

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Amateur Radio Operator Links Arctic Weather Man With Families and Friends

Firemen Halt London Fire

LONDON (P)—Firemen battling throughout the night had this morning controlled London's biggest blaze since wartime air raids.

The fire, sweeping through a five-storey warehouse in the heart of the dock area, at one time threatened dozens of other warehouses and factories.

Hundreds of persons living nearby were evacuated, many in their night clothes.

EDMONTON (P)—Almost daily Charles H. Harris of Edmonton breaks the monotony for seven men at a weather observation station on Prince Patrick Island in the Arctic.

Except for Mr. Harris the weather observers' only communication with families and friends come with air mail deliveries and pickups twice each year and a special mail drop at Christmas.

Mr. Harris, a retired railroad engineer, is an amateur radio operator. From his radio set in the dining room of his home he talks direct with the weather station men nearly every day.

The station, one of those operated as a joint project of the United States Weather Bureau and the Canadian Department of Transport, is about 1500 miles north of Edmonton.

In signing up to go to the station, the men agree to remain for one year, 1 1/2 years or two years.

Mr. Harris first made contact with Prince Patrick Island in November, 1951. He was asked to relay a few messages to the men's families.

Letters from friends and relations, containing messages for the men, came to Mr. Harris from all parts of the U.S. and Eastern Canada. He has been handling the personal messages for the men and their families ever since.

He arranged a schedule for daily contact. He communicates with the weather men every afternoon that radio conditions are favorable. He has received 149 messages from the outpost and sent 125.

Mr. Harris first became interested in radio during the First World War when he served in an army signal company. It was not until 1926, however, that he received his amateur radio licence and began communicating with other "ham" radio enthusiasts around the world.

Mr. Harris estimates that over the years he had made about 8600 contacts with other amateur radio stations, picking up calls from New Zealand, Europe and South America. He has also spoken with other weather stations in the far north, including Alert, a small outpost 350 miles from the North Pole.

He is a member of the American Radio Relay League and is secretary of the Northern Alberta Radio Club.

Order To Kill Issued By Reds In Revenge

BERLIN (P)—Communist East Germany has tightened its squeeze on blockade-threatened Berlin another notch.

Orders went out to Red police to shoot to kill anyone caught without a proper pass in the Iron Curtain's new three-mile no-man's-land along the West German border.

Shooting order was the latest in a series of revenge moves against the Bonn government's alliance with the west. It all but sealed off the Communist-girt former capital, which trembled in fear of a resumption of the 1948-49 siege.

Russians continued their ban on allied military patrols traveling the 110-mile Berlin-Helmstedt autobahn, sole highway link between the isolated city and the West. Regular civilian traffic continued to flow normally.

In Paris, Big Three western powers said they would regard the aggression against Berlin as a threat to their own security.

Alberta May Supply Coke To Kitimat

OTTAWA (P)—Alberta is expected to be the source of coal and petroleum coke for the multi-million dollar aluminum project at Kitimat, an executive of the Aluminum Company of Canada told the Senate transport committee.

A. W. Whitaker, vice-president and general manager of Aluminum Company, said that was one reason the company wanted the Canadian National Railways to build the 46-mile rail line from Terrace to Kitimat.

Mr. Whitaker was one of three witnesses heard as the committee studied in detail the bill to authorize construction of the \$10,000,000 rail link. G. H. Paterson and A. B. Rosevear, both of Montreal, appeared for CNR.

Mr. Whitaker said the company hopes to buy petroleum coke in the Edmonton area. Petroleum coke is one of the necessities for manufacturing aluminum from aluminum oxide which will be brought in by boat from Jamaica.

Some petroleum coke was being bought already in the Edmonton area. Company is trying to convince oil companies to produce more as a by-product of their refinery operations in Alberta oil fields.



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