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DOMEI SAYS JAPAN CANNOT ACCEPT U. S. PLAN

BRITISH PREPARE TANK LEAP AT TOBRUK

Bombers pound Axis Troop Concentrations

Only sporadic ground fighting in Libya.

(By Eric Bigio, Associated Press Staff Writer)

CAIRO, Dec. 4—(CP)— British bombers hammered Axis troop concentrations inside Libya tonight as a prelude to another British tank leap toward Tobruk in an effort to split the German and Italian forces, front-line reports said.

Only sporadic ground fighting in which the British forces smashed three Italian tanks and attacked other small Axis units southeast of Tobruk were reported by the British command which told of another 24-hour lull in operations.

Rain hampered operations and both sides were assembling their waning tank strength for an imminent clash.

The main battle zone was south of Tobruk in the Rezegh area held by the Nazis. The British spearhead stretched southward from Rezegh to Bir El Gobi with mobile columns keeping the British supply line open to Sidi Omar near the frontier.

The Axis pocket fortifications of Salum-Halfaya near the Mediterranean coast still are intact, but British artillery and planes continued to blast at them to avert any danger to the British supply line to the south which is feeding the forces far in the interior.

(No estimate of the strength of either army was available tonight, but at the outset of the operations it was believed Britain had some 100,000 men and the Axis 80,000, exclusive of reserves.

(In Wellington, N. Z, Prime Minister Peter Fraser announced severe New Zealand casualties in the fighting.)

The Royal Air Force sprayed machine-gun bullets and bombs all along the Axis coastal roads and reported many direct hits on one motorized column south of Gambut.

Seven dead as Span collapses

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 4 — (AP)—Half of the water span of the new $1,900,000 Connecticut River bridge plunged 80 feet into the river today, bringing death to at least seven men.

Seventeen others were injured, a number gravely, and as night closed in divers from the new London submarine base sought by light of electric lamps for the bodies of at least six more amidst the 250 tons of submerged wreckage.

Disaster struck swiftly early in the afternoon just at the moment when engineering efforts seemed about to be crowned with success.

Hurled to his death was one of the few men who might have told the story of what occurred — W. James Ward, noted engineer and erection superintendent for the American Bridge Company. Ward supervised the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge at San Francisco.

Coming Events

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Rate for Notices in this column 3 cents per word

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

"Baptist Church Auxiliary afternoon tea and sale, Tuesday, December 9th. L-190-12-4-2i.

"Reserve Friday, December 19th for Nine Mile Creek School Concert. L-232-12-5-1i.

"Hunter River Christmas concert Tuesday, December 23rd. L-238-12-5-2i.

"Reserve December 22 for Winsloe South Christmas Concert. L-246.

"New Dominion School Concert, Afton Hall, Monday, December 22nd at 8 o'clock. L-230-12-5-1i.

"Come to Graham's Road School Concert Friday, December 19th. L-212-12-5-1i.

"Have orders for large quantities poultry live, and dressed. Swifts, Charlottetown and Montague. L-247-12-5-3i.

"Meeting of Charlottetown Ladies Auxiliary of Protestant Orphanage, Friday, 3 o'clock, Orphanage rooms. L-216-12-5-1i.

"Loading stock at East Baltic, Souris, Morell, St. Peters, Tuesday afternoon, December 9th instead of Monday. Livestock Marketing Board. L-196-12-5-2i.

Report Nazis Mass Troops Near Turkey

NEW YORK, Dec. 4—(AP)—Travellers who left Sofia recently reported today, according to European advices to the Associated Press, that Germany is taking military measures along the Bulgarian-Turkish frontier, including erection of highway signs in German pointing the way to Svilengrad, on Bulgaria's Turkish frontier.

What German troops were seen in Bulgaria apparently were headed in the direction of the Turkish frontier, the travellers reported. Svilengrad is the last station on the railway from Bulgaria before it enters Turkey.

Highway signs formerly showing directions to points in western Bulgaria or Yugoslav centres have been removed, it was said.

The general impression of the observers was that while possibly the Germans are anticipating American lease-lend aid to Turkey the comparatively minor German manoeuvring was intended to back up Germany in the diplomatic contest for Turkey's favor.

The Bulgarian army has concentrated its major forces in the Turkish sector since the days before Bulgaria joined the Axis. European observers have contended that if Bulgaria enters the Axis war it would be to fight Turkey, her traditional foe.

36 Nazi prisoners Killed by own bombs

By Edward Kennedy
Associated Press Staff Writer

WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE IN THE WESTERN DESERT, Dec 4—(AP)—Thirty-six German prisoners were killed and 60 wounded early today when German planes bombed freight cars carrying them to the Nile valley from the Libyan battlefront.

The attack was made in the darkness.

After the bombers had blasted at the train, apparently in a belief that it carried British troops, they shuttled back and machine-gunned the men. The only non-German casualty was one Italian.

A British night-fighter shot down one attacker and as it burned the other planes bombed it also, presumably thinking they had struck a gasoline dump.

News Briefs

MONTREAL, Dec. 4 — (CP) —Canada's largest war munitions plant in point of size, the 5,500 acre Bouchard ammunition plant 23 miles north of Montreal, will be officially opened Dec. 12, it was learned here today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 —(AP)— The United States navy reported today that the torpedo-damaged naval tanker Salinas, which made port without loss of life, counter-attacked and apparently damaged one of the submarines which launched a total of five torpedoes at the vessel in the North Atlantic Oct. 30.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 — (AP) —United States marine underwriters today drastically increased cargo war risk rates between the Americas and the east and far east and substantially reduced rates applying to shipments across the South Atlantic.

MANILA, Philippine Islands, Dec. 4—(AP)—A detachment of 46 United States mechanical and trucking experts, assigned to smash the bottlenecks in the Burma military supply road to China and to be protected from Japanese bombers in that vital task by American planes and pilots, have arrived here en route to their new posts.

New service Starts Monday

MONCTON, N. B., Dec. 4 —(CP) —Announcement was made here tonight that the Moncton-Saint John and Moncton-Charlotteown-Summerside services of Maritime Central Airways will start Monday with two daily flights between this city and the other points.

The service between Moncton and Prince Edward Island will be taken over from Trans-Canada Air Lines and also link Saint John, now lacking air service, with T.C.A.

Churchill wins House approval For more men

Parliament united behind Prime Minister despite some Labor opposition.

LONDON, Dec. 4—(CP)—Prime Minister Churchill today won House of Commons approval for the principles of a program to draft 3,000,000 more men and to conscript young women for the uniformed services and Britain's battalions of labor.

Approval came after a lengthy speech by Labor Minister Ernest Bevin who today assured dissident Labor members asking conscription of industry as well as manpower, that the government would draft anything and everything needed to maintain and increase the war effort.

For his speech putting the "win-the-war" policy ahead of the Labor platform, Mr. Bevin received an affectionate pat on the back from the Prime Minister.

However, 40 Labor and Liberal members, the largest opposition vote since Mr. Churchill assumed power in May, 1940, voted for an amendment favoring nationalization of private property as against 336 for the Churchill plan, which does not touch on conscription of wealth.

Indicative of Parliament's unity, once the amendment had been rejected, 30 of the dissidents gave their vote to the government on the manpower conscription. The vote was 326 to 10.

The motion voted on was proposed by Mr. Churchill. It asked that "for the purpose of securing the maximum effort in the conduct of the war and in production, the obligation for national service should be extended to include the resources of woman-power and manpower still available."

The actual bill to expand conscription limits for men from 18 1-2 to 50 and to permit obligatory uniformer service for young unmarried women was introduced. It is expected to be passed quickly.

Four big Convoys Reach port safely

LONDON, Dec. 5 —(Friday) — (CP Cable)— The Daily Mail, reporting today that four big convoys had reached Bri[illegible] ports without damage to a single ship, said convoy men were delighted by recent "silent victories" but did not think yet that the battle of the Atlantic had been won. The Mail cited no period of time covering the convoy arrivals but included among them the huge flotilla which brought Canadian troops and airmen to Britain, the arrival of which was announced Nov. 24.

Parachuted to Death in Atlantic

HALIFAX, Dec. 4 —(CP) — A Royal Air Force flier who vanished a week ago during a flight over the Maritimes was disclosed tonight to have parachuted to his death in the Atlantic within sight of a destroyer off the coast of Nova Scotia.

Its radio silenced by wartime regulations, the destroyer could not advise authorities of the fate of PO. E. T. Bradford of England until it reached land, some days after he died. Meanwhile, air force craft had been combing the province for his plane.

Report evacuation Of Hango is rout

HELSINKI, Dec. 4 —(AP) —The Finnish high command claimed tonight that the Russian evacuation of the Hango naval base has become a disastrous welter of exploding and surrendering naval transports, and newspapers viewed the episode as bringing closer "a victorious end" of Finnish-Russian hostilities.

A communique claimed the Russian attempt to move between 20,000 and 30,000 men from the Hango garrison to Leningrad by sea has turned into a debacle comparable to the Red evacuation of Tallinn last summer.

(Soviet sources said Tallinn was evacuated in orderly fashion.)

PALE BLUE EYES TOPS

SYDNEY, N. S. W. —(CP)—After a series of "cat's eye tests" it is declared by experts here that people with pale blue or almost albino eyes might be expected to drive best in blackouts.

War Situation Last Night

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

Striking at their foes all along the eastern front from Leningrad to Sevastopol, Russian armies are making a mockery of recent Nazi statements that the morale of the Red army has been shattered and its staff utterly disorganized.

The fight that Hitler and his spokesmen at home have been telling the German people was already won has back-fired in their faces. A German retreat from Rostov-on-Don, still unchecked, could go down in history as a repetition of Napoleon's tragic withdrawal from Moscow. It might be the turning point of the war.

Russian staff strategists out-guessed their Nazi rivals at a critical moment. They lured their foe deliberately into the Rostov trap, only to turn on him in a double or triple envelopment drive.

* * * *

Berlin tells of Russian counter attacks against the siege arc of Sevastopol in the Crimea. That implies that Nazi forces in the Crimea are being recalled to the mainland to meet the Mariupol threat. The Crimea railroad is in German hands and offers opportunity to rush re-inforcements northeastward.

The highroad westward from Mariupol crosses the Crimean railroad near Melitopol. It was along that highhway that the Germans broke through to Rostov in their daring eastward coastal drive, now in reverse.

Withdrawal of Nazi divisions from the southern face of the Moscow siege salient about Tula seems also in progress. It could account for reported Russian advances of 20 to 40 miles in that area. Those German forces are badly needed southward to deal with the Russian counter offensive in the Rostov-Mariupol area.

Should the offensive reach the Crimean railroad, the Russians might also turn the tables on their foe there, relieving the Crimean threat to the Caucasus.

* * * *

North of Moscow, however, there are indications that the Russians are striking in local attacks chiefly designed to prevent transfer of Nazi divisions to the Ukraine front. Yet there are two Nazi advance salients in the north even more dangerously exposed and slenderly based than was the Rostov spearhead that the Russians have now lopped off.

Both are aimed at cutting Moscow's communication with Archangel, port of entry for British and United States war supplies.

Fresh Reports Nazis Get French Bases

Mexico hears Trouble brewing In Rumania

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 4 — (AP)—The newspaper Excelsior will say tomorrow that according to a "positive source,' King Michael of Rumania has been at Florence, Italy, since late in November because of a serious situation in his own Nazi-dominated country.

Michael's father, former King Carol, who abdicated in September, 1940, has been living in a Mexico City suburb since last July.

Excelsior, which did not disclose the source of its information, will say that Michael was removed to Italy at the instance of the German Gestapo and that an anti-Nazi movement in Rumania would not come as any surprise.

In reply to questions, King Carol said he had not heard about reports that Michael was involved in such a plot or that he might be arrested by the Germans.

Senior Australian Officers captured

WELLINGTON, N. Z., Dec. 4— (CP Cable)—Prime Minister Peter Fraser today announced he had been advised by the Middle East command that two senior officers, Brigadiers Reginald Miles and James Hargest, have been captured by the enemy in the Libyan fighting.

Mr. Fraser said the New Zealand commander, Maj.-Gen. Bernard Freyberg, had reported severe New Zealand casualties.

Both captured officers are among New Zealand's best soldiers and have been prominent in their division's previous engagements in the Middle East. Brig. Hargest in private life is a leading member of the National Party in the New Zealand House of Representatives while Brig. Miles, a member of the permanent forces, went overseas in 1939 as commander of divisional artillery headquarters.

French Fleet to keep out of trouble.

LONDON, Dec. 4—(CP Cable)— A Reuters dispatch from "somewhere in Europe" said tonight it was learned in well-informed quarters that Germany is to receive all naval and air bases she requires in French North Africa.

Sole stipulation made by Vichy, the reports said, is that the Nazis occupy them without assistance from the French fleet.

This was said to have been the principle point of agreement reached during the interview earlier this week by Petain and Goering.

In return Vichy is to get back a certain number of war prisoners and to have the German occupation costs reduced.

U. S. Republican Suggests Canada Cede territory

Would include P.E.I. in slice for Uncle Sam.

By J. F. Sanderson
Canadian Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON. Dec. 4 —(CP) — Walter C. Ploeser, Republican member from Missouri, introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives today calling upon Canada to cede to the United States all its territory south of the St. Lawrence River—the eastern townships of Quebec, the Gaspe peninsula, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

In return for this territory concession by Canada, the 34-year-old Congressman would be willing to agree to the development of the power and navigation facilities of the St. Lawrence River.

(Suggestions that Canada should be asked to cede territory to the United States crop up in Congress from time to time. They receive scant attention.)

Admitting frankly he had no expectation of seeing his resolution passed, Ploeser said he introduced it as a gesture of opposition to the St. Lawrence development which he has opposed in its various congressional stages.

Join the Host of Home Bakers who — Use BLOSSOM OF CANADA FLOUR Exclusively

Pattullo Resigns

HON. T. D. PATTULLO

VICTORIA, Dec. 4 —(CP) —Hon. T. D. Pattullo today told the British Columbia legislature that he is resigning as premier next Tuesday and that he has recommended to Lieut.-Governor W. C. Woodward that John Hart, former finance minister and newly-elected Liberal leader, be called upon to form a new administration.

His statement to the opening session of the 20th legislature ended speculation concerning his next step in his fight against coalition, which he has opposed consistently since the Oct. 21 provincial election in which Liberal representation in the legislature was cut from 31 to 21, opposed by 14 C. C. F., 12 Conservatives and one Labor member.

Mr. Hart and his followers have a mandate from the British Columbia Liberal association to seek formation of a coalition government to offset the Liberal's lack of a majority in the house.

At conclusion of his statement Mr. Pattullo moved adjournment of the legislature until next Jan. 8.

When the house reassembles it will be the first time in 25 years Mr. Pattullo has sat in it as a private member. He was a cabinet minister from 1916 to 1928, leader of the opposition from 1928 to 1933, and premier since the latter date. Mr. Hart was elected to succeed him as leader of the Liberal party at a convention in Vancouver Tuesday.

Steamer with Potato cargo In collision

Kirsten B. loaded 50,000 bushels potatoes at Summerside.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Dec 4 —(CP)—The 1,080-ton Norwegian freighter Kirsten B., bound for Norfolk, Va., from Summerside, P. E.I., with 50,000 bushels of potatoes, was damaged amidships when she ran aground in Hampton Roads after a collision in heavy fog, it was determined today.

Capt. J.T.Tonnessen, master of the freighter, reported the ship was anchored at quarantine shortly before the collision Tuesday night with the tanker Kewance of the Petroleum Navigation Company.

The Kirsten B. first reported she had been struck by an object she could not identify and was "leaking badly." Tugs were asked for. In a subsequent message she advised she had been run aground.

(The cargo was loaded by the MacFarlane Produce Company of Summerside. It was understood to be principally seed consigned to dealers in the Southern States.

(Mr. F.H. MacFarlane was notified of the damage to the ship but his information did not indicate the amount of damage to the cargo.

(The steamer sailed from Summerside November 26. The cargo was valued at more than $35,000 at Summerside.)

New B. C. Leader Plans war Gov't

VICTORIA, Dec. 4 —(CP)—John Hart, designated by Hon. T. D. Pattullo to succeed him as Premier, told the British Columbia legislature today it was his "intention to invite leaders of both parties" in the legislature to "join a war government."

FIVE NEVER RETURN

GOTHENBURG —(CP)— Thanks to permits from warring nations 18 ships have entered this neutral Swedish port from overseas in 1941 as compared with one in 1940. This year 20 ships left this port but five have been lost.

Expect Major Break In Far Eastern Crisis

Report Japanese Diplomatic Staff in Mexico makes hurried preparations to return home.

TOKYO, Dec. 5—(Friday)—(AP)—The Japanese news agency Domei said today that "Japan cannot accept" the stipulation of the document which the United States Government handed to the Japanese Ambassador Nov. 26 in the course of negotiations aimed at maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Because of Domei's close connections with the Government, Americans considered the Domei statement to be an accurate forecast of the eventual Japanese reply to the United States questions.

(By Richard L. Turner, Associated Press Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4— (AP)— Foreboding statements at Tokyo and significant developments here tonight indicated an imminent major break in the Far-Eastern crisis—one upon which may hang the question of peace or war.

An official of the Japanese Embassy announced that its diplomats would carry to the State Department tomorrow Tokyo's answer to President Roosevelt's pointed demand for an explanation of large-scale Japanese troop movements which seemed to threaten an invasion of Thailand.

Perhaps, the same official said, they will take with them the long awaited reply to the memorandum in which Secretary of State Cordell Hull re-stated last week the United States' unalterable opposition to Japanese aggression.

Meanwhile, Domei, Japanese news agency, circulated a dispatch saying the Hull declaration of principles cannot stand as a basis for continued negotiations looking toward maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

An Accurate Forecast

It merely quoted "observers" as its authority for this assertion. However, its close ties with the Tokyo Government are well known and the dispatch was widely regarded as an accurate forecast of what Japan would say in answer to Hull.

Domei's dispatch was preceded, moreover, by a series of pessimistic statements from Government leaders and Japanese newspapers. The latter were said to have expressed "shocked surprise and ex-

(Continued on page 7, Col 7)

Nazis abandon Food plunder

LONDON, Dec. 4 —(CP) —Field Marshal Ewald Von Kleist's retreating German forces in their headlong flight from Rostov "left behind all the food they had plundered" and the city is being provisioned principally from these stocks, Moscow radio said tonight in a broadcast quoted by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The Moscow announcer added that municipal organization's rapidly being restored in the city.

Nazis rush men From Crimea to Halt retreat

Russians report stiffening German resistance in Rostov-Mariupol front.

By Noland Norgaard
Associated Press Staff Writer

LONDON, Dec. 4 —(AP) —Stiffened German resistance on the Rostov-Mariupol front, where the retreating main Nazi armies are understood to be calling up reinforcements urgently from Crimea in an effort to break the most powerful Russian counter-offensive of the war, was reported tonight in Soviet advices.

This was accompanied by indications that German pressure on Sevastopol, the great Black Sea naval base in the Crimea and far the

(Continued on page 7, Col 4)

To permit slight Boost in coal And coke prices

OTTAWA, Dec. 4—(CP)—The Wartime Prices and Trade Board tonight announced it will approve "seasonal increases in coal and coke retailed to the consumer" up to a maximum of 50 cents a ton net on domestic sizes.

"All applications for such increases must be submitted to the coal administrator (J. McG. Stewart) for his approval," the board statement said.

"The effective period for said increases is from Dec. 1, 1941, to April 30, 1942. All such increases must be cancelled on May 1, 1942."

NORWAY'S VITAL ROLE

WASHINGTON —(CP)— Norway's Minister Morgenstierne declares his free countrymen have a vital role in the war with 25,000 merchant sailors and four million tons of shipping afloat and many airmen and soldiers training in Canada and Scotland.

(Canadian Press)

TORONTO, Dec. 4—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

	48B	40B
Dawson	33	49
Victoria	0	14
Edmonton	18	34
Regina	20	36
Winnipeg	44	50
Toronto	37	47
Ottawa	39	46
Montreal	38	59

Synopsis: The weather has been partly cloudy and unusually mild over Ontario with light rain and snow in extreme northwest portion. It has been generally fair and somewhat colder over the Prairie Provinces with light snow in northern Alberta.

BOSTON, Dec. 4—(AP)—Forecast for Northern New England: Increasing cloudiness Friday followed by occasional light rains Friday night; Saturday mostly cloudy, occasional light rains east portion; continued unseasonably warm.

High tide this afternoon at 12.19 and tonight at 11.29.

Sun sets this afternoon at 4.29 and rises tomorrow morning at 7.23.

Last quarter moon Dec. 11, 2.46 a.m.

Summerside tide 18 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 10.00 A. M. and 1.30 P. M.
Leave Caribou 8.15 A.M. 11.45 noon and 3.15 P. M.