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The Daily News

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NORTHERN AND CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NEWSPAPER

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1943

Tonight's Dim-out

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

8:39 p.m. to 6:52 a.m.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Mareth Line Has Now Collapsed

Greatest Bombing Attack of War on Berlin Staged; Is Stronger Than London

Nine Hundred Tons of Explosives and Incendiaries Dropped—St. Nazaire Was Target for Last Night

LONDON, March 29 — The mightiest assault of the war on Berlin was staged Saturday night by a powerful three figure force of Royal Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force bombers which unloaded nearly nine hundred tons of bombs in the second devastating blow against the German capital in twenty-seven days. Hundreds of heavyweight bombers set aflame the heart of Nazidom which still was groggy from the raid of March 1. The total of explosives dropped on Berlin was about double the quantity dumped by the Germans in the heaviest assault on London. Nine bombers were lost. The Nazi submarine base of St. Nazaire on the French coast was blasted last night with a heavy weight of bombs.

WIN WAR IS FIRST

Communist Leader Urges Unity of All Democratic Forces to Concentrate on This Object

Declaring that the ideal of the Communist Party of Canada was to bring about unity of all Democratic forces in Canada with the express purpose of carrying on a total war policy, Fergus McKean, well known anti-Fascist leader, who less than a year ago was in internment with Tim Buck and other leaders, addressed a public meeting in the Eagles' Hall yesterday afternoon. Speaking for over an hour, he urged all workers to get together in prosecuting and winning the war, stating that it would be time enough after the war was over to take action to bring about a new economic system in which the workers would obtain a fairer share of the fruits of their labors. He advised against strikes or any action that would tend to hamper the war effort. He appealed to the trades unions, as the most important democratic force, to so direct their efforts towards winning the war that they would have demonstrated their rights to participate in the post-war reorganization after the victory had been won.

There was a good attendance at the meeting which was presided over by Paul Taranger. The following resolution was passed by the meeting: "Whereas the Communist Party has been consistently anti-Fascist in policy, "Whereas Communists are giving active support to the cause of total war and victory over Fascism, "And whereas a large part of the working people look to Communists for leadership, "Be it resolved that the Canadian government make it possible for the full power of the left wing labor movement in the building effect by the lifting of the baning of total war be brought into the Communist party." There was a question and discussion period after the meeting. A collection resulted in \$36.37 being taken.

Hockey Scores

Stanley Cup Montreal 4, Boston 0. Toronto 6, Detroit 3. Detroit 4, Toronto 2 (Sunday). Allan Cup Calgary 9, Victoria 6.

ONE CITY OF KINGS

Lima, capital of Peru, is often called "the city of Kings."

New Church Dedication

Beautiful New Edifice at Fifth Avenue and McBride Street Dedicated

Beautiful new St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Fifth Avenue and McBride Street, \$15,000 tribute to the enterprise, enthusiasm and actual labor of the local congregation, was formally dedicated yesterday morning to the glory of God and the service of Christ and the people by Rev. A. O. Aasen of Vancouver in the absence of Bishop H. L. Foss, president of the Pacific district of the synod, who had come north from Seattle to conduct the service but who was forced to return to Seattle owing to the death of his father. There was standing room only in the commodious and attractive auditorium of the new church for the consecration service which constituted an impressive rite. Rev. Mr. Aasen was assisted by the local pastor, Rev. Magnus Anderson, who actually conducted the service, and Rev. T. A. Knutson of Petersburg, Alaska.

Mr. Aasen, in his address, spoke appropriately. He brought greetings from his own church in Vancouver and mentioned the gift of a handsome set of candelabra which was used on the altar for the first time, this being presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. Antonsen, formerly of Prince Rupert and now of Vancouver. Mr. Aasen, who himself took an active part in the organization of the local congregation in 1934, dealt with the mission and function of the church and referred to the various types of life, holding the spiritual to be just as real and important as the intellectual and physical. In building and dedication of a church it was that those who used it might have the highest and most abundant of spiritual life. To this end might the church serve God and its people down through the years. The cornerstone which was consecrated contained a Bible, prayer book, records and publications of the church as well as copies of the city newspapers.

The morning service program included the singing of the anthems, "Vigil" and "Built on a Rock," both by Christiansen. The hymns were "God's Word Is Our Heritage" and the "Church's One Foundation." The anthems were led by Private Harald Normann, U.S. Army, and Mrs. Andersen was accompanist. Following the morning service, luncheon was served to the congregation by Mrs. Chris Johnson, president of the Ladies' Aid, and assistants. There was an afternoon service with Rev. T. A. Knutson as speaker and an evening service at which Rev. A. O. Aasen was the preacher with the Junior Choir rendering the anthem, "The Lord is My Shepherd." The attendance for the day totalled 464.

North Wales is said to produce the world's best slate.

Japanese Fleet on Way To Kiska is Headed Off; Nippon Commander Turns

WASHINGTON, March 29 — A Japanese fleet heading for the Aleutian Islands was intercepted by a light force of United States vessels, engaged at long range and, when last seen, was headed westward, the Department of the Navy announced today. The Japanese fleet was, apparently, under instruction to escort cargo vessels into Kiska where the enemy has established a base. It was probable that the Japanese commander, giving first thought to the protection of the cargo vessels which might contain needed supplies for hard hit Kiska base, merely swung about to escape an engagement in which the supply ships could be lost.

Bulletins

BERLIN HEAVILY BOMBED LONDON—The Royal Air Force bombed Berlin heavily Saturday night with incendiaries and explosives. Berlin complained of schools and churches being hit.

CHICAGO COLLISION CHICAGO—Twenty persons were injured in a rear-end collision of trains in a Chicago station Saturday night.

MARETH LINE CRACKED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA—The struggle on the Mareth Line in Tunisia still rages, the British Eighth Army having cracked through on a twenty-mile front, capturing Mareth. There is little official information but reports of correspondents show the tide is obviously going in favor of the Allies. Allied planes keep up a ceaseless attack on the enemy. The Americans have started a new attack in central Tunisia.

THAW SLOWS UP FIGHTING MOSCOW—The spring thaw is hampering both sides from the Sea of Azov to the Pacific. The Nazis are moving up even heavier forces to effect a crossing of the Donets River at any cost. The Russians are moving a little closer to Smolensk with the capture of four more towns.

KING PETER WARNS SLAVS LONDON—King Peter warns the people of Yugoslavia not to start anything on a large scale until the time is ripe. Large Allied operations may be expected in Europe within a few months, he says.

OPERATIONS IN PACIFIC WASHINGTON — An important conference has been held to plan future operations in the Pacific area.

ROOSEVELT-EDEN CONFER WASHINGTON — President Roosevelt and Foreign Secretary Eden conferred at the week-end. Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles and British Ambassador Lord Halifax were in attendance.

MADAME CHIANG'S WARNING SAN FRANCISCO—Madame Chiang Kai-Shek warned the Allies against flying at each other's throats after they have defeated the Axis. "The peril is not losing the war but losing the peace," she said.

JAPS LOST HEAVILY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA—The Japanese, in the most ambitious single attack yet in the New Guinea sector, hurled forty bombers and a strong fighter escort against Orobay to sink a small Allied merchantman and damage another but it cost the Japanese thirteen planes destroyed and another twelve damaged or destroyed. There were again widespread Allied raids on Jap bases.

TAKE ITALIAN NAVY LONDON — A London newspaper claims that the Italian Navy has been taken over by the Germans and Nazi officers have been placed in command.

SHIPMENT OF SCOTCH VANCOUVER—Ten thousand cases of choice Scotch whiskey have arrived in Vancouver but it is not for immediate sale but to meet requirements up to October 31.

MAY BE MISSING PLANE VICTORIA—The wreckage of an airplane is reported to have been found up the island near Parksville six miles off the Island Highway. It may be the Canadian Airways plane which has been missing since December 20.

MONTREAL DRIVERS STRIKE MONTREAL—Three thousand street car and auto bus drivers are out on strike and the city's transportation service is badly tied up.

RACHMANINOFF DEAD BEVERLY HILLS — Sergei Rachmaninoff, eminent Russian pianist and conductor, died yesterday at his home here of pneumonia and complications. He was sixty-nine years of age.

SCHOOL CLINIC HIT LONDON—German hit and run raiders were over south England last night and scored a direct hit on a school clinic. Teachers and students were trapped. Two Nazi planes were brought down.

Marshal Rommel Yields To Pounding of Eighth Army; Retreats With Heavy Loss

AIR CRASH IN ALASKA

Three Hostesses of U.S.O. Among Six Victims of Transport Disaster on Coast

VANCOUVER, March 29 (CP)—Six persons, three of them United Services Organization hostesses and three of them men of the Royal Canadian Air Force, were killed and a seventh is missing as a result of the crash of a Royal Canadian Air Force transport plane in the sea off Alaska, the Western Air Command announced Saturday.

The statement said that the cause of the crash was obscure but it occurred during a sudden snow squall. No names have been released pending notification of next of kin.

WAR SAVINGS STAMP SALES

How Prince Rupert, Prince George and Queen Charlotte Islands Are Doing

War Savings Stamp sales at Rupert Post Office during this year amounted to \$1,658.59, it is announced, as compared with \$2,096 in January and \$1,577 in December. In Prince George War Savings Stamp sales for February were \$230 as against \$347.25 in January and \$243.50 in December. Sales for the Queen Charlotte Islands in February were \$551.25, in January \$218.75 and in December \$337.25.

Bottles To Be Shipped

The salvage committee of the Junior Section of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce is now engaged in the preparation of a carload shipment of bottles to the glass factory at Red Cliff, Alberta. The car has the car about half loaded. More bottles are needed and should be delivered to the salvage shed on the waterfront in as large quantities as possible. Volunteer workers to assist in loading are also being sought today and tomorrow.

Yesterday volunteer workers of the Junior Chamber were out to start loading the car, the members being assisted by John Moore and Paddy Taylor.

Young Woman Is Laid at Rest

BURNS LAKE, March 29—Funeral services were held in Burns Lake United Church on Tuesday afternoon last for Miss Matilda Bostrom, aged 37 years, who died recently at her home at Grassy Plains. Interment was in the Burns Lake Cemetery, Rev. Adam Crisp officiating.

Friends and relatives from Grassy Plains and Burns Lake gathered to pay their respects at the church. The hymns "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and "My Faith Looks up to Thee," and a solo, "Jesus I Come," were sung.

Beautiful floral tributes were sent by relatives and friends.

Important North African Fortifications Crack Along 25-Mile Front With Allies Taking Every Strong Point

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, March 29 (CP)—Marshal Erwin Rommel's Mareth Line defences have collapsed under pounding of the British Eighth Army and his forces are retreating with heavy losses, it was announced today. Scattered pockets of resistance were left behind but were being mopped up one by one as Allied aerial squadrons joined ground forces in powerful attacks along the Axis escape corridor.

The Mareth Line broke on a twenty-five mile front at three points ranging from twenty to thirty miles from the Axis supply port of Gabes. Beset by powerful forces forward and a desert flanking column at El Hamma in the rear, Rommel yielded Mareth, Matmala and Toujane at the northern end of the Mareth fortifications yesterday and dispatches said that every strong point of the forty-mile line was now in Allied hands.

Private Trevor Williams of Prince Rupert Finds Army Life Interesting

Former Secretary of Prince Rupert Junior Chamber of Commerce Describes Things at Vernon and Calgary

A description of training in the Canadian army by Trevor Williams, former secretary of the Junior Section of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, now stationed at Calgary after having spent a time at Vernon, makes interesting reading, particularly to his many friends in Prince Rupert. He has written a lengthy letter to Arthur Brooksbank, secretary of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce. It contains considerable details of training procedure with comments and observations.

Private Williams spent two months in basic training at Vernon. "It's been a most interesting two months," he writes, "and, if you wonder has it been a tough two months, I will just say—it's been tough enough. We were started off with parade square drill, hours of it. Then we were given a rifle to throw around. About the same time we had lectures and demonstrations in first aid. Later we were given Bren gun drill, gas mask drill and map reading. We have had three target practices and you will be glad to know that I rank as a first class shot. It took a score of 45 out of sixty to qualify and forty-five I got. We have had route marches, forced marches, marches on the double and assault course to travel—first carrying nothing, then successively having more to carry until we do it in full battle order—steel helmet, respirator, webbing, light pack and rifle. Of course we have had daily doses of physical training for good measure. It's a process of starting off the poor recruit fairly lightly and gradually putting the pressure on him, toughening him up to take more and more.

"Just when we are beginning to feel pretty smug about our progress, we are given more or less grim warning that we 'haven't seen anything yet.' Most of us are slated for an advanced training course at another camp and we were told by our company commander something of what we might expect. We will be doing a considerable amount of battle drill and it's all geared up to simulate the atmosphere and tempo of actual conflict as much as possible. He elaborated on the subject quite a bit.

RED ARMY ADVANCES

Moving Slowly Towards Smolensk Despite Muddy and Unfavorable Weather

MOSCOW, March 29 (CP)—The Red Army fought on in mud during the night, breaking up two German efforts to crack its lines along the upper Donets River and capturing four more villages in a slow drive towards Smolensk, the Russians said today. Once the flaming battle line had, apparently, subsided temporarily to a series of local and inconclusive engagements. A noon communique said that there was no material change on the fronts and the fighting was devoted almost exclusively to isolated engagements involving relatively small forces.

John Gromley, for vagrancy by drunkenness and creating a disturbance, was given six months' suspended sentence in city police court at the end of the week and ordered to leave town within forty-eight hours.