

If blind guides lead the blind, both shall fall into a pit.

# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

The People's Paper Read by Everybody

Covers Prince Edward Island Like the Dew

Many shall be last that are first; and first that are last.

Morning Guardian, Founded 1887  
Charlottetown Guardian, Two Cents

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## JAPS REPORT TERRIFIC DRIVE ON HONG KONG

### Soviets Report Germans Are On The Run Begin Big Push On Crown Colony At Dawn Sunday

#### Reds in big Offensive of Extermination

#### Russians Report Success After Success From One End Of Entire Front To Other.

(By Henry C. Cassidy, Associated Press Staff Writer) MOSCOW, Dec. 15—(AP)—Rampant Red armies declared today they had the Germans on the run in a retreat approaching the scale of Napoleon's cold and dismal retirement from Moscow and had overtaken the backtracking Hitler legions with a headlong campaign of extermination. The Communist organ Pravda said the Russian armies already have destroyed an "entire generation of Nazis."

From one end of the broad snow-crust front to the other the Russians reported success after success: the threat to Moscow eliminated by the rout of the Nazis in the greatest debacle yet to befall Hitler, his efforts to encircle Leningrad smashed, his hopes of getting at Caucasus's rich oil fields thwarted.

Since the start of the German invasion last June 22, the Russians reported, Hitler has lost 6,000,000 men, more than 15,000 tanks, 13,000 planes, and 19,000 cannon.

The newspaper Pravda attributed the German failure to encircle Moscow to insufficient Nazi forces and miscalculation of Russian strength.

The extent of the danger which hung over Moscow at the height of the Nazi campaign against the capital was disclosed today by Lt. Gen. Leonid Govorov, Soviet commander in the sector to the southwest.

From Dec. 1 to 4, Govorov said in a Pravda interview, the German

invaders had been driven back to a line of positions about 100 miles from Moscow. He said the German forces were "losing their nerve."

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#### Nazi supply ship Is blown up

LONDON, Dec. 14—(CP)—A German supply ship "blew up and disappeared" when hit three times by bombs off the Norwegian coast this morning, air ministry sources said today. The ship was attacked from the air by a Heinkel flying a Hudson bomber.

#### Turkey to remain Neutral, U. S. told

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Turkey today notified the United States it would remain neutral in the "new conflict which has just broken out."

#### Waterslide Takes huge Toll in Peru

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 14—(AP)—A tremendous waterslide which struck the departmental capital Huaraz Saturday took a toll of more than 500 lives and wiped out the city's entire residential section, according to reports reaching here today.

Manuel Palma, owner of a Lima-Huaraz bus line, told The Associated Press by telephone that conditions were "indescribable"; that the slide of water, mud, rocks and lava was 150 feet high and more than half a mile wide when it hit; that 500 bodies were in the local hospital and hundreds of others were strewn along the roads for as much as six miles outside Huaraz, and that bodies were being brought to the hospital in trucks.

"No one living in the northern residential section is believed to have escaped alive," said Palma. He added that so far it had not been possible to ascertain the cause of the catastrophe. First reports said it might have been due to an eruption of the nearby Rataquenhua volcano, but Palma reported the volcano showed no signs of activity.

He said many small Indian communities had been wiped out, and that the tons of rocks and mud had thrown the Santa river out of its course.

Rescue work was hampered further by the fact that an earth tremor of 6.5 on the Richter scale, the longest and most violent since the disastrous earthquake of May 24, 1940, threw the population into a panic.

#### 100,000 Axis Troops tied up in Yugoslavia

By Alfred E. Wall  
Associated Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Slim, fair-haired Draja Mihailovic, a mere colonel in the Yugoslav army before the Germans overran his country, has been raised to the rank of full general in recognition of his "magnificent work" in organizing resistance to the Nazi occupation.

More than 100,000 Axis troops appear to be tied up in Yugoslavia and Greece, opposing patriot armies waging small scale war.

The Yugoslav government in London, in announcing Mihailovic's promotion today, declared that under the circumstances the promotion had reached the proportions of full-grown military operations and could no longer be regarded as mere guerrilla warfare.

Yugoslavs here said no details as to the extent of fighting in their homeland had been received recently, but that there was evidence that pressure on the German army of occupation is increasing. They refused to divulge details of their contacts with Gen. Mihailovic or explain how Yugoslav communiques get out of the country.

#### War Situation Last Night

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

A week after the fall of the first Japanese bomb at Pearl Harbor, the United States has shaken down to its grim role and begun to fight back effectively.

It is rallying all its fighting or working manpower, old and young, for service as needed. It is mustering the total strength of its material resources, so vast that the aggregate staggers imagination.

And it has time to look abroad as the whole western hemisphere rallies with it to meet the Axis challenge and to speculate on the fact that only two nations of strategic importance in the vast and intricate war pattern still are merely onlookers, Turkey and Eire.

How long Turkey can remain aloof only the Axis master minds in Berlin know. It may be next on Hitler's conquest schedule, now that Russia has balked his search for oil.

Spain and Vichy France can be rated as only technically non-belligerent. Both are playing the Axis game and either might be beckoned or cajoled by Hitler into the fighting to serve his once more revised war strategy. Neither, however, stands so squarely athwart his road to adequate oil resources as does Turkey.

Russian rebuff of Nazi peace feelers has done nothing to ease Japanese concern as to her northern as well as her Pacific and China Sea frontiers. It seems merely a question of time and anti-Axis strategy before Russia will strike. Maxim Litvinoff, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, describes Japan as the "common enemy."

Sweden and Switzerland, hemmed in by the Axis, do not figure in the grand strategy of the widened struggle. Finland can be disregarded unless Russian initiative reopens the Murmansk route for Atlantic supply lines from Britain and the United States.

All of this leaves, in tragic isolation, Eire, non-combatant possessor of the prime geographical key to what might happen in the Atlantic now that the Pacific has been fanned to a war flame.

The single discernible move that could quickly meet a situation of curtailment of American Atlantic naval aid and depleted British warships would be availability of Irish bases to British and American patrol craft. From the west coast of Eire they could operate on a short Atlantic turn-about for refueling and rest for sea-worthy crews. That would in effect increase their numbers constantly at sea nearly two fold.

Watch Eire as well as Turkey. The Emerald Isle has a strategic importance utterly out of proportion to its size, population or natural resources.

#### Japs Seek To Widen Foothold

MANILA, 5:40 a. m. Monday, Dec. 15—(AP)—Japanese forces which have established a foothold around Vigan were reported sending out patrols today in an apparent effort to widen their holdings in the face of attack by United States army bombers which were disclosed to have sent four Japanese troopships to the bottom of the China Sea and badly battered three others.

Except for the region of Vigan, 200 miles north of Manila on Luzon's west coast, there was only local activity.

Sinking of the transports was announced Sunday night in an army headquarters communique which said that "the situation both on the ground and in the air was well in hand as the first week of military operations came to a close."

The Japanese transports were sunk by United States fliers off Northern Luzon, and are in addition to four Japanese transports sunk Dec. 12 by Netherlands submarines in the Gulf of Siam off Malaya, with the loss of about 4,000 lives.

The Netherlands authorities tonight added to their toll, announcing the sinking of two more vessels, a tanker and a freighter, off Malaya.

#### Hear Berlin Admit bad Time in Russia

LONDON, Dec. 14—(CP)—The British Broadcasting Corporation said tonight that from Berlin has come the admission "that the Germans have lost the initiative in Russia."

"And for the first time," the BBC added, "German home listeners have been treated to explanations of the German reversals."

The BBC recited in detail tonight its communique broadcast from Moscow. It concluded its review of the Russian front by quoting a Helsinki newspaper as saying Finns are "stunned" by German losses, together with the newspaper's explanation that the losses were caused because the German army is "neither trained or equipped" for winter fighting.

#### Air Minister Says Gov't plans Selective Draft

MONTREAL, Dec. 14—(CP)—Air Minister Power said Saturday night the Dominion government proposes to bring about national selective service in an effort to put every man and woman in his most valuable place in the present emergency.

In his address at the annual dinner of the Dominion Commercial Travelers' Association, Mr. Power said that under the national resources mobilization act passed last year "the government of this Dominion has the fullest authority and jurisdiction to enable it to bring about national selective service, not only of our manpower, but of our woman power also."

"These powers we propose to use in this emergency which confronts us, and in an endeavor to see to it that every man and woman in this country carries on the work which will be of the greatest possible benefit to the state as a whole," he said.

"We will organize manpower for the defense of our shores, so as not to be a liability to our friends and allies, and so that there shall be no chink in the armor of the democratic front."

"We will mobilize manpower for the greater production of munitions and food so as to be an asset to our friends and allies."

"We will organize our women to work in the arsenals, the shops and the factories."

Canada faced greater danger than she ever had before. The Pacific coast was "in the front line of battle." The days of assurance of easy victory were past.

"But past also are the days of panic; left only a grim realization of the situation."

OTTAWA, Dec. 14—(CP)—Three men were killed and one seriously injured in a fire at a service overseas, two previously reported missing were presumed dead and two were reported missing after air operations overseas in the Royal Canadian Air Force's 13th official casualty list issued Saturday.

Five were reported killed on active service in Canada, one died from natural causes in Canada and one previously reported missing after air operations overseas was reported safe.

The list brings to 1,124 the number of air force dead and missing reported officially since the war started.

#### Souris visited By destructive 3-hour fire

Fire of unknown origin, which broke out in a vacant garage early yesterday morning at Souris, destroyed the building, also a nearby boarding house and gutted a vacant tailor shop. Flamed by a south east breeze the flames spread quickly through the garage which was owned by Mr. Irving Fraser and then jumped to the boarding house operated by Mrs. John Ryan. The tailor shop was formerly run by the late Mr. Norman Pearce.

The blaze was discovered about 12:30. The volunteer fire department of the town was on the scene a few minutes later and battled the flames for two hours before the "all out" was sounded.

The building in which the fire started was a commercial garage but had not been in use since the summer. Mrs. Ryan and a maid, who were sleeping in the dwelling house which was on the west side of the burning garage on Main street, were awakened and got out of the house. A small amount of furniture was removed from the dwelling before the fire got too much headway. However, it was soon a mass of flames and despite the efforts of the fire fighters soon became a smouldering ruin. On the opposite side of the garage, was the tailor shop. Soon the flames had reached it but here the firemen were able to check its advance.

The residence of Mr. Irving Fraser, situated close to the burning building, was not damaged. Water was constantly applied to it in order to prevent it catching too.

There was no official estimate of the damage caused by the fire but it is believed to be in the vicinity of \$2,000, partially covered by insurance.

The garage was a one-storey building with a two-storey frame structure and the tailor shop a one-storey building.

Three streams of water were played on the blaze by the firemen who obtained their supply of water from one of the specially built reservoirs, maintained by the town for this purpose. The fire fighters kept a steady stream flowing through the three lines of hose. Firemen from the town and the village of Mr. Daniel McLaren.

#### Flotilla of 3 Italian Cruisers Wiped out

LONDON, Dec. 14—An entire flotilla of three Italian cruisers apparently was wiped out between dusk Friday night and dawn Saturday by submarines and British and Netherlands destroyers in the Mediterranean, sources here today in communique indicated Saturday night.

Three little British destroyers, the Sikh, Legion and Maori, and the Netherlands destroyer Isaac Sweers, attacked a heavier detachment of two cruisers and two mosquito boats with a storm of shell and torpedo fire just before dawn Saturday. One of the cruisers blew up and the other was left blazing from stem to stern, the Admiralty said.

One of the torpedo boats also was sunk and the other damaged. The Admiralty announced Friday an attack by submarines at dusk on a flotilla of three cruisers in which three torpedos hits were scored and one of the cruisers was sunk.

Although the Admiralty did not connect the two attacks as having been made on the same naval detachment, the circumstances strongly suggested that the destroyer units under Commander G. H. Stokes had rushed up at the call of the submarines and completed the destruction of the flotilla.

Indicating the surprise of the attack, the Admiralty said the alert was "forced" some time after the encounter without a scratch to ship or man.

#### Sentenced to Hang March 20

SHERBROOKE, Que., Dec. 14—(CP)—Summer Montie, 55 year old chicken farmer of Stanstead, Que., was convicted Saturday by a court of King's bench jury, of the murder of Mrs. Amy Geer Moranville, 50, a widow old housekeeper at the Montie place at two main centres of resistance, at Gazala itself, which is about 100 miles west of the Egyptian border, and southwest of Gazala.

The communique said the British forces were closing in on Gazala. In fighting farther east, about 500 troops were captured, 18 guns taken and a number of Italian tanks destroyed at Bir Hachem, 40 miles southeast of Tobruk.

#### London says will be big assignment Place is well guarded—Chinese and British defenders.

LONDON, Dec. 14—(CP)—The British garrison's fight for Hong Kong was watched closely here tonight as observers weighed Tokyo claims of a terrific offensive against the colony and Chungking accounts of a strong drive toward Canton to ease the pressure on the British forces.

(Tokyo said the Japanese touched off their big push on Hong Kong at dawn after the garrison rejected an ultimatum to surrender.)

Japanese claims to have captured Kowloon on the mainland section of the Hong Kong colony were without confirmation in official quarters here.

It was said, however, that Hong Kong is well guarded and its capture would prove a hard assignment.

#### Chinese Aid Defenders

CHUNGKING, Dec. 14—(AP)—Chinese troops pressed their attacks on the flank and rear of Japanese forces threatening Hong Kong with fighting going on at Tamshui and Pingshan, front line dispatches said today.

Tamshui and Pingshan are near the frontier of the Crown Colony and are east of the Canton-Kowloon railway.

Pingshan is about eight miles north of the mainland frontier of the Crown Colony and about 13 miles west of the Canton-Kowloon northwest of Pingshan.

#### Canucks Will Do Part

OTTAWA, Dec. 14—(CP)—Canadian troops in beleaguered Hong Kong will do everything they can to live up to the traditions of Canada's army, Brig. J. K. Lawson advised Defence Minister Ralston in a recent cable.

Ralston on Dec. 8 sent a message to Brig. Lawson, commanding the Canadian units in Hong Kong, expressing the Dominion's confidence in the Dominion's contingent.

"All ranks appreciate your message. We shall do everything in our power to maintain the best traditions of the Canadian army," the Crown Colony of Hong Kong now has been under Japanese attack for several days. There has been no official word yet whether the Canadians have actually been in battle.

#### Axis Forces In rearguard Action in Libya

CAIRO, Dec. 14—(AP)—German and Italian forces stubbornly withdrawing from eastern Libya turned about and fought savage rearguard actions southwest of Gazala, the British high command reported today, but their positions were threatened by an encircling movement.

Military quarters said tanks and infantry were about three quarters of the way around the axis string of defences stretching 40 miles from Gazala on the coast into the desert.

Hard fighting was said to be taking place at two main centres of resistance, at Gazala itself, which is about 100 miles west of the Egyptian border, and southwest of Gazala. The communique said the British forces were closing in on Gazala.

#### Observes Birthday

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Dec. 14—(CP Cable)—The King received messages of congratulations from many parts of the world as he celebrated his 46th birthday today in his country home with the Queen and the Princesses.

A greeting came from Queen Mary, and there were greetings from other members of the Royal family, as well as Prime Minister Churchill, the Governors-General of the Dominions and representatives of the Empire.

President Roosevelt sent a message from Washington. Their Majesties attended divine service this morning and during the week-end entertained soldiers at the rehearsal of a pantomime, "Cinderella," in which the Princesses and some of their friends and children from a nearby town are taking part.

Princess Elizabeth played the role of the Prince and Princess Margaret Rose was Cinderella.

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#### Dutch Pyramid Japan's losses

BATAVIA, Java, Dec. 14—(AP)—Helping pyramid Japan's losses on the reinforcement sea lanes to Malaya, the Royal Netherlands navy reported tonight sending two more ships to the bottom for a two-day period.

A communique reporting the new action off the east coast of Malaya identified the latest two ships to go down as a tanker and a freighter. It credited the sinking only to "our forces."

Netherlands submarines were declared officially Saturday to have sunk four Japanese transports in the same waters with a loss of probably 4,000 Japanese troops.

#### Coming Events

- York Point School Concert Monday, December 22nd. 1-449-12-13-11.
- Cross Roads School Concert 1-5-12-1-15
- Buying Poultry daily. Bowman's Store. L-408-12-12-15-17.
- Pownal School Concert Monday, December 22nd. L-489-12-15-21.
- Come to Ebenezer School Concert Tuesday, December 23rd. L-492-12-16-11.
- Come to Harrington School Concert Friday, December 19th. L-491-12-15-11.
- Suffolk School Concert December 22nd. L-493-12-15-11.
- A nation at war must guard its health. Buy Christmas Seals and help prevent tuberculosis.
- Wanted to buy Chicken, Fowl, Island Cold Storage. L-219-7-9-12.
- Christmas Concert and Dance, Orwell Cove Hall, Thursday, December 19th. L-487-12-15-17.
- Collecting Hogs every Tuesday and Friday. George Dingwall. L-134-9-15-M-Thur-F

Rate for Notices in this column 5 cents per word

**8. MORE SHOPPING DAYS**

IT'S UNWISE TO WISH EVERYTHING EXPLAINED

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE TORONTO, Dec. 14—(CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	17B	1B
Edmonton	42	48
Regina	3B	18
Winnipeg	2	12
Toronto	1	18
Ottawa	30	34
Montreal	20	28
Boston	25	29
	39	45

Synopsis: Moderate temperature has prevailed over Ontario with light snow in some districts. It has been fair over the Prairie Provinces, rather cold in Manitoba and East Saskatchewan with a tendency towards higher temperature in Alberta and Southwest Saskatchewan.

BOSTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Forecast for Northern New England: fair and colder Monday; Tuesday fair, little change in temperature.

High tide this morning at 7:30 and tonight at 7:30. Sun sets this afternoon at 4:19 and rises tomorrow morning at 7:32.

New Moon Dec. 18, 6:18 a. m. Summer's tide eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown.

BORDEN — CAPE TORMENTINE SERVICE  
Leave Borden 9:25 A.M. 1:00 P.M.  
Leave Cape Tormentine 11:00 A.M. 3:20 P.M.

WOOD ISLANDS FERRY (DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAYS)  
Leaves Wood Island 6:30 A.M. 1:00 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.  
Leaves Charlottetown 8:15 A.M. 11:45 noon and 3:15 P.M.

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Use **BLOSSOM FLOUR** Exclusively