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Thirty-First Year—No. 9637.

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FLEET OF SUPERFORTS BLASTS TOKYO IN FIRST OF SERIES OF RAIDS TO SMASH HOME ISLANDS

Small Allied Rhine Crossing Reported East of Strasbourg; Battle Rages Before Colgone

London—(P)—Allied advance units were reported today to have crossed the flooded Rhine east of Strasbourg, which French and American troops had captured save for a small but powerfully defended bridgehead at the western end of the main bridge.

Field Marshal Gen. Gerd von Rundstedt committed 10 or 12 divisions to the great battle of attrition on the soggy Colgone plain to the north and behind flame throwers and a drumfire artillery barrage drove the British Second army from the villages on Debeck and Hoven, three miles northeast of Gellenkirchen.

Inch Close to Venlo
The U. S. Ninth army, fighting for Julich on the brown and turbid Koer river 25 miles from Cologne, knocked out its 110th German tank in a seven-day battle on the right flank of the British Second army front. In Holland, the British inched to within a mile and a half of Venlo, the Dutch road center on the great bend of the Maas (Meuse) river.

The U. S. First army edged back into the Inde river village of Weisweiler, 26 1/2 miles from Cologne, fighting house by house. German trucks and horse vehicles were observed pulling out of town to the northeast behind a strong rear guard screen. Heavy artillery pounded the Nazi columns. The Inde is a tributary of the Roer.

Rhine Crossing Reported
Berlin asserted earlier in the day that allies attempted fruitfully to seize one of the three Rhine bridges outside Strasbourg, Alsace, city of 192,000 connected by a two-mile canal to the Rhine. The reported crossing of the swift and wide upper Rhine did not necessarily constitute the spearhead of a major drive across the border stream.

Well over 40,000 Germans have been captured by the six allied armies on the offensive in the current campaign. This swelled the total since D-day to around 700,000 men, or almost 50 full strength divisions. Counting killed and wounded, total German casualties for the new winter offensive were estimated at supreme headquarters at 160,000.

The famous French Second armored division commanded by Maj. Gen. Jacques Le Clerc crashed into See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

UNITED CHURCH CANVASS IS SET

Final arrangements have been made for a United Church Canvass in Wisconsin Rapids and south Wood county from Nov. 25 to Dec. 6, during which time cooperating churches will conduct a concerted appeal for financial subscriptions. While coordinating the annual campaigns, funds collected from the various congregations will be retained by their respective churches and will not be pooled as in other chest drives.

The Rev. George Westphal of the First Moravian church is chairman of the executive committee and Henry P. Baldwin is the secretary-treasurer. Other members are the Rev. Charles Schipper of Vesper, W. E. Beadle and Eldon J. Hoffman. A general committee is to be composed of the minister and one layman from each of the participating churches.

The Rev. A. W. Triggs of the First Methodist church is chairman of the publicity committee and is being assisted by Emil Jacobson, W. F. Huffman and E. E. Lake.

Following the canvass, a meeting of the general committee is planned to make plans for the coming year.

25 Shopping Days till Christmas

'FBI Agent' Doesn't Get Far With Rapids Chief of Police

James C. McGinley, Rochester, N. Y., allegedly impersonating an FBI officer, Thursday afternoon chose the wrong man when he went to see Chief of Police R. J. Exner in an apparent attempt to gain information about Earl Wing, who was captured in this city last July and faces prosecution for a bank robbery at New London, Wis.

McGinley came into the police station and asked to see the police chief. When introduced, he gave his name as Robert Martin Barney, FBI agent from Washington, Chief Exner said. He asked the chief for information concerning Wing. Exner, in turn, asked for the man's FBI credentials and after McGinley fumbled through his pockets, he told Exner that they must have been left in a Dixon hotel room.

Chief Is Suspicious
"At this point I got suspicious," Exner stated, "well-versed in the methods and actions of FBI agents, he knew that their credentials are always available. Exner only recently returned from an FBI training course at Washington, D. C. He accompanied McGinley to the hotel room where a further

Gifts Sought for Soldiers Who Will be Aboard Ships

Residents of Wisconsin Rapids and south Wood county will have an opportunity to help provide a "Merry Christmas" for American servicemen who will be spending Christmas on the high seas en route to combat areas.

Mrs. Stanton W. Mead, chairman of the camp and hospital service committee of the South Wood county American Red Cross chapter, announced today that gift packages will be made up from items donated by those who wish to make Christmas less dreary for men on shipboard at a season when it is hardest to be headed away from home.

South Wood county is expected to supply 150 packages of the 3,000 quota established for the northern half of Wisconsin.

Articles will be accepted from 3 to 5 o'clock Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at the Johnson and Hill department store in Wisconsin Rapids and at the Port Pharmacy in Port Edwards with Mrs. John Alexander in charge. Girl Scouts will wrap and address the packages, each of which will have a value of about \$1.50.

Following is a list of suggested items: Pad and pencil, paper-backed novel, handkerchief, cigarettes, soap, camphor ice, notebook, snapshot case, miniature games, waterproof oil skin tobacco pouch, washcloth, inexpensive wallet, pipe tobacco, nail file and other useful small items of a similar nature.

The gifts must be sent by Dec. 1 so that they will reach ports of embarkation by Dec. 10 where it is intended every transport will carry a remembrance for each man aboard for him to open on Christmas.

OPA to Cut Clothing Prices; Orders More Low-Priced Garments Made

Washington—(P)—OPA today promised more cuts in the price of clothing and more low-priced garments on dealers' shelves.

The new, twin assault on inflated clothing prices will be followed, Price Administrator Chester Bowles said, by clamping down on the price ceilings of garment makers and tightening price rules governing retail stores.

As the whole program takes effect, "any increases in the cost-of-living index in the coming months will stop completely," Bowles predicted.

To Reassure Labor
The OPA thus evidently pinned on the textile and garment trade its entire hope of carrying out the injunction of Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson, who asserted that a small but "disturbing" climb in living costs "must stop."

Dale Damitz Is Killed on Leyte Island

Sgt. Dale F. Damitz, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Damitz, 1150 Eighth street south, was recently killed in action on Leyte island in the central Philippines, according to a war department telegram received by the parents this morning.

The last letter received by the parents from their son was dated October 6 and stated that the Rapids soldier had landed in the Netherlands East Indies. From here, Sergeant Damitz moved with American invasion forces to the Philippines. He was a member of the military police.

Entering the armed forces on June 19, 1942, the Rapids soldier spent but a week at Fort Sheridan and then was shipped overseas, arriving in Australia around the first of August. He was in Australia a few months, then moved up to New Guinea, taking part in that long campaign. He returned to Australia for a brief rest period in 1943, then went back into action on New Guinea, where he remained until transferring to the Netherlands East Indies this fall.

Sergeant Damitz was born in Wisconsin Rapids, April 19, 1920. He attended the Lowell and East Side Lutheran grade schools and Lincoln high school, graduating from the latter in 1939. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed by the Wisconsin Rapids Water Works and Lighting commission.

He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. George Damitz.

\$10,000 in Bonds Already Sold For Theater Premiere

While \$10,000 worth of war bonds already have been sold in connection with the premiere of "I Love a Soldier" at the Wisconsin theater Wednesday evening, Fred Sawaske, manager, said today that there still are plenty of tickets available for the event which it is anticipated will raise more than \$80,000 in bonds.

An admission ticket is given with each bond purchased or presented at the Wisconsin theatre war bond booth, one of the four issuing agencies in Wisconsin Rapids. Sawaske pointed out, however, that there are only five days left to secure the free tickets and advised early purchase to assure a seat for the advance showing of the new Paramount picture, starring Paulette Goddard and Sonny Tufts.

Mrs. Rose Heller Is Injured In Accident

Mrs. Rose Heller, Marshfield, received a laceration over the right eye and a slight concussion when the car in which she was driving slid into a ditch at the intersection of Highway 73 and County Trunk B Thursday evening.

The car was being driven toward Pittsville by her son, Ed Heller, managing editor of the Marshfield News Herald, who stated that car lights had blinded him and that in turning the corner he swerved too far and went off into a steep ditch. Heller took his mother to Pittsville for first aid treatment and she is now at his home in Marshfield.

ACT IN RAIL STRIKE

Chicago—(P)—In an effort to settle a strike that has shut down traffic on two electric suburban railroads for two weeks, the Illinois department of labor has invited representatives of the companies and workers involved to meet here today.

Guard, Three Convicts Shot in Escape Attempt

Joliet, Ill.—(P)—A guard was killed and three convicts were wounded today as tower guards halted with gunfire ten prisoners, two of them survivors of the 1942 Roger Touhy break, who tried to scale the walls of Stateville penitentiary with a makeshift ladder.

Zoethe Skangs, a guard, was fatally wounded, apparently while the convicts were using him as a hostage or shield from other guards' fire. Two of the convicts wounded were reported in serious condition.

PHONE WORKERS BACK ON JOBS IN OHIO DISPUTE

Washington—(P)—The nation breathed relievedly into its telephones today, spared of a threatened widespread strike that could have tied up its communications in wartime.

Telephone operators who had quit their jobs in 25 Ohio cities, Washington and Detroit went back to their switchboards. Similar walkouts which had shown every sign of developing in New York and elsewhere promptly faded.

The suddenness with which the strike ended last night compared with the speed with which it had grown.

It will be up to the war labor board now to adjust differences between the ex-strikers, their employers and their expressed targets—operators brought in from outside and given living expense bonuses not received by residents.

Up until late yesterday leaders of the union, the National Telephone Workers Federation (independent), had rebuffed the WLB. Then, in the face of prospects for government operation of the telephone companies, they called the whole thing off.

Backing the WLB also were such weapons as power to take away union security privileges, as one board source noted in citing a west coast dispute where a union lost its closed shop provision for disregarding WLB orders.

Union leaders said they anticipated fair treatment in a peaceable settlement; they showed no signs of feeling they had lost in the contest to date. Neither did they say there had been any promises exchanged.

A break in the situation, which began a week ago when operators left their jobs at Dayton, O., came shortly after WLB referred the entire problem to Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson, a usual step before government seizure of strike-bound facilities.

Robert G. Pollock and Mrs. Mary E. Gannon, presidents respectively of the Ohio and Washington affiliates of the union, called for, and got, immediate termination of the strike.

Mrs. Barrette, Early Rapids Resident, Dies

A resident of Wisconsin Rapids for the past 65 years, Mrs. Mary Barrette, 87, died at her home, 145 second street north, at 1:15 Thanksgiving afternoon following an illness of seven weeks.

Mrs. Barrette was the mother of Leo J. Barrette, general personnel manager of Consolidated Water Power and Paper company; Mrs. Chester Stanley, and Miss Fanny Barrette of the Wood County Telephone company.

Services will be held at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning at the St. Peter and Paul Catholic church, the Rev. Robert Agnew officiating. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery.

Mrs. Barrette was born in St. Paul, Minn., August 14, 1857. She was married to Horace Barrette, a French Canadian and well known pioneer in Wisconsin Rapids, May 31, 1878. Mr. Barrette died 22 years ago.

In addition to the three children in Wisconsin Rapids, she is survived by Miss Julia Barrette and Mrs. Peter Becker of Milwaukee, and Horace Barrette. She has one sister, Mrs. Lillian Bone of Chicago, 13 grandchildren, and one great grand child.

Prayers will be said by the Lady Foresters and Catholic Daughters of America at 2:30 Sunday afternoon and by the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Order of Foresters at 8:15 Monday evening. The body will be taken from the Krohn & Beard funeral home this afternoon to the home of her son, Leo J. Barrette, 341 Third avenue north, where it will remain until time for services.

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Deer Hunting Season to Begin Early Saturday; Good Kill in Prospect

Long weeks of impatient waiting on the part of Wisconsin's hunters comes to an end Saturday morning with the opening of the 1944 deer season. With a wary eye on weather reports, and hopeful of a snowfall that will last longer than the one that fell in various parts of the state Thanksgiving morning, some 100,000 deer hunters are awaiting the season opening Saturday.

"Wood county should have a good, big kill," commented Conservation Warden Vince Skilling today. "The prospects in this county are good."

Greatest Thrill of All
"It's the greatest thrill of all," stated John Plenke jr., president of the Wood County Conservation league. "Saturday morning will find sportsmen, ranging from boys only 14 years of age, women and men up to 80 years old, out at their favorite stand waiting for that buck to come walking up. Many a breath will stop, the heart will beat faster, the blood will rush up as one hears the pounding of hoofs on the frozen ground, with the hope that it will be that big old buck with 12 points," Plenke opined.

"That is one of the things that makes deer hunting interesting—the anticipation," he remarked.

Then the conservation head warned that "in our excitement, let us not forget to be careful; remember to shoot only at deer with horns and also to be sure that the deer is close enough to see the forks of a legal buck. If we do this we won't have accidents, we won't be shooting dogs or illegal bucks that may be legal bucks a year hence. We want to be sure that in years to come there will be plenty of deer for that young boy at home and for that young man who is fighting on foreign soil now in order to make it possible for us to be able to go hunting game, such as the deer."

Hunting Very Good
"From my observations," Plenke said today, "I would say that our hunting territory south and west of Wisconsin Rapids should be very good this year. The marshes are

See—DEER HUNTING—Page 7

Over 200 Attend Union Services at Methodist Church

An appropriate Thanksgiving message by the Rev. G. P. Ronicke, pastor of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed church, special hymns for the day and a selection by the Methodist church choir, "Prayer of Thanksgiving," by Krenmer, were featured at the Union service of six Protestant churches at the First Methodist church Thursday morning.

A congregation of 225 persons from the First Moravian, Trinity Moravian, First Methodist, St. John's Evangelical and Reformed, First Congregational and First Baptist churches were present for the services.

The free will offering which was taken will go to the American Bible Society to furnish portions of scripture and New Testaments to men and women in the service.

PATTON GETS BRONZE STAR

Advanced Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force—(P)—Gen. Eisenhower pinned a Bronze Star on Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., today in recognition of the U. S. Third army commander's part in the capture of the fortress city of Metz.



PRE-THANKSGIVING HUNTER—Officer Wilfred Gloden, through no choice of his own, shot this turkey after the bird had escaped into a tree near the West Side market square on Wednesday. The turkey roosted so high that it was impossible to retrieve it and fearful that it might fly further a call for the squad car was sent out.

SLIGHT DEFENSE IS THROWN UP BY NIPPONESE

BULLETIN
Washington—(P)—Fires were burning in the center of Tokyo hours after the attack by B-29's today, the 20th air force reported.

Twenty-First Bomber Command, Saipan—(P)—A mighty armada of B-29 Superfortresses blasted Tokyo today, with hundreds of tons of bombs, opening what Gen. H. H. Arnold said was "an attack which will be carried on relentlessly from the air until the day of land-sea invasion" of Japan's home islands.

An undisclosed number of Superfortresses roared from newly-completed airbases here at dawn for the 3,000 mile flight which marked the initial attack on Japan's capital by land-based planes and its first bombing since April 18, 1942.

Brig. Gen. Emmett "Rosie" O'Donnell of Jamaica, N. Y., 38-year-old former West Point football coach, led the historic daylight assault, believed to be the largest attack yet made on Japan's homeland.

Operate from Saipan
The aerial task force was from the recently-established 21st bomber command of the 20th air force, operating now from the Marianas, under the command of Brig. Gen. Hayward S. "Possum" Hansell jr., of San Antonio, Tex.

The first use of these bases south and east of Tokyo creates a two-way aerial squeeze against Japan's vital industries, with other B-29's from China, to the westward.

First official announcements of today's raid merely said a "sizeable industrial target in Tokyo." Another communique was promised when further details were available.

Japs Say 4 Shot Down
(Tokyo, acknowledging the assault four hours after its announcement in the United States, said 70 Superfort hits the southern and northern outskirts of the capital See—WAR IN PACIFIC—Page 7.

YANKS CAPTURE JAP LIMON BASE

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines—(P)—Mud-slogging American infantrymen unaged southward from Limon today after capturing that bastion of the Japanese "Yamashita line in the climax to the longest and bitterest fighting of the entire Leyte island campaign.

The Japanese first division has been practically destroyed, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in announcing that the Yankee 32nd had smashed into and through Limon yesterday after a typhoon-slowed battle that had remained fairly static for two weeks.

Eastern country lies ahead, but it was emphasized that this does not mean the heavy fighting is over. The terrain is such that the Japanese will be able to make defensive stands and force the battle-worn American doughboys to dig them out of machinegun nests and pillboxes.

General MacArthur in his communique said the American victory at Limon may result in the rolling up of the entire Yamashita line upon which the enemy depends in his fight to hold Leyte island.

The communique said the Americans had advanced 1,000 yards south of Limon and had reached the nearby Leyte river.

THE WEATHER

For Wisconsin: Cloudy and warmer with increasing winds tonight. Saturday occasional rain south and rain or snow north portion. Fresh to strong winds.

CLLOUDY
Today's Weather Facts—
Maximum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 34; minimum temperature for 24-hour period ending at 7 a. m., 22; temperature at 7 a. m., 23.