

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

MAXIMS
OF A
MERE MAN

They talk of Christmas so long
that it comes almost before they're
ready.

Charlottetown Guardian, Two Cents.
Morning Guardian, Founded 1887.

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

MAXIMS
OF A
MERE MAN

God's Christmas tree is in the
heavens with its trillions of tapers
blazing.

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1940

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CHURCHILL SPEECH MAY PORTEND SMASHING BLOWS

British Build Formidable New Tank Divisions

Italians claim Supplies taken To Africa

ROME, Dec. 23 (AP)—Italian troops and supplies, the newspaper La Tribuna claimed today, are being conveyed across the Mediterranean to reinforce Fascist legions against the British desert offensive.

Italy's navy, a correspondent boasted, is "guaranteeing passage" of men and materials "to ports of the fourth shore," the "fourth shore" being a common Italian expression for Libya.

British sources did not comment on this claim, although it was indicated an occasional ship would find a way through the naval blockade which Marshal Graziani, Italian commander in Libya, has indicated prevented armored cars and other equipment from reaching his forces.

Mussolini's high command claimed the situation was "unchanged" in the 15-day-old battle of North Africa, where the Italian force was officially described as retreating to fight to the end.

Cairo despatches said the British command was pouring reinforcements into the Bardia sector preparatory to an assault on the port.

Far-ranging British bombers attacked in the Ghibel area for the first time in the war in a pre-dawn raid Sunday, the high command acknowledged, but claimed the bombs splashed harmlessly in a lagoon, 130 miles east, in the Yugoslav border, was also raised.

Coming Events

- Talkies Christmas night at Montague. L-721-12-23-24.
- Talkies Christmas night at Soaris. L-721-12-23-24.
- Special skate Bedeque rink Christmas night. Admission only 20 cents. L-750.
- New Glasgow Christian Church Christmas pageant tonight at 8 o'clock. If not fine, Sunday night. L-747.
- Brackley Point Driving Club intends holding their first race Thursday 26th. L-736-12-24-31.
- Loading live hogs Hunter River Friday, December 27th. Mervyn Bulman and Ray Bagnall. L-737-12-24-26.
- Buying live hogs as usual for winter months. Albany Thursday afternoon, Emerald Friday until 11 o'clock A.M., A. C. Green, Albany, G. C. Green, Emerald. L-659-12-21-31.
- Anyone wishing to contribute to the Children's Christmas at the Protestant Orphanage may leave parcels at 188 Prince Street. L-659-12-21-31.
- Loading live hogs at Kensington Thursday, Dec. 26 at 3 p.m. Ray Bagnall and Mervyn Bulman, Hunter River Friday till noon. McEwen and Campbell. L-751.

Wednesday
Being
Christmas
The next issue
of
The Guardian
will be
Thursday,
December 26

By Drew Middleton
Associated Press Staff Writer

WITH THE BRITISH ROYAL ARMORED CORPS SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Dec. 23 (AP)—Thousands of tanks in an amazingly large number of armored divisions are Britain's answer to Germany's panzer divisions.

British officers confidently expect these tanks—many of new and secret design to smash a Nazi invasion attempt or deal a decisive stroke on the European continent at some future "day of revenge."

The British expeditionary force left 471 tanks and machine-gun carriers in France; but now, starting from scratch since the withdrawal from Dunkerque last spring, British designers have built up an entire new group of armored divisions.

"Fear naught," the motto of the Royal Tank Corps, has been balanced in the new construction with "get there fastest with the most men," with the new tanks emphasizing speed and fire power as never before.

Army tanks are divided into two categories—the "T" tank for infantry, which operates exclusively with foot soldiers, and the cruiser tanks which form the spearhead of the armored divisions.

Neither the small, puddle-jumping Whippet tanks nor the lumbering 50 and 60-ton monsters beloved of newsmen are in evidence.

Both types are out of favor in Britain's modern army; the light tank because they can't carry enough armor and can't handle rough country, and the big tanks because they are too slow.

The "T" tank is a formidable weapon. Its armor is so heavy that in the Flanders campaign it took direct hits from German 77-millimetre field pieces with no effect save the denting of its armor.

The "T" tank's armament includes a small gun which can throw a 12-pound shell 2,000 yards to pierce the armor of most tanks, and it has a secondary weapon in the new Beza machine gun which fires at the rate of 750 rounds a minute.

Speed is not essential to the "T" tank, which precedes infantry in attacks and only occasionally fights independently, but it can swing along at close to 20 m. p. h. Its crew of four gunners wireless operator, driver and commander are interchangeable.

Cruiser tanks are the darlings of the Royal Tank Corps. As large as the "T" tanks, they weigh much less and are more than twice as fast. They can turn on a dime, and the one I rode in climbed hills, went sailing through underbrush and knocked down trees a foot and a half thick with a terrible nonchalance.

Their armament is almost identical with the "T" tanks, but the cruisers depend more on speed and maneuverability to resist enemy fire. As the general tendency towards tanks of this size becomes more pronounced, the British army is developing newer, faster models which literally are drive circles around the port of us old-timers that first made their appearance on the Somme in 1916.

OTTAWA, Dec. 23 (CP)—A complete list of approximately 1,800,000 Canadians engaged on war time industry in what the government recognizes as "reserved occupations" will be delivered to departments concerned by the end of January, it was announced today.

Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Minister of National War Services, said at a press conference the compiling of information from just August's national registration, one of the most stupendous jobs ever undertaken in such a short time, was being handled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

He was replying to criticisms he said he had been made in some newspapers during recent weeks in connection with the job of handling information from 8,000,000 registration cards.

Plans for the registration, including preparation of the questionnaire filled out by all Canadians 16 years old and over, were completed by the end of last month, he said.

Dr. Coats asked the government what information was required from the cards and three departments, Defence, Munitions and Labor asked for the detailed registration of those engaged in some 1,250 occupations considered to be "reserved occupations" entirely concerned with war time industries.

It does not necessarily follow from military service and they are not exempt from compulsory training, Mr. Gardiner said.

New Governor Of Burma is Appointed

SIR REGINALD HUGH DORMAN SMITH, who was Minister of Agriculture at the outbreak of war, was appointed Governor of Burma today by the King.

The Reginald is a former president of the national farmers' union and has represented the House of Commons since 1925. He attended Harrow and the Royal Military College at Sandhurst.

(As Minister of Agriculture he launched Britain's drive for home gardens to help offset the island's dependence on sea-borne foodstuffs. He was succeeded in his post by Robert S. Hudson.)

Eire barricades Many main roads

LONDON, Dec. 24 (Tuesday)—(CP)—Eire military authorities have placed barriers across many main island roads and manned them with armed guards instructed to shoot those who fail to heed their challenges, it was reported here today.



Every step of retreat taken by Italian troops across Libyan sands means increased power and prestige for Great Britain. Map spots possibilities that may result from a partial or complete defeat of Italy by Britain in Africa and in the Mediterranean.

1,800,000 Canadians in War Industry

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WAR PRISONER
Sub-Lieut. Dick Musman, a Canadian serving with the Royal Navy, is reported held prisoner in a German camp. Musman was second-in-command of a motor torpedo boat which was sunk by a submarine off the Isle of Wight. He was at first reported missing.

Business good Across Canada

OTTAWA, Dec. 23 (CP)—Mail is always the best barometer of business conditions and "in the past few weeks we've had plenty of British business conditions are alright in Canada," a post office department spokesman said today.

He said the pre-Christmas rush of mail deliveries this year is "the greatest flood of mail we've ever handled."

Arrival of a shipload of British mail at an east coast Canadian port yesterday added to the work of hurried letter writers. The ship brought 7,000 bags of mail, including 6,000 bags of letters.

It was the first British mail to reach Canada in two weeks. The department spokesman said it would be "physically impossible" to deliver it to destinations all across the Dominion by Christmas day.

Retreat puts Italians in Grave danger

ATHENS, Dec. 23 (AP)—The Greek army, headed northward along the Albanian coast toward the port of Valona, has captured the Fascist supply base of Chimara and is pressing home its advantage against retreating Italians, it was announced today.

Premier John Metaxas made known the victory in the week-long battle for Chimara, less than 30 miles south of Valona, at a cabinet meeting. He added that further operations were being developed satisfactorily and new decisive results could be expected soon.

From the Tepeleni-Klisura sector came reports of continued gains against Italian positions pounded heavily by Greek artillery. In the north, action was said to be enlarging because of improved weather conditions.

The British Royal Air Force command said at least eight Italian planes were shot down in an air fight Saturday over Argirocastro, Albania, against a loss of two British craft. It told of bombing attacks Sunday on oil wells at Kuceva, central Albania, in which "all bombs fell in the target area."

At Chimara the 153rd battalion of Fascist militia—800 men and 30 officers—was captured with all its equipment.

Joseph Sirois Dangerously ill

QUEBEC, Dec. 23 (CP)—Relatives of Joseph Sirois said today the 56-year-old chairman of the Dominion Unemployment Insurance Commission and former chairman of the Royal-Sirois Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations is "dangerously ill" here in hospital.

Italian People Advised To Get Rid of Mussolini

British Prime Minister tells them only in first stages of struggle; Will rip Italy's Empire to shreds.

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill appealed directly to the Italian people tonight to cast off Benito Mussolini, "the criminal who after 18 years of unbridled power has led your country to the horrid verge of ruin."

Using blunt words in his broadcast address, Mr. Churchill said: "We are only at the beginning of this somber tale... presently we shall be forced to come to much closer grips. Surely the time has come when the Italian monarchy and the people who guard the sacred centre of Christendom should have a word to say upon these aweful issues."

LONDON, Dec. 23 (AP)—The text of Prime Minister Churchill's broadcast tonight follows:

Tonight I speak to the Italian people and you from London, the heart of the British Empire, and of the British Commonwealth and Empire. I speak to you not the diplomatist's cold words of great truth and respect.

We are at war—that is a very strange and terrible thought. Who ever imagined until the last few melancholy years that the British and Italian nations would be trying to destroy only another?

We have always been friends. We were the champions of the Italian Risorgimento. We were the partisans of Garibaldi, the admirer of Mazzini and Cavour. All that great movement towards the unity of the Italian nation which lighted the 19th century was aided, and was hailed by the British parliament and public.

Our fathers and our grandfathers longed to see Italy freed from the Austrian yoke and to see all minor barriers in Italy's way swept away that

Could bring revision Of Bacon agreement

OTTAWA, Dec. 23 (CP)—A substantial rise in the United States price of raw wool, which could bring about a revision of the Canadian wool agreement with the United Kingdom, Agriculture Minister Gardiner said today.

Provision for such revision in the event of important price changes is written

British Army Prepares for Bardia assault

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 23 (AP)—The British and Imperial Army of the Middle East has begun to move its rear, poured reinforcements into siege lines around Bardia today, preparatory to an assault on its 20,000 defenders.

While the troops were massing outside the Libyan port, British artillery and naval guns pumped shells into positions occupied in the town itself by remnants of the Italian 10th army trapped there.

Ranging far ahead of these operations, the Royal Air Force staged new night raids on Italian bases along the archipelago of the Mediterranean coast as far as Benarasi, 300 air miles to the west.

Near Benarasi, the air bases at Berka and Benina were raided Saturday night and returning pilots told of starting tremendous fires and explosions. Often-bombed Tobruk, 80 miles west of the Egyptian border, came in for a new pounding.

It was announced that 35,949 prisoners, including 7,041 officers, had been moved to the rear since the British offensive started in the Sidi Barrani area of the Egyptian coast and that several thousand more still are awaiting transfer.

Swift British mechanized units which paced the drive to Bardia were reported to have struck still further westward; just how far was not disclosed.

British military circles in London said Bardia probably was heavily fortified "in depth" on the land side and with coast defence guns to combat offshore bombardment.

LONDON, Dec. 24 (Tuesday) (CP)—Diplomatic circles said tonight that Prime Minister Churchill's speech to Italy and in particular his threat that Britain will tear "your African empire to shreds and tatters," was one of the gravest ever uttered over the radio by one nation to another.

His message was broadcast repeatedly in Italy in English and Italian in the hope that Italians might hear and heed him, leading to enemy broadcasts is forbidden in Italy.

The speech was seen by innumerable circles here as a portent of smashing events to come in the two theatres of war—Africa and Albania—where the Italians are playing a losing role.

The significance of the Prime Minister's bid to Italians to throw Mussolini overboard was emphasized, these circles said, by the possibility that Mr. Churchill might have taken the microphone before the news break of Britain's war effort being thrown into a faster gear.

Some sources expressed belief that the speech, coupled with broad hints in London that Britain has been "pulling punches" recently against the Italian cause, was an unmistakable indication that Britain is ready to crush Italy with the vast weight of her military force if Italians fail to take advantage of Mr. Churchill's dramatically-timed invitation to quit following Mussolini.

Bomb scores Direct hit on Raid shelter

A NORTHWESTERN BRITISH CITY, Dec. 23 (Tuesday)—(CP)—A direct bomb hit on a public shelter caused unreported casualties as German warplanes attacked the city to another heavy assault last night and early today.

There were a number of other deaths and several persons were trapped in cellars when their houses were demolished.

Wave after wave of raiders dropped bombs on the city, while an observer in the neighborhood city reported: "There have been terrific explosions."

London and Manchester, neighbors in the northwest, have been subjected to " Coventry" attacks during the last few nights.

Heavy attacks came shortly after repeated waves of raiding planes roared over London and headed northwest, dropping a few incendiary bombs in one London area, but mostly continued on to this city.

LONDON, Dec. 23 (CP)—Nazi raiders based over London in waves tonight, to the accompaniment of heavy anti-aircraft, but for the most part pushing north of the capital.

Then came the report that a heavy raid had begun on a northwestern city. Wave after wave of raiders dropped heavy explosions, and observers in a neighboring city said that they had seen "terrific explosions."

Liverpool and Manchester have been singled out lately for persistent attack by the enemy raiders in northwestern England. Manchester was attacked heavily Sunday night.

The attack followed a day of almost complete rest throughout Britain during which Manchester was left out of its ruins, while in London it was disclosed for the first time that a bomb had hit the Parliament buildings.

A number of incendiary raiders and a majority most covers the centre of Chester Court, one of the most beautiful and ancient parts of the Houses of Parliament.

The bomb landed on this small court, situated approximately in the centre of the buildings. It destroyed the Public Office on the east side, the Votes Office on the south side, and the Od Members' Staffs, an earlier attack windows were broken in the House of Lords and historic Westminster Hall.

In Manchester it was stated that the death list was comparatively small in view of the severity of the attack. Many persons were trapped, however, in the ruins. It destroyed two public raid shelters and two hotels were hit by bombs. In one hotel 60 persons were trapped, but rescuers were releasing them from the ruins.

Santa finds Airplane has Drawbacks

BOSTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—Santa Claus, whose work went along all right when he stuck to his regular, four-night flight, had to combine two days' work in one tomorrow—just because he's become an aviator.

Unfavorable weather, coupled with a delay in the arrival of his supplies, kept Edward Rowe Snow, Boston's "Flying Santa" from rounding out the second leg of his three-day scheduled flight over New England and lighthouses, which he "bombs" with packages of tobacco and other Yuletide gifts.

His latest communique tonight said that he and Mrs. Santa—who spends 20 minutes wrapping each bundle for the lighthouse boys—would have to work "overtime" tomorrow.

Yesterday, Santa scored 20 direct hits on lonely outposts, and had planned a comparative "off" day for tomorrow, with plenty of time for an attempt to reach Nantucket lighthouse, which rolls above the shoals 42 miles southeast, which he beyond the extreme tip of the island of Nantucket.

But now, he doesn't know—he might even have to work on Christmas.

LAST SHOPPING DAY

AND HERE I AM AGAIN!



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVER BODY

TORONTO, Dec. 23 (CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	8	14
Victoria	40	48
Edmonton	20	26
Regina	19	26
Winnipeg	20	32
Toronto	22	30
Ottawa	8	18
Montreal	13	18
Quebec	10	16
Saint John	19	20
Halifax	19	25
Charlottetown	16	23

FORECAST

Maritime East: Fresh winds; mostly fair and cold; scattered snowflurries in east portion.

Synopsis: The weather has been generally fair in Ontario with a above normal temperature in the region of the Great Lakes, while it has been moderately cold in eastern and northern Ontario. It has been fair and mild over the Prairie Provinces.

High tide this morning at 6:20 and tonight at 6:15.

Sun sets this afternoon at 4:23 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:37.

New moon Dec. 28, 4:56 p.m.

Summerside tide 16 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.

FOR BETTER BAKING USE
BLOSSOM
OF
FLOUR
CANADA