

### SIFTING THE NEWS

By Hugh Murphy

United States steamship brokers have lately been receiving letters from marine agents in Germany offering for charter or sale dozens of Nazi ships tied up in ports in the Western Hemisphere since war began. These ships, according to German letters, are available for cash in dollars or other good neutral currency.

It was not only foreign currency that was sought by Germans. They also sought to get out from under the heavy drain of port charges on their idle ships and the upkeep of their idle crews.

It is estimated in Allied shipping quarters that Germany has tied up throughout the world from 400 to 500 idle ships with some 1,800,000 or 2,000,000 tons of much-needed cargo. These ships, it was estimated, are running up port charges of over a million and a quarter dollars a month.

To that situation could be added the unrest among underpaid, underfed crews. It explains to some extent why ship after ship has left sanctuary in recent weeks and made an effort to run the blockade to get home.

It also indicates that the Allies are still masters of the sea.

Lacking definite and authentic news of what is happening in war zones, Great Britain's subjects trade heavily in rumours. In the first weeks of the war, before the fear of the "Lightning War" had subsided and turned to amusement, there were rumours in the rural parts of England that London had been heavily bombed and was going up in flames.

Other untrue rumours are told and retold partly for the humour in them. In some cases they are, of course, credited.

Some of the more recent were:

That one reason German air raids have not been successful is that Britain has a secret magnetic device which jerks all the steel parts out of approaching enemy planes causing them to crash. This rumour is spread despite the scientific assertion that the strongest magnet made will not pull small nails out of a board at a distance of a yard.

That Adolf Hitler last spring imported 30,000 gorillas from Brazil and these have now been trained and are in readiness to attack the Maginot Line.

That the British Expeditionary Force is leaving France as the "war is really over." This rumour crops up time and again.

That the Russians have a device on their parachutes which can shoot them back up into the air if they land and do not like the terrain.

Plywood, in case you don't know it, is made by putting a big log into a peeling machine which strips off thin wood sheets like paper from a roll. When the sheets are cut to size they are glued between and sandwiched in presses which deliver up to 200 pounds per square inch. For parts of its Colonnade of States building the San Francisco World's Fair used plywood 29 layers thick.

Plywood is as old as 1900 B.C. for a mummy case dated thereabouts and discovered in Egypt, was made of it.

Weight for weight it is the strongest structural material in the world—stronger than steel.

The new technique of using plywood got under way about 1930. It now is beginning to grow rapidly. Figures for 1937 put total U.S. plywood production at \$45,500,000. The figure for 1939 will probably be double that. It is being used for everything from luggage cases to pre-fabricated houses and beer barrels. Plans are under way to manufacture small, low-cost aeroplanes.

The Daily Worker, American Communist party organ, recently fired its cinema critic. Reason: he wasn't sticking to the party line in his review of the film, "Gone With the Wind." Told to write a blistering attack on Margaret Mitchell's \$3,850,000 picture, Critic Howard Rushmore (whose grandfather was a Confederate soldier), merely said it was a bore.

If the Communists wanted to pan "Gone With the Wind" Critic Rushmore probably did it far more effectively by saying it was a bore than he would have by drawing attention to it in a blistering, vituperative attack. As a matter of fact that is probably a good way to describe any piece of entertainment that costs as much money as did "Gone With the Wind"—a bore.

### Cobalt Pioneer Drops Dead While on Way Home

North Cobalt, Jan. 8.—(Special to The Advance)—William Henry Barker, pioneer citizen of the Cobalt camp and for many years employed at the Coniagas mine there, dropped dead on the street here late Friday while returning from the home of friends with whom he had spent the evening. He had been in indifferent health for some months past, but had continued working at the Ventures mine in Matachewan until Christmas when he returned home. The funeral is being held this afternoon from the United Church here, with the minister, Rev. H. E. Beare, conducting services there and at the graveside in Mount Pleasant cemetery.

A native of England, Mr. Barker had spent most of his life in Canada. He came to Cobalt 32 years ago from Toronto, and had been engaged at both the Coniagas and Nipissing mines, going to Matachewan five years ago next June. A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barker, he would have been

### Dies from Effects of Gun Wound of Eight Years Ago

Halleybury, Jan. 8.—(Special to The Advance)—An illness directly traceable to internal injuries sustained nearly eight years ago when he was accidentally shot while on a hunting trip not far from his North Cobalt home proved fatal here on Friday morning to Walter Whitney, third son of Mrs. Whitney of North Cobalt and the late George Whitney. A bullet which entered the young man's body at that time never had been removed and he had been subject since to frequent treatments for the effects of the wound received then. He became ill again last week and on Wednesday was brought to Misericordia hospital here, death ensuing less than 48 hours later.

The young man was 22 years old and was born in North Cobalt, where he lived all his life. He is survived by his mother, three brothers, William in Kirkland Lake, George, with The Northern Miner in Toronto, and Jack at home, and four sisters, Mrs. James Carbis of Weston, Ont., Mrs. Joseph Shaver of North Cobalt, Mrs. James Barr in Toronto, and Miss Hilda Whitney at home. The funeral was held yesterday afternoon from North Cobalt United Church, services being conducted there and at the graveside in Halleybury cemetery by Rev. H. E. Beare. The young man was buried beside his father, who died five years ago.

### New Arena at South Porcupine Popular and Well Patronized

South Porcupine and Dome News of Interest.

South Porcupine, Jan. 6.—(Special to The Advance)—The new arena is meeting with much patronage and approval. Skating nights are well attended. As the public school children have their own open-air rink at the school upon which to skate special provisions have been made at the new rink for High School pupils. There is free skating for them from 4 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays.

Next Wednesday the Past Grands' Club of the Rebekah Lodge will meet at the home of Miss Ivy Starling on Commercial Ave.

The A.Y.P.A. of the Anglican Church met on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, in the Parish hall. It was an educational meeting and a talk on soap carving by Miss Kathleen Woodall was the feature of the evening. After the talk all tried their skill at carving animals, etc., out of soap, with varying success! A nice lunch was served.

The membership of the Badminton Club is not as great as was expected. At present the Club has 38 members, and can easily accommodate 50. The holidays now being over no doubt the players will be getting into their stride. This Club is affiliated with the Ontario Badminton Association, and competitions will start as soon as possible. There are certain rules regarding play and visitors. Members of other clubs may visit and play without fee. Others will be charged a small daily fee. All of which is posted for information. Mr. Muleahy is in charge of the Juniors (16 to 18). Intending members may apply to him. They may play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 to 10.30 a.m. Holidays from 9 to 12 a.m.

The first schedule for Ladies Curling has now been posted. Six teams met on Friday afternoon at the rink for the first battle. There is, if anything, more enthusiasm than even last year among the fair devotees of the ancient sport. They are improving in skill and technique wonderfully. There is room for a very few more members, who may obtain membership application forms from Mrs. H. Turner. Three of the new members, Mrs. W. Adamson, Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Bessette, were curling on schedule on Friday.

The following teams were drawn:—Turner, skip; Cahill, vice-skip; T. Wilson, second; Sky, lead. Lewis, Cameron, M. Smith, Brown, R. P. Smith, Fairhurst, E. Smith, Bessette. Rayner, White, McLellan, Adamson (W). Rayner, Shaw, Todd, Grant. Longworth, Davis, Bowes, Adamson (S.). Hover, Ewing, Evans, Kavanagh.

**Schedule**  
Games start at 2.30 p.m. sharp.  
Jan. 5, Friday — Lewis vs Smith; Smith won 10-8.  
Jan. 5, Friday — Longworth vs Hovey; Hovey won 7-3.  
Jan. 5, Friday — Rayner vs Rayner; Rayner won 8-6.  
Jan. 8, Monday — Rayner vs Turner; Lewis vs Rayner.  
Jan. 10, Wednesday — Smith vs Longworth; Lewis vs Rayner; Hovey vs Turner.  
Jan. 12, Friday — Smith vs Hovey; Rayner vs Turner; Longworth vs Rayner.  
Jan. 15, Monday — Smith vs Rayner; Lewis vs Turner; Hovey vs Rayner.  
Jan. 16, Tuesday — Longworth vs Turner.  
Jan. 17, Wednesday — Hovey vs Rayner; Lewis vs Longworth; Smith vs Turner.  
Jan. 19, Friday — Lewis vs Hovey; Longworth vs Rayner; Smith vs Rayner.

Toronto Telegram:—There's one thing about No Man's Land. There's plenty of available parking spaces.

64 yesterday. Surviving are his widow and three sons, Theodore at Lake Shore, Bert, who is on active service with the Canadian naval forces, and William in Matachewan. There are also a brother, Charles in Detroit, and one sister, Mrs. Peter Leroy, of Oakville.

### First Baby Born in South Porcupine Hospital This Year

Other News from South Porcupine and the Dome.

South Porcupine, Jan. 6.—(Special to The Advance)—The honor of having the first baby born in the New Year to a citizen of South Porcupine has fallen upon Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blair, of Dome Extension, to whom the stork brought a baby daughter on January 3rd in the Porcupine General hospital. It was a most welcome arrival being the first girl in a family of three boys the youngest of whom is seven years old.

Congratulations are also in order to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. (Stan.) Gardiner, whose first baby—a girl—was born today, Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1940, in the Porcupine General hospital, the second S. Porcupine baby to greet the New Year.

Little Betty Mairs, whom we have mentioned before as being very ill with meningitis in hospital, is reported today as "condition unchanged."

Mr. Vincent Dillon of S. Porcupine is congratulating himself that he is the luckiest man in town. He has had a miraculous escape from death or serious injury. On New Year's Day he was driving his car from Lakeview into town, and was about to cross the railway tracks east of the new T. & N. O. station. Box cars standing on the track obstructed the view from that direction and the 9:15 a.m. passenger train was not seen approaching the station. The engine caught the front of the car and damaged it irreparably, in fact the whole car was wrecked. Dillon escaped with a couple of scratches. This was his lucky day—from one standpoint anyway.

Mr. William Riddell, of Front St., had his foot injured while at work at the Dome on Thursday; a shute bar fell on it. He is progressing well at home.

Mr. William Schmelye, of Athabasca Landing, Alberta, is visiting his father, Mr. C. Schmelye and his sisters, arriving unexpectedly on Saturday.

Miss Janet Dye, who has been spending the holiday with her parents at the Dome, left for McGill University this week.

Mr. William Honer, who was visiting at the parental home at the Dome Mines for the Christmas holiday, left on Monday for Toronto to continue his studies at the Radio College.

A fire alarm put in at 1 p.m. on Saturday proved to be for a chimney fire at the Venice Hotel on Railroad St. It was put out with no damage.

Miss Simpson, of Halleybury, is the guest this week of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jones of Crawford St.

Mr. W. E. McCallum, of Prince Rupert, B.C., is visiting his sister, Mrs. J. C. Brown, of Strachan Avenue, for two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Caswell (nee Florence Michaelson) and baby son, John, aged five months, of LePas, Manitoba, left on Saturday for home, after a round of visits including Mr. Caswell's home at Windsor Mills, Que., and Mr. Michaelson and family, of Dome Mines.

The Rebekah Lodge intend holding a card party, bridge and whist in the Parish hall on Friday, Jan. 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Ahr, who have been visiting in the south for some weeks, returned to S. Porcupine this week.

The Kiwanis held their first meeting of the New Year on Thursday and all the new officers for 1940 were installed into their respective chairs. The installation was performed by Mr. P. Moyley, Past Lieutenant-Governor of the District Kiwanis, before a well-attended meeting.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church will hold its annual meeting for hearing of reports, passing of accounts, and election of officers, next Monday evening, the 8th, in the Parish hall.

The Ladies' Guild of the United Church is holding a sewing meeting on Monday night, the 8th, at the home of Mrs. Jordison.

The Young Peoples' Society of the United Church is holding a skating party on Wednesday next, instead of a meeting.

Mrs. Doyle, of Kirkland Lake, is visiting Mr. P. J. Cole at Dome Extension. The Catholic Women's League held its first monthly meeting for 1940, in the vestry of the Church on Friday night. We learn that this worthy organization packed eleven Christmas hampers for needy families and distributed them this Christmas.

A very nice afternoon affair, at which coffee was served instead of tea, and Finnish cakes and cooking were featured, was held on Friday at the home of Mrs. Ilola, of Commercial Avenue, and was attended largely by Finns and Finnish sympathisers; the proceeds of which (a nice sum) is to go to the Finnish Red Cross.

Mr. Arthur Mansfield, who has been visiting his son in Long Branch, came back home on Saturday.

Mrs. Sylvia Ristimaki of S. Porcupine left two months ago for Montreal on Red Cross work, having been a nurse in Finland before coming to Canada. We hear that now she has left for Finland from Montreal, with others, to help the cause in her own country. Her daughter, Irma, came out to Canada from Finland last year to join her mother here, and is attending High School in S. Porcupine, living with Finnish friends. She was a Girl Guide in Finland, and while wearing the uniform of a Finnish Guide, drew special attention at Sudbury when the King and Queen visited there. Irma left for Montreal to spend Christmas with her mother, and has not yet returned to S. Porcupine.

The Rebekah Lodge was honored on Friday night by the visit of two past presidents of the Rebekah Assembly, One, Mrs. Keene, of Timmins, has often visited the Lodge, but the other, Mrs.

### Produces War Pilots



Group Captain Leigh Forbes Stevenson is officer commanding at Camp Borden, important cog in the machinery to make the British Empire air force, the mightiest in the world. He flew during the war 1914-1918 and also fought forest fires from the air.

Christina Lamb, of North Bay, was a special visitor, having come up to visit her son, Mr. Gordon Harper, of town. Mrs. Sears, of Timmins, District Deputy President, and Mrs. Dean, also of Timmins, were present at this meeting. A special feature of the meeting was the draping of the charter, as a special gesture of mourning for a past president, Mrs. Sara Swartman, who died in Toronto two weeks ago. This lady was the ruling Rebekah president when our South Porcupine Lodge was instituted over twenty years ago; and came up with the party to install the first officers of Kitchener Rebekah Lodge—named for Lord Kitchener during the first World War.

A social evening followed the business meeting. Bridge was played before a delightful lunch was served. Mrs. Libby gained first prize for bridge, Mrs. Webb, second, and Mrs. Pyke, consolation.

### Hours Red Cross Rooms are Open at South Porcupine

Hope to Have All Ladies in South Porcupine Active at the Work.

The Red Cross rooms at South Porcupine will be open each day from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. except Saturday.

Instead of the usual Saturday afternoon meeting the rooms will be open three evenings a week in order that various organizations may be accommodated.

The open evenings will be Monday for Finnish ladies, and Tuesday and Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

All organizations wishing to work, please get in touch with Mrs. Robert E. Dye, so that time can be arranged.

The socks for the soldiers must now measure 16" from top of sock to bottom of heel. These new instructions were received during the holiday.

Any lady who cannot do the grafted toe on the socks, can be instructed by bringing the sock to the Red Cross rooms any time. There will always be an instructor there each day who will be glad to give advice on any knitting problem.

The new rooms on Bruce Ave. are much larger and can accommodate many more ladies than the smaller rooms we had formerly.

Now that the holiday is over it is hoped that any lady who can, will give one afternoon a week to Red Cross work. If this is done the work that can

### Schumacher Y.P.S. To Hold Banquet This Evening

Other Items of News from Schumacher and District.

Schumacher, Jan. 6th.—(Special to The Advance)—The Young Peoples' Society of Trinity United Church are holding a banquet tonight, Monday, Jan. 8th, at 6.30 p.m. All young people are invited to attend. The annual election of officers will take place at this meeting.

Miss Mary Emma Skavlem and Miss Joy Wooley and Miss Barbara Waddell left last Wednesday for Toronto where they will resume their studies at Toronto University.

Jim and John Keeley left at the week-end to attend the School of Mines, Houghton, Michigan.

Miss Kathleen Christopher, of Gold Centre, who has been visiting her parents during the school holidays, left last week for Matachewan where she will resume her teaching.

Born—Thursday, Jan. 4th, to Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Fournier, 85 First Ave.—a daughter.

The McIntyre Hockey team got a good send-off on Saturday when they left on the noon train for a trip through the United States.

"Little Christmas" was celebrated in many homes on Saturday. Many children's parties were held, each child receiving a gift from the Christmas tree.

Miss Marianne Cooper left last Tuesday to resume her studies at Toronto University.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller, of North Bay, visited their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vince Babcock, Third Ave., during the holidays.

The Women's Association of Trinity United Church will meet in the church hall on Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 10, at 2.30 p.m. Special business will be discussed.

Mr. Walter McCrae, Lester Besley, Bill Gilbert, George Percival, Pat Waddell, Jack Shortt, Ernie Arnott, Ronald Denny left at the week-end for Kingston where they will resume their studies at Queen's University.

Earl Lampkin left last Monday for the Mining School, Indiana, where he will resume his studies.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Reddington, of North Bay, spent the holidays visiting Mr. Reddington's parents.

Dr. and Mrs. Weston returned on Thursday from Toronto where they were called owing to the illness and death of Dr. Weston's parents.

A meeting of the Anglican Woman's Guild will meet on Tuesday evening at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Percival, 72 Third Ave. All members of the Guild are asked to note the change of place for the meeting.

Port Arthur News-Chronicle:—Some parts of the Province speak of the green Christmas they had while others boast of having had snow. In some places, possibly, the distinction would not be easy to make. A good test might have been that in Port Arthur, where several rounds of golf were played. With a white ball this could not have been done on fairways where there was anything more than a minimum of snow.

We would like to send a good shipment out each month to the Red Cross Headquarters in Toronto.

The shipment sent out before Christmas shows what can be done, and the Committee would like to see each lady in South Porcupine district do her part in this very necessary work.

### Successful Students at the O.A.C. at Guelph

Results of the Christmas examinations at the Ontario Agricultural College Guelph, show some students from the North as successful. These include: First year—two year course: J. H. Hanlan, Matheson. First year degree—J. W. H. Huxley, Schumacher. Second year—two year course: E. J. P. Carriere, Cochrane.

### Schedule of Hours for Schumacher Red Cross Work

Scarves and Wristlets are Urgently Needed.

This is the schedule for groups in the Schumacher Red Cross:—

Saturday, Jan. 6 — Catholic Women's League, 2 to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 9 — Italian Women, 3 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 — Catholic Women's League, 3 to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 11 — United Church, 2 to 5 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 15 — Red Cross Unit, 3 to 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16 — United Church, 3 to 5 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 18 — Anglican Church 2 to 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 19 — Catholic Women's League, 2 to 5 p.m.

Starting with these dates, the units work every other week automatically. Due to the change in uniforms, all knitters are asked to knit the leg of the sock 13 inches long instead of the 11 inches in previous instructions.

Scarves and wristlets are urgently needed and scarf wool may be procured at the Red Cross room in the McIntyre arena; groups working at home may come and get wool on any of these days.

Toronto Telegram:—Another tree pest is the friend who says he is caught out on a limb.

### Did Not Know Name of Lady, So Used Photograph

About as unusual a method of addressing an envelope is told in despatches from Kirkland Lake, and though the picture was six years old, the postal authorities eventually delivered the letter to the right party. The story behind the incident is as follows: Six years ago a young man from British Columbia was on an ocean liner and put in much of his time taking snapshots of the other passengers. Just before Christmas he decided to send a copy of one of these snaps to one lady whom he remembered as coming from Kirkland Lake, but whose name he could not recall. He closed the snapshot picture in an envelope, cutting a circle in the front of the envelope, so that the picture was shown. On the envelope near the picture he wrote "To This Lady," and underneath he added, "Kirkland Lake, Ontario." That, he felt, would be sufficient address. So it proved to be, for the letter was delivered in an hour and a half after reaching Kirkland Lake to Mrs. J. L. Hughes, 19 Posa Road, who proved to be the lady for whom it was intended. Mrs. Hughes recalled the ocean voyage and the young photographer who spent so much time and effort in taking pictures of his fellow passengers.

Stratford Beacon-Herald:—It is officially denied in Berlin that Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm has been executed. He is living quietly, it is admitted, but not that quietly.

### Aid Finnish Red Cross

COFFEE and TEA at Masonic Hall, South Porcupine 2.00 to 9.00 p.m. Wednesday, January 10th Sale of Finnish Coffee Bread

**BARGAIN COACH EXCURSION**  
From T. & N. O. and N. C. R. Stations Via North Bay and Canadian National Railways To **TORONTO**  
Buffalo, Cornwall, Detroit, Hamilton, London, Peterboro (via Toronto), Windsor and Intermediate Points  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 1940**  
Tickets to U.S. Destinations sold subject to passengers meeting Immigration Requirements of U.S.A. and Canada. GOING & RETURNING  
Bargain Excursion tickets NOT GOOD on Pool Trains Nos. 6 and 15, between Toronto and points East thereof.  
Bargain excursion tickets to Peterboro good only on C. N. R. exclusive trains between Toronto and Peterboro.  
Bargain excursion tickets NOT GOOD on "The Northland"—Trains 49 and 50.  
**RETURNING**  
Leave destination up to and including Monday, Jan. 15, EXCEPT as follows: From Windsor up to 12.30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16th, From Jellicoe, Geraldton, Beardmore, Nakina, Tashota and Longlac, up to Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1940.  
Children 5 years of age, and under 12, when accompanied by guardian. HALF FARE  
Tickets Good in Coaches ONLY No Baggage Checked  
For Fares, Departure Times and Further Information Apply to Local Agent.  
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