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# Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

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Twenty-Ninth Year—No. 9095.

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## ALLIED FORCES BEAT BACK ROMMEL'S ATTACK

### 'WE STILL FACE REVERSES,' FDR WARNS AMERICA

Washington—(P)—President Roosevelt's flat warning that the American people "still face reverses and misfortunes" in war today echoed against the grim sounding-board of a record sea disaster and new food regulations on the home front.

Seeking to puncture what he was as a bubble of optimistic reaction to Russian victories, the president in a Washington's birthday address last night cautioned the nation to remember that it still is "at war" and that it can not count on miracles to achieve victory.

#### Worst Sea Disaster

His warning followed by only a few hours the navy's announcement that more than 850 lives were lost in the torpedoing of two passenger ships early this month in the nation's worst disaster thus far in the north Atlantic war.

The presidential admonitions were prefaced, too, by news of an emergency price freeze on five previously uncontrolled fresh vegetables, clamped on by the office of price administration to "avert further sharp speculative price advances" as a result of canned goods rationing.

While likening enthusiasm over Soviet victories to that following the American Revolutionary war triumph over General Burgoyne's army at Saratoga in 1777—which he said brought premature "proclamations that the war was practically won"—the president did not minimize the Russian victories.

Sends Message to Stalin  
On the contrary, less than two hours before the broadcast to the nation, Mr. Roosevelt sent a message to Joseph Stalin expressing America's "profound admiration" for the Red army's "magnificent achievements, unsurpassed in all history."

And in thus commemorating the Red army's 25th anniversary, the president paid tribute to the "supreme sacrifice" of the "Russian people from whom the Red army springs, and upon whom it is dependent for its men, women and supplies."

#### Strikes at Skeptics

It was of such sacrifice that he spoke last night when he struck out at "the skeptics, the cynics" of today whom he compared to those who gave Washington "his days of trial."

"The Americans of Washington's day faced defeat on many occasions. We faced, and still face, reverses and misfortunes," he said.

The president's words were broadcast to Democratic dinners throughout the country, celebrating the completion of a fund-raising drive for the party. Among those who listened were the \$100-a-plate diners at the Mayflower hotel here where Vice President Wallace said that if the people of the United States and England "put forth the same unified, all-out effort that now is being displayed by the magnificent Russians, Germany can be defeated in 1943."

### FDR Proclaims March as Red Cross Month

Washington—(P)—Designating March as Red Cross month, President Roosevelt asked every American today to "enlist in the army of mercy" under the Red Cross banner and to "contribute generously" to the organization's war fund.

A goal of \$125,000,000 has been fixed and the chief executive said every cent of it is needed.

### Wooden Guns, Decoy Soldiers Guard Congress, Is Charge

Washington—(P)—Rep. Cooley (D-N.C.) said on the house floor today that anti-aircraft "guns" mounted on the roof of congressional office buildings are made of wood and that the soldiers stationed there are "dummies."

"We are being protected by wooden guns and decoy soldiers," he declared after telling the house that he made a personal inspection tour to the rooftops to check up on the "protection" provided for members of congress.

#### Expecting Enemy Attack?

"In high heavens," Cooley shouted, "why have they been placed over our head? I am something of a duck hunter, and when I place out decoys, I expect to attract ducks. And when I place out decoy soldiers, and decoy guns, I would expect to attract enemy planes."

Cooley took the floor while the house was considering a billion dollar naval shore construction bill to express the hope that none of the money was to be used for "painted

### Fight "Scare" Buying of Fresh Vegetables With Price Ceilings

Washington—(P)—Close to 95 per cent of all the food that goes on American tables is under government price control today, as the result of an emergency order to combat "scare" buying of fresh vegetables.

Reaction to the week-long pre-rationing freeze on canned goods, coupled with reports of some damage to southern crops, led the office of price administration last night to nail the price levels of five major fresh vegetables—tomatoes, green and waxed snap beans, carrots, cabbage and peas.

#### Based on Feb. 18-22 Prices

Beginning today, no dealer may charge more for these vegetables than he did during the five days between last Thursday and Monday of this week—Feb. 18 to 22.

Ceilings will be placed on such seasonal items as sweet corn and spinach before they are ready for market, OPA said, and possibly on celery and lettuce.

The only outstanding uncontrolled food now is fresh fish.

#### Tomato Prices Soar

Declaring last night's sudden action was taken to "avert further sharp speculative price advances," OPA said some market reports indicated as much as a 35 per cent rise in fresh tomato prices during the last several days.

The advances might have been spurred, the announcement said, as housewives shifted their buying habits from the now rationed canned goods to fresh vegetables.

The order, which will be replaced by permanent regulations within the next 60 days, covers all dealers except the grower. Sample checks of retail price levels in all major population centers are being made and will be continued as an enforcement measure.

#### Announce Point Values

The action followed announcement of the ration point values of dried beans, peas and lentils and dried and dehydrated soups, and word that there might be increased food rations in April, depending, among other things, on the amounts declared by housewives when they register for their new coupon books this week.

Point values for the "added starters" in the new program include: Dried beans, peas and lentils: up to 2 ounces, 1 point; 2 to 4 ounces, 2 points; 4 to 6 ounces, 3 points; 6 to 8 ounces, 4 points; 8 to 10 ounces, 5 points; 10 to 14 ounces, 7 points; 14 to 16 ounces, 8 points; 1 lb., 8 points.

Dried and dehydrated soups: up to 2 ounces, 2 points; 2 to 4 ounces, 4 points; 4 to 6 ounces, 6 points; 6 to 8 ounces, 8 points; 8 to 10 ounces, 10 points; 10 to 14 ounces, 13 points; 14 to 16 ounces, 16 points; 1 lb., 16 points.

#### All Dry Beans Included

All types of dry beans are included. The most common of these are navy, kidney, lima and soybeans.

The March allowance remains at 48 points per person.

#### Lift Restrictions on Making of Box Board

Washington—(P)—The war production board removed all limitations today on the manufacture of container board, folding box board, set-up box board and special industrial boards.

The WPB explained that heavy demands have been made on the container board industry because of manufacture of waterproof "coat V-boxes" for overseas shipment to the armed forces and boxes for the hauling of food and materials for both military and essential civilian use.

#### Arrest 2 Youths for Passing Forged Checks

Alvin F. Loos, 18, and Arthur J. Winch, 16, of Chili, were held at the Wood county jail today under charges of passing forged checks, according to Sheriff Henry J. Becker.

Winch, who admitted guilt in municipal court at Marshfield, will be returned here for sentence Friday. Loos pleaded not guilty and will be given a preliminary examination at Marshfield Friday morning.

Becker said the two were involved in cashing four forged checks at Marshfield, the last one, made out for \$75, at Marshfield last Tuesday. Other checks dated back to September and October, 1942.

#### \$5,000 Fire Damage at Marshfield Plant

Marshfield, Wis.—Damage estimated by a company official at about \$5,000 was caused to the plant of the Marshfield Dairy Products company this morning when fire broke out in a room over the boiler room. The plant, engaged in dehydrating eggs under government contract, was expected to resume work this afternoon.

Firemen fought the stubborn blaze for nearly three hours before it was brought under control.



COMMISSIONED—Tom Utegaard, above, Consolidated engineer, has been commissioned a lieutenant-commander in the navy. He will leave for Norfolk, Va., Wednesday afternoon. He has been assigned to the Sea Bees.

### UTEGAARD NAMED NAVAL OFFICER

Tom Utegaard, assistant chief engineer of Consolidated Water Power & Paper company and army veteran of World War I, has been commissioned a lieutenant-commander in the civil engineer corps of the United States naval reserve.

#### To Train at Norfolk

Commander Utegaard received his commission Monday from the navy department, with orders to report for training at Norfolk, Va., by the end of this week. He will leave here Wednesday afternoon for Norfolk where he will receive training with combatant units of the Sea Bees, navy construction battalion to which he has been assigned. He will go on foreign service.

Native of Eau Claire and graduate of the University of Wisconsin's college of engineering in 1917, Commander Utegaard has been on Consolidated's engineering staff for more than 22 years. He came to Consolidated from the city engineer's department at Janesville.

Served in France  
In World War I, Commander Utegaard enlisted as a private in the army at Columbus, O., took officer training at Camp Grant, Ill., and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He served in France for nine months as a member of the 56th Coast Artillery regiment.

His son Tom Jr. is a midshipman at the U. S. naval academy at Annapolis and will graduate in June, 1944. Another son, John, who has been attending the University of Wisconsin, will enter the armed forces soon.

Mrs. Utegaard and son Rolf will remain in Wisconsin Rapids at their home, 350 First avenue south.

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### Ensign Connor Laird, Son of Senator, Missing at Sea

Marshfield, Wis.—Ensign Connor Laird, 29, son of State Senator and Mrs. M. R. Laird, was among the navy personnel lost Saturday when a minesweeper capsized in heavy seas off Coos bay, Oregon. A telegram to the parents from the navy department listed the ensign as missing.

He was employed by the Continental Can company until he enlisted in the navy on December 8, 1941. His wife, the former Barbara Vail whom he married in 1938, is at Marshfield, Ore., where she has made her home during his service on the coast. His brother Richard, is an ensign in the navy stationed at Bremerton, Wash., and Melvin Jr. is at a service school branch at Carlton college. Also surviving are a brother David, Marshfield, and his grandfather, W. D. Connor, Marshfield.

The young naval officer was one of three sons of Senator and Mrs. Laird in service. Their father was a chaplain in the army during World War I.

### COUNTY RATION REGISTRATION IS GOING SMOOTHLY

Registration for war ration book No. 2 proceeded smoothly at registration places throughout Wood county Monday as the first group of consumers reported for their new books, Chief Clerk Fred Bushnell said today.

#### 1,861 Books Issued Here

Although only consumers with names beginning with A and B were asked to register, in order to assure registrars of plenty of time to learn the procedure, 1,861 books were issued in the five school registration places of Wisconsin Rapids and 1,625 at Marshfield.

In all, Bushnell estimated, some 14,000 books will be issued in Wisconsin Rapids for south Wood county district residents. The rest will be given out at schools in Neokosa, Fort Edwards, Rudolph, Pittsville, Auburndale and Milladore.

Registration will continue through the remainder of this week, from 1 p. m. to 8 p. m. each day, with the schedule of last names as follows: today, C through F; Wednesday, G through J; Thursday, K through O; Friday, P through S, and Saturday T through Z.

#### Declare Excess Foods

The chief clerk said that Wisconsin Rapids registrants Monday declared a total of 2,300 cans and jars of processed foods in excess of the five-per-person limit which need not be declared. Excess coffee declarations were comparatively few. Only 52 pounds in all was declared as excess by Monday's registrants here.

Bushnell pointed out that excess canned goods declared at registration result in loss of only eight points per can, regardless of size. Many such cans, if bought later from food stores, would cost two or three times that number in ration points.

### Gandhi Grows Weaker; Fasts for 14th Day

New Delhi—(P)—Mohandas K. Gandhi, now in the 14th day of his scheduled 21-day fast in protest against his detention by British authorities, passed a quiet day yesterday and slept several hours although he is growing "progressively weaker," dispatches from Poona said.

A government communique issued at Bombay today said "there is no appreciable change to record."

The crisis created by his six months confinement in the palace of the Aga Khan at Poona and his sudden decision to fast at the age of 73 deepened as it became apparent he might die if the fast is not ended soon.

Prayers for a long life for the aged nationalist leader and for his unconditional release were offered at numerous places of worship throughout India. The Parsi community at Karachi met and requested the viceroy to release Gandhi unconditionally to save his life for the cause of universal good will and peace.

(In London, the News Chronicle, in an editorial today, said that "Gandhi is dying in captivity," and asked Prime Minister Churchill to free him" as an act of high moral courage at a time when the world's standards of morality are at a very low ebb.")

"(If Gandhi dies in detention, India will never forgive us," the newspaper said.)

### Stalin Puts German Dead at Four Million; Deplores Lack of Second Front in Europe

Moscow—(P)—Premier Joseph Stalin, hailing Russia's military forces on their 25th anniversary as "an army of avengers," said today that "in view of the absence of a second front in Europe the red army alone is bearing the whole weight of the war," and ordered a fight to the death against the German invaders, 4,000,000 of whom he said the Russians had killed in 20 months.

"Death to the Invaders" was his exhortation in a lengthy order of the day which he signed as supreme commander in chief.

In it he reviewed both Russian defeats and successes since Germany's invasion of Russia in June, 1941; assayed the shrinking German chances of success; derided German strategy, and warned his people that a bitter fight remained.

"The enemy has suffered defeat but he is not yet conquered," Stalin said. "The German Fascist army is experiencing a crisis because of the blows it has received from the red army, but this does not yet mean that it cannot recover."

#### Severe Struggle Ahead

"The red army has before it a severe struggle against the cunning, cruel, and as yet strong enemy." But, said Stalin, "the fast is fascist Germany is becoming more and more exhausted while the Soviet union is more and more developing its reserves and becoming ever stronger. Time is working against Fascist Germany."

Since the beginning of the war, the Russians have put out of commission about 9,000,000 German officers and men, "of which no less than 4,000,000 were killed on the field of battle," he declared.

#### Reports On Offensive

He pointed out that the Russians began their offensive three months ago on the approaches to Stalingrad.

"Since then the initiative in military operations has remained in our hands," he asserted, with the Russians advancing in difficult weather. See—RUSSIAN FRONT—Page 7

### Kuechenmeister Gets a New Assignment

Madison, Wis.—(P)—Governor Goodland told his press conference today he had asked Adjutant General Alvin A. Kuechenmeister to make an investigation of the situation in the Lake Superior region with a view of providing protection for the vital ore dock installations, warehouses and railroad facilities there.

"I think it is essential to have that area adequately guarded," he said. "They are doing it on the Minnesota side and we should do it, too."

Kuechenmeister served temporarily as state civilian defense director until last week when Goodland appointed John Cudahy, former ambassador to Poland and Belgium, to replace him.

The chief executive said he thought Kuechenmeister would be more valuable carrying out the functions of his own office and he hoped the adjutant general's department would be able to work out a satisfactory plan for protection of the northern lake shore area.

#### BIRTHS SET RECORD

Washington—(P)—The census bureau estimated today that 3,000,000 babies were born in the United States last year, the largest number in any year in the nation's history. The previous record was in 1921, when 2,950,000 were born.



32ND DIVISION STAGES RALLY—Beneath this enormous slogan, the men of the 32nd Division of the U. S. army marched in review somewhere in the southwest Pacific area. The division distinguished itself in the attack which drove the Japanese out of the Buna area in New Guinea. (Associated Press Photo from U. S. Army.)

### 24 Dead or Missing in Crash of Clipper Ship at Lisbon; 15 Rescued

Lisbon—(P)—Salvage crews worked at the bottom of the Tagus river today, attempting to lift the shattered hulk of the Yankee Clipper which crashed yesterday at the end of a flight from New York.

Twenty of the 39 persons announced by the U. S. legation to have been aboard the great flying boat when it caught fire and smashed into the water remained sealed in its cabin or had been swept away by the swift current of the Tagus. Three bodies were recovered yesterday and one person died last night in a hospital here, bringing the total of dead and missing to 24.

#### 13 in Hospital

Of the 15 survivors, all but two still were in the hospital, but their injuries were not serious.

One of them was Jane Froman of New York, radio singer.

All four women passengers aboard were saved. One, listed as Yvet Silver, escaped unhurt.

The American legation refused to reveal either the names of the dead and missing or those of all the survivors, saying the information would have to come from the state department at Washington.

Capt. R. O. D. Sullivan, who was in command of the flying boat, was among the injured at hospitals here, but he was unable to fix the cause of the disaster. A pilot of long experience, Capt. Sullivan had flown the Clipper here by way of the Azores.

#### Describe Crash

Port officials said there was little wind and almost no rain as the plane arrived, but that the air was heavily loaded with electricity.

"They kept talking to us from the ship and all seemed well aboard," the officials said.

"The last words were, 'We are now turning right to land,' the plane must have fallen in an unusually low air-pocket—the right wing touched the water."

"We could see the desperate effort to straighten her up, but flames began coming out and the ship sank in a few seconds."

### Suspend AAA Wheat Marketing Quotas

Washington—(P)—Secretary of Agriculture Wickard suspended AAA marketing quotas on wheat today in a move he said was designed to insure adequate wartime supplies of the cereal for human food and livestock feed.

The order affected quotas imposed on the 1942 crops and those established for the 1943 crop.

Under marketing quotas, farmers were free to sell, use or feed only that wheat grown on their AAA planting allotments. Wheat from 1942 crop sold, used or fed from excess acreage was subject to a penalty tax of 51 cents a bushel. The penalty would have been around 60 cents on the 1943 crop.

Wickard also made a change in the 1943 farm program to allow farmers to increase their planting of wheat without being penalized under the benefit payment and crop loans program.

### HALT DANGEROUS THRUST 4 MILES OUTSIDE THALA

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—Marshal Erwin Rommel's armored spearheads relaxed their pressure in the hills of the Tunisian-Algerian border area today after a three-day struggle, unable to crack stout American and British defenses near Thala to the north of Kasserine pass and balked by massed American guns guarding the road to Tebessa to the west.

"The fighting has died down," said a brief dispatch from the front, as both sides apparently seized the opportunity to regroup and bring up reinforcements and supplies.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa—(P)—British and American tanks and infantry in the hills north of the Kasserine gap had stopped Marshal Erwin Rommel's most dangerous thrust within four miles of Thala today, while allied troops with strong American air support had beaten back his attack toward the west in central Tunisia.

One of the bitterest battles of the Tunisian war still raged near Thala, 25 miles north of Kasserine and the gateway to the strategically located Kremansa plateau near the Tunisian-Algerian frontier, where British tanks and American gunners stubbornly held off desperate Nazi attempts to gain the Thala road junction and crack the allied front. Run Into Murderous Fire

Making another stab from Kasserine pass toward Tebessa, 12 miles west of the Tunisian-Algerian border, a Nazi column of 40 tanks, motorized infantry and mobile guns ran into a murderous American fire on the road winding past the Djebel Hamma.

Bombed by continuous relays of American warplanes and shelled by American guns, this column late yesterday turned back toward its sally port after suffering a "considerable number" of casualties and losing many tanks.

(The employment of 40 tanks in this job represented a two-fold increase of the force with which Rommel first was reported to have launched the attack toward Tebessa.)

#### Planes Attack Bottleneck

United States Twelfth air force fighters and bombers attacked the Kasserine bottleneck at day yesterday, participating in more than 20 missions. Boston bombers destroyed at least six Nazi tanks and 10 trucks and left many other vehicles blazing, while a large formation of lightning fighters poured devastating cannon fire into trucks, guns

See—WAR IN AFRICA—Page 7

### Absenteeism Scored by House Committee

Washington—(P)—The house naval committee, approving a work-or-fight principle, blamed war plant employees today for laying off work to such an extent that they are not doing a good enough job to win this war.

"The workers in our war plants, for causes which we have not yet ascertained, are not on the job long enough, steady enough, reliably enough," the committee reported.

Describing such absenteeism as "a very ugly situation," it recommended transfer of absentee workers into the armed forces if the conditions cannot be corrected.

#### END STEEL STRIKE

Johnstown, Pa.—(P)—A strike of more than 1,800 employees of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel corporation plant here, which halted production for two shifts, ended today under an agreement to negotiate the dispute.

### THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Decidedly colder tonight and Wednesday forenoon, occasional light snow in north central portion tonight.

#### COLDER

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 42; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 29; temperature at 7 a. m., 36.