

MAXIMS
OF A
MERE MAN

Fish and visitors smell in three days.

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

An old young man will be a young old man.

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AXIS LINE AT EL AGHEILA SMASHED

British Subs In Daring Mediterranean Raids



The Administration and Training Staffs attached to Canada's Reserve Army are highly appreciated by these three leaders of the force on which there is a home defence responsibility. Scattered across Canada in armoured and drill that's the A. and T. men as they are called by their fellow military men, are building up a strong force made up chiefly of men who for various reasons cannot immediately enlist in the Active Army. Shown above are Colonel L. W. W. Slack of Ottawa, Officer Commanding the 33rd Reserve Brigade Group, Major-General B. W. Browne, Director-General of the Reserve Army, and Brigadier K. M. Perry, Deputy Director-General of the Reserve Army at National Defence Headquarters. (Canadian Army Photo)

MOSTLY WATER

Cabbage contains from 10 to 15 pounds of water for each pound of dry matter.

Coming Events

- Riverdale Christmas Concert, Dec. 21st, 12-14-21
- North Milton Christmas Concert, Dec. 22nd, 12-14-21-22
- Christmas Concert, Vernon Hall Friday Dec 18th, 12-14-11
- Christmas Concert, Cross Roads School Dec. 18th, at 7:30 P.M., 12-14-11
- Christmas School Concert in Kingston Hall Dec. 23rd, 12-14-21
- Reserve Monday, Dec. 28th for Home in Millville Hall, 12-14-11
- Personal School Concert, Tuesday, Dec. 22, 12-14-11
- Reserve December 16 for Bonanza School Concert, 12-14-31
- Marshall School Concert, Monday, December 21st, 12-14-18
- Christmas Concert, Searlewood Hall, December 18, 12-14-11
- West Royalty School Concert, Monday night, December 21st, 12-14-19
- Christmas Concert, Wheatley No. 115 Dec. 17, if not fine Dec. 12-14-11
- Marshall School Concert in Marshall Hall, Friday Dec. 18th, 12-14-17-21
- Reserve Thursday Dec. 17th, Dance at Boston's New Warehouse Warehouse Station, 12-14-11
- Christmas Concert and dance, Lyndale School, Thursday, Dec. 17, Good music, Hot Dogs, 12-14-11
- Farmers wishing to ship dressed hogs and sows advise McCullough and Boyle, 12-7-71
- New Dominion Variety Concert at Alton Hall Thursday, Dec. 17th, 12-14-16
- Christmas Concert in Vernon Hall, Tuesday, December 22, 12-14-18
- Borden Line Shipping Club leading hogs at Albany every Tuesday, Trucking if road still open, P. O. McKay, Secy., 12-12-31
- Note date changed Mt. Alton Christmas Concert, Dec. 18, if sunny Saturday, 12-14-11
- Hunter River Search Factory closes for this season Tuesday, December 15th, 12-12-41
- Concert in Wheatley River hall, Dec. 22nd if not fine the following night, 12-14-11
- Christmas Concert, Hartsville Hall, Saturday, December 19, if not fine, Monday, 12-14-18-19
- Buying live and dressed chickens and fowl every Wednesday, Pay the top market prices, P. J. Roy, Hunter River, 9-26-5-M-11
- Brookfield Concert, December 12-12-16-21
- Reserve Dec. 21st for Christmas concert in Lot 65 Hall, 12-7-12-18
- Pascent Valley, Sunday School Concert, Dec. 24th, not fine Saturday night, 12-14-11

110 Dead in St. John's Hostel Fire

(By C. E. A. Jeffrey, Canadian Press Correspondent)

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Dec. 12.—(CP Cable)—Cries of "fire" punctuating the foot-stomping rhythms of an old-time barn dance tune in a quiet Saturday night brought the first warning of a disastrous fire that wiped out 110 lives and sent 102 others to hospital, burned and maimed.

The hostel was crowded with 500 servicemen and their partners enjoying the regular weekly frolic, when the fire roared through the structure and burst from doors and windows in huge columns of flame that towered into the sky. Scores were trapped inside and crushed to death in the inferno that reached the exits.

Late tonight, authorities had released no names of the victims, either civilians or servicemen, of whom there were a large number. Information is being held up until it is known that next-of-kin have been notified, it was learned tonight.

Some eyewitnesses said the fire "seemed to do its deadliest work in 10 minutes." They agreed that 10 minutes of firemen probably would have been futile even if help could have been called in time, before the entire structure was flaming.

Many Trampled to Death

The terrified dancers tried to force their way out through the four exits that led from the L-shaped building. As they fought to reach safety, men and women alike were knocked down and suffocated beneath the weight of bodies. Searchers forcing their way in when the fire was controlled, found a horribly tangled pile of bodies inside the main doorway.

69 Identified

Of the dead, 69 had been identified tonight, while the other 41, many so terribly burned as to be unrecognizable, had not yet been claimed.

Expresses Sympathy

At Ottawa tonight, Prime Minister Mackenzie King issued a statement expressing sympathy for the relatives and friends of those who were killed or injured in the blaze.

Navy Minister Macdonald also announced that the Royal Canadian Navy was taking a hand in relieving the distress by sending a doctor or two nursing sisters to the scene.

Col. Ralston In Province

Canada's Minister of National Defence, Col. J. L. Ralston spent a quiet week-end at Summerside. He arrived Saturday night with his private secretary, James Wells, formerly of Alton. Col. Ralston represents Prince County in the House of Commons.

Yesterday morning the Minister attended services at the Baptist church. Later he was guest at dinner at the officers' mess at the Summerside airport.

Today he will inspect small plants doing war work in Summerside and the site of the dehydrated plant now under construction. At noon he will speak at the regular weekly luncheon of the Rotary Club in Charlottetown and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon inspect the army camp at Beach Grove.

Tuesday the Minister will visit an airport which is being enlarged and a wireless school erected. Late in the day he will leave for Halifax to continue a tour of the Maritime provinces.

Destroyer Penylan Lost

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(CP)—The Admiralty tonight announced the loss of the destroyer Penylan. A brief Admiralty communique described the Penylan as of the Hunt class of destroyers but did not give details of her sinking or the number of casualties.

(The authoritative Jane's Fighting Ships does not list either the Penylan or the Hunt class, indicating that an entirely new class of destroyers has been put into service by the Royal Navy.)

Says 4 Exits In Building

TORONTO, Dec. 13.—(CP)—Phil Phelan, National Director of the Knights of Columbus army unit, commenting on a fire in one of their hostels at St. John's, Nfld., last night which claimed at least 104 lives, said here tonight, "there doesn't seem to be any reason for the very, very heavy loss of life." "There were four exits in the building and fire extinguishers all over the place," said Mr. Phelan, who added he would have no further comment until he received additional information from St. John's.

War Situation Last Night

(By Kirby L. Simpson, Associated Press War Analyst)

While the battle lines in Russia, Africa and the Pacific area except New Guinea remained virtually static last week, Allied success in mastering air power in French Africa for the fight for control of the Sicilian Straits assumes major importance. That Hitler is taking risks in Russia to regain air control of the central Mediterranean discloses his own apprehensions.

A week ago all reports from Tunisia agreed that Nazi air power, most of it rushed from the Russian theatre, was a dominant factor in stalling the Anglo-American advance on Bizerte and Tunisia. Within seven days that handicap seems on the way to being overcome. The same sources tell of clouds of Allied planes including close based fighters pouring in.

Events are quickly verifying the prediction of Lt.-Gen. Henry W. Arnold, chief of United States Army Air Forces, during the week that Axis air superiority in Tunisia could and would be promptly overcome despite serious logistics problems.

And a decisive Allied victory in the battle for air control of the Sicilian Channel, in Arnold's opinion and that of British military authorities, could settle the question of superiority not only in that theatre but over all Europe.

There is strong evidence that lack of air power withdrawn to Africa is seriously hampering Nazi defence efforts in Russia. It is not only air fighters to shelter counter-attacking tanks and foot troops that are lacking there, but air transport to maintain winter contact with advance fortified zones, dangerously exposed to Russian encirclement.

One Dead In Halifax Fire

HALIFAX, Dec. 13.—(CP)—One body, as yet unidentified, was found here today in the ruins of two staff houses of the Anglin-Nercessian Construction Company, Maritime Limited, destroyed by fire Saturday night.

Police said they were checking on the identity of the body, so badly burned recognition was impossible, as well as the cause of the fire that levelled the houses, and two adjacent buildings.

The fire started just as the workers were returning for their evening meal and raced rapidly through the buildings, all of pure wooden construction. Damage was estimated at between \$65,000 and \$75,000.

News Briefs

MOSCOW, Dec. 14.—(Monday)—(AP)—Powerful and repeated counter-attacks by a "considerable force" of Axis soldiers south of Stalingrad were hurled back Sunday. The Russians announced early today as the Red Army drove forward its twin offensives which in 25 days have killed the Axis nearly 250,000 men killed or captured.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AFRICA, Dec. 13.—(CP)—Enemy efforts to infiltrate north and south of Medjez-Bel-Bab were repulsed and Allied advanced forward areas yesterday, a headquarters communique said today.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, Dec. 13.—(CP)—Allied and Japanese air forces were reported to meet today as heavy tropical trading stiff blows in New Guinea today as heavy tropical downpours slowed land operations of Australians and Americans hauling to pieces the remnants of the trapped and dwindling enemy at Buna.

See Hitler With Bad Case Of The Jitters

Discarding Experienced Generals For Yes-Men Who Will Follow His Hunches.

Editors: Louis P. Lochner, a veteran of 18 years experience in Berlin where he was Associated Press Correspondent until Germany declared war a year ago, analyzes the changes in Hitler's high command in the following article.

By Louis P. Lochner, Associated Press Staff Writer

HIBBING, Minn., Dec. 13.—(AP)—Hitler is having a bad case of nerves.

That is the outstanding impression one gains from his sensational shakeup of the German high command.

He can stand only "yes men" around him. Anybody who dares cross his path jars his overstrung nerves.

Gen. Franz Halder, the displaced chief of the Army General Staff, and Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch, dismissed as the Army Commander-in-Chief a year ago, were unweelcome to him because they dared warn the great super-generalissimo. So he seems decided once and for all to surround himself with men who endorse his hunches and follow him blindly.

Gen. Kurt Zeitzler, hitherto has given no proof he can do better than his predecessors, Gen. Ludwig Beck, who resigned because he felt Germany was licked from the word "never."

(Continued on page 9, Col 1)

Head of Jesuits Dies In Rome

ROME (From German Italian Broadcasts), Dec. 13.—(AP)—Very Rev. Vladimir Ledochowski, 76, general of the Society of Jesus, (The Order of Jesuits) died shortly before 7 p.m. tonight in Vatican City.

For some time, Father Ledochowski recently was moved from a nursing home to his own residence in Rome adjacent to Vatican City.

The Catholic Church was administered when it became apparent there was little hope of his recovery from an operation for an abdominal abscess.

Father Ledochowski was general of the Jesuits during both the First World War and the present conflict.

Enemy Destroyer Sunk In Solomons

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER (Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—(AP)—American dive-bombers and warships sank one Japanese destroyer, damaged at least four others, and presumably killed hundreds of enemy troops, the navy department reported today, when the Japanese vessel was sunk in the Solomons.

One United States torpedo boat was lost.

Whether any reinforcements actually reached the enemy-held northwestern jump of the Island—where the Japanese have been virtually isolated since early November—was not known here, a naval spokesman said.

A huge United States troop transport with 4,000 men aboard, the former 21,936-ton liner President Coolidge, hit a mine and sank in the South Pacific but all except four were saved, the navy department announced Saturday.

Join the Host of Home Bakers who use **BLOSSOM CANADA FLOUR** Exclusively

African-Bound Axis Ships Are Sent To Bottom

Daring Raids Made On Shipping Inside Enemy Harbors.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(CP)—British submarines stalking Italy's coastal waters have sunk two more African bound axis ships, including an armed merchant cruiser, scored three hits on others in a convoy only 90 miles from Naples, and sunk two other supply vessels off Libya where daring raids were made on shipping inside enemy harbors.

The spreading submarine campaign in the Mediterranean was announced by the admiralty following disclosure Saturday of the shelling of the Italian coast, the torpedoing of two troop or supply ships and destruction of a merchantman and an anti-submarine ship by submarines of the Royal Navy.

One of the most audacious performances was turned in by a submarine which surfaced at Beirut, El Hsu, about midday between Tripoli and El Agheila, and damaged two anchored Axis supply ships with shells.

At Ras Ali, another Libyan anchorage, a submarine torpedoed and blew up barges laden with ammunition for Field Marshal Rommel's 8th Army.

On the Gulf of Sirte, Ras Ali is 320 miles east of Tripoli and near El Agheila.

Further successes are reported by His Majesty's submarines operating in the Mediterranean against the enemy's supply lines to North Africa.

These are in addition to successful actions announced in an Allied forces communique of Saturday.

8th Army In New Drive Westward

First Time British Have Pushed Beyond El Agheila.

(By Stephen Barber, Associated Press Staff Writer)

CAIRO, Dec. 14.—(Monday)—(AP)—The British 8th Army has resumed its big western offensive and driven Marshal Erwin Rommel from his strongly-held bastion at El Agheila, and the Axis forces in Libya are in flight to the west, it was announced today.

ADVANCE ON NEW GROUND

The British forces, smashing toward Tripoli and Tunisia to meet Allied forces driving eastward from Algeria, thus for the first time in the fluctuating campaigns in Libya have pushed beyond El Agheila. The Axis twice before has halted its headlong flight there, rested, and thrown back the British.

An announcement said:—"Rommel has been driven out from his strong positions at El Agheila and is in retreat to the west."

NAZI REPORT DRIVE

The announcement was the first British confirmation of German broadcasts Saturday that the British 8th Army had begun its expected offensive against Rommel at El Agheila.

Later the Berlin radio reported that the British forces had penetrated positions "far to the south" in the El Agheila line.

Rommel thus was fleeing once more from the stand he had taken last month after being pushed back 700 miles from his deepest thrust into Egypt at El Alamein.

The first intimation of the British offensive which began in October and cracked the Alamein positions came from the Germans, as did the first intimation of the new British move against El Agheila.

The 8th army struck against Rommel while the British 1st army and its American Allies were repulsing German tank and infantry attacks Saturday in Northern Tunisia.

400 Miles From Tripoli

The Agheila battlefield, from the coast of the Gulf of Sirte to impassable salt marshes, is less than 400 miles from Rommel's main base at Tripoli.

The passable ground in the Agheila area funnels down to a 40-mile front.

(Continued on page 9, Col 2)

Allied Secret Weapons Will Startle Axis

RANDOLPH FIELD, Tex., Dec. 13.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Henry H. Arnold, chief of United States Army Air Forces, today said we have a secret weapon or two up our aerial sleeves that will deal paralyzing blows to our enemies.

"We're talking entirely new battle-wagons are on the way," he reported, and recalled that he already had seen a number of the B-17 and B-24 type (the Flying Fortress and Liberator) "bombers."

Addressing graduating classes of four army flying schools—Randolph, Kelly, Brooks and Hondo Fields—Arnold epitomized his disclosures with this statement:

"We'll soon put on a special demonstration for Hitler and Hirohito. We don't think they are going to like it either."

He did not amplify his reference to secret weapons but it was made in connection with his discussion of new bombers and of present fighters and bombers "steadily increasing in range, speed, firepower and bomb loads."

The standard 50-caliber machine guns of the army planes are "terrific weapons of aerial destruction" and one of the outstanding successes of the war, Arnold said, but they will "seem like peashooters compared with the firepower that we are putting into our newest big ships."

New developments in cameras and photographic technique, he said have resulted in increasingly-effective photographic reconnaissance on the coast and "four pursuit planes can take good pictures at 300 miles an hour, from 30,000 feet, accurate enough to show up individual railroad ties."

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(Continued on page 9, Col 2)

Report 100 Nazis Killed In Paris

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(CP)—The Moscow radio said tonight that more than 100 German Officers and men were killed when a time bomb exploded in the Rex Theatre in the Boulevard Montmartre in Paris.

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(AP)—American flying Fortresses have scored their most telling blow in the Tunisian "battle of the supply lines," setting afire an area 10 blocks long and two blocks wide in the dock and warehouse district of Tunis, North African dispatches disclosed today.

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By-Elections Expected

OTTAWA, Dec. 13.—(CP)—Early action by the Government to fix a date for by-elections in Selkirk, Man., and Humboldt, Sask. is expected this week, primarily to make it possible for John Bracken, the newly elected Leader of the Progressive-Conservative Party, to seek a seat in the House of Commons.

It would take about 40 days from the time the date is named to hold these by-elections, and it would appear that Mr. Bracken is unlikely to have a seat in time to take his place as Leader of the Official Opposition when Parliament meets Jan. 27.

In that event it is expected that Hon. R. B. Hanson, who has been House Leader since the 1940 General Elections, will continue to seek a seat until the new leader arrives.

9 MORE SHOPPING DAYS

A SNOWBALL IS JUST A BUNCH OF SNOWFLAKES THAT MADE GOOD!

High tide this afternoon at 8:00 and tomorrow morning at 4:58. Sun sets this afternoon at 6:18 and rises tomorrow morning at 8:30.

Full moon Dec. 22, 10:03 a.m. Summer tide 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

CAR FERRY SERVICE DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

From Borden—Leave 9:05 a.m. 11:40 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

Leave Cape Tormentine—10:30 a.m. 1:15 p.m. 3:05 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 8:15 p.m.

SUNDAY SERVICE (May 3 to Dec. 31 Inclusive)

Leave Borden 9:00 a.m. 6:45 p.m.

Leave Tormentine 10:15 a.m. 8:00 p.m.

DAILY AIR SERVICE (EXCEPT SUNDAY)

Charlottetown—Summerside—Montion

Leave Charlottetown 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.

Arrive Charlottetown 1 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 7:05 p.m.