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# Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

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## ALLIES POUND OUTER DEFENSES OF BIZERTE

### Believe American Offensive in Offing to Finish Job of Routing Japs from Solomons

Washington—(AP)—The navy announced today that American troops on Guadalcanal island in the Solomons had advanced their western flank well into territory formerly held by the Japanese.

A communique said the advance, made by army and marine forces, had carried the western peg of the American line to a point about five miles west of the vital airfield on Guadalcanal and about one mile west of the Matanikau river, formerly the boundary of the American position.

Washington—(AP)—An American drive to wipe out remaining Japanese bases in the Solomon islands appeared near at hand today as terrific destruction of enemy troops and ships seemed to clinch the United States hold on Guadalcanal.

Announcing for the first time that the American grip on the prized island and its strategic airbase is "now very secure," Secretary of Navy Knox reported yesterday that half of a force of 1,500 Nipponese landed on Guadalcanal had been slaughtered and the rest routed.

Possibility of duplication in the navy's reports of enemy ships lost in the great American sea victory of last week also was dispelled by Knox who declared 28 Japanese vessels had been sunk. These comprised a battleship, another battleship or heavy cruiser, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, six destroyers and 12 transports and cargo ships. Ten more were damaged.

The reported American losses of two light cruisers and six destroyers in the same battle brought the nation's total of destroyed vessels in the Pacific war to 50 combat and 34 non-combat ships since Pearl Harbor.

Official announcements of the navy and allied headquarters boosted the total Japanese losses to 126 combat and 246 non-combat ships.

Meanwhile, the first American naval officer to return to Pearl Harbor since the defeat of the Japanese armada estimated that the foe's attempts to recapture Guadalcanal had cost the lives of perhaps 10,000 Nipponese on the island alone. From 20,000 to 40,000 more were believed killed in the sinking of eight loaded enemy transports.



GETTIN' CLIPPED—Brig. Gen. Hanford MacNider, former American Legion commander and assistant secretary of war, sits on a pile of rocks in lieu of a barber chair, and gets his hair trimmed by an American soldier at a U. S. base in New Guinea.

### Freeze 40 Per Cent of Nation's Cold Storage Butter for Army Use

Washington—(AP)—To keep Johnny Doughboy from being fed dry bread while fighting far away, the folks at home may soon have to spread their butter thin—or use some substitute.

Frozen in more ways than one, 40 per cent of the nation's cold-stored butter supply today was set aside for fighting men and the lease-lend program under terms of a war production board order.

Effect to Be Felt Soon  
And housewives started eyeing such table-fat substitutes as margarine and peanut butter, for the "temporary" wording of the order failed to ease the threat of eventual shortage.

However, WPB officials planned to supplant the freeze as quickly as possible with a limitation order which would cut consumption by about 10 per cent.

ASSEMBLYMAN DIES  
Manitowoc, Wis.—(AP)—Assemblyman John Egan, 66, died today after a heart attack. Elected to the assembly in 1940 as a Republican, he was defeated in this fall's election by Progressive Otto Vogel.

### HUNTER WOUNDED NEAR NEEDED TREATED HERE

The first gunshot victim of the deer season in the central Wisconsin region was brought to River-view hospital by two companions shortly before noon today.

He is Curtis Hill, 39, of Milwaukee, who was shot by a stray rifle bullet in the Juneau county area north of Necedah. The bullet entered his right hip, to inflict a serious injury. He was operated on immediately.

Details of the accident were not learned. Hill was brought to Wisconsin Rapids at once, and Officer Wilfred Gloden, who went to the hospital with the party, said one of the companions indicated the accident occurred about 10 o'clock this morning.

The buck kill in the central Wisconsin area, judging from the number of successful hunters reporting this morning, appeared to be comparatively light.

Helke First to Check In  
First to check in with his deer this morning was Henry Helke, town of Grand Rapids. Helke, 30, has been hunting for nine years, but he shot his first buck this morning with an ease that he could hardly believe.

He walked a mile from his house, about four miles east of Wisconsin Rapids. A doe sped out of the brush, followed by a buck. Helke bagged the buck, wearing a fine 10-point rack, with a single slug from his single-barreled shotgun.

Helke's story was matched by that of Clarence Coursey, Route 1. He, too, scored a long trip, but headed for the Grand Rapids country east of here. Shortly after 8 o'clock, after but a short hunt, he bagged a 10-point animal. It was Coursey's first buck, likewise.

Among other successful hunters were Harvey Swarick, Two Mile avenue, who shot his animal at 8 o'clock this morning near Pray, and Ed Steinke, 910 Sixth street, who bagged his in the Meadow Valley country at 8:30.

A 175-pound, six-point buck fell to the rifle of Amos Lund, Wisconsin Rapids. Land hunted in the City Point country and was among the earliest in that area to bring out his quarry. Fred Giese, Wisconsin Rapids, shot a 125-pound buck in the same area.

Expect Anti-Poll Tax Bill Will Be Shelved  
Washington—(AP)—The senate prepared to go through the motions today of debating abolishment of state poll taxes as a prerequisite for voting in federal elections, although even its supporters conceded the measure was marked for the legislative graveyard.

Extend Deadline on Fuel Oil Purchases  
Milwaukee—(AP)—Fuel oil consumers may continue to purchase oil on coupon credit until midnight Nov. 30, State OPA Director Don T. Allen said today.

### Gov. Lehman Appointed to Federal Post

Washington—(AP)—The White House announced today that Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York would resign as governor on or about December 3 to become associated with the state department as director of foreign relief and rehabilitation.

The announcement said Lehman "will undertake the work of organizing American participation in the activities of the united nations in furnishing relief and other assistance to the victims of war in areas reoccupied by the forces of the united nations."

The appointment was described officially as a step in the president's program of mobilizing the available resources of the United States in food, clothing, medical supplies and other necessities "so that it may make an immediate and effective contribution to joint efforts of the united nations in the field of relief and rehabilitation."

"Governor Lehman's appointment," the White House said, "assured that this country will play its part in such efforts."

The job will be somewhat similar to that Herbert Hoover occupied following the last war. Immediate beneficiaries of the relief drive are expected to be the inhabitants of North Africa, where American forces landed November 7-8 in a move described by the president as one to help liberate France from the axis yoke and forestall an enemy occupation of the French possessions.

### CLOSING IN ON JAPS AT BUNA

Somewhere in New Guinea—(AP)—Japanese forces trapped in a narrow coastal strip in the Buna-Gona district of New Guinea were reported fighting back desperately today as American and Australian ground troops moved in relentlessly to drive them into the sea or force their capitulation.

Yanks Within Mile of Buna  
One United States force was within a mile of Buna and engaged in heavy fighting and another was attempting to wrest a landing field on the outskirts of the village from the defending Japanese.

This second unit reported that it had met heavy machine-gun fire within 500 yards of the field.

Japanese planes entered the fighting near Buna yesterday and seven Zeros strafed allied troops already under attack from light artillery and mortars.

One American force approaching Buna from the south along the coast was trying to overcome opposition at Cape Endiaidere, a few miles from the village. Heavy fighting was in progress at Soputa, about eight miles inland from the coast on the Kokoda-Buna trail.

The main body of the Japanese forces, however, has been driven into a triangular area bound by a six-mile coastal strip between Buna and Gona and irregular lines running inland from these hamlets to Soputa.

Surrender Unlikely  
The bitter struggle of the Japanese in this area indicated to observers that they had no intention of surrendering and a battle of extermination seemed to be in progress.

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### RUFU TESTIFIES IN OWN DEFENSE IN MURDER CASE

Monroe, Wis.—(AP)—The defense today completed its testimony in the case of Kenneth Ruff, 19-year-old farm hand charged with first degree murder in the shooting of Ned Hartwig, 36, a livestock buyer, last March 2.

Final arguments were to be heard with the case expected to go to the jury late today.

"No Recollection" of Shooting  
Telling his story of the slaying, which Defense Attorney Carl Hill told the jury earlier had been committed under an "irresistible urge," Ruff described how he had taken a shotgun with him when calling on Hartwig, to defend himself in case Hartwig became enraged, and had no recollection of shooting.

Counsel for Ruff is attempting to win a reduction of the charge from first degree murder to third degree manslaughter.

Tells of Gambling  
Ruff said he had been gambling steadily since he was 15 years old, mostly with Hartwig, shooting craps in local taverns.

He told how in 1941 he had borrowed \$750 from several local banks and had been unable to repay the loans when he lost the money gambling. His father paid the debts.

Finally, Ruff related, he had won \$100 from Hartwig on a bowling game, and \$200 on a crap game.

When he tried to collect the \$300 from Hartwig, the stock dealer instead succeeded in borrowing \$250 more on each of two occasions.

Then on Feb. 20, Hartwig wrote a check to Ruff for the \$800, but suggested a crap game, Ruff testified, in hopes he could win his money back.

Wins \$1,000 in Crap Game  
The young farmhand gave this account of the game and its results:

The suggested game took place in the stockyards, and involved just the two men. Stakes went as high as \$100 a point, and in less than an hour, Ruff had won \$1,000 from Hartwig. Hartwig, however, did not pay him at the time.

Later the same day (Feb. 20) Ruff met Hartwig and asked him for the \$1,000. He quoted Hartwig as saying:

"You damned fool, do you think I would pay you?"

Twice more he approached Hartwig for the money without success, and then at noon, March 2, he met Hartwig at the stockyards.

Met 9 Hours Before Shooting  
This was nine hours before the shooting. Ruff recounted this conversation:

Hartwig said: "Say, are you going to bring those hogs today?"

Ruff replied: "What hogs? The only hogs I know about are those I talked about buying from you."

Then Hartwig said: "We'll wait a couple of days and see what happens."

"I figured that was a threat," Ruff told the court.

### Also Push Within 25 Miles of Tunis; Nazis Hemmed In

(By the Associated Press)  
American and British troops, scoring a five-mile advance in one direction, pitched into the Germans on the outer defenses of Bizerte and Tunis today while U. S. Flying Fortresses rained deadly punishment on the enemy hemmed in along a 30-mile-wide coastal strip.

A Nazi broadcast, quoting allied sources in Spanish Morocco, said allied forces had reached the area of Hammamet, about 40 miles southeast of Tunis, on the Gulf of Gabes.

This, if confirmed, would mean that the allies had now pinned the axis into a small corner and cut off the route of retreat to Italian Tripolitania. In that case, the two main axis forces in Tunisia and Libya would be split.

The Algiers radio said French troops had beaten off a new German attempt to land on the coast below Tunis and captured some Nazis in a fight northwest of the port of Gabes.

Hitler Rushing Reinforcements  
German reports said Adolf Hitler was rushing a stream of airborne reinforcements, including tanks, across the Mediterranean in a desperate effort to stem the allied offensive.

Field dispatches said the battle was growing more bitter hour by hour, with allied troops storming Nazi fortifications only 30 miles from both cities in the French North Africa colony.

A Reuters dispatch said the allied forces had captured their first prisoners in Tunisia and that British paratroopers had destroyed six armored vehicles in one clash.

Only 25 Miles From Tunis  
One allied vanguard was reported to have driven forward five miles to a point 25 miles southeast of Tunis, the capital.

Italian headquarters asserted the battle was developing "on the Tunisian-Algerian border"—about 50 miles west of the scene described by allied dispatches—and declared that operations "have gone to the advantage of the axis."

The German radio claimed that axis forces Thursday night seized a railway station east of Tabarka, 65 miles west of Bizerte, and reported that Fighting French De Gaulle troops had been thrown back.

The tanker was sunk in the Aegean, and the supply ship damaged was one of a convoy of three ships attacked in the same area, the communique said.

The destroyers were hit off the Sicilian coast.

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Cancel Contract for Cargo-Carrying Planes  
Detroit—(AP)—Nash-Kelvinator corp. announced today through its president, George Mason, that the navy had cancelled its contract for mass production of Vought-Sikorsky (cargo-carrying) flying boats for strategic reasons.

Rear Admiral E. M. Pace, jr., director of the navy's materials division, said quick revision of the navy's aircraft requirements in view of developments in the Pacific was the reason for the cancellation.

"Increased production of combat planes and fast patrol bombers is needed immediately," the admiral said, "and that means some of the facilities available through Nash-Kelvinator for flying boat production will have to be turned over to contractors who are already at work on the types of planes we now need."

"Main Issue of War Decided," Says Benes  
London—(AP)—President Eduard Benes of the Czech government-in-exile told a meeting of Durham miners today that "the main issue of the war has been decided."

"The Germans can stand another winter of war in Russia only with the greatest difficulty, if at all," Benes said. "With the grand armies of Russia still unbroken, it is now impossible for the German forces to swing back and make a furious attack in the west."

### Captured German General "Bitter" Toward Fuehrer

London—(AP)—Gen. Ritter Von Thoma, the first captured German general to arrive in London, is reported by the Daily Mail's military writer to have held in talks with the British that "Hitler has ruined the reichswehr."

The officer disclosed "remarkable facts about the bitter feeling prevalent in the inner circles of the German general staff," the writer said.

Captured by the British Nov. 4 while serving as commander of the Nazi African corps under Marshal Rommel, Von Thoma was described as one of the school of professional German soldiers who "dispute any encroachment in their sphere by civilians or politicians and all members of the Nazi party, including Hitler himself."

"He is believed to have said that Hitler's assumption of the supreme command spells disaster to the war machine built up by the devotion of the great general staff," the writer said.

### BRITISH HOT ON ROMMEL'S HEELS

Cairo—(AP)—Racing westward at a speed unequalled in modern desert warfare, the British 8th army today hurled its forward elements against Marshal Rommel's rear guard at Agadabia, some 70 miles from the narrow El Aghelia defile.

The British, apparently making a supreme effort to keep Rommel from organizing a defense at El Aghelia, pressed on without pause at the heels of the enemy after triumphantly hoisting the Union Jack over Bengasi yesterday for the third time in this war.

Half Way to Tunisia  
Already the 8th army was half way to Tunisia from its starting point at El Alamein in Egypt, and more than half way to Tripoli.

Contact was established with the axis rear guard at Agadabia, on the coastal road 100 miles south of Bengasi, by one of General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's forces which made a beeline across the Libyan hump. Other 8th army forces followed the longer route around the hump and marched into Bengasi.

Trap Many Stragglers  
Many straggling Germans and Italians were trapped in the area between Bengasi and Agadabia by the swift British thrust along the inland trail from El Mechili. Their retreat cut off, these axis troops now can be mopped up at leisure by the British while the job of hacking away at the fleeing main axis force continues.

Today's Italian war bulletin saying there was "intense activity" between advance elements in Libya, gave the clue that General Montgomery was striving to smash any attempted stand by Rommel at El Aghelia, the axis commander's only hope of turning on his tormenters short of Tripoli.

THE WEATHER  
For Wisconsin:  
Colder in east and south portions tonight, continued cold Sunday forenoon.

COLDER  
Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 47; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 26; temperature at 7 a. m., 26.

28 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT  
Pull over to a War Bond  
Buy Christmas Seals

Find Mutilated Body of Mother of Nine  
York, Pa.—(AP)—The mutilated body of Mrs. Mary Ellen Jackson, 41, was found today by several of her nine children after they had told their father that "mother had not been home all night."

### Demand Jeffers "Clarify" Slap at Gas Ration Foes

Washington—(AP)—A demand that Rubber Administrator William Jeffers "promptly clarify" his assertion that opposition to nationwide gasoline rationing was financed "by people who should know better" arose in congress today as an anti-rationing bloc laid plans to appeal to President Roosevelt for postponement of the order.

"If you meant to assert that any member of congress opposing nationwide rationing of gasoline was receiving a financial consideration in support of that opposition, then I must brand the insinuation that it is—completely false and without foundation," declared Rep. Boren (D-Okla.) in a telegram to Jeffers.

### British Glider Force 'Wiped Out' in Norway

Berlin (From German Broadcasts)—(AP)—Two British planes towing troop-filled gliders landed in southern Norway for purposes of sabotage and all the occupants were annihilated, the German high command said today.

"On the night of November 19-20 two British bombers, each towing a glider, flew over south Norway," the communique said.

### U. S. Vessel Sunk Off South America

Washington—(AP)—The navy announced today that a medium-sized United States merchant vessel was torpedoed and sunk by an enemy submarine during the latter part of October in the Atlantic off the northern coast of South America.

Three seamen perished in the attack, but 51 others were rescued and landed safely at allied ports.