

For release after 5.15 p.m., December 25th

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PRESS RELEASE - CHRISTMAS BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER

I am happy to have the opportunity, on behalf of all Canadians, to extend the Season's Greetings to everyone who is serving in Canada's forces, abroad, and at home, whether on land, on the sea, or in the air. You may be sure that you are more in the hearts and minds of your loved ones to-day than at any previous Christmastide.

To many, the Christmas message: "Peace on earth; good-will toward men" may seem to be strangely out of place amid the din of conflict, and the horrors of war. It will not be so with you who are in arms. You know full well that the whole purpose of your warfare is to slay the dragon of evil, in order that the teachings of the Prince of Peace may prevail among men and nations.

In many lands, this year, Christmas bells are silent, altars are dimmed, and little lights are not aglow on the Christmas trees of happy children. Nevertheless, in millions of homes, darkened with the shadows of war, the flame of Christianity still burns steadily in the sanctuary of the human heart. As crusaders, you seek to protect that flame. It is your mission to preserve it from extinction. Amid the clamour of evil, the tribulation of suffering, the turmoil of battle, we hold fast to our belief in Christian brotherhood. That is why, Mr. James Bone of the "Manchester Guardian" said after a recent visit that he found in Canada, a nation at war with Hitler, but at peace with herself. On no day since Christ was born in the manger at Bethlehem, has the song of the angels meant more to mankind than it does on this Christmas Day.