

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 **G** Extra
Buying **G** 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 Japanese 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 underseas 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, invaded by the Yanks December 13. Liberators raided Mindanao airfields and harbors.

Richard I. Bong, Poplar, Wis., leading American ace.

The Americans got two more Japanese planes over Mindoro island, invaded by the Yanks December 13. Liberators raided Mindanao airfields and harbors.

Japs Raid Saipan

(At Pearl Harbor, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced that between 16 and 25 Japanese planes attacked the airstrips on Saipan island, the Marianas, base for the Tokyo-raiding American Superfortresses.

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

(The raiders probably came from Iwo Jima in the Volcanoes, a base which Nimitz announced was pounded the same day for the 18th consecutive day by Liberators bombers.)

Thousand U.S. Planes Active

London—(AP)—One thousand U. S. Eighth air force planes from British bases raided secondary rail traffic centers in western Germany today, after photo reconnaissance officers reported the principal rail artery from Berlin to the west had been knocked out of commission.

Six hundred heavy bombers, escorted by 400 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, lashed at six railroad yards and one important junction. Favorable weather permitted allied planes based on the continent to join the attack on Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's counteroffensive.

The Thunderbolts and Mustangs bagged at least 25 Nazi fighters in a furious battle with enemy planes southwest of Bonn.

Targets included the traffic-glutted yards at Euskirchen and Aachen, northwest of Coblenz, Honneburg, southwest of Kassel, and Fulda, 60 miles south of Kassel, as well as a rail junction 40 miles west of Coblenz.

The German radio reported formations of heavy bombers heading north over Austria, indicating that Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. 18th air force were striking from Italy at Nazi war industries far behind the battle lines.

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 773,835 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.

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-guns, 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 (Garam), a northern tributary of the Danube, Malinovsky's troops captured at least 13 towns in southern Czechoslovakia and advanced within 63 miles of Bratislava and within 96 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.

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.

Show began falling in Wisconsin Rapids at 4 o'clock this morning and by 2 o'clock this afternoon there were 2½ 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 a -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 airplane travel extremely hazardous if not impossible.

Icing 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.

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.

Wisconsin Rapids got a break yesterday. Probably along with some other communities under the jurisdiction of the district OPA office at Green Bay.

Those Wisconsin Rapids residents who heard about it, and it didn't take long for word to get around, were busy "cashing in" red and blue stamps which became valid before December 1. While the rest of the nation resignedly was tearing tiny little pieces those on hand as the result of the cancellation order which became effective at 12:01 Tuesday morning. Except in Wisconsin Rapids. Where the deadline was 12:01 this morning.

And here's how it all happened: Fred Bushnell, chief clerk of the local war price and rationing board, received instructions via telephone from

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 drug store along the river now have been secured, a Consolidated spokesman said today.

The lease dealing with the Witter hotel provides that the hotel is to be occupied by its present owner for a period not to exceed two years at a rental fee of \$150 a month beginning January 1, 1945.

Buys Hotel at Dells

L. P. Daniels, Wisconsin Rapids, has been sole owner of the hotel until his sale of it to Consolidated Water Power and Paper company. He emphasized today that sale of the hotel does not mean that it will be torn down but rather remarked that the present hotel will stand until a new one has been built.

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 club house has a maximum clause of three years for the present occupants on a rent-free basis. It has not been classified 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.

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

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 him self."

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 Kaid 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.

Another front dispatch today said the front was comparatively, and most ominously, quiet today with See—YANKS—Page 7

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 \$108,300,000, the war finance committee reported today.

E bond sales, assigned a separate quota of \$35,000,000, still lag with a 34 per cent investment.

Total sale of all categories as of today was \$363,600,000, or \$10,000,000 over the quota.

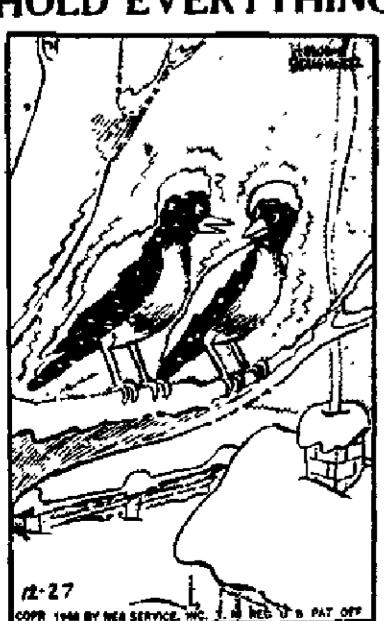
Rail Absentees Balk War Effort

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.

HOLD EVERYTHING



12-27
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"I told you those weren't ducks we were following—they were P-38s!"

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