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Canadian survives attack by Congo machine guns

Burns Lake murder first case in assizes

Trial of Robert Skin, of Burns Lake, charged with murder, opened in B.C. Supreme Court this morning as the Spring Assizes got underway before Mr. Justice Hugh Allan MacLean, former Deputy Attorney-general of British Columbia.

Skin, represented by defence counsel John Coates of Prince George, entered a plea of not guilty in connection with the death of James Andrew at Southbank August 27, 1960.

A Bruce Brown, as a member of the Prince Rupert Bar Association, extended a welcome to Mr. Justice MacLean on the occasion of his first visit to the city.

Mr. Justice MacLean replied that it was a pleasure to be in Prince Rupert and said that he found that all the tales about Prince Rupert's weather are without foundation.

T. G. Bowen-Colthurst of Victoria, recently appointed Queen's Counsel, and Harvey Jessop of Kitimat are handling the prosecution for the Crown.

After preliminary remarks this morning, a 12-member all-male jury was chosen out of a total of 48 prospective jurors.

The jury chose Alfred George Ford as their foreman.

Other jurors are: Emile Joseph Blain, Wilfred Joseph McLean, Frederick Albert Dowdie, James Ross Nicoll, William Michael Oldfield, Arne Lien, Clarence Victor Morris, John Leslie Capewell, Chris Berg, William Albert McChesney and James Francis Williams.

Peace Corps widens work

WASHINGTON (AP) President Kennedy says his "peace corps" may serve at home as well as abroad.

"One of the matters which we are now studying," Kennedy said, "is how we could use Americans who desire to serve in our own country — slum areas, in education, retraining and all the rest."

The president's comments were recorded at the White House during a television discussion with Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. The program was released Sunday.

R. Sargent Shriver, the president's brother-in-law, was named by Kennedy Saturday to serve without pay as director of the peace corps. Kennedy has said he hopes to have 500 to 1,000 young men and women in service around the world by the end of the year.

Volunteers will serve two or three years, without pay, except for living allowances and perhaps a severance allotment.

They will go to countries where they are needed and wanted and work particularly on teaching, health and agriculture.

Ailing actress on upgrade

LONDON (AP)—Actress Elizabeth Taylor spent a restless night but showed a slight improvement this morning in her desperate fight against pneumonia, her doctors reported.

"There is a slight improvement in Miss Taylor's condition, but she is not out of danger yet," said a bulletin from the team of six doctors attending the Hollywood star.

Dr. Carl Heinz Goldman, Miss Taylor's personal physician, said she would be in the London Clinic for at least another 10 days and "she will need a long time to recuperate, perhaps a year."

$150 bursary established

Another bursary has been added to the growing list now offered to students at Prince Rupert Senior High school, vice-principal Frank N. Sutton announced Friday.

Mr. Sutton said that Hugo Kraupner, president and managing director of Rupert Cleaners and Laundry Ltd., had written principal L. G. Truscott saying that in commemoration of his firm's 25th anniversary, it had been decided to set up a yearly bursary of $150 for a "deserving student graduating from Prince Rupert Senior High school who will continue his or her studies at the University of British Columbia". (See story Page 4).

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Swim club meet set for Thursday

The Prince Rupert Amateur Swimming Club will hold a general meeting of all members in the main lounge of the Civic Centre, at 8 p.m., Thursday night next.

Captain gunned on truce attempt

LEOPOLDVILLE (CP) — Captain Gerry Belanger, earlier feared killed by Congolese troops, flew into Leopoldville today and told of 24 nervewracking hours hiding out from the Congolese. He told how he ran for it when firing broke out. He dashed across a road into a brush-covered canal "until I almost ran into a Congolese machine gun post," he said.

Eight Canadians who were released after having been taken prisoner by the Congolese said the officer in charge, identified as Capt. Belanger of Quebec City, went out to talk with the Congolese during a lull in the fighting.

There was a burst of machine-gun fire "but we did not see what happened to him," recounted S/Sgt. L. H. Harris, 37, of Griesback, Alta. Belanger had not been seen since and was presumed dead.

Two Sudanese soldiers—members of a 135-man contingent guarding the Canadian signal station — were also reported killed in the fighting. Twelve other Sudanese are missing and 13 are wounded.

More than 1,000 Congolese attacked the signal centre at the port of Matadi. The Sudanese troops were disarmed and forced to withdraw. The eight other Canadians were released and flown to Leopoldville Sunday night.

Three of the Canadians were slightly wounded but they said they had not been ill-treated.

The nine Canadians were in a two-storey villa next to a Congolese barracks.

Harris said that at about 10:20 a.m. Saturday Sudanese troops took up positions outside the villa with a machine-gun facing the Congolese barracks.

"I tried to get them to take it away because I did not know on whose authority it had been put there," he said. "The Congolese pointed guns at us."

"Then someone pulled a trigger—I don't know who. We assumed battle positions. There was a lull during which a wounded Sudanese was evacuated. The firing began again at about 2 o'clock.

At about 5 o'clock the Congolese began using grenades. We had hoped for reinforcements from the Sudanese. But now I realized the position was hopeless. We agreed it was no use carrying on because we had only small arms fire against the Congolese heavy weapons.

"I went outside with a white towel to tell the Congolese we were ready to call it quits. We left our weapons behind and went out."

Harris said that at one time the Sudanese guards had taken refuge in a bedroom.

"My impression was that it was their first time under fire and they were nervous," he said.

Sgmn. Cecil Bates, 22, of Timmins, Ont., was the last to leave the ground floor of the building. He said he had no idea what was going on upstairs when the white flag was shown.

"I lay on the floor, and the next thing I heard was the Congolese telling me to get up. They were yelling as if they were mad. One grabbed me by the arm and dragged me outside."

Rival Congolese leaders assembled in the Malagasy Republic today for the opening of a peace conference out of earshot of The Congo's feuding factions.

SENIOR CHAMPS . . . Kitimaat Athletic Club's senior basketball team poses for a picture just after winning Prince Rupert Basketball Association's 1961 All Native Tournament Saturday night at the Civic Centre. Kitimaat whipped last year's Kitkatla champs 66-53 to win the tourney. The boys were beaten by Kitkatla in the early stages of the tourney and had to fight their way back into contention through the back door of the double-knockout event. At left, back row is Allan Hall, manager, while coach Reg Smith stands at far right. Players in picture are: Crosby Smith, Rod Bolton, Garry Grant, Roy Grant, Douglas Stewart, Charles Smith, Bill Wilson, Ray Green, Marvin Ross and Elmer Smither. Garry Grant was chosen as most valuable player of tournament and was high scorer. (See story, pictures, page six.)

— Nishsio-Van Meer Photo

$883,000 COMMUNITY PROJECT

2,000 at opening ceremonies of Terrace District hospital

By CATHERINE M. FRASER
Editor of The Terrace-Omineca Herald

TERRACE—An estimated 2,000 persons attended the official opening of Terrace's new $883,000 hospital, most modern in British Columbia, if not in all Canada, Saturday afternoon as bright sunshine bathed Terrace's latest example of community enterprise.

Health Services Minister Eric Martin unveiled a plaque to open the building, long needed for this fast-growing community of close to 7,000 as well as the wide-spread district.

The event was the realization of a dream come true for many hardworking members of the hospital board as well as for citizens and organizations who contributed time and money.

Terrace-born Dudley G. Little, MLA for Skeena was on the platform for the opening while B. R. Dodds, member of the Terrace and District Hospital board for 10 years and chairman for seven years, master of ceremonies, paid tribute to all who had taken part in the campaign for the new hospital.

Dedication prayers were given by Rev. O. P. Mohan and Rev. A. M. Rempel Also attending the ceremonies was Rev Turgeon, ex-member of the hospital board, who came 700 miles from Dawson Creek

The first sod for the new hospital was turned just a year ago and the new building is a far cry from the first Terrace hospital which was a one-room shack with one bed built in 1927. Prior to that patients were transported to Prince Rupert, 95 miles away. Some survived the trip, some didn't.

Dr. Stanley Mills, retired physician, still living in Terrace and his wife Edith, still a member of the hospital nursing staff, both recall many anxious hours spent transporting patients in boxcars over the onetime rough railway bed.

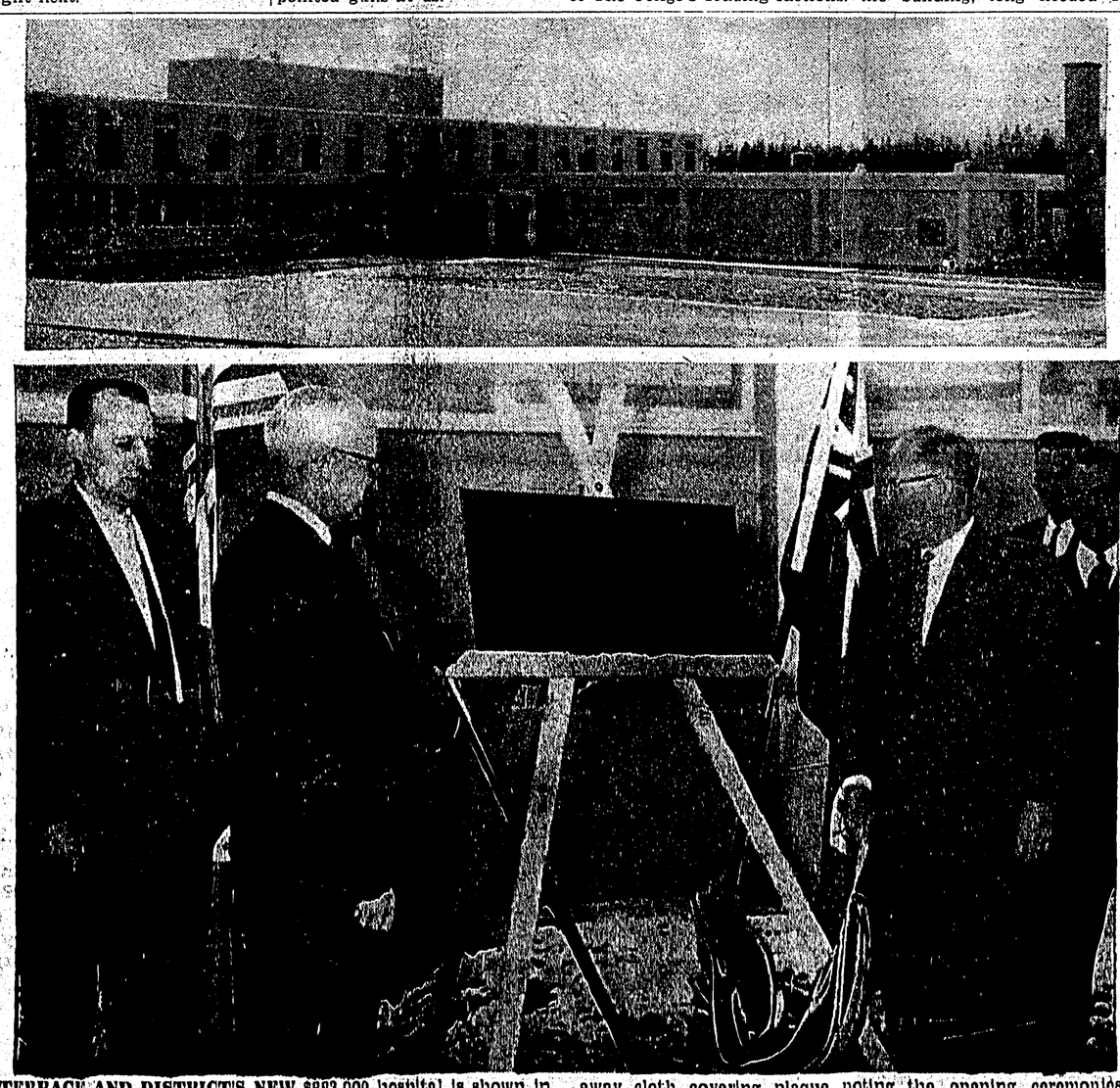
Reeve Walter Yeo spoke on behalf of the community, Kinsmen Gordon Davis presented a modern fully - equipped ambulance to the hospital on behalf of the Kinsmen Club and Kinettes, the Terrace RCMP detachment attended in dress uniform, 18 members of the Skeena high school band played music for the opening and registered nurses and the Future Nurses Club assisted at the opening ceremonies.

Others attending were Walter Cabbot, project superintendent of contractors Peter Kiewit Sons of Canada Ltd., chief architect Frederick Brodie, District Highways superintendent Carl Shaw and press and radio representatives from Terrace and Kitimat.

The Terrace and District Hospital Women's Auxiliary, which has contributed thousands of dollars worth of equipment, served refreshments.

Also donated to hospital was $700 contributed by Terrace school children.

Saturday evening about 200 persons, including members of the hospital staffs of Prince Rupert and Kitimat hospitals, attended a banquet.



TERRACE AND DISTRICT'S NEW $883,000 hospital is shown in top photo prior to opening ceremonies Saturday afternoon. New two-storey "T" shaped building is of reinforced concrete and provides accommodation for 40 active treatment beds. Hospital has own laundry, which is seen at right. In bottom photo at right, Health Services Minister Eric Martin has just whipped away cloth covering plaque noting the opening ceremonies. At left are Reeve Walter Yeo and B. R. Dodds, member of the hospital board for 10 years and chairman for seven years. After the opening ceremonies, Mr. Martin, other dignitaries and the public made a tour of the new building.

— Photos by J. L. Catton

Young boy dies in fire

Three-year-old Richard John Hillis was burned to death about 5:45 p.m. Saturday in a fire which destroyed two small dwellings at the Mountain View Sawmills at Kitwancool, about four miles west of Hazelton.

The child was in the care of a 12-year-old baby sitter at the time of the incident while the aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hillis, who have been caring for the child since the death of the father, Charles Hillis, were in Hazelton. The mother, Mrs. Bruce Johnson, is at Kispiox.

A faulty oil burner is said by RCMP to be the cause of the fire. An enquiry will be held. No other persons were injured in the incident.

'Jumped rattler', jailed seven days

A sentence of seven days in jail was imposed on Edward Carl Richards of no fixed address when he pleaded guilty this morning in police court to a charge of fraudulently obtaining transportation, before Magistrate E. T. Applewhaite.

RCMP told the court that Richards had come into town early this morning by riding in a Canadian National Railways box car. He had not paid the CNR for his transportation.

Prince Rupert has now gone 780 days without a fatal traffic accident.

Living cost shows drop

OTTAWA (CP) — Canada's living costs dropped in January for the second month in a row as lower food prices whittled three-tenths of a point off the consumer price index. The index declined to 128.9 on February 1 from 129.2 a month earlier.

The decline reported today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics followed a drop of four-tenths of a point in December from the December 1 peak of 129.6.

The February 1 index was higher by 1.7 points, or 1.3 per cent, than the year-earlier level of 127.2.

The food index dropped a full point to 123.4 from 124.4 as price cuts on citrus fruits, fresh totatoes, eggs, lettuce and beef outweighed higher prices for other meats, apples and some fresh vegetables.

The decline in the price index followed a December decline in industrial wages. The index of average industrial wages and salaries at January 1, latest date available, was 175 compared with 177.9 a month earlier and 168.6 a year earlier. This drop was credited to the Christmas holidays. The index is based on 1949 wages equalling 100.

Ship inspector here March 15

Government steamship inspector D. M. Laing will be arriving in Prince Rupert for a routine inspection trip March 15, it was learned here today. Mr. Laing will inspect any vessels over 15 tons gross whose certificates have expired.

Jack & Jill open house

The public is invited to attend the Jack and Jill School Open House being held tomorrow from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. in conjunction with Education Week.

School Supervisor, Mrs. Joe Ridsdale will be on hand to receive all visitors.

WEATHER

Clouding over after midnight. Rain Tuesday initially mixed with snow. A little milder. South 15 winds tomorrow becoming southeast 25 by midday. Low tonight and high tomorrow, 32 and 45.

TIDES

Tuesday, March 7, 1961
(Pacific Standard Time)

High	04:07	20.2 feet
	16:37	18.1 feet
Low	10:37	5.0 feet
	22:33	6.5 feet