

The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1940.

Tomorrow's Tides

Table with tide information: High 1:06 a.m. 20.0 ft., 13:08 p.m. 20.5 ft., Low 7:15 a.m. 5.8 ft., 19:30 p.m. 4.0 ft.

Weather Forecast

Prince Rupert and Queen Charlotte Islands—Fresh east winds becoming strong, cloudy and mild with occasional rain.

Vol. XX

PRICE: 5 CENTS

Great Liner Safe Across Ocean

Overseas Headquarters Of Royal Canadian Air Force Established In Old Land

OTTAWA, March 7.—Group Captain George Victor Walsh, M.B.E., of Ottawa, has been appointed to command the Overseas Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Air Force now being established in England.

NAZI PLANE IS DROPPED

Forty-Fourth Aircraft So Far in War Accounted For—Further British Raids Over Germany

LONDON, March 7 (Canadian Press)—The Air Ministry announced today that the Royal Air Force had shot down a German plane off the northeast coast of Scotland.

Royal Air Force fliers, it was announced earlier in the day, had scouted the German naval bases of Wilhelmshafen, Heligoland and Cuxhaven as well as the principal cities and ports of northwest Germany last night.

In Berlin the German high command, in addition to aerial activity against shipping on the North Sea, reports successful reconnaissance flights into France as far as Paris.

SUBMARINE DESTROYED

Chinese Claim of Naval Casualty of Enemy in Yangtze River Is Denied at Tokyo

HONG KONG, March 7.—Reports have reached here of the destruction of a Japanese destroyer by striking a Chinese-laid mine in the Kiangtze River on February 24 with loss of more than one hundred members of the crew.

U-BOATS ATTACKED

But British Sources Give No Indication of Results—Germans Claim Sinkings

PARIS, March 7: (Canadian Press)—Allied patrol boats attacked several German U-boats since the week-end, it is disclosed, but the results are undetermined.

Don't Swap Horses In Mid-Stream

(Excerpt from "The Vancouver Sun") THE sensible elector, knowing very well that he can never get a perfect government in this world, will ask himself whether, on the whole, he can hope to improve conditions by turning out this experienced government and putting in an inexperienced party.

VOTE FOR HANSON Skeena Federal Liberal Association of Prince Rupert, B.C.

SAWMILL IS DESTROYED

Electric Light Plant Also Consumed in Blaze Which Nearly Wiped Out Naas River Village

Bringing word of a recent village disaster which involved the destruction by fire of the sawmill and power plant with an estimate loss of \$8000 against which there was no insurance protection, Johnson Russ, chief councillor of Greenville on the Naas River, arrived in the city yesterday with Albert Moore, Peter Calder and Samuel Calder aboard the boat A. M.

The fire started, Mr. Russ reports, from a torch in the diesel engine room of the power plant. Soon the sawmill was also in flames and, with a strong wind blowing, the entire village appeared for a while to be in imminent danger of destruction.

The time of the fire was at 10 o'clock in the morning.

ARMISTICE IS SOUGHT

Russian Demands Are, However, Extensive—Sweden Co-Operates in Negotiations

STOCKHOLM, March 7: (CP)—Sweden is seeking to arrange an armistice in the Russo-Finnish war, unusually reliable sources said today, adding that Russian peace terms had recently been presented to Finland.

An armistice, it was said, would be followed by further efforts to arrange a settlement. If peace negotiations are under way, Scandinavian nations assume that Berlin would also be interested.

ATHENIA SUIT ON

Claims Totalling \$700,000 Are Filed Against Owners of Ship Which Sank on First Day of War

NEW YORK, March 7.—Claims for damages totalling \$700,000 have been filed in New York Federal Court on behalf of American passengers aboard the British steamer Athenia which was sunk off the west coast of Scotland on the opening day of the war.

UNLOADING COLLIERIES

LONDON—Eight of fourteen Italian colliers bound from Rotterdam to Italy which were detained by the British contraband control have been ordered to discharge their cargoes for which Italy will be recompensed after the war.

Bulletins

DREW'S CHARGES

OTTAWA—In an address last night Col. George Drew charged Prime Minister King with endeavouring to set up a dictatorship in Canada like that of Cromwell. He charged that neither the Prime Minister nor the minister of national defence were telling the truth when they said Canada was prepared for war.

SMOKE SIGNALS

VICTORIA—The provincial police have been dispatched to investigate reports of smoke signals five miles from Cape Cook on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

GOVERNMENT SUSTAINED

LONDON—The Labor-Liberal non-confidence vote over Palestine policy was rejected 292 to 121 by Parliament late yesterday.

War News

ALLIES NOW BEST

LONDON—Great Britain and France have now passed Germany in rate of building warplanes, Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Air, told the House of Commons today. He said the Allies were far ahead in quality.

SENTENCED TO DEATH

PARIS—Two French radio announcers, who have been broadcasting propaganda from Stuttgart, Germany, on behalf of the Reich, have been sentenced to death in absentia for treason.

RUSSIAN ULTIMATUM

STOCKHOLM—Stockholm dispatches to Paris newspapers said that Russian peace terms were in the forms of an ultimatum expiring midnight March 8-9.

FIGHT TO FINISH

PARIS—Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles of United States arrived here today from Switzerland to confer with President Albert Lebrun, Premier Edouard Daladier and Auguste de Champetier de Ribes, Foreign Under Secretary. The French attitude as Welles arrived on his "fact finding" visit was far from conciliatory.

SINKING UNCONFIRMED

LONDON—There is no confirmation of the sinking off Land's End yesterday by torpedo attack of the big British tanker San Florentine. Exchange Telegraph says it has arrived safely in port.

REDS STILL HELD FROM FINN CITY

Russians Suffer Enormous Bloody Losses at Viipuri—More Intensive Siege is Anticipated

HELSINGFORS, March 7: (CP)—A Finnish communique today said that the Finns had repulsed all Russian thrusts across Viipuri Bay except two minor ones designed to flank the beleaguered city of Viipuri and the Mannerheim Line. The Russian attacks yesterday were supported by aircraft, tanks and artillery which, with human life, were extravagantly poured into the bloody sieve.

The Russians are still holding virtually the same positions on the outskirts of Viipuri as they did a week ago.

Great gaping holes on the blood-stained ice of Viipuri Bay told the story of how the desperately fierce Russian attacks had been beaten back by the Finnish guns. They represented how huge numbers of infantry and tank crews had gone to a watery grave.

RUSSIAN PLANES CONTINUED

The bombing of railways, towns and villages of southern Finland and at least forty persons have been killed. So persistent have been the attacks of Russians on hospitals that it has become evident that they are deliberate so, in order to make such places less conspicuous, Red Cross signs, which it was thought might have protected them from attack, have been removed from the roofs.

Ten Russian planes, the Finns claim, were brought down yesterday. On the other hand, the Russians claim to have brought down three Finnish planes.

The Battle of Viipuri has now spread all the way from Viipuri Bay to the centre of the Kerelian Isthmus. A lull today suggested that the Russians might be preparing for an even more intensive offensive. A Moscow communique today said there had been nothing of importance except local activity on the Finnish front.

The Finns show no signs of surrender of Viipuri in spite of the opinion of some observers that it might have been more strategic to have retired before this.

The Finnish military authorities today called out men of twenty-year-old class as well as others who had been previously rejected on account of physical defects.

All children have been evacuated from Helsingfors indicating that further air raids are expected there.

FURTHER SINKINGS

Neutrals as Well as British Victims of Mines in War at Sea LONDON, March 7: (CP)—Sinking of the 3,000-ton Swedish steamer Lagaholm was disclosed when the crew reached a Scottish port.

Australia Coalition

MELBOURNE, March 7: (CP)—Prime Minister Menzies today formed a coalition cabinet with the Country party, closing the breach created last April by the death of Joseph Lyons who had held the quarrelsome parties together. Archibald Cameron, new Country Party leader, will become deputy Prime Minister and take three of his followers into the cabinet. The United Australian Party holds twenty-eight seats, the Country Party sixteen and Labor, thirty.

TO COMBAT MINES NOW

Electrified Cable Used by Liner in Crossing Atlantic

NEW YORK, March 7 (CP)—The Cunard-White Star liner Scythia has arrived safely from Liverpool, having made the voyage without success a new device, consisting of an electrical cable, which encircled her hull, to combat magnetic mines. There were special watches to keep a look-out for submarines. The Scythia, which sailed from Liverpool February 22, brought 589 passengers including four hundred German refugees.

ROUMANIA IS NEUTRAL

His Policy Reaffirmed by King Carol in Opening Parliament

BUCHAREST, March 7 (Canadian Press)—King Carol opened Rumanian Parliament today with the declaration that all Rumanian resources would be thrown behind the Army as "a supreme guarantee of our independence and integrity of our borders."

King Carol reaffirmed Rumania's intention of following a strict policy of neutrality, a policy which had been carried out and would be continued in the fields of foreign commerce as well as otherwise. Great Britain would be given an equal break with Germany in exports.

The King forecast that the country might have to make great sacrifices for the defence of its frontiers. He announced taxes would be materially increased in order to maintain the army of 1,600,000 men under arms.

The King declared that relations with other nations were good. Great Britain has demanded full equality with Germany in sharing Rumanian exports, including oil, a high authority asserted yesterday. The demand is said to have sent Rumanian minister Viorel Tilea hurrying back here from London.

Roumania and Russia are said to be negotiating a non-aggression treaty.

Seventy-Nine Miners Back

PIONEER, March 7 (CP)—With British Columbia Police keeping watchful guard, 79 miners returned to work yesterday, ending the strike which paralyzed the Pioneer Gold Mine, big gold producer for five months. Some pickets were in evidence but there was no demonstration. No members of the Union were in the group returning to work although there was nothing to prevent them doing so.

CROSSES ATLANTIC

Spectacular Voyage Brings Queen of Seas From Glasgow to New York

NEW YORK, March 7: (CP)—Following a spectacular voyage across the Atlantic Ocean from Clydesbank, where she was built, the giant new Cunard-White Star liner Queen Elizabeth, largest ship afloat, was safe in New York Harbor this morning. The voyage had been shrouded in the greatest secrecy and the public had no hint of it until late yesterday when it was nearing completion.

It is expected the Queen Elizabeth will be tied up here for the duration of the war. She will be moored alongside the Queen Mary and the Normandie, the Mauretania having moved yesterday to another berth to make way for her.

Ending her bold dash across the perilous submarine-infested waters of the Atlantic, the 85,000-ton liner which cost \$29,000,000 to build passed Ambrose Lightship shortly after 6 a.m. Pacific Standard Time and soon was in the safety of New York Harbor waters. She was forced to wait until high tide before docking at Pier 90 later in the afternoon, this being a ticklish job owing to the enormous size of the vessel.

The ship is painted battleship grey and is manned with a skeleton crew under Capt. J.C. Townley, commander of the Queen Mary and Aquitania on their maiden voyages.

The vessel carried no armaments but, apparently, was protected by a mysterious new anti-mine cable which surrounds the ship high above the water. She had no passengers.

The Queen Elizabeth sailed from her fitting out station at Clydebank on February 26. She took a round about course and was conveyed by naval escorts for a good deal of the way. She carried extra fuel supplies in her tanks as a precaution against possible delay through changing of course. The voyage took twice as long as it would under normal circumstances.

There was not a single alarm during the entire voyage.

GREAT RECEPTION The Queen Elizabeth was not normally scheduled to leave on her maiden voyage until April 28 and, as it is, she is not entirely completed as yet.

Airplanes roared overhead as the great ship moved slowly up the harbor. They dipped in salute.

Only officials were allowed on board after the vessel docked. Even newsmen were denied admission. In London the British press boasted over the success of the voyage. Great Britain's retention of the command of the sea and the ability of Clydesbankers to keep a secret were emphasized. "This must be a startling shock to Hitler and the Nazi chiefs who claimed control of the sea," observed one paper. All Britain hailed the feat.

Canadian government officials hailed the voyage with delight. The Canadian Navy evidently knew little or nothing about it.

A Berlin spokesman dubbed the voyage as a "disgraceful flight" about which there was nothing courageous or noteworthy. "Apparently the great sea power feels that it no longer has a safe harbor of its own" was one German comment.

EXTEND BLOCKADE LONDON—First Lord of the Admiralty Churchill told Parliament yesterday that arrest of traffic in iron between Sweden and Germany was being considered.