

THE WEATHER
For Wisconsin: Fair tonight and Tuesday, not so cold tonight. Warmer Tuesday.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 29; Minimum -16.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

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Thirty-First Year—No. 9657.

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First Army Fights Back as Surprise Nazi Action Prompts What May Be War's Most Decisive Battle

FIVE PERSONS ARE INJURED IN ROAD MISHAPS

Two people are in Riverview hospital today and three other persons were treated there this week-end following traffic accidents in or near Wisconsin Rapids Saturday night and Sunday.

Three accidents involving four cars on the west end of the Green Bay and Western overhead on Highway 64 in the city of Wisconsin Rapids about 1:45 Sunday morning accounted for injuries to four persons, two of whom are still at the hospital today. The collision occurred when cars driven by Max Wolosek, 46, McKinley street collided almost head-on with a car being driven west by Gene Casey, 17, 240 Tenth street south.

Five minutes before this accident, Wolosek's car had struck one driven by Robert Brindley, Route 1, at the intersection of Sixteenth and Baker streets. Wolosek and Richard Kirschling, 18, 410 Fifth street north, a passenger in the Casey car, were taken to the hospital by city ambulance. Casey and Aloysius Honkomp, 18, 70 Love street, a second passenger in the Casey car, were taken in the squad car.

Injuries Are Listed
Wolosek received cuts about the face and a laceration of the throat but was dismissed from the hospital Sunday, after treatment and x-rays of a bruised arm. Honkomp also was dismissed from the hospital after his injury was diagnosed as a severely wrenched knee. Gene Casey, who was under observation for possible fractures, was also dismissed when x-rays failed to reveal any broken bones. Kirschling, who received severe lacerations about the face and head, is still under treatment at the hospital.

The accident was investigated by city police and County Traffic Officer Arthur Boll. Robert Brindley, reporting to the police at the scene of the Casey-Wolosek accident, stated that Wolosek hit his car as he passed them on Sixteenth and Baker streets. He added that an attempt was made to catch and stop Wolosek but a tire on his own car was rubbing so badly because of a dented fender that he stopped the vehicle to pull the fender from the tire. It was at that time Brindley stated he heard the crash, when cars driven by Wolosek and Casey collided.

Another Car Involved
Ralph J. Starr, Plover, who was driving behind the Casey car, struck the two cars following the crash and his vehicle was damaged slightly.
In an earlier accident at 7:45 Saturday evening, Fred Hoefner, 60, town of Lincoln and prominent Wood county farmer, struck a driver on Highway 13 as he was driving at the western edge of the city limits near Craberry creek. He was taken to the hospital in the city ambulance and is still under treatment today for a large cut beneath the chin and other smaller cuts and bruises. Hoefner was alone in the car at the time of the accident and cause of the crash has not yet been announced.

Fleets of Allied Planes Go to First Army's Aid

London—(P)—Eleven hundred heavy bombers and fighters raced from Britain to the flaming American first army battlefront today and smashed three German railheads supplying the German counter-offensive.

Five hundred American Flying Fortresses dumped 2,000 tons of bombs on Cologne, Coblenz and Mainz despite solid clouds which blanketed them from view.

The clouds robbed the fighter escort of 600 Mustangs of a chance to mix with German fighters.

The daylight blows followed a 7,000-ton night pummeling of Munich, Ulm and Duisburg by 1,300 British heavy bombers, 17 of which were lost.

From all sectors allied fighter craft were summoned—even the RAF Spitfires, Tempests and Typhoons from the Netherlands—as a sudden break in the weather exposed long columns of German tanks, trucks and troops moving slowly toward the battle raging in the American first army lines.

American bombers based in Britain could not get into the fray yesterday due to bad weather. Fighter-escorted American Flying Fortresses and Liberators from Italy, however, crossed the Alps and bombed railroads at Salzburg near the old German-Austrian frontier, a target at Wels; oil refineries at Blechhammer and Oudertal in German Silesia and the Moravia Obstrave refinery in Czechoslovakia. Allied fighters strafed transports on a rail line southeast of Munich between Rosenheim and Wels.

In these and other operations 48 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 29 Italy-based allied planes were missing.

REDS BRING BIG GUNS TO BEAR ON BUDAPEST

Moscow—(P)—Soviet big guns firing from newly won positions within 5½ miles of Budapest crashed an avalanche of steel against the inner defenses of the Hungarian capital today while Red army units reached the Slovak border at a new point 72 miles northeast of the city. (The Paris radio said the Russians had smashed across the Danube from Pest into Buda, the western half of Budapest.)

Violent fighting is now in progress in the streets of Buda, the broadcast said.

The scope of the Red army's Hungarian offensive was emphasized by the official Communist party newspaper, Pravda, which said that as many German divisions were engaged on the southern sector of the eastern front as against all the allied forces in the west. Pravda repeated figures purporting to show that 220 enemy divisions, 200 of them, German, were tied up in the east as of Dec. 1.

Germans Throw Everything Into Great Counter-Attack

Paris—Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' U. S. First army struck back at advancing German columns of infantry and armor in Belgium and Luxembourg today in a fierce battle which may prove to be one of the most decisive of the war.

The allied command accepted the challenge of Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt who was attempting his greatest counter-offensive against American troops in Europe.

But the situation at the front was reported extremely fluid and for this reason supreme headquarters decided upon a strict blackout on detailed information concerning the extent of the enemy advances and the counter moves of the Americans.

The German air force continued to support the German winter strike on the biggest scale since the allied landings in Normandy.

A new type of V-weapon—was used by the Germans along with 9th army front both by night and day.

The Germans declared forward American positions along a 20 mile front had been overrun between Luxembourg and the Hohe Venn, "high marshland", a swampy tract 2,200 feet above sea level extending for 30 miles from Rotgen to Malthe.

But the German command also adopted a cautious attitude and said it was withholding details of the action.

Throwing hundreds of carefully conserved planes, hundreds of tanks, many divisions and even parachutists into a surprising winter counter-offensive, Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt had achieved a penetration of several miles in the American lines, re-invaded Belgium in the Monschau area 16 miles south of Aachen, and re-entered Luxembourg at two other points.

Today the Germans were pushing their advance along an 80-mile front from the Monschau area to the southern tip of the Luxembourg border with new and more violent attacks.

Allied military authorities directing the battle said it had been decided not to make public specific information now as to the exact places where the German columns were smashing through and how far they had advanced.

But First army headquarters dispatches said the Germans had gained several miles and American troops were locked in battle. The penetration apparently had been at least four miles in one area 10 miles east of Malmédy, a Belgian town just north of the Luxembourg border.

Charles Ellis Jr., Is Killed In Germany

First Lt. Charles Ellis Jr., son of Charles Ellis sr., 1740 First street north, was killed in action in Germany November 30, according to a telegram received Sunday night by the lieutenant's wife, Clara, who resides in Stevens Point.

Lieutenant Ellis was serving with an armored (tank) division.

He was born August 6, 1914 at Rhineland, attended S.S. Peter and Paul Catholic school here, went to school one year at Biron and then attended St. Lawrence college, Calverly, Wis.

The Wisconsin Rapids soldier was employed by Consolidated Water Power and Paper company and then a paper concern at Lutkin, Tex., before entering the armed forces just prior to the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Lieutenant Ellis began his military training at Brownwood, Tex. He received his commission in 1942 at Fort Knox, Ky. Before going overseas in February of this year, he spent six months in California on maneuvers. He went first to England, then fought through France, and into Germany. His last letter home was dated November 27, from Germany.

In addition to his father and his wife, he is survived by nine brothers, Lieutenant Donald, who has been reported missing in action; Ensign Fred, who is somewhere in the Pacific theater; Cadet Robert, at Las Vegas, Nev.; Lieutenant Arthur, at Baco Raton, Fla.; David, Jerome, John, Thomas and Stanley, and three sisters, Margaret, Irene and Marie.

Other state marks included -9 at Wausau, -7 at Oshkosh and Fort Atkinson, -6 at Superior, -5 at Land o' Lakes, -4 at LaCrosse and -2 at Green Bay. The official mark at Milwaukee was even zero.

Meanwhile, upper Michigan fairly basked in "mild" temperatures with the mark at the Marquette weather station going no lower than 6 above.

Mercury Skids to 16 Below Zero for Lowest State Mark

A frigid mass of air moved in over Central Wisconsin Sunday night, sending the official temperature in Wisconsin Rapids down to 16 below early this morning, lowest thermometer reading reported in the entire state. The figure proved to be the lowest on record for any December 18 in Wisconsin Rapids since 1922, when the temperature dipped to 17 below, and also is the lowest thus far this winter.

This morning was certainly no time for pausing to talk on street corners, with the thermometer registering 15 below at 7 o'clock and people of this community scurried to work in order to get out of the cold as quickly as possible. School children were bundled up with stocking caps and scarfs, mailmen got out the earmuffs and some motorists had to be towed or pushed in order to get their cars started.

Proclaims Decisive Hour

It was set off by a proclamation of his troops telling them their

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SAIPAN HEAT-WAVE—A B-29 BURNS—Desperately trying to protect themselves against the searing heat, Air Force fire fighters, all of whom got burned, attack a burning B-29 Superfortress set afire by Jap low-level attack on Saipan island. Bulldozer is being driven against plane, in hope of piling enough dirt on it to extinguish the blaze.

Japs Hit by 200 B-29s; Yanks Gain on Mindoro

BY ELDON OITENHEIMER
Associated Press War Editor
Superfortresses, possibly 200 strong, hit vulnerable Nagoya, Japanese industrial city, and Hankow, China, today as American dough-boys on newly-invaded Mindoro in the Philippines made sharp gains while bloody fighting continued on Leyte.

Lt. Gen. Millard F. Harmon, commander of the strategic air forces, Pacific ocean areas, holds no hope that B-29 raids will knock Japan.

SUBS BAG 33 MORE
Washington—(P)—American submarines have sunk 33 more Japanese ships, including a light cruiser, three destroyers and six escort vessels, in their latest forays in the Pacific, the navy reported today.

out of the war quickly and says "we expect Japan will be on her feet and fighting in 1946."

But, in Japan, Tokyo's influential newspaper Asahi views the invasion of Mindoro with trepidation and in an editorial warns victory there would give America "full control of tomorrow's military situation."

The Japanese news agency Domei in an unconfirmed broadcast said Nipponese planes sighted "an enemy fleet of considerable strength" in the Sulu sea south of Mindoro, which may mean another invasion of a Philippines island is in the making or the fleet is on the prowl for Japanese shipping.

Nagoya is Punished
Superfortresses flying from bases in the Marianas bombed Nagoya for two hours with approximately

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Shopping Days till Christmas

Some Mess, Eh? But You'd Better Look Again, Tokyo

(By the Associated Press)
Tokyo, in an unconfirmed broadcast beamed to the United States, today claimed "the waters near the enemy landing point at San Jose on Mindoro island are now covered with the wreckage of sunken American warships and transports."

"Numerous vessels are still burning in a sinking condition," the broadcast said. "It has been observed that two medium transports and many landing barges are still in flames. In the meantime, death-defying sallies of the Japanese special attack corps are being continued with unabated intensity upon the remnants of enemy vessels."

In his communique today, Gen. Douglas MacArthur said "enemy air activity was negligible with two enemy planes shot down over our shipping."

Boost in Pay Is Sought for State Workers

Madison—(P)—A. J. Opstedal, director of the bureau of personnel, said today the state personnel board would recommend to the legislature's joint finance committee a 7-point program to improve the financial status of state employes.

He said board would reject a request for wholesale increases in salaries.

The program:
1. Adjust the salary ranges for about 50 specific classes out of 640 presently in the schedule.
2. Remove the statutory limitations on salaries on all classified civil service jobs.
3. Raise the present minimum rate from \$85 to \$90 a month.
4. Raise the intermediate merit increase step from \$5 to \$10.
5. Eliminate the provision for a two-step increase for exceptional meritorious service.
6. Double the benefits of the present cost of living bonus.
7. Apply the bonus applicable at \$225 to all civil service salaries above that level.

STETTINIUS AIRS POLISH STAND

Washington—(P)—Secretary of State Stettinius announced today the United States government would have no objection to an agreement "on the future frontiers of Poland" if the United Nations concerned agreed upon them.

Stettinius read a three-point statement on the Polish question to a news conference. It followed Prime Minister Churchill's announcement in the house of commons Friday that Britain agreed that the eastern third of Poland should be turned over to Russia.

Stettinius said it had been the U. S. government's "consistently held policy that questions relating to boundaries should be kept in abeyance until the termination of hostilities."

Stettinius' statement implied that the United States would approve the changed Polish boundaries provided the Curzon line as its eastern border.

Prisoners Say Hitler Visited Front Recently

London—(P)—A Daily Mail dispatch from the Western front quoted captured German soldiers today as saying Adolf Hitler had visited the front 10 days ago.

Shh—Roosevelt Is Being Elected

Washington—(P)—The 1944 winter convocation of the electoral college was held today on 48 campuses.
It is a 150-year-old institution whose 531 members have a reputation in political science—for always picking the presidential winner.
Officially, it's the electoral college which elects President Roosevelt to a fourth term by a vote of 432 to 99 over Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. The members are casting their ballots today. They will be counted and recorded at a joint session of senate and house here January 6.

British Cut Loose With Major Attack to Lift Siege of Athens

BY STEPHEN BARBER
Athens—(P)—British forces launched a full-scale drive against leftwing ELAS forces in Athens today and it appeared likely to be only a matter of hours before the siege of the capital is lifted.

Within a short time after jumping off at dawn the British had captured an ELAS stronghold on the highway leading from Athens through the summer resort of Phaleron to the Kalamaki airport. The ELAS forces, estimated at about 200, had barricaded themselves in a brewery and were equipped with heavy machineguns.

The Kalamaki airport already had been cleared to a depth of 300 yards and British armored vehicles were traversing the road from Athens to Piraeus.

Take Hill Stronghold
Before the main attack began, British forces took Sikelias hill, due south of the Acropolis, which had been strongly held by the ELAS.

Employment machinery is now in operation to help veterans back into civilian jobs in the shortest possible time, according to A. E. Nelson, manager of the war manpower commission's Wisconsin Rapids district office.

Sgt. Ray Rumble Wounded in Action

Sgt. Raymond Rumble, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rumble, Wisconsin Rapids, was listed by the war department Sunday as having been wounded in action in Europe.

Sergeant Rumble had previously served in Africa before going to the European theater of operations.

U.S.E.S. Aids Returning Vets

Reports on men who enlisted or were inducted from any of the 4½ counties in the district and who are leaving the service are sent to the district office. These reports give complete information on the veteran, the nature and cause of his discharge, a certain amount of background information, and a notation as to whether he wishes aid in finding a job.

"About a third of the veterans coming to the office say they want help in getting a job," said Nelson, "but actually there is a greater percentage who don't ask for help, showing up for some type of assistance. If our agency cannot directly help them, we give them accurate information and refer them to the agency that can help."

ENGLAND UNDER FIRE

London—(P)—The Germans renewed their V-weapons attack on England Sunday night. The British ministry of home security said today that "damage and casualties were reported."

limited to relief and rehabilitation." Relief shipping has piled up at Piraeus and yesterday a general strike was called in Salomika, where other vessels crammed with relief supplies remained unloaded.

London—(P)—Some 150,000 workers in more than 200 Scottish shipyards and aircraft factories held demonstrations today against British policy in Greece, and shouted approval of resolutions calling on the government to arrange an immediate armistice in that nation.