

## Extortionist Ring Charged In Los Angeles

Thousands Of Dollars Wrung From Victims, Assertion Of Witness

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 22.—(AP)—Charges of a former Hollywood actors' agent that "hundreds of thousands of dollars" have been wrung from his victims by "a ring of prostitute extortionists" were on file today in superior court.

A transcript of the testimony of Paul R. Behrmann, 41, was filed by District Attorney William E. Simpson in support of a motion that the witness be declared in contempt of court for refusal to answer questions before the grand jury.

His allegations that the extortion ring had shaken down numerous "innocent victims" were made in a memorandum which Behrmann identified as his own and which Simpson read to the grand jury.

"There exists now and has for some two or three years past a ring of prostitute extortionists who work under the direction of Mickey Cohen and who derive their immunity from arrests and prosecution from the police and the district attorney's office," it said.

Gambler Mickey Cohen, now on trial in municipal court on a charge of disturbing the peace by cursing police officers who called at his home recently, commented on the testimony.

"Utterly ridiculous, stupid and not worth answering. Anyone who knows me knows that I never mix in anything of that kind."

Asked by Simpson for the names of the prostitutes who operated the shake-down racket, Behrmann refused to answer. He declined also to name the "innocent victims" of their operations, declaring he had turned the information over to "the federal government and the (governor's) crime commission."

Simpson named several women, including Lila Leeds and Vicki Evans, whom he did not identify, and asked the witness their reputations.

"Their reputations are that of

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## Rifles, Machine Guns More Deadly Than Huge Weapons, Army Investigation Shows

By CLARKE BEACH

WASHINGTON—Big guns kill the most soldiers. Yet rifles and machine guns are the most deadly. A hit from a bullet is far more likely to cause death than a hit from a shell fragment.

These are some of the facts brought out in a report on battle casualties made for the Army ground forces. It was "classified" until recently and so not available for publication. The "Infantry Journal" in its September issue reviews its findings.

Facts about death in action are hard to find. Medical men seldom have time to study battlefield dead. Usually about the only data the army gets is from graves registration personnel, who can only make rough guesses.

A few careful studies, however, were made in the last war. The most thorough was done by medical personnel in the Bougainville, New Georgia and Burma campaigns. They found that a soldier had the least chance of surviving if he were hit by a machine gun bullet. Next came the rifle, then artillery, mortar and grenade, in that order. At Bougainville 58 per cent of machine gun casualties died, yet only six per cent of grenade casualties failed to survive.

Rifle and machine gun bullets have high velocity; the shock effect is lethal. One hit often is enough to finish you.

But in large scale engagements wounds by shell fragmentation don't come one at a time. The Japanese didn't have massed artillery in the Bougainville and other early campaigns. The Germans had it in Europe and Africa, however. There the story was different.

**Fragments vs. Bullets**  
One thorough study of 1,000 battlefield dead was made by medical officers in Italy. They found that 85 per cent of the deaths were caused by fragmentation wounds—artillery, bomb, grenade or mortar. Only 10.7 per cent of the deaths there were caused by gunshot wounds.

The difference was that those who died from fragmentation had an average of seven wounds. Those who died from gunshot had an average of 1.6 bullet hits. The conclusion drawn by the "Infantry Journal" is that "multiple wounds appear to be the rule in battlefield deaths."

To be killed by a shell you usually have to be close to the burst. The fragments lose their lethal velocity at a relatively short distance. On the other hand, if you are close enough to be badly wounded by one fragment, you are likely to be struck by many of them.

In the New Georgia-Burma studies, it was learned that 80 per cent of those killed by mortar and artillery fragments were less than 10 yards from the point of burst. Eighty per cent of those killed by rifle and machinegun fire were hit at ranges of less than 100 yards.

**Fatal Blindness Numerous**  
Here are some other facts disclosed by the studies:

1. Very few men die from wounds in the legs or arms. More than three-fourths of the men so wounded recover without leaving the theater in which they are fighting.

2. Men who are wounded in the head, chest or abdomen usually don't survive and return to duty unless the wound is superficial. If it is penetrating, it is fatal more often than not. Helmet prevent deep head wounds by shell fragments. Light chest armor would reflect missiles, save many lives.

3. Infantrymen, representing only 14 per cent of the strength of the army overseas, received 70 percent of the cumulative battle casualties. Further, the rifle company receives twice as many casualties as any other type of company in an infantry division. And riflemen suffer almost five times as many casualties as any other group of men in the division.

4. "The fact that a large proportion of our casualties are due to our own fire is little known," says the "Journal." "Accurate figures exist only for isolated instances. . . . Actually, 60 out of 333 casualties, or one sixth of all the Bougainville casualties, were due to the fire of our own troops. . . . All weapons are represented with rifle and artillery leading in both groups."

"The reasons for these casualties," the "Journal" says, "need no elaboration. Carelessness, poor discipline, lack of leadership and judgment, poor dissemination of information—all contribute."

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STORY-TELLING TIME—Miss Eulalie Steinmetz, story-telling supervisor of the New York Public Library, entertains a youthful audience at a session in Hamilton Fish Park.



MICHIGAN MIGHT—Bidding for their third consecutive all-conquering season, the Wolverines will attack with, left to right, Leo Kocinski, Tom Peterson, Bill Bartlett and Chuck Ortmann. The center is Bob Erban.

## Chicago Newspapers In Regular Type Once More

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—(AP)—Regular type returned to Chicago newspapers Wednesday after 22 months of printing with photo-engravings of copy produced by typewriter-like machines.

The old look of "live type" was resumed on several pages in the news sections of the Sun-Times and Tribune editions this morning.

Since the end of their strike Sunday, many of the 1,500 AFL printers employed by the five Chicago newspapers have been called back to work as composing rooms were made ready and typesetting machines put back in working condition. The printers received a flat \$10 weekly pay increase.

## Major U. S. Cities Ask Aid Of Federal Government In War On Crime Syndicates

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—(AP)—Major U. S. cities began a war Wednesday on nationwide crime syndicates.

They asked Attorney General J. Howard McGrath to help them. Acting through the American Municipal Association, the cities told McGrath:

"The matter is too great to be handled by local officials alone, since the organized criminal element operates on a national scale across state boundaries."

## Woman Locked In Home Of Mother For 25 Years

SEATTLE, Sept. 22.—(AP)—King county officers reported Wednesday the discovery that a 49-year old woman had been locked in a room of her mother's west Seattle home most of the time for 25 years.

Prosecuting attorney Charles O. Carroll filed a petition in court for commitment of the long-imprisoned woman to a hospital for the insane. She was transferred to the county hospital over the protest of the 74-year-old mother, Mrs. Geraldine Baker.

"Leave her till I die," the elderly mother pleaded. "It won't be long."

Two deputies discovered the middle-aged daughter padlocked in her room when they went to the home on another matter. The door was covered with a heavy wire screen. A bed was the only article of furniture.

Other residents of the house were Mrs. Baker's son, Dewey E. Neal, 48, and his 6-year-old son.

Neal said he had let his sister out when he could watch her. He told officers he thought an institution would have been the best place for her, but that his mother opposed the idea.

The officers said Mrs. Baker told them she fed her daughter and gave her adequate care, but had to keep her in the room because she frightened the neighbors. She said the daughter became a deaf mute after being afflicted with scarlet fever as a baby.

A hearing will be held Monday on whether the released daughter should be committed to an institution.

Working condition. The printers received a flat \$10 weekly pay increase.

Carl H. Chatters, the association's executive secretary in a letter to McGrath gave this thumb-nail sketch of today's public enemy:

"The modern syndicate racketeer is a smooth operator. He and his henchmen cultivate all the symbols of respectability. They wear the clothes of impeccable bankers and contribute heavily to worthy causes."

"They avoid any overt connection with the underworld, and enhance their protective coloration through holdings in the realm of respected business."

In fact, Chatters said, "The big time gangster of 1949 is almost the direct opposite of Al Capone in appearance and most of his methods. His intelligence and silence make him a much greater mob menace to the people and to local government."

And what do the cities expect of the attorney general?

"Specifically," Chatters told McGrath, "we suggest that interested local agencies be informed about the operations of crime syndicates with whatever information you have available."

"Second, it is suggested that the leaders of the criminal syndicates be investigated with respect to local political contributions, evasion of federal income taxes, immigration and citizenship status and any other activities."

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The state flower of Massachusetts is the mayflower.

Maine is known as the "pine tree state."

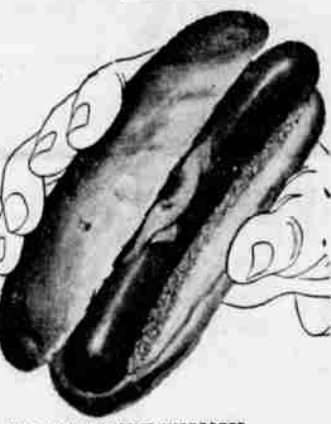
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| Flav-R-Pac PEAS, 2 pkgs.           | 49c |
| Hershey CHOCOLATE BAR, 25c size    | 19c |
| Umpqua ICE CREAM, qt.              | 43c |
| BUTTERMILK, qt.                    | 15c |
| Swansdown CAKE FLOUR, pkg.         | 37c |

Nestle's Chocolate Chips For Toll House Cookies 1/2-lb. pkg. 17c

Gravy Quik 2 pkgs 27c 12-oz Glass 29c

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
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| Concord Grapes        | 3-lbs. 25c      |
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