

The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., MONDAY, MARCH 31, 1941.

Tomorrow's Tides

High 3:35 a.m. 20.0 ft.
16:14 p.m. 17.9 ft.
Low 10:14 a.m. 5.2 ft.
22:10 p.m. 7.8 ft.

Weather Forecast

Prince Rupert and Queen Charlotte Islands—Light to moderate southwesterly winds, fair with fog and light frost at night.

Vol. XXX., No. 76.

PRICE: 5 CENTS.

Italia Rout At Sea Complete

Five Fascist Warships, Some Powerful Cruisers, Are Sunk In Great Ionian Sea Battle

Cost to British was Only Two Missing Airplanes—Nine Hundred or more Italian and German Officers and Seamen Taken

THE SCORE

Five Italian warships and possibly eight lost.
Three Italian aircraft lost.
More than 900 Italian and German seamen taken prisoner, hundreds drowned.
Two British aircraft missing.
No British ships hit.
No British casualties.

ALEXANDRIA, March 31: (CP)—H.M.S. Warspite, flagship of the British Mediterranean fleet at Alexandria, and a squadron of other of Britain's fighting ships paraded into port today apparently unscathed after the victorious Battle of the Ionian Sea in which at least five Italian warships sank under their blazing guns. Besides sinking

three and possibly four of Italy's largest cruisers and two, and perhaps three destroyers, the British fleet scored three torpedo hits on the crack new Italian battleship *Uthorip*, leaving this great 35,000-tonner badly damaged. For the Italians it was another stunning blow as a result of which the Fascist claims of mastery of the Mediterranean is now a definite myth.

In this—another epic in the annals of Britain's sea fighters—fifteen-inch guns of the British battleships turned the Italian cruisers into a mass of flames when the Fascist fleet was surprised while heading eastward in the Mediterranean last Friday.

All the Italian ships and possibly another cruiser went down in two hours between 10 o'clock and midnight Friday night.

In addition three German aircraft were shot down and more than 900 Italian and German officers, and seamen were taken prisoner. Hundreds more enemy seamen would have been rescued had not their dive-bombing planes prevented it.

No British warship was hit and there were no casualties on any British surface vessel although two British aircraft are missing.

(Rome admits officially the loss of five Italian warships but claims mistakenly to have sunk one British.)

LINE TO CAPITAL CUT OFF

British Forces Now In Fair Way To Capture Addis Ababa—Closing On Asmara

NAIROBI, Kenya Colony, March 31: (CP)—Diredda on the Addis Ababa-Djibuti Railway has been in British hands since Saturday. It was announced officially today. This puts the British forces only 200 miles east by railroad from the Ethiopian capital and in control of the only railroad link between that city and the coast. This means that the British Imperial forces are now in a position to cut off Addis Ababa entirely.

War Services Drive Here Is Now Over Top

Col. J. W. Nicholls, chairman of the local Canadian War Services Fund committee, announced this morning that the quota of \$5,000 had been reached on Saturday. The committee is, however, continuing the drive with a view to reaching an objective of \$7500 of fifty percent over the quota. The canvass continues until the end of this week.

SWIFT CURRENT WINS

NANAIMO—Swift Current Indians retained the Western Canadian intermediate hockey championship for the second straight year by defeating Nanaimo Clippers 6 to 5 Saturday night. The first game had been a one-all tie while Swift Current took the second 9 to 1 and the third 2 to 1.

CENTENARIAN SISTERS

PIRBRIGHT, Eng., March 31: (CP)—Mrs. Charlotte Armstrong, 102-year old Surrey county woman who reads without glasses, still knits comforts for men in the army, navy and air force. Her younger sister was 102 last month.

MANY SHIPS ARE SEIZED

United States Takes Over 28 Italian, Two German and 35 Danish Vessels in Various Ports

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The United States government has seized 28 Italian, two German and 35 Danish merchant vessels which have been lying in American ports. The German and Italian ships will be placed in the American service and the Danish will be turned over to Great Britain. The move started Saturday when the United States government ordered guards posted on twenty-eight Italian ships in various American ports to prevent Italian crews from sabotaging the engines of the vessels. Already some cases of self-inflicted sabotage had been reported, five vessels having been so damaged at Newark by firing dry boilers, stripping turbines and other means. Evidently, the Italians were fearful that the ships might fall into enemy hands. Baltimore and Wilmington are among ports where guards had been posted to Italian ships.

A preliminary inspection showed almost all the Italian vessels taken over had already been rendered useless by sabotage.

The lightning action of the United States in taking over the 65 merchantmen in American ports is expected today to develop into a hemisphere-wide move to thwart the departure or sabotage of long-lie Axis vessels.

The Costa Rican government arrested crews of the German freighter *Eisenach* and the Italian liner *Fella* which were anchored at Punta Arenas when they set their ships afire this morning. The *Eisenach* is a 4100-ton vessel and the *Fella*, well known on the British Columbia coast, is 5600 tons.

AIMED AT WARSHIPS

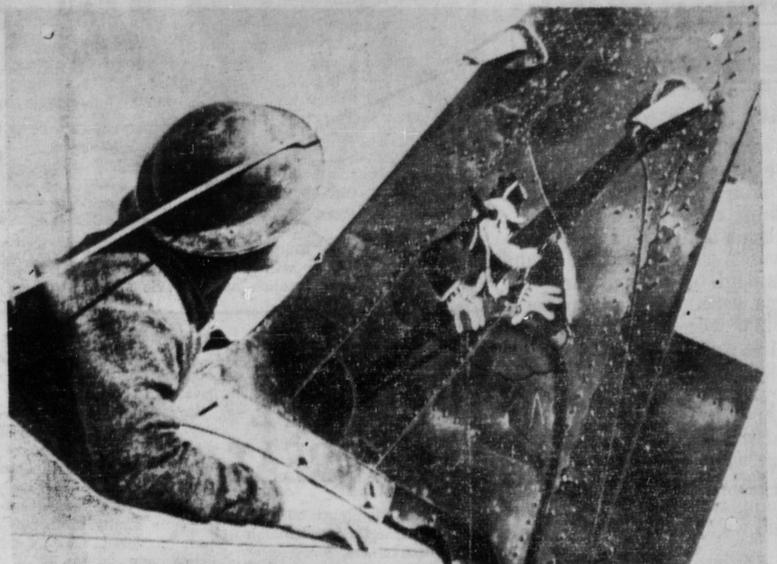
Royal Air Force Endeavouring To Get Big German Battleships Scharnhorst And Gneissau At Brest

LONDON, March 31: (CP)—Royal Air Force bombers and fighters blasted the French invasion coast and German Channel shipping today in a fiery follow-up of a night raid on the Nazi battleship *Scharnhorst* and *Gneissau* at Brest. The British planes set afire and blasted the docks at which the two big warships lay but no claim was made to having actually hit the vessels.

The air over Dover Straits "hummed" throughout the morning and early afternoon with British planes and falling bombs were plainly heard this side of the Channel.

Earlier in the day the Air Ministry reported two German tankers afire and sinking off Le Havre. Calais was also hit by the Royal Air Force during the night.

DISNEY INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN WAR FRONT



The squadron crest painted on this Italian plane shot down at Gazala is the big bad wolf that roams around in the short films produced by Walt Disney. Even on the war front he provides a laugh for a British Tommy.

War News Bulletins

GREAT BRITISH VICTORY
LONDON—The Admiralty announces today that seven Italian warships had been sunk as a result of the running battle with a British naval squadron in the Eastern Mediterranean at the week-end with loss of only two British planes. The victorious British squadron has returned to Alexandria. Among 1000 Italian survivors picked up were German officers and gunners.

CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFUL
CAIRO—The fierce drive of the British to clean up the East African campaign continues with marked success. Falling back from captured Cheren to Asmara in Eritrea, 3775 prisoners including 68 Fascist officers, have been taken. Once Asmara is taken, the important port of Massawa should easily follow. The Italians have already abandoned Diradawa, important railway point on the way to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

NO FURTHER WORD
LONDON—There is no further word as to the naval battle between British and Italian naval units in the Eastern Mediterranean. Axis claims are that German planes hit a British aircraft carrier and that Italian planes torpedoed a British cruiser.

LUFTWAFFE ATTACKS LIGHT
LONDON—The Luftwaffe came over Saturday night and started a number of fires in the Bristol area. London had its first air raid alarm in nine nights. Enemy activity was light over the British Isles generally although some damage was done in Bristol area. There were only minor Nazi raids last night. Damage was small and no casualties were reported.

JAPANESE SUFFER REVERSE
HONGKONG—Seventy persons of a Japanese division and an entire brigade have been wiped out in Changsi province. A Japanese Major-General and two Lieutenant-Generals have been slain.

BIG GUNS AGAIN
LONDON—With brilliant sunshine prevailing, German long range guns were firing across the Straits into the Dover area today but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

BRITISH VS. FRENCH
GIBRALTAR—British warships and French shore batteries of Algeria exchanged fire yesterday. The incident occurred when the French batteries opened up on British vessels which were stopping a convoy.

Vancouver Bus Services Tied

Drivers Refuse to Operate Vehicles which Were Not Serviced by Union Mechanics

VANCOUVER, March 31.—As a result of bus drivers refusing to operate buses which were not serviced by union garage mechanics, services of five bus feeder lines of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co. have been tied up. The services

Vancouver Plans May Black-out

Arrangements Being Instituted For A. R. P. Test

VANCOUVER, March 31.—Vancouver is planning to stage a test black-out in May.

RESISTING JUGOSLAVIA SITS TIGHT

Relations With Germany Further Deteriorating—Berlin Issues Warning—Looks Like War

NAZI ULTIMATUM SOON
BELGRADE, March 31: (CP)—A German spokesman asserted today that Germany intends to wait only until the last evacuee leaves Yugoslavia before serving an ultimatum with a short time limit demanding demobilization of the Yugoslav army. Midnight tonight is reported without confirmation to be the deadline for all German nationals to leave the country. The German legation secretary said that German Minister von Heeren was leaving Belgrade for Berlin.

BELGRADE, March 31.—Relations between Yugoslavia and Germany are deteriorating further today. With Yugoslav frontier defences being heavily reinforced against attack and the army mobilized to full strength, all German nationals have been ordered to leave for home immediately. German and Italian legations are burning their records in preparation for leaving. With Yugoslavia evidently having no intention of ratifying the Axis pact as signed on behalf of the country last week by the deposed Premier Cvetkovic, the country is making preparations for war.

Premier Dusan Simovic issued a proclamation tonight declaring that "army, navy and air force are ready to do their duty" and calling on all civil officials and clergymen to "remain at your posts no matter what happens." Simultaneously police with carbines surrounded the Belgrade railway stations forbidding entrance to persons intending to leave the city. Anti-aircraft guns are being rapidly mounted in Belgrade.

An official spokesman for the German government today solemnly warned Yugoslavia against further "insults and hostile acts which might endanger the prestige of the Reich." The spokesman said that Germany was watching the situation in Yugoslavia with "extraordinary attention" and had already exercised "unparalleled patience and consideration" which, however, could not be expected to continue indefinitely. Berlin reported further anti-Bergeran outbreaks in Belgrade and many other centres in Serbia, these being allegedly encouraged by the new Yugoslav government.

It was reported that the Yugoslav diplomatic representative to Berlin had already left or was leaving Germany for home.

A special train left Belgrade today with German refugees. In Ankara negotiations between Yugoslavia and Turkey have been opened with Yugoslavia asking Turkey for military co-operation in the event that war with Germany cannot be averted.

All deliveries of oil from German-controlled Rumania to Yugoslavia have been halted.

Except for one point, the entire Yugoslav frontier with Germany has been closed. Such are some of the latest developments in the Yugoslav-German situation.

Three Killed And Two Are Injured In Cobourg Crash

COBOURG, Ontario, March 31.—Three persons were killed and two injured in an automobile crash near this town yesterday.

War Service Subscriptions

- L. Amadio \$10.00
- H. H. Bourne 9.00
- W. L. Coates 10.00
- Dr. S. W. Colton 10.00
- Mrs. J. D. Fraser 10.00
- Very Rev. Dean J. B. Gibson 10.00
- Gordon's Hardware 25.00
- Grotto Cigar Store 10.00
- Mrs. K. Hallberg 6.00
- A. Jacobsen 10.00
- Mae's Shoe Hospital 10.00
- Dr. J. F. Maguire 25.00
- McLean's Boat Yard 25.00
- North Star Bottling Works 10.00
- Pioneer Laundry 20.00
- Geo. L. Rorie 10.00
- Mrs. R. J. D. Smith 10.00
- M. M. Stephens 6.00
- J. G. Steen 10.00
- Geo. and Richard Thomas 7.00
- Mrs. W. Trotter 6.00
- Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Wilson 12.00
- Women of Moose 50.00
- Proceeds voluntary collection made by troops at Barret Pt. 28.00

Proceeds of the library tag day Saturday amounted to \$120.80.