

Yanks Bite Into Germans' Southern Flank As Air Force Pours Destruction On Enemy; Byrnes Forbids Racing In Manpower Drive

New Controls On Industry Are Outlined Materials And Fuel To Be Denied Defiant Businesses

TWP Refinance Plan Approved By Board Move Will Shift Control To Predominantly Local Group And Render Firm Independent Of General Gas And Electric Co.

Financial reorganization of the Tide Water Power Co. officially was set in motion yesterday by a stockholders' vote of approval rendered shortly before midday.

In announcing the development, Warren W. Bell, president of the company, said yesterday afternoon that the change would result in a shift of control from the holding company possessed until now of a large share of the company's common stock to holders of the present preferred stock, a predominantly local group.

Charles Dana Gibson, Creator Of Gay 90's Fashions, Dies At 77

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Charles Dana Gibson, 77, whose pen-and-ink creation, the Gibson girl, was the model of American womanhood from 1894 into the 20th century, died of a heart ailment today.

Christmas In Europe Spirit To By-Pass Lands As People Long For Peace

By RUSSELL LANDSTROM LONDON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—For the sixth straight year, the Christmas spirit will by-pass Europe, its belligerents locked now in perhaps the final struggle and most of its hearths desolate.

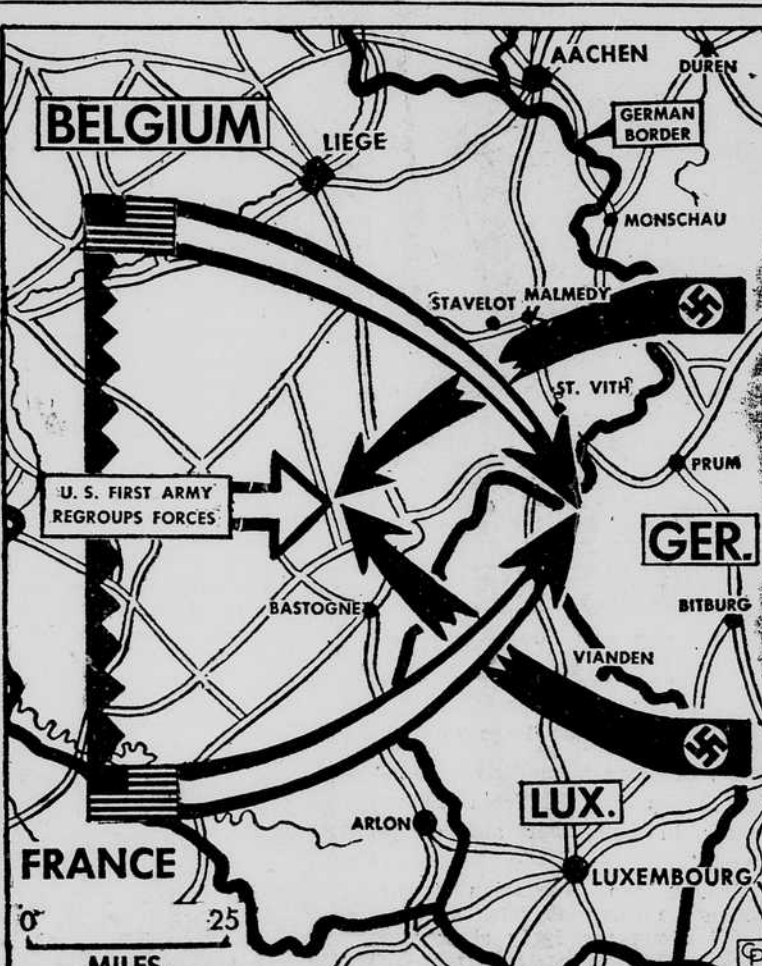
CITY PUBLISHES YEARLY REVIEW Report Covers Everything From Azaleas To Murder Rate

By JOHN CONLY Wilmingtonians currently absorbed in wondering where their money has gone—a not inconsiderable group at this time of year—may be able to find part of their answer in a natty blue pamphlet published Friday by the office of City Manager A. C. Nichols.

Handsome made up by J. Fred Rippey, Jr., administrative assistant to Mr. Nichols and a product of the University of Chicago's up-to-date graduate school of municipal administration, the brochure contains graphs illustrating financial progress and photographs submitted by city employees and interested citizens.

WEATHER FORECAST Cloudy today with highest temperature about 46 degrees. Moderate northeast winds. Yesterday's temperatures: High 52—Low 33.

How Yanks May Stop Nazi Drive



As reports indicate that American forces have partially checked the powerful German counter-offensive in Belgium and Luxembourg, military observers look for a greatly strengthened counterattack by our armored and infantry units.

NEWS 'BLACKOUT' PROBE TO START Congress Plans Inquiry Into Lack Of Data To GI's

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Rep. Brooks (D-La.) said today the House Military committee will investigate what he called a "complete blackout" of news to American fighting men abroad.

YANK LIBERATORS HIT CLARK FIELD Airborne Division Helped Strike Japanese On Leyte

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES, SUNDAY, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Headquarters today reported a smashing daylight air raid on Clark Field, near Manila, in which the majority of 100 grounded Japanese planes were destroyed.

Reds Gain 16 Miles In Westward Thrust Soviet Forces Within 100 Miles Of Vienna And Heavy Fighting Around Budapest; Drive Pushes On Bratislava

LONDON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—A hard-fighting Russian thrust westward above the Danube river in Hungary has gained as much as 16 miles and placed Red Army troops within 100 miles of Vienna and 72 of Bratislava, Moscow disclosed tonight as action flamed on the Southeastern front in many sectors.

700,000 SLAIN IN NAZI CAMPS Russians Report New Atrocities Committed In Poland

MOSCOW, Dec. 23.—(AP)—A Soviet Extraordinary State Commission investigating war crimes reported today that 700,000 persons including an undetermined number of citizens of the United States and Britain, had been killed by the Germans in three camps in Lwow province, Poland.

Enemy Drive Is 23 Miles From Sedan Encouraging News Also Came From The Northern Flank Where Associated Press Correspondent Wes Gallagher said that Field Marshal von Rundstedt had been forced to pull back one of his crack SS (elite) divisions because it was so badly mauled by hard-fighting Doughboys in the Malmédy sector.

Chinese Press Attack On Hochtih With Help Of American Aircraft

CHUNGKING, Dec. 23.—(AP)—Chinese troops supported by American fighter planes pressed their attack on the key railroad town of Hochtih in Kwangsi province from three sides tonight, the Chinese High Command announced.

American Units Gain Near Monte Belmonte; Canadians Widen Front

ROME, Dec. 24.—(AP)—Canadian troops of the Eighth Army, pushing ahead against strong opposition, have established a front more than five miles wide along the east bank of the Senio river north-east of Faenza, while American troops have made local gains near Monte Belmonte, south of Bologna, Allied headquarters in Italy announced today.

Encouraging news also came from the northern flank where Associated Press Correspondent Wes Gallagher said that Field Marshal von Rundstedt had been forced to pull back one of his crack SS (elite) divisions because it was so badly mauled by hard-fighting Doughboys in the Malmédy sector.

VON RUNDSTEDT'S LINES ARE RAKED BY 1,400 PLANES LONDON, Dec. 23.—(AP)—The might of Allied air power was thrown in today over the snow-covered Western Front in an attempt to check the German drive into Belgium and Luxembourg as more than 400 heavy bombers and more than 1,000 fighter-bombers pounded Marshall von Rundstedt's lines.

From Don To Dawn: B-29 Pilot Dreams Of Christmas Day With Tiny Daughter He Longs To See

(Editor's Note: From "Don to Dawn"—this is a Christmas letter transmitted by the Associated Press from Capt. Donald W. Thompson, 25-year-old veteran of several B-29 flights over Tokyo and Nagoya to his wife, Dawn Thompson, Ridgewood, N. J. (Thompson, a West Point graduate and former Colgate University student, named his Superfortress "Punchin' Judy" for his daughter, Judy, who will be a year old February 4. His B-29 has an amusing painting of a be-diapered young boxer coming out of his corner, raising clasped hands over his head in cocky fashion. His letter "Somewhere on Saipan, December, 1944. "Dawn Darling: "Your last letter came on a beautiful Sunday morning and was so in tune with all that Sunday can mean. It was a rare day, somehow, although I did some of the

routine things—jeeped up to the line to check or punchin' Judy and attended a critique on the last Nagoya mission. The Puncher was in fine fettle for Sgt. Raynes really takes care of that big silver baby. "I would fly an orange crate to Tokyo and back if he would install the engines and maintain them. The recon photos shown at the critique would make a heartening Christmas greeting for each and every Rosie-the-Riveter Boeing employee. "Speaking of Christmas, it is about time that I started on a Christmas letter to you and Judy. The big question over here is 'not how many shopping days 'til Christmas?' but 'how many days 'til we go again?' But that does not interfere with the hopes I send for a most happy Christmas Day and a more victorious New Year that will follow. "You know that all the crew join

me in these wishes. They all are in the pink these days. Ray still is a most able assistant in directing the crew; Mac has seen his bombs fall on Tokyo; Randy is licking one of the world's toughest navigation problems; and "Plumber" checks his engineer gauges and distributes the gas that keeps those four fans humming. "Sarge Strong sits in his 'Dark Room' and keeps radio contact with the rest of the world while in 'Dark Room No. 2' 'Burk' Burkhardt works in secrecy with his numerous important gadgets. "Old Man Staller, our CFC gunner, along with Stormy Cloud and Dave Davis fuses like old women over their 50's while Dan Bartok takes more than usual pride in the cannon that makes any tailgunner feel considerably less lonely. They all are doing a fine job not only

POINT-FREE MEATS AND CANNED GOODS SET FOR RATIONING

(By The Associated Press) Virtually all point-free meats and canned vegetables will be back on the ration list by the start of the New Year, it was learned tonight. The OPA, reliable sources said, is prepared to announce the drastic move next Wednesday. New point values, now being discussed, probably will be effective December 31. The decision is understood to affect practically all cuts of beef, veal, lamb and pork as well as all major canned vegetables. The effective foods have been ration-free since last May. Because of continued need for freezer space in warehouses for military commodities, frozen fruits and vegetables probably will stay point-free. Jams, jellies, and preserves are not expected to be returned to the list. Restoration of points to the wide variety of meat cuts and vegetables will be a major victory for OPA over the War Food Administration. For the last five months OPA has recommended that point-free meats and vegetables be put back under rationing, contending that spotty distribution and shortages—actual and potential—warranted such a move. WFA which has jurisdiction as to which commodities are rationed, rejected the proposal each time it was submitted. The dispute was climaxed last month when OPA appealed to Stabiliza-

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