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BRITISH MARCH INTO TRIPOLI ROMMEL JOINING VON ARNI REDS MOVE ON FROM SALS

FRESH GERMAN FORCE BROKEN

Important Ukrainian City Threatened by Advancing Russians

MORE TOWNS REGAINED

BY HENRY C. CASSIDY
Moscow — (AP) — Soviet troops, smashing through German defense lines along the Manych waterway, have captured the railroad center and air base of Salsk, 100 miles southeast of Rostov, and dispersed fresh German forces which for a time threatened to slow the Russian advance in southwestern sectors, dispatches from the front said today.

The German defenses before Salsk failed to halt the Red Army any more than had the rearguard actions of Axis units in the central Caucasus. It was reported, and the Russian advance now was said to be proceeding in both of those major sectors at a breath-taking pace.

Red Army drives have carried to within 10 miles of the important Ukrainian city of Voroshilovgrad, drives aimed at reducing its worth as a transportation center and also at flanking Kharkov to the north.

Report Other Gains
The Red Army also reported that it took Konstantinovskaya, on the north bank of the Don River 75 miles northeast of Rostov and only a short distance east of where the Donets River flows into the Don.

Campaign lines developing along those rivers, however, fast are being outflanked by pushes along the Sal River valley, south of the Don's course, and down from Kamensky, west of the northern Donets valley.

During last night's fighting, the

Lee Merkel is Awarded Purple Heart Decoration

The decoration of the Military Order of the Purple Heart has been awarded posthumously to Sgt. Leander (Lee) Merkel, who "made the supreme sacrifice in defense of his country," according to word received yesterday from the War Department by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Merkel, 714 W. Blodgett street.

Sgt. Merkel, 29, was killed in action on the New Guinea battlefield last Dec. 7, his parents had been informed Dec. 28.

Forward Citation
An engraved certificate will be forwarded, along with an engraved medal, in about two weeks by the commanding officer of the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot yesterday's letter stated.

The Purple Heart decorations are awarded out of respect to the memory of Gen. George Washington to those serving in any capacity, who are wounded in action, killed in action, or died as a result of action.

Order Founded in 1782

The Military Order of the Purple Heart was founded by Gen. George Washington at Newburgh, N. Y., Aug. 7, 1782, as a reward for "singular meritorious action," and revived by President Hoover Feb. 22, 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth.

The original badge consisted of purple sprigged silk, edged with silver braid, and was sewn on the left breast of the uniform coat. The new decoration is a heart-shaped medal bearing a bust of Gen. Washington on a field of purple enamel.



Sgt. Leander Merkel

FOOD CHANGES BEING STUDIED

Additional Revision of Established Distributing Method Likely

Washington — (AP) — Additional revisions in the established methods of marketing and distributing food appeared imminent today as the Government pressed a search for new economies in converting farm raw materials into products for the consumer.

The principal objective of the economy hunt, Agriculture Department officials said, is to find ways to boost farm prices when necessary to encourage needed

AFRICA EMPIRE OF ITALY

Nazi Rearguard Overcome, Conquerors Surround City

BERLIN CONCEDES

BY ALFRED E. W
London — (AP) — The British Eighth Army in Tripoli from the Axis the conquest of French lili's African empire, w Minister Churchill p 1940 would be torn "to tatters," was all but c Rear guards left l Marshal Erwin Rommel the pursuit of his main Tunisia were overwhelm British took possession burning city at 5 a. n announced in Cairo.

The Italian high communique broadcast the Rome radio said evacuated the city at westward last night a fighting. It said moments battled yesterday, the city, around which the Eighth Army was speed the chase.

African Empire Berlin likewise off knowledge the loss of British War Secreta

Grigg, skipping the pen up of the western reacl ya, said the fall of Tri pletes the destruction c lan empire in Africa.

"Both the Russian a armies have had their of retreats," he said. we believe the tide is turned.

In the destruction of lan empire the British the ungrudging help fr lean supplies and the

Jack Murphy Selected As Head Coach