

Walker Is Awarded \$3 Million In a Libel Suit Against the A.P.

SHREVEPORT, La., Oct. 29 (AP)—Former Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker was awarded a \$3 million libel judgment today against The Associated Press and The New Orleans Times-Picayune Publishing Corporation.

An all-male Caddo Parish (county) civil court jury decided after 1 hour 55 minutes that Mr. Walker had been libeled in an A.P. account of his activities during the 1962 desegregation riots at the University of Mississippi.

Defense lawyers immediately moved to have the jury's verdict set aside and moved for a mistrial on grounds that the awards exceeded the amount of \$2,250,000 in damages sought in Mr. Walker's complaint.

Second Victory

District Judge William Woods reserved decision on the motions and discharged the jury. In his instructions to the jury, Judge Woods had said, "No one may recover more for any item of damage than the amount sued for."

The A.P. said any judgment

lodged against it would be appealed.

The award was the second Mr. Walker has won as an outgrowth of the University of Mississippi riots. The A.P., as sole defendant, is appealing a \$500,000 libel judgment outstanding in Fort Worth in favor of Mr. Walker.

Similar suits filed by Mr. Walker against the A.P. and newspapers in Denver, Kansas City and Louisville, Ky., have been dismissed.

Mr. Walker, 55 years old, charged that the A.P. had falsely described him as having taken command of Mississippi rioters Sept. 30, 1962, and led them against United States marshals. Two persons were killed in disorders that arose over the admission to the university of James Meredith, a Negro.

The Times-Picayune Publishing Corporation was named in the suit because its newspapers in New Orleans carried the A.P. riot account under an Oxford, Miss., dateline.

The trial began Oct. 11.