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## SKIPPER DESCRIBES EPIC RESCUE OF SWEDISH FREIGHTER

### French Air Force Hammers Vietminh Invaders Praises Teamwork Of American Naval Crew

#### Rousing Maori Reception Given Queen And Duke

#### Report Danish King Seriously Ill



King Frederik, 54, of Denmark is reported seriously ill in Copenhagen as the result of complications following a severe throat inflammation. His brother, Prince Knud, took his place at a public audience which, under the Danish constitution, is attended by the king.

#### Faces Charge Of Manslaughter

SYDNEY, (CP) — John Lester Hennessey, 31, of nearby Grace Bay, was charged with manslaughter Monday in the Christmas Eve highway death of 13-year-old Mary MacMullin.

#### British Author Is Found Shot Dead

HEMLEY, Eng., (Reuters) — Capt. Evan John Simpson, author and a leading British intelligence officer in Greece during the Second World War, was found shot dead near his farm Sunday. A rifle was found nearby. Simpson, 52, wrote historical novels, political books, biographies and plays under the name, Evan John.

OTTAWA, (CP) — The Dominion Drama Festival is seeking a replacement by Jan. 11 for Evan John Simpson, the British playwright who was to have judged regional drama festivals across Canada in the next three months.

#### Coming Events

- \*\*Card Party, New London School, Wednesday, December 30th.
- \*\*Crockinole and Card Party, Marshfield Hall to-night.
- \*\*Annual meeting New Haven Farmers District, December 29th.
- \*\*Legion dance Belfast Hall, Thursday, Dec. 31st.
- \*\*Dance, Fort Augustus Hall, Wednesday, Dec. 30. Burke's Orchestra. Luncheon.
- \*\*Crockinole Party, North River Hall, Tuesday, 8 p.m. Admission 35c. Everyone welcome.
- \*\*Dance, Fortune Hall, Tuesday, December 29. McEwen's Orchestra.
- \*\*Last dance of the season at Stanley Bridge rink Tuesday, Dec. 28.
- \*\*Box Social and Dance in the Credit Union Hall, Summerside, Wednesday, December 30th.
- \*\*Crockinole and Card Party, Dunstaffnage School, Tuesday, December 29th.
- \*\*Card Party and Dance, Hope River Credit Union Hall, December 30th.
- \*\*Come to the Dance in St. Mary's Parish Hall, Souris, tonight.
- \*\*M-G-M Movies, Fredericton Hall, Thursday, December 31st. Shows 8 and 10.
- \*\*Bingo and Dance in Vernon River Hall, Tuesday, December 29th.
- \*\*Dance at Long Creek, Wednesday, December 30th. In aid of Long Creek Rovers Hockey Team. Good music and refreshments.

WHANGAREI, N. Z. (Reuters) — A private picnic lunch amid the quiet of the Maori countryside today offered Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh a brief respite from public ceremony.

Crowds lined the rolling, wooded northland to see the royal couple drive to Warkworth, where another tumultuous welcome was in the making even before the Queen arrived.

The picnic at Puhohi beach preceded their return to Auckland, where the Queen will award medals and honors at the town hall.

The couple spent the night in a suite of the small commercial hotel here after a program-packed day and widely enthusiastic greetings.

Monday's schedule included presentation of colors to the Royal New Zealand Air Force at Whenuapai airport near Auckland, lunch in the small town of Kaitake, and a ceremonial welcome from 5,000 grass-skirted Maoris at Waitangi.

#### Broke Through Cordons

Thousands of school children cheered the Queen and Duke when they arrived at Kaitake park. The reception on arrival at Whangarei—the county capital on North Island—was even less restrained.

Many of the town's 10,000 population, chanting: "We want the Queen," broke through police cordons as the pair drove up to the hotel.

Hundreds clambered up the railway embankment opposite the hotel, keeping up the chant. When the Queen and Duke did appear on the balcony, the crowd cheered and waved, then burst into song as the couple retired to their second-floor rear suite.

Such songs as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" welled up from the darkened town while floodlights flashed through the palm trees and colorful decorations.

Monday marked the first day of a phase of the Commonwealth tour that will take Elizabeth almost 2,500 miles by air, road and rail through the Dominion's north and south islands in the next five weeks.

The Maori rituals at Waitangi were the most impressive event Monday.

Warships in the beautiful Bay of Islands thundered out a royal salute as 5,000 Maoris, daubed with war paint and waving spears, whirled in a ceremonial dance of welcome and acclaimed the Queen as "our chief, our lord, our sovereign."

The ceremony took place before the old treaty house where, in 1840, the Maoris ceded New Zealand sovereignty to Queen Victoria.

Magistrate Hone Rankin, Maori spokesman, renewed his ancestors' pledge.

"We thank God for a century and more of British rule," he said. Highlight of the ritual came when the Queen stood on a sacred flax mat to receive one of three symbolic sticks as "Goddess of the sea."

A second stick was presented to the Duke as "God of war" and Prime Minister Sidney Holland retained the third, which signified the mystical parents of the ancient Maori race.

#### Hotel In Truro Gutted By Fire

TRURO, (CP) — Fire gutted the three-story Stanley Hotel here Monday causing an estimated \$50,000 damage. All occupants of the building escaped without injury.

The blaze, believed to have started in a linen closet on the top floor, was brought under control in about an hour.

The building also contained a grocery store, a children's clothing store and a restaurant on the ground floor. For a time during the fire nearby stores prepared to remove stock and furnishings.

The hotel, operated by Truro Hotels Ltd., was heavily damaged in a fire about 10 years ago.

#### First Shipment Of Barley For Korea

OTTAWA, (CP) — First four carloads of a 750-ton Canadian contribution of "Barley for Korea" will be shipped today from Saskatoon, the Uniterian Service Committee said Monday.

This first 120-ton shipment of barley for hungry Korean children will be followed Jan. 15 by a second consignment from Peterborough, Ont. The Uniterian Service Committee launched its "Barley for Korea" appeal in September.

SAIGON, Indo-China, (AP) — French planes pounded the Vietminh invaders of Laos Monday in what appeared the prelude to a ground counter-attack against the Reds who knifed across the little state last week, slicing Indo-China in two.

While bombers and fighters ranged up and down enemy territory, French ground forces were reported massing south of Thakhek, Vietminh-held Laotian town bordering on Thailand which has mobilized troops along its frontier.

French reconnaissance units, probing northward from their base at Seno, said they have been unable to make contact with the Reds, who made the 100-mile thrust from the Annam coast.

The French said the enemy is avoiding combat, and has faded back into the jungle in an apparent effort to regroup for an assault on Seno.

#### "Laotians Deserted"

A French force under Gen. Andre Franclis is entrenched at Seno awaiting the Vietminh assault force estimated at a division.

While southeast Asia nervously watched the Red invasion, the rebel radio broadcast a call from Vietminh chief Ho Chi Minh to his troops to "make an assault that will destroy the enemy."

The radio declared the "greater part" of the Laotian forces under French command had deserted and joined the Communist side.

The French admitted that they had lost about a company of their own and North African forces in the Vietminh thrust, but reported they were rounding up units from former garrisons in the area which had fled into the jungle when the Reds attacked.

The French also acknowledged they are faced with a grave supply problem. The Vietminh advance

Continued on page 5 Col 7

#### Judge Reserves Decision In N. S. Election Case

HALIFAX, (CP) — Mr. Justice MacQuarrie reserved decision Monday on a petition asking that election of Liberal Alfred Reid in Hants East in last May's Nova Scotia general election be declared void.

Election day returns gave Ernest Ettinger, former Progressive Conservative member, a majority of one vote. A recount gave Mr. Reid three additional votes and Mr. Ettinger one to reverse the earlier decision.

Evidence during the hearing centered around complaints of unqualified persons casting votes and allegations that ballot boxes were opened between election and declaration days.

Present standing in the House is Liberals 23, Progressive Conservatives 12, and OCF two.

#### Arrests Made In Czech Train Crash

VIENNA, (Reuters) — Prague radio announced Monday night that "a number of arrests" have been made for "negligence" in connection with the Christmas Eve train wreck which killed 103 persons at Sakvice, Czechoslovakia.

The Czech ministry of the interior blames the wreck on "serious negligence" on the part of railroad workers, the radio said.

The government announcement said special pensions and allowances will be granted crash victims and their families.

Eighty-three persons are reported injured in the crash.

#### U. S. Reduces Base Forces In Britain

LONDON, (AP) — Four thousand American servicemen at United States Air Force bases in Britain will be replaced by British civilians within the next six to 12 months, an air force spokesman said Monday.

The army will return to America. America will save \$14,000,000 annually and the British treasury will be paid the dollar equivalent of the civilians' wages.

#### PRINCELY LUMBERMAN

VICTORIA, (CP) — Prince Alexandre de Liechtenstein, 24, who studied forestry at Vienna, is piling lumber in a Victoria mill. "Wood is wood," he said, "but here it is bigger." He depends entirely on his weekly wage.

#### Activity On Local Waterfront



The heavy movement of potatoes this fall and winter is well illustrated in the above pictures showing two large freighters being loaded with the Island product at the Railway Wharf. Both ships were in port last week to take on many thousands of bags of Prince Edward Island's famous seed potatoes which have become so popular, particularly through the southern United States, where the loads above are headed.

—Photo by Barter's Film Lab.

#### Prisoner Repatriation Reports Under Study

By WILLIAM C. BARNARD

PANMUNJOM, (AP) — Two versions of how prisoner explanations were wrecked — one blaming South Korea, the other the Communists — were studied today by the United Nations and Red commands.

Authoritative observers here expected the reports by the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission to:

1. Make no change in the UN command's stand that the explanations are over.
2. Step up Red demands that the explanations be resumed.
3. Draw new fire from the South Korea government against India, whose officials head supervision of the explanations and guard the prisoners.

#### Blame South Korea

The breakdown of explanations to more than 22,000 Chinese and North Korean prisoners refusing to return to communism was blamed on South Korea in a majority report to the commission.

Chairman India and delegates of Communist Poland and Czechoslovakia agreed there was evidence that a general headquarters in Seoul, directed by South Korea's provost marshal, controlled all 55 compounds housing anti-Red prisoners.

Sweden and Switzerland in a minority report blamed tactics of the Red explanation teams, particularly in dragging out individual interviews for as much as five hours.

Both reports, released Monday, wound up by referring the problem of what to do with the prisoners back to the opposing commands for "consideration."

#### Insist On Release

The UN command was not expected to deviate from its firm stand that the 90-day period for explanations ended Dec. 23 and

#### French Strike Ties-up Mail

PARIS, (Reuters) — Key French post office workers decided Monday to continue indefinitely the strike which has for six days tied up mail which usually moves by rail.

Representatives of Communist and independent unions, which called the strike, met again Monday night to discuss further action.

The walkout, which has disorganized holiday mail and left great mountains of letters, cards and parcels piled up at all but one of the capital's stations, threatens to spread to other branches of the post office. There were stoppages Monday morning at two suburban post offices.

The unions, demanding bonus and wage increases, are not supported by the Socialist Force Ouvriere and Catholic labor groups.

Meanwhile, air security men went back to work Monday after a nine-day strike.

The airport control and communications workers decided to call off their strike after receiving temporary increases pending further negotiations.

#### Record Holiday U. S. Death Toll

CHICAGO, (AP) — Automobile accidents took 522 lives in the United States during the Christmas weekend, exceeding the prediction of 510 traffic fatalities made by the National Safety Council before Americans took the roads last Thursday for a heavy session of holiday travel.

A total of 716 Americans died in accidents during the period from 6 p.m. local time Thursday to midnight Sunday. This toll included 83 dead in fires.

The U. S. faces another bout with death next week-end when '53 New Year's holiday will again step up road traffic.

NEW YORK, (AP) — A quiet, terse account of victory over sea and storm was told Monday by the skipper who directed the rescue of 36 men from a broken Swedish freighter off Newfoundland.

Capt. Dunward J. Larson, master of the U.S. naval supply ship Blue Jacket, radioed the first complete account of Sunday's dramatic early morning rescue to the Atlantic area headquarters of the military sea transport service.

He called his crew's teamwork "remarkable" and singled out for particular commendation two officers who helped locate the sinking freighter Oklahoma after rescuing craft had been given an erroneous position.

The men praised were 2nd Officer Clarence L. Fiddell of Brooklyn, and Radio Officer Ted F. Cruze of the Bronx.

#### Provided Beam

The text of Capt. Larson's message said: "First message received indicated position of SS Oklahoma as 51°10'N, 45°00'W. Blue Jacket had passed through this area and sighted nothing."

New position of Oklahoma obtained by triangulation with the assistance of British SS Latria. Automatic alarm radio signal of SS Oklahoma provided guiding beam.

"Lifeboats sighted at a position 50°20'N and 46°41'W by means of lifeboat flashlights and flares. Heavy swells and winds made maneuvering difficult for Blue Jacket and lifeboats."

"Casting lights thrown to lifeboats were used to haul lifeboats alongside. While floodlights illuminated scene each survivor was tied securely around the body under arm-pits and hauled from pitching lifeboats."

"Aboard Blue Jacket all available hands from all departments

(Continued on page 5, col. 2)

#### Britain Receives Fourth Shipment Of Soviet Gold

LONDON, (AP) — A special plane brought into London Monday night another shipment of "hammer and sickle gold bars" valued at \$4,200,000. Official sources disclosed last week that Russia has secretly flown \$65,000,000 in gold into Britain this winter.

The latest consignment was taken in closed trucks from the airport to the London branch of the Soviet State Bank.

This is the fourth Soviet gold shipment this winter. Financial sources said the gold is being bought by the Bank of England in sterling.

The Russians want to sell, these sources said, to help finance Prime Minister Malenkov's drive to step up the living standard of Russians by boosting imports of consumer goods.

This is the first gold deal between the British and Russian central banks since 1936.

#### Former Islander Dies In Ontario

MILTON, Ont., (CP) — Lewis Read Wright, sales and advertising manager of Preston Woodwork Machine Company at Preston, Ont., died Saturday. He was 64.

Mr. Wright was a former managing editor of Canada Lumberman and Canadian Woodworker. He worked with Hugh C. MacLean publications for 31 years.

Born in Charlottetown, P. E. I., he was spending Christmas in this town 20 miles north of Hamilton when he died.

#### Canadians In Korea Have Merry Christmas

OTTAWA, (CP) — It was a merry Christmas and a busy one for Canadians serving in Korea this year, especially for the four Red Cross girls who danced with more than 100 soldiers at the men's canteen behind the lines.

Army headquarters, describing the holiday festivities of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade, said that after the girls finished dancing with the soldiers in the canteen they visited other men on duty in the line.

Besides the dancing, and religious services, soldiers found enough

time to put on Christmas parties for four Korean orphans and to present a gift to each of about 750 young orphans.

Officers and NCOs took turns in serving other ranks their Christmas turkey and trimmings, including beer and cigarettes. Gifts were distributed to the men who had not been remembered with parcels from home.

A touring Canadian variety show at 4:37 A. M. and 4:34 P. M. Smmerside tide, eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 7:51 A. M. and sets at 4:39 P. M.

#### British Cabinet To Meet Today On Berlin Talks

LONDON, (Reuters) — Prime Minister Churchill returns to London today for an afternoon cabinet session which is expected to approve the Jan. 25 date proposed by Russia for a Big Four foreign ministers meeting in Berlin.

He may also report on his discussions last Wednesday with Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik.

Malik left by air for Moscow Monday. A Soviet embassy official said he was going home on leave, but diplomatic quarters said he undoubtedly would report to the Kremlin on his luncheon discussions with Churchill.

The London Evening News says Churchill probably gave Malik Britain's attitude toward both the Big Four meeting and President Eisenhower's atomic plan. It predicts that Malik will appear at the conference as a top adviser to the Soviet delegation.

Churchill spent last week — end studying the new Soviet note proposing Jan. 25 for the meeting instead of Jan. 4 as sought by the Western powers.

#### New Year Meeting

Britain is believed prepared to agree to the new date as well as to accept Russia's suggestion that the conference site be selected at a meeting of the four high commissions in Germany.

Diplomatic sources said representatives of the British, United States, French and Russian high commissions will meet early in the new year. They said the Western delegates will plump for the conference to be held at the four-power allied control council building in West Berlin.

To avoid protracted negotiations on this issue, the West may agree to holding one out of four sessions in the Soviet sector of Berlin, the

(Continued on page 5, col. 2)



HALIFAX, (CP) — The Dominion Public Weather Office here says poor weather is expected to continue Tuesday as disturbances from the west and the southwest move toward the Maritimes.

Regional forecasts: Prince Edward Island, eastern N.B. counties, lower St. John river valley: intermittent rain; milder with southwest winds 15; low-high at Charlottetown 32 and 40, Moncton 32 and 40, Fredericton 35 and 40, Saint John 37 and 40.

Upper St. John river valley, Bay of Chaleur: intermittent snow; extremely mild; light winds. Low-high at Edmundston 28 and 35, Campbellton 20 and 32.

Bay of Fundy: Southwest winds 20; intermittent rain; visibility 10 miles lowering occasionally in mist to one mile; temperatures in the low 40s.

TORONTO, (CP) — Minimum and maximum temperatures:—

	Min.	Max.
Dawson	0	4
Vancouver	41	46
Victoria	45	48
Edmonton	33	37
Calgary	38	42
Regina	20	29
Winnipeg	6	27
Toronto	24	38
Ottawa	6	26
Montreal	10	40
Quebec	3b	23
Saint John	9	35
Moncton	5b	28
Halifax	11	37
Charlottetown	5	28
Sydney	20	27
Yarmouth	15	30
St. John's	27	27

High tide today at Charlottetown at 4:37 A. M. and 4:34 P. M. Smmerside tide, eighteen minutes later than Charlottetown. Sun rises today at 7:51 A. M. and sets at 4:39 P. M.