

\$30,000

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR PART?

25,000 20,000 15,000 10,000 5,000

SOUTH WOOD COUNTY

WAR CHEST JUST SHORT OF GOAL

The South Wood County Community-War Chest total at noon today was raised to \$28,840 by contributions reported to Chest headquarters late Saturday and this morning, bringing the \$30,000 goal within a step of accomplishment.

With the campaign extended until Wednesday, there appeared little doubt that the Chest goal would be reached, possibly by tomorrow, as the final phases of the drive were undertaken and reports from hitherto uncompleted divisions came in.

To the growing lists of business places, offices and organizations which have received the special gold star awards of the Chest, headquarters today added the following:

- Wilcox Ready-to-Wear, Witter hotel, Wadhams Oil company, Lloyd's Recreation, Haertel Memorial Service, Frank Garber company, Wisconsin Rapids fire department, Sam Church's Drug store, Kellogg Bros. Lumber company, J. Ed Johnson, Brostowitz Plumbing, Daly Lumber & Fuel company, Up-town tavern, Wisconsin Rapids Elks lodge, Neco Machinists local, Ann Schultz Beauty shop, Teske Hudson garage, Kerris Confectionery, Rued Service station, Wood County Telephone company, Valley Baking company, Dr. Leo Spaeth, L. A. DeGuere, Jeffrey & Jeffrey, Sunrise club, Nash Hardware, Herschlebs Ice Cream store, Hein Printing company, Port Edwards hotel, Dr. Edw. Hougren, Gottschalk's grocery and Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. County Offices Get Stars

Gold star awards were also made to the following offices and departments of Wood county: County judge, probation office, county nurse, sheriff's department, county clerk's office and the local selective service office.

Reelect Officers of Papermakers' Union

Veteran officers of Badger local 187, International Brotherhood of Papermakers, were reelected to office at the annual meeting of the local Sunday.

President Edward G. Gilbertson was chosen president for a 12th term; Ed Galles, vice-president; for a third term; Ezra Maeder, financial secretary, seventh year; Joe Kahoun, recording secretary, eighth year; John Sherwood, treasurer, second year; and George Fahmer, trustee, sixth year. Mr. Fahmer has also served the local as president and recording secretary.

Beardsley's Grocery Going Out of Business

Announcement was made today of the closing at the end of this week of Beardsley's grocery, 160 First street north. The store, operated by Mrs. G. S. Beardsley, is one of the older retail institutions of the city and has been in business for 39 years.

Mrs. Beardsley's announcement of closing gave employment problems as the reason for discontinuing business. Balance of the stock will be sold at retail this week, she said.

9 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT Let's make this a practical Christmas! Buy Christmas Seals

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

Twenty-Ninth Year—No. 9036.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Monday, Dec. 14, 1942.

EVERY WEEK IS 'THRIFT WEEK' IN THE WANT ADS

Single Copy Five Cents

SMASH ROMMEL'S LINE AT EL AGHEILA

JAP DESTROYER FORCE ROUTED; ONE SHIP SUNK

Washington—(AP)—American air forces in the south Pacific were reported by the navy today to be continuing their heavy bombardment of the new Japanese air base at Munda on New Georgia island in the central Solomons.

Washington—(AP)—Fate of a damaged Japanese destroyer task force which sought to strengthen Nippon's isolated fingerhold in northwestern Guadalcanal island remained hidden today in the wake of a flurry of allied offensive blows all along Pacific battle points.

At least one of 11 enemy destroyers was sunk and from four to seven others were known to have been hit by American sea and sky slugs.

Navy officers said no doubt hundreds of Japanese were sent to a watery grave as a result of the action.

But, whether some of the destroyers weathered the two-day storm of blows late last week and reached their beleaguered Solomons outpost with supplies and troops was not stated in the Sunday navy communique which also told of other American attacks in the south-western scene as well as a sky stab in the winter-locked North Pacific.

One American torpedo boat was lost in the Guadalcanal fighting which began Friday when dive-bombers scored hits on five Japanese destroyers but failed to stop the task force.

Naval surface craft swung into the scrap Saturday, the communique said, reporting one destroyer sunk, another fired and probably sunk and a third damaged.

Blust Jap Airfield

Meanwhile, new raids against Japan's new Munda airfield on North Georgia island—only 150 miles from Guadalcanal—brought indication that previous bombings had rendered the base temporarily useless.

For two days, army Flying Fortresses plastered the field with more than 27,500 pounds of bombs, ripping the flight strip with four 1,000-pounders, and neither time was any enemy aerial opposition reported.

In both instances, all American planes returned.

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Roosevelt Stands Pat in Opposition to New Farm Parity Formula

Washington—(AP)—President Roosevelt was reported standing pat today in his opposition to any change in farm parity price formulas.

A house-approved proposal to boost parity levels by including the cost of all farm labor on the senate calendar with the unanimous endorsement of the agricultural committee, may be junked by a mid-week adjournment of congress.

One of the most discussed of these centers around a house-approved measure authorizing a \$5,000,000 increase in the borrowing and lending authority of the Reconstruction Finance corporation, which furnishes funds for programs under-

Washington—(AP)—Speaker Rayburn said today congressional leaders had agreed to convene the 78th congress Jan. 6 and that President Roosevelt would deliver his message in person to a joint session of the senate and house Jan. 7.

The president was told, Rayburn said, that the historic 77th congress would adjourn Wednesday of this week, "or certainly not later than Thursday."

taken by several government agencies. Included among these is the board of economic warfare, headed by Vice President Wallace.

Inspired by testimony of Federal Loan Administrator Jesse Jones of the RFC at a closed session of the banking committee that the RFC had no recourse but to make funds available when the BEW issued a directive, Republicans demanded an amendment which would require prior RFC approval of expenditures before the BEW could embark on new projects.

Seek OPA reorganization

Meanwhile, house Republican leaders listed as among their first objectives in the new congress the reorganization of the office of price administration and of congress itself, and abolition of the National Youth Administration and the Farm Security administration.

They said they expected that many democrats, lukewarm toward the Roosevelt administration, would support at least part of their program.

Reorganization of congressional procedure was placed high on the agenda by Representative Dirksen of Illinois.

"I intend to introduce at the very start of the new congress next month a resolution that I hope will lead to a streamlining of congressional procedure," Dirksen said.

His resolution will call for creation of a special committee to study the entire subject and to make recommendations for more efficient operation. Dirksen has advocated establishment of a joint congressional war committee to coordinate the work now done by more than half a dozen senate and house committees.

DR. HUBERT WORK DIES

Denver—(AP)—Dr. Hubert Work, 82, former United States postmaster general and secretary of the interior, died of a heart ailment at 1:55 p.m. (CWT) today.

Gun Commanded by Rapids Officer Keeps Japs on Jump in New Guinea

BY MURLIN SPENCER

With American Troops Some where in New Guinea—(AP)—There is a sleek little number on this battlefront that is driving the Japanese in Buna mission and on Cape Endaiaadere to distraction. Her name is Helen.

Helen is a lethal piece of artillery named by one of the best American crews in northern Papua. Japanese planes have been spending long hours trying to find her. She was flown here piece by piece and reassembled.

Helen is credited with knocking out two Jap ack-ack guns near Cape Endaiaadere; with pounding Japanese in both Buna village and Buna mission, and with making the Japs lose plenty hours of sleep.

Just to show the Japanese interest in Helen, 24 Zeros were flying overhead when I visited the gun emplacement. But she is so well hidden that she is impossible to see more than a few yards away.

Her crew, commanded by Lieut. Herbert H. Jackson of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., takes the greatest delight in the night action.

"They say the Nips like to sleep in trees so we fix shells with fuses so they will explode amongst trees," he said. "They're guaranteed to knock the Nips out and if not they at least keep them awake, which has a great nuisance value."

Every member of the eight-man gun crew wanted to name her, but Corporal John Polishuk of Benton Harbor, Mich., selected the name. The black haired youth said he named her after Helen Jankus, Chicago, a pretty brunet, and Polishuk produced pictures to prove it.

Besides, Jackson said, if they ever got the correct christening liquid his boys never could stand and watch it be used that way. So the gun probably will remain unchristened.

NEWFOUNDLAND DANCE HALL FIRE CLAIMS 100 LIVES

St. John's, Newfoundland—(AP)—Fire and panic in the midst of an old-time barn dance cost the lives of 100 merry-makers and injured 102 others as a servicemen's hostel and recreation center went up in flames Saturday night only 200 yards from the fire station on St. John's main street.

Many Trampled to Death

Like the Coconut Grove disaster in Boston, which claimed nearly 500 lives, many were trampled to death in the rush for the exits and the victims included servicemen and women. It was believed there may have been Americans among them.

A Knights of Columbus hostel for men in the armed services, the wooden structure was crowded with 500 persons when fire roared through the building and burst from the doors and windows in huge columns of flame that towered in the sky.

Cause Undetermined

The authorities still were without knowledge today of the cause of the disaster but an eyewitness said the fire "seemed to do its dreadful work in 10 minutes."

The terrified dancers, trying to force their way out through the four exits of the building, piled up in tangled masses of bodies.

Sixty-nine of the dead had been identified last night; of the 31 unclaimed, many were so burned as to be unrecognizable. It was not known how many women were lost and exact figures were not announced on the number of Canadian navy, army and air force personnel lost.

First word of the fire came to St. John's residents shortly after 11 p.m. as they listened to music being broadcast from the dance floor.

Hears Shouts of 'Fire'

Suddenly, amid the square dance calls, several voices were heard shouting "fire," while others gruffly ordered them to "keep quiet." The music stopped and then the microphone went dead.

Listeners who rushed outside their houses said they could see sheets of flame streaming from the building and some heard the terrified cries of those inside.

Some who escaped from the hostel said the fire began in the auditorium and dance hall while others asserted an explosion seemed to come from the kitchen and then the whole building was engulfed by flames.

Stevens Point Mayor Gets Navy Commission

Stevens Point, Wis.—Mayor Frank J. Lasecki has enlisted in the U. S. naval reserve with a lieutenant's commission, and expects to be called to active duty shortly after Christmas, it was learned here today.

Mayor Lasecki is chairman of the Portage county defense council and coordinator of district 10 of the state council of defense, which includes Portage, Wood, Adams and Juneau counties.

It is expected that his unexpired term as mayor will be filled by the president of the city council, Alderman M. J. Hannon. The term will run until the 1943 spring municipal election.

JESUIT LEADER DIES

Bern, Switzerland—(AP)—Father Coern, Swiss Jesuit, 76, died last night in Vatican City. Reports from Rome said the election of his successor must await the end of the war, when 150 fathers superior of the order from all parts of the world will meet.

Roland R. Baldwin Succumbs After Stroke

Roland R. Baldwin, who moved from this city to Trenton, Ill., a few weeks ago, died there yesterday following a stroke. A postal clerk in the local postoffice for 37 years, he retired last September 30.

The body is being brought here for burial and will arrive Wednesday morning at the Baker funeral home. Services are expected to be held sometime Thursday. A complete obituary and the exact time of the services will appear in a later edition.

Mr. Baldwin is survived by the widow, one son, Clarence, and a daughter, Mary.

Axis Forces Retreat West Toward Tripoli; Allied Air Fleet Hits Foe in Tunisia

2 Central Wisconsin Soldiers Missing in Action in Africa

Two central Wisconsin men are reported missing in action in north-western Africa, both apparently lost in the invasion thrust against the French colonies early in November.

They are Pfc. Clarence Arndt, 25, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Arndt, Wisconsin Rapids, R. 5, and Pvt. Ivan G. Sadowska, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Sadowska, Marshfield. Private Sadowska's father is a former Wood county sheriff and present deputy sheriff.

Mr. and Mrs. Arndt were notified Sunday in a telegram from the war department which stated their son had been listed missing since November 8. Clarence left with a Portage county draft quota on October 27, 1941, trained at Fort Knox, Ky., and was stationed in Ireland since last April.

His parents last heard from him in a letter he wrote October 9. He was not married and lived with his parents at their farm in the town of Grant, Portage county, before his induction into the army. A brother, Henry, resides at 240 Fourteenth street south.

Word that their son was listed as missing was received by the Sadowskas Sunday night. Date given by



Pfc. Clarence Arndt the war department was also November 8, and Private Sadowska had also been stationed in Ireland before the African invasion.

(By the Associated Press)

Field Marshal Rommel's carefully prepared El Agheila defense line has collapsed under a single assault by Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's British Eighth army, which pushed on to the west today toward Tripoli and a showdown.

The onslaught which once drove Rommel, the desert fox, out of his burrow was timed to coincide with smashing aerial assaults on the enemy's Tunisian strongholds in thundering evidence of the rising air might of the allies.

The brief announcement that the Eighth army again was on the march came early today in a brief communique from Cairo which said: "Rommel has been driven from his strong positions at El Agheila and is in retreat to the west."

Some observers said the speed of the break through might be an indication that Rommel, to escape a certain beating, left only a holding force at El Agheila and withdrew to the west.

One military source in London commented: "This is the first time in this war that a great German army has found itself faced by equal forces, and what happens? The German army pulls out without a fight."

Berlin Admits Retreat

The German and Italian communiques made no mention of the collapse of the Libyan defense line, but a later broadcast by the Berlin radio, said, "It is officially announced in Berlin, that Marshal Rommel has withdrawn his forces from El Agheila to a position further westward."

The cost, a later Cairo communique declared, was slight; and the pursuit relentless.

In sweeping west of El Agheila, General Montgomery's troops frayed the highwater mark of Gen. Sir Archibald Wavell's 1941 drive and there were deeper into Libya than British forces ever before had penetrated.

The "onsurge steadily narrowed the North African coastal strip where the Germans and Italians are held in the jaws of an allied netherclaw."

Observers at Cairo said the next defensible position where Rommel might attempt a stand is at Misurata, 300 miles west of El Agheila and only 100 miles short of Tripoli, main North African base of the axis. Tripoli is some 500 miles southeast of Tunis, which British and American forces menace from the west.

There the allies were said to have beaten back another German attempt over the week-end to turn their right flank by infiltrating north and south of the road junction town of Medjed El Bab, 35 miles southwest of Tunis.

Axis Supply Lines Attacked

The whole axis North African supply system was kept under terrific aerial assault, and the blows extended across the mid-Mediterranean strait to Sicily.

From Libyan bases, medium bombers mauled the harbors of Palermo, Sicily; and Sousse, Tunisia, Saturday night.

American Flying Fortresses and B-25 Billy Mitchell bombers set afire a 10-block area of the Tunis waterfront, Saturday, scoring direct hits on docks, warehouses and a supply ship. They followed this up Sunday with an attack of even greater intensity, along with raids on Bizerte and Sousse. Harbor installations were set afire in all three ports.

SONS OF LEGION MEET

The sons of the American Legion squadron will hold a business meeting at Memorial armory Tuesday night, December 15. The meeting will begin at 7:30.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Not much change in temperature tonight, but with a minimum temperature higher than last night; slightly colder Tuesday afternoon.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 12; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., -1; temperature at 7 a. m., 18. Precipitation, trace.



WARMER