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OF A  
MERE MAN

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# NAZIS LAUNCH COUNTER-ATTACK IN EAST

## Major Catastrophe Averted In Montreal Hospital Fire

### Believe Invasion Plans Are Far Advanced Now

By ROSE MUNRO  
C.P. War Correspondent

LONDON, Nov. 17—(CP Cable) Decisions of immense importance are believed to have been made recently by top leaders on the final plan for invasion of northwest Europe and preparations have undoubtedly been pushed forward for a massive assault that will dwarf every other allied military effort so far.

The day and hour of the grand offensive against Germany will probably be decided soon along with Germany's immediate future in defeat.

The allocation and organization of forces selected for the assault goes forward. The forces are assembling and training in Britain and elsewhere. Hundreds of families have been evacuated from southern England and in that part of the country invasion armies are hard at work.

Gen. Jacob L. Devers, United States Army Commander in Chief for the European theatre, referred in a speech Monday to a "master plan" that will set in motion what may be the greatest military undertaking of all time.

The recent conference at Moscow of British, American and Russian foreign ministers appears to have had a vital bearing on the intentions of the Allies and there are well-founded rumors here that the long-awaited conference of Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin may be held shortly before the end of the year.

The big three would put the finishing touches to the master plan for 1944 and their military staffs would link the detailed plans together. Close military planning is imperative to ensure the success of the invasion of the continent.

United Nations leaders are believed to be so confident of success that they want an agreement in advance on how Germany and Italy are to be governed until they are capable of governing themselves.

DEBERT CAMP, N.S., Nov. 17—(CP) Police holding Lt. Allison Gallant on the R.C.A.F. in connection with an alleged assault said today they had received a circular from Ottawa saying he is absent without leave.

Gallant was being detained here by a sergeant from Debert Military Camp, where he was to face a service hearing on a charge of being away another soldier.

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### Fire Confined To One Section Of Institution

MONTREAL, Nov. 17—(CP)—Fire, which at first threatened a major catastrophe, struck the Hotel Dieu hospital here tonight, but was brought under control within an hour after 45 patients had been evacuated to other parts of the 500-bed institution. The blaze was confined to the administrative wing.

Quick action on the part of the hospital staff and the Montreal Fire Brigade resulted in early control of the flames which originated in the cellar of the old four-story gray-stone building but not before X-ray equipment and operating theatre and administrative files had been destroyed.

Dr. Oscar Mercier, head of the medical staff, estimated damage at about \$400,000 and said the gutted portion of the hospital would be entirely rebuilt.

City firemen, responding to three alarms—the usual precaution for a hospital blaze—speedily strung ladders to the windows of the old structure, pouring tons of water on the burning building. Early reports of firemen evacuating patients through windows were later denied by the hospital staff.

Dr. Mercier said the gutted wing contained semi-private rooms occupied by both surgical and medical cases. He said some of the patients had been operated on today but all were none the worse for their fire experience.

Restless among the hundreds of other patients in the institution were the nurses and hospital interns and nurses went through the wards stressing there was no danger of fire spreading to the other wings.

### War Situation Last Night

By Kirke L. Simpson, Associated Press War Analyst

Collapsing of the British effort to pry open the Aegean route to the Balkans is indicated in the Nazis' capture of Leros Island in the Dodecanese group. Its fall leaves British forces on the Greek Island of Samos, 50 miles farther north up the Turkish coast, cut off and in peril of the fate that has overtaken the garrisons on Leros and on Kos and Castellorizo Islands, previously taken by German forces.

The first real setback in a year of unbroken Allied victories which began at El Alamein in Egypt probably will have repercussions in London. It could conceivably lead to a shake-up of the British command and Cairo covering the eastern Mediterranean-Aegean-Balkan theatre of operations.

Thousands of British troops and co-operating Italian and Greek forces were concerned in the Aegean operations. A parliamentary inquiry may determine why they were exposed without prompt and adequate follow-up operations to consolidate their initial gains.

Nothing of the military consequences may be minor, the blow to Allied prestige in Turkey and the Balkans is too obvious to be ignored. Explanations are in order and certainly will be demanded in London.

The first British landings on lesser islands of the Aegean, bypassing the Nazis' strongholds on Crete and Rhodes, came last September. They were widely construed at the time as a start of an Allied effort to re-take the larger islands, or to open up a communications sea line along the Turkish coast for a more bold thrust at the Balkan flank of the Nazi European fortress.

Spokesmen for the Cairo command insisted that major strategic objectives were concerned in the Aegean operations, not mere diversionary attempts. Reports from Cairo at that time also pictured British armies in Egypt and Libya, as well as those east of the Suez Canal, as ready to roll. It was said they were set to surge across the eastern Mediterranean to meet the Anglo-American-French advances in the western sector that knocked Italy out of the war and prepared the Corsican-Sardinia bridgeheads for an invasion of southern France.

Nothing of the kind has happened, however, and the precarious Allied-Sardinia footholds in the Aegean now have been lost with the exception of the isolated island of Samos. The implication is that Nazi ability and determination to fight for continued control of the Aegean was underestimated somewhere, or that a rather heavy price in British casualties has been paid for such minor diversionary effects as the Aegean operations might have had on the main southern front in Italy.



Well Known Local Printer Passes

Mr. Edwin Williams, 57, a well known Charlottetown printer, died early yesterday morning at the home of a son, Ivan Williams, Malpas Road. He became ill ten days ago when he was seized with a heart attack while on his way home from church. He had been confined to his bed since.

Mr. Williams was a native of Charlottetown a son of Mrs. Annie Williams, who resides now at Montreal and the late Alfred Williams. He was a printer all his life working first with the Examiner newspaper in Charlottetown and then for 20 years with the Charlottetown Guardian. For the past year he was an employee of the Irving Printing Company.

In addition to his mother, Mr. Williams is survived by three sons and three daughters. The sons are Ivan Williams and Jack Williams in Charlottetown and Staff Sgt. Victor Williams at Mulgrave Military Hospital. The daughters are Mrs. J.P. Cameron at Stellarton, N.S., Mrs. Wallace Fraser, New Glasgow, N.S. and Mrs. Constance Williams in Vancouver.

Four sisters and three brothers also survive. The sisters are Mrs. Leo H. Hicks, New Jersey; Mrs. Percy Cox, Montreal; Mrs. Thomas Trowsdale, Montreal; and Mrs. W. J. Cudmore, Charlottetown. The brothers are Wallace Williams in Wolfville, N.S.; Wilfred Williams, Boston; and Arthur Williams, Charlottetown.

His wife died three years ago Tuesday.

Funeral services will be held from St. Peter's Cathedral on Friday. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.

To the bereaved family and relatives the Guardian extends sincere sympathy.

### Red Army In Reverse On Small Sector

LONDON, Nov. 17—(AP)—A mounting German counter-attack with a field force reported to total 150,000 men sent the Red Army into reverse today in the Zhitomir-Korostyshev region of the northern Ukraine—a small sector of the vast eastern front—in the first Soviet setback since the Russian offensive began four months ago.

However, in the Dnieper bend Soviet troops killed 2,000 Germans and seized several towns and in the Korosten rail junction area 60 more tanks and destroying 80 tanks and troop carriers, the Russians "under pressure of the numerically superior enemy forces abandoned a few populated places and entrenched themselves in new positions."

The German counter-attack was seen in London as purely a defensive move and the Berlin radio itself, while talking of "growing German counter-pressure," said the Russians were forced to carry out "a certain backward movement which at the moment is not very considerable."

### News Briefs

OTTAWA, Nov. 17—(CP)—The Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice today appealed to the people of Canada to help the Canadian Tuberculosis Association in its work by buying Christmas seals.

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 17—(AP)—A Clandestine German Radio was quoted today by the Göteborg newspaper Handels-Och Sjoefartstidning as saying Benito Mussolini is seriously ill at Hitler's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden and has lapsed into a coma.

LONDON, Nov. 17—(CP)—Sir Oswald Mosley, pre-war British Fascist leader who has been detained in prison under defence regulations since May, 1940, is to be released in a few days on medical grounds, it was learned tonight from the Home Office in London, which also will be released.

LONDON, Nov. 17—(CP)—There will be 50 per cent more Christmas turkey dinners in Britain this year than last, the Ministry of Food said today, estimating that 1,600,000 birds would be available to the public.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—A unanimous House of Representatives vote sent to the Senate today legislation boosting from \$40 to \$50 monthly pensions of veterans suffering permanent total disability not due to military service. The roll-call vote was 352 to 0.



Former Chamber Of Commerce Pres. Dies

MONTREAL, Nov. 17—(CP)—Avila Raymond, 66, well-known Montreal business man and former President of the Chamber of Commerce, died here today. He was the brother of Senator Donat Raymond, Maxime Raymond, member for LeBourgeois-Laprairie and leader of the Bloc populaire, and Air Commander Adelardo Raymond, commanding No. 3 training command, Montreal.

### R. A. F. Typhoons Bomb Nazi Ports

LONDON, Nov. 17—(CP)—R. A. F. Typhoons hit Nazi held channel ports today, following up the United States heavy bomber attack yesterday which probably knocked out the highly important Molybdenum plant at Knaben in southern Norway.

Action against continental targets tonight was indicated. The German and Paris radios went off the air—often a sign that the R. A. F. is over the continent.

A Reuters news agency dispatch from Zurich, Switzerland, said an air raid alert was sounded at Basle tonight. In the past, such Swiss alerts often have signalled Allied attacks on southern Germany or northern Italy.

### Soldier Fatally Injured At Debert

DEBERT CAMP, N.S., Nov. 17—(CP) Police holding Lt. Allison Gallant on the R.C.A.F. in connection with an alleged assault said today they had received a circular from Ottawa saying he is absent without leave.

### Honey Production In N. B. Is Up

FREDERICTON, Nov. 17—(CP)—Honey production in New Brunswick today reached 250,000 pounds, a new high record, William Thorpe, secretary of the New Brunswick Beekeepers' Association, announced today. Beekeepers of this province and Nova Scotia were petitioning the price board for a higher ceiling on honey and lessening of restrictions on beekeepers' supplies, said Thorpe, declaring that present regulations were the only obstacle to further expansion of the industry.

### Airman Faces Assault Charge

AMHERST, N.S., Nov. 17—(CP) Police holding Lt. Allison Gallant on the R.C.A.F. in connection with an alleged assault said today they had received a circular from Ottawa saying he is absent without leave.

### Predicts Changes In Ontario Liquor Rules

TORONTO, Nov. 17—(CP)—The Toronto Daily Star in a newspaper story today said "drastic changes" in Ontario liquor regulations are expected to be announced by the Ontario government tomorrow. The regulations are said to cover the distribution rather than

### Sees Traffic Problem In Post-War Years

CALGARY, Nov. 17—(CP)—Theodore Morgan, chairman of the Canadian Good Roads Association, today told highway ministers and engineers a great traffic congestion on main travelled routes must be faced following the war.

Speaking at the opening session of today's inter-provincial conference to discuss the post-war development of Canada's highway system, Mr. Morgan said highways are capable of handling a volume of traffic greater than our main highways are capable of handling. He said that after the war government and business must be prepared to provide employment for large numbers of men now in the armed forces and war industries.

"Therefore, we may well consider the importance of road building as a valuable medium of manpower absorption," he said.

"Our chief road problem in Canada has been one of providing serviceable all-weather roads for a population of 11,500,000 people spread out over a vast area. We have been compelled to cut our cloth according to our means.

"We cannot possibly build roads beyond our ability to pay for them. It is equally true that a good road is a better investment than a poor one."

### Yugoslav Guerrillas Open Counter-Offensive

LONDON, Nov. 17—(AP)—Yugoslav guerrillas, picking away at Hitler's southeastern battle front announced today they had opened a counter-offensive against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's month-old campaign to smash partisan forces in the Balkans.

A communiqué broadcast by the partisan forces of Gen. Josip Broz (Tito) said "successful offensive operations" are being carried out in Serbia, Sanjak, Montenegro, Herzegovina and Macedonia and that "heavy losses" had been inflicted on six German divisions—80,000 to 100,000 men—battling the guerrillas in southeastern Europe.

### Halifax Man "Not Guilty"

HALIFAX, Nov. 17—(CP)—Charles M. Welsford was found "not guilty" of insanity tonight at the end of his trial on a charge of murdering his father, Charles A. Welsford, who was shot to death in bed more than four years ago.

A petit jury in Supreme Court weighed the fate of the 20-year-old Halifax man for an hour and 20 minutes before bringing in its verdict.

### Bad Weather In Italy

While the Allies' Mediterranean air activity funned out on a good note today, operations in Italy were impeded by dismal weather, with high winds, rain and snow hampering the movements of men and supplies. For a week Allied gains had been measured by yards instead of miles, and the suspension of major fighting did not appear imminent.

Several brisk patrol actions were reported from the various sectors. The most important resulted in Americans of the 5th army regaining some high ground north of Venafro which had been lost the preceding day to two strong German counter-attacks.

### 134,000,000 To Need Relief After War

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Nov. 17—(AP)—China alone will have 84,000,000 persons in need of relief at the end of the war, Dr. T.F. Tsiang, Chinese delegate to the United Nations relief and rehabilitation conference, said tonight.

This brought to 134,000,000 the known number of men, women and children slated to receive help in U.N.R.R.'s program to alleviate distress in war-ravaged countries freed from Axis occupation.

### Allied Bombers Active In Mediterranean Area

Bombing Support Fails To Save Leros; Many Nazi Long-Range Bombers Destroyed.

ALGIERS, Nov. 17—(AP)—Attacking on a front of more than 1,000 miles, bombers of the northwest African air force struck their heaviest blow of recent weeks in the Mediterranean today when they smashed enemy airbases near Marseille in southern France and in the Athens area in Greece.

Blistering onslaughts against fields near Marseille were aimed at the headquarters of the Luftwaffe's Blistering onslaughts against fields near Marseille were aimed at the headquarters of the Luftwaffe's Blistering onslaughts against fields near Marseille were aimed at the headquarters of the Luftwaffe's

### Toronto Fire Sends Two Men To Hospital

TORONTO, Nov. 17—(CP)—A three-alarm fire following an explosion in a downtown Exchange building tonight left the six-story structure a smouldering shell and sent at least two men to hospital.

Five electric power transformers outside the building blew up, plunging the district into fire shooting from the building, located at Victoria and Dundas streets.

Shortly after firemen arrived a second explosion of terrific force struck a wall of flame across Victoria Street, knocking down fireman Edward J. Tierney, who was taken to hospital suffering first degree burns. A nurse said Tierney was badly burned about the whole face area.

A civilian identified as Herbert Naimon of Toronto also was taken to hospital.

There were explosions at frequent intervals.

### Coal Shortage In Some U. S. Centres

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—Twin moves to drive liquor out of warehouses and the "gangster element" out of the whisky business, announced today by the United States office of price administration, said a growing "gangster element" is complicating the liquor situation.

George of the Senate Finance Committee announced that his group will consider a plan to impose excise levies on liquor held in bonded warehouses more than four years.

Senator Frederick Van Nuys (Dem.-Ind.), chairman of a judicial subcommittee named to investigate the liquor situation, has asserted that big distilling interests are creating a scarcity by holding good liquor off the market and consumers are compelled to resort to black markets.

### Travel Restrictions In Alaska Are Eased

HEADQUARTERS, Alaskan Department, Nov. 17—(AP)—Easing of travel restrictions throughout most of Alaska, effective Dec. 1, was ordered today by Lt.-Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., United States army commander.

After that date civilian travel within the territory, except on the Alaska Peninsula and in the Aleutians, will be virtually without restrictions.

### Found Dead In Bed

Mrs. Webster was found in her bed with her skull badly smashed, apparently as the result of repeated blows with a baseball bat found nearby. Nearby on the second floor were the two younger children, both unconscious of head injuries.

Miss Cusick was found on the ground floor, also bleeding profusely about the head and not far from the telephone. It was believed it was she who gave the first word of the tragedy by frantically telling the telephone operator to send police to the residence.

Police said that when they arrived they found eight-year-old Jeanette Brown, guest child from Britain, unharmed in her room downstairs, while the 14-year-old youth was sitting alone in his own bedroom in a dazed condition.

Mr. Webster, vice-president of Webster and son, Montreal building and foundry supply firm, was in Toronto on business at the time of the tragedy. He returned home by plane today after receiving word of the death of his 35-year-old

### "Gangster Element" In U. S. Liquor Business

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### Coal Shortage In Some U. S. Centres

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—An acute shortage of coal was reported today by many widespread communities in the United States and a survey indicated supplies in dealers' yards were meagre almost everywhere.

Paradoxically, some communities reporting short fuel supplies lacked for the situation to be relieved when colder weather comes. It was explained that mines are sending almost all their output to Great Lakes points in a race against winter's closing of the lakes to navigation. Once lake navigation ends, this output will be turned to other centres.

This year's series of coal strikes is estimated by government officials to have resulted in lost coal production amounting to 40,000,000 tons. They said output and reserve supplies would meet all needs.

### Montreal Police Have Murder Case To Solve

MONTREAL, Nov. 17—(CP)—Mrs. Andrew R. Webster, wife of a prominent resident of neighborhood Westmount, was beaten to death in her bed today and three other persons were in hospital with serious injuries as the result of sudden early-morning attacks that gave Westmount police their first murder case in 24 years.

Death struck around 5.30 a.m. in the heart of the exclusive Boulevard Westmount neighborhood.

In hospital in serious condition cohered, story of which was reported from 14-year-old George Webster, eldest son of the dead woman.

Throughout the day the youth refused attempts to question him—in a condition similar to that in which he was found in his room.

When police answered a telephone call to the comfortable, two-story home early this morning, they found Mrs. Webster in a dazed condition.

She was his 12-year-old sister Miss Jean Webster, and his eight-year-old brother, Andrew, Jr., and Miss Sylvia Cusick, 29-year-old houseguest of the Websters from Melbourne, Australia.

An inquest into Mrs. Webster's death was scheduled for tomorrow, but it was thought likely it would be opened and then adjourned until such time as some of those in hospital could give an account of what happened in the pre-dawn darkness of the Greenville Avenue home.

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### Clergyman Passes

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ANY OLD COP IS GOOD IN A PINCH

### High Tide This Afternoon At 4.28

High tide this afternoon at 4.28 and tomorrow morning at 3.20. Sun sets this afternoon at 5.26 and rises tomorrow morning at 6.05. Last quarter moon Nov. 19, 6.43 p.m. Summer tide 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

BLOSSOM CANADA FLOUR EXCELS IN THE KITCHEN