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# Never Before a Christmas Like This in Prince Rupert; Great Changes Are Seen

Never was there before a Christmas like this in Prince Rupert. A hustling, bustling war metropolis now, its population more than double that of a year ago owing to the momentous developments which have brought this port into an important position in the Pacific area of the world war scene, there have been great changes on every hand since the last Yuletide season here.

Of course, the business places, their resources based on the old volume of trade and their problems accentuated by the difficulty of obtaining goods and help, have never experienced anything like the traffic of the past few days. Christmas Eve finds stocks heavily depleted and the shopping rush still going on.

Possibly the busiest place of all, the last fortnight particularly, has been the Post Office. The staff there, under trying conditions, has been valiantly carrying on, endeavouring, come what may, to get out the mail in a two-way stream, the like of which has never before been known here. Thousands of sacks of mail have made what at many times seemed an almost impossible task to handle. Somehow or other, however, the stff, many of them pretty green, have been able to wade through it.

And, while the public services and utilities have been taxed to the limit, war activities have gone on uninterrupted and, in sonsiderable measure, will continue to do so over the holiday. Observance of Christmas Day itself may be curtailed to some extent but the aim has been to arrange things so that every one will have some opportunity to observe the occasion. Except for the stores and some non-essential services, Boxing Day observance this year, in view of the war situation, will be foregone. Both management and union officials have appealed to workers in the shipbuilding industry to carry on as usual on Boxing Day. War construction activity will also proceed without interruption on Boxing Day with some work continuing as well on Christmas Day.

As for shipping and transportation, Christmas, generally speaking, will be marked by a carrying on with little, if any,

There will be no relaxation of routine regulations for the regular forces although many of the men of navy, army and air force will have full opportunity to observe the Christmas Day which finds most of them far away from their homes among strangers and under vastly different conditions than those to which they are used. It will be few Prince Rupert homes that are not extending their hospitality to the men of the forces this Christmas. To those, however, who do not leave the various camps tomorrow, there will be all the good things of Christmas. Turkey and all the trimmings will be the order in them all.

Yes, it will be a different sort of Christmas in Prince Rupert this year but there is every indication that it will be a very merry one.

BATTLE OF RUSSIA-

# ADVANCE KEPT UP BY REDS

Eighteen Miles Per Day

Russian offensive in the Don River and Belgium. Berlin claimed that Bend area continues to make pro- damage was not heavy. gress at a rate estimated at eightforces have now reached a point HOPE NOW 132 miles from Rostov. Eight more towns are reported recaptured since yesterday with thousands more Nazi dead and taken prisoner. Large quantities of abandoned enemy equipment are also being taken.

Heavy fighting continues in the Stalingrad area with the Russians maintaining a strong offensive been missing since Sunday evening and taking back several key points

since yesterday. Owing to the seriousness of the

area have been cancelled.

# AIR FORCE OUT AGAIN

Attacks During Night on Western Germany, Northern France And Belgium

Nazis Fallinh Back At Rate Of LONDON, Dec. 24 - The Royal Air Force was out again last night with bombing attacks over West-MOSCOW, Dec. 24 — The great ern Germany, northern France

# GIVEN UP

now been virtually abandoned for TUNISIAN the safety of the Canadian Pacific Airways transport plane which has on a flight from Prince George to Vancouver with thirteen persons | Patrols Busy on Land in Readiness situation on the Russian front, on board. All dearch operations, leaves for all Nazi troops in that and they have been thorough, are so far unavailing.

### Greeting from Olof Hanson

TO THE CITIZENS OF SKEENA CONSTITUENCY I convey my best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. As we fight for the principles of democracy it is particularly important that we should keep bright and steadfast the sentiments of peace and goodwill that go with this season.

The citizens of Skeena Constituency have an enviable record in their war effort, from the standpoint of active enlistment, industrial developments and on the various duties of the home front.

In wishing you the Season's Compliments it cannot but be the sincere hope of us all, that another year will have been the accomplishment of many of our war aims if not the complete restoration to the World of that new era of Peace and Goodwill.

OLOF HANSON,

M.P. for Skeena Constituency.

For Big Battle-Axis Convoys Attacked

LONDON, Dec. 24—Patrol activity is being kept up on the Tunis- trol. They were landed by ian front with every indication + plane and ships and some + pointing to an early breaking out & came by jeep. of heavy fighting between great forces which appear ready to join . battle. There has been considerwith Allied planes attacking Axis convoys, eleven ships out of which have been shot down during the last few days.

Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps is still in retreat before the British Eighth Army in Libya, having now reached a point about one hundred miles from Tripoli.

Air Force.

### ACTIVITY : Americans At Dakar

\* WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. \* 24—Specialized United States \* \* troops have arrived at Dakar, \* simportant west African port & which is now under Allied con-

H.M.A.S. Armadale is Lost Off Timor, it is Announced

# \* STRIKE AT JAPANESE

Air Blows Being Exchanged Over India and Burma

NEW DELHI, Dec. 24-The Royal Air Force is still exchanging air blows with the Japanese over Burma and India. The Japanese raided Chittagong again yesterday and three enemy planes participated in a third raid on Calcutta where it is announced twenty-five persons have been killed. Over Bengal the Japanese were driven off. British bombers are keeping up the attack on Japanese strongholds in Burma and land forces are within forty-eight miles of Ak-

. Ted Seidlik was taken to hospi-CANBERRA, Dec. 24-Announce- tal by ambulance early this mornment is made of the sinking of ing from the dry dock where he William Shrubsall and Peter the Australian corvette Armadale is employed. He suffered the loss Brass are leaving for Vancouver off Timor Island. The vessel was of two fingers when his hand was having received their call for the bombed 250 miles north of Port smashed between the couplings land the flat car.

#### Over Subscription American Plane Of Victory Loan

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 24 There has been a two billion dollar oversubscription of the United States Victory Loan. In forty-three days forty-three billion dollars has been subscribed.

# Is Missing With Five On Board

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 24- A United States Army twin - engined transport plane with five men on board is missing in northern Cali-

#### MR. PATTULLO'S MESSAGE

HRISTMAS must always be a season for rejoicing when we remember all that it connotes.

With the world in such turmoil and so much individual sorrow it is not easy to express one's feelings, but, this we should do-we should see to it that we earn the satisfaction of having done our best and wish each other well.

May I again, through your paper, extend Greetings and Best Wishes to All.

T. D. PATTULLO

