believed killed," it was learned in a message from England to his sister, Miss Verna Ross, also of Summeride. The airman was reported missing after air operations on January 13, the cable said.

Sgt. Ross received his wings at McLeod, Alberta, and went overseas in the last summer. He was on instructional work overseas for a time and it was only recently, it was believed, he was engaging in flights over enemy territory.

He is 24 years old and received his education at Summerside.

Number Of Men From Crew Are Known Rescued

U. S. Naval announcement did not identify the Nationality of the attacker.

NEW YORK, Jan. 14—(AP)—The third naval district announced tonight that the Panamanian tanker Norness was torpedoed by a submarine early today 60 miles south of Montauk Point, Long Island—the closest approach yet made to North America's east coast by enemy vessels in the Second Great War.

The brief navy announcement said that naval craft had been sent to the rescue from New London, Conn., and Newport, R. I., and that a number of survivors was known to have been picked up.

The announcement did not identify the nationality of the submerged attacker, nor did it say whether the damaged tanker, en route from Panama City, had gone to the bottom.

The position of the oil carrier, 60 miles south of Montauk Point, which is at the eastern tip of Long Island about 120 miles from New York City, would palce it approximately 110 miles due east of New York harbor.

Survivors, it was announced, would be brought to both New London and Newport.

The Norness was listed in Lloyd's register of shipping as a vessel of 9,577 gross tons, owned by the Tanker Corporation, and sailing under Panamanian registration.

Before 1939, the Norness flew under the flag of Norway and traded between Liverpool, Trinidad and Key West, Florida.

First word of the attack came earlier today when a navy patrol plane spotted the stricken ship. At the time the plane sighted the vessel, its bow was 20 feet above the water. Lifeboats with the men of its crew, were bobbing about the ship.

The torpedoing followed a weekend attack on a large steamship 160 miles off Nova Scotia with a toll of perhaps 90 lives. Ninety-one were known rescued from the liner, presumably British, at which two torpedoes were fired.

The text of the naval department's statement said:—

"The third naval district announced tonight that the tanker Norness from Panama City was torpedoed early this morning about 60 miles south of Montauk point.

"Naval craft from New London, Conn., and Newport, R. I., were dispatched to the rescue of the survivors. It is known that a number of survivors have been rescued."

Land and air Reinforcements Reach Burma

By Daniel De Luce
Associated Press Staff Writer

RANGOON, Burma, Jan. 14—(AP)—Reinforcements of land and air forces, the latter including Canadian and other Commonwealth pilots, have arrived in all-important Burma. They are the first known to have reached the Far East in more than a month of war, but more are on the way.

An official announcement said today that these included anti-aircraft batteries for Rangoon and other key points and additional ground crews for air units landed at Burmese air fields, some of

(Continued on page 8, Col 8)

15 gallons of Gas is margin From disaster

OTTAWA, Jan. 14—(CP)—Fifteen gallons of gasoline recently represented the margin between success and disaster for the Royal Canadian Air Force crew of a big Royal Air Force bomber, the Air Ministry said today.

The Canadians were Pilot Officer Ian Holdas of Saskatoon, Sergeant Air Gunner W. H. Bracken of Moose Jaw, and Sergeant Air Gunner G. J. Kearns of Halifax.

On a bombing raid over Germany they were about two miles from the target when, amid heavy anti aircraft fire which put some 20 holes in their aircraft, one of the engines cut out.

But the Canadians limped—on, found their target, dropped their bomb load and then headed for home.

"We realized it was going to be nip and tuck as far as petrol was concerned because one of those pieces of flak had developed a nice leak for us," Sgt. Kearns reported. "But we made it—with 15 gallons left."

DROUGHT IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG — (CP) — Graphs showing the annual rainfall since 1888, reveal that the district suffered this summer from the worst drought in its history. The effects on vegetation were severe.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Toronto, Jan. 14—(CP)—Minimum and Maximum temperatures:

Victoria	50	56
Edmonton	25	47
Regina	17	39
Winnipeg	3	33
Toronto	29	40
Ottawa	18	36
Montreal	15	36
Boston	12	42

Synopsis:—The weather has been fair and mild in the Prairie Provinces, while light snow has occurred in many parts of Ontario and it has become somewhat colder in northern districts.

BOSTON, Jan. 14—(CP)—Maine: clearing and much colder Thursday; temperature zero to 10 degrees by evening.

High tide this morning at 9.31 and tonight at 9.04.

Sun sets this afternoon at 4.44 and rises tomorrow morning at 7.35.

New moon Jan. 16, 4.22 p. m.

Summerside tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

BORDEN — CAPE TORMENTINE SERVICE

Leave Borden 9.25 A.M 1.00 P.M.
Leave Cape Tormentine 11.50 A.M 3.20 P.M.

U. S. Forces Beat Off Two Jap Stabs

Nipponese set up bases in southern Philippines for attacks on Malaya and Indies.

By Richard L. Turner
Associated Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—(AP)—Beaten in a full-scale assault, the Japs on Luzon tested Gen. Douglas MacArthur's defence line with two stab attacks and again were beaten back with heavy losses.

The War Department today announced the result of the two actions, which occurred yesterday, and disclosed at the same time that the Japs were setting up bases on the southern islands of the Philippine Archipelago. These, it said, were intended for use in attacks on Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies.

A third War Department statement combined with an announcement from Batavia, N.E.I., to emphasize the interlocking of military forces in defence of the southwestern Pacific.

Three American bombing planes the Department said, attacked Japanese landing forces at Tarakan, in the Borneo area, destroyed two

(Continued on page 9, Col 3)

Alberta Gov't Plans moratorium On private debts

EDMONTON, Jan. 14—(CP)—Premier Aberhart announced today the Alberta government has passed an order-in-council for a moratorium on private debts incurred prior to July 1, 1936. The order will go to Lieutenant-Governor J. C. Bowen for approval today.

Premier Aberhart said the order will be effective for one month's duration so debt legislation may be considered at the session of the Alberta Legislature opening on Jan. 29.

The Premier said debt legislation would be submitted to the House but he was not prepared to give further information at present concerning the scope of the proposed measure.

Nazis In Mozhaisk Salient Endangered

Continuing westward advances likely to force German flight from strongly held area.

(By William J. Humphreys, Associated Press Staff Writer)

LONDON, Jan. 15—(Thursday)—(AP)—Continuing westward advances by the Red army, steadily drawing tighter the noose about the Germans in the strongly-held salient of Mozhaisk, 57 miles west of Moscow, were announced today by the Soviet information bureau in Moscow.

Among a number of villages recaptured Wednesday was Medyn, 35 miles south and slightly west of Mozhaisk, the communique said.

Thus the Red command quickly confirmed the opinion of informed Russian sources here, who said Tuesday's breaking of the last German positional zone before Mozhaisk had cleared the whole of the bleak and icy battlefield for a Red army war of movement.

This positional zone, of Dorokhovo, athwart the Moscow-Mozhaisk highway east of Mozhaisk, had stood for nearly six weeks in the face of a steady pressure of the Russian counter-offensive,

(Continued on page 8, Col 7)

FEAR FISHERMAN DROWNED

LOCKEPORT, N. S., Jan. 14 — (CP)—The fishing schooner Annie Etta reported tonight one of its dories with a man aboard had strayed away during heavy weather today and had not been found. Crewmen expressed fears Arthur Lloyd, the fisherman, had drowned.

Boundary dispute Crops up again

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 14 — (AP)—Delegates of 21 republics assembled here on the eve of a conference to form a western hemisphere front against the axis tonight, found themselves involved in the 100-year-old boundary dispute between Peru and Ecuador.

The Peru-Ecuador controversy was reported authoritatively to have been injected into pre-conference manoeuvrings by Ecuador's foreign minister, Julio Tobar Donoso, who was said to have declared he would not take part in the sessions unless a basis of settlement is reached with Peru.

Questioned concerning the report, Tobar Donoso said "the Ecuadorean delegation is now studying with the greatest care various factors which will determine its attitude at the conference in order to determine its decisions at the opportune moment."