

Weather

North Coast — Overcast with light rain in afternoon Friday, becoming overcast with intermittent rain Saturday. Mild winds, moderate to fresh decreasing to moderate Saturday.

The Daily News

VOL. XXXIV, No. 34

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1945

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Tides

(Pacific Standard Time)

Saturday, February 10, 1945
High 0:00 17.7 feet
11:40 20.9 feet
Low 5:36 8.9 feet
18:27 3.2 feet

CANAL DIANS LEAD IN OFFENSIVE

Co-operate With Russia

Prime Minister Churchill dismisses Any Idea of Combine Against Soviet

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 9 — Flat rejection by Prime Minister Winston Churchill of any idea of a combine against Russia, helped clear the air for the recent Big Three meeting. Churchill, however, had suggested a western European alliance against Russia. Churchill rejected the idea and went beyond the immediate issue by making it clear that British policy calls for co-operation with Russia and the United States toward future peace.

POPULATION IS PUT AT 12,570

Population figures compiled by Dr. R. G. Knipe, medical health officer, as a basis for computing health percentages in the city revealed that the city had a civilian population last year of 12,570 as against 13,000 in 1943 and 17,000 in 1942. These included 1,200 children in age group under six years and the same number in the age group from six to sixteen. Population of the health unit, which covers 23,000 square miles, is 12,570.

PRINCE RUPERT PLACES PLACE ON MAP OF CANADA

Neglect of certain cartographers who failed to include Prince Rupert on animated maps of Canada which have been given wide publicity recently has stung Prince Rupert Junior Chamber of Commerce to the quick. They intend to join the Junior Chamber in doing something about it. Evidence of the lack of publicity that the city has received in recent years was made apparent last night's Junior Chamber meeting with the presentation of a map recently published as an advertisement in Maclean's Magazine which failed to locate Prince Rupert. There was also a report of a second map which contained the same oversight. The map was received from C. J. Balagoo with an accompanying letter which suggested that the Junior Chamber initiate steps to do something about it. The suggestion of Lloyd Morris, chairman of the publicity committee, they passed a motion that the publishers of the maps be made aware of their oversight and then proceeded to lay plans for a co-operative publicity effort.

When H. A. Breen and Theo. Youngs then introduced the idea that the next meeting be a "publicity meeting" and that each member come armed with some fact about Prince Rupert on which he would be asked to speak briefly.

Every resident of the city should be a publicity agent but you can't publicize it if you don't know much about it. I'm sure anybody could dig up at least one interesting fact."

Lloyd Morris suggested that the National Film Board be approached about making a film of this district. "They might make us share the credit but the film would be shown across Canada," he said. "I moved that other clubs in the city be contacted to lend their weight to a bang-up publicity campaign."

Cabinet In Session—

OTTAWA UNCERTAIN AS TO ELECTION; MAY NOW BE DEFERRED UNTIL FALL

OTTAWA, Feb. 9 (CP)—Political observers in Ottawa believed it was possible that before the cabinet session called for this morning ended, a decision would have been reached on whether there would be another session of Parliament before a general election. Tomorrow's meeting was expected to be the first heart-to-heart talk on politics among the cabinet members since the defeat Monday of Defence Minister McNaughton

GOOD WORK PERFORMED

Kinsmen Have Worthy Project In East End of Town

The announcement that the Kinsmen's Club has taken over the Athletic Club at Seal Cove School came after two weeks of negotiations between the heads of the two clubs following the request by the Athletic Club leaders that it be taken over by some local service club and placed on a permanent, organized basis. Mr. Nicolls said that, in view of the fact that his own future and that of the other heads of the club would possibly take them out of Prince Rupert because of the good work the club was doing, it was necessary that it be carried on.

Clarence Thomson and Bruce Stevens have been appointed by the Kinsmen as a temporary committee to carry on the operations of the club and to plan for the future.

The Prince Rupert Athletic Club started about a year ago as an outgrowth of the Boilermakers' Athletic Club. Far-sighted men such as George Stanton, J. Nicolls, Ernest Ruffing and others saw the need for immediate attention being given the boys of the city. The Boilermakers' Union promised the men financial assistance to get a club for the youngsters under way and the East End Hall was rented from the United Church of Canada. In these quarters twenty to forty boys met twice a week, with these men as their instructors. The classes grew. A boxing card was put on and from the profits the club expanded to the Seal Cove School under an arrangement with the school board. Mats, boxing gloves, a ring, swinging bar, shower, and other equipment were installed. Today the building is being used almost every night to capacity. Monday and Thursday evenings are the youngsters' nights, while Wednesday has been set aside as ladies' night. A grant of \$25 a month has been obtained from the Pro-Rec branch of the Department of Education in Victoria and this amount almost covers the monthly expenses at present.

For the present no immediate change is anticipated in the set-up of the operations and it is hoped that the present instructors will continue as long as they are in the city. Assisting in the care of the building is George Ferguson, Sr.

MAYOR IS EXECUTED

Chief Executive of Koenigsberg Is Hanged For Desertion in Besieged Pomeranian

LONDON, Feb. 9 (CP)—Mayor Schroeter of Koenigsberg, has been hanged for deserting the besieged town near Stettin, the German radio announced today. The announcement said that Schroeter left Koenigsberg without having received evacuation orders. Previously the deputy mayor of Breslau and the police president of Bromberg were executed by the Nazis.

Yanks Clean Up Japanese

Pasig River Is Crossed in Drive Towards Prize Waterfront—Corregidor Bombed

MacARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Feb. 9 (CP)—American infantrymen in Manila are driving towards the prized waterfront section in the face of heavy enemy demolition charges. American troops have swarmed across the Pasig River near the governmental palace and are cleaning out Japanese suicide squads in a bid for control of the harbor facilities. Meanwhile, American bombers have showered Corregidor Island fortress with another heavy bomb load.

The Japanese, as they fight back, are causing great destruction to the business section of the city, much of which is now blackened ruins. Banks, bazaars and huge store buildings have been destroyed. CHINESE COUNTER-ATTACK CHUNGKING — Counter-attacking Chinese have regained the important city of Ichang from the Japanese.

Immigration Inspector K. E. Calbeck returned this morning from a trip to Vancouver.

On Outskirts of Berlin

Showdown Battle for Capital Of Reich Developing; Reds Reported Only Eight Miles Off

All-Out Defence By Nazis Certain—Soviets Are Expanding Crossing of Oder River

MOSCOW, Feb. 9 (CP)—It now is clear that a showdown battle is shaping up on the eastern front before Berlin and it is equally clear that the Germans will go all-out in defence of their capital.

The Nazi sadio says that Russian units already have expanded no less than six bridgeheads across the Oder at points 30 to 45 miles from Berlin. There were reports last night that Russian tanks had reached the "outskirts" of Berlin and that Red units were only eight miles away from the Nazi capital.

Possibility of more importance is the fact that the Russians are reported to have ferried many heavy tanks across the river in the Kuestrin area under cover of a tremendous artillery barrage.

The Russians have smashed to within 25 miles of Stettin, port of Berlin, and have exploded a fresh offensive northwest of Breslau, threatening encirclement of that huge Silesian industrial centre, it was reported today. A fierce battle is now on for the important city of Frankfurt, 33 miles from Berlin. Stockholm predicts the Russians will reach Berlin within a week.

RAILWAY MAN POSTED HERE

Changes in Canadian National Railways divisional staffs have resulted in G. V. Middleton of Kamloops being transferred to Prince Rupert where he will be assistant superintendent to C. A. Berner, superintendent of the Smithers division. Mr. Middleton arrived in the city last night. He replaces G. B. Brien who has been transferred to Edmonton. Mr. Brien has been here for the last six months.

Local Temperature
Maximum 44
Minimum 33
Rainfall .04 inches

Mrs. F. Knott of Vancouver and Mrs. Lancashire of Alhambra, California, and three children are in the city visiting Mrs. Knott's granddaughter, Miss Margaret Christensen, R.N., and friends.

MEDICINE FOR U.B.C.

Major Building Program is to Be Provided for Under New Government Plan

VICTORIA, Feb. 9 (CP)—The University of British Columbia will be provided with sufficient funds to embark upon a major building program under a plan announced by the government in the Legislature.

Establishment of a faculty of medicine is regarded as a foregone conclusion with a medicine and science building high on the list of university needs.

NOT BADLY DAMAGED WASHINGTON — Secretary of War H. L. Stimson said today that Japanese war industries had not as yet been fundamentally damaged by American bombing attacks. A lone B29 was reported to have raided Kobe today.

Northern Hinge of Western Front Afire; Outer Defences Siegfried Line Are Reached

AMERICAN PARATROOPER VET HERE

Alvin Bieter was Machine-Gunned in Normandy After D-Day

An American Joe, paratrooper veteran of "D" Day and wounded in action in Normandy, now receiving treatment for his injuries at military hospital in Vancouver, Washington, Private Alvin W. Bieter, is in Prince Rupert visiting his sister, Mrs. E. Latley, 1820 Sixth Ave. E.

After being only two weeks in action following a parachute landing, Private Bieter was machine-gunned in Normandy and suffered serious lower arm injuries. Before going to France, he spent two years in England.

He is on a 30-day furlough from military hospital.

Norman Nelson of Nelson Brothers Fisheries, left last night to return to Vancouver after having been in the city since the beginning of the year.

Bulletins

BIG THREE QUIET

LONDON — The Big Three meeting still is unproductive of news, but London believes that the position of smaller nations in a projected world security league may be under discussion. It is rumored that the Dutch are very much upset over the question of unanimity or majority rule in the proposed security council.

NEW BELGIAN GOVERNMENT

BRUSSELS—The Belgian Labor Minister, Achille Van Acker says there are good prospects today for the formation of a new Belgian government. He has been commissioned by the Belgian regent, Prince Charles, to get information on cabinet possibilities. There is some belief in Brussels that Van Acker will be named premier to succeed Pierlot.

NAZI PRISONERS KILL FELLOWS

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. — Murder of two German prisoners-of-war by fellow captives following a "Kangaroo court-martial" in Medicine Hat prison camp was disclosed today in a newspaper story in the Lethbridge Herald. They quarrelled over allegiance to Adolf Hitler. The incident occurred in July 1943. One of the victims was hanged from a scaffold. The other was strangled in his bed.

INCIDENT "EXAGGERATED"

VANCOUVER—Rear Admiral Victor Brodeur, commanding officer, Pacific Coast, Royal Canadian Navy, says that "evidence to date tends to indicate the incident was greatly exaggerated." He was referring to an incident on a naval tug at Vancouver last Sunday when American show girls claimed they were molested.

AS I WAS SAYING . . .

NEW YORK — An Allied radio correspondent captured when Manila fell to the Japanese (Bert Silen of NBC) went back on the air again yesterday. His first words were: "Hello NBC. As I was saying when I was so rudely interrupted three years and a month ago . . ."

HIT U-BOAT HIDEOUT

LONDON — American heavy bombers dropped six-ton bombs on a Nazi u-boat hideout at Aishafen in Holland yesterday. British and Canadian night bombers were out last night over territory between Rhine and Meuse Rivers.

CRIME INCREASED

VANCOUVER—The chief of police, in his annual report, says major crime has increased in Vancouver owing to inadequate police strength.

B.C. POPULATION

VICTORIA—On the basis of ration cards issued, the population of British Columbia is now placed at 878,000.

LARGE DEATH TOLL

WASHINGTON — One hundred and seventy persons are reported to have been killed and 500 wounded in a raid by Allied planes on Saigon, Indo-China, Wednesday.

WELDERS ON STRIKE

SEATTLE — One thousand welders are on strike in Seattle shipyards because two men were discharged when they failed to keep their A.F.L. union cards up to date.

Over Two Miles Gained On Five-Mile Front in First Few Hours—American Armies to South Keeping Pace — Great Air Support Given

FURTHER ADVANCE TODAY

PARIS, Feb. 9 (CP) — The First Canadian Army's front southeast of Nijmegen today had been widened to more than six miles and maximum gains of five miles had been made by first light Friday morning. Associated Press reported that the Canadian Army had penetrated at least 4½ miles into Germany and well into the Siegfried Line forming the northern jaw of the Allied pincer drive against the Ruhr. The American First Army, 85 miles to the south, has advanced to within a mile of the vast dam controlling the flood waters of the Roer River, barrier to the Ruhr and Cologne Plain.

PARIS, Feb. 9 (CP) — General Crerar Canadian Army has set the northern hinge of the western front aflame in an offensive launched from the Nijmegen salient in Holland. British and Canadian troops sprang forward yesterday after a terrific 11-hour artillery barrage. Already they have registered gains of more than 4,000 yards on a five-mile front to the outer defences of the Siegfried Line.

The initial push last night carried the British and Canadian troops to the western edge of the Reichswald Forest after they broke out of positions held during three months of static warfare.

Today's reports on the progress of the fighting say the Canadian and British troops of the First Army are fanning out in an ever-widening front in the Nijmegen area in Holland behind flame-throwing tanks and thunderous artillery barrage. Dispatches from the front say the new First Army offensive is costing the British and Canadians relatively light casualties.

A Reuters dispatch from the western front says Allied parachute troops have landed in the Reichswald Forest into which the Canadian Army is fighting its way. This dispatch, which is unconfirmed, gives no details.

The new First Army offensive apparently signals the start of an Allied drive to the Rhine and beyond, perhaps into the vital industrial Ruhr.

At the western edge of the Reichswald Forest, British and Canadian forces are less than eight miles from Kleve and about an equal distance from the point where the Rhine curves into Holland to the northeast.

Further south, the American Third Army is driving hard in the Trier area and American First Army is on the move just below the Roer River area where it is threatening to break out into the Rhineland plain.

On the southern tip of the western front, the American Seventh and French First Armies have virtually wiped out scattered German pockets remaining in the Colmar area.

In support of the western front ground offensives, the Allies again are filling the skies over Germany with bombers. German say heavy formations were over western Germany this morning.

During the night, the R.A.F. gave the important synthetic oil centre of Ploitz a plastering while other British bombers struck at Berlin.

Continental-based Canadian Typhoons and Spitfires gave powerful support to the First Canadian Army offensive yesterday southeast of Nijmegen. The Canadians flew more than 300 sorties between dawn and dusk to cover the troops, striking German rail and road systems, and raiding enemy border towns.

A. D. Russell of Pryce-Waterhouse company, left last night to return to the south after spending a week here on business.

Trooper Harold Hodgson

Wounded In France - Is Home Here

With leg and arm injuries, one eye lost and four fingers of his right hand missing, Trooper Harold Hodgson is home from the war in France. He is one of the first local boys to return home as a casualty from France and is spending a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hodgson, Fraser Street. He will return next Monday night to Vancouver where he is receiving plastic surgery treatment at Shaughnessy Military Hospital.

Trooper Hodgson received his injuries in the Seine River area in France, having taken part in invasion operations soon after "D" Day. He recently arrived back in Canada by hospital ship and travelled to Vancouver on hospital train.

MAKING HEALTH MOVIE IN CITY

Production of the Prince Rupert Health Unit movie, "A Test In Time," is proceeding satisfactorily according to Director Bob Willett and Camera-man Bill Davis. Supervised by Dr. R. G. Knipe, Medical Health Officer, the picture will be released in about six weeks' time.

Several interesting scenes of local industries and activities have been photographed in color as an introduction to the story of the work done by the unit. This week, shots were taken of laboratory and x-ray routine at the General Hospital. The camera was also trained on some of the city's newer citizens, recently arrived in the maternity ward.

Premier King Is Not Resigning

OTTAWA, Feb. 9 (CP)—The Prime Minister's office yesterday emphatically denied a report published in the Victoria Colonist that Mr. King would resign the leadership of the Liberal party before a general election.