

MAJ. GEN. GOWON

MAJ. GEN. OJUKWU

... tragic civil war comes to an end

— CP Wirephoto

# Kidnap of Mimms Confirmed by Chief

Confirmation that the Rev. Donald Eldon Mimms, Church of Christ minister, was kidnapped came today when Thunder Bay police released an official statement on his abduction and at the same time revealed the contents of two ransom notes in connection with the case.

The News-Chronicle had first reported Jan. 7 that the minister may have been kidnapped following information received from a news source in Western Canada. At the time police chief Onni Harty would not comment on the alleged kidnapping.

It was during the early morning hours of Jan. 4, that the minister was reported to Thunder Bay south police as missing, by his wife. He had been last known to be at the church office on Redwood St. the night before, preparing a sermon for the next day.

### FIRST NOTE

During investigation, police found a note in the typewriter in

the church office. It said:

**"To the Church Officers and Mrs. Mimms:**

**Have taken Rev. Mimms. He is safe. But one wrong move and he will be dead. Do as you are told or else! You have 48 hours to come up with \$10,000. You will be contacted and given instructions. Do not notify police or newspapers, or Rev. Mimms will be killed! Do as you are told!"**

Then Jan. 6, Mrs. Mimms received a hand printed letter, which had been mailed in Thunder Bay North the night before. It said:

**"Mrs. Mimms:**

**Your husband is safe and will be released if these instructions are followed carefully. At exactly 3:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, a policeman in a Port Arthur police car will drive from the Vendome House on S. Cumberland St., northward to the**

Hodder Ave. Hotel in Current River. At a certain point, a high-powered lantern will be flashed at him from the side of the street. He will stop, place a bag containing the ransom money on the side of the street from which the lantern was shone, then drive slowly northward.

The money must be in unmarked 10 and 20 dollar bills totalling \$10,000 dollars. Do not notify police of this plan until late Tuesday evening. Do not notify news media. Police must not interfere with escape of person who picks up money. If any of these demands are not met, or if this party suspects the police are interfering, you will never see your husband again.

If you co-operate, he will be released unharmed within five hours of the time the money is picked up."

### TWO RUNS MADE

Today police chief Onni Harty stated in the press release: "In compliance with the instructions in the letter, the police made the run twice, but with no results.

Meanwhile, Charles Franklin, father-in-law of the abducted man, has authorized the payment of \$1,000 reward for any information concerning the whereabouts of Donald Eldon Mimms, provided the information leads to direct contact with Rev. Mimms.

Police also renewed a request to anyone having information concerning the minister's disappearance, to contact Chief Harty. All information will be treated as strictly confidential.

"We tried to make the \$10,000 drop as directed in the note but we were unsuccessful," said the 26-year-old Mrs. Mimms.

Because the minister's life was threatened, police at first indicated (Please turn to Page 2, No. 1)

## Sled Dog Races Here Jan. 24-25

The time is fast approaching when the Canadian International Sled Dog Races will take place at Boulevard Lake, Centennial Park Complex, Thunder Bay, Ont. The event will be held Saturday, Jan. 24 and Sunday, Jan. 25.

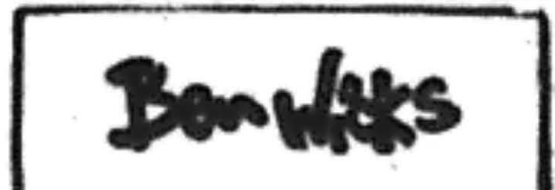
The Thunder Bay Kennel and Training Club, Thunder Bay Birthday Committee, and Parks and Recreation Department

have joined to present two days of competitive racing for a purse of \$1,000. Musher will be competing in the Open Class, Class "A", five dogs and under, and the Fun Race for novices and beginners, three dogs and under.

Entries presently have been received from as far away as New York, California, and Quebec, as well as from mushers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northwestern Ontario.

The Canadian International Sled Dog Races will officially open Saturday, Jan. 24, at 12:45 p.m. with the races starting at 1 p.m. On Sunday, drivers will run their second lap starting at 12 noon. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m. The two-day event promises to be one of the highlights of the Thunder Bay Birthday Party.

Snowmobiles will not be permitted to operate on property consisting of Boulevard Lake, Centennial Park Complex, and



## Latest Eve

SAULT STE. MARIE, (AP) — The longest Lakes shipping season on record officially ended at 11:42 EST Sunday, as the Irvin Olds, owned by U.S. passed through the Poo here.

The previous record for longest shipping season was last year when the last passed through the Sault on Jan. 4.

The shipping season on Great Lakes normally ends mid-December, but has been extended in recent years as weather conditions permitted.

The Olds and the Phil Clarke, another U.S. Steamer which preceded the through the locks, were escorted to Lake Huron by United States Coast Guard cutter Mackinaw.

## Britons Urge To Flee Bia

LAGOS (Reuters) — Sir Lie Glass, British high commissioner in Lagos, today cast a warning to Britons in secessionist-held Biafra to leave immediately. About 60 Britons are believed to be in the Biafran enclave, mostly missionaries, workers and about a wives of Nigerians.

In his broadcast warning, Glass said that the Biafran situation may still be imminent parts of the enclave.

"British citizens are advised for their own safety to keep as far as possible from areas of military activity, especially roads and villages wherever possible to leave the enclave immediately," said.

### BIOGRAPHER KILLS 8

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Andrew Turnbull, 45, biographer of F. Scott Fitzgerald, died Saturday. Death was ruled suicide. Turnbull was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas stove in his close quarters. Turnbull was visiting professor of American literature at Brown University.

## INSIDE TODAY

### Canada A

### To Aid C

## Boy Rescued From River

An 11-year-old city boy was pulled from the icy waters of the Neebing River by two young unidentified persons Sunday after