

**THE WEATHER**  
For Wisconsin: Fair and cold tonight. Friday, cloudy and warm, occasional light snow in afternoon.  
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 30; minimum -4.

# Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

**BONDS**  
Keep Bombs Falling!

Thirty-First Year—No. 9660.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Thursday, December 21, 1944.

Single Copy Five Cents

## Yanks Winding Up Conquest of Leyte

**BY JIM HUTCHESON**  
General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines—(P)—American conquest of rugged Leyte island—the outcome "will decide the fate of the greater east war," Japan's Premier Koiso said Dec. 12—near accomplishment today.  
"The battle is rapidly drawing to an end," announced Gen. Douglas MacArthur two months and a day after he returned to the Philippines Oct. 20 with amphibious forces, landing on Leyte's east coast.  
On Mindoro island—Tokyo radio said the Yanks sought to cover up "reverses" on Leyte by vaulting to the China sea side of the Philippines seven days ago—"there was no enemy ground activity and his air action was light," today's communique said. Nine raiding planes were downed.  
Irreversible disaster was depicted for the Nipponese on mountainous northwest Leyte. That decisive battlefield is crossed north and south by a single corridor road from Pampampangan to Ormoc and linked by a supplementary road to the west coast at Palompon.  
Divisions Near Juncture  
Two American divisions slashing south from Pampampangan and a third pushing north from Ormoc have fought to within a mile of a juncture along the corridor road, "thus completing destruction of the Yamashita line."  
Lt. Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, who boasted his success at Singapore would be repeated on Leyte against MacArthur, had formed that line at heavy cost with reinforcements landed from bomb-blasted convoys prior to the loss of Ormoc.  
Yamashita's "cohesion now is completely broken and he is no longer capable of an integrated defense," today's communique said.  
"The small remnants of his forces, divided into isolated groups, are able to resist temporarily only at independent points.  
"Scattered elements are fleeing toward Palompon in an endeavor to reach the northwest coast of Leyte."  
The demoralized Nipponese abandoned sufficient artillery, small arms ammunition, machineguns, grenades, land mines and food stores to have served him for six months.  
Abandon 1,500 Dead  
The Japanese, who try to conceal the extent of their losses by carrying away their dead, abandoned 1,541 "during the day," the communique said.  
Enemy losses in the Leyte campaign, including more than 30,000 drowned at sea in aerial destruction of reinforcement convoys, recently were placed by headquarters at close to 90,000.  
A Japanese convoy far to the west of Manila was spotted by a single patrol bomber which damaged a 6,000-ton freighter-transport. (Clearing the path for more B-29 raids on Japan—those attacks, MacArthur has said, are diverting enemy airpower from the Philippines—Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced at Pearl Harbor a 100-ton bombing of Iwo Jima.  
(That enemy base in the Volcano islands, midway between Tokyo and the B-29 hopoff fields on Saipan, was pounded Monday, U. S. time, by escorted Liberators. Lightnings "shot down one enemy plane. Also on Monday, Liberators raided Marcus island, a base from which the B-29s can be spotted while flying to Tokyo.)



**BONG GETS CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL**—Major Richard Bong (right), army fighter pilot from Poplar, Wis., gets Congressional Medal of Honor from Gen. Douglas MacArthur at ceremonies at a Leyte island airstrip in the Philippines. Major Bong has 40 Jap planes to his credit.

## NEPCO ADOPTS PLAN TO FINANCE NEW EXPANSIONS

Authorization of a mortgage of two and one half million dollars on the plants and properties of the Nekosoa-Edwards Paper company was granted at a special stockholders meeting in the company offices at Port Edwards Thursday. Purposes of the new mortgage are three-fold, it was stated by John E. Alexander, president. First, the company's present outstanding obligations of approximately a million and a quarter will be retired and the other half of the proceeds will be used to furnish additional working capital, eliminating bank borrowing; and for expansion and improvements and obtaining additional raw materials.  
The mortgage takes the form of a new 20 year sinking fund bond issue bearing average interest of three per cent per year and is to be underwritten by banks and insurance companies.  
Stockholders were advised by the management that the policy of the company in recent years has been to increase production in the fine grades of paper and that in order to attain such objectives improvements in the manufacturing facilities must be made. One of such projects would be the modernization and expansion of the bleach plant in the Nekosoa mill.  
Part of the new funds will be allocated to the Nekosoa improvements, although no time has been set for the starting of the work involving plant enlargements, new equipment and machinery. It was said that the work would be done as soon as conditions permit.  
Need For Timberlands  
In order to convert the company's mills to higher grades of all classifications of papers, stockholders were told it was necessary to have additional funds with which to purchase a permanent supply of pulpwood, especially spruce and balsam, as these grades are essential to the production of the finer grades of papers.  
Part of the funds will be used to purchase a considerable amount of timber lands and stumpage. Location of these timber lands were not divulged as negotiations are not completed. The company already owns large tracts in Ontario and in Oneida county and other northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan areas where extensive reforestation and timber operations have been under way for some time, including company logging enterprises involving 350 men at work in the woods.  
New Division Planned  
Part of the newly-borrowed funds will be earmarked for the establishment of a special products division, the stockholders were told. The purposes of this new division, Mr. Alexander's statement said, is to provide the company with more converting papers for special products made of paper and will necessitate use of funds for capital expenditures in the way of equipment and new buildings.  
Questioned today regarding specific details of the modernization, timber supply and expansion phases of the program for which the additional funds are required, Mr. Alexander said that as soon as plans are developed the company would make public the detailed information. He said, however, that the plans include construction work that will take a whole year to accomplish, once the various projects get underway in this community.

## First Army Reinforced as Germans Advance 35 Miles

### German Command Claims 20,000 Prisoners Taken

London—(P)—The German high command declared today that Nazi spearheads had cut the Liege-Bastogne highway which runs 12 miles west of Stavelot and taken 20,000 prisoners in this week's offensive.  
The highway runs from Liege, Belgian fortress city, to Bastogne 42 miles farther south. It was cut "on a broad front," the bulletin said, without specifying where the road was crossed.  
A penetration to Stavelot, 20 miles inside Belgium, has been the deepest announced by the allies.  
"Enemy supply columns moving toward the Meuse river were caught up with and overtaken by German tanks. Freshly-brought up American units were split up into single groups and did not succeed in checking our advance," the broadcast communique said.  
Advanced German units have "penetrated into the Ardennes," it added.  
Americans in the Schnee Eifel forest in Germany "far behind the front were either wiped out or taken prisoners yesterday. Seven thousand Americans were captured," the bulletin asserted.  
In yesterday's fighting 48 tanks and armored vehicles as well as 50 guns were captured and 136 tanks were knocked out.  
Elsewhere on the western front, allied attacks continued without success, it added.  
The bulletin also declared the German navy had sunk six allied supply freighters totaling more than 30,000 tons in the mouth of the Scheldt river, at the entrance to Antwerp.

### Failure of German Drive Will Shorten War: Stimson

Washington—(P)—War Secretary Stimson said today that if the German counter-offensive fails it definitely will shorten the war.  
He coupled with this assertion, however, the statement that the Germans' ability to launch the huge offensive is significant. He said the Nazis had penetrated allied territory for distances ranging from five to 20 miles.  
Stimson, in his weekly review of the war given at a news conference, said the Germans chose for their attack a sector "which had been loosely held by both sides. It was a terrain which had not offered to the allies much incentive for exploitation."  
The secretary commented that the Nazis did not have a great deal to lose in risking the offensive and that it might gain for them a few months of time before they must account for "the misery they have inflicted upon the world."  
Discussing the power of the German thrust, Stimson said that despite losses suffered by the Nazis in land and air attacks in recent months "they have been able to build up on the west all a very substantial force for this attack."

### Reports Since Tuesday Noon Are Withheld

**BY JAMES M. LONG**  
Paris—(P)—Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt's armor and infantry had driven 35 miles westward into Belgium to a point about 14 miles south of the fortress of Liege up to noon Tuesday, it was disclosed at supreme headquarters today.  
But veteran First army formations, rushed up to the northern flank of the deep German salient, stopped the Germans col today in their effort to push northward, and badly mauled large tank units in a heavy engagement.  
Other American forces, hurried into action along the German north flank at Monschau, chipped nine miles into the base of the German salient.  
The deepest German thrust was 14 miles west of Malmédy where tank columns cut the Liege-Bastogne-Arion road and reached the village of Werbomont.  
Von Rundstedt's massive winter rush across allied lines of communications had developed into two deep wedges as massive formations  
London—(P)—RAF Lancasters hammered the German westfront garrison and railway town of Trier today.  
Trier, 26 miles northeast of Luxembourg city, is a main supply point supporting the German winter counter-offensive.  
of from five to six armored divisions and eight to nine infantry divisions poured into a wide breach under the concealment of fog and cloud.  
Well Across Luxembourg  
The second deep wedge had penetrated three-fourths of the way across Luxembourg. This drive farther south appeared directed toward Sedan, scene of the 1940 breakthrough, carrying 14 miles from the frontier town of Vianden to just east of Wiltz, 10 miles east of Bastogne and 48 miles northeast of Sedan. Wiltz is 28 miles north of the city of Luxembourg. A parallel German column was in the vicinity of Clewava, seven miles northeast of Wiltz.  
These were the positions at noon Tuesday.  
Supreme headquarters still did not permit up-to-the-hour pin-pointing of German positions, and field dispatches quoted "good authority" on the First army front as saying the German drive was not likely to be checked this week although the northernmost prong of the German attack had been stemmed.  
First army reinforcements rushed to the scene by Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges since Saturday, when the German counter-offensive was unhampered, had succeeded in stopping any northward push from the line running through the American-held See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 9

## Superforts Take Another Crack at Mukden Industries

Washington—(P)—Superfortresses hit a Japanese aircraft plant in Mukden, Manchuria, today with "good results" although two of the big B-29s were lost.  
Fifteen enemy planes were destroyed, seven probably destroyed and 11 damaged in the combat with the enemy airforce which a 20th air force communique said put up opposition "moderate to strong."  
The communique said the planes hit Mukden in "substantial force," indicating that up to 60 craft participated.  
Enemy broadcasts placed the size of the raiding force at about 30 planes and said the bombers were over both Mukden and Dairen areas for more than 50 minutes.  
The Japanese radio also said three or four Superfortresses flew over Honshu, Japanese home island, last night and early today but caused "absolutely no damage."  
In the 20th bomber command's last attack against Mukden on December 7 the giant planes netted their biggest bag of enemy aircraft. Sixty-three Japanese planes were shot down or damaged when the Superforts bombed an aircraft plant and other military objectives at Mukden.  
This mission encountered "from weak to strong" air opposition and resulted in "unobserved to excellent bombing results," a communique said. Three B-29s were lost.

## Joe Vissarionovich Djughashvili Is 65

Moscow—(P)—Joseph Vissarionovich Djughashvili, better known to the world as Premier Joseph Stalin, celebrated his 65th birthday today without fanfare.  
Neither press nor radio made any mention of the occasion, but—like Washington's birthday in the United States—the date is known to every Russian.  
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## Exner Cautions Against Holiday Check Thieves

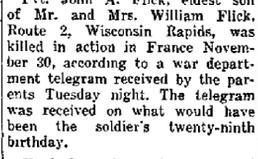
Chief of Police R. J. Exner today reminded merchants that check thieves and check forgers will do their Christmas shopping with stolen and forged checks, if merchants and housewives aren't particularly careful.  
Referring to the educational campaign now being conducted by the Wisconsin Rapids police department and the United States secret service, Chief Exner said the government mails out nearly one million checks a day, and about eight million go each month to dependents of men in the armed forces. Check thieves steal as many as they can from hall and porch mail boxes, he explained.  
Chief Exner and the secret service offer some simple precautions to help fight the forgery racket. If you receive checks by mail, be at home or have a member of your family at home receive the checks when they are due. If you are a retailer or cashier, don't cash checks for strangers without proper identification. Know your endorsers, and much of the trouble will be prevented, the chief stated.

## GOLD WAVE IS WITH US AGAIN

Central Wisconsin shivered today as the season's first major cold wave swept back over the state after having receded for one day.  
The thermometer in Wisconsin Rapids dipped 37 degrees in less than 24 hours, falling from 30 on Wednesday to -7 at 9 o'clock this morning. A bright sun brought the reading up to 1 above at 2 o'clock this afternoon, but weather predictions for tonight say that it is quite likely to drop to as low as -10 in the state. Warmer weather is forecast for Friday.  
18 Below at Superior  
With skies generally clear, the Associated Press reported that thermometers in the state skidded to an official season's low of 18 below zero at Superior.  
Other temperature readings included -12 at Rice Lake, -11 at Rhinelander, -4 at Oshkosh and -2 at Madison.  
On this, the shortest day of the year when the sun reaches its farthest point south, the mercury dipped to 25 below zero at Bemidji, Minn., coldest reported to the Chicago weather bureau.  
Heads Eastward  
The cold wave extended from northern Illinois, Wisconsin and upper Michigan westward across the northern plains and was headed for the Ohio valley and eastern Great Lakes region tonight and to the Atlantic coast area tomorrow.

## John A. Flick Is Killed on French Soil

Private John A. Flick, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. William Flick, Route 2, Wisconsin Rapids, was killed in action in France November 30, according to a war department telegram received by the parents Tuesday night. The telegram was received on what would have been the soldier's twenty-ninth birthday.  
He had previously been reported missing in action November 8 in France. He was serving with the infantry.  
Private Flick was born in the town of Rudolph December 19, 1915, and attended St. Peter and Paul Catholic school and the Lone Birch school. Before entering the army, he was employed at a fur farm at Mosinee.  
He entered the armed forces November 17, 1941, and went overseas in April of this year.  
In addition to his parents, he is survived by three brothers, Pvt. Charles Flick, an infantryman who was seriously wounded in action in France and is now in a hospital in England; Joseph and Tony, at home; and two sisters, Mrs. Viola Pizala and Mary, both of Waukegan, Ill.



PVT. JOHN A. FLICK

## BERLIN SAYS RED OFFENSIVE BEGUN

London—(P)—The Berlin radio reported today "the Russians have launched their long expected offensive between Balaton lake and the Danube" in Hungary.  
The broadcast declared ten Russian rifle divisions were thrown in the attack, and that the Germans had launched a strong counter-attack with tanks and artillery "which forced the Russians to regroup."  
Such a drive apparently would be aimed at completing encirclement by thrusting up west of the city.  
Berlin acknowledged some "local penetrations," but said they had been sealed off.  
Push Germans Back  
Moscow—(P)—The Red army pushed the Germans back on a 125-mile front in southern Slovakia and battled with battered Nazi garrisons on the outskirts of the strongholds of Kassa and Rimaszombat.  
Soviet columns last night were on three sides of both these heavily defended southeastern Slovakian towns which control highways and railways connecting with direct routes to Bratislava, Vienna and Prague to the west.  
In advances up to five miles, a communique said, the Russians captured 13 towns in the Rimaszombat area in a drive aimed at the key citadel capital of Losonc, 17 miles westward. Chief of them was Tornala, 13 miles east of Rimaszombat.  
Front reports said the great battle raged further to the west, north of the Danube bend, was going favorably for Red army troops struggling for other routes westward toward Bratislava and Vienna.  
In 41 days, the war bulletin said, the Russian second Ukrainian army has taken 41,244 prisoners in fighting along the Hungarian-Slovak border.

## Nekoosa Theater Will Give Free Kiddie Show

L. F. Buchholz, manager of the Rialto theater in Nekoosa, will host a "Free Kiddie Christmas show" for all grade school children of Nekoosa, at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon.  
All boys and girls up to high school age have been officially invited, the manager stated.

## Ornament on Tree Fatal Attraction

Philadelphia—(P)—Carlton Adams, 2, alone in the parlor of his home, climbed on a chair, reached out toward a shiny red ornament of his newly-trimmed Christmas tree.  
He fell, and was killed.

## Nepco Stockholders Get Extra Dividend

Stockholders of the Nekosoa-Edwards Paper company, a large proportion of whom reside in the Tri-Cities area, received a Christmas present from the company in the mails today when John E. Alexander, president of the company, announced the directors had authorized a special dividend of fifty cents per share. Earnings of the company for the year justified the extra dividend, the letter stated, and will be paid on December 30.  
The payment of the extra dividend will be made with the regular quarterly dividend of fifty cents per share and will bring the yield on the company's stock to \$2.50 for the year just closing.

## Pvt. Whitney Is Missing

Pvt. Kenneth Whitney, 28, son of Mrs. Katherine Whitney, 7111 Third avenue north, has been missing in action in Germany since December 2, according to word received by the soldier's mother today from Private Whitney's wife, Nancy, who lives at Waterman, Ill. The wife received the news in a war department telegram Wednesday.  
Private Whitney was serving as an infantryman with the First army in the European theater of operations. His wife last heard from him late in November.  
He was born at Steele, N. D., February 18, 1916, and attended both Marshallfield and Pittsville high schools in Wisconsin. Before entering service, he was employed by the Rapids Beverage company.  
The infantryman entered the army December 8, 1943 at Fort Sheridan. He received training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Fort George Meade, Md., before going overseas the latter part of July of this year.  
Private Whitney had served in England, France, Belgium and Germany before being reported missing. His mother is the seventh and eighth grade teacher at Pittsville.

## Champion of Campus Kissing Now Is Coed Without a College

Baton Rouge, La.—(P)—Louisiana State University's case of the coed champion of campus kissing appeared closed today with the coed remaining without a college.  
Gloria Jeanne Heller, whose leaflet on sex and kissing caused her resignation "by order" from the university, awaited arrival of her mother, Mrs. Nathaniel Heller, of Havana, Cuba. She said she was uncertain as to her future scholastic plans.  
Miss Heller said "I regret that what started out as a light-hearted effort to improve the oppressive conditions on the campus has resulted in so much gross misrepresentation. I never intended for the pamphlet to be taken in any but a facetious vein."  
President W. B. Hatcher, who ordered Miss Heller's resignation, said only "the case is closed."

## U.S. Tank Destroyers Smash Attempts To Save Remnants of Big Panzer Force

Outside Stavelot, Belgium—(P)—American tank destroyers today smashed attempts by German armor to break through and rescue remnants of a Nazi force of 60 tanks trapped near this embattled village.  
Firing blazing round after round through a thick mist, the anti-tank gunners destroyed five captured American Sherman tanks manned by German crews which were spearheading a fresh drive to crash through Yank positions between Stavelot and Malmédy.  
The new attack was launched about a mile and a quarter southeast of Malmédy, the funnel through which the Germans poured their armies toward the great city of Liege in August, 1914.  
Before the Nazis retreated American artillery shattered their columns and killed scores of their infantry who had counted on the fog

## AIDS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Washington—(P)—President Roosevelt today signed a joint resolution providing for consideration of a site and design for a national memorial stadium to be erected in this city.

## TANKS ARE USED AGAINST ELAS

Athens—(P)—The British opened a tank assault against ELAS concentrations today after expiration of an ultimatum from Lt-Gen. R. M. Scoobie that the insurgents stop fighting.  
Rocket-firing fighter planes joined in the attack.  
Sherman tanks climbed monastery-topped Likabettus mountain and sent 75-MM. shells crashing into ELAS positions around Averoff prison and the military academy.  
In an ultimatum last night the British general said that as of 9 o'clock today (2 a. m. Central war time) any ELAS forces still holding out would be attacked "with all the arms at my disposal."  
Jean Rallis, the pro-Nazi former premier who escaped from the Averoff prison two days ago when the insurgents stormed the building, was recaptured last night.

## Wisconsin Rapids Girl Admits Kidnaping

Milwaukee—(P)—Eleanor Hansen, 27, and Marian Fiegel, 23, the latter of Wisconsin Rapids, pleaded guilty today in circuit court to charges of kidnaping Billy Clark, 3, on November 27.  
Circuit Judge Roland J. Steink did not immediately pass sentence. The two women were accused of taking the boy from the toy department of department store and keeping him 26 hours before returning him to his mother, Mrs. Florence Debeak.

## Pfc. Donald Benner Wounded in Germany

Pfc. Donald Benner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Benner, Nekoosa, received a leg wound while in action in Germany December 5, according to a war department telegram received by the parents earlier this week. He was serving with an infantry unit of the 95th division and is now in a hospital in France.  
Private Benner entered the armed forces in June, 1942, and went overseas in August of this year.

## Four-Day Struggle

As the enemy tried frantically for the fourth straight day to battle through to the rescue of a large Panzer force bottled up near Stavelot, American infantry and tank units continued methodically to chop this trapped outfit to pieces.  
Large forces of German armored infantry also were being reduced in close-range battles by doughboys who climbed miles across snow-topped and forest-crowned ridges to knife through to the enemy's exposed flank.  
They swept down from the northern hills and opened fire on Nazi columns, which were fighting sav-

## Trapped on All Sides

The Germans thus were trapped by the river on the south and east, by impassable terrain on the north and by Yank defenses on the west. The surrounded units, representing a big part of an armored division, were turning in churning circles of ruin.  
"They still are trying to send infantry swimmers across the river near Stavelot and trying to win a bridgehead so they can build another bridge, but our troops are shooting them in the water," said

## Lt. Col. Stewart L. Hall, Newark, N. J.

He said the Germans moved tanks and infantry into the Malmédy area last night, but were driven out by crack American infantry divisions.  
"They attacked from the same general area today and managed in the mist and fog to penetrate in small strength to a position in the vicinity of Malmédy," Hall added.  
"They overran one platoon of our infantry and some anti-tank guns—using captured American tanks. But our artillery and tank destroyers were reported to have driven off the attack.  
Commenting on the enemy's employment of captured American weapons, Hall said:  
"They have been accumulating American equipment and uniforms for some time, and some Germans were specially trained to use this equipment. The Nazis feel this gives them the advantage of surprise."

**Shopping Days till Christmas**