

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin—Fair west and cloudy east portion tonight, followed by fair entire state Friday. A little warmer Friday afternoon.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a.m.: Maximum 34; minimum 23.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

LET'S FINISH THE JOB—BUY EXTRA BONDS TODAY!

Thirty-First Year—No. 9648.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Thursday, December 7, 1944.

Single Copy Five Cents

Twin Superfort Raid Smashes Manchuria And Tokyo Industries

Washington—(AP)—A large force of Superfortresses smashing today at Japanese-dominated Manchuria destroyed 26 enemy fighters, probably brought down 13 and damaged 24.

A 20th airforce communique, announcing this today, said one B-29 was lost to enemy action in the attack on an aircraft plant at Mulden and other strategic military objectives.

The attack, made in daylight, resulted in "unobserved to excellent bombing results," the communique said.

Visual bombing was carried out at most of the targets.

Two Planes Hit Tokyo

Meanwhile, 21st bomber command headquarters on Saipan told of single plane weather reconnaissance flight over Tokyo today, seven hours apart. Bombs were dropped on both visits to the Japanese capital.

The two attacks constituted the fifth and sixth visits to the Japanese capital by Saipan-based B29s since the initial one Nov. 24. Industries Are Bombed

Both planes hit approximately the same target area—the Y-shaped industrial heart of Tokyo, bounded by the waterfront and by the Sumida river to the west and Ara river on the east.

(Tokyo radio said "three or four" Superfortresses dropped incendiary bombs on the city Thursday morning, Japanese time, or Wednesday U. S. time. The enemy said a small fire started by the bombs was promptly extinguished.)

SHARP IS M. C. FOR MCCOY SHOW

Cpl. Mickey Sharp, who lives up to his name, will serve as master of ceremonies for the "It's the McCoy" show which will appear at 8 o'clock Monday evening at Lincoln fieldhouse. Admission tickets can be secured through the purchase of war bonds.

Sharp, 24, a Chicagoan, gained fame on the radio by announcing the "Uncle Walter's Doghouse" program. Since his induction, he has been active in soldier shows. Thousands of Wisconsinites enjoyed his work in the Fourth Loan drive version of the Camp McCoy production and are anticipating the new routines he has developed for the present tour. Show business veterans consider Smart one of the brightest comedy prospects on the stage today.

Another top star to appear here Monday night is Cpl. Dick Barstow, dancer who gained worldwide fame on four trips around the globe. More recently, he added to his laurels as dance director for the Palmer House and through his work in motion pictures featuring Jack Benny and Kay Kyser.

Barstow, 35, has been featured three times by "Believe-it-or-not!" Ripley for his astounding dancing feat. Once a partner of Fred Astaire, Barstow produced the dances for Olsen and Johnson's "Hellzapoppin'" and produced shows for Skinnay Ennis, Charlie Baum, Tommy Dorsey, Joe Reichman, Tommy Tucker and Xavier Cugat.

Prisoners Surrender To Atlanta Newsman

Atlanta—(AP)—Five ringleaders of a group of rebellious convicts at the Atlanta federal prison surrendered to newspaper columnist Morgan Blake of the Atlanta Journal this afternoon.

Blake, carrying out a pact with the convicts who had held four guards as hostages in a barricaded five-story building at the prison since Monday night, spent two hours parleying with the prisoners before the surrender.

The veteran newspaperman used as principal argument an edition of the Journal which devoted almost its entire front page to a description by Blake of the prisoners' grievances.

POSTPONE HEARING

Preliminary hearing in the case of Edward O'Shaesky, driver of the car which last week fatally injured Carl Altman, Consolidated watchman, has been postponed from this afternoon to 10 o'clock Friday morning in the office of Justice Byron B. Conway.

14 Shopping Days till Christmas

JAPS ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD IN LEYTE MANEUVER

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines—(AP)—American cavalrymen, in a daring amphibious flanking maneuver, surprised Japanese forces 10 miles below the vital enemy-held port of Ormoc on Leyte's west coast as other American forces were breaching the Nipponese Palanas line, two miles further south, it was disclosed today.

Al Dopking, Associated Press war correspondent, said the cavalrymen, riding heavily armed amphibious tractors, came around the southern horn of Leyte on a more than 125-mile three-day trip, the longest ever made by Amtracs under their own power. They knifed into Japanese positions at Tabgas and adjoining Balogo village.

Japs Caught Off-Guard

Lieut. Col. O'Neill K. Kane, commander of the force, said the Japanese were caught completely off guard and his men drew only meager mortar and machine gun fire. Some Yanks reported seeing Japanese in full flight.

Dopking's dispatch did not make it clear whether the amphibious operation was still going on or if it were only a raid to throw the Japanese off balance.

Meanwhile Tokyo radio claimed Japanese paratroopers had landed at four points behind the American lines on Leyte to destroy airfields. Great Offensive Claimed

The broadcast, unconfirmed by allied sources, said a "grand scale offensive" was launched Wednesday, against "the many enemy airfields" on eastern Leyte. It is from these airfields that Yankee planes have been wiping out enemy reinforcement convoys and cratering Japanese airfields throughout the Philippines.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique today noted successes on land, sea and in the air. In ground fighting doughboys of the 24th army corps penetrated the enemy's Palanas river line at a point about 12 miles southeast of Ormoc, Japanese supply port.

U. S. Reports Dogged Gains

MacArthur's communique reported two U. S. columns, shoving doggedly northward, reached points south of Balogo on the west coast, and Kang Dagit village farther inland as they breached the Nipponese line below Ormoc.

At sea the Japanese line of reinforcement by water through Ormoc bay has been cut by naval and air forces, the communique announced, declaring:

"... with the increasing pressure of our ground troops, the enemy's situation must be regarded as serious."

HUBERT MISCOLL DIES SUDDENLY

Hubert L. Miscoll, 72, life long resident of Wisconsin Rapids, died about 8:15 this morning following a stroke suffered in the postoffice.

Mr. Miscoll was taken to Riverview hospital by ambulance and was pronounced dead upon admittance.

Funeral services will be at the S.S. Peter and Paul Catholic church, at 9 o'clock Monday morning, the Rev. Msgr. William Reding officiating. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery.

Mr. Miscoll was born in Wisconsin Rapids November 17, 1872. With the exception of 14 years, he lived here all his life. He was married here June 25, 1902, to Margaret Kayser and was employed at the Brauer Clothing store for eight years prior to his retirement.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Wendell, of this city, and two grandsons. The body will be at the Krohn and Berard Funeral home where prayers will be said at 8 o'clock Sunday evening.

Kessler Is Awarded Purple Heart Medal

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kessler, 311 1/2 Oak street, that their son Donald J. Kessler, who was reported wounded in action in Holland September 23, is making satisfactory recovery. He received the Purple Heart October 13 and had previously been awarded the silver star for gallantry in action.

Pvt. Kessler, a paratrooper, landed in France on D day and, later on, landed in Holland where he was wounded.

TANKS DRIVE WITHIN THREE MILES OF SAARBRUCKEN

RUSSIAN ARMY IS 35 MILES FROM AUSTRIAN BORDER

London—(AP)—Red army vanguards sweeping around lower Lake Balaton were within 35 miles of the Austrian frontier today as Berlin reported a powerful Russian offensive closing in on Budapest from three sides.

The gravest threat to the beleaguered Hungarian capital came from spearheads of Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukraine army units driving up the west bank of the Danube.

The Germans said they had abandoned Ercsi, only 13 miles south of Budapest, in the face of the tide of Russian armor which the Soviet war bulletin said yesterday in gains up to 16 miles overran 50 places, including Racalmas, 28 miles south of the Hungarian capital.

The Germans also reported the Russians, employing fresh tanks northeast of Budapest, yesterday breached the German line in a northwesterly direction.

Other units of Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine army are entrenched on Csepel, the island that splits the Danube for 30 miles south of Budapest, with advance positions only six miles from the city's outskirts. Racalmas is only four miles from the southern tip of the island and a junction of the two Russian armies appeared imminent.

The Russian communique made no mention of the German claims of a renewed offensive from north of Budapest, where Red troops were reported plunging down from captured Hatvan, or from the eastern Budapest suburbs where the Soviet army has been checked for some time.

Fur Breeding Key Industry, Kiwanis Told

That fur breeding is not a get-rich-quick occupation as sometimes painted; that it requires considerable hard work and study in the fields of genetics, nutrition and disease control and prevention, and that the fur industry is the third largest agricultural branch in value of goods produced in Wisconsin were points stressed by Frank Bump, Wausau, of the American National Fur Breeders association, in a talk at the regular weekly meeting of the Kiwanis club at the Hotel Witter today. Only dairying and potatoes exceed fur farming in value of products produced in the state, Mr. Bump said.

Mr. Bump was presented after M. C. Kelley, club chairman of the Fox and Mink show now on in Wisconsin Rapids, introduced a number of fur breeders and show officials which included Dr. Gaylord Hartough, veterinarian with the state conservation department; Tony Wirth, Madison; Roy Bean, John Gray, P. W. Braun, Gerald Brooks, Johan Swinghamer, Charles. Howland, William Wittenberg, Harley Wittig, Green Bay, secretary of the Wisconsin Fur Breeders association; William Whittingham, Joe Gilbert, Roy Potter and Frank Henry.

C. E. Jackson, a member of the club, spoke briefly on his views of the show and looked upon it as a very successful event. He said he was indebted to M. C. Kelley for the work the latter had done in providing a program at the Elks club Tuesday night and giving the splendid talk that he did. He said the show here yesterday and today fascinated him.

Short talks were given by Dr. Hartsough, Harley Wittig, Roy Bean and J. E. Gazeley. Mr. Bean told his listeners that judges of this show had told him that grand champions would compare favorably with the finest animals in the country. Mr. Gazeley told of the establishment of Pittsville Fur Foods, Inc. at Pittsville which will provide feed for fur breeders of the county.

Dorsey-Hall Trial Is Dismissed from Court

Los Angeles—(AP)—Judge Arthur Crum today dismissed the assault charges against Tommy Dorsey, his wife, Pat Dane, and their neighbor Allen Smiley growing out of an attack on Jon Hall.

The court said it had been reluctant to take the case from the consideration of the jury but felt that under the state of the record it would be an abuse of its judicial discretion not to do so.

U.S. Favors Free Politics For Greeks

Washington—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius today put the United States on record as favoring complete freedom of political action for the people of Greece.

He formally endorsed a declaration by Prime Minister Churchill Tuesday that the people of Greece should have complete freedom to form a government either of the right or of the left.

But Stettinius deliberately refrained from endorsing another statement by the British prime minister dealing with the use of British troops to prevent formation of what Churchill called a "communist dictatorship in Greece."

This was the second time this week that the state department has spoken out in favor of political freedom for the people of Europe.

Earlier it protested Britain's intervention in the formation of a new Italian government. The British action had vetoed Count Carlo Sforza as a candidate for either premier or foreign minister of a new regime at Rome.

Athens Battle Continues

Athens—(AP)—Maj. Gen. R. M. Scoobie, British commander in Greece, announced today progress was being made in clearing the Athens-Piraeus area of leftist EAM forces who were being attacked by RAF planes and artillery.

Fighting, however, spread to Thrace.

British Spitfires and Beaufighters dived on nests of resistance as the pitched battle went into its second day.

Field artillery was used to clear out other strongpoints held by the EAM, the military arm of the EAM.

Premier George Papandreu, whose government is supported by the British, told correspondents the EAM was "plunging Greece into civil war." He denied the leftist charge that he was attempting to impose a dictatorship.

(In London a Greek government spokesman said the outbreaks had delayed elections by several months. He predicted that unless "this painful situation is solved immediately Greece will be years in rising out of the chaos created by German occupation.")

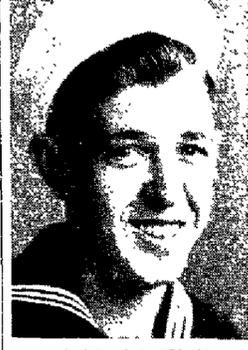
Men Under 19 Are Being Sent Overseas

Washington—(AP)—Men under 19 years of age are now going overseas as infantry and armored replacements, Under Secretary of War Patterson disclosed today.

This represents a change in policy, necessitated by urgent military requirements, Patterson told his news conference.

We Have Learned How to Fight in Last Three Years

GORDON A. FIRTH LISTED AS DEAD



GORDON A. FIRTH

Gordon A. Firth, seaman 2/c, USNR, missing in action since November, 1943, has been listed officially as dead, according to a letter from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Firth, Route 1, Wisconsin Rapids, parents of the sailor.

Exactly one year ago today, the parents were notified by the navy department that their son was missing. In his letter to the parents today, Mr. Forrestal stated, "... your son was serving aboard the USS Liscome Bay when that vessel was torpedoed on November 24, 1943 while participating in the capture of the Gilbert Islands. The carrier went down shortly after the torpedo explosion occurred. Favorable weather conditions enabled nearby United States vessels to make a prompt and complete search for survivors.

"In view of the length of time that has elapsed without any indication that your son survived, and because of the strong presumption that he lost his life at the time of the explosion or shortly thereafter, I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that he is deceased. ... I extend to you my sympathy in your sorrow and hope you may find comfort in the knowledge that your son gave his life for his country, upholding the highest traditions of the navy. The navy shares in your bereavement and has felt the loss of his service."

Gordon Firth was born on August 26, 1925, here. He joined the navy in March, 1943, and was stationed at Faragut, Ida, Puget Sound and Bremerton, Wash. at gunnery schools before leaving for combat. His parents had heard from him about November 1, 1943.

No Night Experience

Likewise, we had not fought a night action until August, 1942, when at Savo Island a small Japanese cruiser force almost wiped out our Guadalcanal screening force. See—PEARL HARBOR—Page 9

(Editor's Note: Eugene Burns who gave Americans the first eyewitness report of Pearl Harbor tells what we have learned in the succeeding three years of fighting the Japanese.)

BY EUGENE BURNS

San Francisco—(AP)—It has taken us three years to get the "know-how" of fighting the Japanese. They forced good fighting—by air, sea and land—upon us.

In the three years, we have had defeats and victories that were too costly in blood—but they are saving your sons' lives as the war goes into the fourth year.

When I made the first eyewitness trans-Pacific telephone call from Pearl Harbor to the United States, Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, while Japanese bombs still were exploding and our battlefleet was burning, we had yet to fight a major naval, air or amphibious war.

Had the fleet steamed out of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7 the result might well have been permanently disastrous.

Everything Was Inadequate

As measured by present-day standards, every man-of-war was woefully inadequate.

While visiting the U. S. fleet's flagship, before Pearl Harbor, the commander-in-chief pointed out a small battery of 1.1 anti-aircraft guns.

"There, Burns, is the answer to the airplanes," he said. "I think the ship had two such batteries of four barrels each. Today, three years later, that ship has perhaps more than 100 much heavier anti-aircraft rifles.

Our Asiatic fleet, which took on the full brunt of the Japanese navy after Pearl Harbor, was worse. Most of its ships' guns could not be elevated to fire at an incoming plane.

Old Carrier Tactics

Our carrier tactics were not far behind our old ships. In battle problems before Pearl Harbor, the carriers usually were spotted a hundred miles behind the battleline and some of their planes carried smoke tanks in the bomb bay. The purpose of the carrier planes, an admiral explained, was mainly "to do the spotting, put down smoke screens, engage enemy spotters and perhaps harass the enemy."

In November, 1942 our battleships fired their main battery at an enemy surface force for the first time since the Spanish-American war, 1898—44 years before.

NAZIS PREPARING RESERVE LINES EAST OF ROER

Paris—(AP)—American tanks drove within three and a half miles of seared Saarbrücken today in a plunge to the outskirts of Forbach, French rail town and outpost of the Siegfried line.

Artillery of the same Third Army bombarded the little Pittsburgh of the coal and iron region for the eighth consecutive day, while infantry was cleaning the Germans from the last streets of Sarreguémis, French border town southeast of the Saar capital. Street fighting continued in Saarlautern, second city of the Saar.

The Americans extended their grip on the west bank of the multiple-crossed Saar river to 22 miles. On the static Roer river front, the Cologne plain for the second successive night was bright with strings of German groundlights, suggesting that the enemy was working intensively to prepare defenses on the Erft river in anticipation of a forced withdrawal from the swift and swollen Roer.

The Erft flows within eight miles of Cologne. It is 100 feet wide and paralleled by a canal. Along the Roer, the American First and Ninth armies were no closer than 22 miles from the ravaged metropolis on the Rhine. Nowhere had the Roer been crossed, but the GIs were up to its banks on a wide front.

In some places east of the Roer Ninth Army troops observed the Germans strengthening their positions under cover of smoke. All of Linnich west of the river was in American hands although a few snipers remained.

Action flared up again on the northern part of the First Army front. Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' troops, who cleared Linden several days ago, struck a mile and a half toward Pler, about midway between the Roer river citadels of Julich and Duren. Patrols reached Pier's outskirts and in one brief skirmish, 100 Germans were captured. Further south the first army consolidated and expanded holdings around the captured Hürtgen forest village of Bergstein.

North of Holland, German patrols crossed the Alms north of Venlo but the British beat them back in every effort to probe their lines.

OFF TO GOOD START

La Crosse, Wis.—(AP)—Camp McCoy's soldier show, "It's the McCoy," began its Sixth War Loan drive tour of 12 Wisconsin cities by playing to a \$25,000 audience here.

Fur Show Makes Hit and Prompts Talk Of Staging National Event Here in '45

BY KATHLEEN ORR

One of the most exciting shows in the country today is right here in Wisconsin Rapids—the first annual fox and mink show in the Wood county highway building where it will continue until 10 o'clock tonight.

Since its opening yesterday morning, crowds of both old and young have been pushing up and down the narrow aisles to see the shy, wild animals and look at their valuable fur. Each visitor comes away from the show with one thought. Everyone wants to buy one—the women envisioning a beautiful scarf or wrap, and the children, not quite convinced that these strange creatures are so fierce, with the idea of taming one for a pet.

This is the first showing of live animals ever held in this part of the state and judges and fur breeders have been so impressed with its success that there has been talk about bringing a national show here next year. Praising the work of the local breeders, one judge who just came from the international show at Grand Rapids said those animals would make an excellent showing beside those he saw at the bigger exhibit.

Looks Are Deceiving

Several mink, usually fairly bold animals, came up and hissed and screeched at passers-by. The foxes, however, surprised most visitors who were unfamiliar with the animals. The wildness in a fox takes form in fear, and the beautiful creatures curled back in the farthest corner of their cages and peered up with wide green eyes at the people,



Silver foxes were taken out of their pens and examined carefully in the judging which was completed yesterday afternoon at the fur show. The show, sponsored jointly by Kiwanis and the Central Wisconsin Fur Breeders association, is open until 10 o'clock tonight.

expressions as enchanting as a puppy dog's.

But foxes remain instinctively wild. Onlookers saw proof of this yesterday when Charles Howland, member of the show committee, got badly scratched and bitten while moving one of the foxes.

Grand champion fox was an adult male whiteface exhibited by Joe Gilbert of Nekocsa. All the first place winners were lined up together and this fox was chosen by the judges as the best of all of them. It was See—FUR SHOW—Page 9