

## BRITISH GAIN ON ALL AFRICAN FRONTS

### Fall of Derna Imminent As Allied Columns Move West Toward Bengasi

British Forces Driving Across Desert Sixty Miles from the Sea. Heavy Fighting on Inland Road from Tobruk. Successes Reported in Ethiopia and East Africa.

The Italian high command admitted to-day that British forces are driving straight across the Libyan plateau toward Bengasi, as fighting was reported East and South of Derna, Italian base on the Libyan coast. The vanguard of the Allied drive is moving on Derna and its early fall is clearly envisaged.

The main British offensive in Libya, Italian military experts said, had left the Mediterranean coast and pushed into the desert. Bengasi despatches reported heavy fighting in the Mechill region along the inland road between Tobruk and Bengasi, sixty miles from the sea. The Italians claimed to be holding strategic positions in the Mechill region where the fighting was said to have been going on for two days.

Meanwhile the British columns are continuing their advance in East Africa and Cairo reports the capture of Biscia, ten miles from Agordat. Further despatches declare that two hundred Italian soldiers have been killed or captured in a two-day fight with revolting Ethiopian warriors on the important military road east of Lake Tana. The communique added that British forces are driving into all parts of Italy's African empire. It was indicated that the Ethiopians might now be in complete control of the road which connects the Lake Tana area with the main Asmara-Addis Ababa highway.

### Timmins Man Will Build New Store in South Porcupine

J. J. McKay, Real Estate Operator, Has Leased Premises to Ottawa Chain Store.

J. J. McKay, well known Timmins insurance man and real estate operator is planning the building of a large store on Bruce Street in South Porcupine. It has been officially announced. Tenders have been called by the architect Benjamin Kamniker, of Timmins and the new premises will be leased by the R. A. Beamish Stores, of Ottawa.

Plans call for one store, 50 by 94 feet and two stores, 50 by 32 feet, steel, concrete and hollow tile construction, vitrolite and plate glass front and hot water heating. Plans are available to prospective bidders to-day.

### Timmins Man Writes Interesting Story of Life on the Gold Coast

Reg. E. Barnard, for many years a Miner at the Hollinger Gives Vivid Picture of Life in a Gold Mine Community in the Gold Coast Area of British West Africa.

The following letter from Reg. E. Barnard, for many years a miner at the Hollinger Mine, will be read with much interest on account of the detailed information given in a graphic way. It will have further special interest in view of the fact that Mr. Barnard was one of a number of young men from Timmins who left here last year to take positions at gold mines in British West Africa where experienced miners were needed to direct the native labour in the mines.

Abasso, Gold Coast, December 27, 1940 To the Editor of The Advance Timmins, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—As I promised when I left the Porcupine Camp that I would drop you a few lines about the country in West Africa, here goes. I might add an apology for not doing so sooner, but as good excuse as any is that the weather is sultry and lazy-like. It really is surprising how quickly one develops the speed of the natives, which, as you can all guess, is very slow.

I've been here just three months now, and although we do not get about much, I have seen plenty, especially at the Rammadan, the Moslem "Christmas", and at the sports day put on for the whites when the natives held all the contests that were taught to them by the white inhabitants of the past years. These boys are very athletic. For instance, the record for the high jump was almost six feet, and these boys don't train very much, as they work in the mines from sunrise to sunset. Here is another case of durability and stamina.

The Abasso shaft is 1900 feet deep.

### Weather To Be A Little Warmer

District Reports Coldest Week-End of Year—18 Below in Timmins.

While the official thermometer on Sunday registered a mere eighteen below at Hollinger observatory, unofficial temperatures in the sections near the river are reported as low as forty-three degrees below zero. Pamour reported 46 below, Matheson, 48 below, and Hearst 52 below. The official temperature at the Hollinger this morning was eleven below at eight o'clock.

The Department of Transport forecast for Northern Ontario predicts somewhat higher temperature, cloudy and followed by light snow.

Temperatures since last Wednesday are:—Thursday, maximum, zero, minimum, 18 below; Friday, 10 above and 8 below; Saturday, 8 above and 18 below; Sunday, 4 below and 13 below.

### Firemen Have Five Calls But Damage is Negligible

The Timmins Fire Department responded to five calls during Sunday, four of which were chimney blazes that caused no damage. The first alarm was to 113½ Pine Street south, where a hot water boiler in the Moneta Hardware burst. There was some damage from water. Chimney fires were reported at 207 Waterloo Road, the Brewer's Warehouse, Spruce Street, 109 Elm Street north, and 42 Wilson Avenue.

### Horse Destroyed Following Collision at Intersection

George E. Hale, 72 Maple Street south, is charged with careless driving following an accident at the corner of Elm Street and Seventh Avenue Saturday morning. Police allege that the car driven by Hale struck a horse owned by Albert Mayer, 52 Carling Avenue. The animal suffered a broken right leg and had to be destroyed. Hale told police that the sun was in his eyes and he failed to see the approaching horse.

### Timmins Man Writes Interesting Story of Life on the Gold Coast

Reg. E. Barnard, for many years a Miner at the Hollinger Gives Vivid Picture of Life in a Gold Mine Community in the Gold Coast Area of British West Africa.

The following letter from Reg. E. Barnard, for many years a miner at the Hollinger Mine, will be read with much interest on account of the detailed information given in a graphic way. It will have further special interest in view of the fact that Mr. Barnard was one of a number of young men from Timmins who left here last year to take positions at gold mines in British West Africa where experienced miners were needed to direct the native labour in the mines.

Abasso, Gold Coast, December 27, 1940 To the Editor of The Advance Timmins, Ontario.

Dear Sir:—As I promised when I left the Porcupine Camp that I would drop you a few lines about the country in West Africa, here goes. I might add an apology for not doing so sooner, but as good excuse as any is that the weather is sultry and lazy-like. It really is surprising how quickly one develops the speed of the natives, which, as you can all guess, is very slow.

I've been here just three months now, and although we do not get about much, I have seen plenty, especially at the Rammadan, the Moslem "Christmas", and at the sports day put on for the whites when the natives held all the contests that were taught to them by the white inhabitants of the past years. These boys are very athletic. For instance, the record for the high jump was almost six feet, and these boys don't train very much, as they work in the mines from sunrise to sunset. Here is another case of durability and stamina.

The Abasso shaft is 1900 feet deep.

### PORCUPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. HONOURS DR. S. R. HARRISON



### Vicious Thugs Beat, Rob Ramore Cafe Proprietor

Jim Hum, Chinese, Brought to Timmins Hospital With Broken Fingers and Teeth After Murderous Assault Friday Night. Left Bound and Gagged When Bandits Escape With \$75.

Jim Hum, Chinese proprietor of the Star Cafe in Ramore, is in St. Mary's Hospital here after being beaten, robbed, bound and gagged, shortly after midnight on Friday by two unidentified men. Left in a dazed condition with his hands and feet bound, the two thugs turned off the lights in the restaurant and departed with about seventy-five dollars.

Medical examination shows that Hum has two fractured fingers, painful head cuts and two broken teeth. Hospital authorities said to-day that Hum is resting comfortably and his condition is not serious.

The injured restaurant proprietor told police that two men he was not acquainted with, came into his place of business shortly before midnight. They at first ordered soft drinks but later decided to have sandwiches. By the time they had eaten the sandwiches two other customers, who were in the cafe at the time had departed. Hum was having a lunch before closing up and was sitting at a table near the door into the kitchen. One of the two thugs got up and walked towards the kitchen. Without warning Hum was slugged over the head with a blunt instrument. Before he could make an outcry he had been hit again. Struggling to get clear of the murderous attack, the unfortunate Chinese was struck across the mouth and had two teeth knocked out. "I told them they could have anything they wanted if they would stop beating me," Hum told Provincial Constable James Tappenden. "I put up my hand to ward off another blow and they smashed my fingers," he related.

With their victim half senseless the two robbers secured shoe laces from behind the counter, bound the Chinese hand and foot and stuffed a rag in his mouth. Turning off the lights in the cafe, they removed money from Hum's pocket and then rifled the till and fled. It was not until half an hour later that the Chinaman was able to free himself and call the police.

Provincial police throughout the district are conducting a close investigation into the affair.

### Big Crowd Enjoys Concert by the Schubert Choral

A large number of music-lovers enjoyed the concert presented by the Schubert Choral Society at the Palace theatre on Sunday night, and each member of the audience was enthusiastic in praise of the fine performances given by the artists with the Society.

Selections from the "Mikado" and the "Gondoliers" were among those which comprised the interesting programme, and choral as well as solo parts were effectively rendered.

### Kiwanis Donation of \$500 Acknowledged by the Chancellor

Appreciation Expressed for the Spirit Prompting the Gift.

Some days ago the Timmins Kiwanis Club sent two cheques of \$500.00 each—one to the British Government and the other to the Canadian Government—to be used for any war purposes that the respective governments might desire. The following is a copy of a letter received last week by Mr. F. A. Burt, vice-president and chairman of the finance committee of the Timmins Kiwanis Club:—

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S. W. 24th December, 1940. Dear Sir:—The Chancellor of the Exchange has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 27th November enclosing a cheque for \$500 as a gift to the Government by the Kiwanis Club of Timmins, Ontario.

Sir Kingsley Wood will be glad if you will convey his warm thanks to the members of the club and tell them how much he appreciates the spirit which prompted this contribution to the Empire War effort.

Yours faithfully (signed) R. Cullane

### Successful Sale of Home Baking by Junior C.W.L.

The sale of home baking, and the white elephant sale, conducted by the Junior Catholic Women's League in the Style Shoppe on Saturday afternoon was a very successful event, all of the delicious home-baking being sold, and a large number of novelties finding a ready sale.

Mrs. A. E. Burnett was convener of the bake sale, assisted by Mrs. P. Laporte and Mrs. Alton, and Mrs. A. McKenzie was in charge of the white elephant sale.

The Jr. C.W.L. wishes to thank all the women who donated home-baking, etc., to the event.

### Four Charged in Schumacher Liquor Raid on Saturday

Provincial and Tisdale Officers Swoop Down on Railroad Street Establishment.

With Provincial and Tisdale police co-operating a liquor raid early Saturday morning on a house at 10½ Railway Street, Schumacher, has resulted in a number of charges. Mazanod Paquette, alleged by police to be the "bartender", was charged with keeping liquor for sale but subsequent information led to the arrest of Mrs. Noemie Rodrigue Cloutier, of Timmins, on a similar charge. Additional investigation regarding the ownership of a part bottle of whisky found in the premises led to a charge of having liquor in an illegal place against L. Roy, Balsam Street, Timmins.

Following a check-up of the found-in-a-charge of failure to produce a registration card was preferred against Miss Marie Jean Cytte, who gave a Rouyn, Quebec address. The charges will be aired in South Porcupine court Tuesday morning.

### Delnite Miner Arrested On High-Grading Charge

Stanley Madrzyk, Said to Have Been in Possession of Gold Button of Considerable Value. Gold Squad and Timmins Police Officers Co-operate in Raid Early To-day.

Stanley Madrzyk, 35, a miner employed at the Delnite Mines, was arrested in a rooming house at 44 Fourth Avenue at three o'clock this morning on a high-grading charge. The raid was conducted by Constables Braney and Thompson, of the Provincial gold squad, assisted by Constables O'Neill and Belanger, of the Timmins department.

occupied in the rooming house, officers found a button of gold, an inch and a quarter in diameter and about half an inch thick. The metal has not yet been assayed and police were unable to give an accurate estimate of its value.

Constable Braney announced this morning that the arrest followed an investigation lasting over two months. The accused will appear in police court here on Tuesday before Magistrate Atkinson.

### Italy Feels Blockade of British Navy

Restaurant Diners on Ration Cards—Soldiers Join Rebels in Milan Riots.

As a further indication of the effect of the British blockade, Giuseppe Tassinari, Italian food dictator, to-day tightened restrictions on the eating of spaghetti, rice and noodles, by introducing ration cards for diners in restaurants.

### London Free of Raids

London passed its seventh consecutive night in freedom from Nazi air attack but the public was warned not to be lulled into a sense of false security. Several reasons were advanced for the absence of German raiders but it was generally believed that bad weather conditions were chiefly responsible. A lone daylight raider was shot down over the channel by a small trawler and four of the crew taken prisoner.

### Milan Riots Continue

New cable advice from Balkan capitals describing serious rioting in Milan and other Northern cities, with Italian soldiers fighting on the side of the rebels.

### Bishop of Calgary to Pay Visit to District This Week

Rt. Rev. Ralph Sherman and the Archbishop of Moosejoe to be Guests at Laymen's Banquet Here.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Sherman, D.D., Bishop of Calgary, will be a visitor to Timmins and district this week. On Thursday evening he and Rt. Rev. J. Anderson, Bishop of Moosejoe will be the guests of honour at a laymen's banquet in St. Matthew's church hall, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

### Annual Meeting Timmins Horticultural Society

Notices have been sent out for the annual general meeting of the Timmins Horticultural Society to be held in the town hall at 8 p.m. on Friday of this week, Jan. 31st.

Following the business of the meeting Mr. Chas. Wilkins will give a display of natural colour pictures of local gardens and scenery.

### General Meeting of the Canadian Legion To-Night

There will be a general meeting of Timmins branch of the Canadian Legion this evening (Monday) in the Legion hall commencing at 8 p.m. All members are asked to be sure to attend as there are several items of important business.

Dr. S. R. Harrison, who leaves this week to take a post as surgeon at an Eastern Canadian port, was honoured by his fellows in the profession, at a complimentary dinner in the McIntyre Community Building on Friday night. The top picture shows, from left to right:—Dr. Kinsman, secretary of the Porcupine Medical Association; Dr. Harrison, Dr. Armitage, president of the Porcupine Medical Association; Dr. S. Lewis. The bottom picture gives a section of the banquet hall.

### Funeral This Morning of the Late Maxime Spencer

Funeral services were held this (Monday) morning at St. Anthony's Cathedral for the late Mr. Maxime Spencer, who passed away at St. Mary's hospital on Saturday morning.

The late Mr. Spencer was an old-timer of the North Land, coming here twenty-nine years ago. His home was at 269 Pine Street south. He was born at Montreal sixty-nine years ago, and married the former Ovalina Allaire. Left to mourn his loss are his widow and nine children.

### Complimentary Banquet to Dr. S. R. Harrison by Medical Association

Guest of Honour at Event on Friday Leaving This Week to Serve as Army Surgeon at Eastern Canadian Port. Services Here Greatly Appreciated.

The members of the Porcupine Medical Association along with a few old friends of Dr. S. R. Harrison met at the McIntyre Community hall to bid "au revoir" to one who can truly be classed as a pioneer not only in the medical and surgical field of the camp but also one who worked unflinchingly for the veterans of the great war. Those citizens who recall the 20-bed Mine hospital with no facilities for major operations will also bring to mind the man who worked so hard for the modern operating theatres now at St. Mary's hospital, he being the guest of honour at a complimentary dinner on Friday evening given by the above mentioned association, namely Dr. S. R. Harrison, "Harry" as he was spoken of by the members of the profession during the evening, was in charge of a field hospital during the last war and held the rank of Lt.-Col. At the outbreak of the present hostilities the doctor again offered his services to the government and now has at last received his call to again serve his country. With the rank of Major, Dr. Harrison leaves this week to take charge of a military hospital at an Eastern Canada coast port, and with him will go the sincere good wishes of many old and dear friends, not only in the Porcupine Camp but all throughout the Northland.

Sixty guests were present at the event and partook of a very nicely prepared menu with all the necessary trimmings added to help make the evening a great success. Dr. Armitage, president of the Association occupied the chair. Seated at the head table along with the guest of honour were Drs. Kinsman, Lewis, and McKittrick and Mr. W. O. Langdon, the chief speaker for the evening.

W. O. Langdon said it was a great privilege as a layman to be chosen as the one to bid "au revoir" to the doctor on behalf of the medical profession and the laymen as well. The speaker painted a word picture of the Camp from 1920 to the present day showing in definite manner how the camp has grown and with it the splendid hospital and surgical facilities now available to all. "Harry" was one of the pioneers in this sphere of local benefits. Continuing the speaker touched on the doctor's efforts for the veterans of the great war, his assistance to many in need and distress, and in closing paid a touching tribute to Mrs. Dr. Harrison, whom he stated had been a source of inspiration to the doctor in his great work.

Dr. R. P. Smith on behalf of the Porcupine Medical Association then presented Dr. Harrison with a very handsome travelling bag. "He's going for you and I and himself," Dr. Smith (Continued on Page Three)