The Daily News . . .

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MEMBER A.B.C.

Something to Be Expected . . . .

The war had been going so well on the Western Front of late that some of us might have been been starting to think it would be just a walkaway from now on. To people who felt that way the new German counter-offensive may prove rather alarming and disconcerting. To the realistic thinkers of war, on the other hand, such a counter-offensive comes as little surprise. In fact it was something to be anticipated and prepared for.

The Allies are said to have more men in the field in western Europe today than the enemy. Doubtless, they have aerial superiority. And, of course, the enemy have practically no seapower left. The eventual outcome, therefore, can never be in doubt now. It is realistic to say that but it is also realistic to assume that the Germans are not yet beaten and are capable of at least one more great death struggle which may be grim and sanguinary for them as well as for us.

Meanwhile Allied military authorities are announcing there is nothing to be unduly alarmed about.

As long as a battle lasts, its tide must ebb and flow. Just now may be one of the phases when the tide is running against our side but it may not be long in turning back again.

Action Or Inaction . . .

United States Secretary of State Edward Stettinius has made a very guarded and non-committal statement in regard to the Polish boundary situation even though some commentators may have called it an important one.

Mr. Stettinius says that the American government will have no objection to an agreement on the future frontiers of Poland providing the United Nations concerned agree upon them.

As a result of the statement of Mr. Stettinius, nothing can be said to have been clarifeid on the Polish frontier question since, after all, Poland and Russia are the most concerned United Nations and between them the issue is still quite unsettled.

United States contines its fence-sitting policy in regard to this as well as the political and territorial problems concerning others of the liberated nations.

Great Britain may be making mistakes but it is at least not making the mistake of inaction in problems which will have to be settled some way or another before the peace of the whole world can be established.

Return of Japanese . . .

It is to be hoped that Canada will not follow the example of United States and permit the return of the Japanese to the coastal areas. In view of the more favorable war situation, there may not be so much danger from the Japanese themselves, unless it be from the possibility of sabotage in one way or another should any disloyal Nipponese get back with the loyal: The real danger is that disorders might arise and that some of the Japanese might get hurt. That might have repercussions on those of our people who are being held prisoner in Japan and who, even now, may not be any too well treated.

It would seem wise to leave well enough alone as far as the Japanese are concerned. They are not needed on the coast and there appears to be no good reason why they should be permitted to return until after the war is over—if then. There are many who feel that the United States authorities are making a mistake in permitting them to return to their coast. There should be the most serious consideration before Canada entertains any idea of similar action.

MIDDLE EAST CANTEEN

CAIRO, (CP)—The general officer commanding in chief, Middle East, recently opened a new club for African soldiers in Cairo, with refreshments, games and gramaphone records available.

LONDON, (CP)— Walter Elliott, Unionist member of parliament, says Londoners spend two hours longer at work each day because: "The speed of London's traffic is about twice as fast as a wheelbarrow."

RESTORE CRYSTAL PALACE

LONDON, (CP)—Crystal Palace, glass-domed auditorium in south London which was destroyed by fire several years ago, will be restored after the war at a cost of approximately $4,500,000.

Xmas Greetngs—

Mrs. Garbutt Heard From

Tells of Seeing Many Former Rupert Service People in Winnipeg

A few months ago you will remember—or at least I hope you do—I used to do my daily dozen lines in these pages under the title "The Hut-Spot." Alex Hunter called it something else and so did a lot of you I know but that's besides the point. So now, as a Christmas greeting to all my Rupert friends and erstwhile colleagues I send you this Hot Spot from the wilds of Winnipeg because it's symbolic of the very warm spot I hold in my heart for all of you and is perhaps reminiscent of that earlier column. I hope you have just such glorious weather as last Christmas day in Rupert when the sun shone and all the little vessels in the harbor bobbed up and down on the water wearing their gay little Christmas trees at their mastheads as gleefully as children at a Christmas party adorned with cracker caps. I hope the stars shine as brightly on Christmas Eve and the moon comes over the mountain as gloriously as last year when Mrs. Brass and Lieut. Don Adams and I came out of Midnight Mass together.

Which reminds me that Don has just been posted here to H.M.C.S. Chippawa as Special Services Officer to the Navy, the same job he held in Rupert. And to celebrate the renewal of our Rupert friendship we're going to see Paul Robeson in "Othello" on Saturday. Talking of sailors—I always did a lot of that, didn't I?—I saw Signalman Bob MacTavish and his wife when he was here on survivors' leave. He was on the Restigouche. He and Rene Jeannotte were pals when they were in Prince Rupert and pals they were to the last because Bob was with Rene when he was killed. Ronnie Greenway "The Moose," who was Leading Signalman in Rupert, called on me at The Blue Triangle the other day. He is now back at Ste. Hye. taking another course. He says this time he'll pass. And I saw young Sigurdson who was trumpeter with Sergeant Isidore's dance band when the Winnipeg Grenadiers were in Rupert. He is now discharged and working for the railway. He says that Sergeant Major Murphy of the Grenadiers, whom once upon a time I took to the cleaners in darts, is now working at Eaton's. I must look him up. And LAW Juanita Scharff's sister LAW Corriveau comes to the Centre very often for 48's. Juanita is, or was, at Group headquarters. Sick Berth Attendant Blake's sister spent some time here too, and C.P.O. Paul Berthelot's eldest son Arthur is in Winnipeg attending St. Paul's College, the same school my boy Gordie honors with his presence. Arthur is coming down to my mother's home in Selkirk for Christmas Day and will spend New Year's Day at the Centre with me, unless he decides he has more manly things to do than wasting his time at a girl's residence.

Although I'm not doing Traveller's Aid work any more, I've been down to the train to see Al Hobbs, the former Navy schoolmaster at Chatham on his way to his new post at Sydney, N. S., all bright and glittering with an extra ring on his coat cuff. I also went down to the station to meet my old "Y" friend Chester le Maistre. He was on his way overseas. "Yes, they've come to the bottom of the bag" was his way of putting it. Oh yes, and there was Johnny Tarbet of the Acropolis Hill boys to be met. Johnny used to help us—and I imagine still does—at the Empress dances. Today Eva La Pierre phoned me from the airport on her way back to Rupert. I should like to have hopped a plane with her. Funny thing, but when we were both there we used to celebrate our birthdays together as they were only a day apart. And by a strange coincidence tomorrow and the next day are our birthdays. Fate is always happening.

And oh, that beautiful box of real holly sent all the way from the Pacific Coast. Our housekeeper took a sprig home to show her son what real holly was like. So far away are we from such delights.

Far away, indeed! Do you know I had to pay four dollars for a Christmas tree here? And when I think of the beauties that the Highway Regiment boys used to bring me for free, I could weep.

And now, my best and sincerest regards for a happy Christmas and New Year to all my very good friends in Prince Rupert. And do I mean all!

With the Forces

News of the Men and Women on Active Service
(Contributions Welcome)

Leading Aircraftsman Herbie Morgan, who before enlistment three years ago was with the Daily News mechanical staff, is now stationed at Moncton, New Brunswick, having been reposted from his former station in Quebec. He is expected home on leave early in the New Year.

Daily News Classified Ads bring quick results.

THREE THOUSAND TURKEYS ORDERED

Local Butchers Worrying About Delivering Rather than Obtaining

Local butchers are worrying not about obtaining the 3,000 or so turkeys which are being ordered for the Yuletide festive boards in Prince Rupert this year but how they are going to get them out to their customers. It looked like an almost impossible task yesterday as the meat dealers watched trucks moving in the birds on the one hand and then pointed to long lists of orders on the other. So there is every indication that the meat dealers of Prince Rupert are going to have an extremely busy time both night and day this pre-Christmas week. And it will not end there for there are also heavy orders for turkeys and special meats for the New Year dinners.

The most of Prince Rupert's turkey supply will come from the Edmonton packing houses this year while some are being imported direct from Lakes District and Bulkley Valley in the central interior. Birds which were being unloaded this morning appeared to be of fine quality, white, unbruised and well plucked.

City Workers Ask New Pact

Request for revision of the agreement between the City Employees Union and the city has been made to Council by the union, and has referred to next year's Council.

The revision involves the establishment of an overtime payment scale, holidays with pay, incorporation of the cost-of-living bonus into the basic wage scale, and other minor items.

WELSH PEACE PROSPECTS

CARDIFF, Wales, (CP)— South Wales towns are receiving inquiries from United Kingdom manufacturers and one industrial official said: "We feel optimistic about the post-war prospects.

and all through the house...

IT TAKES A KID TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS . . . even when the kid is a six-footer, and twenty-two next birthday. Even when he's now a seasoned fightingman with a string of campaigns behind him, and maybe one or two ahead.

◆ To Mom and Dad this Christmas Eve he's still the little boy with the big eyes, who sneaked out of bed and peeked between the bannisters for a glimpse of Santa Claus.

◆ Funny little codger he was . . . hoping to catch Santa in the act of filling his stocking . . . trying to figure out how he managed to squeeze down the chimney . . . forgetting all about it in the wild excitement of Christmas morning . . . stamping around the house beating his new drum, whooping it up, singing carols at the top of his voice . . . that was quite a while ago.

◆ Once again it's Christmas Eve. "I'll be thinking of you, Mom and Dad," he writes; "Gosh, it's hard to believe it's my fifth Christmas away. Bet the tree looks swell. And the candy canes and pop corn. Save 'em for next year and we'll all celebrate together."

◆ Mom can't see the postmark very clearly, or the writing either. Dad seems to be having trouble with his glasses, too. But when they look at the kid's picture they know from his cheery grin and big confident shoulders that the job he's doing is in good hands . . . that the Spirit of Christmas will live and flourish again all over the earth.

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Greetings

. . . and BEST WISHES to all of you this Christmas from *Reddy Kilowatt* and all of us.

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Sat., Dec. 23 to Sat., Dec. 30
We wish all our customers and friends
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
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