



SEASON'S GREETINGS

from us - to you



WAR NEWS

Commandos Strike Almost To Bizerte

Return To Base After Daring Raids; Allied Patrols Also Stab Forward In Tunisian Area

London, Dec. 22.—The Daily Telegraph reported today that American and British Commandos penetrated to within four miles of the Axis base at Bizerte, last week in a daring raid that gained them temporary control of 125 square miles of enemy territory and disorganized transport on the Bizerte front for three days.

The dispatch, reported from Commando headquarters in North Africa, said the expedition was the most successful Commando raid of the war. The 30-year-old colonel who planned and commanded the mission described it as "a textbook classic."

The raiding party was half American and half British. It drove into the Bizerte area and inflicted heavy damage on Axis transport convoys, armored vehicles and airplanes.

Big Losses
The enemy's losses were described as "far out of proportion" to those of the Commandos, one-sixth of whom were casualties. The operation took five days, with schedule being maintained throughout.

Two important road junctions were seized north of Mateur, the apex of the Northern Tunisian triangle where fighting has been heaviest. The Commandos held the crossroads until the Germans launched heavy counter-attacks which drove them out.

Eisenhower Has Planned Big Assault

Is Making Careful Preparations To Clean Up In Africa

Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Dec. 22.—Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower has worked out a plan to unite Allied forces in Tunisia with the British Eighth Army for a grand assault on the Axis, and preparations are going forward under the motto of "Take your time and make sure of success."

The grand strategy of the Allies in North Africa, it can be revealed today, is to chase the German Afrika Korps all the way into Tunisia, and then hit the Axis forces with all the combined weight of Eisenhower's troops and General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's army which is chasing the Germans across Tripolitania.

Gaining In Air
Air battles over Tunisia have taken a sudden turn in favor of the Allies, and supplies are being rushed to the front lines today in preparation for the eventual attack.

There were reports that Eisenhower and Montgomery had met to work out plans for the co-ordinated attack, but there was no official confirmation of that here.

The world cannot make peace without us. We must not make the mistake of 1918-19. This time we should see the job through.—Dr. Clark M. Eichelberger, director League of Nations Association.

Christmas is the one time you get what's coming to you.

Americans Commanded British Fortress

Eisenhower Did Staff Work At British Fortress For African Invasion

Allied Headquarters, North Africa, Dec. 5.—(Delayed)—Lieut. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower commanded the British fortress of Gibraltar during the first days of the North African operations, thus being the first foreigner in two centuries to control that rock of British empire.

Security reasons restricted the announcement until today. (Censorship further delayed publication of the dispatch even after it was written.)

With Allied Staff
In the world's safest air raid shelter under 1,400 feet of solid rock in offices carved from limestone, the Allied staff worked 24-hours a day under the U. S. commander.

"Never in my wildest dreams in my West Point days did I ever think that I—an American general—would ever command the British fortress of Gibraltar," Eisenhower declared one day at a press conference at his office in the rock.

Gibraltar, of course, was actually under his command only because he was Allied commander-in-chief and Gen. Mason MacFarlane, who actually is in charge, was responsible to his orders.

Weeks before the zero hour, American and British advance groups were working secretly at Gibraltar and keeping out of the way of a daily influx of 5,000 Spanish workers. They installed signal apparatus and put 40 officers in the heart of the rock in shape for Allied operations.

To reach headquarters, one had to pass Navy guards and then guards at the mouth of the tunnel, which was about three-quarters of a mile long.

A final British guard more than a quarter of a mile inside the tunnel inspected passes before allowing one to enter the North African headquarters.

Generals, air marshals, admirals and privates all had to walk through the dripping tunnel to headquarters where concrete casements kept out the water.

British Advance Deeper in Burma

Now Only 45 Miles From Strategic Japanese Sea And Air Base at Akyab

New Delhi, Dec. 21.—British forces pushing through the thick jungles of Western Burma have occupied Aledhangyau, only 45 miles from the strategic Japanese-held sea and air base of Akyab, reports from the front said today.

Aledhangyau is about 10 miles south of the Maungdaw-Buthidaung area which British troops occupied Friday.

The new gain was reported by an army observer who said the British forces still had not met enemy opposition but that progress was slow because of the jungles and swamps.

Capture of Akyab would give the British an air base only 250 miles from the Japanese base at Mandalay and 340 miles from Rangoon.

Meanwhile a communique announced that British bombers blasted the big Magwe airdrome in central Burma Sunday.

The SPIRIT of SANTA CLAUS



THERE will be many shadows clouding our Christmas Day this year; but—Christmas is important! It comes at the close of the old year binding up the wounds of bitterness, making fast the moorings of friendship, renewing the promise of peace and good will, invoking the magic of memories.

Christmas is the children's feast: has the Master not said that what we do unto the least of His little ones we do also unto Him? It is twenty centuries since there was no room for Him in the inn and many children have neither a bed nor place of safety these nights. For these, we give our efforts, our bundles, and our prayers.

In America, the children must not lose their faith in Santa Claus. The best explanation regarding Santa Claus and the Christmas Spirit I have ever been offered or able to figure out for myself, is the one that was given to me by my mother on that fateful day when I accidentally caught a delivery boy entering the house bearing an ill-concealed rocking horse.

Santa Claus typifies the Christmas Spirit: the mothers and fathers, those be-whiskered gentlemen in the stores who puzzle lots of boys and girls by being so numerous, the delivery boys, and all of us who support and participate in the campaign of spreading cheer, we are the life blood and sustaining power of the Christmas Spirit.

The children of today must have their toys this Christmas; and we must be extra careful that no child has occasion to lose his faith in Santa Claus. There are plenty of sleds and drums, dolls and painted carts and Christmas trees to go around; but it is up to Santa's helpers to see that every child in the land is remembered.

And we grown-ups must have our Christmas, too. For when we out-grow our toys we set this day aside to reunite our families and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

"Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight."

Christmas Closing

Practically all the places of business in Louisburg will be closed on Friday and Saturday in observance of the Christmas holidays. This includes the Banks at Louisburg and Franklin.

If you have any business with any of these places attend to it before Christmas.

'B' AND 'C' GAS BOOKS NOT BEING ISSUED NOW

Washington, Dec. 22.—Issuance of B and C gasoline ration books is being halted for the next few days in the 17 East Coast states while the Office of Price Administration readjusts mileage tables to conform with the new unit values of the coupons. The unit values in the East were cut from four to three gallons each over the week-end.

Validity of the B and C books already issued was not affected by the order temporarily halting the issuance of new ones.

Young married couples get along best when near relatives are far away.

Wake Jury Awards \$36,000 In John D. Waldrop Death

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—A Superior Court yesterday awarded damages of \$36,000 to the estate of John Douglas Waldrop, who was chief engineer for the State Highway and Public Works Department at the time he was injured fatally in an automobile accident on August 19, 1934.

The suit was brought by the executrix, Jenny Lind Waldrop, who now is Mrs. John Burt Hill. The defendant in the trial of the civil suit in Wake Superior Court was C. J. Hayes. The suit was brought as a result of the fatal accident, and originally was filed for \$50,000 against Hayes, P. W. Lantz, and the Consolidated Advertising Corporation, Ltd. Liability as to the other defendants in the action was dismissed at previous terms of Wake Superior Court.

Hayes was driving an automobile owned by Lantz when the collision occurred on N. C. Highway No. 10 in New Bern about 5:15 p. m. Waldrop died August 20 from injuries received in the wreck.

There is only one standard of fitness—the standard of total war. Every man should have the light of battle in his eye.—Brig-Gen. Bernard L. Montgomery, British Africa commander.

WILLKIE TO SPEAK AT DUKE, JAN. 14

Will Discuss Recent Tour Of Major Allied War Capitols; Invited Here Several Times

Durham, Dec. 22.—Wendell L. Willkie, globe-circling 1940 Republican party presidential candidate, will speak at Duke University Jan. 14 on observations of his recent trip to the major Allied war capitols, Duke President Robert L. Flowers said today.

Dr. Flowers said Willkie definitely accepted an invitation from the University Lecture Committee yesterday.

The 1940 Republican party Presidential candidate was first invited to speak at Duke last Spring, but was unable to accept at that time. He was again invited following his globe-circling tour of the early Fall, during which he visited major war capitols and several of the fighting fronts, but for a second time he was unable to come.

He has now definitely accepted the Duke invitation and will speak in the big indoor stadium, which can seat an audience of more than 10,000 persons.

It will be Willkie's first visit to the South since his widely publicized tour, during which he had significant conferences with Premier Joseph Stalin, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and other outstanding United Nations and neutral leaders.

Willkie is expected in his address to make reference to his observations on world affairs growing out of his trip. He will be accompanied to Durham by John W. Hanes, for Under-Secretary of the Treasury, a native North Carolinian who holds the degree of Doctor of Laws from Duke University.

Another Snow

Another heavy snow fall visited this section Sunday. This time snow began falling Sunday morning and continued until night. This time, the flakes were not so large and did not fall so fast. This time the snow was in the shape of real fine showers of ice. In rain, it would be what we call mist, but it soon covered the ground and with the frozen ground and cold wave it remained till Wednesday.

DRAFTEES LEAVE

Seventy-four Colored draftees were sent to Fort Bragg Friday by the local Draft Board.

PROGRAM AT THE LOUISBURG THEATRE

The following is the program at the Louisburg Theatre, beginning Thursday, Dec. 24th:

Thursday—Midnight Show, Bing Crosby, Mary Martin and Jack Teagarden and Band in 'The Birth of the Blues.'

Thursday-Friday—Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in 'Pardon My Sarong.'

Saturday—John Mack Brown and Tex Ritter in 'Raiders of San Joaquin' and Fay Bainter and Carolyn Lee in 'Mrs. Giggles of The Cabbage Patch.'

Sunday-Monday—Tyronne Power and Maureen O'Hara in 'The Black Swan.'

Tuesday—Jinx Falkenburg and Kay Harris in 'Lucky Legs.'

Wednesday—The Ritz Bros. and Carol Bruce in 'Behind The Eight Ball.'

Thursday—Midnight Show, The Andrews Sisters and Harry James and his orchestra in 'Private Buckaroo.'

Thursday-Friday—Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and Virginia Dale in 'Holiday Inn.'

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Babson Says, "Let Nothing Plague Us"

By ROGER W. BABSON

Baltimore, Maryland, Dec. 23.—Christmas began with the birth of a child. Now, for a day, let us men meet life in the spirit of childhood.

During the Christmas Season we become less critical, more sympathetic and more joyful than at other times during the year. But this Christmas should have a deeper meaning for all of us. For the children, it will be a happy day. For us older folk, well, perhaps for a little time we can forget and forgive ignorance, brutality and selfishness.

Uncertainty Natural
Many people sincerely believe that the world is going to the dogs. They are terribly frightened of war, disease and death and of social or economic changes. War and disease wait for no man. Even on Christmas Day fighting will continue and many men, women and children will die. Families everywhere, bereaved from whatever cause, we should remember in our prayers. I ask that they be not cast down, that they rejoice in the memories of loved ones and renew and revitalize their lives in service to others.

No wonder people feel today as they do. They are burdened with doubt. Like Jeremiah, their "pain is perpetual." Even the most experienced are going through life ignorant of what is really going on. We are all in the same boat, confused and bewildered. There are forces at work throughout the world and perhaps even in our own country that may well spell disaster to the life and liberty for which our civilization has fought and which we, in particular, have enjoyed. Yes, many things look black today. But we must remember that the very first Christmas dawned on a world just as bad as—in fact, very much worse than—ours.

Withhold Judgment
Personally, I am an incurable optimist. I believe that in spite of everything bad the world is getting better. Every day many of us do and say things for which a few hundred years ago we would have had our heads chopped off. Nations make mistakes just as individuals do, but I have faith even in my enemies. My children and grandchildren will happily be doing business with these Germans and Japanese. Like most individuals, all nations, including our own, will get back again on the right track. Most of us have thought Russia a terrible place. Now she is again recognizing the churches. She has pulled the political commissars away from her armies. Her people are showing wonderful courage. Certainly, they must love their country and their leaders and believe in better things to come.

It is too easy to pass judgment upon what is taking place in the world today. In our planetary life, present events are occupying only an infinitesimal period of time. But we do know from history that out of all previous upheavals, from the over-running of Europe by the Mongolian Huns in the Fourth Century, B. C., up through the Middle Ages from 476 A. D.—1492, to modern times, much good has come from war. And people in those times

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