

Woe unto you when all men shall  
speak well of you.

What is genius?—It is the power  
to be a boy again at will.

Morning Guardian, Founded 1887  
Charlottetown Guardian, Two Cents

CHARLOTTETOWN, CANADA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1941

10 PAGES

Annual Subscription Delivered, \$5.00  
By Mail: P. E. I., \$4.00; Canada and U.S. \$5.00

# SOVIET OFFICERS URGED TO ADOPT SPEED TACTICS

## Japs Report Landing On Hong Kong Island Take Risks To Destroy Nazi Army In Retreat

### Veteran Chinese Guerilla Aids Hong Kong



Hard-bitten Chinese guerrilla forces under Gen. Ma Po are helping the Japanese force attacking Hong Kong, to relieve pressure on the Canadian and Imperial garrison. This picture shows Gordon Sinclair, Canadian newspaperman, and General Ma Po outside the general's headquarters in South China three years ago.

### Admit British Defenders put Up stiff fight

### Big Naval Base Has Been Under Siege More Than Week.

TOKYO, Dec. 19—(Friday)—(Japanese radio recorded by AP)—Imperial headquarters claimed today that the Japanese army and navy had succeeded in landing on the island of Hong Kong, which has been under siege and cannonade for more than a week.

British forces defending the big naval base at the head of the China Sea put up a fierce resistance to the Japanese, a communique said, after having twice rejected ultimatums to surrender.

The Japanese nevertheless were claimed to be "rapidly carrying out further operations."

The account said the Japanese capped their assault with an intensive pounding all yesterday and last night in which Japanese planes and the army's artillery bombed

(Continued on page 9, Col 2)

### War Situation Last Night

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

Nazi armies falling back in Russia are perilously close to being blown up by their own blitzkrieg petard, designed to conquer the world.

The war machine they fashioned and used effectively to shatter many continental armies in quick succession is obviously back-firing in reverse. Russian progress reports, unchallenged from Berlin, indicate that what started as a vast German withdrawal to winter lines is rapidly turning into a rout in many sectors along a 1,200-mile retreat front.

That may be an overdrawn picture, traceable in part to Russian enthusiasm. It is still too early to judge accurately either the planned scope of the Nazi retreat or the real strategic motives of the German high command.

There can no longer be doubt, however, that the Germans in Russia now are swallowing much the same dose they meted out to France and a dozen other nations. They have lost the initiative, the attack role for which their ponderous and terrible battle machine was created.

In retreat it is nowhere near so deadly. The Russians are finding it vulnerable even to cavalry, the all but forgotten arm that was once the crown of every army.

Hitler has admitted that the Nazis originally miscalculated Russian preparedness for the struggle. His great retreat, following blatant claims to his people that Russia's power of prolonged resistance had been utterly shattered, now confesses an even graver misapprehension of Russian morale and staying powers.

And that retreat also discloses that blitzkrieg panzer warfare with its dive-bomber air auxiliary is fully effective only on the attack. On the retreat it loses its punch. The confusion and clogged transport lanes are now on the other side of the war ledger.

Often tanks, undamaged tanks, become a burden instead of an asset for retreating troops. Buried to provide pill-box defence posts, they have lost their greatest military asset, mobility. And on the retreat the must finally be abandoned or destroyed.

It is still inconceivable that well proven Nazi staff skill will not achieve a new stabilization of front in Russia. Hitler's case would be desperate indeed if it could not for his great "crusade" would then follow the pattern of Napoleon's sorry retreat from Moscow.

In any case, it is reasonably certain that surging Russian attacks all along the huge front are whittling down German chances of reverting soon to the offensive on any front.

This convincing evidence that Nazi military invincibility is a myth is plainly worrying Vichy and must already be dazing Rome and Tokyo. They can find little consolation in either Libya or the Pacific war theatre to solace them for what is happening to their Nazi master in Russia. Without a decisive German victory there, they are foredoomed.

### Canuck Corvette Brings Nazi Sub, Crew into port

### Cmdr. J. P. Connolly Says "We'll Have To Wake Up" To Win War.

HALIFAX, Dec. 18—(CP)—A Canadian corvette has brought a Nazi submarine into port with its captain and crew, Cmdr. J. P. Connolly, naval provost marshal here, said today before the Commercial Club.

(While Cmdr. Connolly gave no details, it was learned the corvette had towed into an allied port the submarine captured in the incident several weeks ago by a British bombing plane. The ship was not identified.)

Cmdr. Connolly mentioned the capture only briefly in his address saying it had not been announced officially but it had "gotten around."

He said "one of our own people" had fired the shot which was believed apparently referring to someone from Halifax or some other Nova Scotia port.

He painted a dark picture of the war situation in general, declaring "we're not winning this war."

"Pretty soon we'll have to wake up," he said, likening the present military situation to the second period of a hockey game with "the score 5-1 against us, while we have no spare players and the other team has plenty."

The fight put up by the Russians had been a "Godsend," but was no cause to sit back and take things easy.

Cmdr. Connolly predicted the day was not far off when Canada would have to find 1,000,000 men and the United States 11,000,000, if the struggle is to be brought to a victorious conclusion.

Declaring the danger of complacency was great, he said the impossible had happened too often in this war to consider a Japanese invasion of the west coast of Canada impossible.

He questioned the value of blackouts in modern war, contending their effectiveness as a handicap to the enemy might be nullified by their effect on civilian morale. After his experience with blackouts in the great war he believed a reduction in lighting just as effective.

He said modern navigation instruments reduced the benefits of a blackout.

In the case of Halifax, the fact the city is practically an island with a water outline would make it a good target.

### Official army paper Red Star advocates turning German tactics to Russian use; Russian advance continues.

MOSCOW, Dec. 19—(Friday)—(AP)—Soviet commanders were urged today to take the risk of throwing out many long spearheads to trap and destroy the retreating Germans as the Red army reported continuing advances had broken off invasion salients on both flanks of the great front of Moscow.

The official army newspaper Red Star called for turning the typically-Nazi tactics on the Germans, telling commanders to disregard the orthodox sloggish of frontal assault and send speed troops out ahead to encircle and cut up the foe unit by unit.

This method already has been used brilliantly in the recapture of Shekino and Aleksin in the Tula area, and as a Soviet intelligence bureau told of new gains there today, Red Star called for its extension in a campaign that is still mobile despite the terrible winter weather.

On the northwest front, around Kallinin, the communique also reported steady progress, with 24 more villages occupied in one day and new destructive blows to German equipment and manpower.

With both north and south danger-points thus neutralized and the Germans sacrificing territory in order to save their own necks, the Red army was able to throw new power into its counter-offensive against the Nazis directly west of Moscow.

Military dispatches said that the army of Gen. Govorov, operating in the heart of the Moscow front, had recaptured 200 settlements and that his vanguard was approaching Rzuz, about 60 miles west of Moscow and just northeast of Moshensk.

Thus the offensive became general along the whole Moscow front. On the flanks, west of Kallinin in the north and Tula on the south, the Red army was continuing its pursuit of the Germans.

A fierce drive was pressed against the Finns and Germans in the northwest, the Russians striking in the Novgorod sector south of Leningrad after rolling the Ger-

### Montague man is Air Graduate

BRANTFORD, Ont., Dec. 18—(CP)—A large group of Canadian and American members of the Royal Canadian Air Force graduated tonight from No. 5 Service Flying Training School here. The class receiving wings today also included one member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, T. Merricks of Wellington, N.Z.

Canadian graduates included: Prince Edward Island: R. K. Clements, Montague.

Nova Scotia: G. C. McKay, Yarmouth; G. B. Robinson, Kentville.

### Scharnhorst, Gneisenau are Heavily bombed

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Royal Air Force today sent a heavy wave of bombers against the two German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the Air Ministry reported hits were believed to have been scored.

Heavy bomb bursts were seen on the drydocks at Brest, France, where the vessels are lying, the Ministry reported.

The attack was made under heavy fighter opposition and intense anti-aircraft fire. Five British bombers and one fighter were lost in the action. Eight enemy planes were downed.

The aircraft dropped bombs this morning at a place on the coast of East Anglia causing some damage and "a number" of casualties.

The British Broadcasting Corporation described the raid in its night news summary as "one of the biggest bomber and fighter attacks of the war."

One Spitfire pilot was quoted as saying on his return:—

"It was almost impossible to see anything but bursting shells, but the 'bomber boys' sailed into it as though they liked it."

"I saw the bombs drop and there were some pretty hefty explosions."

The BBC said a "terrific dogfight" raged over the harbor while the attack was in progress. Polish fighter pilots were credited with bagging four enemy planes and the other four were destroyed by British bombers.

Striking Halifax and Manchester bombers participated in the determined daylight attack. They were accompanied by a heavy escort of Royal Spitfires and Hurricanes.

The raid was the third on Brest in 48 hours.

Some German air activity was reported over England tonight in the north, northwest and North Midlands, but the BBC said no details were available yet.

### Libyan drive Draws tribute

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Allied offensive in Libya drew this tribute from a German military officer, heard on the axis-controlled radio and quoted tonight by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Never before have we experienced such fierce fighting. They come at us from all sides and apparently from nowhere with a suddenness that surprises us."

"Sometimes they launch as many as six or seven attacks in the same day."

### Reports rescue Of survivors From Dunedin

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18—(AP)—The rescue at sea of 72 survivors of the torpedoed British light cruiser Dunedin and a graphic story of hardship and heroism was disclosed here today by the chief engineer of the United States freighter Nish-maha.

The engineer Girard L. Bresson, whose ship docked today, said the survivors had been on seven rafts for four days and three nights when they were fished from mid-Atlantic Ocean near the equator Nov. 27.

The survivors, many of whom suffered from wounds inflicted by vicious dogfish, were put ashore at a British port, Bresson said.

(The Admiralty yesterday announced the sinking of the 4,850-ton ship, carrying a normal complement of 450 men, by a German submarine. It was not announced whether any of the crew had been rescued.)

All of the men, Bresson related, "were in extremely bad shape when we pulled them aboard."

"About half of them had suffered horrible bites from dogfish which flew out of the water and tore pieces of flesh from their bodies."

"One of the sailors had a large chunk taken from his chest and died five minutes later, his mates told us. All of them had a bad case of sun poisoning and were blistered. Their bodies were swollen."

"Only a few of them had had so

### German admits Soviets are good

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Social Demokraten acknowledged today the Soviet army is "just as good, and sometimes perhaps better," than Germany's hand-picked troops on the Russian front.

In an article quoted by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the writer said:—

"On no battlefield have the Germans crossed swords with such an active and aggressive enemy."

"The czar's soldiers were inferior to the Germans, but the Soviets are just as good, and sometimes perhaps better"

## Shattered Axis Army In Libya In Full Retreat

### Enemy's front "has everywhere been broken" British communique says.

CAIRO, Dec. 18—(AP)—The shattered German and Italian armies in Eastern Cirenaica were announced tonight to be in full retreat, pursued by British tanks and blasted by Royal Air Force bombers.

Allied troops were pressing northward toward Derna after reaching the east-west Timimi-Mekki road some 180 miles inside Libya, a British communique said.

"The enemy's front has everywhere been broken," the bulletin said.

The R. A. F. reported smashing blows against Axis tanks and troop transports fleeing westward from Derna itself on the long road to Benghazi in an apparent effort to escape encirclement.

A fierce five-day fight west and southwest of Gazala preceded the retreat, the communique said.

Thus far in the month-old offensive against the armies of Lt. Gen. Erwin Rommel and his Italian helpers the British forces were reported to have taken almost 10,000 prisoners. Axis casualties also were said to be heavy.

Although the rout on the Axis desert ledions caused hopes to soar that a final knock-out blow was near at hand, an informed source said frankly "we'll have to capture a hell of a lot more prisoners before the first real sign of collapse."

The Germans and Italians were estimated to number between 60,000 and 100,000 when the British offensive began, and this source said

### Fourth fire Victim dies

AMHERST, N. S., Dec. 18—(CP)—Fourth victim of Tuesday morning's university fire at Sackville, N. B., James C. MacDonald, 17, died today in hospital of injuries suffered in a 75 foot fall.

The Sydney, N. S., student had suffered a broken back and fractures when he plunged from the fourth floor to the stone steps as fire swept through the men's residence at Mount Allison University.

### Newsman tells Of terrible Russian winter

FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, Dec. 18—(AP)—Admiral Georges Robert, High Commissioner of the French islands, announced today that United States Rear Admiral Horne (possibly Frederick J. Horne) had flown to Martinique "to deliver President Roosevelt's personal assurances that these islands need fear no attack or change of sovereignty."

In a communique, Admiral Robert said Horne arrived at 1 p. m. Wednesday from Puerto Rico in a United States navy plane and left at 9 a. m. today for Washington after having informed Robert that "the United States desires to maintain cordial relations with France during these difficult moments."

### Couple Of Nights In Open Give Idea Of What Germans Are Facing.

By Henry C. Cassidy  
Associated Press Staff Writer

WITH THE RED ARMY ON THE MOSCOW FRONT, Dec. 18—(AP)—Spend a couple of nights out on the Russian steppes suffering wind, snow and cold and you have an idea what the Germans are up against on the eastern front.

You have just been through two such nights.

The elements at their wildest, whining and moaning wildly on the broad plains, broken here and there by stark forest, strike every living thing exposed to them and make death by freezing an ever-present danger. That is one of the important reasons why the Germans are now falling back from advanced positions near Moscow and seeking winter quarters.

You have no conception of the violence of this Russian winter as you drive out of the towns and villages where the Soviet troops keep warm in well-equipped quarters.

It is only when you get into the open where the Germans have been forced to seek shelter in the forests or in shattered settlements that you feel the full effect.

Then you see that the greatest invader, whether he be a Napoleon or a Hitler, met in this weather a

### P.E.I. Soldiers to be Heard in broadcast

OTTAWA, Dec. 18—(CP)—Names of men in Canada's armed forces overseas who will broadcast to Canada Sunday on the "Greetings from the Beaver Club" program, were issued today by National Defence headquarters.

The program will be heard over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from 12:30 to 1 p. m. A.S.T.

The names include: Prince Edward Island—L. Cpl. G. L. Bell, Stanley Bridge; Cnr. A. E. Gallant, Charlottetown; Cnr. W. Gray, Alberton.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18—(CP)—National Defence Headquarters tonight made public the names of 21 officers and men of the Canadian army overseas who will be heard Saturday on the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation from 12:15 to 12:30 p. m. A.S.T.

The names include: Prince Edward Island—Maj. F. B. Conrad, Charlottetown.

### War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

DEC. 19, 1916—British government took over control of mining and shipping and decided to institute national service and to call an Imperial conference; Neville Chamberlain appointed director-general of national service. Russian army retreated in Dobrudja.

### Coming Events

- Show—Murray River Monday, 1-563-12-17-31.
- St. Ann's School Concert Dec. 22nd, 1-647-12-19-11.
- Wanted to buy Chicken, Fowl, Island Cold Storage, 1-219-7-9-11.
- Cherry Valley School Concert in Hall, December 23rd, 1-659-12-19-11.
- FreeTown School Concert, Birch Grove Hall, Friday, December 19th, 1-611-12-18-21.
- Clyde River School Concert in Clyde River Hall, Saturday, December 20th, 1-572-12-18-21.
- Christmas concert, Central Royalty School, Monday, Dec. 22, 1-668.
- Reserve Monday, December 22nd for Appin Road Xmas Concert, 1-358-12-10-19.
- Christmas Concert, Emerald Hall, Monday, December twenty-second. Begins eight o'clock, 1-616-12-19-22.

(Continued on page 9, Col 1)

### BATAVIA, N. E. I., Dec. 18—(AP)—Netherlands and Australian troops tonight were in full occupation of Timor, moving into the Portuguese half of the mountainous island and thus forestalling Japanese seizure of a potential air base 450 miles from Darwin and at the tip of the Netherlands East Indies.

### Take over Timor To forestall Japs

The occupation was made over the "objection" of the Portuguese, who had only a small force on the island. It was announced in a communique from the Netherlands government:—

"In view of the Japanese submarine activity off Portuguese Timor, it has become an unavoidable necessity to take steps in order to safeguard this territory against Japanese aggression and to forestall its being used as a base from which attacks could be made on allied territory and communications."

"Accordingly a force of allied troops has been landed in Portuguese Timor," the communique said.

Shortly before the war, Portugal permitted the Japanese to establish a station on the Portuguese, or northern side, for an airline from the island of Palau in the Japanese mandated Carolines. Both Britain and the United States objected.

### U. S. reassures French Islands

FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, Dec. 18—(AP)—Admiral Georges Robert, High Commissioner of the French islands, announced today that United States Rear Admiral Horne (possibly Frederick J. Horne) had flown to Martinique "to deliver President Roosevelt's personal assurances that these islands need fear no attack or change of sovereignty."

In a communique, Admiral Robert said Horne arrived at 1 p. m. Wednesday from Puerto Rico in a United States navy plane and left at 9 a. m. today for Washington after having informed Robert that "the United States desires to maintain cordial relations with France during these difficult moments."

### Saint John plans Sand for fire bombs

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 18—(CP)—The City Council today decided to pass a by-law soon making it compulsory for all business establishments and householders to have sand on their premises for the purpose of extinguishing incendiary bombs in event of an air raid.

Plans have been made for the civic department of works to distribute the sand.

The Council will consider constructing a trestle bridge to aid any necessary evacuation of residents from the city. Use of various secondary roads also will be considered.

Representations will be made to obtain military protection for city services, as well as a fire-boat and pumps to protect harbor wharves and sheds.

### War Situation Last Night

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

Nazi armies falling back in Russia are perilously close to being blown up by their own blitzkrieg petard, designed to conquer the world.

The war machine they fashioned and used effectively to shatter many continental armies in quick succession is obviously back-firing in reverse. Russian progress reports, unchallenged from Berlin, indicate that what started as a vast German withdrawal to winter lines is rapidly turning into a rout in many sectors along a 1,200-mile retreat front.

That may be an overdrawn picture, traceable in part to Russian enthusiasm. It is still too early to judge accurately either the planned scope of the Nazi retreat or the real strategic motives of the German high command.

There can no longer be doubt, however, that the Germans in Russia now are swallowing much the same dose they meted out to France and a dozen other nations. They have lost the initiative, the attack role for which their ponderous and terrible battle machine was created.

In retreat it is nowhere near so deadly. The Russians are finding it vulnerable even to cavalry, the all but forgotten arm that was once the crown of every army.

Hitler has admitted that the Nazis originally miscalculated Russian preparedness for the struggle. His great retreat, following blatant claims to his people that Russia's power of prolonged resistance had been utterly shattered, now confesses an even graver misapprehension of Russian morale and staying powers.

And that retreat also discloses that blitzkrieg panzer warfare with its dive-bomber air auxiliary is fully effective only on the attack. On the retreat it loses its punch. The confusion and clogged transport lanes are now on the other side of the war ledger.

Often tanks, undamaged tanks, become a burden instead of an asset for retreating troops. Buried to provide pill-box defence posts, they have lost their greatest military asset, mobility. And on the retreat the must finally be abandoned or destroyed.

It is still inconceivable that well proven Nazi staff skill will not achieve a new stabilization of front in Russia. Hitler's case would be desperate indeed if it could not for his great "crusade" would then follow the pattern of Napoleon's sorry retreat from Moscow.

In any case, it is reasonably certain that surging Russian attacks all along the huge front are whittling down German chances of reverting soon to the offensive on any front.

This convincing evidence that Nazi military invincibility is a myth is plainly worrying Vichy and must already be dazing Rome and Tokyo. They can find little consolation in either Libya or the Pacific war theatre to solace them for what is happening to their Nazi master in Russia. Without a decisive German victory there, they are foredoomed.

## Bomber Crew Fights Fire And Water

### Forced down at sea by fire after raid over Berlin; Paddle 57 hours in Dinghy.

By Douglas Amaron  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—Heroism of the crew of a Wellington bomber set on fire in a raid over Berlin and finally forced down into the sea on the return flight was revealed in the story told by the men when they reached land after 57 hours in their dinghy.

The Wellington was one of the 37 planes lost from the waves of bombers which attacked the German capital and other Nazi cities Nov. 7.

An English pilot officer making his 26th bombing raid was captain of the Wellington and the rest of his crew were sergeants—a New Zealand second pilot, a Scottish observer, an English wireless operator and two English gunners.

Wellington Hit

On the way to Berlin the Wellington encountered broken clouds as it crossed the sea and this thickened into impenetrable masses as it got into Germany. About 30 miles from Berlin the anti-aircraft batteries opened up and the Wellington was hit.

The bomber was not affected, however, and flew on to the capital where the high explosive bombs were dropped. The target was ob-

### News Briefs

NEW YORK, Dec. 19—(Friday)—(AP)—The BBC said today that reports from Helsinki this morning say that "all German troops have been withdrawn from Finland in a great hurry." The broadcast was heard here by CBS.

### Saint John plans Sand for fire bombs

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 18—(CP)—The City Council today decided to pass a by-law soon making it compulsory for all business establishments and householders to have sand on their premises for the purpose of extinguishing incendiary bombs in event of an air raid.

Plans have been made for the civic department of works to distribute the sand.

The Council will consider constructing a trestle bridge to aid any necessary evacuation of residents from the city. Use of various secondary roads also will be considered.

Representations will be made to obtain military protection for city services, as well as a fire-boat and pumps to protect harbor wharves and sheds.

### War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

DEC. 19, 1916—British government took over control of mining and shipping and decided to institute national service and to call an Imperial conference; Neville Chamberlain appointed director-general of national service. Russian army retreated in Dobrudja.

**BLOSSOM**  
OF  
CANADA  
**FLOUR**  
EXCELS IN THE KITCHEN

### Libyan drive Draws tribute

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Allied offensive in Libya drew this tribute from a German military officer, heard on the axis-controlled radio and quoted tonight by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Never before have we experienced such fierce fighting. They come at us from all sides and apparently from nowhere with a suddenness that surprises us."

"Sometimes they launch as many as six or seven attacks in the same day."

### Reports rescue Of survivors From Dunedin

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18—(AP)—The rescue at sea of 72 survivors of the torpedoed British light cruiser Dunedin and a graphic story of hardship and heroism was disclosed here today by the chief engineer of the United States freighter Nish-maha.

The engineer Girard L. Bresson, whose ship docked today, said the survivors had been on seven rafts for four days and three nights when they were fished from mid-Atlantic Ocean near the equator Nov. 27.

The survivors, many of whom suffered from wounds inflicted by vicious dogfish, were put ashore at a British port, Bresson said.

(The Admiralty yesterday announced the sinking of the 4,850-ton ship, carrying a normal complement of 450 men, by a German submarine. It was not announced whether any of the crew had been rescued.)

All of the men, Bresson related, "were in extremely bad shape when we pulled them aboard."

"About half of them had suffered horrible bites from dogfish which flew out of the water and tore pieces of flesh from their bodies."

"One of the sailors had a large chunk taken from his chest and died five minutes later, his mates told us. All of them had a bad case of sun poisoning and were blistered. Their bodies were swollen."

"Only a few of them had had so

### German admits Soviets are good

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Social Demokraten acknowledged today the Soviet army is "just as good, and sometimes perhaps better," than Germany's hand-picked troops on the Russian front.

In an article quoted by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the writer said:—

"On no battlefield have the Germans crossed swords with such an active and aggressive enemy."

"The czar's soldiers were inferior to the Germans, but the Soviets are just as good, and sometimes perhaps better"

### U. S. reassures French Islands

FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, Dec. 18—(AP)—Admiral Georges Robert, High Commissioner of the French islands, announced today that United States Rear Admiral Horne (possibly Frederick J. Horne) had flown to Martinique "to deliver President Roosevelt's personal assurances that these islands need fear no attack or change of sovereignty."

In a communique, Admiral Robert said Horne arrived at 1 p. m. Wednesday from Puerto Rico in a United States navy plane and left at 9 a. m. today for Washington after having informed Robert that "the United States desires to maintain cordial relations with France during these difficult moments."

### Saint John plans Sand for fire bombs

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 18—(CP)—The City Council today decided to pass a by-law soon making it compulsory for all business establishments and householders to have sand on their premises for the purpose of extinguishing incendiary bombs in event of an air raid.

Plans have been made for the civic department of works to distribute the sand.

The Council will consider constructing a trestle bridge to aid any necessary evacuation of residents from the city. Use of various secondary roads also will be considered.

Representations will be made to obtain military protection for city services, as well as a fire-boat and pumps to protect harbor wharves and sheds.

### War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

DEC. 19, 1916—British government took over control of mining and shipping and decided to institute national service and to call an Imperial conference; Neville Chamberlain appointed director-general of national service. Russian army retreated in Dobrudja.

**BLOSSOM**  
OF  
CANADA  
**FLOUR**  
EXCELS IN THE KITCHEN

### Montague man is Air Graduate

BRANTFORD, Ont., Dec. 18—(CP)—A large group of Canadian and American members of the Royal Canadian Air Force graduated tonight from No. 5 Service Flying Training School here. The class receiving wings today also included one member of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, T. Merricks of Wellington, N.Z.

Canadian graduates included: Prince Edward Island: R. K. Clements, Montague.

Nova Scotia: G. C. McKay, Yarmouth; G. B. Robinson, Kentville.

### Scharnhorst, Gneisenau are Heavily bombed

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Royal Air Force today sent a heavy wave of bombers against the two German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the Air Ministry reported hits were believed to have been scored.

Heavy bomb bursts were seen on the drydocks at Brest, France, where the vessels are lying, the Ministry reported.

The attack was made under heavy fighter opposition and intense anti-aircraft fire. Five British bombers and one fighter were lost in the action. Eight enemy planes were downed.

The aircraft dropped bombs this morning at a place on the coast of East Anglia causing some damage and "a number" of casualties.

The British Broadcasting Corporation described the raid in its night news summary as "one of the biggest bomber and fighter attacks of the war."

One Spitfire pilot was quoted as saying on his return:—

"It was almost impossible to see anything but bursting shells, but the 'bomber boys' sailed into it as though they liked it."

"I saw the bombs drop and there were some pretty hefty explosions."

The BBC said a "terrific dogfight" raged over the harbor while the attack was in progress. Polish fighter pilots were credited with bagging four enemy planes and the other four were destroyed by British bombers.

Striking Halifax and Manchester bombers participated in the determined daylight attack. They were accompanied by a heavy escort of Royal Spitfires and Hurricanes.

The raid was the third on Brest in 48 hours.

Some German air activity was reported over England tonight in the north, northwest and North Midlands, but the BBC said no details were available yet.

### Libyan drive Draws tribute

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Allied offensive in Libya drew this tribute from a German military officer, heard on the axis-controlled radio and quoted tonight by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Never before have we experienced such fierce fighting. They come at us from all sides and apparently from nowhere with a suddenness that surprises us."

"Sometimes they launch as many as six or seven attacks in the same day."

### Reports rescue Of survivors From Dunedin

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18—(AP)—The rescue at sea of 72 survivors of the torpedoed British light cruiser Dunedin and a graphic story of hardship and heroism was disclosed here today by the chief engineer of the United States freighter Nish-maha.

The engineer Girard L. Bresson, whose ship docked today, said the survivors had been on seven rafts for four days and three nights when they were fished from mid-Atlantic Ocean near the equator Nov. 27.

The survivors, many of whom suffered from wounds inflicted by vicious dogfish, were put ashore at a British port, Bresson said.

(The Admiralty yesterday announced the sinking of the 4,850-ton ship, carrying a normal complement of 450 men, by a German submarine. It was not announced whether any of the crew had been rescued.)

All of the men, Bresson related, "were in extremely bad shape when we pulled them aboard."

"About half of them had suffered horrible bites from dogfish which flew out of the water and tore pieces of flesh from their bodies."

"One of the sailors had a large chunk taken from his chest and died five minutes later, his mates told us. All of them had a bad case of sun poisoning and were blistered. Their bodies were swollen."

"Only a few of them had had so

### German admits Soviets are good

LONDON, Dec. 18—(CP)—The Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Social Demokraten acknowledged today the Soviet army is "just as good, and sometimes perhaps better," than Germany's hand-picked troops on the Russian front.

In an article quoted by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the writer said:—

"On no battlefield have the Germans crossed swords with such an active and aggressive enemy."

"The czar's soldiers were inferior to the Germans, but the Soviets are just as good, and sometimes perhaps better"

### U. S. reassures French Islands

FORT DE FRANCE, Martinique, Dec. 18—(AP)—Admiral Georges Robert, High Commissioner of the French islands, announced today that United States Rear Admiral Horne (possibly Frederick J. Horne) had flown to Martinique "to deliver President Roosevelt's personal assurances that these islands need fear no attack or change of sovereignty."

In a communique, Admiral Robert said Horne arrived at 1 p. m. Wednesday from Puerto Rico in a United States navy plane and left at 9 a. m. today for Washington after having informed Robert that "the United States desires to maintain cordial relations with France during these difficult moments."

### Saint John plans Sand for fire bombs

SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 18—(CP)—The City Council today decided to pass a by-law soon making it compulsory for all business establishments and householders to have sand on their premises for the purpose of extinguishing incendiary bombs in event of an air raid.

Plans have been made for the civic department of works to distribute the sand.

The Council will consider constructing a trestle bridge to aid any necessary evacuation of residents from the city. Use of various secondary roads also will be considered.

Representations will be made to obtain military protection for city services, as well as a fire-boat and pumps to protect harbor wharves and sheds.

### War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

DEC. 19, 1916—British government took over control of mining and shipping and decided to institute national service and to call an Imperial conference; Neville Chamberlain appointed director-general of national service. Russian army retreated in Dobrudja.

**4 MORE SHOPPING DAYS**



### TORONTO, Dec. 18—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	2B	1
Victoria	42	