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Laos Invasion Causes Anxiety In Hong Kong

By FRED HAMPSON

HONG KONG (AP)—The invasion of the kingdom of Laos by the Indo-China Communists causes anxiety in this part of Asia because it suggests that Red capabilities may be expanding.

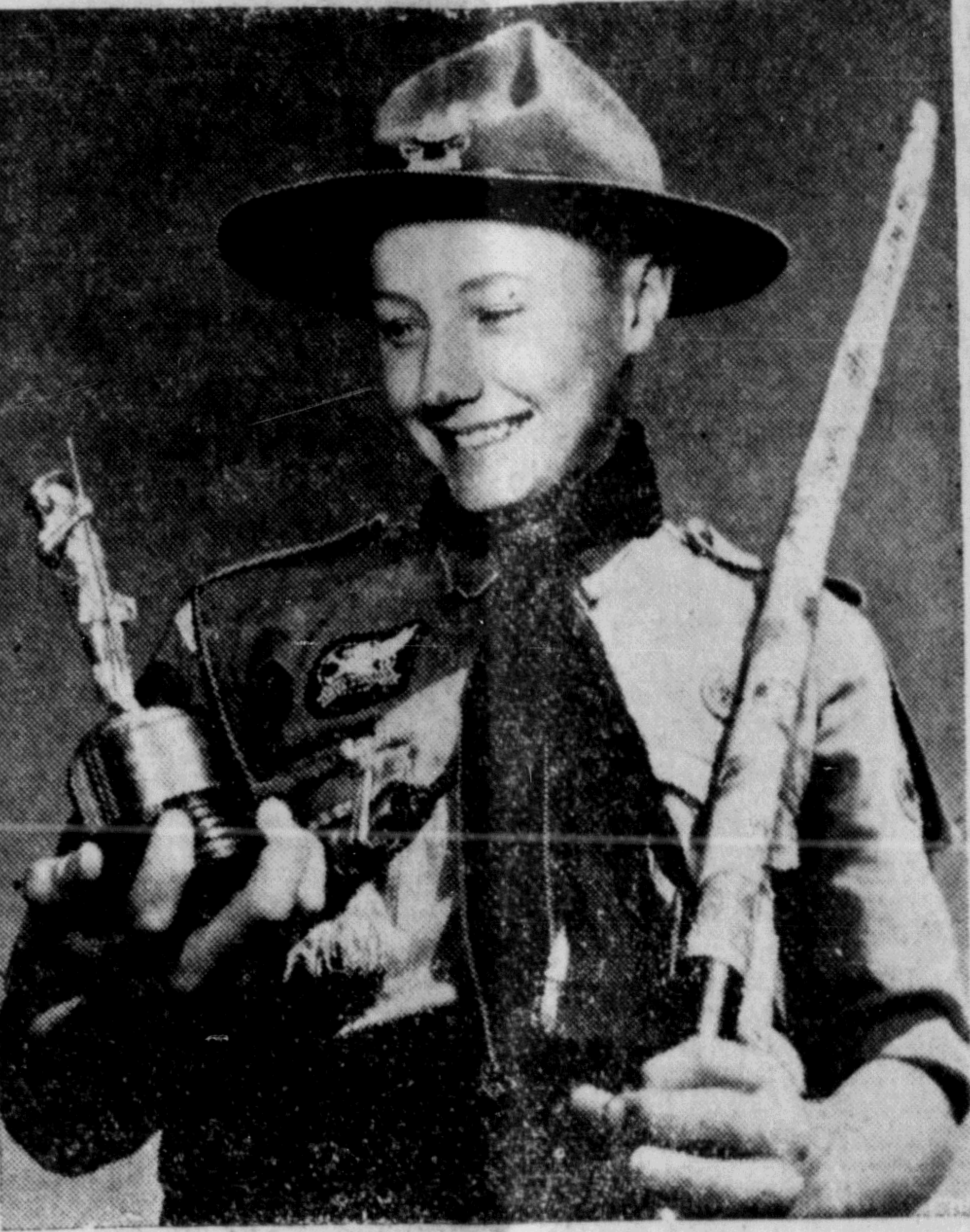
But the move also could mean Communist weakness.

The northern Indo-China war has been fought for six years around the French-held Red river delta. This area is both the breadbasket and chief population centre of the northland.

The side that holds the delta also holds control. In invading Laos the Communists are turning a reported 40,000 fighting men away from the main objective. In effect, the Reds are sending them off on an expedition to conquer more jungles and mountains. The Reds would get all that by default if they conquered the delta.

The explanation for this apparent military sideshow is not yet clear. There is some speculation that the Reds' objective is to squat on the Burma and Thailand frontiers and link up with Burmese and Thai Communists. Still other observers say the drive might be the first stride of invasion into Thailand and thence to Malaya and Indonesia, the start of the long-feared drive into South-east Asia.

Only Mao Tze-Tung, Chinese Communist leader, has the armed power to invade Southeast Asia and there is no evidence that the Laos strike is his work.



TAKEN BY WILFRED DOUCETTE of Ottawa as one of a series on a Boy Scout rally, this photograph won first prize in the publicity picture class of the Sixth Annual First Show of the Commercial and Press Photographers' Association of Canada.

Buenos Aires Government Seizes Clubs

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—The government has seized control of 13 airplane clubs suspected of using amateur fliers to smuggle explosives into Argentina from neighboring Uruguay.

This came on the heels of the arrest of 29 members of the opposition Radical, Socialist and Communist parties last Sunday on charges of rumor-peddling and distributing literature against President Juan Peron.

The 13 clubs are in Entre Rios province north of Buenos Aires. Peron said in a May Day speech to Congress that explosives used in recent bombings came from Uruguay. He charged also that pilots against him were being directed by a "foreign power".

The pro-government press has blamed the bombing incidents on an anti-Peron campaign led from abroad, particularly the United States.

Monks Weave Queen's Robes

FARNBOROUGH, England (CP)—In a tiny, fifth-floor cell of a Hampshire monastery, monks at St. Michael's Abbey are weaving part of the Queen's Coronation robes.

Dom Edmund, in charge of silk production, continues a centuries-old craft weaving tapestries from his own threads. The tools have changed little through the years.

Vestments for use in Roman Catholic churches are also made at the abbey. The monks keep their own groves of mulberry trees to raise silkworms.

Khartoum, capital of the Sudan, is built on tongue of land between the White Nile and the Blue Nile.

Former Prisoners of War Bitter Over 'Red' Label

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. (AP)—A group of former American prisoners-of-war have expressed deep bitterness over the "Red label" they say has been hung on them on their return to Valley Forge Military Hospital for special treatment.

Ten of a group of 23 submitted to press interviews, two at a time, to "try to remove some of the false stigma that has come over us."

Four of the 23 refused to take part in the conference and a hospital spokesman said their action was based on their "bitterness over the whole situation."

The remainder were either bedridden, too weak to undergo questioning, or did not care to take part because they wanted to be with their recently-arrived families.

All those interviewed expressed surprise over the idea that any of the members of their group should be considered pro-Communist. One of the PoWs, Cpl. James Ball, 21, said "this Red label makes us feel like criminals. We are all completely innocent." And then he added in response to a question about Communist "brainwashing" techniques:

"I never even heard the term 'brain-wash' before I got back home."

A member of the hospital medical staff, who asked that his name not be used, added: "I don't know where this idea started, but there's one thing for sure—we're not running a damned laundromat here."

Another of the interviewed groups said they had been given a "dirty deal" in the form of a "Red label" on their return.

They are Pte. Roger Herndon, 20, and Cpl. Vernon Warren, 22. Herndon, who lost his right arm because of a machine-gun wound suffered at the time of his capture in November, 1950, said he was perfectly willing to go back to Korea for "another crack at the Reds" despite his wound which would prevent any return to combat duty.

Herndon said he felt "a few" of the Allied prisoners might have succumbed to Communist propaganda, but hastened to add he knew of no specific American cases. Neither Herndon and Warren said neither was subjected to any ill-treatment or torture but were given "the full treatment" by Communist propaganda officers.

"We were given Red magazines and papers—New York Daily Workers and some papers from Shanghai—to convince us," Herndon said. "We also had to attend a lecture lasting an hour and a half and a two-hour discussion each day conducted by Chinese. Some of the non-American PoWs camp companies had Russian propaganda officers."

Asked if attendance at such sessions was forced upon the PoWs, Herndon said: "The Reds never said we had to attend but they made it pretty plain attendance was highly recommended. Some of the PoWs who didn't show the right attitude or interest wound up in solitary confinement—and during the winter months solitary usually meant a case of frozen feet."

Military Commitments Unchanged

OTTAWA (CP)—Defence Minister Claxton said today Canada's commitments of military forces in Europe have not been changed but Parliament will be asked to vote more money for other defence expenditures there.

The recent meeting of the NATO council in Paris agreed, he told J. M. Macdonnell, PC-Toronto Greenwood, to a three-year program for construction of airfields, fuel lines and other things and Canada's share of this would be 7.13 per cent.

This works out at roughly \$55,000,000 if the total figure of \$770,000,000 quoted by Mr. Macdonnell is accurate.

Mr. Macdonnell said misunderstanding could arise when it is said that Canada's military commitments have not been increased and yet the government has agreed to this new expense. Mr. Claxton said Parliament will be asked to vote the necessary funds. If Parliament didn't, Canada couldn't help carry out this particular program.

Burma's annual rice export have dropped from 3,500,000 tons annually before the war to about 1,500,000.

Pelican Goes to Grave Off Sydney

SYDNEY, N.S. (CP)—The Pelican has come to her grave.

The 1,130-ton barque, credited with sinking a German submarine while running the hazardous route to Murmansk in the First World War, fought for 18 minutes to stay afloat after a heavy dynamite blast splintered her teakwood hull.

Finally she rolled over and went to the bottom 40 miles at sea while the naval gate vessel Port Dauphin dipped her flag in a parting salute.

The Pelican, launched in England in 1877, was raised last week and towed from this Cape Breton port where she has been a navigation menace since swimmers opened her sea cocks and sank her nearly 30 years ago.

Built for the Royal Navy, she later bucked northern ice floes as a trader for the Hudson's Bay Company and later reverted to her battle role.

After the war she was stripped of her gear and towed here as a derelict.

Phone Service At Smithers May Be Sold

Special to The Daily News

SMITHERS—Smithers District Senior Chamber of Commerce was informed of planned improved telephone service for Smithers and Telkwa at their regular monthly meeting.

A letter from the Federal Minister of Transport was to effect that decision was expected soon on proposed sale of the system to the B. C. Telephone Company.

Removal of telephone lines and poles from Main Street is under way. Installation in the new federal building to meet growing demand is awaiting completion of the building.

Legislation for amendment of regulations governing impounding of vehicles without pink slips, involved in accidents is presently under advisement, Victoria informed the Senior Chamber. At its last meeting members pressed for some action for quicker release of involved vehicles on proof of financial responsibility.

Private construction of a new 28 by 35 foot post office building at Telkwa has been authorized it was announced at the meeting.

Telkwa will not support the drive for funds for an addition to Bulkley Valley District hospital until the doctor situation is cleared up, Telkwa delegates told the meeting.

Facilities for a doctor to practice have been provided in Telkwa. Assurance is sought from the hospital board that a doctor located there would be allowed use of the hospital at Smithers.

Nursing Scholarship Offered Graduate From High School

Award of a scholarship to a Prince Rupert High School graduate intending to become a nursing student has been decided by the Prince Rupert Registered Nurses' Association.

Presentation is to be made some time this month when a candidate has been selected, it was decided at a recent meeting.

Mrs. Norman Haywood was named as president for 1953. Other officers are Miss Elizabeth Clement, director of nursing, Mrs. Neil Stromdahl, vice-president; Mrs. W. Poole, secretary; and Mrs. Brydges, program and public director.

Mrs. Neil Stromdahl was appointed as delegate to the BCNA convention to be held in Vancouver June 4-6.

Mrs. E. Bartlett was chairman of the meeting. Refreshments were served by Miss Clement.

Well, for laughing out loud...

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