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The Daily News

NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER
PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1943

Local Temperature

Maximum 40
Minimum 34

Dim-out Time

(Half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise.)
Sunrise 9:24 a.m.
Sunset 6:27 p.m.

Survivors From Plane Picked Up

Germans May Try to Evacuate to Crimea

Russian Warships and Planes Pounding Nazi Fleets in Black Sea

Rostov is Menaced Still More Sharply by Advancing Red Army—Kharkov Situation More Tense
LONDON, Feb. 4 (CP) — Reports in London today said that Russian warships and planes were already pounding fleets of German ships which have been hastily massed in the Novorossisk area on the Black Sea from which troops of the invaders of Russia might be ferried across the Strait of Kerch to the Crimea.

Rostov itself was menaced still more sharply by another Russian column which thrust up the rail line from Salask and captured Kagalnikskaya, thirty miles south-east of Rostov.

SALARIES UP AGAIN

School Board Working on Basis of Langridge Plan For Increments To Confer With Teachers

The question of teachers' salaries was again before the board of school trustees at the regular weekly meeting last night in connection with the consideration of the year's estimates which must be completed by next week. Pending a final conference with the Prince Rupert Teachers' Federation, the board is basing its estimates on a new schedule which was presented to it last week by Trustee J. T. Langridge under which there would be some increases and the institution of a plan of annual increments of \$60.

Roosevelt Plans For Offensive

Continues Activities Along Lines Agreed Upon With Churchill at Casablanca

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 4 — President Franklin D. Roosevelt, following his returns from the historic Casablanca conference with Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, is continuing plans to put into "active and concerted execution" plans for 1943 offensive campaigns which he and Mr. Churchill drafted.

Mrs. T. M. Spencer has donated a set of Book of Knowledge to King Edward School. The board of school trustees last night instructed the secretary to send a letter of thanks to Mrs. Spencer.

HAMBURG IS UNDER FIRE

Large Conflagrations After Bombing Last Night—Other Attacks On Enemy Territory

LONDON, Jan. 4 — The Royal Air Force announced today that large fires were left burning following an attack by the Royal Air Force last night on the German port of Hamburg.

Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons took part in the raid, losing two aircraft of the total of sixteen which failed to return. The losses indicated that a force of upwards of three hundred bombers participated.

The Royal Air Force disclosed today that four fighter planes were missing from raids yesterday on occupied France.

Four other Allied planes are missing from sweeps against military objectives, which were, apparently, renewed today.

COURT OF REVISION

Thirty-eight Appeals Are Listed For Hearing at Session Opening Next Monday

Thirty-eight appeals are listed for hearing at the court of revision on the municipal assessment roll. The court will be in session next Monday.

The appellants include J. H. and Helen Hillman, R. L. McIntosh, Emil J. S. Sollid, W. and M. Smith, F. Chin and C. P. Moon, Pierre Le Ross, F. Miller and Co., United States War Department, Canadian National Railways and the assessor himself. The assessor is seeking certain adjustments.

The most of the appeals are based on claims of excessive or inequitable assessments.

Deadline Is Set Forward

OTTAWA, Feb. 4—Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, minister of labor, announces extension to March 1 of the period for registration of single men in age groups subject to military call-up who have not yet received notice to report for medical examination.

HAMBURG HEAVILY HIT

LONDON — Royal Air Force bombers heavily attacked Hamburg last night in a raid in which sixteen planes are missing, it was announced today.

Probe Into Fatal Fire

Jury Finds Private Valpy Was Suffocated—Corp. Leighton Praised—More Safeguards Urged

Verdict that Private Rodney Valpy, who was in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps here, came to his death about 7:30 last Sunday morning aboard a cabin cruiser lying at berth at the Prince Rupert Rowing & Yacht Club from suffocation and second degree burns as a result of a fire aboard the vessel was returned last night by the coroner's jury which sat before Coroner Dr. R. J. Macdonald to investigate the circumstances of the fatality. The jury expressed the opinion that Corp. Wallace Leighton, master of the power cruiser in question, did all in his power to save deceased and should be commended for his efforts. The jury further recommended that steps should be taken by the Yacht Club to install adequate fire fighting equipment at the floats to prevent repetition of such tragedies.

The jury consisted of W. F. Sheardown, foreman, David Young, Albert Still, Edwin J. Cobb, N. L. Jones and Jack Furness.

Examination of witnesses was conducted by Staff Sergeant F. W. Gallagher, chief of city police. Witnesses were Dr. R. G. Large, James Martin, Capt. Matthews, Corp. Wallace Leighton, Fire Chief H. T. Lock, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Wilford, Lieut. John Hunter Restall and Constable Richard Wallace Strouh.

Caretakers' Story

James Martin, caretaker of the Yacht Club, told of the bedroom of his quarters at the floats being fully lit up by flames. He immediately rushed out to the boat and met Corp. Leighton coming towards him. Witness then returned to telephone the fire department, telling Leighton to go back to the boat. When he (witness) returned to the boat, he heard Leighton talking to deceased through a porthole of the boat. Witness shouted to deceased to "get out of the boat and get out quick." As the boats of Dr. R. G. Large on one side and of M. M. Stephens on the other were afire, Martin told Leighton to push the burning boat between into mid-stream. Then witness proceeded to attend first to the fire on the Large boat and then that on Stephens'. By that time the fire department had arrived. The fire chief asked that the burning boat be pulled back into the float so it could be reached with the hose.

After the flames had been brought under control, some one shouted: "Where is Valpy?" Martin went into the pilot house and encountered Chief Lock in the thick smoke. The latter found no man aboard then but, on opening the door of the lavatory forward, found the body there. The body was taken out on to the floats. Police and doctor were sent for. Witness did not take kindly to questions as to what reason there was to assume that Valpy was safe when the burning boat was cast off. However, he had evidently assumed that Valpy had come off. Two other boats were afire at the time and these fires were stopped.

Capt. Matthews suggested that the other boats might have been cut adrift instead of the one with Valpy on board.

Corp. Leighton explained that he had been awakened by the smell of burning paint. Turning on the light, he could see smoke coming through the cracks of the door into his stateroom. He dressed hurriedly and then went out to find the wheelhouse all in flames. He made a dash for the extinguisher and tried to use it but with no effect. He did not know at that time

FRENCHMEN RELEASED

Men Alleged to Have Been Involved in Darlan Affair Are Given Freedom

ALGIERS, Feb. 4 — General Henri Giraud, French High Commissioner for North and West Africa, announced Wednesday night that eight persons arrested after the Christmas Eve assassination of Admiral Jean Darlan had been released with two others detained at their homes and three men still in jail.

Don't Give Damn About Middlemen

Statement Attributed to Wartime Prices and Trade Board by New Brunswick Member

OTTAWA, Feb. 4 — D. K. Hazen, Progressive Conservative member for Saint John, New Brunswick, said in the House of Commons Tuesday night that he had been informed the Wartime Prices and Trade Board had told business men that they did not "give a damn" about middlemen. The New Brunswick member was speaking in the debate on the Tariff Speech.

whether or not Valpy was on board or not. By this time the galley was full of flames and witness, with chest and hair burned, was choking from smoke. He went out on deck to get air. Windows were broken and flames were shooting out all around. Then he made a dash for the caretaker's cabin to phone for the fire department. Then he went back to see what could be done about the fire. Martin called him to cut loose the lines which he did, starting to move the burning boat out of the berth. It was then he heard deceased calling his (witness) name. At first it sounded like the call was coming from the float. Then he perceived it was from the porthole on the other side. He went around and handed Valpy the extinguisher. Valpy was now breathing heavily and not talking any more. He told Valpy to take the extinguisher and fight his way out. By this time the fire department was arriving and there was other help. Eventually the fire was put out and the boat pulled back, deceased being taken off. Witness could not say how the fire started. It might have been from an electric heater in the wheelhouse. Valpy was quite a competent man.

Fire Chief Lock told of the call to the Yacht Club and the trip there under extremely hazardous road conditions due to ice. The boat was furiously ablaze by the time the department arrived. There was difficulty in laying a hose line. The boat was drifting out and the chief called for it to be pulled back in. After extinguishing the main blaze, the chief went aboard and it was then that someone asked if there was a man aboard. Later he found the body in the body in the lavatory with the door closed. The body was slumped on the floor. Valpy was pulled out of the boat. The chief tried for a heart beat but could perceive none. Martin, however, thought the heart was beating. The body was removed to the floats, covered with a blanket and artificial respiration started, continuing until the doctor arrived. Later the chief told of the contents of the fire extinguisher, the fumes of which in closed quarters might be very serious.

Dr. Large assumed that death was due to suffocation. The burns were superficial and not sufficiently extensive to be fatal. Mr. and Mrs. Wilford, who lived aboard a boat opposite the burned one, told of being aroused by the fire.

Two Men From Machine, Missing For Month Landed At Ketchikan

Woman Was Only Person to be Killed Outright in Crash—Fate of Three Others is Not Ascertained

KETCHIKAN, Feb. 4 (CP) — Two of six persons aboard Pilot Harold Gillam's plane, which disappeared January 5 on a flight from Seattle to Alaska, arrived here yesterday on a coastguard patrol boat which found them on an isolated beach. Perry Cutting and Joseph Tippits said they last saw Robert Gebo and Dewey Metzdorf, Anchorage hotel owner, a week ago in "bad shape." Cutting and Roberts had left the others to walk out for aid.

Susan Batzer, the men said, was the only casualty of the crash, adding that Gillam had left the wrecked plane in search of aid. He had not been heard of since.

The two survivors said they believed the scene of the crash was seven miles back in the wilderness, probably fifty miles southwest of Ketchikan.

The plane has been sought by the Royal Canadian Air Force and American Air Force planes for the past four weeks and the search was only recently abandoned.

Leadership Is Lacked By Labor

VICTORIA, Feb. 4 — Dr. J. J. Gillis, Liberal member for Yale, told the Legislature yesterday that Labor lacked leaders and recommended that the provincial labor minister initiate plans to train such labor leaders. He said that every man should belong to a union and attend meetings.

School Pupils Buying Stamps

Nearly \$1500 Purchases Made in Six Months Between King Edward and Borden Street Schools

Pupils of city schools are continuing systematic savings by purchase of war savings stamps, according to reports presented at the meeting of the board of school trustees last night. Since the opening of school last fall pupils of King Edward School have purchased stamps to the value of \$729.75 while purchases by Borden Street School pupils have been \$750.20. In January the purchases at King Edward School were \$218.75.

Accommodation For Teachers Is Scarce

Trustee Mrs. George Hill told the board of school trustees last night that she had had a distress call from Miss Handford of the Booth Memorial High School teaching staff who, following the sale of the Norman A. Watt house on Fourth Avenue East to Len Griffiths who was to take occupancy at the end of this month, she had no place in prospect to stay. A discussion followed on the problems of finding living accommodation here for teachers followed and a number of suggestions were heard, one interesting one being that Wartime Housing might make a couple of its houses available for the accommodation of teachers.

Resolution Approved

School Trustees Back Move to Have Province Assume Financial Responsibility for Education

The board of school trustees, at its regular meeting last night, approved a resolution drafted by the Prince Rupert City and District Teachers' Federation calling upon the provincial government to assume the financial responsibility for education in British Columbia.

The resolution, presented to the board by Bruce Mickleburgh was as follows:

"Whereas a serious crisis has arisen in the educational system of this province, involving a shortage of qualified teachers and a lowering of educational standards and whereas, as a result, thousands of children are being deprived of a proper education and whereas at this time, when the Axis forces are striving to destroy democratic education, it is more than ever necessary to improve and strengthen our schools and whereas the British North America act assigns the responsibility for education to the provincial government

"Therefore be it resolved that this school board call on the British Columbia government to assume its responsibilities under the B.N.A. act by providing a provincially guaranteed salary scale adequate to attract and hold qualified teachers and by establishing a system of educational finance in which the burden would no longer lie chiefly on local districts and municipalities."

Worthless Check Issuer Admits It

Peter Shelby has pleaded guilty in city police court to five charges of false pretences by obtaining money through the cashing of worthless checks ranging from \$15 to \$23. He has been remanded for eight days sentence. Those victimized by Shelby were Arthur Murray, W. R. Love, Prince Rupert Fishermen's Co-operative, S. E. Parker and John Gurvich.

AID TO RUSSIA

RUSSIA FUND
Previously acknowledged \$8,391.39
M. Leret 10.00
Bytown Machine Works 10.00
Geo. Jones, Skeena 6.00
R. Kennedy, Skeena 10.00
J. G. Baxter 5.00
H. Duhamal, Capitol Barber Shop 5.00
10 donations under \$5 10.50

Total to noon this date \$8,447.89

WAR NEWS

AXIS SUPPLY SHIPS SUNK

LONDON—Nine Axis supply ships and one anti-submarine vessel have been sunk in the Mediterranean by British submarines in the past few days, the Admiralty announced today.

JAP ATTACK IN SOLOMONS

WASHINGTON — Last Friday night just about dusk Japanese planes made a sudden attack on a United States fleet of warships cruising near Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, it is announced by the Department of the Navy. The extent of American losses is not announced.

FINLAND WANTS PEACE

ANKARA—It is heard here that Finland is threatening to make a separate peace with Russia.

ROYAL AIR FORCE BUSY

LONDON—The Royal Air Force made raids every day and night during January upon the enemy, says an official announcement.