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PROVINCIAL

PRRINCE RUPERT, B.C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1945

# MINCE UEUNCE

### ames Originating in Stokehold Spread Rapidly Through tricken Ship; Personnel Removed, She Was Cut Adrift

The veteran steamer, Prince George, thirty-five-year-old coastal liner and one of ritish Columbia's best known and most popular ships, perished today on Pennock land in Tongass Narrows near Ketchikan in one of the greatest marine disasters in ast history. The ship, which left here at midnight last night for the Alaska port nder command of Capt. Neil MacLean, took fire from the stokehold soon after arving there at 8 o'clock this morning. Rapidly, the flames spread throughout the

in which was later towed away from the dock nd beached a flaming mass on Pennock Island. ong distance word from Ketchikan early this ternoon was that the oil tanks were feeding the ames and the vessel was undoubtedly a total

ever, in the word that crew thing but watch.

the ship Coastguard and fishing ves-

passengers were all safe. Word of the disaster seeped sidewalk and telephone convergency accommodation was through Prince Rupert this sations. appealed for at Ketchikan morning in a series of rumors | The passenger offices of Canaboard the Prince originating from Ketchikan dian National Steamships rearrangements radio broadcasts which were ceived no official confirmation passed on to other people, of the destruction of their vessel

gaining momentum until the until after noon today and this destruction of the veteran ship morning the office was bewas the main topic of conver- sieged with telephone calls and sation on downtown streets.

Topic of Concern Throughout City

"Have you heard anything ked this home port of the sels clustered around the dying about the Prince George burnlar liner, there was relief, ship but were unable to do any- ing at Ketchikan?" was the opening remark of hundreds of

about the disaster. Most of them came from people with reservations to sail for Vancouver on the Prince George tonight. Many with reservations for next Saturday and the Saturday following put in requests to change their reservations for sailings of her sister ship, the Prince Rupert, on Thursdays. Scores were transferred from the reservation lists of Saturday

queries from prospective pass.

District Freight Agent Peter

Lakie said the first information

he had received came from the

American Army signals office

aboard the ship.

tion lists of both vessels have been filled for weeks ahead.

passengers out at once. Canadian National Steamships at present bas no other vessel to take over the Prince George's run in case of such emergencies. Both the Prince George and Prince Rupert have capacities for more than 200 passengers

The Canadian Pacific Steamships office this morning was also the centre of a flurry of telephone calls and visits by passengers for the ill-fated ship, who sought space aboard the Princess Adelaide which sails

It was announced today that, effective immediately, there will be only one sailing weekly -Wednesday midnight-from here to Ketchikan and one south to Vancouver—Thursday

by senior officers of Canadian National Steamships under Capt.

The Prince George was built at Wallsend-on-Tyne, Newcastle, England, and arrived on this coast from her builders in September 1910. With the exception of a few months in 1914 when explosions, followed by groans fair to partly cloudy and mild she was operated as a naval hospital ship o nthis coast, she had continued steadily on the British Columbia coastal service. She was 306 feet seven inches long with beam of 42 feet 2 inches and draft of 16 feet. Gross tonnage was 3,372 and registered 1,625.

### Home Builders-

## Association Organized

To group prospective home

builders in Prince Rupert for the purpose of better availing themselves of the advantages of the National Housing Act, the Prince Rupert Housing Association was officially formed at a meeting of interested persons in the city council chamber last night. There are thirty-five members so far enrolled. Most these formally expressed their interest in the possibility of building homes in a new subdivision just beyond Borden Rupert, coalition candidate for Street on the northern slope of Acropolis above Park Avenue and a short distance from the centre of the city. Negotiations will be opened with the city with a view to obtaining the property for distribution in fifty-foot lots

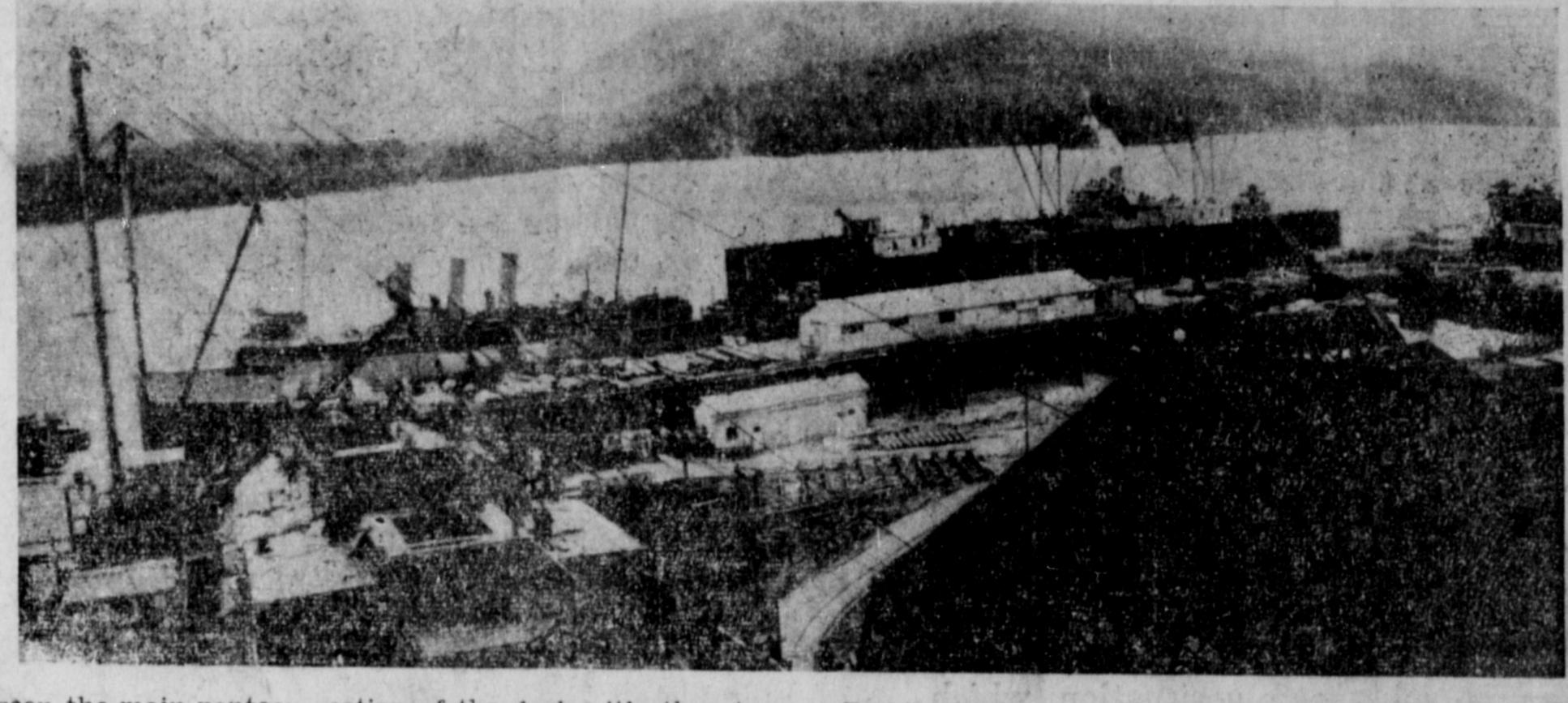
to members of the Association.

# ESTROYS Wartime Activity at Prince Rupert Extends Into Peace

PRICE FIVE CENTS

DRY DOCK ACTIVITY -This picture

of an interesting corner of activity at the local dry dock was taken earlier this year while activity was at its height in the yard. Looking over the slip staging where the since-completed 1 0,0 0 0 ton freighter Gaspesian Park was under con-



struction, can be seen the main pontoon section of the dock with the steamer Rosebank thereon. Moored nearby is the steamer Prince George which had just undergone an annual overhaul. (Photographed by E. John Wilson, through courtesy of Western Business and Industry).

which told him that they had received a signal reporting OF YARD rumor that the there was a fire While the top picture depicts Mr. Lakie and other members activity over of the ticket office staff were the main slip continually answering questions and the pontoon section at the west end of the yard, this view turns to the east end and shows an-

other pontoon section, where Russian freighters are being sailings to the waiting lists for overhauled, the the Thursday sailings. Reservamain pier area and also the large shipshed, admirably adapted for smaller ship construction, and the power house. It is another graphic picture of large

Possibility that some of tonight's southbound passengers might be moved out by train were being explored, but it was doubted that there was enough passenger rolling stock immediately available to take all the

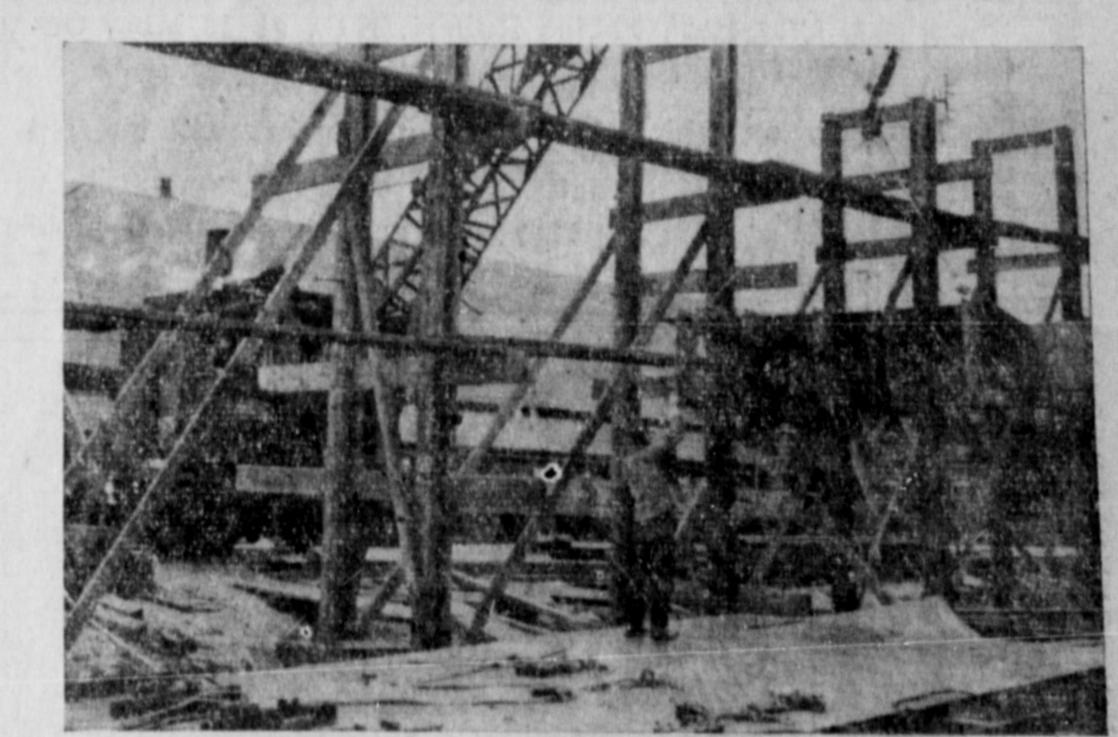
when fully loaded.

for the south Monday night.

night at 11:15.

The Prince George is manned MacLean, Chief Engineer is A. S. Munroe and purser, A. H. Rob-

activity at the yard a short time before the war ended.



These pictures show work now progressing on the two China Coasters now being constructed in the local shipyard. In the top left is Hull 59 and in the top right Hull 58. The bottom left shows prefabrication of the double bottom. The centre top shows a prefabricated section being transported to the hull. The bottom right shows a section being lowered into position. (Photos by E. John Wilson, loaned by Prince Rupert Dry Dock).

# ERY ORDERLY

Ketchikan today.

AIRMEN

eparture of 50 airmen from

l Cove Royal Canadian Air

ce base last night was the

group exodus following the

ouncement last week that

station is to be closed. The

left for other stations for

ther dispersal or discharge.

ast night's movement leaves

out 175 men still at the base,

air force spokesman said this

ning. Another group of about

hovement will continue until

sposition of the air base fa-

is apparently still un-

whole complement is moved

s slated to leave shortly, and

AVE CITY

TOKYO, Sept. 22—Only trace tolence so far in the occupaon of Japan has been an accital ammunition explosion at killed one American soldier d injured 60 others near 10. Army authorities said at an American soldier touchoff the blast by accident and Japanese sabotage was sus-

nly a Few Isolated Groups till in Japanese Hands

OKYO, Sept. 22 (P)—All but sibly small and isolated oups of Canadian prisoners been evacuated from Japan nd now are enroute to Guam ad Manila. During the last few ys the bulk of Canadians libated in the Japanese home islds have been placed aboard ps and evacuated.

Among the Canadians remainin Japan are a few civilians, cluding one or two women who t their nationality by foreign arriage and whose status and alifications for repatriation ve not yet been determined.

### Bulletins \*\*\*

ESTROYED BY FIRE—Stemer Prince George, veteran popular coastal liner, victim of flames

FOR EX-SERVICEMEN OTTAWA—The chairman of the National Council of Clothing Manufacturers, Warren K. Cook, says a plan to freeze 100 per cent of men's suits and overcoats for sale to returning servicemen will be submitted at a special meeting of the clothing council in Montreal.

BAD NIGHTS IN WARSAW WARSAW -- Associated Press correspondent Larry Allen says that gunfire takes a nightly toll in Warsaw and that it is not safe to go out alone. All night long, Russians and Poles sing their national songs, while vodka flows freely. Shortly after nightfall, the shooting starts. Allen says one hears the and screams, but no one seems to know who does the shooting and who gets shot.

GASOLINE IS SCARCER CHICAGO—Gasoline is back on the scarcity list in some parts of the United States today, as a strike of C.I.O. oil workers gained headway. More than a dozen refineries and plants are closed down and others are ready to shut down as workers take strike votes. At some points emergency rationing of gasoline was ordered.

VANCOUVER DELEGATION VANCOUVER- A delegation representing municipal, business, labor and veterans will leave here at the end of next week for Ottawa to take up post-war reconstruction matters. It will be led by Mayor Cornett and Ald. Charles Thompson.

HENRY FORD RESIGNS DETROIT-Henry Ford II today became president of the Ford Motor Co., succeeding his grandfather, Henry Ford, resigned.

RUSSIANS QUIT TEHERAN TEHERAN — Russian troops have been removed from this capital city of Iran.

Japanese Oppression Laws Rescinded by Army of Occupation

TOKYO, Sept. 22 (P)-The Allied occupation army in Korea is helping that country prepare for independence. Headquarters has rescinded several Japanese oppression laws and have organized a police force of four hundred Koreans. The Allies have also established lower courts where Koreans have replaced Japanese judges for the first time in de-

Weather Forecast Light to moderate winds, fair and mild except cool at night. Queen Charlotes: moderate winds, occasionally fresh today,

except cool at night. Sgt. Gordon Alleyne left last night on the Catala for Vancouver where he expects to rehis discharge from the

Atlin in the forthcoming provincial election. Engineer at the Falls River plant of the Northern British Columbia Power Co., he received the nomination at a convention in Stewart this week.

# One Thousand Men Still Working

Although the work of building big 10,000-ton freighters at the local dry dock has been finished, the local yard is still being kept active with the construction of two China coasters and general repair work. There are about 1000 men employed and the work now in hand should keep the payroll up to that strength until the end of the year by which time it is possible some other work may be lined up to provide a continuation of the operation. One of the principal objects of a local mission, which is now in Montreal and will be in Ottawa next week is to urge the continuation of work at the local plant either in shipbuilding or some other postwar activity.

The shipbuilding accomplishments of the local yard in World War II were really notable. Early in the war building ships were rushed into being and the yard otherwise hastily put into full

commission. First four Bangor class mine-sweepers were built and then the ways were altered for the construction of the 10,000-ton freighters, thirteen of which were built.

During the height of wartime ship construction there were three eight-hour shifts per day on a full weekly basis with a payroll which reached a peak of two thousand. With the completion of the freighters, work started on the construction of the two China coasters which is now proceeding.

In addition to the new construction, the yarn was also handling a large amount of repair work including overhaul, refitting and repairing of naval vessels. More recently three large Russian freighters received extensive renovation at the