

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Light snow east, clearing west tonight; Thursday partly cloudy, colder.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 15; minimum -4. Precipitation .02.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

THE ENEMY IS STILL THERE!
Keep Buying Extra Bonds!

Thirty-First Year—No. 9664.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Wednesday, December 27, 1944.

Single Copy Five Cents

Superforts Again Slug Tokyo Industrial Areas

Subs Get Aircraft Carrier And Six Other Warships

Washington—(AP)—Destruction of a large Japanese aircraft carrier, six additional enemy warships and 20 other Nipponese vessels by American submarines was reported by the navy today.

Few details were given on the big bag by the subs operating in Far Eastern waters, announced by Secretary Forrestal at a news conference.

The aircraft carrier was not identified beyond the statement that it was "large." The other warships blasted by the undersea fleet included: one converted light cruiser, a destroyer, two escort vessels and two destroyer transports. Other ships sent to the bottom by American torpedoes and deck guns were two large transports, 10 medium cargo vessels, three small cargo vessels, one small transport, two medium cargo transports and two medium tankers.

These sinkings bring to 1,090 the number of Japanese ships sunk, probably sunk or damaged since the war started. Included are 99 warships definitely sunk, 11 probably sunk and 16 damaged.

Forrestal, in issuing the submarine report, said the sinkings of Japanese vessels of all types now represent more than 3,500,000 tons of enemy shipping destroyed by American submarines alone.

U. S. Planes Continue To Rain Bombs on Jap Airfields at Manila

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines—(AP)—Land-based American bombers for the fourth consecutive day blasted Japan's airfields at Manila on Luzon island, now regarded as vulnerable to re-invasion by Yank forces mopping up in the central Philippines.

Clark field was the principal target as it was in two of the previous attacks. It was plastered Monday with 88,000 pounds of explosives, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today.

The Japanese showed a disposition to make a fight of it. They sent up at least 50 interceptors, of which 39 were shot down by Yankee fighter escorts. Four more were listed as probably down. The day's bag brought to 72 the total of Japanese planes shot down in 48 hours in the Manila raids. The Americans lost six fighters on the two days.

Mopping Up on Leyte
On conquered Leyte, American ground forces mopped up small and isolated Japanese remnants which the communists said, were "capable of only minor opposition." During Monday, 899 more of the enemy were killed and 14 captured, at a cost of seven American dead and 21 wounded.

Thus enemy casualties for the Leyte campaign were raised to 114,120.

The fighter cover in the Manila raid was led by Maj. Thomas McQuire, of San Antonio, Texas, who bagged three Japanese. That brought his total to 38, within shooting range of the 40 credited to Maj.

No Problem at Postoffice as Mail Increased

Although the volume of packages, cards and letters increased 20 per cent over last year's figure, the problem of mail deliveries was less acute than in previous years, Joe Wheeler, postmaster, stated today.

No estimate or actual figures on the number of parcels and cards delivered were kept, Mr. Wheeler said, but he judged that the number would top any record made in many years past.

Mr. Wheeler attributed the ease with which all mail was delivered to the fact that people were thoughtful enough to begin mailing earlier, thus maintaining a steady flow of work in the postoffice, rather than the extreme rush which usually precedes the Christmas holiday. He also stated that 20 extra helpers were hired for outside deliveries and for work in the office, and two extra trucks were put into service for parcel post deliveries.

Truck Output Far Below Requirements

Washington—(AP)—ODT said today commercial truck production scheduled for 1945 is only 24.1 per cent of estimated requirements.

The truck program, recently announced by the war production board, calls for 186,792 vehicles next year. The office of defense transportation said it estimated 773,935 were needed "to meet essential war and civilian transportation requirements."

The agency predicted farmers and dairy producers would be hard hit, since the program calls for only 35,704 light trucks compared with ODT-estimated requirements of 299,600.

David Lloyd George Intends to Retire

London—(AP)—David Lloyd George, who led Britain to victory in the last war, announced today he would retire from parliament when his term expires, on advice of his physician.

RUSSIAN SHOCK TROOPS CHARGING UPON BUDAPEST

BY DANIEL DE LUCE
Moscow—(AP)—Red army shock troops charged upon flame-seared Budapest from snowy hills above the Danube river today. The German garrison burned military stores, dynamited public utilities and fought back grimly with field artillery scattered throughout the Hungarian capital.

Half a dozen Soviet spearheads were reported closing in on the western half of the encircled city and all German roads of escape were cut off. Just how many Nazi troops comprise the defending garrison is not known here, but the Russian command said their numbers were large.

Soviet assault units of tanks, plus tommy-gunners, were believed to have slashed some distance into the Buda district on the west bank of the Danube.

A delayed dispatch from Szekesfehervar, about 32 miles southwest of Budapest, disclosed that the Nazis had fought for the city street by street. A pillbox was manned outside St. Stephen's cathedral until it was silenced by a direct hit. Thousands of German dead were reported to have lined the roads on the battlefields between Szekesfehervar and Budapest following the Russian advance. Burned out armored vehicles, many of them the latest King Tiger and Panther tanks, dotted the fields and endless columns of Nazi prisoners marched miserably to the cages, the dispatch said.

Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's heavy artillery dominated the entire city—including Pest's massive business and factory buildings on the plain east of the Danube.

Armored columns, already deep inside the city's western outskirts, were blasting their way house by house toward two big bridges that span the Danube and link the two sections of the city.

Two Armies Lined Up
Tolbukhin's Third Ukraine army and Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukraine army, it was pointed out, are tactically linked up northwest of Budapest for a joint drive up both sides of the Danube to Bratislava, Slovakian capital, and Vienna.

Swarming forward along Hron (Garum), a northern tributary of the Danube, Malinovsky's troops captured at least 13 towns in southern Czechoslovakia and advanced within 96 miles of Vienna.

Tolbukhin's gains west of Budapest tightened the Russian battle zone in the Danubian basin into the equivalent of a single front, stretching some 250 miles from the approaches to the eastern Slovakian fortress town of Kassa to the southwestern Hungarian gap below Lake Balaton.

Daylight Strike On Jap Capital First Since Dec. 3

Washington—(AP)—Tokyo industrial areas were slugged today for the fifth time by Saipan-based Superfortresses.

The daylight strike by B-29's of the 21st bomber command was the first on the sprawling Japanese capital since December 3. A war department communique did not report further details.

Tokyo radio said the giant planes "dropped explosives and incendiaries at random, causing insignificant damage."

A Japanese imperial communique said about 50 Superfortresses were in the attacking force and claimed nine were definitely shot down, five probably and 27 others damaged.

Tokyo radio said "downtown Tokyo resounded with cheers and applause as the throng was given the treat of witnessing a B-29 break formation amidst a cloud of anti-aircraft barrage" and fall.

The imperial communique said two of the Superfortresses were knocked down by suicide Nipponese pilots who crash-dived the big bombers. The high command admitted the loss of four interceptors.

Japanese War Minister Gen. Sogiyama interrupted his war report to the diet this afternoon to make a statement on a B-29 raid then in progress over the city.

According to a Japanese broadcast, he said: "Approximately 50 of the B-29's have penetrated the skies over the Tokyo-Yokohama area up to the present time. They have dropped explosives and incendiaries on several points in the Tokyo-Yokohama area."

In previous raids on Tokyo the flying battleships have concentrated on whittling down Japanese fighter plane production. One of the empire's top producers of military planes, the Mushashima engine factory of the Nakajima aircraft plant, was the target of the December 8 attack.

HEAVY SNOWFALL BLANKETS CITY

Warmer weather combined with a heavy snowfall today to bring Wisconsin Rapids its mildest temperatures of the week. However, the weatherman tempered the more pleasant thermometer readings with a forecast of colder weather again Thursday.

Snow began falling in Wisconsin Rapids at 4 o'clock this morning and by 2 o'clock this afternoon there were 2 1/2 inches of fresh snow on the ground. The temperature, after declining to 4 below during the night, climbed to 23 above early this afternoon.

The Associated Press reported that temperatures soared up to 25 degrees from midnight readings as the snow began to fall. Racine's recording moved from -9 to 16 above, Milwaukee's from -5 to 18 above, Madison from -6 to 14 above and other communities followed suit.

Other low marks included -2 at Green Bay, 0 at Wausau and Rhinelander, 2 above at Park Falls, five above at LaCrosse and 8 above at Superior.

Rain Hampers Travel
The Chicago Weather bureau today described a freezing rain storm covering a wide central section of the nation as the most extensive in years. It made highway and air-plane travel extremely hazardous if not impossible.

Ice conditions which Tuesday hit Arkansas, Oklahoma and parts of Louisiana spread today through southern Illinois, south and central Indiana, some of Kentucky, most of Ohio and was moving into Pennsylvania and to Washington, D. C. The Ohio highway director said it was the worst icing storm in that state's history.

Three Killed in Paris Bombing

Paris—(AP)—Three persons were killed and 13 others injured last night by bombs which fell on the Paris area near world famous landmarks. It was the French capital's first air raid since August 27, immediately after the city's liberation.

Some damage was caused to buildings (11 words censored) where two bombs fell.

The bombers were not officially identified, but the fact that only a few appeared over the city virtually precluded any possibility that the bombs might have been dropped by allied aircraft.

A servicemen's club was wrecked by a direct hit which caused some casualties. French air raid defense authorities said a hospital was hit. Night fighters took to the air immediately in pursuit of the bombers.

RECEIVE PURPLE HEART

Mr. and Mrs. George Damitz, 1150 Eighth street south, received the Purple Heart on Christmas day which had been awarded posthumously to their son, Sgt. Dale F. Damitz, who died in action on Leyte island recently.

Wolosek Changes Plea To Guilty On 2 Counts

Max Wolosek, McKinley street, pleaded guilty before Justice Byron B. Conway this afternoon to charge of reckless driving and failing to stop after his car was involved in an accident. He was fined \$50 and costs on the first count, \$10 and costs on the second.

Wolosek was involved in a double accident December 17 when his car sideswiped another at the intersection of Sixteenth and Baker streets and then crashed head-on into a car on the Highway 54 over-head, injuring himself and three other persons, according to police. He appeared in justice court following the accident where he pleaded not guilty and he was then scheduled to appear in Justice Conway's court Friday.

Yanks Drive Deep Salient Into Nazi Lines and Hand Enemy First Big Setback



COMMUNION AT ST. PETER'S—Pope Pius XII gives communion to one of the devout at midnight mass in St. Peter's cathedral, Vatican City, on Christmas Eve. (OWI radiophoto from NEA telephoto.)

Witter Hotel and Eagles Properties Are Given to City

Deeds to the Witter hotel and Eagles clubhouse properties were accepted by the city council from the Consolidated Water Power and Paper company at a 10-minute special meeting last night. Similar to the several parcels of land on the East side river bank presented by Consolidated to the city about three weeks ago, the deeds restrict use of the land to parking. The action represents another step in a large-scale river front beautification project and post-war reconstruction of the East side business district.

All but five pieces of realty extending north from the Daly drugstore along the river now have been secured, a Consolidated spokesman said today.

Rotary Told How It Can Serve Best

Emphasizing "how Rotary can serve best these days," the Rev. A. W. Triggs, pastor of the First Methodist church in Wisconsin Rapids, stressed the influence that the organization has upon the community of which it is a part, to Rotary club members at their noon luncheon here today.

The Rev. Mr. Triggs stated that Rotary can especially serve best by being "expressively appreciative and also by its relationship toward the returning serviceman." The pastor, a member of the local club, said, "we should stand back of the servicemen and cooperate with all those agencies in the community whose duty it is to see that the returning veteran receives proper treatment in rehabilitating himself."

Mr. Daniels also disclosed that he has purchased the Blackhawk hotel at Wisconsin Dells from Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Barrett, Wisconsin Dells. This hotel is five years old and will house 60 to 70 persons.

The lease assigned to the city by Consolidated on the Eagles clubhouse has a maximum clause of three years for the present occupants on a rent-free basis. It has not been classed as taxable property.

The city park board recommended that the city council accept the additional properties. Mayor Wm. F. Nobles expressed his thanks to Consolidated Water Power and Paper company on behalf of the city for the gifts.

Wiley Urges Cleanup Of Gas Black Market

Washington—(AP)—"Let's clean out the real crooks on the gasoline rationing front once and for all," Senator Wiley (R-Wis.) pleaded yesterday.

"Some courts have been too lenient," he declared in a statement. "Let's stop coddling the spawn of the underworld brought before the bar of justice on rationing charges."

He urged that theft and counterfeiting of ration coupons be prosecuted under the U. S. criminal code, instead of, "as often now," under the second war powers act as misdemeanors.

Sgt. Elmer Yeager, a member of the Second marine division, was introduced and brief of his experiences on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Tinian and Saipan.

Single U.S. Army Vehicle Breaks Through to Bastogne

BY JAMES M. LONG
Paris—(AP)—U. S. troops and tanks, regaining the initiative, have driven a deep salient into German lines within the last 24 hours and dealt the German offensive its first serious setback, a front dispatch declared today.

The location of this American plunge and details could not be given in the dispatch, sent at 2 p. m. (8 a. m. Central War time) from the Stavelot area of Belgium.

It followed supreme headquarters' announcement that Americans on Christmas day had folded back German armored columns which thrust within four miles of the Meuse river in their deepest penetration into Belgium.

All along the northern rim of the German drive, said the dispatch from the Stavelot sector, "there are indications the Germans are on the defense for the moment with infantry replacing tanks."

"Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt apparently still is trying to turn the American line to the west, but from here east huge losses have convinced him the line is firmly held," it said.

A single U. S. army vehicle broke through the German ring around Bastogne near the middle of the German bulge, and reached the American garrison holding there against furious Nazi attacks, a dispatch from U. S. first army headquarters said.

Reports indicated the Germans at least temporarily had lost the initiative in this winter drive.

Regaining Initiative
An earlier field dispatch reported doughboys slowly regaining the initiative on flanks of the German breakthrough.

Fighter bombers tore into German tank columns again today.

Allied officers in the field estimated that more than 2,000 German spies in American uniforms were being used in the German drive, either infiltrating or being dropped behind U. S. lines.

A German-manned American Sherman tank and two tank destroyers slipped into a U. S. column on one road late yesterday, shooting it up and escaping. Damage was heavy for the size of the operation.

Incomplete reports from two sections of the breakthrough area listed destruction of more than 250 Nazi tanks and self-propelled guns and capture of more than 2,800 prisoners since the offensive started.

Failed to Reach Meuse
The German offensive—believed to be powered with some 250,000 troops—had sent light armored combat teams to Celles and Ciney in a bid to reach the Meuse. But doughboys in a Christmas battle rolled them back one to two miles, supreme headquarters disclosed.

Supreme headquarters said Von Rundstedt had been held virtually without gains in the 24 hours up to Tuesday morning.

But the German southern flank at that same time stiffened against the American push to relieve the encircled garrison at Bastogne.

Hundreds of tons of supplies were parachuted today to the Bastogne garrison.

Another front dispatch today said the front was comparatively, and almost ominously, quiet today with
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BREAKTHROUGH BLAMED PARTLY ON INTELLIGENCE

BY WES GALLAGHER
With U. S. Forces in Belgium—(Delayed)—(P)—An error in the allied intelligence service must share a large part of the blame for Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's breakthrough on the Western front.

It is now apparent that the allied high command intelligence not only failed to detect the buildup by Von Rundstedt on the weak spot of the front, but also—not for the first time in this war—under-estimated German military strength and ability.

Up to the day of the breakthrough the official opinion as given out to correspondents was that:

1. The Ardennes forest was not an advantageous spot in which to launch a winter offensive and it was being used as a sort of "rest sector" by both Germans and Americans.
2. That Von Rundstedt had practically no strategic reserve troops to use in a big offensive.
3. That the morale of the German soldier was extremely low.
4. That the main German high command aim was to fight a defensive action before the Ruhr valley.
5. That the German air force virtually was non-existent.
6. That the Germans' shortage of gasoline and war materials precluded any large-scale effort.

Yet Von Rundstedt has been able to throw elements of many divisions into this battle while holding the rest of the western front and is still known to have a powerful punch left.

There may be some shortage of gasoline, but it is not yet apparent and the Luftwaffe has put forth its greatest effort since 1940.

It is not the first time that allied military leaders have underestimated German strength. A similar estimate was made of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's condition in February, 1943, just before he came out of land pass in southern Tunisia. German capabilities also were underestimated in Italy along the Rapido river and at the start of the Anzio bridgehead.

This over-optimism among officials and this under-estimation of Germany were the very things many of these same military leaders had warned against in messages to the people of America and Britain.

Individual Quota Surpassed in State

Milwaukee—(AP)—Wisconsin cleared its individual quota in the Sixth War Loan drive by \$1,300,000 with a sale of \$128,300,000, the war finance committee reported today.

E bond sales, assigned a separate quota of \$55,000,000, still lag with a 94 per cent investment.

Total sale of all categories as of today was \$263,600,000, or \$110,000,000 over the quota.

Rail Absentees Balk War Effort

Chicago—(AP)—W. F. Kirk, western rail director of the office of defense transportation, said today that war effort was being impeded by absenteeism of yard service employees in railroad terminals in Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City.

"Movement of materials to manufacturers of military supplies badly needed on our battle fronts is being retarded in important rail terminals," Kirk asserted, adding "railroad men involved in the movement of this traffic are now in the 'first line' in meeting the adverse situation in Belgium."

Kirk said railroad officials throughout the west advised him today that holiday absenteeism was causing a lag in military transportation.

Dewey to Give Radio Address February 8

Washington—(AP)—A Washington address by Gov. Thomas E. Dewey on February 8, to be broadcast nationally, was formally announced today.

The address, at the annual Lincoln day dinner here, will be the first by the New York governor since his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in November, and will mark his first visit to the capital since the campaign.

Wisconsin Rapids Gets Break

Green Bay to follow the morning newspapers—details would be forthcoming from Washington. So Bushnell looked up a ration table in a Milwaukee newspaper which said the cancellation became "effective tomorrow." There was no date given. The paper itself was dated "Tuesday, Dec. 26" so, in Bushnell's language, "tomorrow" would be Wednesday, December 27.

Bushnell gave out instructions accordingly. And it wasn't long before housewives were flocking to Wisconsin Rapids stores to use up their "canceled" points. Bushnell subsequently received detailed orders from Washington specifying midnight Tuesday as the deadline but by then it was too late.

A lot of "wise guys" who heard about the impending action scurried around and found a store open Christmas day weren't quite so wise when they saw their friends trading in their points in the course of the regular day's business. And some people could have kicked themselves, where it's pretty hard to do, for being so quick on the draw and destroying their stamps when they heard they no longer were negotiable. Those who had stamps but didn't hear about the "reprieve" could kick themselves, too. In the same difficult place.

And a lot of storekeepers looked about at their empty shelves, drew a big breath and went home plumb tuckered out after one of the busiest days they had ever known.

As for Bushnell—well, it could happen to anybody.

HOLD EVERYTHING



"I told you those weren't ducks we were following—they were P-38s!"