

USLY

## GERMANS RUSH ON BURNED TO DEATH

## MAYOR'S APPEAL

To

## Nearer Stalingrad

## Aged Woman's Sad End

## The Belfast Case

## FIERCE BATTLES RAGING

Although it was officially stated in Moscow to-day that no material change took place at the front last night the German communique claims that German troops have broken through the Soviet positions south of Stalingrad, and are now only fifteen miles from the city.

Marshal Timoshenko is flinging seemingly inexhaustible reserves of men, war material and munitions into the battle before Stalingrad, according to the Berlin correspondent of a Swiss newspaper.

The correspondent says that the Russians have sunk into the ground before the city hundreds of camouflaged tanks, minus engines.

## COUNTER-ATTACKS.

North-west of Stalingrad, although the Germans are still attacking fiercely with tank and infantry forces they are being held and counter attacked.

In the Caucasus the German thrust towards the Grosny oilfields has received a set-back. Soviet forces in the Prokhladnaya area have won a local victory burning out nine German tanks and recapturing a village.

The battle for Razhev is still raging with General Zhankov's men hammering their way forward through some of the toughest fortifications yet built by the Germans.

In the struggle for river crossings the Soviet forces have reached the western bank and hold a bridge head.

The Soviet communique says that during Sunday night no material change took place at the front. The supplement says that north-west of Stalingrad Soviet tank units destroyed 12 German tanks, 14 guns and over 400 Germans were killed.

In another sector German tanks and infantry attacked and were repelled by Soviet artillery. Out of forty tanks sixteen were destroyed.

The Germans says that south of Lower Kuban German and Rumanian troops have thrown back the enemy towards the Black Sea coast.

## MANY FIRES.

South of Stalingrad the German troops broke through the enemy's position. Night attacks by the Luftwaffe caused extensive fires in Stalingrad. Near Rzhev the enemy continued his attacks. 48 tanks were destroyed in land battles.

Australian Combat Troops, brilliantly supported by Australian sea units, have thrown back the Japanese invaders at Milne Bay and are now mopping up the Japanese remnants driven into the narrow confine of the peninsula on the north side.

All the Japanese heavy supplies, adds this London message, including tanks, have fallen into the hands of the Australians. Japanese losses have been heavy and some remnants may have escaped destruction by evacuation in warships which left under cover of darkness.

The German communique says that by day and night bombers dropped high explosive and incendiary bombs on important war objectives in Eastern England and the Midlands.

## SHIPPING LOSSES.

A special announcement broadcast by German Radio to-day claims that U-Boats in the Atlantic Caribbean and off West Africa have sunk during last week 30 ships, totalling 181,000 tons.

## LIMERICK STRIKE

## MEDICAL EVIDENCE AT INQUEST

A small cottage, situate at Direen, near the village of Pallaskenry, was the scene of a shocking tragedy over the week-end, which culminated in the occupant being burned to death.

The victim of the tragic occurrence was Mrs. Bridget Drury, a widow, aged about 70 years, who lived alone in the cottage.

About 9 o'clock on Saturday morning neighbours who happened to be passing Mrs. Drury's abode observed smoke issuing from the building, and on investigating discovered the badly burned body of the occupant in the smouldering debris. The cottage itself was completely gutted by the fire—nothing being left but the four walls.

Gardai, under Supt. J. J. Cooney, Adare, and detectives in charge of Detective Sergeant Michael Murphy, Limerick, were immediately on the scene, and after preliminary investigations and the finding of mysterious blood spots on the roadside near the house, Dr. John McGrath, State Pathologist, was called in. He arrived at Pallaskenry on Saturday evening and immediately performed a post-mortem examination of the body.

## BLOOD SPOTS.

An examination of the blood spots was also carried out to ascertain whether they were human or not, but no pronouncement in this connection has yet been made. It is understood that there were no signs of violence on the body.

The deceased lady, who was a very active woman, was very well known in the neighbourhood. Her husband, who had been an ex-soldier, died more than twenty years ago, and so far as is known she had no relatives living in this country.

From inquiries made locally it would appear that Mrs. Drury had for many years a strange mania for collecting firewood, and her one roomed cottage was packed from ceiling to floor with ferns, gorse and pieces of old timber. A local resident said that there was only a pathway through it to the bed where she slept and around the hearth where she cooked. She even had some of the sticks packed under the bed.

When the fire started in the cottage it apparently spread quickly, and the dried sticks burned like tinder. From the statements made by passersby on the morning of the tragedy the abode was burned down in a very short time.

## THE INQUEST.

On Saturday evening Mr. M. E. Cussen, solicitor, Coroner for West Limerick, with a jury, opened an inquest into the death of Mrs. Drury.

Supt. J. J. Cooney conducted the inquest on behalf of the State.

The evidence of Dr. J. McGrath, State Pathologist, was to the effect that following a post-mortem examination of the body, he had concluded that death was due to suffocation and burning.

Evidence of identification having been tendered,

Supt. Cooney applied for an adjournment on the grounds that the Gardai had not yet completed their investigations.

The Coroner adjourned the inquest.

## A LAST MINUTE EFFORT

In connection with the decision of the Belfast Government to carry out the sentence of death on Thomas J. Williams, aged 19 years, arising out of the death of a police constable, we received this evening the following statement from the Mayor (Ald. D. J. O'Malley, solr.):

"To the Citizens of Limerick,

I have been asked to make an appeal to all citizens of Limerick to co-operate with the other cities and towns of Ireland in demonstrating to the world that if the execution in Belfast takes place it has not the sanction of the Irish people. I heartily endorse the appeal and suggest that all business, transport and other undertakings close down from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday next and that all flags be flown at half-mast, as is being done in other cities. I know the liberty-loving people of Limerick will heartily co-operate in this demonstration.

DESMOND J. O'MALLEY, Mayor."

## LAST-MINUTE EFFORT.

In a last-minute effort to save Thomas J. Williams (19), who is to be executed in Belfast on Wednesday, the Lord Mayor of Dublin (Ald. Doyle) left Dublin by road at 10 a.m. to-day for an interview with the Lord Mayor of Belfast. He was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress.

## "CITY EXTRA!"

## LIMERICK'S FIRST PAPER

When was the first newspaper printed in Limerick and what was it called? Three marks for each question, and there is probably only one man in the city (and he has nothing to do with newspaper circles) who will answer it off-hand. He is Mr. R. Herbert, city librarian, who has compiled a most comprehensive and pithy history of Limerick printers and printing back to the seventeenth century. From it we learn that the first paper Limerick citizens could call their own was the "Limerick Newsletter," printed by T. Brangan, who came from Dublin in 1716, and the same year produced his single half sheet for the first time on 4th May. It is not on record who the first newsboy was to shake the echoes of the streets with this up-to-the-minute news presentation, but at any rate his calling did not seemingly last long, as only one copy of the paper—and that is the first—is in existence, and the deduction is that the proprietor, who lived at the Sign of the Duke of Marlborough's Head, in Key Lane, did not stay long. It seems like stealing Mr. Herbert's thunder to add that the only local news in the paper read:—"Yesterday the Honourable Capt. Brown, of the Royal Scotch Battalion, set out from hence to Rose-Gray to the great regret of the ladies of this city" but the temptation to say that

## MUSICAL CLUB