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Thirty-First Year—No. 9629.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Tuesday, November 14, 1944.

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FOURTH FORTRESS IS TAKEN SOUTH OF METZ

Yanks Break Up Jap Preparations For Leyte Attack

(By the Associated Press) Attacks on growing Japanese concentrations on western Leyte island paid off with the highest one-day toll of Nipponese dead in the Philippine campaign, front line dispatches reported today as Tokyo radio said 400 U. S. carrier planes had renewed their attack on imperial warships in Manila bay.

On other fronts Chinese troops advanced five miles in north Burma and a Pacific fleet communique acknowledged enemy forces had retaken an islet in the Palau group, east of the Philippines.

Manila Raided Tokyo radio announced waves of American planes struck at Manila Bay, Cavite navy yard and Clark field.

"There was some damage to our warships, principal target of the raiders," the broadcast said.

It claimed 34 U. S. planes and five Japanese were shot down in an hour-long "violent air battle." Other U. S. air squadrons, Tokyo, added, swept the length of the Philippines.

On western Leyte island conquering riflemen of the 24th division counted 640 Japanese bodies on the slopes of Breakneck ridge, with a field of uncounted dead stretching out in front of them, Associated Press War Correspondent Fred Hampson reported.

Jap Resistance Broken An American commander expressed belief the bloody battle, combined with night-long shelling of enemy concentrations at Limon, broke the northern Japanese force as a fighting unit.

Elements of five Japanese divisions have been thrown into the narrowing fight on western Leyte island. Reinforcements are still slipping in by barge at night.

But "the enemy's general preparations for counterattacks" have been frustrated by the steady pressure of American infantrymen, combined with devastating artillery and aerial bombardments of Japanese.

See—WAR IN PACIFIC—Page 7

BRITAIN, FRANCE AGREE TO SET UP WESTERN BLOC

Paris—(AP)—Britain and France were reported in accord today on the desirability of forming a bloc of western European nations to help keep Germany in check during the coming years of peace.

Responsible quarters said Belgium and Holland may become original signatories to such a regional pact along with Britain and France and that eventually Norway, Sweden and Denmark might come in.

Summarizing the week-end discussions of Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Gen. Charles De Gaulle, a French news agency expressed the view that "the French and British governments would consider favorably the possibility of concluding such regional accords."

(A dispatch from London said sources in the British capital expressed belief that a similar combine would be formed in the east by Russia, Czechoslovakia and Poland and that at their next conference Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin may consider whether such alliances can operate within the framework of the proposed future world security organization.

(The Times of London said the idea of a western European bloc would fall directly within the category of "regional arrangements or agencies" for maintenance of peace and security foreseen in the Dumbarton Oaks plan.

"Western Europe, including Britain, is, as American opinion has come increasingly to recognize, an outer bastion of the defense of the western hemisphere," said the Times. "The strengthening of this bastion is a decisive interest of the American nations as well as of the whole British commonwealth."

Belgium Asks to Take Part (Paul Henri Spaak, Belgian minister for foreign affairs, announced in London last night that his country had asked the allied powers formally for permission to participate in military occupation of Germany. He said he had discussed with the British the possibility of immediately equipping a Belgian army.)

Churchill and De Gaulle already were reported agreed on speedy rearmament of the French army to have it ready to share military occupation of Germany with the British, Russians and Americans.

Two Fires Within Half Hour Reported Monday An explosion in a gasoline and kerosene hot water heater at the home of Mrs. Irvin Lord, 330 Fourth avenue south, resulted in a call to the local fire department at 4:25 p. m. on Monday. Fire department officials reported damages amounting to about \$25.

A second fire run the same afternoon at 5:05 p. m. was to the home of Carl Czaplowski, 1181 Twelfth street north where a fire had started in a small pile of coal in the corner of a first floor room. The fire had burned beneath the coal and through the floor. Damages amounted to about \$50.

See—WATER SUPPLY—Page 7

LAYNE BID, SANS FLOWAGE PACT, UP TO COUNCIL

A two hour discussion of a "guaranteed ground well water supply" system to produce not less than 5,000,000 gallons of water per day was concluded at 10 o'clock Monday night when the municipal water and lighting commission agreed to recommend to the city council the \$93,250 bid of the Layne-Northwest company of Milwaukee. Formal approval of the bid by the council will cement the contract. The council will be called into special session Wednesday night to take that action, Mayor Wm. T. Nobles indicated.

The Layne representatives, George Galloway and Edward Rogers, discussed at length last night the type of construction work to be done, the type of contract to be written, the probability of a lasting water supply for this city. Never, however, did the company budge from its position of refusing to guarantee the productivity of the wells beyond the date they are accepted by the city.

The company's position is that it is gambling to fulfill its contract to produce the required volume of iron-free water, and that if the requisite 5,000,000 gallons of iron free water is produced, such a supply will continue indefinitely as long as the wells remain iron-free. The wells will remain so, the company asserts, if they are properly constructed, and the city is protected at that point by having board of health engineers and the city's own consulting engineer on hand to pass on the quality of the construction work.

Don't Guarantee Flow Important point, it was developed at Monday night's meeting of the commission, is that "guaranteed" as such does not refer to a continuous supply of water—it means only that the Layne company, gambling on the results of test holes dug in the town of Grand Rapids, will go ahead with building wells and will collect its \$93,250 from the city only if it obtains the 5,000,000 gallon daily water supply. There is no guarantee that the wells will continue to flow, or that the water will continue to be iron-free.

The commission indicated that it will also accept a maintenance agreement which the Layne representatives tendered last night, in lieu of any promise about a continuous water supply. This agreement calls for annual inspection by the company to keep the wells in shape, test the water, make repairs which may be required.

For this service the Layne commission—WATER SUPPLY—Page 7

PFC. PAUL RISLEY DIES OF WOUNDS

Pfc. Paul Risley, 20, who was seriously wounded in action in Belgium on October 26, died at a hospital in Belgium, according to word received here Monday by the soldier's grandmother, Mrs. Clara Odell, 840 Sixth street south.

Private First Class Risley entered the armed forces 16 months ago and had been overseas since August of this year, serving with the infantry. He formerly lived in this city, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Risley moving to Libby, Mont., about seven months ago.

He is survived by a brother, Norman, who is serving in the navy medical corps, and a sister, Mrs. Leo Coleman, in Sacramento, Calif., in addition to his parents.

\$1,500,000 Post-War Plan Is Presented to Wood County Board

A hint of things to come for Wood county is contained in a report submitted by the postwar planning committee to the board of supervisors shortly before the noon adjournment of the opening November session today. The report, which was made a special order of afternoon business, lists six projects at an estimated cost of \$1,538,350, the biggest of which would be a new \$600,000 courthouse and jail.

With Hans Vollert as chairman, the special planning committee listed \$548,000 for highway work; \$78,200, Wood county hospital; \$185,400, forestry and conservation; \$116,750, parks, and \$60,000, home for the aged.

In other morning business, changes in estimates reduced the budget for 1945 by \$6,075, two committee changes were made and several officials were re-named. Sullivan is Re-elected

A \$7,000 item for the salary and expenses of the highway commissioner, Russell Sullivan, who was re-elected to a 1-year term, was struck-

en when it was found that it can be paid out of the \$120,000 maintenance of county trunk fund. Sullivan's salary was raised from \$2,600 to \$3,000.

Another budget reduction resulted in the advancing of \$1,675 from the general fund for work done this year on removal of the police radio tower to Powers Bluff in the town of Arpin. Provision had been made in next year's budget but unanticipated early approval by the federal communications commission advanced start of the project. Revised county institution costs necessitated an increase of \$2,600 in 1945 estimates.

Louis Woodman, town of Wood; Edward Haas, town of Siegel, and Alva Bump, town of Marshfield, were re-elected to the highway committee with Haas, who polled 49 of 51 votes, succeeding Bump as chairman. Ed Zettler, town of Richfield, was a fourth candidate. Zettler was elected to the agriculture committee, succeeding Elmer Lautenbach. See—COUNTY BOARD—Page 7

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Yanks Push to Within Three Miles of Doomed City; Other Units Approach Nazi Border

London—(AP)—U. S. troops seized a fourth and powerful fortress south of Metz today, and piled through this newest breach in enemy defenses to within 3 1/2 miles of the besieged city.

Supreme headquarters identified this latest prize as Fort L'Yser, a half-mile north-west of the town of Orny, and described it as a powerful system of underground defense works.

So far as was known at supreme headquarters, Fort L'Yser fell without resistance from its turreted batteries—just as Fort L'Aisne and two satellite bastions to the southwest were taken yesterday. L'Aisne was the first of nine main fortress groups in the Metz system to fall, and L'Yser the second. They were stormed by troops of the Fifth division of Lt. Gen. Patton's Third army.

No Stiffening of Resistance The Americans pushed on into the Hospital forest for their closest approach to Metz, and were striking toward that city from the south along a nine-mile front. Nothing in front dispatches indicated any stiffening of resistance, and the apparent German pullback suggested Metz itself might be forfeited to avoid encirclement of its strong garrison.

Even as this fourth fortress fell, and all of Metz' roads of reinforcement or retreat were brought within artillery range, doughboys on the left flank of the 70-mile Third army front shoved forward in their Moselle bridgehead to within 1 1/2 miles of the German border near the Luxembourg corner. Seventh Army Gains

South of Metz, the Seventh army pushed forward in two-mile gains at either end of a 10-mile front, spreading the U. S. attack into the snow-drifted foothills of the Vosges mountains.

Fifth division units, punching through unexpectedly light resistance, had captured Fort Aisne and See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

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Neil Fahrner Dies Fighting In Holland

Washington—(AP)—President Roosevelt announced today that James F. Byrnes will continue as director of war mobilization and conversion until Germany is defeated.

Byrnes has been serving under a temporary appointment, having told the president he did not want the job on a permanent basis.

However, Presidential Secretary Stephen Early called reporters to his office shortly after noon today and read them this statement from the president:

"In view of the importance of continuing the winning of the war at top speed, and at the personal request of the president, Mr. Justice Byrnes has consented to continue as the director of the office of war mobilization until the elimination of Germany from the war.

"The president is very much gratified by the willingness of Justice Byrnes to do this, and the work of the office will, therefore, continue as at present."

Byrnes left the supreme court to enter the administration's war program and became head of the office of war mobilization—a post which frequently won him the unofficial title of "assistant president."

When the reconversion bill became law, Byrnes accepted a temporary appointment from the president with the understanding a successor would be named when congress reconvened.

When congress recently passed its reconversion bill as the first step in a post-war program, however, Byrnes estimated that the man who accepted the directorship under that bill would have to devote at least two years to the job. In several public statements he said he did not want it.

His agreement to continue at the head of the office—announced the day congress came back to Washington—eliminated for the time one of the major appointments awaiting presidential action. There had been speculation that Fred M. Vinson, director of economic stabilization, might have been placed in the office of war mobilization as Byrnes' successor.

Washington—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower's forces are losing 500 tanks and 900 trucks a month, says Undersecretary of War Patterson.

And Eisenhower is in "imperative need" of more artillery ammunition than we are producing, Patterson told a news conference, explaining that the general should have 3,000 tons a day for adequate support.

Patterson gave this general picture of the military supply situation:

Neil Fahrner Dies Fighting In Holland

Pvt. Neil A. Fahrner, 32, son of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Fahrner, 1220 Second avenue south, was killed in action somewhere in Holland on October 24, according to a war department telegram received by the parents on November 10. He was serving in the glider infantry when he met his death.

Private Fahrner was born in Wisconsin Rapids on January 14, 1912. He attended the Lovell school and the vocational school here. Before entering military service he was employed as a taxi cab driver in Chicago.

The Wisconsin Rapids soldier entered the armed forces in March, 1942, going first to Camp Claiborne, La., and then in the fall of 1943 was transferred to Fort Bragg, N. C. He arrived overseas in England on October 17, 1943. Private Fahrner took part in the D-day invasion of western Europe and fought in the battle of Normandy. He was last home on a furlough during the summer of 1943 and the last letter his parents received from him was dated October 9, 1944.

In addition to his parents, Private Fahrner is survived by a son, Jerry J. Fahrner, 8, and two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Liska, 510 Third street south, and Mrs. Thomas McLean, of Madison.

SET SUBSIDY PAYMENT DATES

Subsidy payment dates for September and October have been announced by the Wood County Agricultural Conservation association AAA office in the postoffice building here. Persons are urged to bring their September and October dairy statements on amounts of milk sold to be checked for correctness. A wife or neighbor over 21 years of age may be allowed to pick up the subsidy check if the dealer is unable to be present on these particular dates.

On Thursday, November 16, 8:15 to 8:45 a. m., Saratoga town hall; 9:15 to 10:30 a. m., Port Edwards town hall; 11 to 11:45 a. m., Turner's Corner, Dexterville; 1:30 p. m. to three p. m., at the Wood town hall in Pittsfield.

Friday: 9 to 10 a. m., Sherry town hall; 10:15 to 11:15 a. m., Milladore town hall; 1:30 to three p. m., Auburndale high school gymnasium. Saturday: 8:45 to 10:15 a. m., Lietzke's hall in Vespey; 11 to 12 noon, Arpin community hall.

Monday: 8:30 to 10:45 a. m., at the Rudolph community hall; 1:30 to 2:45 p. m., Richfield community hall; 3:15 to 4:15 p. m., Rock town hall.

Tuesday, November 21, 9:15 to 11:30 a. m., Lincoln town hall; 1:30 to three p. m., Marshfield town hall to Hewitt, Wednesday: nine to eleven a. m., at the AAA office in the postoffice building at Wisconsin Rapids.

White House patrons are asked to bring their dairy or dairy statements as the amounts of milk delivered during the months of September and October were not available.

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BOARD STUDIES BLUEPRINTS OF NEW HOWE BLDG.

Preliminary plans for a new Howe school building were studied by members of the board of education last night. The approximate \$350,000 construction project will be the first order of business on the school board's post-war agenda.

In discussing the plans, Floyd Smith, superintendent of schools, said it would be a dual purpose building with facilities such as a little theater, meeting room and gymnasium for community use.

"More and more, we are going to see our buildings used for evening recreational activity and there's little reason why it can't be available to adults at night," Smith said. "The children and education must come first, however," he added.

Earl Sherman, president of the board, explained to George Fahrner, pro tem appointee attending his first meeting, that plans still are in a tentative stage but that the board wants to be "ready to go" when materials and funds, possibly some federal aid, are available.

Submit Room Plan The plans submitted last night by Childs and Smith, Chicago architectural firm, to replace the 76-year-old grade school call for a building 484 feet long which would front on Eighth street and open onto Oak and Saratoga streets. The first floor would house kindergarten, first and second grade children, special corrective classes, a gymnasium which could be divided for boys and girls, a cafeteria, music and meeting rooms for outside groups, public school nurse and other administrative offices, a dental room, shop and home arts facilities. A second floor would contain classrooms mostly for pupils from the third through the eighth grades.

Installations at Fieldhouse The board decided to modernize the amplifying system in Lincoln See—HOWE SCHOOL—Page 7

State Guard Is Mobilized In Surprise Test

Fifty members of the local unit of the Wisconsin State Guard participated in a state wide surprise mobilization test on Monday evening by order of acting Adjutant General A. A. Kuechenmeister. The mobilization test involved some 2800 State Guard members who were ordered to appear in uniform and equipped for action.

Captain Earl F. Otto, commander, and Captains Gil Dickerman and Glenn Bennett were notified here through channels by Colonel Ray Flazel of Marshfield, and guard members were mobilized at the local Memorial armory during the supper hour. Capt. Otto stated this morning that local participation in this state-wide test was very successful, reporting a turnout of 50 men, eight others accounted for, and two absent.

Following the mobilization, local guard members remained at the armory for their regular weekly drill and E. C. Woodward, forest ranger of Friendship, Wis., presented a moccasin forest protection.

First Sgt. George Huber and Sgt. Ray Winkels, both home on furlough from overseas duty were guests of the guard unit. Both men left Wisconsin Rapids with the National Guard in 1940.

Lt. Mathew Ernsler Wounded in Action

SHORTAGE IN WAR SUPPLIES STATED

Washington—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower's forces are losing 500 tanks and 900 trucks a month, says Undersecretary of War Patterson.

And Eisenhower is in "imperative need" of more artillery ammunition than we are producing, Patterson told a news conference, explaining that the general should have 3,000 tons a day for adequate support.

Patterson gave this general picture of the military supply situation:

Our artillery ammunition production has tripled since Jan. 1, but needs have risen even faster.

Other equipment essential if we are to intensify our offensives is running short, despite rising output.

We are short on tent cloth, airborne radar equipment, and other important items.

Our war production job is "still enormous," with the army alone letting new contracts since Jan. 1, at a yearly rate of more than \$28,000,000,000.

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COUNTY COURT'S JURY IS LISTED

Nine of the 36 jurymen who will serve at the adjourned November term of county court, convening here December 11, are residents of this city, according to the jury list released today by Clerk of Courts Jasper Johnson. Those from this city are Lila Acott, Clifford Barton, Emil Benson, Merle Clark, Raymond Grandkovich, Roland Kleven, Gladys Nash, Lloyd Panter and Joseph Thirty.

Next largest group, by municipalities, is the list of five from Marshfield: Elbert Bason, Louis C. David, Mary Diem, Monica Grimes, and Catherine Southworth. The jury list includes Ralph House from the town of Arpin, Oscar Wachter of Cameron, Esther Hoffman from Grand Rapids township, Alois Hoffman, town of Lincoln.

Ewald Arndt, town of Marshfield; Eleanor Wolzuba, Milladore village; Mark Huber and Martin Brandt, city of Nekoosa; Olga Weaver, town of Port Edwards; Angie Sommerville, town of Remington; Evelyn Parks and Albert Trachte, town of Richfield; Walter Sebafer, town of Rock; John Blonien of Rudolph; John Chrystall, town of Saratoga; Arnold King, Henry Schroedel and Frank Sternot, town of Siegel, and William Radke, town of Wood.

Eleven of the 36 jurymen are women.

CARL KROENING JR., DIES Carl Kroening jr., 48, of Wisconsin Rapids, passed away this morning at the Wisconsin General hospital at Madison, following an eight week illness. Funeral arrangements are in charge of Krohn and Gerard and a complete obituary will be published in Wednesday's Daily Tribune.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Considerable cloudiness tonight and Wednesday. Occasional showers extreme north portion tonight. Showers or snow flurries north and extreme west portions Wednesday.

Colder tonight and Wednesday.

Today's Weather Facts—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 62; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 50; temperature at 7 a. m., 52. Precipitation, .10.

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