

# Mrs. McCARTHY FRATERNIZES WITH "MILLIONAIRES-PAUPERS"

Almost Unbelievable Scenes of Friendship at Russian Tribute

Multimillionaires and paupers fraternized as brothers without reservation at the Canadian Soviet Friendship Congress, to which she attended as the sole representative from British Columbia, says Mrs. Robert McCarthy who returned home this week. It was a deeply

emotional gathering, the local press says. "I had never before seen anything like it," she remarked, "and probably never will again. People of all classes joined in paying deep tribute to the Soviet Republic, the great and valiant part playing in the war on the side of the Allies. There were demonstrations and expressions of national admiration in a few years ago would have been almost unthinkable as an unprecedented mixture of the classes.

The headquarters place of the Congress was the Royal Hotel where there was a display of gatherings with valuable exhibits of industrial accomplishment, art, natural resources of both Canada and Soviet. There were educational meetings and outstanding speakers from all over the world in attendance.

Among these speakers were Dr. Snow, Vjehalmur Stefansson, most notable of all was Sobotin, handsome, strapping young hero of the Soviet who was sent especially to the battlefields of the war to tell the story of the war to first hand. Every person of importance in Toronto seemed to be present actively supporting the demonstration of admiration and friendship for the Soviet."

At the starting gathering of all Mrs. McCarthy was a great national thanksgiving service in Maple Leaf Gardens. The lower floor was given over to the people of the forces as well as men—and very drills and demonstration among the featured items of the program. Principal speaker was L. W. Brockington, C. Sir Ernest MacMillan and Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Mendelssohn Choir took part.

To see the Metropolitan church decorated with hammer and sickle and hear the Red International played from the organ of the vast edifice are things I would never have dreamed of witnessing," Mrs. McCarthy says.

The Congress was anxious at every city and town in Canada should adopt for the purpose of mutual aid and interest a city or town of similar name in Russia. Mrs. McCarthy's hope was expressed that Prince Rupert might act along this line.

Mrs. McCarthy found Toronto greatly changed city from that it used to be in former days. Many of the old landmarks have gone, disappearing with the march of modern times and development.

Mrs. McCarthy had the pleasure of meeting, among other friends in Toronto, the former Lorna MacLaren of this city, now Sister Lorna in charge of the admitting office of St. Michael's Hospital.

The local lady also had the opportunity of taking in a National League Hockey game at the Maple Leaf Gardens seeing the pacemaking Montreal Canadiens defeat the Maple Leafs.

Alfred Adams of Massett and William Beynon of Port Simpson returned to the city this morning from Cape Mudge, Vancouver Island, where they attended the recent annual convention of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia. Mr. Adams is president of the Brotherhood and Mr. Beynon northern business agent.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Trotter are leaving tonight for a trip to Vancouver.

# AIR FORCE HOCKEY IS CURTAILED

OTTAWA, Dec. 18 (CP)—Royal Canadian Air Force headquarters said last night that no Air Force team will take part in hockey contests after January 6 in any organized leagues, the championship of which would qualify the team to play-off for the Allan Cup or the Memorial Cup. Teams may play in garrison leagues and exhibition games within the same geographical boundaries, but such exhibitions may not be held more than once every two weeks.

Coming under the ban is the Sea Island Seahawks team, now leading the Pacific coast senior league.

# Churchill Improves

LONDON, Dec. 18 (CP)—A statement from No. 10 Downing Street today said Prime Minister Churchill's pulse is recorded as regular, but that his temperature is subsiding. He is stated to have passed the danger point.

Capt. Nancy Hewitt, local commandant of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, leaves this evening for a trip to Vancouver and Victoria.

# "LUCKY TO BE ALIVE"

# Thrilling Story of Escape From Nazis Is Told By Jim Schubert of Prince Rupert

A valley of death in Italy between the British and Nazi lines is still a vivid memory to Jim Schubert, 25, of Ashcroft, formerly of Prince Rupert, who hid out in it for six days and lived to tell the tale. Not only was he in danger of being killed by exploding British shells during these days but there was also the menace of being picked off by Nazi snipers. Jim's story is published in a special dispatch from Halifax to the Montreal Standard, accompanied by a good picture of the former local boy.

"It was luck—just luck—that brought me out alive," said the merchant-navy operator on his arrival at Halifax en route to his home in British Columbia. He admitted there were moments when he thought he would never escape.

With an English companion, Schubert had escaped from a prison camp on the Adriatic coast and for a month they had made their way down through the mountains.

"Then we ran into a Nazi column of tanks and motorized equipment moving along the highway in flight from the advancing Allies," he recalled.

Schubert said he and his friend awaited an opportune moment, then dashed across this highway and into a wooded valley. They found to their dismay that this valley, far from being a safe refuge, was an uncomfortable hot spot—so hot that the Italian peasants who had lived in it had fled to a safer haven.

# Talked to Nazis

For six days the Canadian and his companion played hide and seek with Nazis and British shells. Close by was a Nazi machine-gun post which the British were trying to knock out and this made the situation more hazardous. Once they actually talked to the Nazis and were permitted to continue on their way.

"We spoke broken Italian and their Italian was not too good either," grinned Schubert. "They were Nazi snipers and they were hunting for the British. We were dressed like Italian peasants and

Mrs. A. Brunette of the post office staff, left this morning to spend the Christmas season with friends in Vancouver.

# BULLETINS

**BADOLIO TO TAKE OVER**  
LONDON—The Allied advisory council has recommended that General Dwight Eisenhower turn over control of Sicily, Sardinia and the part of southern Italy occupied by Allied forces with the exception of Naples area to Marshall Pietro Badoglio.

**FLU TOLL MOUNTING**  
LONDON—The influenza death toll in Britain for the week ending December 11 was 1,148, 439 over the previous week.

**VANCOUVER FOG**  
VANCOUVER—Vancouver was shrouded again last night in fog as thick as ever. The West Vancouver ferry Hollyburn went around 500 yards from Ambleside wharf and the passengers had to be rowed ashore.

**BERLIN SMOULDERING**  
LONDON—Bad weather held down the Royal Air Force last night. Berlin was still smouldering from the big raid of the night before when a big munitions plant was blown up.

**HITLER RESPONSIBLE**  
MOSCOW—Advices have been received that massacres and atrocities by the Nazis in occupied Russia have been ordered personally by Chancellor Adolph Hitler.

**PARTIZAN OFFENSIVE**  
LONDON—General Tito's Partizan Yugoslav forces have resumed the offensive against the Nazis. There is particularly heavy fighting west of Sarajevo.

# Anti-Franco Plots Foiled

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 18—Anti-Franco elements in Spain have tried three times to overthrow General Francisco Franco and install a regime more favorable to the United Nations.

# CLOSE IN ON FORT

ALGIERS, Dec. 18 (CP)—A fifth Army pincer movement closed in today on the heavily fortified village of San Pietro, seven miles northwest of Cassino, on the main highway to Rome. American troops reached the outskirts of San Pietro, where hand-to-hand fighting continued for the second straight day as troops dug Germans out of pill boxes one by one.

A military commentator said that the allies now hold heights north, east, south, and southwest of the village, leaving the Germans only one road to escape.

Before they reached the British lines, he said, they had been joined by four Italian Carabinieri and from talks with the Germans this sextet were able to pass on valuable information to the Allies when they reached their lines.

Of his actual escape from the Adriatic camp, Schubert had little to say. He said it might prejudice the chances of others from getting out via the same route. He did admit, however, that Italian peasants aided him and the Englishman who escaped with him. Their escape cut short a five-month internment.

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# CONSOLIDATE NEW GUINEA

United States Land Forces Establish Themselves—Air Attacks Repelled.

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NEW GUINEA, Dec. 18 (CP)—United States troops that invaded Arawe Peninsula of New Britain Island Wednesday are consolidating positions while the American air force has successfully repelled several Japanese air attacks, it was announced yesterday.

# Mrs. Currie Passes Away

Esteemed Pioneer Woman Dies This Morning Following Lengthy Illness—Here Since 1908.

Mrs. Florence Atkins' Currie, wife of John Currie, prominent local contractor, and one of Prince Rupert's real pioneer women, passed away at 10 o'clock this morning at her home, 840 Third Avenue, following a long illness from which it had been realized for some time that recovery could not be hoped for. However, news of her demise will be received with regret by many old friends and there will be general expressions of sympathy and regret.

The late Mrs. Currie was born seventy-two years ago in Chicago and, as a small girl, came to New Westminster with her parents. Her father, Alfred Hacker, was a cabinet maker in the Royal City of the old days and, with his wife, Rebecca Atkins Hacker, was well known to the pioneers there. In 1895 he deceased was married to Mr. Currie and, as a bride, went to the gold mining town to make her first home. It was there that all but one of her five children were born.

In 1908 Mrs. Currie came to Prince Rupert with her husband and young family and here she had made her home ever since. Besides the widower, Mrs. Currie is survived by three sons

# LOOK INTO BARI RAID

Circumstances of German Sneak Attack Are to be Investigated.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 18 (CP)—Investigation is proceeding into the incident of about two weeks ago when some thirty German bombers, making a surprise raid on the Allied-held Italian port of Bari, Italy, sank seventeen United Nations merchant ships within a few minutes.

The raid constituted one of the worst single blows ever suffered by United Nations shipping.

A wave of bombers struck just at dawn, flying low and very fast to catch the Italian city's defences entirely by surprise.

# Ambulance Fund

- Poole Construction Co. \$20.00
- Armour Towing Agency 15.00
- W. H. Malkin Co. 10.00
- N.B.C. Power Co. 25.00
- Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co. 75.00
- Pacific Stevedoring Co. 10.00
- Rupert Motors 10.00
- Lindsay's Cartage 10.00
- Philpott, Evitt 25.00
- Pioneer-Canadian Laundries 20.00
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Eyllsford 25.00
- In Memory of Bill Lamb and Bill Smeetin 5.00

John W. Currie, now living at Phoenix, Arizona; Charles J. Currie of Prince Rupert and Flying Officer George M. Currie who is with the Royal Canadian Air Force here and two daughters, Mrs. Alex (Florence) McDonald of Vancouver and Mrs. Arthur (Elizabeth) Oswald of Prince Rupert.

The funeral will take place Tuesday afternoon from the Grenville Court Chapel of B.C. Undertakers.

# Russians Headed Off Nazi Conspiracy To Kill Allied Leaders

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (CP)—President Roosevelt said yesterday that the Russians had got wind of a Nazi plot to kill him, Churchill and Stalin while they were in Teheran. The President said that he then took up lodgings in the Russian embassy compound with Stalin. The British embassy was next door and one of the three principals had to go through the streets to get together for talks.

He said that the talks at Teheran and Cairo were successful in every way, and he hopes that they laid the foundation for a postwar era of peace. His hopes were shared by Churchill, Stalin and Chiang Kai-Shek.

The President will be heard in a world radio broadcast at noon Pacific Time next Friday.

# HORRORS OF WAR

AT A CANADIAN PORT—The famed sentiment of General Sherman found an echo in the heart of a local woman. During the din of an outburst of anti-aircraft practise firing she phoned the police station to know if there was anything serious the matter.

When told by the police that if there was they didn't know anything about it, she asked: "Well, can't something be done about all this unnecessary noise?"

"Lady," said the constable, "there is a war on." The crash of gunfire accompanied her voice over the phone as she exasperated: "Why don't they take their war somewhere else?"

Mrs. B. Walker of King Edward School teaching staff is leaving tonight for a trip to Vancouver.

# TESTIMONY OF AFFRAY

Preliminary Hearing of William Samuel Cooper, Charged With Wounding.

From testimony given at the preliminary hearing of William Samuel Cooper, charged with wounding Patrick Keogh, taxi driver it appeared that he alleged assailant might not have realized what went on during the knife fracas in the Knox hotel which sent Keogh and Martin LaBelle to hospital with knife wounds on November 19. He was committed for trial by Magistrate W. D. Vance in city police court yesterday.

According to Sergeant Edward Albert McBrien R. C. A. F. who testified that he had rushed down to the hotel lobby from an upstairs room when he heard the fight begin, the first thing the accused said when quiet had been restored was: "Is anybody hurt?"

McBrien said that he had been asked by Constable Turtle of the city police to keep an eye on Cooper following the fight while Turtle used the telephone. Although Cooper received no answer to his first question he continued to ask more.

"Are they hurt very bad?" he asked and then, "what will I get for this?"

When told by Constable Turtle to be quiet and say nothing, Cooper said: "When I get through with this I will be good." McBrien said in testimony that he was a sergeant investigator for the Royal Canadian Air Force service police and had been interviewing Leading Aircraftsman Francis J. LaBelle, brother of the hotel proprietor, in a second floor room when he had heard a thump on the floor of the lobby.

As he dashed out of the room, followed by Aircraftsman LaBelle, he heard a woman scream: "Look out, he's got a knife!"

When he got down to the lobby he saw "three or four" men lying on the floor on top of another man. Someone told him to watch out for a knife.

McBrien said that he asked which hand the knife was in and was told that it was the right one. He took hold of the man's right arm, and soon someone told him: "It's all right, he's dropped the knife."

Following the struggle, Keogh lay on the floor, unconscious, the witness said, and there was blood around La Belle, but he could not see where he was wounded. The man whom the witness identified as the accused, who at that time wore a beard, also lay on his back on the floor.

McBrien said that he had helped to put the two wounded men in chairs and had been told by Constable Turtle to keep an eye on Cooper. It was then that Cooper had begun to talk.

A police car with corporal and constable had arrived as well as an ambulance and a taxi. Keogh had been taken to hospital in the taxi and LaBelle in the ambulance.

# Post Office Woes Fewer This Year

Decentralized distribution System Removes Bottle Neck Which Prevailed Last Year.

Christmas mail this year is not quite the headache for them this year that it was last year. Post Office authorities said this morning.

With four postal stations handling the seasonal rush which last year was the burden of the central post office alone clearances are being made with greater speed and convenience for both the post office workers and the public, it was stated.

However, Christmas being what it is, there is still a tremendous increase in mail and parcel movement at the central office. The regular staff of twenty-two clerks has been

# HANDS UP, GERMAN PRISONERS ARE LED OFF AT SALERNO



Here are shown some of the first German soldiers captured by Salerno. The prisoners have been ordered to keep their hands up their heads and marched along the beach to internment camps.