

For rationing, Marion county's divisions are shown in map on page two, which may help you register today or Friday for gasoline ration.

Thursday's sunset 5:36 p. m. Friday's sunrise 8:19 a. m. Weather: Tues. max. temp. 47, min. 46. River Wed. 1.3 ft. Weather data restricted by army request.

Poison Kills 34 Hospital Patients

Allies Batter Back Africa Patrols; Jap Destroyers Hover off Guinea

Air Fortresses Take Big Role, Bizerte Gains

Gap Across Libyan Desert Narrows; Fight Growing

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Nov. 18 (AP)—American and British troops thrusting into Tunisia from both north and south have battered back German patrols in clashes foreshadowing the start of the battle to decide the fate of the Mediterranean.

Brig. Gen. James H. Doolittle's Flying Fortresses took a hand Wednesday in the all important struggle for control of the air by battering the Bizerte airfield, setting oil tanks ablaze and destroying a German fighter, while the RAF and anti-aircraft gunners, protecting the British First Army, shot down 11 Nazi aircraft in three days near Bone, Algeria.

The Germans thus far have shown no inclination to meet the advancing allied troops in a pitched battle, field reports indicated. The axis soldiers are concentrated around the naval base at Bizerte, and the capital at Tunis. Advance allied forces were within 70 miles of the German "captured" Bizerte naval base.

The Germans also made one attempt to land an advance scout unit by air in southern Algeria. This was beaten off by French forces shortly before American and British troops swarmed into the area.

American and British parachute troops continued in the van of the advancing force, operating as ground combat teams.

American parachute troops advanced into Tunisia by automobile from their last jumping place in Algeria, while the British sky troops also advanced along the ground with the Americans, occupying "several strategic places."

Simultaneously fresh resistance to the axis spread behind the German lines in Tunisia with French garrisons fighting off German attempts to land air-borne troops.

A headquarters communique Wednesday night said that French forces joined the allies in penetrating Tunisia "at several points," while at Oran far to the rear other French fighting men entrained for the push to the east.

Gen. Henri Honore Giraud, commander of the French allied forces in North Africa, visited his leading units, and the French also issued a general mobilization order for the class of 1939.

"Contacts have been made with enemy scouting parties," the communique said of the allied advance.

Although the British First Army under Lt. Gen. K. A. N. Anderson was spearheading the attack, increasing numbers of American troops now are being released to participate. This was made possible.

Anchor Tree Lost, Ferry

The ancient oak which for years has served to anchor the Polk county end of the Buena Vista cable ferry was uprooted Wednesday and the ferry went out of operation.

A concrete "deadman" may be laid in the riverbank to replace the old tree, Marion County Engineer N. C. Hubbs suggested. Meanwhile, a Marion county road crew Wednesday afternoon was assigned to lift the slipped cable from the river and help make fast the ferry.

Work of rigging the cable should occupy only a short time, but if concrete is used, time must be given for it to set before the ferry goes back into operation. Marion and Polk counties jointly pay the upkeep of the ferry which is south of the Independence crossing.

Japs May Leave This Area



Heavy allied bombers were reported striking today at enemy destroyers maneuvering off the northeast coast of New Guinea, near Buna, while American and Australian ground troops fought their way ever closer to the Buna base of the enemy. Whether the warships would aid or evacuate Japanese troops was only conjecture.

RAF Bombs Italy

LONDON, Nov. 19.—(AP)—Home-based RAF bombers raided Italy Wednesday night for the fifth time this month, it was reported Thursday.

In the four previous raids of November, the target was Genoa, northern Italian naval base and industrial port which has a key part in supplying the axis forces in the north African campaign.

Even before the British announcement of the latest raid, air raid alarms in Geneva and Lausanne, Switzerland, had indicated that the RAF was abroad. Swiss anti-aircraft guns were in action.

18-Year-Olds to Register For Draft in December; Deferment Rules Altered

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—As one more step in a broad program to "insure victory, final and complete," President Roosevelt Wednesday ordered the young men who became 18 years old in the last six months of this year to register for military service.

Almost simultaneously, selective service headquarters took action to safeguard the supply of farm labor. Men deferred because engaged in essential farm work, may not quit the farm for the factory without the approval of their local draft boards. If they do, they become liable to immediate induction.

Russians Beat Off Germans, Stalingrad

MOSCOW, Thursday, Nov. 19.—(AP)—German tank and infantry attacks on the factory district of Stalingrad, were beaten off again Wednesday and counter-attacking Russians seized several enemy strong points, the Russians announced early Thursday.

"In the course of the engagement more than 600 enemy troops were killed or wounded," the soviet midnight communique said. "Eight German tanks were burned or disabled, nine guns, 12 mortars, 24 machineguns and 11 dugouts and blockhouses were destroyed."

The battle for the factory area of the ruined city represents the latest German attempt to gain a firm foothold in the Volga metropolis.

Only Wednesday the Russians said the Germans had lost from 1000 to 4000 men daily for three weeks and from 60 to 75 per cent of the personnel of the attacking divisions in a supreme but vain effort to carry out Adolf Hitler's orders to take Stalingrad by November 6.

The midnight communique reported slight Russian triumphs in the general Stalingrad area, and northwest of Stalingrad. It said the Russians dislodged the Germans from positions northeast of Tsuap, on the Caucasus Black sea coast.

Quake in Turkey Does Damage

ANKARA, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Severe damage and some casualties were reported Wednesday from the remote eastern Anatolian towns of Turhal, Bigardich and Sindirgi after an earthquake in the region the night of November 15.

This coming Christmas will be the second anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake in that sector which killed many thousands and devastated an area hundreds of miles long.

Troops Close In On Buna; Planes Strike

Enemy Ships May Be Aid or Means of Jap Evacuation

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTRALIA, Thursday, Nov. 19.—(AP)—US and Australian troops closed in on the Japanese New Guinea base of Buna Thursday as heavy bombers streaked ahead to attack eight enemy destroyers "maneuvering off the north coast, apparently in support of the enemy ground forces," a communique announced.

"The advance of our ground forces in Buna continues with forward elements now closing in on their objective," the communique said. "Our medium units bombed enemy installations and positions."

"An enemy naval force of eight destroyers, divided into two groups is maneuvering off the North Coast, apparently in support of the enemy ground forces. Our heavy bombers are endeavoring to engage them."

"(There also was a possibility that the Japanese destroyers were at Buna in an attempt to evacuate the remaining Japanese there. It was recalled that Japanese destroyers were used for that purpose to save the remnants of the smashed Japanese landing at Milne bay last summer on the southeastern tip of New Guinea.)"

Gen. Douglas MacArthur now is in the field in New Guinea directing the Buna cleanup.

In the air, MacArthur's bomb- (Turn to Page 11)

Hundreds Sign For Gasoline

Lines Move Quickly In Grade Schools; Queries Many

Hundreds of motorists in Salem stood in line Wednesday at elementary schools of the city to register for mileage, or gasoline, ration books. No one knew just how many were registered and received the "A" book, slightly larger than the standard holder of US postage stamps, because there was no tally taken of the first night's work.

Lines, although they stretched through school hallways many times, moved rapidly as applicants placed their filled questionnaires before public school teachers.

The fact that the teachers, experienced in the ration routine because of the assistance they had rendered during the more strenuous registration for sugar books, formed a staff of trained workers, was credited throughout the state with the smooth working of the registration machine.

War price and ration board headquarters, meanwhile, continued to answer the queries of those who were "exceptions."

Jap Removal Head Honored

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, head of the wartime civil control administration which effected the evacuation of 110,000 Japanese from strategic areas of the west coast, has been awarded the distinguished service medal, the war department made known Wednesday.

The citation for the former Aberdeen, Wash., attorney, who at 33 early this year became one of the youngest men ever to gain a colonelcy, said the award was for: "Exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service in the performance of duty of great responsibility as war department liaison officer, as legal advisor to the government in its operations of Air Associates, Inc., and as assistant chief of staff, civil affairs division, western defense command Fourth Army."

Soldier Decorated

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Sgt. Clarence D. Leach of Hamilton, Tex., received a medal Wednesday for heroism at Camp Adair, Ore., September 2, when he saved valuable property from destruction in an oil fire.

Dictator



PIERRE LAVAL

Grange Favors Total Draft

Manpower Matters Gain Principal Discussions

WENATCHEE, Wash., Nov. 18.—(AP)—The National Grange went on record late Wednesday night as favoring universal conscription of manpower and all the resources of the nation "if deemed essential to the winning of the war."

Working far into the night on several dozen important resolutions, the 76th national convention unanimously adopted a resolution directing its potent executive committee to support such legislation if and when that condition shall exist.

The grange included under resources: Property, manufacturing, mining, agriculture, capital, labor and industry.

The grange resolution declared that "legislation providing for universal conscription should automatically terminate six months after the end of hostilities."

In another resolution, the grange reaffirmed its position in support of temperance and sobriety and noted that "manufacturing and dispensing of liquor uses much needed manpower."

In addition it stated: "There also is a great loss of manpower through the use of liquor by those employed in war industries and producing of food supplies, all of which reacts to the detriment of an all-out effort."

The resolution demanded that national and state authorities take immediate steps "to prevent these practices which are materially hindering our war effort at home and on the field of action."

Other adopted resolutions declared: "That labor for the farmer was regulated by sun time, rather than so-called war-time and that a return to standard time (Turn to Page 11)

Group Tables FR Request On Tariffs

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—President Roosevelt's request for broad emergency powers to suspend tariff and immigration regulations to aid the war effort was tabled Wednesday by the house ways and means committee amid indications that a compromise would be worked out by a subcommittee.

A decision to have a subcommittee redraft the measure was reached after several members expressed willingness to support the legislation in modified form.

Chairman Doughton (D-NC) said "it seems to be the unanimous opinion that some legislation is desirable and necessary" but the pending bill "is broader than necessary."

The action followed a day-long executive session of the committee during which several top-ranking government officials endorsed the chief executive's request for authority to remove obstacles to the entry and egress of persons, material and information when the action is necessary to the prosecution of the war.

Attorney General Biddle, in a (Turn to Page 11)

Petain Names Laval

Dictator Powers Given Heir; New Terror Foreseen

LONDON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—Pierre Laval, who has thrown in his chips for a German victory, was made fascist dictator of Vichy France and designated successor to Marshal Philippe Petain Wednesday night. Observers predicted a new terror reign and a desperate Laval effort to swing France militarily into the axis fold.

The 66-year-old Marshal Petain named Laval his presumptive heir to replace Adolphe Darlan, who went over to the allied standard in French north Africa, and also gave Laval full powers to write his own laws and decrees in a nation completely occupied by axis armies.

Significantly the vesting of full powers in the wily Laval came after the cabinet had heard a report from Rear Adm. Rene Platon, a secretary of state in the foreign ministry, on the latter's trip to Tunisia.

Admiral Platon presumably outlined the prospects of rallying French Tunisians to the axis camp at a time when American and British troops are fighting their way into that protectorate from occupied French Algeria to the west. German and Italian troops already hold the Bizerte-Tunis area apparently in cooperation with pro-axis Vichy elements stationed in the Tunisian French protectorate.

An official Vichy announcement by old Marshal Petain said he was giving full powers to Laval "to enable him to speedily deal with the difficulties through which France is passing," and he declared he appreciated "the patriotism and foresight of Laval in all circumstances."

Petain cancelled a previous constitutional article that had appointed Admiral Darlan as his successor. The marshal's new decree said that "in case of permanent incapacity (Petain's) the cabinet shall within a month appoint a chief of state by a majority vote."

Six Enlistees To Take Part In Ceremony

WHITEHORSE, Yt., Nov. 18.—(AP)—Six army enlistees were designated Wednesday to play leading roles in the historic wilderness ceremony Friday which will mark the official opening of the highway to Alaska.

Four of them received the honor of holding the ribbon which will be snipped by government officials as the symbolic last land barrier between the United States and its northwest territory.

Col. E. G. Paules of Los Angeles named Corp. Refines Sims, Jr., of Philadelphia and Pvt. Alfred Jalufka of Kennedy, Texas, to represent the Whitehorse sector of the highway in the ribbon ceremony. Col. Robert D. Ingalls of New York city designated Master Sgt. Andrew E. Doyle of Philadelphia and Corp. John T. Reilly of Detroit as ribbon bearers for the southern sector crews.

The army announcement identified Sims and Reilly as negroes. Reilly was a prominent concert baritone in Detroit before entering the army. Jalufka and Sims were the bulldozer operators who met on the Alaska-Yukon border for the final break-through for the highway route. Doyle, a radio expert and signal corps man, has been in the army 16 years. He is the highest ranking non-commissioned officer on the highway sector.

Earlier in the day Corp. Otto Gronke, Chicago, and Pfc. Bob Bowne, Minneapolis, were named to drive the first truck to push through to the northern highway terminus after the ribbon cutting.

Rand In Hospital

John L. Rand, associate justice of the state supreme court, was taken to Salem Deaconess hospital Wednesday, "critically ill with a cardiac disease," his physician said.

Food at Dinner Thought Cause Of Fatal Illness

Investigations Launched; Frozen Eggs Served in Five Wards Blamed

Thirty four working patients at the Oregon state hospital in Salem had died up to 1 a. m. today and approximately 433 other inmates and one woman employe were ill as the result of poisoning which Dr. J. C. Evans, superintendent, attributed to frozen eggs served for dinner early Wednesday night.

Patients in four wards began showing signs of violent gastric disturbances a few minutes after dinner, Dr. Evans said, and the first deaths occurred before 8 p. m.

The hospital staff of six physicians and eight registered nurses worked frantically throughout the night administering emergency treatment to the surviving patients in the five wards affected.

Only wards in which the frozen egg yolks had been served for Wednesday dinner were struck by the wave of illness and death which Dr. Evans termed "a calamity."

The egg yolks, packed in 30-pound tin cans, were part of a shipment received by the state for institutional use from the federal government's surplus commodities corporation about two or three months ago, Dr. Evans said.

A part of the shipment had been used to serve other state institutions, without ill effects, the superintendent declared. The supply was kept in the state hospital's cold storage room, where a temperature of from zero to 10 below zero degrees Fahrenheit is maintained, he said.

Additional deaths may occur among the stricken patients, Dr. Evans reported after midnight, but their chances of recovery strengthen hourly under the purging treatments being administered.

Calls for a thorough investigation were immediate. Dr. L. E. Barrick, Marion county coroner, hurried to the big institution in mid-evening. Dr. Evans said he would personally demand a complete and conclusive investigation.

Gov. Charles A. Sprague termed the evening's events "a terrible disaster."

"I am deeply shocked and grieved over the loss of life and want to leave nothing undone to determine the responsibility," the governor added.

Dist. Atty. Miller B. Hayden undertook an investigation in person. The bodies of the dead patients were ordered held in the institution morgue pending detailed medical and laboratory examination today. Efforts were being made to reach Dr. Joseph Beeman, state police pathologist, to assist. He was out of the city Wednesday night.

Of the patients who had died up to 1 a. m. today, 30 were men and four were women. They and their ward associates were served scrambled eggs for dinner for added nourishment because they constitute the working forces of the institution aside from the paid staff employes, Dr. Evans explained.

Earlier believing this was the first time the frozen eggs had been served on the hospital's tables, Dr. Evans was advised early today by his steward, Ralph Boling, that they had been used "periodically" for some time in conjunction with other foods.

Mrs. Mary O'Hare, hospital cook for 12 years, told Coroner Barrick that five cans of the egg yolks had been removed from cold storage Tuesday night, used in part in rice pudding Wednesday noon and again scrambled for Wednesday dinner. She maintained the yolks were still frozen solid when she started to prepare the latter meal.

The violent vomiting and either "extreme gastro-intestinal disturbance" that struck down the working ward patients led Dr. Evans to conclude that some form of ptomaine, or botulism poisoning, was responsible. He said such poisoning generally was the result of decomposition of food.

The superintendent was inclined to discount other poison theories voiced by staff members and observers, although the late discovery that Wednesday night was not the first time the eggs had been served opened the scope of the investigation. (Turn to Page 11)

US to Fund Mexico Rails

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—In a move to speed shipment of war vital materials through Mexico, the United States has agreed to finance rehabilitation of key lines of the Mexican national railways, it was officially disclosed Wednesday night.

In an exchange of notes between Mexico's Foreign Minister Ezequiel Padilla and Ambassador George S. Messersmith in Mexico City, the government agreed to bear the cost of all necessary materials and equipment, as well as repair costs and the costs of additional maintenance. The Mexican government, as its share of the joint rehabilitation task, agrees to take all necessary measures to achieve maximum efficiency in operation of the lines. Mexico in addition agrees to follow the suggestions and advice of the technical experts furnished by the United States.

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