

2:22	23.3 feet
14:54	21.6 feet
8:40	1.3 feet
20:54	3.4 feet

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GIVE TO THE RED CROSS

Five Bodies Taken From Debris Of King George Hotel Fire Here

Smoke Blinded Roomers Grope Along Hallways

Survivors Tell of Panic As Fire Alarm Kept Ringing

By ERIC SANDERSON

"It wasn't worth a man's life to try to save anything."

In these brief words, Lorne McMullen, 42-year-old cannery worker, who came here from Montreal eight years ago, told how he and his friend, William Taylor, escaped from the \$100,000 King George Hotel fire early Sunday morning.

Sitting on a chair in the fire-hall, where he was offered sleeping quarters until he can get located again, Mr. McMullen recalled his actions:

"I was just sitting up reading and had just decided to go to bed when I heard the gong ringing. That was around quarter after two.

"Someone must have broken the glass for the fire alarm. I thought for a moment that it was just a mattress fire and didn't pay too much attention until I realized the alarm wasn't going to stop.

"I opened my door and the hall was full of smoke. I went to see Bill (Taylor) who also was just getting ready for bed.

"We were just able to breathe, the smoke was so thick . . . but managed to see the red light at the end of the hall and groped

our way along. We lived on the second floor at the north end of the hotel.

"There was a lot of panic. People were running around and none seemed to know what they were doing. Some were heading for the roof.

"There was one young woman, I'd say about 25, who was going to go on the roof but I convinced her to follow us.

"We climbed down a ladder to the back porch and by the time we got to the street flames began shooting out of some of the windows.

"Bill and I told the fire chief we'd like to help and so we gave them a hand until about 5 o'clock when he told us to come to the firehall and sleep for the night.

Lost All Good Clothes

"I just had on these work clothes and didn't save anything else. My suit and other work clothes are gone.

"Neither Bill nor I had been working lately but we figured on going to Terrace on a construction job next week.

"I don't know what I'm going to do now. First thing, though, is to get another place to live."

A third survivor, who also is staying at the firehall temporarily, Jim McLean, 52-year-old laborer from Prince George, lived in a basement room with a man named Henry Morgan, who so far has not been accounted for.

"I had been out earlier in the evening and was just getting ready for bed when I heard some crackling. I opened my

door and could see flames and heavy clouds of smoke.

"My partner (Morgan) was out of the room at the time and so I kicked at the doors of other roomers, then headed up the stairs to get out.

"People seemed to be running around in all directions. I don't know how many got out. I haven't seen Morgan. I thought he had gone ahead of me.

"I was able to get up the stairs, although it was awfully hot. I got out through the front door and then helped the firemen.

"I had only been living in the hotel for three weeks."

A young immigrant from East Germany, Heinz Langner, jumped from the second floor of the hotel to the rock and muskeg below but escaped injury.

Paratrooper During War

"I was a paratrooper with the German army in the last war and guess I had a little more knowledge about how to land than the man that was hurt," he said as he watched the hotel burn.

Langner saved a few clothes, but lost his good suit. He had been in the city only two weeks, coming here from Saskatoon where he had worked on a farm for the past year.

He said he threw two suitcases out the window of his room on the west side of the hotel, then jumped.

He had been to a picture show earlier in the evening and had returned shortly after midnight.

"I had just got into bed and was reading when I smelled smoke. I heard a lot of people running around and when I opened my door, saw the hallway full of smoke and people."

He was taken to a friend's home for the night.

"I saw a lot of fires during the war, but I never saw anything so fast. I am pleased to be alive. I lost about \$80, which was in my suit, clothes I had a few cents in the pockets I had on when I jumped out."

Langner, who is 28 years old, has no relatives in this country. His father lives at Weissenfels, Germany, near Leipzig.

Korean Mess-Boy Rates Tops With Canuck Singer

VANCOUVER (CP)—Little Joe, a Korean mess-boy, rates as the No. 1 boy friend of the blonde Vancouver singer Lorraine McAllister. Joe says he's 12, but probably is only about nine years of age. He had to be 12 to work for the Canadian Army in Korea as a civilian helper. That's where he met Lorraine, in the sergeants' mess of the Lord Strathcona's Horse Regiment.

A letter from "Skoche Joe" (Little Joe) is one of the treasures among the fan mail received by the singer since she returned from a visit to Korea to entertain the troops. She recalls that Joe was

pretty shy, but she took him on her knee, talked to him and gave him a snapshot of herself. She told him to come to Canada some day.

Joe beat off a few kidding sergeants to keep the picture. His letter turned up here recently. It reads like this:

"Dear Lorraine—

"How are you. I am fine. I like your picture and I want to go to Canada to get education as like you. You wrote My Little Friend Joe on your photo but I think of you as my sister. Please give me letter. Don't forget my name is Joe. I shall keep your picture with me all the time ok.



G. R. C. HEASMAN, 55, of Ottawa has been appointed ambassador to Indonesia and will assume his new duties in June. Since 1945 he has been director of the Canadian trade commissioner service and previously was Canadian trade commissioner in Java, Capetown, London and Chicago. He returned to Ottawa in 1941 to organize and head the Canadian export permits branch.

Marshal Tito Reaches U.K. In Naval Ship

LONDON (CP)—Marshal Tito, Red dictator of anti-Soviet Yugoslavia, landed in London today to begin the first visit of the head of a Communist state to Britain.

The burly Yugoslav president arrived by launch a few minutes after reaching Greenwich on a Yugoslav naval training ship.

Greeting him at Westminster Pier were the Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Eden.

Tito is here for talks with British leaders. Nature of the parley never has been disclosed and a deep veil of secrecy surrounds the purpose of his visit.

Extreme measures have been taken to protect the Red ruler from danger. Scotland Yard clamped an unusual security restriction on London for his protection.

Tito will be received by the Queen and later will be her guest at a luncheon.

Plane Crash Kills Pilot From Kelowna

VANCOUVER (CP)—A Harvard training plane crashed Saturday into shallow waters at the mouth of the Fraser River near Vancouver, carrying an RCAF reserve squadron pilot to his death.

The RCAF said the plane, which carried no passengers, sank in 12 feet of water two miles off Westerham Island in the Fraser delta, 15 miles south of here.

The pilot was identified as FO Donald Butcher, 22, of Kelowna.

Five Children Burn to Death

MEADVILLE, Pa. (CP)—Unable to find a ladder, the father of nine children watched helplessly as five of them were trapped in an upstairs room of his home and burned to death.

Four other children and the wife of Donald McElhaney fled to safety through windows.

Kitimat to Get Customs Office

OTTAWA (CP)—Edward T. Applewhite, MP for Skeena said today he was authorized by the government to announce that plans have been completed for the establishment of a customs and excise office at Kitimat, B.C. There is no definite word as to the date when the office will be opened.

Nine Missing In Night Blaze

Two more bodies were yielded by the King George Hotel ruins shortly before press time today, burned beyond recognition. Nine others may be missing.

RCMP said sifting of the debris will continue "until the entire wreckage has been cleaned." An incomplete list of roomers adds to speculation of possible victims, said police.

Police and city workers continued to probe the ashes, twisted metal and charred timbers of the King George Hotel ruins today in search of possibly more victims of the \$100,000 early Sunday fire which claimed at least three lives.

"We have reason to believe there may be at least one more victim," an RCMP spokesman said at press time.

Three charred bodies—that of a woman and two men—were recovered yesterday following the 2 a.m. blaze which destroyed the 40-room three storey apartment block at the corner of Second Avenue and Eighth Street.

Three roomers—a woman and two men, were taken to hospital by police-manned ambulance.

D. Mooney, 61, suffered a broken leg and William Jackson facial injuries sustained in a jump to safety from the burning building.

Miss Jessie Derrick was treated for effects of smoke fumes and released.

Some 40 others were made homeless—many destitute—as all their possessions were destroyed in the fire.

Proprietor F. Prystay his wife and family of two boys, aged 10 and 14 also fled without saving anything.

Mr. Prystay turned in the fire

2 Rescued From Rooftop

Many were screaming, said the chief, jumping from windows and fleeing in night clothing. At least two were rescued from the roof top with the aid of the department's 40-foot ladder.

Two fire escapes at the rear led from the roof to a porch. Two men had made their way to the roof via the escape ladders and called for help.

Flames shot hundreds of feet into the air at the height of the fire and thousands of citizens, aroused by screeching sirens, got up and drove to the scene. Hundreds of others residing in higher regions of the city watched the flames from their homes.

Many of those at the fire helped police and firemen battle the flames.

All city police were called to the scene and headed by Inspector Taylor helped in the battle. Police took charge of the ladders and rescue work while Chief Becker and three firemen entered the burning building.

"I went down the hallway as far as the stairs but the basement was blazing. It was impossible to go any further. The heat was intense, and although we had gas masks on there was nothing we could do except keep the hoses on the flames," said the chief.

The second fire truck arrived within a few minutes and all 12 men on the department, some 50 volunteers and more than 20 policemen helped with the hoses.

The St. Elmo Hotel, separated by a vacant block from the King George, was kept from damage as was the lumber yard and building supply centre of Philpott, Evtit Co. across the street.

Police organized the search for victims in the ruins when residents expressed fear that friends were missing.

Position of the bodies, burned beyond recognition, indicated they were in basement rooms near the Eighth Avenue side of the building.

No positive identification of the bodies may ever be made, said police, who still have not completed a list of all persons who lived in the rooming house.

It is not known just how many or who were among the guests. Office records and the registration book were lost in the fire but the proprietor told police there were "between 45 and 50" persons staying there.

Damage was unofficially estimated at \$100,000 although Mr. Prystay was unable to give an accurate account.

Firemen report that among the survivors was an elderly Chinese who claimed he left before \$400 and \$500 in two suitcases in his room. He asked for permission to dig in a certain place among the ruins yesterday and found the suitcases, badly charred, but the money intact inside.

Also found was a jar with some \$80 in change inside. It will likely be several days before it is known if anymore victims were trapped inside. It was the worst fire since the Central Hotel burned down here four years ago with the loss of one life.



New Highland Games

NEW VERSION of the highland fling but a way of stopping girls competing in thelanders annual track meet at Hamilton, Ont. Regimental members lined up at the lanes in the 60-yard dash to prevent runners from crashing into a wall. Several of the soldiers were bowled over by the sprinters' speed.

Mayor, Lodge, Salvation Army in Helping Fire Victims

being offered from . . . for an estimated . . . made homeless and . . . the \$100,000 King . . . blaze here early . . . which claimed

It is believed that the roomers with one exception lost all their possessions. One man managed to toss two suitcases of clothes and other effects out of a second storey window before jumping to safety himself.

The Women of the Moose were the first to step into the breach when at the close of the organization's charity show at the Capitol Theatre last night, a donation of \$100 was announced for victims of the fire disaster.

After the show, as people filed out of the theatre, a collection was held at the door netting another \$48.95.

Mayor Harold Whalen this morning declared the city clerk's office as headquarters for all persons affected by the disaster to report.

STAR'S RELIEF FUND "We will see to it that no one goes without food or a bed at any rate," said the mayor, who also donated \$10 to start a disaster relief fund for those made homeless.

The Daily News office will accept donations to this fund.

The Salvation Army also stepped forward immediately, offered meal tickets and supplied clothing.

Biggest problem is accommodation for the homeless. However, the Red Cross branch here is trying to set up temporary beds at the Civic Centre.

This offer came in late this morning after the mayor announced that all those needing assistance as a result of the disaster should report at the city hall.

NO COMMITTEE

Stan Saville, Red Cross president, said there was no committee in his group set up to handle such emergencies, and that he must get authority first from Vancouver headquarters to render assistance.

"There are not enough people interested here to take part in this kind of work. The disaster committee disbanded after the last war and hasn't been revived," said Mr. Saville.

It isn't known where the fleeing roomers spent Sunday night or how they managed to procure adequate clothing or food. Some were assisted by friends. Three were given beds at the firehall, courtesy of Chief Earl Becker.

Most of the confusion was caused, said police, because there was no central point where refugees could gather or find aid, coupled with the hour of the catastrophe.

-WEATHER-

Synopsis

An active Pacific storm passed over the B.C. coast during the night. Precipitation fell at most coastal points with Pachecha Point totalling 2.10 inches and Estevan Point 1.32 inches.

Some clearing is occurring behind the storm but cloudy showery weather will be most general.

Forecast

North Coast Region: Cloudy with showers today and Tuesday. Cooler winds, westerly 30 in exposed west coast areas, otherwise southwest 20, becoming southwest 15 this afternoon and southeasterly 20 again by Tuesday morning.

Low tonight and high Tuesday—At Port Hardy, Sandspit and Prince Rupert, 35 and 45.

SPECT IN GOLD THEFT HELD IN VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER (CP)—Police have arrested a 26-year-old man as a possible suspect in the theft of gold bullion worth \$214,000 from Toronto's Malton Airport last September. A suspect was held for investigation after he was picked up on a check of three men and a woman in an Ontario downtown street.

Opposition MLAs Accuse Budget of 'Faking'

OPPOSITION (CP)—Opposition accused the government of "faking up" the budget to appear the Social Credit cutting expenses 10

mates as high as possible in an attempt to show that it was cutting down this year.

Finance Minister Einar Gunnerson denied the charge. He said the government was merely trying to supply members with more up-to-date information on how money was being spent. He won some support from opposition members.

Malenkov Reorganizes Cabinet

MOSCOW (CP)—The Supreme Soviet has unanimously approved the selection of Georgi Malenkov as new prime minister and as quickly agreed to sweeping reorganization of the government that abolishes more than half the cabinet posts.

More than 1,000 delegates to the two houses of the Soviet parliament—some of whom had travelled for days to reach Moscow—then adjourned and went home after a Sunday session lasting 67 minutes.

In a short speech, Malenkov repeated the main outlines of his funeral oration over the bier of Joseph Stalin last Monday.

Again stressing the policy of peace, he said there are no controversial issues with any nation that cannot be settled peacefully.

U.S. Sends New Jets To Germany

WIESBADEN (CP)—The United States Air Force announced today it has rushed its latest-type jet fighters from Britain to patrol the iron curtain border.

The announcement said the transfer was a temporary measure. The move follows loss of two allied planes to Communist guns over Germany last week.

Strike Settled

STRIKE (CP)—The first settlement of the strike of 250 grain elevator west-coast elevator men Sunday by a government Labor Deal.

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