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Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

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RESULTS

Twenty-Ninth Year—No. 9117.

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REDS HARD PRESSED ON DONETS RIVER LINE

YANK POSITIONS CONSOLIDATED IN NORTH AFRICA

Allied Headquarters in North Africa — (P) — American forces have consolidated their positions after winning Gafsa and El Guejar on Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's flank, an allied headquarters communique said today.

Front Generally Quiet
Heavy rain continued to fall in the area and the front was generally quiet after the capture of Gafsa and El Guejar, 12 miles to the southeast where the infantry and armor of Lieut. Gen. George S. Patton, jr., were in position to drive through a mountain gap toward Gabes, 73 miles away, and the coastal road, only 60 miles distant.

The Eighth army, after strengthening its positions menacing the Mareth line in southern Tunisia, also was quiet.

(Gen. Henri Giraud, the French commander-in-chief, was disclosed by the Algiers radio to have been present when the allied forces drove into Gafsa.)

(The Morocco radio reported that Giraud said "I am convinced Gafsa marks the beginning of an offensive which will go on as far as Berlin.")

British Withdrawal
(The Italian high command said in a broadcast that axis forces had captured "an important position" in northern Tunisia after several days of bitter fighting and that allied forces had suffered "serious losses.")

(The position was not identified, but allied dispatches announced yesterday that the British had withdrawn from the village at Tamera, 45 miles southwest of Bizerte, and repulsed two attacks at a new line.

(Among allied losses, the communique said, were 1,600 prisoners and 16 tanks.)

The German army in northern Tunisia under Col. Gen. Jurgen Von Arnim apparently was achieving local success with a diversionary attack designed to take pressure off Rommel in the south.

The British First army fell back three miles from Tamera, a mining town 45 miles southwest of Bizerte, but then was able to hold in stronger positions against two infantry assaults.

Threaten Coast Road
The American forces, under Patton still had ahead of them much rough mountain country in which the enemy could make a stand, but every mile forward meant an increased threat to the vital coast road which links Rommel and Von Arnim.

(The Algiers radio said the Eighth army won new positions east of the Mareth line after a bayonet charge. The broadcast said that patrols were numerous in all sectors despite the rain and flood hampering Tunisian operations.)

Grain Commission Denies Governor's Charges of Waste

Superior, Wis. — (P) — Charges of Gov. Walter S. Goodland of "wasteful, heedless and improper spending of public money" by the state grain and warehouse commission were denied in a statement issued by the three commissioners, Clarence Grace and Peter Skamser of Superior, and Edward W. Richardson of Ladysmith.

The statement said the commissioners were "disappointed that we were not called in for a hearing before the governor pronounced his judgment."

"In conversation with Mr. Skamser last week, the governor assured us that he wanted to be fair, that he would send up a committee to look over the entire setup before taking further action."

The statement declared that the commission has turned over \$602,000 in net profit to the state in the time of the grain board's operation, and that operation of the commission is essential to the maintenance of grain standards.

Youth Charged With Threatening Actress

Los Angeles — (P) — An 18-year-old high school student Russell Alexander, is held under \$5,000 bond for grand jury action on charges he mailed two letters to actress Betty Grable, threatening her life unless she sent him \$25,000 worth of uncut diamonds and \$5,000 in cash.

Said Alexander on arraignment: "I never intended to carry out the threat. I just wanted to get some money to see the movie stars."

The youth was arrested yesterday by federal agents as he picked up a dummy package.



YANKS TAKEN PRISONER IN TUNISIA—This photo, sent to the United States from London, which obtained it through neutral sources, purports to show American troops taken prisoner by Germans in Tunisia, being marched off to an axis prison camp. (Passed by U. S. mail censor, New York.)

Mine Operators in Message to White House as Contract Negotiations Get Nowhere

FRANK O. LOWDEN DIES IN ARIZONA

Tucson, Ariz. — (P) — Frank O. Lowden, 82 years old, World war governor of Illinois, died today at El Conquistador hotel where he was a winter visitor.

Tired and feeble when he arrived, the elder statesman of the Republican party suffered an attack of pneumonia two weeks ago. He gradually grew worse until his death.

Only his nurse was with him but members of the family had been in close contact by telephone as his condition grew worse.

Served in Congress
During the 25 years he spent in active politics, Lowden held only two offices—congressman and governor—but few men in history came closer to the presidency of the United States without attaining it.

His last years were spent quietly, but upon numerous occasions he was consulted on Republican party affairs by midwestern leaders, particularly regarding agricultural policies.

His last interview with the press, given on his birthday anniversary Jan. 25, contained a plea that contending nations approach the peace table without rancor or passion if they wished for an enduring peace in the future.

The family planned to have the funeral at the Lowden estate, Sinissippi farm, near Oregon, Ill., with burial at Graceland cemetery in Chicago, at a time to be arranged later.

Lowden was the son of a Minnesota farmer and blacksmith. He trained himself as a lawyer and had a brilliant reputation in his profession when he entered the political field in 1896.

Presidential Contender
By 1920 he was presidential timber and until the eve of the national convention his chances for nomination were considered bright. His influence lasted until the eighth ballot at the convention, at which time he withdrew and the nomination went to Warren G. Harding two ballots later.

He was a strong presidential contender again in 1924. At this convention the agricultural west was strong for him, but not strong enough to stop the supporters of Calvin Coolidge. Lowden was named for the vice presidency. He upset all precedent, however, by refusing second place on the ticket.

Farmer Bound Over for Trial in Murder

Menomonie, Wis. — (P) — Lambert Shellhouse, 44-year-old farmer charged with first degree murder in the shooting of his mother, Mrs. Eliza Shellhouse, 66, was bound over to circuit court today for trial.

Shellhouse offered no defense testimony at his preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge Carl Peterson, who later denied a defense motion for dismissal.

A 15-year-old boy who had been employed at the Shellhouse farm testified that Shellhouse planned and participated in the shooting, the boy testified that he also had participated.

Mrs. Shellhouse was struck by seven rifle bullets. Her body, secreted in a hoghouse, was found March 2, several hours after the shooting.

New York — (P) — Northern Appalachian bituminous coal operators have sent a telegram to the White House, but a spokesman declined to say today whether an appeal had been made to President Roosevelt to intervene in negotiations here with the United Mine Workers for a new contract.

Asked during a luncheon recess whether a telegram had been sent to the White House, Charles O'Neill, spokesman for the northern operators, confirmed that a telegram had been sent, but said he could not reveal its contents now.

Asking FDR to Intervene?
A reporter asked whether an appeal had been made to the president to intervene.

O'Neill declined to answer. With 11 days remaining before expiration of the present contract March 31, both the operators and the union representatives said in separate statements during the past two days that they were far apart on the issues.

John L. Lewis, UMW president, said earlier this week that without a contract the miners would not trespass on the operators' property April 1. He is seeking, among other things, a \$2 a day wage increase for 450,000 union members.

Offer to Extend Negotiations
The union proposed today that negotiations extend until May 1 with the provision that any agreement reached be retroactive to April 1, saying "in view of the divergence of opinion" additional time was needed.

The northern operators said in a statement yesterday that the claims and counterclaims "are so great there is not sufficient time between now and the expiration of the present wage agreement" to study data and establish facts.

The proposal the union made today was described by a union spokesman as a move to avert a stoppage of mining should no agreement be reached before March 31.

Want Retroactive Agreement
The proposal said "that, pending continued negotiations all mines in the Appalachian coal producing area remain in operation for a period of 30 days, from April 1, under existing basic district and supplemental agreements with the understanding that an increase in wages or improvement in hours or working conditions later agreed upon shall be computed and apply retroactively from the date of April 1, 1943."

The proposal, which said the UMW "joins with all patriotic Americans in hoping that the Appalachian agreement can be negotiated."

Fire at Camp McCoy Quickly Controlled

Camp McCoy, Wis. — (P) — Fire of undetermined origin broke out in the post headquarters building at Camp McCoy shortly after noon today but was quickly extinguished by the post fire department which was assisted by soldiers and civilian employes.

Lieut. Allen Kohan, public relations officer at the camp, said that the extent of the damage, largely from smoke and water, was not determined immediately. He expressed the opinion that camp records were not seriously damaged inasmuch as they were stored in steel cabinets out of reach of the blaze.

Kohan said a board of officers would make an investigation. The building was the headquarters of the post commander, Col. George M. MacMillin, his aide, the post adjutant and the judge advocate.

Three and a Half Inches of Snow Here; Plows Open Roads

County and city plowing and removal crews today were at their usual winter task of freeing traffic from snow.

The Wisconsin Rapids area Friday shared the blizzard conditions in the central and northern part of the state that piled up heavy snow, impeded traffic and choked sidewalks that remained blocked in many areas this afternoon. Three and one-half inches of snow were recorded here.

County Highway Commissioner Ray Brayback said county crews were out in force at midnight and by noon today county trunk arteries had been cleared. All main highways through here were patrolled throughout the storm. He expected mail routes would be plowed out by tonight and plowing of town roads would be completed Sunday. County crews planned to plow steadily until midnight.

Drifting was not serious, the commissioner said, but he predicted "hard going" for traffic if wind comes up. Temperatures were not warm enough to pack the snow.

COMMUNITY-WAR CHEST ALLOTS \$10,552 FUNDS

The board of trustees of the South Wood County Community-War chest Friday afternoon approved a total of \$10,552 as this district's contributions to seven war, charitable and community welfare agencies.

Six of the agency applications for funds from the Community-War chest covered requests for the calendar year of 1943. The other, and largest, \$3,000 to the United Service Organizations, carried the district's obligation to the USO to June 1, 1943.

Action of the trustees brought contributions from the chests to \$11,402, the board having previously voted \$850 to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in January.

With acceptance of the gifts approved, the Community-War chest will have a total cash balance on hand of \$23,611.12.

Participating in the actions at the meeting held in President Ralph R. Cole's office at Consolidated Water Power & Paper company, were Mr. Cole; C. A. Jaspersen, vice-president, Norbert M. Daly, secretary and treasurer, and Trustees W. J. Taylor, John Krohn, Edwin J. Haas and Sid Brooks.

Other Amounts Voted
Other organizations benefitting, amounts voted and officer to whom the checks will be sent, follow:

Navy Relief Society, \$1,500. Walter Kasten, treasurer of the Wisconsin Citizens' Committee, Milwaukee.

United China Relief, \$1,500. James L. McConaughy, national president, New York.

War Prisoners' Aid, \$500. John E. Manley, executive director, New York.

Salvation Army, \$1,052. W. H. Fox, lieutenant-colonel, Milwaukee.

South Wood County Boy Scouts, \$1,500. James J. Plzak, treasurer.

South Wood County Girl Scouts, \$1,500. Mrs. E. E. Deltzer, treasurer.

All of the contributions were approved by the trustees on formal applications made to the Community-War chest, detailing full information on fund control and organization purposes and methods required by the trustees.

The trustees pointed out that the See—WAR CHEST—Page 7

Nekoosa Marine Held Prisoner of War by Japanese

Pfc. James Havlena, 23, Nekoosa marine, is a prisoner of war held by the Japanese in the Philippines, his sister, Mrs. Mildred Long, Nekoosa, was informed today by a letter from marine headquarters at Washington, D. S.

Private Havlena had been listed as missing in action since May, 1942, when relatives received word that he was unaccounted for following completion of the Japanese conquest of the islands. He enlisted in the marines in August, 1940, and was stationed in China until evacuated to Manila when war broke out.

Relatives were informed they could communicate with him through the Japanese branch of the Red Cross. Private Havlena has another sister, Mrs. Emil Hresl, and a brother, George, both of Chicago. His parents are dead.

Mother Pleads Guilty to Murder of Son

Alberta Lea, Minn. — (P) — Mrs. Della True, mother of seven children, pleaded guilty in district court yesterday to murdering her son, Merle, 9. Sentence was deferred. The penalty is up to life imprisonment.

Mrs. True was arrested March 3 after a physician reported Merle's death to the sheriff. She said she had poisoned the boy. She told the court "I did not have any desire to live. I had been kicked around all my life. I decided to kill the children first and then follow them."

Death of another child, Ardith, 6, on Oct. 18 last is being investigated.

EXECUTE 400 SERBS

Cairo, Egypt — (P) — Official Yugoslav quarters reported today that the German commandant at Belgrade announced the execution of 400 Serbs in the town of Pozarevac, 40 miles southeast of Belgrade, in reprisal for railway sabotage and that the nearby village of Topaonitza was burned down for the same reason.



CHEATS LAW FOR THE LAST TIME—A short time after a New York grand jury returned indictments against him and eight henchmen, Frank (The Enforcer) Nitti, cousin of Al Capone, was found dead in Chicago suburb, with gun in his hand.

Chicago Gang Leader Kills Self After Being Indicted for Extortion

Chicago — (P) — A coroner's jury thought it over for five minutes today and then decided that Frank "The Enforcer" Nitti committed suicide "while temporarily insane and in a despondent frame of mind."

The inquest in the county morgue was a routine affair, devoted to identification of the body of the man who was chief of the Capone syndicate, and an explanation of how it happened to be found near a railroad embankment in suburban Riverside yesterday.

Was 56 Years Old
Nitti, ruler of Chicago's underworld and reputed "brains" of one of the nation's major gangs, shot himself in the head a few hours after learning he was one of nine men indicted by a New York federal grand jury on charges of extortion. Nitti lived to be 56, a ripe old age for a Chicago gangster.

Three members of a railroad freight crew saw Nitti die by firing two bullets into his head, Police Sergeant William Crow reported. The trainmen reported the shooting to police. Police Chief Allen Ross of North Riverside said he found Nitti lying on his back, his head against the post of a fence. There were two bullet wounds in his head. In his right hand was a .32 caliber revolver.

Appeared to be Worried
An attorney for the slain gang leader told police that Nitti had consulted him earlier yesterday and was advised of the indictments in New York. He said Nitti, who had promised to come to his office later, did not appear to be distressed when he was given the news of the indictment.

The New York indictments charged Nitti and six other Chicagoans on federal charges of violating the anti-racketeering act, and of mail fraud and conspiracy. The nine men, including two from New York who federal officials said were allied with the Nitti gang, were charged in the indictments with extorting more than one million dollars from movie firms and a labor union. The indictments were the largest legal blow ever aimed at the gang and federal officials here promised further developments.

More to Follow
J. Albert Wall, U. S. attorney, asserted "this is not the end of the episode," while a federal investigator who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Chicago investigation would be directed toward the organization's relations with any other labor unions.

The syndicate, founded by Al Capone but taken over by Nitti when the former gangster was sent to prison for income tax evasion, has been charged by state's Attorney Thomas J. Courtney with controlling vice and gambling in Chicago.

RECOVER STOLEN CAR; HUNT MAN

A combination of circumstances, including the local police radio, the weather and an oversight by the principal himself, resulted today in the recovery of a car stolen at Madison and put authorities on the trail of the man who stole it.

Find Car in Alley
The car early this afternoon remained stalled in the private alley off Second avenue south between the Normington laundry and The Tribune, left there on orders of Chief of Police R. J. Exner who hoped the thief might return to it. It had stalled in the heavy snow, presumably after the driver had attempted to sell it to a local garage owner late this morning.

Meantime, police combed the city for a sandy-complexioned man Exner said was about 21 or 22 years old, dressed in khaki pants and khaki jacket. The chief said the car had been taken from Madison between 2:30 and 7 o'clock this morning. It is a 1941 Plymouth coupe, bearing license number 432-270 and is owned by Stephen Pfankuch, Madison.

Tried to Sell Car
A police radio message, relayed over the police network system of Wisconsin, was taken at the local department here shortly after 10 o'clock. The message gave the car See—STOLEN CAR—Page 7

Funeral Here Monday for Hallie O. Hanson

Funeral services will be held at the Baker funeral chapel at 2 p. m. Monday for Hallie O. Hanson, 44, who died at the Los Angeles general hospital on Monday, March 15, after a lingering illness. The Rev. Rouben H. Gross will officiate and burial will follow in Forest Hill cemetery.

Mr. Hanson is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Hanson, 311 Eighth avenue north; his wife, Mrs. Marie Hanson of Los Angeles; one son, Pvt. Richard Hanson of Fort Monmouth, N. J.; one daughter, Joyce at home, and one sister, Mrs. Walter C. Bogensberger of Los Angeles.

Million Dollar Loss in Boston Explosion

Boston — (P) — A fierce explosion wrecked the oxygen and acetylene gas manufacturing plant of the Air Reduction Sales company in the Dorchester district today, police reported.

Chester Delbridge, plant manager, estimated the loss at \$1,000,000. Police and Red Cross workers said no one had been reported injured.

GERMANS THROW SUPERIOR FORCES INTO BIG FIGHT

Moscow — (P) — The red army still struggled today to hold its defense lines along the twisting northern Donets river east and southeast of Kharkov against the increasing number of German tanks, men and planes being poured into this area.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions, however, the Russians said they had driven steadily forward in the offensive for Smolensk and had gained another town after vicious street fighting in the Staraya Russa area.

Mop Up Along Dnieper
Dispatches to Pravda, Communist party newspaper, declared that advances along the Dnieper river front

NAZIS CLAIM CHUGUEV
DNE, official German news agency, said in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press today that Chuguev, 22 miles southeast of Kharkov in the Ukraine, "is firmly in German hands."

A German high command communique broadcast from Berlin said German troops had captured 19,594 red army men and inflicted other heavy losses on the Russians in the counter-offensive between the Dnieper and the Donets rivers since February 13.

Fifty thousand Russians were killed, and 3,772 guns and 1,410 tanks and scout cars were destroyed or captured by the army troops and SS detachments commanded by Field Marshal Fritz Erich Von Manstein and air force detachments of Field Marshal Baron Von Richthofen, the communique said.

The announcement said neither muddy roads, nor heavy Soviet counter-attacks had been able to halt the German counter-offensive in the Kharkov-Belgorod area and "northwest of Kursk."

now virtually had cleared the enemy out of every sector along the river from its source down toward the Vyazma-Smolensk railway.

With spring mud bogging down the entire area, however, it was thought that soon only air forces would be able to function normally.

The Soviet noon communique did not disclose whether the Germans had been able to cross the upper Donets where the Russians still held some positions on the western shore. But as the red army continued its slaughter of German infantrymen and rapid-fire riflemen who charge across the thin ice of the still-frozen Donets, the Germans brought more and more men to the battle line. It was reported.

Nazi Death Toll Mounts
The German death toll was said to be mounting steadily.

The midnight communique had acknowledged that two villages were lost to a numerically superior enemy force "at the cost of heavy See—RUSSIAN FRONT—Page 7

Wallace Party on Tour of Inspection

San Jose, Costa Rica — (P) — Vice-President Henry Wallace of the United States and his party flew to a banana plantation on the Pacific coast today to witness a demonstration of spraying, irrigating and cutting bananas.

Upon his return here Wallace arranged to inspect work being done on the Pan-American highway. The Costa Rica link in the highway is being rushed under the direction of American civil and army engineers and is expected to be completed by the spring of 1944.

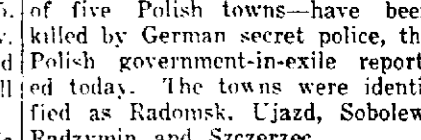
35,000 JEWS KILLED

London — (P) — At least 35,000 Jews—the entire Jewish population of five Polish towns—have been killed by German secret police, the Polish government-in-exile reported today. The towns were identified as Radomsk, Ujazd, Sobolew, Radzynin and Szczercze.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Colder this afternoon, slightly colder in north and east portions tonight, continued cold Sunday forenoon.

Today's Weather Facts—
Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 21; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 11; temperature at 7 a. m., 11. Precipitation, .85; 7 1/2 inches of snow.



COLDER

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