

Al Capone- Crime Boss

Deanna Jaroszeski

As America becomes a world power our streets are infected with organized crime. The federal government was not equipped to handle the new rise in crime. The era of Prohibition became a breeding ground for all types of crime. It was illegal to make, sell or purchase alcoholic beverages. It was a not crime to possess and consume them. This loophole allowed numerous felons to return to the streets after being arrested. A whole network of illegal alcohol businesses such as distillers, smugglers and speak easies (secret night clubs) where alcohol was sold, purchased and consumed for profit by organized crime families.

PART 1

Directions: Read the documents and study the pictures below. For each document answer the questions that follow. After reading the documents and answering the questions write a few paragraphs that explains how Al Capone and Prohibition changed the way by organizing crime focusing mainly on Capone himself.

Document A: Timeline Biography from Biography Channel website

1891 - Gabriel Capone (age, 26) marries Theresa Raiola (21) in Castellammare, Italy. Vincenzo (Jimmy) born the following year

1893 - Capones immigrate to America, Theresa pregnant with Raffalo (Ralph), settle in Brooklyn. Salvatore (Frank) born, 1895. Gabriel a barber.

1899 - Tuesday, January 17 **Al Capone born**, baptized "Alphonsus" on Feb. 7. In fairly rapid succession, Theresa bears three more sons, Amadeo Ermino (John, nicknamed "Mimi"), Umberto (Albert John), and, in 1908, Matthew Nicholas (so baptized), then two daughters, Rosalia (Rose) and Mafalda.

1909 - Johnny Torrio goes from Brooklyn to Chicago at request of his cousin, Victoria Moresco, whose husband, "Big Jim" Colosimo, needs help against Black Hand extortionists. Torrio, born 1882 in Osara di Puglia, 60 miles east of Naples, brought to the U.S. at age 2, mentored in New York's Five Points by Paul Kelly (Paolo Antonini Vaccarelli), establishes himself in Brooklyn in the early 1900s when gang wars interrupt "business" in the Five Points.

1910 - (Approx.) Francesco loele Americanizes his name to Frankie Uale. Born 1893 in Calabria, brought to the U.S. age 9, becomes a power in the Five Points gang, and rules the rackets in Brooklyn. About 1917, begins calling himself "Yale" and opens the Harvard Inn, a large dive in Coney Island, making his young protege, Al Capone, the bouncer.

1917 - (Approx.) In the Harvard Inn, small-time hood, Frank "Galluch" Galluccio, drunk, scars Capone's face with three slashes of his knife over an insult to his sister, Lena.

-(Approx.) Capone commits first of four personal murders when a stick-up victim threatens to ID him to police.



1918 - Capone meets Mary (Mae) Coughlin, marries her 18 days after Mae gives birth to their son, Albert Francis (Sonny) on Dec. 4, 1918.

1919 - Capone beats Irish "White Hand" gang member to pulp in saloon. **Yale sends him to Torrio in Chicago** when word circulates that gang lieutenant Bill Lovett, a psychotic killer, is looking for the Italian kid with the scars who beat up his subordinate Artie Finnegan.

- 1.) When was Al Capone born?
- 2.) How did Al Capone get his nickname "Scarface"?
- 3.) Why did he move to Chicago?
- 4.) How many brothers and sisters did Capone have?

Document B: U.S. Military Draft Card

SERIAL NUMBER	3049	ORDER NUMBER	A284	
1	Alphonse	(Middle name)	Capone	
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS				
(No.)	38 Garfield Place	(City or town)	Brooklyn Kings Co. N.Y.	
Age in Years	3 19	Date of Birth	4 January 17th 1899	
RACE				
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	8 Citizen 9 Noncitizen	
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN		
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13	14
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?				
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME		
16 Paper Cutter	17 United Paper Box Co.			
18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS				
(No.)	33 - 34th St.	(City or town)	Brooklyn Kings Co. N.Y.	
NEAREST RELATIVE	Name	19 Mother Theresa Capone		
Address:	20 38 Garfield Pl. Bklyn Kings Co N.Y.			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE				
P. M. G. C.		Form No. 1 (Red) 02-5171		
		(Registrant's signature or mark)		
		(OVER)		

5.) What city did Capone live in when he filled out his draft card?

6.) Was his occupation when he filled out the draft card?

7.) Who was his nearest living relative?

Document C: Dept. of Justice, arrest record

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

40805

40886

GENERAL HISTORY

DATE	PLACE	REASON FOR ARREST	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
1-14-24	St. Louis, Mo.
1-23-24	St. Louis, Mo.
5-2-24	St. Louis, Mo.
6-3-24	St. Louis, Mo.
7-27-24	St. Louis, Mo.
10-1-24	St. Louis, Mo.
11-16-24	St. Louis, Mo.
12-23-24	St. Louis, Mo.
1-2-25	St. Louis, Mo.
1-17-25	St. Louis, Mo.
1-24-25	St. Louis, Mo.
2-7-25	St. Louis, Mo.
2-14-25	St. Louis, Mo.
2-21-25	St. Louis, Mo.
2-28-25	St. Louis, Mo.
3-7-25	St. Louis, Mo.
3-14-25	St. Louis, Mo.
3-21-25	St. Louis, Mo.
3-28-25	St. Louis, Mo.
4-4-25	St. Louis, Mo.
4-11-25	St. Louis, Mo.
4-18-25	St. Louis, Mo.
4-25-25	St. Louis, Mo.
5-2-25	St. Louis, Mo.
5-9-25	St. Louis, Mo.
5-16-25	St. Louis, Mo.
5-23-25	St. Louis, Mo.
5-30-25	St. Louis, Mo.
6-6-25	St. Louis, Mo.
6-13-25	St. Louis, Mo.
6-20-25	St. Louis, Mo.
6-27-25	St. Louis, Mo.
7-4-25	St. Louis, Mo.
7-11-25	St. Louis, Mo.
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8-20-29	St. Louis, Mo.
8-27-29	St. Louis, Mo.

"Scarface" Al Capone Convicted; Faces Pen Term

Notorious Chicago Gangster Found Guilty On Five Of 23 Counts; 17 Years Is Penalty

Jury In Case Requires Eight Hours And 18 Minutes; Three Felony Allegations Included; Conclusion Of Trial Marks End Of Government Battle Started Three Years Ago

CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—Alphonse Capone, Chicago's notorious gang chief, was convicted by a federal court jury tonight on five out of 23 counts charging evasion of income taxes. The jury took eight hours and 18 minutes to reach a verdict. The counts on which Capone was convicted include three felony allegations of attempt to evade and defeat income taxes for the years, 1925, 1926 and 1927 and two misdemeanor counts charging failure to file income tax returns in 1928 and 1929. The maximum penalty possible is 17 years imprisonment and \$50,000 fine.

Acquitted On Several
The big gangster was acquitted on the one indictment charging attempt to evade and defeat taxes on a 1924 income. He also was acquitted of 17 felony counts on the second indictment, many of them duplications of the counts on which he was found guilty.

The jury was polled once and then, after Assistant U. S. District Attorney Jacob I. Grossman said it appeared the jury might have been mixed on the numbers of the various counts the attorneys went into a conference as a recess was called.

The jury was given the case at 2:42 p. m. today and deliberated constantly without even a bite to eat, until 10:50 when it sent out word that it had reached its decision.

Summoned From Hotel
The husky gang czar, dressed for his final day in court in a bright green suit, was summoned from his hotel headquarters and 20 minutes later the 12 men filed in with their verdict.

Grossman said it appeared "inconsistent" that the jury should find Capone guilty of evading taxes in 1925, 1926, and 1927 and not guilty of similar felony counts in 1928 and 1929.

The defendant smiled as the ver-

See "SCARFACE," Page 6



AL CAPONE

Cotton Totals Reach 20,000 Late Saturday

Reports From Practically A Gins In Lubbock County As Received: Local Gins Lea

- 10.) How many charges was he tried on?
- 11.) How many counts was he found guilty of?
- 12.) How long could his sentence be?

Document E: St. Valentine's Day Massacre- Biography Channel

About 10:30, a Cadillac that looked exactly like a detective squad car, complete with a siren, running-board gong and gun rack behind the driver's seat, pulled up, having just endured a slight fender-bender with a delivery truck. Four men got out, leaving the driver at the wheel, and entered the garage. Two of the four wore police uniforms. This may have been seen by Moran, himself, plus two of his henchmen, all three approaching the garage when the Cadillac arrived and the "police" went in. All three naturally skedaddled.

* Inside, the seven were lined up against a wall and blasted with sub-machinegun and shotgun fire. All but one died instantly, the other dying in the hospital early that afternoon, refusing to tell the cops anything. No one hurt the dog; but Highball wasn't talking either.

* Witnesses saw four men exit the garage, the two in civilian clothes with their hands in the air, covered by the two in uniform. All four drove off in the Cadillac, soon found—partly dismantled and partly burned—in a rented garage about two miles away, next to the Circus Café, headquarters of Claude "Screwy" Maddox, a Capone ally.

* The two sub-machineguns that ballistics identified as the murder weapons were found ten months later in the possession of Fred R. "Killer" Burke, when he senselessly shot a policeman, following a trifling auto accident in Saint Joseph, Michigan. Burke was a flake with no known ties to Capone. He died years later in a Michigan prison, never tried for the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

* In fact, no one ever stood trial for it.

Those are the central facts of the Massacre, and the only known material facts. And even they include one that is not truly a fact, but only highly probable speculation and inference: that it was Capone who arranged the set-up with the freelance hijackers, and who therefore was behind the Massacre. No proof that he ordered it ever surfaced.



13.) How did the assassins disguise themselves?

14.) How were the victims killed?

15.) What did the witnesses see?

16.) Who was found guilty of the massacre?

Document F: Al Capone's Obituary

January 26, 1947

OBITUARY

Capone Dead At 48; Dry Era Gang Chief

By **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

MIAMI BEACH, FLA., Jan. 25 --Al Capone, ex-Chicago gangster and prohibition era crime leader, died in his home here tonight.

"Death came very suddenly," said Dr. Kenneth S. Phillips, who has been attending Capone since he was stricken with apoplexy Tuesday.

"All the family was present. His wife, Mae, collapsed and is in very serious condition."

Dr. Phillips said death was caused by heart failure.

Six Years of Power

Alphonse (Scarface) Capone, the fat boy from Brooklyn, was a Horatio Alger hero--underworld version. More than any other one man he represented, at the height of his power from 1925 through 1931, the debauchery of the "dry" era. He seized and held in thrall during that period the great city of Chicago and its suburbs.

Head of the cruelest cutthroats in American history, he inspired gang wars in which more than 300 men died by the knife, the shotgun, the Tommy gun and the pineapple, the gangster adaptation of the World War I hand grenade.

His infamy made international legend. In France, for example, he was "The One Who Is Scarred." He was the symbol of the ultimate in American lawlessness.

Capone won great wealth; how much, no one will ever know, except that the figure was fantastic. He remained immune from prosecution for his multitudinous murders (including the St. Valentine Day Massacre in 1929 when his gunners, dressed as policemen, trapped and killed eight of the Bugs Moran bootleg outfit in a Chicago garage), but was brought to book, finally, on the comparatively sissy charge of evasion of income taxes amounting to around \$215,000.

For this, he was sentenced to eleven years in Federal prison--serving first at Atlanta, then on The Rock, at Alcatraz--and was fined \$50,000, with \$20,000 additional for costs. With time out for good conduct, he finished this sentence in mid-January of 1939; but by then he was a slack-jawed paralytic overcome by social disease, and paralytic to boot.

17.) Where did Capone die?

18.) What was the cause of death?

20.) What was Capone finally found guilty of?

21.) What was his sentence?

Document G: Mural of Wanted Poster



22.) How much reward was offered for Capone?

23.) What is he accused of doing?

PART 2

Use the information discussed in class and in this DBQ to write a summary of the story of Al Capone. Discuss his rise in crime to his part in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Summarize the courts verdict and how his life ended.