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# The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

VOL. XXXII, No. 38 — PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1943 — PRICE: FIVE CENTS

**Tonight's Dim-out**

(Half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise.)

7:17 p.m. to 8:33 a.m.

# Russians Score Great Victories

## Reich and Italy Hit

**Cologne and Milan Principal Objectives of R. A. F. and R. C. A. F.**

LONDON Feb. 15 (AP) — Powerful aerial squadrons bombing Germany and Italy in a double barrelled assault, attacked the Rhineland city of Cologne and the Italian arsenal city of Milan last night, it was announced today.

Squadrons of the Royal Canadian Air Force participated in the attack on Cologne where, despite clouds a great weight of explosives and incendiaries was dropped in less than half an hour. One Royal Canadian Air Force and ten Royal Air Force bombers are missing.

An Italian communique said the Milan attack was carried out by several waves of planes which caused heavy damage.

Last night's raids on Germany and Italy followed the two heaviest attacks yet made on Lorient Saturday night when Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force bombers unloaded over one thousand tons of bombs on the important U-boat base on the occupied French coast.

## AMERICAN REVERSE

**German Armored Units Score Break-through in Tunisia**

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Feb. 15 (AP)—German armored units, believed to be from the forces of Marshal Erwin Rommel, have smashed against American positions west of Faid Pass for a twenty-mile breakthrough, endangering the United States anchor of Gafsa, it was disclosed today.

Overwhelming American artillery positions, German tanks branched out to the northwest and southwest of the Pass yesterday.

Sources here said it was assumed Gafsa might soon be evacuated.

## Eddie Smith Is Conceded Dead

**Further Announcement in Regard To Local Man Missing With Air Force Overseas**

A casualty list just issued by the Department of National Defence announces that Pilot Officer Edward Arthur Smith of Prince Rupert, previously reported missing, is now, for official purposes, presumed dead. He was on service overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force and several months ago was reported missing.

"Eddie" Smith was a well known and popular local boy and was the first Prince Rupert man to win his commission with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was the son of Mrs. J. Arthur Smith, Second Avenue. For some years he was with Canadian National Telegraphs here and later was located in the Omineca mining country north of Vanderhoof.

## Attempt On Life Of Premier Smuts

**Report from Algiers Radio is Picked Up in New York**

NEW YORK, Feb. 15— A report has been picked up from the Algiers radio of an attempt at the life of General Jan C. Smuts, prime minister of South Africa.

## SECOND MAN IS MISSING

**Third Victim Listed From Slide at Kwinitsa Camp at Week-end**

**An additional man, supposedly a third victim, is missing following the snowslide of last Friday morning which wiped out the Tomlinson Construction Co.'s Skeena River Highway camp near Kwinitsa. This man is George Balderchak, aged 44, YugoSlav from Egerton, Alberta, who was employed as kitchen help in the camp and had been there only a few days. He had his effects packed and was out of the camp, being told not to return. That is, evidently, the last that anyone saw of him. He was unmarried and had been in the country since 1926.**

**Men who had been employed in the Kwinitsa camp have now returned there and are digging in the debris for the bodies of Balderchak and Andrew Kirkup of Walberg, the original missing man.**

**The body of Reginald McClellan, who died of injuries sustained in the slide, leaves tonight for Walberg, Saskatchewan, where a widow and family reside and where the funeral will take place.**

**The eleven injured in Prince Rupert and Port Edward hospitals continue to recover.**

## Death Blow For Hitler

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 15 — According to reports reaching here a great new Russian army is being trained deep in the interior of the Soviet Republic, its object being to deal a summer death blow to Hitler.

## Timoshenko Not In Washington

**Report Published in London Is Denied in Moscow**

MOSCOW, Feb. 15—It is officially denied here that Marshal Simeon Timoshenko with other Russian generals is on a trip to Washington D. C. A report to this effect had been published in the London Dispatch.

## Gandhi Keeping Up His Hunger Strike

**Nausea and Weakness Developing After Six Days**

POONA, India, Feb. 15—Mahatma Gandhi has completed the sixth day of his hunger strike in protest at detention. He is taking only water and citrus juice. Nausea and weakness appear to be the only ill-effects.

## Says Chiang Kai Shek Is In Washington

BERLIN, Feb. 15—The Axis radio says that Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek is visiting Washington, D.C.

Madame Chiang Kai Shek is in Washington. She will be the guest of President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House on Wednesday and will address a joint session of Congress Thursday.

## WAR NEWS

### GREAT RUSSIAN VICTORIES

**Russian forces are closing their trap more tightly on the Nazis in the Ukraine and Caucasus. Rostov and Vorshilofgrad have been beten captured and a point seven miles southeast of Kharkov has been reached by the Red Army. The peril to Kharkov is increasing hourly as the German defences crumble. Another large railway town has fallen.**

### ADVANCING IN TUNISIA

**Advancing along the coastal road, the British Eighth Army is reported to have made contact with Marshal Erwin Rommel's Nazi rearguard twenty miles within Tunisia to the north and sixty miles within in the south while on the central front there has been only partial patrol fighting. Both ground and air fighting has increased with an improvement in weather conditions. The enemy took advantage of the better weather to make an attack which was beaten back.**

### LORIENT BADLY POUNDED

**Th Royl Air Force made two bombing attacks Saturday night on the submarine base of Lorient. Heavy damage was done in the attacks which were the largest so far in the war. Last night there were raids both on Germany and Italy.**

### LUFTWAFFE HITS PLYMOUTH

**Enemy planes bombed the southwest coast town of Plymouth Saturday night. Shops and houses were hit and there were casualties with five killed and several injured.**

### SOUTHERN ITALY BOMBED

**There were further bombing attacks by Allied planes on southern Italy—Naples and Cretoni.**

### IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

**In the southwest Pacific ground fighting on New Guinea has resulted in a further falling back by the Japanese towards Salamaua. The greatest bombing attack by Allied planes on Rabaul, New Britain, was made. American planes have subjected the Japanese base of Munda on the Solomons to another attack. Fresh attacks by the Royal Air Force on Japanese in Burma are reported.**

## BIG FIRE IN PEACE

**Five Dead, Six Missing, 150 Injured, $150,000 Damage at Dawson Creek**

**DAWSON CREEK, Feb. 15 — Five persons are known dead and 150 are injured as a result of a serious explosion and fire in this Peace River town — booming Northern Alberta railway terminus, supply base and Alaska highway jumping off place—Saturday night.**

**There was a great explosion in a warehouse containing dynamite and then cries of "Fire" were heard among the excitement-seeking Saturday night crowds. Many spectators were among the injured during the ensuing fire which raged almost uncontrolled for three hours.**

**An entire block of buildings was destroyed. The blast broke half the windows in town and shook Pouce Coupe, a few miles distant.**

**The damage is estimated at $350,000.**

**Cause of the blaze has not been established.**

**The Dawson Hotel, principal stopping place of the town, was evacuated.**

**All but one building in the town's main block was destroyed before the blaze was brought under control.**

**Nine of the most seriously injured were flown to Edmonton by a United States transport plane. United States Army doctors—three of them—came from Edmonton to minister to the injured.**

**At least twoare missing.**

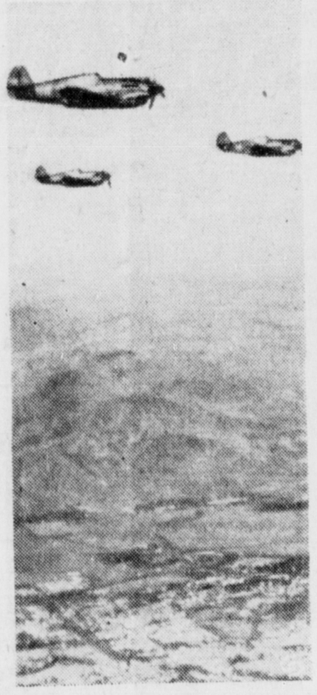
**Dozens are homeless.**

**The dead include American soldiers.**

### ADVISES NEWFOUNDLAND

LONDON, Feb. 15 (AP) — Assistant Fire Force Commissioner H. A. C. Smith, a key man in the London blitz, has been seconded to the Colonial Office as adviser to the Newfoundland government on fire service organization.

### AIR SHARKS



Looking like a school of deadly sharks, this formation of P-40's zoom off to intercept a Jap air squadron somewhere over China.

## Another Force Of Canadians

**Three Services Represented in Contingent Which Has Landed**

LONDON, Feb. 15—Another large convoy of Canadian forces, representing all three services,, has arrived in Great Britain.

### GREATER LOVE

HALESWORTH, Eng., Feb. 15 (AP) —To the residents of this Suffolk village George Rogers was just a farmers' lad when he joined the army at 16. Today they mourn him as a 21-year-old commando who died behind the German lines in Tunisia, holding off the enemy so that his comrades could get to safety.

## HELSINKI HAS ALERT

**Soviet Bombers May Have Passed On Way to Some Target**

BERLIN, Feb. 15—Helsinki, the capital city of Finland, had a half hour air raid alert yesterday, according to a statement today. However, no bombs were dropped. It is believed Soviet planes may have passed on their way to some other target. There is a general election in Finland today.

## Rabaul Gets Biggest Raid

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Feb. 15 (AP)—More than thirty Allied heavy bombers dropped over fifty tons of high explosives and 3,500 incendiary bombs Sunday on Rabaul, New Britain, strong Japanese base, in the greatest mass bombing raid in this theatre. Huge fires were started and the flames were visible for 110 miles.

## WAR HERO IS AGAIN OVERSEAS

**Gnr. John French Finds 14 Military Awards for Gallantry in 1914-18 "Embarrassing"**

By WILLIAM STEWART
Canadian Press Staff Writer

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Feb. 15 (AP)—"It's all very embarrassing," says Gnr. John French when you ask him how he came to acquire 14 military decorations, 11 of which appear above the left breast-pocket of his battledress.

French whose army age is 47 won all 14 in the First Great War. Wherever he goes he promptly becomes surrounded by people who want to know all about his string of ribbons.

That's why he finds it so embarrassing and why he tells questioners that he won his honors for "bringing up the rations."

For the more curious, he reserves the reply that he owes the display on his uniform to "cowardice in face of the enemy." And on special occasions, French declares sternly that he hates "all this damned attention."

French was born in Grand Bank, Nfld., and went to Canada shortly before the First Great War. When war came he was studying to be a piano-tuner. He had forgotten about piano-tuning when the war was over and when the present war broke out, he was doorman at the Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto.

"I was in line for the job of confidential messenger for the Premier of Ontario," he says. That was in July, 1940, when he enlisted and less than two months later found himself overseas. He's been in Britain ever since and during his stay took the opportunity to marry the English girl to whom he had become engaged when he was overseas during the First Great War.

French, though a King's sergeant and C.S.M. at the end of the First Great War, is perfectly happy with his present rank of gunner.

In the first place he never did want promotion in the first war. He wanted just to be "with the boys," he says. When his fame as "the man they couldn't kill" had started to spread, they made him take "stripes" and offered him the

*(Continued on Page Three)*

## RICHELIEU SAFE OVER

**Great French Warships and Other Vessels Reach New York From Dakar**

**NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (CP)—The French battleship Richelieu, crippled but still far from impotent, slid into New York harbor last Thursday after dodging a pack of submarines in mid-Atlantic and riding out the toughest gale many of the crew had ever experienced.**

**The French cruiser Montcalm which, like the Richelieu, had been based at Dakar, made the Atlantic crossing along with several French destroyers.**

**The transfer ended fears that the powerful French vessel might have fallen into Axis hands.**

## LOOK INTO POISONING

**Police and Medical Health Officer At Port Edward Today**

Constable C. F. Oland, provincial police, and Dr. R. J. MacDonald, provincial health officer, left this morning for Port Edward where a number of men are reported suffering from ptomaine poisoning in a construction camp. There are no fatalities.

## Commission To Visit Rupert

**Mr. Justice Richards, Looking Into Shipyard Conditions, Coming Soon**

The commission of Mr. Justice Richards on working conditions in west coast shipyards is expected to pay a visit to Prince Rupert shortly, according to word that has just been received here.

## PEOPLE OF NORTH SAVE

Officially recorded sales of War Savings Certificates in Northern British Columbia are as follows:

| | Oct. 42 | Nov. 42 | Dec. 42 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Prince Rupert | 4164 | 4824 | 4464 |
| Prince Rupert District | 1316 | 252 | 1456 |
| Burns Lake | $ 556 | $ 212 | $ 308 |
| Fort St. James | 292 | 352 | 15n |
| Fraser Lake | 196 | 288 | 92 |
| Hazelton | 112 | 152 | 252 |
| McBride | 216 | 460 | 552 |
| Premier and Stewart | 600 | 396 | 424 |
| Prince George | 1636 | 2608 | 1408 |
| Prince George District | 828 | 1592 | 1180 |
| Queen Charlottes | 224 | 260 | 120 |
| Quesnel | 440 | 392 | 212 |
| Smithers | 848 | 1108 | 1300 |
| Terrace | 260 | 424 | 792 |
| Vanderhoof | 384 | 280 | 480 |
| Wells | 604 | 268 | 828 |
| Williams Lake | 316 | 292 | 320 |
| Williams Lake District | 148 | 128 | 204 |

### FIRST RUSS NEWSPAPER

The first isue of the first Russian newspaper Vedomosti, published under the supervision of Peter the Great, appeared on Jan. 13, 1703.

### CELESTITE DEPOSIT

California has one of the nation's largest deposits of celestite, the mineral used to illuminate tracer bullets.

## TWO GREAT CITIES IN RED HANDS

**Rostov and Voroshilovgrad Fall—Kharkov Next**

LONDON, Feb. 15 (AP)—Rostov fell before Red Army infantry and swarming Cossacks in a bloody struggle Sunday. Many of its buildings were ablaze and hundreds of corpses of German defenders littered the streets and alleys.

The British Broadcasting Co. said that Taganrog, forty miles to the west, already was under Russian artillery fire and the bulk of the Germans trying to flee from the Donets Basin had been trapped.

Soviet armies of the southern front also took Voroshilovgrad and Krasny Sulin, about fifty-two miles north of Rostov, and dispatches told of a Soviet column moving within seven miles of Kharkov. Their capture of Rostov gave the Russians back the southernmost anchor of the German defence line and of Voroshilovgrad, the most important centre of the Don Basin.

The German radio acknowledged the fall of both cities.

The whole German line in southern Russia is crumbling rapidly while the Russian troops menace Kharkov, the huge Nazi bastion to the north, fall of which would constitute even a greater victory for the Red Army. Indeed, a Reuters dispatch from Moscow says that the Germans appear to be already evacuating Kharkov.

Five Russian columns are closing on Kharkov which is surrounded on three sides.

The Germans were apparently preparing today to evacuate the Black Sea port of Novorosissk, their last remaining stronghold in the Caucasus region.

Sixty-five miles north of the Black Sea coast, the Reds are reported today to have reached Stalino.

Tagenrog is reported under fire.

## GOV'T OF THAILAND

**Cabinet Quits and Japanese Puppet Administration Expected To Be Set Up**

BANGKOK, Feb. 15—The Premier of Thailand has resigned and with him his cabinet. A new puppet government under Japanese control is expected to be set up. Allied activity in Burma, neighboring Siam, is believed to be back of the new political move in former Siam.

### *Hockey Scores*

**Saturday**

Toronto, 3; Chicago, 2.
Montreal, 3; Detroit, 2.

**Sunday**

Toronto, 4; New York, 4.
Montreal, 1; Detroit, 2.
Boston, 2; Chicago, 3.

## Aleutians Activity

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 15 The United States Department of the Navy announced today that fifteen Japanese planes have been destroyed and a cargo ship sunk in a series of raids on the Aleutians and in the Solomons. Two American bombers and six fighters were lost.