

The War Day

★ ★ ★
By George Abbott

AFRICAN FRONT:

Strategic aspects of the battle for control of Africa have changed somewhat in the past 24 hours in that the immediate question to be settled is one of air power and not simply a matter of time before axis forces would be driven into the sea or forced to surrender, as was earlier believed.

Axis forces at present appear to have a slight edge in air superiority as indicated by bombing raids over allied held Algeria last night; American and British ground forces gained slightly in their push toward Tunis and Bizerte, but the balance of air power must be swung to the allies before an all-out ground assault can be launched.

Chief problem of the allies now is to prevent Hitler from bringing more planes, tanks, and guns across the natural stepping-tones of Italy, Sardinia, and Sicily to axis-held ports. How long the Germans can produce supplies to be sent over this line remains to be seen, but until that line is broken, the Tunisian conflict will center around air activity.

It now appears that Rommel's armies will continue their westward withdrawal beyond El Aghelia, the natural defense position southwest

of Bengasi. If enemy reports that the allies have made no break-through on the Tunis-Bizerte-Tripoli defense line are true, it seems logical that the eastern and western enemy armies would be united.

FRANCE

No longer a question is Dakar, reported late yesterday under allied control. Since Darlan's order to the armies defending that western French outpost have been heeded the allies now control a very valuable outlet to the Atlantic, excellent facilities for basing of planes and ships, and all of Africa except Tunisia and coastal Libya.

RUSSIAN FRONT

Faced with choosing between isolation and withdrawal, axis armies around Stalingrad are stubbornly withdrawing to the west of the city at heavy cost. Red sources claimed penetrations as deep as 125 miles west of the city. No attempt is being made to establish defensive positions other than those necessary for a holding attack which would keep Gen. Von Hoth's corridor of escape open until his forces have crossed the Don.

On Third Floor . . .

Library Displays Autographs Of Famous Men in History

Autographs of famous men are being displayed in the third story of the library building. All the autographed books are from the university library, most of which were part of the collection of Charles A. Dietz of Omaha, which was given to the university.

The custom of autographing books and paper dates back to the time of the Greeks. They started the custom by writing their names on their documents, which were written on papyrus.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's autograph is shown in a copy of "Lighthorse Harry," Lee's own account of the Civil war as carried on by the south. The autograph of Dr. Grenfell, who was an outstanding missionary to Labrador, is shown in the book "With Dr. Grenfell in Labrador" by Cuthbert Lee.

A feature of the display is an autographed picture of Helen Keller and her dog, Phiz. The

400,000th book to be accessioned in the library is also shown. It is "J. Sterling Morton" and bears the autograph of its author, James C. Olsen.

J. Sterling Morton's autograph and bookplate are shown in a book taken from his collection. The book was purchased by Morton in December of 1889.

One of the autographs is in French and is accompanied by a poem which is also in French. It is that of Richard Le Gallienne. A book showing copies of the original manuscripts of "Pipal Passes" by Robert Browning and "Idle Tears" by Alfred Lord Tennyson is included. Books autographed by Enos A. Mills and Woodrow Wilson complete the display.

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