

THE WEATHER  
For Wisconsin: Snow flurries  
and gradually diminishing winds to-  
night and Friday. Colder.  
Local weather facts for 24 hours  
preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 27;  
minimum 23. Precipitation .31.

# Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

Those Boys Need You  
BUY WAR BONDS!

Thirty-First Year—No. 9712.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Thursday, February 22, 1945.

Single Copy Five Cents



WELCOME HOME!—Repatriated servicemen, many with limbs missing, again see the New York skyline from the deck of the exchange liner Gripsholm, which brought home 1,269 repatriates, including 509 American soldiers and merchant seamen who were prisoners of war in Germany. The ship's officers advised that 184 litter cases were aboard. (U. S. Navy photo from NEA telephoto.)

## Seaman Says 34 Ships Sunk As British Escort Left Convoy

New York—(AP)—A merchant seaman repatriated on the Gripsholm said today that British escort ships abandoned a Murmansk-bound convoy in the north Atlantic in July, 1942, and that the Germans "had their pickings" of the 38 merchant vessels.

The seaman, Walter Stankiewicz, 23, of Baltimore, Md., said he had been on the freighter Carlton, which Berlin and Vichy identified at the time as the last of 38 ships Berlin said were sunk in the convoy.

Stankiewicz put the number sunk at 34, including the 5,127-ton Carlton.

United States and British navy public relations officers in New York and Washington offered no objection to publication of his story but said they could not vouch for its authenticity.

Stankiewicz said the convoy was attacked a few days before July 4 by submarines, on July 4, by 24 torpedo bombers and again on July 5 by submarines.

Says Departure Ordered

Just before the first attack, he said, the British admiral in charge of some 14 destroyers, six corvettes, four heavy cruisers and several small boats ordered the escort to leave the convoy, telling the merchant ships they would have to make their own way to port.

Stankiewicz said he understood the British ships left to engage in battle with German warships and

See—CONVOY—Page 9

## 2 Democrats Trade Blows In Congress

Washington—(AP)—Two Democrats locked in a brief struggle on the house floor today after Rep. Hook (D-Mich.) called Rep. Rankin (D-Miss.) a "dirty liar."

"I don't take that talk from anyone," shouted the small, white-haired Rankin as he dashed across the aisle to lock his arms around Hook's neck.

The two struggled for almost a minute before fellow congressmen separated them.

Friends of Rankin immediately set out to invoke disciplinary action against Hook.

Rep. Cox (D-Ga.) told a reporter that "a resolution is being drafted to expel Hook or suspend his membership."

He said it probably would be submitted some time this afternoon.

Rep. Smith (D-Va.) also said "something will be done this afternoon."

Hook's remarks were stricken from the record at the direction of Rep. Ramspeck (D-Ga.), the Democratic whip who was presiding.

The clash occurred while Rep. Hoffman (R-Mich.) was delivering a speech denouncing the CIO Political Action Committee.

Hook took the floor to praise some of the men connected with the PAC and Rankin attempted to interrupt. Hook cut him off by saying he would do better to get acquainted with "some of the good men in the CIO" and stop his "continual ranting and raving."

"That will be when I get down to the level of the gentleman from See—DEMOCRATS—Page 9

## U. S. Bombs Sink JAP PRISON SHIP

Washington—(AP)—American bombs sank a Japanese prison ship loaded with 1,600 Americans off the Philippines last December, and of the fewer than half who survived all but two apparently were recaptured.

One of the survivors, Navy Lt. George Karl Petritz, of Rockford, Ill., told of the sinking at a news conference today. The navy said his was the first account of the disaster, which occurred off the west coast of Luzon.

Two previous prison ship sinkings—both by submarine action—have been reported in the Pacific. One occurred last October with the apparent loss of all but five of 1,800 Americans aboard. In the other, in September, only 83 of 750 Allied prisoners survived.

Petritz, 27, told reporters few of the prisoners involved in the latest sinking died as a result of the air attack.

Most Dying Anyway

Some already had suffocated and 90 per cent would have died anyway had not the ship been sunk, he asserted.

Petritz said he believed the vessel was headed for the Japanese homeland when it was attacked, because many Japanese civilians were aboard along with the prisoners—the latter crowded into three dark, poorly ventilated holds.

The only other prisoner who escaped death or recapture, Petritz related, was an army sergeant—his identity undisclosed—who also made

See—PRISON SHIP—Page 9

## U. S. Casualties Reach 801,162

Washington—(AP)—Army and navy casualties since Pearl Harbor have reached 801,162, the two services reported today.

Secretary of War Stimson set army casualties at 711,497 on the basis of individual names compiled in Washington through February 14. The navy reported its losses as 89,665.

The aggregate represented an increase of 18,982 over the previous weeks report. Of the rise, the army accounted for all but 827.

A breakdown on the army casualties as reported this week and corresponding figures for last week:

Killed 138,723 and 135,510; wounded 420,465 and 408,553; prisoners 60,086 and 58,556; missing 92,223 and 90,723.

Stimson said 207,328 of the wounded had returned to duty.

Similar figures for the navy:

Killed 33,862 and 33,536; wounded 40,783 and 40,607; prisoners 4,474, unchanged from the preceding week; missing 10,546 and 10,221.

## League Official Will Speak at Union Meeting

Maurice E. Weinberg, St. Paul, regional director of the League for Human Rights, sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, will address the Central Labor body on the forthcoming Red Cross war fund campaign during a meeting at Union hall this evening.

Weinberg is appearing at the invitation of John A. Krohn, president of the Wisconsin Rapids labor group, which has indicated it will take an active part in the 1945 South Wood county solicitation.

A business meeting at 7:30 this evening will precede Mr. Weinberg's talk, scheduled to begin at 8:30.

## Sgt. Hasenohrl Listed Missing

Auburndale—Sgt. Edward J. Hasenohrl, 23, son of Mrs. Anna Hasenohrl, has been missing in action in the European area since February 4, according to a war department telegram received by the mother this week.

The Auburndale soldier was a machine gunner in the 28th division of the U. S. First army. He had been previously wounded in action in France August 10, 1944, for which he had been awarded the Purple Heart.

Sergeant Hasenohrl was employed by Nekosa-Edwards Paper company prior to his entry into service September 30, 1941. He went overseas in October, 1942, and has served in France, Belgium and Germany. A brother, Cpl. Clarence Hasenohrl, is stationed in Belgium.

## Baker Is Re-Elected Red Cross Chairman

At an annual meeting of the South Wood County chapter of the American Red Cross held in the Elks club chapter rooms Wednesday night, G. R. Baker was re-elected to serve as chapter chairman for the coming year.

Other officers elected were Mrs. G. L. Holman, vice chairman; Mrs. C. K. Crouse, secretary; and A. J. Hanneman, treasurer. Representatives to the chapter from surrounding areas are Mrs. Ermon Burnett, Cranmoor; Mrs. W. W. Clark, Vesper; Arnold Kempen, Rudolph; Mrs. Oscar Larsen, Port Edwards; Mrs. Edwin Grossklau, Biron; Mrs. William Rusk, Nekosa; Irving Hofschild, Port Edwards; Mrs. J. S. Sayles, W. A. Spruce, and J. C. Rude of Wisconsin Rapids.

# 7,000 Planes Splatter Reich in Giant Raid

BY HENRY R. JAMESON  
London—(AP)—Allied air forces hit Germany at dozens of places with approximately 7,000 planes today. It was the war's biggest and most spectacular bombardment of the Reich.

The onslaught was aimed at knocking out the Nazi communications network serving both the Eastern and Western fronts.

Explosives cascaded upon German targets at the rate of 100 tons a minute.

Spearheading the "buckshot air war"—a new idea mapped by allied air chiefs in readiness for clear weather—more than 1,400 U. S. Fortresses and Liberators and 800 fighters attacked a middle reich rectangle the size and shape of Indiana extending from Hannover on eastward almost to Berlin and from Nuernberg north to Leubeck bay.

Two divisions of this huge fleet poured into Germany from the north and a third from the south. These broke up into packs of up to 100 bombers each, which struck at least 24 freight yards and other rail targets in the heart of the reich during the noon hour.

The Eighth air force bombers were assigned to an area of 38,000 square miles.

Within this area the bomber packs planted more than 14,000 500-pound high explosive bombs on at least 14 rail yards, each located at a junction of two or more main rail routes.

Freight yards and rail repair shops were hit, miles of rail lines were twisted and locomotives and railcars were disabled. All the attacks on central Germany were crowded into the six explosive minutes before noon. The four-engine bombers flew lower than usual because opposition was lacking.

Overnight, the British bombed Berlin and heavily assaulted the rail bottlenecks of Duisburg and Worms, which funnel reinforcements and arms to the Western front.

Wave after wave of fighter bombers smote German lines in the west and bivouac areas nearby from day-break to far into the afternoon in the best flying weather since last summer. Pilots could see for 50 miles. Medium bombers struck the German front and traffic tangles linked to it.

With the planes still going out hour after hour, it was impossible to calculate immediately the full devastation. The planes, however, clearly were spreading havoc and ruin beyond anything loosed for months.

Counting the RAF attacks last night, the allies probably have put close to 15,000 planes in the air over Germany in 48 hours.

The air forces were intent upon disrupting a major part of the German railroad system. Targets today were not immediately named.

Freight yards at Duisburg and Worms were crammed with priority reinforcements for the Western front when the British armada of 1,100 heavy bombers struck. Night fighters escorting the bombers engaged in numerous dogfights in skies lit by fires glowing below and a bright bombers' moon above.

The air ministry said 39 bombers and fighters were lost and that 13 Nazi planes were destroyed overnight. Crews reported smoke rising two miles above the targets. One pilot said the "whole town of Worms seemed on fire."

The greatest railway network in Europe—one which explains how Hitler keeps his troops going despite the odds—lie in the triangle formed by the cities of Dortmund, Duisburg and Cologne.

The jolting night attacks followed the U. S. Eighth air force's greatest concentrated raid on a single target in over four months.

More than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators dropped 3,000 tons of bombs, including 400,000 small incendiaries, into the Nuernberg marshalling yards. Reconnaissance planes had reported 2,500 freight cars in the yards waiting to pull out for the Eastern front.

## Hold Everything



## Poll Is Accused Of Doing Hatchet Job on Washington

Washington—(AP)—Rep. Bloom (D-N.Y.) accused a national poll today of doing a hatchet job on George Washington.

Bloom said it was an "insult" for the Gallup poll to report on the eve of Washington's birthday—that a majority of the people checked thought Lincoln was greater.

To Dr. George Gallup, director of the American institute of public opinion, Bloom wrote:

"You might just as well take a poll on... 'who do you love better, your mother or your father?'"

# PATTON IS ON LOOSE AGAIN!

## U. S. Ships Damaged, 4,550 Marines Lost in Iwo Battle

### Russians Batter Way Into Guben While 2,000 Planes Join East Prussia Assault

BY RICHARD KASISCHKE  
London—(AP)—The Russians again have battered into Guben, German hinge point on the Neisse 51 miles southeast of Berlin, a German military commentator reported today.

Street fighting is going on in the town, he said.

Guben previously was reported bypassed by the Russians, who announced gains up to the confluence of the Neisse and Oder.

The Germans said last Monday that the Russians had fought into Guben, but were forced to withdraw.

Col. Ernst Von Hammer, Berlin commentator, said a new assault was launched upon the stronghold this morning.

In East Prussia, Von Hammer reported, Russian pressure has "increased to the greatest ferocity" with more than 2,000 Soviet planes joining the assault. He said Zinten, 17 miles south of Koenigsberg and 15 miles from the coast, had been evacuated by German forces.

While the Russians scored new gains southeast of the German capital, other Soviet troops were forced to give some ground in East Prussia in the face of heavy German counterblows west of Koenigsberg.

The Berlin radio said a surprise Nazi counteroffensive had reestablished a corridor between Koenigsberg and the port of Pillau, 20 miles south. The Russian acknowledged some German advances in that sector but said the drive was costing the Germans enormously in men and equipment.

Moscow announced Soviet forces had seized a strategic ridge position in the forest on the eastern than 50 populated places north and south of the immediate sector.

34 Miles From Berlin

Further north Marshal G. K. Zhukov's First White Russian army units were reported attempting to complete the encirclement of Frankfurt. The German radio announced Zhukov had slashed communications between Berlin and that city on the west bank of the Oder 38 miles from the German capital, but said they had been restored.

Privada said the Russian army stood only 34 miles from Berlin in that area. The paper did not specify the location but indicated Zhukov's troops had crossed the Oder.

Nazi radio spokesmen said German forces were fighting a defensive battle between Berlin and the Frankfurt-Kuestrin front, but declared Russian bridgeheads west of the Oder were "far too small" for a major offensive toward Berlin.

### Third Army Within Five Miles of Trier

BULLETIN  
With U. S. Third Army—(P)—Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops completed the conquest of the Saar-Moselle triangle today, captured Saarburg and forced two crossings of the Saar river.

Following the fall of Saarburg enemy resistance collapsed in the triangle and the Germans pulled back across the Saar to strong hill positions in the Hochwald. But the crossings of the Saar were unopposed.

### JAPS CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT IN MANILA HOTEL

BY FRED HAMPSON  
Manila—(AP)—Only scattered enemy remnants were left on Corregidor today but fanatically resisting Japanese troops still held out on the second floor of the famed Manila hotel, turning the hostelry into the hottest battle spot in the capital city at dawn today.

Early front line reports that elements of the First cavalry division had captured the big hotel, one of the most luxurious in the Orient, have been corrected to say that they have occupied the first floor, the Japanese second.

Historic Bataan was cleared of Japanese, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported, and "so far as can be found, no living Japanese soldier is now on the Peninsula."

The Americans cleaned up Bataan in less than a month; it took the Japanese more than three months to drive Americans out in 1942.

Japs Blow Selves Up

Hopelessly sealed in the vast network of tunnels on Corregidor, Nipponese troops blew themselves up by touching off one of their main underground ammunition dumps.

Typical of the bitter inch by inch struggle for downtown Manila was the battle through most of the night between the Tanks and Japanese on the second floor of the Manila hotel, where a continual fight to the death went on in the corridors and rooms and on the staircases of the building which stands on Manila's south shore district.

A succession of Japanese infiltration attempts resulted in the killing of 137 of the enemy around the captured Army-Navy club, the high commissioner's office and other buildings yesterday. Most of the slain enemy troops carried demolition charges.

Bitter fighting also flared in the long contested post office building, which must be subdued before the walled Intramuros can be assaulted. An area 700 yards by 500, almost all of it within the Intramuros still remains in the hands of the enemy.

Try to Spare Civilians

Yesterday, the 17th day of fighting in downtown Manila, cost the Japanese 555 counted dead. Eleven were taken prisoner.

MacArthur said the enemy's finishing off the enemy garrison in south Manila was no particular tribute to Japanese skill or tenacity, but rather was caused by the American desire to spare the estimated 7,000 civilians held virtual hostages within the medieval walls.

Mac Arthur said the enemy's "savagery barbarism has seldom been displayed in a more repulsive form."

Thousands of Japanese still are on Luzon but most of them are in the comparative security of mountains and valleys of the northeast.

### Japs Claim Two U.S. Aircraft Carriers Sunk

(By the Associated Press)  
A Japanese imperial headquarters communique today claimed that Japanese suicide fliers sank two American aircraft carriers off Iwo Jima yesterday while unofficial Tokyo reports asserted more than 12,000 U. S. marines have been killed or wounded on the island 750 miles south of Tokyo.

All of the enemy claims, contained in broadcasts recorded by the federal communications commission, were without American confirmation.

The enemy communique also asserted an unidentified U. S. warship was sunk and two others damaged off Iwo, while a Nipponese submarine sank an American cruiser in the Philippines.

Other Japanese broadcasts quoted alarmed Tokyo newspapers as warning that "the war situation is really grave" and "if we waver now, it means defeat."

### Baby Center Is Cut To Half-Day Period

The baby clinic scheduled in the courthouse annex Friday has been reduced to a half day period. Some of those who have appointments in the afternoon may be moved to the morning hours but it will be necessary to cancel a majority of the afternoon appointments, it was announced.

Dr. Arthur Van Duser, examining physician, was requested to attend a meeting at LaCrosse on Friday afternoon, necessitating the curtailment.

### Memorial Services For Sgt. E. J. Regan

Memorial services for Staff Sgt. Edwin J. Regan, 29, will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon at Immanuel Lutheran church. The Rev. E. G. Kuerble will conduct the service.

Sergeant Regan, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Regan, 150 Third avenue south, was killed in action on the island of Leyte in the Philippines on December 9, 1944. He entered the service three years before on December 11, 1911.

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### Yanks in Forbach

His Americans captured half of Forbach, French gateway to Saarbruecken, from raw conscripts of the Volksturm who were bolstered by heavy German weapons. Stordied Spicheners, which the Germans stormed in a great battle in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, was taken. The Siegfried line was within view.

The Canadian First army in the north pushed to within 2,000 yards of bitterly contested Calcar in its drive toward the Ruhr valley.

The whole allied flying arsenal appeared to be on the wing today in probably the mightiest allied aerial onslaught of the year against Hitler's breached and buckling western line, and his battered interior communications. The air blows were building up toward a climax which might explode in an all out offensive which has been checked by bad weather, mud and flooding.

Despite the spectacular gains of the Third Army and the slow chipping progress of the British and Canadian troops in the north, it was evident that Gen. Eisenhower had not yet loosed his full scale offensive.

Greatest Potential Drive

Between these forces was the greatest potential weight on the whole western front—the British second, the American First and Ninth armies and perhaps other units—still waiting for their hour as the flooded Roer river slowly receded before them.

Reports reaching Bradley's headquarters told of a tremendous explosion just before midnight near the Urftalsperre dam on the Roer headwaters. Its reservoir empties into the larger Schwammenauel lake, now 60 per cent empty. It was not immediately apparent whether the dam had been breached, loosing new floods on the Roer. The river up to midnight was sufficiently low and slow to allow bridging on the First Army front near the dams, southwest of Cologne.

Bright sun bathed the western front again today, and planes took off early. In 5,400 sorties yesterday, bombers smashed such centers as Duisburg, Nuernberg, Berlin, Wurms and Calcar—the latter 17 times.

### 500 MILLION BILL PASSES

Washington—(AP)—The house passed today a postwar rivers and harbors bill authorizing projects to cost nearly \$500,000,000.