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Red Rout Complete

NAZI SEA LOSS UP

Was Double That of Allies During Past Week, It Is Disclosed

LONDON, Dec. 23: (CP)—Germany's mercantile sea losses in the war for the week ending yesterday were more than double those of the Allies owing to the scuttling of such vessels as the Columbus. It was stated in Admiralty circles today.

During the week fourteen British ships were lost but these were all small vessels including fishing craft and coastal ships, their aggregate tonnage being 18,858 tons whereas Germany lost 40,927 tons. This is in addition to the blowing up of the battleship Admiral Graf Spee in the Nazi policy of self destruction which is being pursued.

Loss of neutral tonnage during the week was 30,000.

Further small ships were lost today by striking mines.

Sinking of the Norwegian ship Rudolph, 924 tons, when she struck a mine in the North Sea was disclosed, the crew being saved.

A dispatch by exchange telegraph agency from Copenhagen said the steamship Jaegersborg, 1754 tons, was wrecked, was feared lost.

The British tanker Dosinia reached port with a list as a result of a mine blast.

BIG FIGHT IN PLANES DESCRIBED

Battle of Heligoland Bight Was Largest in History of Air Combat

LONDON, Dec. 23: (CP)—The story is now being told of last week's aerial engagement between British and German planes off Heligoland Bight. It is described as the largest aerial battle in history with eighty aircraft taking part.

The British ships were making an aerial reconnaissance when German pursuit craft came up, outnumbering them five to one.

A fierce battle ensued and both sides lost a number of ships.

One British plane alone is known to have disposed of five Germans.

King To Speak Christmas Morn

Radio Interest Will Centre On Empire Broadcast To Be Presented Monday

LONDON, Dec. 23: (CP)—Radio interest on Christmas Day will centre on the Empire broadcast Christmas morning in which various parts of the British Commonwealth will participate. The King will give a fireside talk from Sandringham about 7 a.m. Pacific Standard Time.

GOV'T IS ARRESTED

Russian Puppet Administration Of Finland Deceived Dictator Stalin

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 23: (CP)—The newspaper Social-Demokraten reports, without confirmation, that the entire Terijoki, Finnish Communist "people's government," has been arrested by Russia because it had misled Dictator Joseph Stalin concerning Finnish military strength.

It was a puppet government of Russia led by an exiled Communist.

PROVINCE PRODUCTS

Total Primary Output For Year Is Estimated At \$209,000,000—Forestry Leads

VICTORIA, Dec. 23: (CP)—Figures are incomplete but provincial offices estimate primary production of British Columbia this year will amount to some \$209,000,000. The forestry figure is placed at \$75,000,000, metals and minerals at \$65,000,000, agriculture at \$50,000,000 and fisheries at \$19,000,000.

Independence Day For India Is Set

January 26 Set As Time For Demonstration In India, It Is Announced

BOMBAY, Dec. 23: (CP)—Mahatma Gandhi and his Nationalist Party Congress of India have set January 26 as National Independence Day when there will be demonstrations of the civil disobedience campaign.

PREMIER PATTULLO'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

In the midst of so direful world events it may seem incongruous to rejoice but one can hardly avoid it in view of the fact that we live in such a favored portion of the world.

In any event, it is our duty to be of good cheer. Accomplishment is difficult if we are downhearted. Let us, therefore, determine that with resolute spirit we shall go forward in our daily lives ready to do any service or make any sacrifice, winning of the war in order that there may be a fair and just peace so far as may be humanly possible.

My best wishes to everybody for Christmas and the New Year,

T. D. PATTULLO.

RUSSIANS LOSE OUT ALL OVER

Finns Putting Them to Rout on Two Fronts and Holding on Another—Aerial Attacks Costly and Ineffective

HELSINGFORS, Dec. 23: (CP)—Finnish anti-aircraft batteries yesterday shot down one of seven Russian war planes which dropped twenty to thirty bombs on the Helsingfors area in the fourth successive day of Russian air raids. The damage done by the Soviet aerial bombing was very slight and there were few, if any, casualties. The bombers continued their raids today.

Meantime the Russian hordes were in wholesale retreat before the Finns on the northern and central fronts and were being bottled to a standstill on the Karelian Isthmus to the south.

In the far north the Reds have withdrawn past Salmijaervi which they had occupied a week ago to the region of British and Canadian-owned nickel mines and today were diverted by the Finns from a northerly to easterly direction towards their own frontier. They are in no shape to withstand the rigors of 25 below zero weather and thousands are freezing to death. A counter-offensive with bombing by the Finns of the Leningrad-Murmansk Railway, their supply line, forces the Russian withdrawal.

There was also a rout of the invaders at Sala in the mid-sector on which they had been attempting to bisect Finland through its waistline. The Russians were being hurled back in great confusion.

The Finns were holding the Russians at bay in bitter fighting on the Karelian Isthmus and were launching a counter-attack.

Losses on both central and southern fronts are very heavy for the Russians.

General Is Fired

General Metetskoff, the military chief of Leningrad is reported to have been relieved of his duties after being called to the Kremlin at Moscow to explain his army's failure to score decisive victories. He is blamed for making inadequate preparations for a quick victory.

Russian military authorities are implying their defeat by failing to make further claims of victories. A Moscow communique last night said that "most difficult geographical conditions have presented themselves" in the Finnish campaign. The Mannerheim Line is not inferior to the Siegfried and Maginot lines, the Russian military authorities declare.



Old Fashioned Christmas Cheer

To be sure, we're a lot more modern nowadays . . . and justly proud of our advancement. But there's one thing that's never been improved upon—the good old fashioned Christmas spirit. We look back to the days of sleigh bells, frosty breath'd steeds, footwarmers and mufflers . . . and wish the genuine joy of those hearty times to all our readers. May your Christmas be as full of treasured happiness!

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XMAS IN GERMANY

Hitler And His Gang Assured of Good Time, Tell People To Forget About Festive Season

BERLIN, Dec. 23: (CP)—In Germany it will be a real "war Christmas" for the most of Germans. Propaganda Minister Goebbels told the people yesterday that they must forget Christmas until after the war. He expressed confidence that victory was assured.

Chancellor Adolf Hitler and the rest of the Nazi leaders are, however, planning to have a good time no matter what the rest of the people may have to put up with. The Wilhelmstrasse is practically deserted of political and military figures. Der Fuehrer will relax between his luxurious mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden and the beer gardens of Munich.

Young Fisherman Now In Vancouver

Search Being Continued on West Coast of Vancouver Island For Capt. George Sinclair

VANCOUVER, Dec. 23: (CP)—Hugh Skinner, young Vancouver fisherman, who walked for five days in his bare feet over rocky shores of Quatsino Sound after the fish packer Great Northern V was wrecked, was flown yesterday from Zeballos to Vancouver for hospital treatment. He had been found on Thursday by a search pilot. Search is being continued for Skinner's father, George Skinner, the skipper, who is still unaccounted for, his son reporting that he was becoming weak from exposure and hunger when he was forced to leave him. Ted Bernard, the engineer, had been washed overboard when the Great Northern V struck the rocks.

Bulletins

TWO NAZIS ARE DOWN
LONDON—The Air Ministry disclosed last night that two German Heinkel bombers were brought down yesterday during attempted air raids on the British east coast. One plunged in smoke and flames into the Firth of Forth under fire of anti-aircraft guns and pursuit planes. The other was brought down off the coast of Suffolk.

HON. NORMAN ROGERS, minister of national defences, has sent acknowledgment of a donation of \$100 made by the Skeena Fishermen's Association to be used in connection with national defence of Canada. "I deeply appreciate the spirit of loyalty and co-operation expressed in such a tangible manner," the minister's acknowledgment states. Other members of the government also associate themselves with appreciation for the gift.

HALIBUT REGULATIONS

Opening date for halibut fishing on this coast in 1940 has been set for April 1 by the International Fisheries Commission. This date is the same as last year. There will be no changes in quotas in either Areas No. 2 or No. 3. The last clearance date for Area No. 3 has been done away with and only a closing date for fishing will be set in a manner similar to that which is followed for Area No. 2. Fishermen will be permitted to clear for only one area each trip. Formerly they could clear for both areas. Baby chicken under five pounds must not be retained or had in possession.

ANTHONY FOKKER DEAD

NEW YORK—Anthony Fokker, airplane designer and builder, died in hospital here. Forty-nine years of age, he was the first man in the aeronautical industry to become a millionaire.

SEA FIGHT IS LIKELY

Possibility of Engagement Between German and British Fleets Is Seen

PARIS, Dec. 23: (CP)—Possibility of a major naval engagement is seen as a result of the movement of a German war fleet out of Hamburg. Vessels of the British Navy, it was known yesterday, had gone out.

French sources attribute the movement of the German fleet to the purpose of bring pressure to bear upon neutral states bordering on Germany which Nazi newspapers have been urging to form an anti-British bloc.

BLACK SEA HAS STORM

Bulgarian Ship, With Crew Of Fourteen, Among Casualties Of Tempest

VARNA, Dec. 23: (CP)—A terrific storm in the Black Sea has caused widespread damage to shipping. Casualties include a Bulgarian ship with loss of fourteen members of the crew.

Shipping Board Being Organized

Major J. G. Parmalee Is Appointed To Head New Federal Body

OTTAWA, Dec. 23: (CP)—The Canadian shipping board to direct shipping from Canada to the United Kingdom is being organized with Major J. G. Parmalee, deputy minister of transport, as chairman.

Parade Starts India Trouble

Fifty Injured When Moslems Attack Hindu Procession Passing Their Mosque

LUCKNOW, India, Dec. 23: (CP)—Fifty persons were injured in rioting at Gorakhpur in the United Provinces when Moslems, offering thanksgiving prayers, objected to a Hindu procession passing their mosque.

WHEAT PRICES

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23: (CP)—Wheat futures were 2 3/4c to 2 1/2c lower on the Winnipeg market yesterday with May closing at 87 3/4c to 87 1/2c. In New York wheat prices were 1 3/4c to 1 1/2c lower today with May at \$1.01 1/2.

BETHLEHEM HAS PEACE

Different Scene Than In Three Years at Birthplace of Christ

BETHLEHEM, Dec. 23: (CP)—The little town of Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ, looks forward to its first peaceful Christmas Day in three years. No longer do soldiers guard the route from Jerusalem to Bethlehem which is now thronged with pilgrims.

GERMAN RAILWAY WRECKS

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Dec. 23: (CP)—Another disastrous railroad collision in Germany occurred last night near Karlsruhe with probably one hundred losing their lives. Faulty signalling is believed to have been the cause and two station agents have been arrested. The trains crashed at full speed head-on on a single track line. The equipment was almost demolished and there were scenes of horror.

It was the second serious wreck of the day on war-strained German railroads, the total dead in both being 182 with 139 injured, officials announced. The first collision had occurred earlier in the day at Genthin.

Yesterday's wrecks raised to ten the number of such disasters since the war with a total of 319 killed and 311 injured. The wrecks are generally blamed on black-outs.

Xmas Cheer Fund

The Salvation Army effort is being increased by the donation of two tons of coal by Albert & McCaffery. Vegetables from Mrs. A. McKenzie, fruit from S. C. Thomson and carrots from J. Wearmouth. Cash donations follow: Previously acknowledged \$82.90 H. S. Wallace 5.00 J. Campbell 2.00 Mrs. G. W. Woodland 5.00 Christmas Pot 22.30 Anonymous 20.00

Christmas and New Year Greetings

To the residents of Central and Northern British Columbia, I extend my sincere wishes for a Christmas full of happiness and a New Year with such Prosperity

OLOF HANSON