

THE WESTERN GUARDIAN

AGENTS: Mrs. John Pond, 31 Church Street—Phone 289
SUMMERSIDE and PRINCE COUNTY

News, Subscriptions, Advertising should be left with Mrs. Pond.

The Guardian may be bought daily at any of the following stores in Summerside:

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This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a purely nature may be inserted as a word, strictly payable in advance.

—BISMA-REX for stomach upsets at Taylor Drug Co., Kensington.

—R. N. O'BRYAN of Holt-Remond and Co., Montreal is buying daily at office of Charles Rogers, Summerside.

L-640-12-18-11.

—CHILDREN ENTERTAINMENT.—Many mothers were welcomed to Grade II class-room.

—KENSINGTON BOYS HAVE NARROW ESCAPE.—Mr. Eric Jardine, student of Mount Allison University is receiving a warm welcome in his home town of Kensington after his narrow escape in the recent university fire.

—MR. LORNE MCKAY will conduct the services in the Kensington and Freeborn Presbyterian Church Sunday, December 28th, 1941.

—SWEEDISH AXES, Ash axe handles, Pulwood Saws, obtainable at Brace's.

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HOLMANS

German tanker Sunk after 30-hour chase

LONDON, Dec. 25 (CP)—The story of a 30-hour pursuit of a German tanker, possibly a submarine tender, with its eventual sinking off Spain under attack by a variety of types of British aircraft, was told in an air ministry statement today.

The sinking of the ship off Spain's north coast yesterday was first announced early today.

German dispatches, identifying the tanker as the steamship *Esmeralda*, claimed she was sunk in Spanish territorial waters off Vivero, north-western Spain, and contended the incident "caused great indignation in Spanish naval quarters as well as among the general public," adding it involved a violation of Spanish neutrality.

"The tanker was first sighted off the Atlantic at breakfast time on Tuesday by a Sunderland from a Royal Australian Air Force squadron," said the air ministry. "The Sunderland attacked with bombs. One member of the Sunderland's crew reported that as the flying boat went into the attack he noticed a suspicious swirl in the water which might have been caused by a U-boat submerging after retreating from the tanker."

The pursuit was continued by other long-range aircraft of the coastal command, including Catalina. One Catalina encountered a Heinkel seaplane which apparently had been sent to escort the tanker, but fought off its attack.

"Early Wednesday morning a Whitley picked up the tanker again. It was steaming at reduced speed. The Whitley attacked. As the explosions subsided the tanker was seen to be slowing up still further, and a trail of oil which had marked its course throughout the night suddenly was extended."

"The tanker was in considerable difficulties. The chase then was taken up by a Beaufort from a squadron which has frequently taken a toll of enemy shipping during recent weeks. The pilot found the tanker in the afternoon and hit it with his torpedo."

HEFTY ENOUGH

The average grizzly bear weighs about 800 pounds.

steadfastness, the endurance and the heroism of this epic battle for Hong Kong will be a sombre but glorious page in the record of the Canadian army.

Kensington and Vicinity

Mrs. Urban Pineau of Kensington was a visitor to Charlottetown on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Heath Bowness were visitors to Summerside on Thursday.

Mr. George Brown is visiting in Charlottetown the guest of his daughter Mrs. Harold Stewart.

The Misses Jean Macdonald and Phelicia Clark were recent visitors to Summerside.

Mrs. Ernest Carr of Long River was a visitor to Kensington on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Painter of Long River were visitors to Summerside on Wednesday.

Among the visitors to Summerside on Thursday evening were Miss Grace MacPhee, Mrs. James MacDougall and Mr. Gerald MacKenzie.

The United Church Y. P. U. met in their room on Wednesday evening. With the president Glendon Cotton, presiding the meeting opened with the reading and adoption of last meeting's minutes. The roll was called followed with the usual business session. The Devotional period with the Rev. A. D. Stillinger in charge was opened with the scripture lesson Luke 2, 1-6. This was followed with the singing of several Christmas hymns "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem; It Came Upon A Midnight Clear; Silent Night, Holy Night and Away In A Manger. This meeting was closed with the Y. People's Benediction. Next meeting to be held on December 31.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Connell and Mrs. McNeill of Kensington left recently for the United States where they will spend some time visiting relatives and friends.

Mr. Henry Connell of Wellington will spend some time in Kensington.

Mr. Glenwood Adams of Darnley was a visitor to Kensington on Friday, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Walker.

Mr. and Mrs. John Clark of Darnley were visitors to Summerside on Thursday.

Among the visitors to Summerside on Friday were: Miss Edna MacMurdo, Mrs. C. C. Heesbeen and Miss Joyce Heeschap.

The Home and School Association held their monthly meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday evening. With the president, Mrs. James Pendergast presiding, the meeting opened with the reading of the minutes. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary, Mr. Theo Ling and approved as read. The treasurer, Mrs. Wilton MacMurdo gave her report and the usual business period carried out. It was decided to give the school children a special treat of apples this Christmas and as in the past this Association is planning on remembering several families with Christmas articles. The meeting then adjourned.

Her many friends are pleased to learn that Miss George Priffitt is able to get around again after her recent illness.

Miss Wilma Delaney, student of the Commercial Business College, arrived home on Friday to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Delaney.

The Kensington Brownie Pack held their weekly meeting in the Town Hall on Friday afternoon with Brown Owl Wanda Mann and Tawny Owl Geraldine MacLean in charge. The fair ring opened the meeting after which several games were played. Then the Brownies gathered around a nicely decorated tree and an exchange of Christmas gifts took place. This meeting was closed with the Brownie Goodnight song.

Miss Millie Cousins and Miss Ruth Montgomery of Park Corner were visitors to Kensington and Summerside on Friday.

Pte. Edward Gallant of the P.E.I. Highlanders is enjoying a pleasant leave with his family here.

Lieut. Arnold and Mrs. Taylor are visiting in Kensington the guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Taylor.

Miss Phyllis Woodslee, P.W.O. student is spending the Christmas holidays at her home in Margate.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamb of Emerald were in Kensington on Friday evening the guest of the latter's mother, Mrs. Henry Mallett.

Miss Amy Johnstone, Charlottetown, is spending the holidays at her home in Margate.

Among the visitors to Summerside on Saturday were: Miss Thelma Gill and Miss Helen Hamilton, Mrs. Hartie Sims, Mrs. Roy Reeves, Mrs. Frank MacDougall, Mrs. Gerald MacLean, Mrs. William Macneese, Her message, Norman MacBowness, Lloyd, Howard and Kils-worth Mann.

Miss Lois Whitehead, student of the U.C.C. Charlottetown is visiting in Kensington the guest of her sister Mrs. Lloyd Bowness and Mr. Bowness.

Miss Verna Bowness is spending the holidays at her home in Norboro.

Mr. Ralph Smers of Summerside spent the week end in Kensington.

Capt. R.D. MacNeill of the staff Keep Minard's in the home

of the military hospital at Mulgrave is spending his Christmas leave at his home in Kensington.

Mr. Arthur Johnstone, P.W.O. student is spending the holidays at his home in Long River.

Pte. Emmett Connick, stationed at Beach Grove Inn, spent the week end in Kensington.

Mrs. Margery Baker of Charlottetown is spending the Christmas holidays in Margate the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Baker.

Congress to Hear Churchill Speak today

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (CP)—Prime Minister Churchill speaks tomorrow before a joint session of the United States Congress in an address that is expected to include some survey of the general war picture.

It is not known tonight whether President Roosevelt would attend, but members of the United States Supreme Court and high officials of the government are expected to be present at the informal session. Plans were being made to broadcast the speech throughout the world.

At three major United States broadcasting companies will carry the speech at 1:30 p.m. A.S.T. and in addition the address will be short-waved abroad, it was announced tonight.

Networks of the National Broadcasting Company, the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Mutual Broadcasting System will air the speech domestically and NBC and CBS both will send it out via shortwave.

The only other British Prime Minister to address Congress was Ramsay MacDonald during his visit to the United States in 1929. In his address he urged that Great Britain and the United States support the Briand-Kellogg anti-war pact.

The House and Senate will meet at noon tomorrow, and after recessing will assemble in the Senate to hear Mr. Churchill.

War's sombre Shadow affects Christmas day

A world at war celebrated Christmas Thursday as best it could. There was hardly a country on earth whose celebrations were devoid of a sombre background.

To Canadians and Britons the day was darkened by news that the valiant defence of Hong Kong was held out for a fortnight before the city was forced to surrender for lack of water. The rate of some 2,000 Canadians, many from Manitoba and Quebec, was sealed by the surrender. How many were dead or wounded was not immediately known.

The British Commonwealth and Empire celebrated their third Christmas under war conditions, but for Christian Chinese it was the fifth wartime Christmas.

Somewhere in England the King made his third wartime Christmas broadcast, telling his people throughout the world that their spirit of sacrifice for one another would bring them victory and exhorting the young to train themselves for the tasks of post-war peace.

In Britain, Canada and the United States rail facilities were taxed to handle the vast numbers of travellers visiting friends and relatives for the festive season. Armed forces in Britain, including 1,000 Canadians had little time for celebration as they stood grimly at their posts, ready to meet any Axis invasion attempt. Even Prime Minister Churchill's three daughters in the auxiliary services had to remain away from home.

In Canada civilians busied themselves entertaining members of the forces, opening thousands of homes for Christmas dinner for the men.

In Washington Prime Minister Churchill and his host, President Roosevelt, interrupted their war strategy talks to attend devotional services and heard the pastor express hope that the world would be returned to the love of God so that Christmas in the future would not be wrapped in flames and hatred.

In the western desert Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, commanding the great imperial force which is sweeping the Axis armies before it, told his men the important thing was to beat the enemy so that people one more could truthfully wish one another a merry Christmas and a happy new year. "So," said Sir Claude, "let's get on with it."

Church bells chimed in Manila but their notes were overcast by the drone of Japanese aircraft.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands broadcast to her people whose home and is occupied by the Germans but whose colonies in the East Indies are fighting the Japanese. Her message praised them for their struggle against "the evil powers which would like to poison them with their rotteness and vices and would like nothing better than to rob them of their pure, clean consciences."

The spirit of blessed peace pervaded Jerusalem, shrine for Christians, although truckloads of war materials jounced along roads once trod by Jesus and his disciples. Part of the land of milk and honey was on rations and lighted temples were banned by the blackout.

In Bethlehem military sentries guarded the Church of the Nativity.

Free French Resistance Is

lating to the Germans.

U. S. Statement

The state department issued the following statement: "Our preliminary reports show that the action taken by three so-called Free French ships at St. Pierre and Miquelon was an arbitrary action contrary to the agreement of all parties concerned, and certainly without the prior knowledge or consent in any sense of the United States government."

"This government has inquired of the Canadian government as to the steps the government is prepared to take to restore the status quo of these islands."

State department officials declined to amplify this announcement or to explain the character of the agreement violated.

Last Monday, however, Secretary Hull revealed the agreement with French authorities of Martinique for collaboration in maintaining the status quo of French islands in the western Atlantic.

This agreement was the result of conversations at Martinique between Rear Admiral Frederick J. Horne, U.S.N., and Admiral Georges Robert, French high commissioner there under whose jurisdiction not only Martinique but St. Pierre and Miquelon are governed.

In Vichy circles the accord was described as a "gentlemen's agreement" securing these possessions against any infringement of their sovereignty.

American Attitude

The attitude consistently maintained by the United States government has been that it has no desire to infringe on the sovereignty of French possessions in the western hemisphere but cannot permit them to fall into Axis hands.

The Horn-Robert conversations were understood to have clarified this situation and laid the groundwork for improved relations with Vichy. Now, however, seizure of St. Pierre and Miquelon by Free French forces opposed to Marshal Petain is a new element into the complicated picture.

A Vichy spokesman pointed out that the seizure of the islands came only a few days after widespread circulation of rumors that Petain had resigned and that his successor was about to turn the French fleet over to Germany. These rumors coincided, he said, with new attacks on Petain in the German-controlled press of occupied France.

The Horn-Robert conversations following Petain's declaration of neutrality in the war between the United States and the Axis.

In such a delicate situation, he contended, with Petain obviously working to maintain French neutrality, sudden seizure of French territory in the western Atlantic was a diplomatic blunder of the first magnitude, "worse than Dakar."

Free French headquarters in London announced that Free French naval forces under Vice Admiral Muselier took possession of the islands in accordance with a plebiscite would be taken on Christmas Day.

A few hours previous to this announcement Canadian consul to the islands, notified External Affairs here that Free French forces had taken over possession.

"We were taken entirely by surprise," said a spokesman for External Affairs. "Although Admiral Muselier was in Ottawa recently we were never told that the Free French planned taking such action." Mr. Ebert's adviser said that the islands were without incident.

Since the fall of France these two French possessions had been administered by an administrator from Vichy.

Canada kept in touch with the islands through Mr. Ebert and has facilitated providing export permits to enable the population here to obtain supplies from the Dominion as the latter themselves provide little except the fish catch from the French fishermen. These islands provided headquarters for the French cod-fishing fleets operating off the Newfoundland banks.

Despatches from Washington said State Department officials took the view the seizure of the islands was an arbitrary action contrary to the agreement of all parties concerned and had inquired of the Canadian government as to the steps that government is prepared to take to restore the status quo of these islands."

From time to time uneasiness has been expressed that supplies going to St. Pierre were being found their way to German submarines but official circles here expressed the opinion that there was no such leakage.

When the question was raised in the Commons the government assured the members a careful watch was being kept over these islands.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, who heads the External Affairs Department is understood to have been consulted by his officials before he left at 5 p.m. by train for Washington.

Revealing that communications had been passing between the Ottawa and Washington governments over the matter during the afternoon, External Affairs officials said it was too soon to forecast what steps would be taken.

BRITISH TROOPS

(Continued from page 1)

Bengal, first captured Feb. 7, 1941 by the British troops but lost two months later to an Axis counter-drive, was a wreck when the first Royal Dragons entered it yesterday.

(A military commentator in London said it appeared that Bengal had been vacated by the Italians and fell without opposition since a single regiment apparently entered alone. He said the devastation might have been caused by the Italians blowing up buildings before leaving or possibly from repeated R. A. F. raids on the town.)

Occupation of the harbor brought the British advance 300 miles by road from the Egyptian frontier and 250 miles from Tobruk.

Through rain and mud British mobile units by-passed the town to press after the main Axis forces.

(Observers in London said the retreating Germans appeared to have been separated into a number of relatively small contingents with the whole of the Italian force seemed to have been cut off from all possible retreat.

(Some of the Germans, it was conceded by commentators, possibly got past the main British force which raced across the desert to intercept them before they could swing westward from Agedabia toward Tripolitania.)

"The British communiqué said 'small bodies of enemy troops, believed almost entirely Italian, still remain in the area northeast of Bengasi and are being dealt with by the British and the South African Air Force pounded at airdromes and motorized convoys racing to the rear of the main front line. The ever former Axis airdromes they found the wrecks of planes caught by the R. A. F. before they could leave the ground. Troop carriers and gasoline trucks were also special targets for the airdrome."

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The Japanese Imperial headquarters at Tokyo reported that the Hong Kong garrison surrendered at 5:50 p.m. Tokyo time (4:50 a.m. A. S. T.) and said Japanese troops were ordered to cease firing at 1:30 p.m. (6:30 a.m. A. S. T.).

A Tokyo broadcast said Sir Mark Young later conferred with Japanese army officials at Kowloon on terms. The nature of these were not disclosed.

The mainland frontiers of the Crown colony of Hong Kong were attacked by the Japanese on Dec. 7 when the armed forces of the Japanese Empire struck simultaneously at the United States and the British Empire.

For only the few first days of the fight were hopes harbored that the colony's defenses could hold out indefinitely without support.

Prince of Wales and the battle cruiser Repulse off Malaya, which British her heaviest naval units known to be in Far East waters, prevented any naval stroke to save the colony.

The Chinese armies of Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek attempted to sort out Panos, striking at the rear of the Japanese lines and forcing diversion of some troops, but a Chinese spokesman said these attacks were not in the nature of a counter-offensive and probably could not save the colony.

In the first week of fighting the defenders were forced to withdraw under a narrow water barrier under tank attack, from their foothold on the mainland. The Japanese claimed the capture of Kowloon, big mainland territory, from Hong Kong Island, Dec. 14.

At once the fight for the island began, with Japanese landing made across the narrow water barrier under cover of heavy bombardment. London newspapers summed up the situation at once as critical and prepared the colony Britain had held for a century had been lost.

They said the island's strongest defences and biggest guns were expected to be of little use and had not been intended to withstand heavy assault from the mainland.

British, Canadian and Indian defence troops—these numbers estimated by the Japanese at more than 20,000—were pushed back slowly to strongholds on heights rising 1,700 feet.

Praised Defenders

Japanese broadcasts praised the stubbornness of the prisoners of defence, and the air who twice rejected ultimatums to surrender, claimed a heavy toll of the attacking forces.

Crippled communications made their contact with the outside world slow and interrupted. The last word from them came in communications dated Tuesday and Wednesday.

The first and undiminished fury with the enemy attacking continuously and making a slight penetration into the Mount Cammeron area made no further important advances and that the lines at Mount Cammeron were being maintained.

Britain took control of Hong Kong Island in the opium war of 1839-42 and the mainland district was ceded later by China.

Hong Kong Island had a normal population of 200,000 persons—approximately 20,000 of them European and American residents.

"near misses" against other vessels.

Simultaneously, the N. E. I. news agency Aneta reported that a Netherlands submarine torpedoed and sank a Japanese destroyer of the 2,100-ton Amagiri class. The news agency said the sinking occurred in Indian waters, which might include the general Sarawak zone.

British Far East headquarters said allied forces had already sunk three large enemy transports, as well as a tanker, and that sea and air units were continuing to attack Japanese warships and troop transports off the mountainous, jungle-covered Sarawak coast.

Latest official reports from the 300 miles north of Singapore indicated that the Japanese drive southward down the Malayan peninsula had been stemmed, with British troops now standing fast in the steaming "green hell" jungle fastness.

"The situation remains unchanged," Far East headquarters said.

"There has been some dive-bombing activity by enemy planes. The bombing was very heavy, causing little damage and few casualties."

KEY TO SALVAGE

LONDON (CP)—