THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Invasion of Western Europe . . .

The major stake in this great war has been cast in the massive Allied invasion by land and air forces of western Europe. This is the battle, long and hard as it may well be, which will in the ultimate decide the war. Now it has commenced, we must be prepared to steel ourselves for hard struggle which we all hope will be crowned with a speedy victory but which we may realistically expect may have its reverses and its disappointments before the final happy issue has been reached.

Meanwhile, we may feel heartened that the initial mighty landings, constituting as enormous a military undertaking as the world has ever seen, have been so successfully achieved. Things so far, appear to be going more than well for our side.

Local History Is Real Value . . .

Local history has a real commercial value as well as an esthetic one. The romantic incidents of the past add to the interest that geographic and scenic features offer. In the modern big business of tourist travel the worth of history is appreciated. Governments and public bodies feature in their allure for the travel trade spots where colorful happenings have occurred and where persons of distinction have lived and worked. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has marked scores of points of national interest across the Dominion. The Provincial Government, working in co-operation with the B.C. Historical Association, has added immensely to the glamour of a number of British Columbia localities by similar plaques and memorials of the past.

There are even great fundamental values to be realized from an appreciation of history than the more commercialized exploitation of the tourist trade. No country can develop a pride of race, a love of country or a co-ordinated and articulate public spirit in the absence of a knowledge of the inspirational and heroic accomplishments of the past. History is the background of citizenship.

In another column is published an interview with B. A. McKelvie, president of the B.C. Historical Association, pointing out that we, in Prince Rupert, and in this area, have a history that is well worth preserving. It is a definite asset.

Vancouver maintains its own archives department; Kamloops has been industrious in collecting data of its past; the Okanagan Valley has an actice historical organization that has done magnificent work; Nelson employs an historian to gather material of early days in that locality. It is time that Prince Rupert did something. The Prince Rupert Daily News would be happy to sponsor and assist such an organization as far as possible.

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PRESS FOR RADIO LINE TO RUPERT

After hearing from Dr. August Frigon, acting chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, that a request for the linking up of the Prince Rupert radio station by direct wire with the national network could not be granted at this time owing to the expense involved, the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting last night, decided that, in the event of the Commission failing to take action in the matter in response to representations about to be made by Col. D. B. Martyn, area commandant, the Americans be asked to establish a radio station here.

There were two letters from Dr. Frigon. One stated that hooking up of Prince Rupert with the national network would depend upon the cost of the connection and the development of the district. It had already cost $50,000 in capital expenditure to reach Prince George and $10,000 per year maintenance. The cost of taking a line into Prince Rupert was considered prohibitive at the present time. The cost of running CFPR as at present was relatively heavy but was being maintained in the interests of service.

The second letter from Dr. Frigon was read after a meeting of the board of governors of CBC which had given "thorough and sympathetic consideration" to Prince Rupert's position as a result of which it was found impossible to grant the local request at this time. To do so would cost $30,000 per annum, the present cost of operating the station being $20,000. It was considered that the service at Prince Rupert had been greatly improved in the last two years.

Excerpts from Hansard telling of how Olof Hanson, M. P. for Skeena, had spoken in the House on the matter of radio at Prince Rupert were read. At present Prince Rupert could get reliable radio only from the United States or Alaska. With the military releasing telegraph wires coming into Prince Rupert, Mr. Hanson asked that the Commission connect up Prince Rupert radio station with a wire. The sum of $50,000 had been spent in reaching Prince George out of which there was not much population, the bulk of the population being around Prince Rupert. This was a matter which Mr. Hanson asked the minister of natural resources to look into. The population in the Prince Rupert area was about 40,000 whereas around Prince George there were only about 10,000 people if that many. There was no sense to the government taking a line into Prince George where there was no population and stopping before reaching the real population at Prince Rupert. Gordon Graydon, Leader of the Opposition, was quoted as supporting the representations of Mr. Hanson on behalf of Prince Rupert.

D. C. McRae, chairman of the radio committee, acknowledged the activity and helpfulness of Mr. Hanson in connection with the campaign for better radio service. Dr. Frigon had turned out to be unsympathetic. However, Dr. Ira Dilworth, the regional representative, had been seen in Vancouver and had pledged himself to do all he could to further the Prince Rupert connection. There had also been an interview with Col. D. B. Martyn, the area commandant, who had been most encouraging and was anxious that there be an improvement in radio service from Prince Rupert in the interests of the morale of the forces.

The final outcome of the discussion was the passage of two resolutions—one that the support of the local service organizations in support of the campaign for a connection with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation be sought and the other that, in the event of failure of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to take action, the Americans be asked to establish a radio station at Prince Rupert.

100 YEARS OLD—

Centennial Of Y.M.C.A. Celebrated

War Work Occupies Attention of Great Organization Here and all Over World

Yesterday the centennial birthday celebration of the Y.M.C.A. took place all over the world. The occasion is of particular interest at Prince Rupert in view of Y.M.C.A. activities here. The Y.M.C.A. was organized June 6, 1884, in England, by George Williams, a draper's clerk. The founders were 12 young men, none of them over 23. A Montreal merchant, on a business trip to England, heard about the Y.M.C.A. and, as a result, on November 25, 1851, the first Y.M.C.A. in North America was organized in Montreal. Today the Y.M.C.A. operates in 60 countries with 10,000 branches and two and a half million members.

Every Y.M.C.A. building in Canada, since the outbreak of war, has given freely of its equipment, services and trained personnel to the men of the armed forces. Free membership privileges have been provided to men in uniform. Dances, entertainments, recreation rooms, beds, literature, games, writing paper, counsel—all these are available at every Y.M.C.A for men in uniform.

In 1943 the Canadian Y.M.C.A. served men of the armed forces in Canada, Newfoundland, Labrador and Alaska at 834 separate, distinct locations. Seventy of these were naval establishments, 59 army camp and barracks, 348 army posts and outposts, 251 air stations and substations, 20 naval, army and air force hospitals, 33 hostel and leave centres, 35 permanent Y.M.C.A. buildings.

Overseas, in the United Kingdom, the Canadian Y.M.C.A. serves men of the forces at 2,115 separate locations, including 14 hostels and two centres, 921 regular Y.M.C.A. centres, 1,170 forts and outposts and 10 hospitals. In the Mediterranean, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Iceland, the "Y" worked at 590 different locations, including eight hostels and town centres, 154 regular Y.M.C.A. centres, 425 forts and outposts, and three hospitals.

Personnel of the association making possible this extremely varied work included 394 navy, army and air force secretaries or supervisors, 280 service personnel detailed for full time duty with the association, and 816 other full time paid employees. In addition, over 10,000 volunteers gave large amounts of time unselfishly, in many cases with great devotion to the work of the association.

Total attendance at all Y.M.C.A. activities since the beginning of the war, 179,424,954.

The Y.M.C.A. is a Christian organization. It is a layman's organization. It if a youth organization. It has pioneered in many fields: boys' work, camping, father and son, short term finance campaigns and playgrounds. It has sponsored many movements of good citizenship, better living, Christian emphasis, outside of the Y.M.C.A.

LOCAL Y.M.C.A. ACTIVITIES

Many war services are provided by the Y.M.C.A. in the Prince Rupert area. The Red Triangle Club, located in the old Moose Hall, is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to midnight. This club is well equipped with lounge room, writing and reading rooms, music room, library, and has excellent canteen facilities.

The Y. M. C. A. Servicemen's Cafeteria is operated at the request of the armed services. Owing to the increased population of Prince Rupert and the overburdened restaurant facilities, it was necessary to open a cafe for service personnel only. Here good meals are served at a very low price.

The Y.M.C.A. Empress Club provides seven free movie programs per week and two dances per week. Y.M.C.A. concerts for servicemen are held in the local Capitol Theatre on Sunday night. Each month a touring concert troupe spends two weeks in the Prince Rupert area visiting all Army, Navy, Air Force and American military establishments in the area. Twelve Y.M.C.A. supervisors and a substaff of thirty-five employees, with a large number of Prince Rupert citizens volunteering as workers add greatly to the scope of the Y.M.C.A. War services in the Prince Rupert district.

BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Downtown facilities are taxed to the utmost and recently the government has approved the building of a new Y.M.C.A. centre for service personnel. This is being built at the corner of Second and McBride, and it is expected to be in operation for the coming winter. Being built at a cost of $150,000 the building will have a full sized gymnasium, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 800, lounge rooms, reading, and writing rooms, cleaning and pressing rooms, cafeteria and canteens. The city of Prince Rupert has an agreement with the Department of National Defence whereby this building will be used as a civic centre in the years to come following the war.

Wrens Beat CWAC's In Softball

The Wrens made the debut of their new coach a successful one by defeating the C.W.A.C.'s 17 to 12, in a Women's Softball League game Monday night at Gyro Park. The decision was the Navy girls' first win of the season in three starts.

In addition to the new skipper of the team, Sub-Lieut. Booth, the Wrens had three more players—Mona McDiarmid, Rena Down and Doris Griffith.

The revamped W.R.C.N.S. nine looked like a vastly different team from the one which lost to the W. D.'s in their last game. Both their hitting and fielding was noticeably improved.

On the mound for the winners was MacDonald, while Othnon pitched for the Army girls.

The engagement between the Hospital Alumnae and the Air Force W. D.'s was postponed.

Sport Chat

Result of the draw for the Dominion Day Cup knock-out soccer series was announced today by Sid Woodside, secretary of the Area League. This trophy is also known as the Northern British Columbia Championship Cup.

The series will start June 13 with Navy meeting Soo Suds. The winner of this game is slated to meet Air Force June 16 in the semi-final. On June 20 the Reserves meet Signals and the survivor plays the victor of the other semi-final on July 1.

Last night's soccer game was postponed as were the Service Softball League engagements. The ball tilts would have brought together as opponents the Engineers and Port Edward and Coast Regiment and Ack-Acks.

Standings of the Area Women's Softball League, including Monday's games, follow:

	W	L	Pct.
W. D.'s	2	0	4
Alumnae	2	0	4
Allies	1	1	2
Wrens	1	2	2
C.W.A.C.'s	1	2	2
High School	0	2	0

C. W. Nash of the Coast Construction Co. returned to the city on last night's train after paying a visit to the company's section of Skeena River Highway construction between Kitwanga and Pacific which is now nearing completion.

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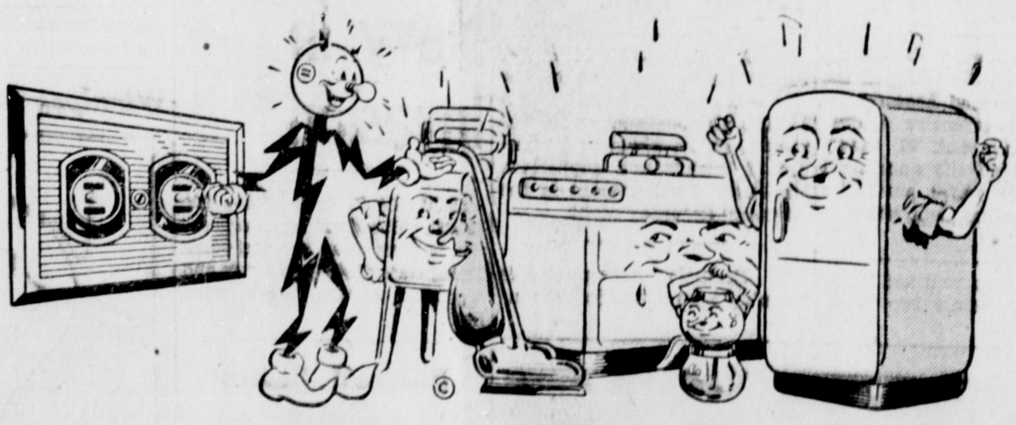

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