

RENT THAT WARM THROUGH A TRIBUNE WANT AD

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

EVERY WEEK IS 'THRIFT WEEK' IN THE WANT ADS

Twenty-Ninth Year—No. 9041.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Saturday, December 19, 1942.

Single Copy Five Cents

JAPS ARE SHORT OF PILOTS—RICKENBACKER

British Advance Into Burma

HOPE TO RELIEVE EAST'S GASOLINE FAMINE MONDAY

Washington—(P)—The eastern seaboard's gasoline tap, ordered closed to an emergency trickle, appeared likely to be turned on again Monday but with prospects that the flow of motor fuel will be thinner than the old rationing volume.

Seek "Integrated" Plan The office of price administration which shut off gasoline purchases at noon yesterday to the average motorist in 17 eastern states and the District of Columbia, sought to work out today what Price Administrator Leon Henderson termed "a thoroughly integrated plan" to replace the drastic suspension.

"And we hope," said Henderson last night, "to be able to announce it by Sunday and put it into effect Monday morning."

OFA officials eliminated the new plan at least will eliminate some of the inequities resulting from the temporary order. But in view of Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes' announcement that gasoline distribution in the east will be cut nearly 20 per cent during the rest of December and about 25 per cent next month, it was expected that forthcoming rationing restrictions will be more severe than before.

May Eliminate "A" Books Meantime, speculation on what the new program will provide ranged from reduction of unit values of the "A," "B" and "C" rations to elimination entirely of the "A" coupons which are worth three gallons apiece in 16 of the eastern states and four in west Virginia. The value of "B" and "C" coupons, issued for essential driving, is four gallons.

While all non-commercial vehicles in the area continued eligible for normal supplies, the motorists with "A," "B" and "C" books were instructed they may buy only one coupon's worth of gasoline for emergency trips.

Confusion over the term "emergency" and protests that war workers might be unable to reach their jobs brought instructions from Henderson that fuel may be supplied "workers in war plants where their transportation to and from work depends on their getting gasoline."

Physicians, mail carriers and others dependent on automobiles for essential occupations were included in the "emergency" classification.

FRD Explains Shortage President Roosevelt asserted at a press conference yesterday that the shutdown on gasoline sales was a temporary expedient to meet a crisis which left most eastern filling stations about dry.

Gasoline for the allied forces in Africa, he said, was taken from eastern stocks because it was quicker than obtaining fuel from Texas.

Stores Open Nights Until Christmas Eve Starting with the regular Friday night opening last night, Wisconsin Rapids retail stores are open each evening between now and Christmas, with the exception of Sunday, to accommodate gift shoppers. Neokosa and Port Edwards business establishments are following a like schedule.

Stores in the Tri-Cities will close at 6 p. m. Thursday to permit employees to spend Christmas eve with their families, and will remain closed Christmas day.

Fire department officers said a faulty furnace sprayed oil on hot metal, causing an explosion.

At Least 2 Lives Lost, Nine Severely Burned in Chicago Hotel Fire

Chicago—(P)—At least two persons were killed and nine injured today in a noonday fire that cracked through the five-story brick West hotel at Madison and Halsted streets, the heart of the near west side flophouse and honky-tonk belt.

First reports said four persons had perished, two in a plunge from a fourth-story window to escape the flames and two from burns. Later it was learned the casualties were reported ones at the scene of the fire and a second time on arrival at a hospital.

Flames Spread Fiercely The fire spread fiercely within a few minutes but was brought under control in little more than an hour by a large force of firemen and equipment.

Fire Commissioner Michael J. Corrigan said it was possible many occupants of the hotel might have been trapped inside the 65-year-old landmark. He estimated damage at \$125,000.

Those killed were a man and a woman who leaped from a fourth floor window before firemen arrived. They were not identified immediately.

Burn Out 3 Upper Floors The fire burned out the three upper floors of the building. John Carlson, 53, a busboy who was one of the first to leap to safety from the blazing building, said he was awakened by smoke in his fifth floor room, already engulfed in flames.

"I ran to the window," he related, "stepped out on to the fire escape and saw firemen had rigged up a life-net below. I jumped into the net." He landed safely, suffering only a slight shock from the experience.

Fifty-six pieces of fire equipment were pressed into service and succeeded in confining the blaze to the West hotel building. The entire Fourth division of the police department was mobilized for rescue and first aid work and to keep order and safety amid the crowds that thronged the busy west side intersection.

Two Leap to Deaths A man and woman who leaped from the fourth floor were killed instantly. One man was found on the third floor with both his legs cut off, apparently by a falling wall.

Fire Chief Dell White of the First battalion, commanding the first firemen to reach the scene, said the blaze appeared to have started on the second or third floors. On the Madison street side of the building, he said, about 20 feet from the outer wall, is an elevator and that the flames apparently had roared up and down the shaft, turning the entire hotel building into an inferno.

Some occupants of the hotel were asleep when firemen came in and roused them. About four persons escaped in jumps into life-nets.

Service station owners were asked by the board today to remind motorists to remove from windshields the A class sticker when the car also bears a B or C sticker. Only one sticker, the highest class designation, should appear on the windshield of a vehicle.

THRUST AIMED AT IMPORTANT PORT OF AKYAB

New Delhi—(P)—British troops have crossed the Indian border and advanced some 40 miles into Japanese-occupied Burma to the Maungdaw-Buthidaung area, about 60 miles northwest of Akyab of the Bay of Bengal, the British announced today.

Jap Forces Withdraw The British advance, started after a terrific aerial bombardment of Japanese positions between the Indian border and Akyab, was made without opposition. Japanese forces withdrew before the approaching British, the communique said.

Both British and United States planes have been blasting Japanese concentrations between the Indian frontier and Akyab for a week. While there was nothing to indicate that the British thrust was part of a general allied offensive, the action did put the initiative in allied hands at least temporarily for the first time since the Japanese occupied Akyab last May.

There was no indication of the size of Gen. Sir Archibald P. Wavell's attacking army, and the communique did not disclose whether American and Chinese units were taking part in the action.

Wavell, commander-in-chief of British forces in India, launched his attack—the first step toward the promised re-occupation of the former British protectorate—as the monsoon season ended, permitting large scale operations.

The monsoon period had held the India-Burma front in a state of stabilization for six months. There was no immediate explanation as to why the Japanese chose not to defend the position they had built along the border.

Akyab Is Objective The British thrust obviously was aimed at Akyab, an important Burma port which was occupied by the Japanese May 8, winding up to all practical purposes the campaign in Burma.

For the second day in succession the RAF yesterday attacked the Japanese-occupied village of Kathedang, about half-way between Maungdaw and Akyab. Heavy damage was inflicted on the village.

Brig. Gen. Clayton L. Bissell, commander of the United States air forces in China, Burma and India, disclosed only yesterday that the United States Tenth air force based in India had gone out on as many as 14 raiding operations in one day during the past week without the loss of a single plane by enemy action.

Akyab is only 300 air miles from Calcutta, India, and in Japanese hands it always would be a potential threat as a base for a Japanese attack on India.

Progressive Group to Ask Special Election Madison, Wis.—(P)—A brief urging a special election for selection of a governor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Governor-Elect Orland S. Loomis will be filed with the supreme court on behalf of the Progressive state central committee, Chairman Glenn D. Roberts said today. The brief will be written by Attorney Walter D. Corrigan, of Milwaukee. The court has taken original jurisdiction on a request to determine who shall be governor during the next two years and will hear arguments of attorneys Monday.

County's New Police Radio System Gets First Workout Wood county's police radio system, still in the testing period, had a minor work-out in earnest this morning, Chief of Police R. J. Exner reported. The city squad car and headquarters in the city hall are equipped to operate with the system.

Wife Held in Bayfield Co. Man's Death

Washburn, Wis.—(P)—Mrs. Vincent Rogers, 19, was detained at the county jail without charge today pending an investigation by Bayfield county authorities of the fatal shooting of her 30-year-old husband.

Rogers was killed yesterday near his home, four miles east of Cable. Coroner Alvin Bradley, who ordered an inquest but set no date, said Mrs. Rogers had told him and Sheriff Andrew Gidlof this story:

Mrs. Rogers had complained that her husband had cut wood into lengths too long for the stove. Rogers struck her, as she held her nine-month-old daughter, and she fell to the floor. Mrs. Rogers took a revolver from her husband's collection of weapons and fled the house with her baby, intending to ask a neighbor to take her to Washburn. Rogers followed. As he approached, Mrs. Rogers, holding the child, raised the weapon, intending only to frighten her husband. Rogers fell, a bullet wound in his head.

STRIKE LOOMS AT FWD PLANT

Clintonville, Wis.—(P)—The Associated Unions of America retracted today that its affiliate, the F. W. D. Employees association, had authorized the local union executive board to call a strike at the Executive Wheel Drive Auto company, which is engaged in car production.

In a telegram to Director John R. Steelman of the U. S. conciliation service, the union said the dispute arose in this manner: "Pursuant to a provision in the contract, the company and union commenced arbitration proceedings in Clintonville Nov. 12th, the subject matter thereof being the claim of the union to a wage bonus worked by the company to the workers, and in reliance upon such promise the union signed a labor contract. On Dec. 16th, the company commenced a lawsuit enjoining arbitration proceedings."

The program asked Steelman's assistance in settling the dispute and said the executive board desired to call a strike only as a last resort. Counsel said the company board of directors voted to pay a bonus if the union would sign the 1941 contract, and that the bonus was paid. The union, according to company counsel, claimed that in addition the superintendent had promised a second bonus for signing.

The company denied this and maintained the union sought two bonuses for signing one contract. The bonus involved would amount to about \$168,000, counsel said.

Marshfield Soldier Is Missing in New Guinea

Marshfield, Wis.—Sgt. Walter Hoag, 26, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hoag of Marshfield, is missing in action in New Guinea. A telegram was received by the family Friday afternoon. Sergeant Hoag, the war department said, has been missing since November 19.

He had served in the army since April, 1941, when he was inducted. Two brothers are in the armed forces, Sergeant Gerald, also in New Guinea, and a member of the same regiment, and Pfc. Donald, a Marine now stationed in the United States. Three Marshfield men had been previously reported killed in action in New Guinea.



RICK RETURNS HOME—Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker (left), flying hero of two wars, and Maj. Gen. Barney Giles in San Francisco before Rickenbacker left for Washington, D. C., to tell Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson of his harrowing experiences while lost on the Pacific 24 days.

Vanguard of British Eighth Army, Hot on Rommel's Trail, Only 240 Miles from Tripoli

London—(P)—The British chase of Nazi Marshal Rommel's retreating army rolled swiftly westward today and the Morocco radio reported that vanguards of the pursuers were within 19 miles of Sirte, 155 miles beyond El Agheila, starting point of the current drive, and only 240 miles from Tripoli.

The British communique said only that axis forces continued their flight yesterday on the road to Tripoli under day-long ground and air blows.

Abandon Zautia En Nofilia The only gangle of the spent General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's forces was that the enemy had abandoned Zautia En Nofilia, 100 miles and allied west of El Agheila, and that allied air forces had moved onto an advanced base in the Sultana area more than 30 miles further west.

The Morocco broadcast said advance units of the Eighth army had been in heavy fighting with Rommel's rear guard 55 miles west of Zautia En Nofilia on Thursday. An Italian communique said 21 allied tanks were destroyed and a lack of "strong pressure" enabled axis forces "to effect prearranged movement" in the withdrawal westward across Libya.

All-Out Drive May Be Near Across the enemy's narrowing foothold in North Africa, the increasing fury of the allied air attack and axis strongholds in Tunisia and widespread patrol probing all along that hilly front in improving weather suggested that the all-out allied drive on Tunis and Bizerte may be near.

In the eighth day of the sustained battering of axis-held ports in Tunisia, Flying Fortresses yesterday hit and set ablaze an axis warship, believed to have been a cruiser, off Bizerte. The same planes sent new debris flying among the docks of the great naval base and shot down three of 15 enemy planes which attempted to stop them. Only one Fortress was lost.

Other Planes Raid Sousse Other United States bombers flew through heavy anti-aircraft fire to blast the railroad station and a 2,000-foot section of the yards at Sousse, south of Tunis. Axis ships in the harbor threw up a vicious cloud of anti-aircraft fire and two of the bombers were lost. A headquarters spokesman said the patrolling activity along the See—WAR IN AFRICA—Page 7

Draftees to Leave on Tuesday, Wednesday Contingents of the south Wood county selective service district's December quota will leave Wisconsin Rapids on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons next week, men routed to Camp Grant leaving for Fort Sheridan Wednesday afternoon.

The local board reminded selectees that they need not report at the draft office, but should be at the Milwaukee depot at 2 p. m. in the listing of the December quota in Friday's issue, a Wisconsin Rapids selectee's name was wrongly given. It should have been Edward Eugene Wiggins.

QUALITY OF JAP FLIERS 'GOING DOWN RAPIDLY'

Washington—(P)—Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, back from a fruiting war survey which brought him three harrowing weeks adrift on a life raft in the Pacific, reported today that the quality of Japanese fighter and bomber pilots is "going down very rapidly."

Lauds American Fliers In contrast, the World War flying ace said, the level of American fliers in the south Pacific "is going uphill."

Rickenbacker landed in Washington today, met his wife for the first time since his rescue, and then saw newspapermen at Secretary of War Stimson's press conference. "It is quite evident," he reported, "that the great majority of the Japanese pilots are inexperienced and green."

Rickenbacker drew his experiences from an inspection trip to New Guinea and other points in the south Pacific including Guadalcanal island in the Solomons. "Real Hell Hole" Of Guadalcanal, he said: "There I found a real hell hole—mud and confusion—if only the people back home could know what those boys are doing for us and putting up with, I think they would take this war more seriously."

He referred to complaints which he has heard since his return against gasoline and rubber rationing, saying they "seem ridiculous when you have seen what those boys haven't got."

Rickenbacker declared that on Guadalcanal, tremendous successes were being accomplished by bomber and fighter pilots who were destroying a vast amount of enemy shipping, including cruisers and destroyers.

Kept Going by Successes He added an opinion that "if it weren't for their tremendous successes in combat, I don't believe those boys could possibly last physically or mentally very long, but due to the great stimulus of their successes, they are all happy and anxious to keep going."

"After seeing these boys in the air and on the ground," he continued, "I've come to the conclusion that if we brought combat troops back into America and put factory workers in their position, we'd have production doubled in 30 days time."

Telling of his experiences after his plane was forced down, Rickenbacker said the first food for him and his seven companions came from a seagull, which perched on his head and was snared by the gull's movement. Parts of the gull were eaten, and other parts were See—RICKENBACKER—Page 7

Sgro Murder Case to Reach Jurors Today Milwaukee—(P)—The case of Joseph Sgro, 23-year-old accused slayer of the Rev. Benjamin Re, will go to the jury this afternoon. Judge Roland J. Steimle said he would submit five possible verdicts for the jurors' consideration: Not guilty; guilty of murder in the first degree (life); second degree murder (14-25 years); third degree manslaughter (2-4 years) not guilty by reason of insanity at the time of the act.

Counsel presented their pleas to the jury today. The defense rested late yesterday.

MRS. LORENZ DIES Madison, Wis.—(P)—Mrs. W. F. Lorenz, 59, wife of Dr. W. F. Lorenz, director of the University of Wisconsin's psychiatric institute and chairman of the university athletic board, died in a hospital yesterday. Besides her husband, she is survived by five sons. She was born in New Jersey.

THE WEATHER Today's Weather Forecast—Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 9; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., -10; temperature at 7 a. m., -10. Precipitation, trace.

4 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT Buy Christmas Seals

For Wisconsin! Continued cold tonight and Sunday forenoon; occasional light snow in extreme west portion late tonight and Sunday forenoon.