

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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TIGHTER REIN ON RATIONING DRAWN BY OPA

Five Sugar Stamps Cancelled, Effective Tuesday; Butter Value Hiked and Points Restored on Some Canned Vegetables

A tightening of belts for millions of Americans was decreed Monday by OPA officials when instructions were received here invalidating five sugar stamps, returning point values to a number of canned vegetables; cancellation of a number of red and blue stamps and the boosting of point values on butter to 24 points.

It was pointed out in a telegram received by the local board from the district office of price administration in Charlotte, that meats, butter and processed foods will be shorter in the first quarter of the new year than at any time since the war war started.

Effective as of 12:01 o'clock Tuesday morning, sugar stamps No. 30, 31, 32, 33 and 40 became invalid. OPA officials instructed the public to remove all cancelled stamps from Book Four themselves, and do so at once.

Point values, effective Tuesday morning, were restored on canned asparagus, beans, peas, corn and spinach.

Red stamps A8 through Z8 and 35 through F5 in Book Four have been cancelled.

Blue stamps A8 through Z8 and A5 through W5 in Book Four have been cancelled.

Effective at 12:01 a. m. on Dec. 31, red stamps T, U, V, W and X5 become valid.

Effective at 12:01 a. m. on Jan. 1, blue stamps C, D, E, F and G2 become valid.

It was stated that A-14 gasoline coupons which became valid Dec. 22, will remain good for four gallons each through March 21.

Citing the record of the Office of Price Administration since it was founded three years ago, R. A. Olsen, chairman of the local board, yesterday urged all residents of the county to include renewed observance of rationing and price control regulations on their list of New Year resolutions.

Rationing has meant fair distribution and continued supply of scarce commodities to essential users, Mr. Olsen pointed out, and price control has resulted in the cost of living being held on essential items. The record is outstanding in comparison with shortages and high prices of the last war, especially in considering that America has now been at war twice as long as in World War I.

Nazis Raid Paris First Time Since Liberation

Paris, Dec. 27—Paris, which had thought itself secure after years of terror, was bombed by enemy planes late last night in a brief raid which, it was announced, caused slight casualties and damage.

One bomb hit a servicemen's club which served walking wounded in transit through Paris from the front.

The enemy planes came in over the city at 10:52 p. m., in a cloudless starlit sky, and dropped their bombs. Buildings rocked for blocks around the explosions. Two minutes after the first bombs dropped the air raid warning was sounded. The "all clear" came 35 minutes later.

Announcement of the casualties and damage came from American Ninth air force headquarters.

FIVE MARS HILL STUDENTS HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

Mars Hill, Dec. 27—Five Watauga county students enrolled in Mars Hill College left Dec. 20 to spend the two-week Christmas vacation with their respective families.

They are Betty Ruth Austin, Shulle Mills, and Helen Frances Caudill, Margaret Ruth Eggers, Rebecca Ruth Tatum and Nancy Jane Wilcox, all of Boone.

Classes will be resumed on Jan. 3.

Wins Highest Award



Gen. Douglas MacArthur, right, greets Maj. Richard Bong, leading ace, on Leyte, and presents him with the nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He has 48 planes to his credit. Bong was a farm boy from Poplar, Wis.

Leyte - Samar Battle Is Ended

MacArthur's Headquarters, Philippines, Dec. 26—Gen. Douglas MacArthur declared today that the Leyte-Samar campaign "was closed except for mopping up" yesterday after American doughboys had captured Palompon in a water-borne assault which sealed the fate of the Japanese and closed their last escape port on northwestern Leyte Island.

Asserting that Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita (Nipponese commander in the Philippines) "has sustained perhaps the greatest defeat in the military annals of the Japanese army," MacArthur's communique said the Japanese had lost an estimated 112,728 killed and 493 captured in the 67-day campaign.

"The completeness of this destruction," said MacArthur, "has seldom been paralleled in the history of warfare."

The magnitude of the American victory in the first phase of the campaign to liberate the Philippines was further borne out by MacArthur's assertion that 2,748 enemy planes were destroyed in the islands, since the landing on Leyte Oct. 20, by the Third and Seventh fleet carrier planes, the army's Fifth air force, marine units and American shore and ship anti-aircraft guns.

A total of 27 warships and 41 transports sunk during destruction of 10 Leyte-bound Japanese convoys does not include enemy losses in naval battles in Leyte gulf Oct. 25. The American casualties of 2,623 killed, 8,422 wounded and 172 missing covered only the American ground force losses.

The coup de grace was given the Nipponese on Leyte Christmas morning (Philippine time) when a 77th division force entered Palompon bay and stormed ashore while escorting Seventh fleet PT boats beat a tattoo against the beach and the division's own artillery laid down a heavy bombardment from advanced positions inland from Palompon.

Widows and Children of World War I Vets May Get Pensions

Lionel Ward, local service officer of the American Legion, has issued a statement telling of an act of congress which provides widows and dependent children up to the age of 18 years, with pensions regardless of how the veteran died. As it was before the act was passed, the veteran who died without service connected disability, his dependents could not draw, but under the recent act, they can all receive pensions.

Anyone wishing to file a claim can see Mr. Ward at the Parkway Hardware, and he will be glad to assist in any way he can. He keeps a complete set of blanks for anything that the veterans and their dependents are entitled to.

OVERALL BOND QUOTA TREBLED; E SALES BEHIND

Chairman Asks People to Respond in Final Days to Meet Balance of E Bond Quota; All Bonds Bought This Week to Count

Watauga county has quadrupled its overall bond quota, having subscribed \$468,000 against an overall quota of \$117,000, Clyde R. Greene, chairman of the local War Savings Committee, said yesterday.

However, Mr. Greene points out, only \$73,000 in E bonds have been sold, against the quota of \$84,000, and he insists that the people make every effort by the end of the week to subscribe the additional \$11,000. Attention is called to the fact that all bonds purchased up to Saturday night will be counted on the county's quota.

Mr. Greene thanks all workers in the campaign for their fine co-operation, and asks that the principals of the different schools make their reports soon, so that prizes may be awarded.

Sgt. Richardson Is Awarded Air Medal

15th AAF in Italy—S. Sgt. Ira D. Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dell Richardson, of Boone, engineer-gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber, listed by the War Department as missing in action, has been awarded the Air Medal. The announcement was made by Col James B. Knapp, group commander, of San Antonio, Tex.

Since arriving overseas in August, Sgt. Richardson has participated in 15 combat missions against enemy oil refineries, rail installations, aircraft factories, and other strategic targets throughout Europe. He was awarded the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activity against the enemy."

A graduate of Boone High School, Sgt. Richardson entered the army on May 25, 1943. Before coming overseas he completed aircraft mechanic school at Keesler Field, Miss., and gunnery school at Laredo, Texas.

Appalachian Theatre To Have New Manager

H. C. McCarroll, who has been filling in as manager of the Appalachian Theatre since Nov. 1st, will return to Scotland Neck, N. C. Jan. 1st, where he is manager of the Dixie Theatre there, and the Opera House Theatre in Weldon, N. C.

The new theatre manager here will be Mr. Larson, who has been with Mr. A. Fuller Sams in Statesville for the past year managing the Crescent and State Theatres. Mr. Larson formerly taught in the city schools of Statesville and at Cullowhee College, Cullowhee, N. C. He is a native of Michigan, but has spent a good many years in North Carolina, and is looking forward to coming to Boone.

Mr. McCarroll regrets having to leave Boone and the fine spirit of friendship and co-operation that exists here. He expresses his appreciation for the kindness shown him by the people of the community.

U. S. Fliers Rake Luzon, Bag 43 Japs

Leyte, Philippines, Dec. 27—Land-based American Liberator bombers and Lightning fighters, continuing a mounting campaign to knock out Japanese air power on the main Philippines island of Luzon, destroyed or damaged 43 enemy planes in a Christmas day raid on Clark field, it was announced today.

The latest victory, plus an upward revised total for Sunday's raid on Clark field, raised to 214 the number of Jap planes destroyed or damaged in four heavy assaults in five days on the Manila area.

Civil Uprising in Greece



One of the many scenes during the civil uprising in Greece, where the "rebels" were fired upon. The two victims shown above are said to be victims of police fire, not of military police.

Babson's Forecast On War and Business In 1945 Most Revealing

Noted Statistician in Long Range Forecast of War and Business During New Year; Sees End of War in Germany by Planting Season; Says Japan to Collapse Six Months Later

By ROGER BABSON
General Business

A year ago the United States Babsonchart Index of the physical volume of business registered 148.6; today it registers 138, justifying my forecast of a year ago. The Canadian Babsonchart Index of the physical volume of business registered 206.9 a year ago; today it registers 197. 1945 will show a reduction of more than 10% both in United States and Canadian business. Furthermore, most of the following comments apply to both countries.

1. War production is already being cut back and this reduction will rapidly continue through 1945. Even those railroads and industries which expect to benefit from a long war with Japan will be disappointed.

2. The reconversion of industry from war to peace business will increase during every month of 1945. Furthermore, time required for reconversion will not be as great as most people believe.

3. Inventories quoted at their price values, rather than volumes, will continue, as a whole, during 1945 about as during 1944. Raw material piles will be larger, but manufactured goods will be smaller.

4. Population increases in the United States during 1945 will be about 700,000, but the birth of new babies will all off somewhat.

5. Rationing will continue through the most of 1945. During the early part of the year, I expect to see further restrictions especially in connection with meats, canned goods, etc.

6. The retail prices of most necessities and some luxuries will be higher during 1945 than at present. The prices of some of the luxuries, such as furs, have already collapsed.

7. Steel prices of goods needed for peacetime manufacture should be a little higher, but prices of heavy war goods will decline. This applies also to the heavy chemicals.

8. The wholesale prices of raw materials in general may decline during 1945, but most consumer goods will hold firm or sell at higher prices. For both gasoline and bituminous coal, there may be price concessions.

9. The great question mark of 1945 will be how, to whom and at what price the government will dispose of its billions of dollars worth of unneeded supplies.

THUMBNAIL OUTLOOK FOR 1945

Look for these developments: Farmers' cash income will approximate that of 1944, which was \$20 billions. Both bituminous and anthracite mining will run 5% below a year ago. Petroleum output will be upped 5%. Iron and steel will decline 10%. A similar drop is in prospect for chemical manufacturers. Lumber output will increase 5%. The paper and shoe industries will run along on the same levels as during 1944.

Industrial employment will be 7% less and factory payrolls will decline 10%. Greatest single expansion will come in the construction and building group, which will show an increase of 25% from the low levels of 1944's first six months. Look for a sharp drop in retail trade, especially in luxury items. Electric power output will be reduced 5% as war contracts are cut back. For basically the same reason railroad freight ton mileage will fall 15%.

10. The weather will be the greatest factor in farm production and prices during 1945. The weather

has been exceptionally good on the whole for the past few years; but sooner or later we will have a severe drought or an early freeze.

11. Pending a weather upset, more bushels of corn and wheat and more bales of cotton will be raised in 1945 than ever before in our history. Although some prices may slide off, the total farm income for the first half of 1945 should hold up.

12. There should be a 15% decline in hog slaughter and a 5% increase in cattle slaughter.

13. Dairy products will continue to increase both in volume and in price. I am forecasting at least a 3% rise in volume.

14. Farmers will start in 1945 to work again for legislation on their parity program, due to fear of a collapse in all farm prices after the war.

15. Taxes will not be increased during 1945 and some will be reduced; in fact, some nuisance taxes will be eliminated altogether.

16. The Federal debt will continue to increase during 1945.

17. Whatever is done about taxes, the cost of living will continue to rise during 1945.

18. Providing jobs for returning soldiers will be the big political football of 1945. I am not now prepared to forecast what will happen in this connection.

19. Through a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats, we should have a "do nothing" congress during 1945.

20. Retail Sales

21. The volume retail sales will show a decline during 1945. Prices

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

TAX LISTING DATES GIVEN BY CO. ASSESSOR

Official Calls Attention to Fact That All Taxes Must Be Listed During the Month of January; Names of List Takers Given

Paul A. Coffey, tax supervisor for Watauga county, yesterday announced the names of the tax listers in the different townships of the county, and calls attention to the law which requires all persons to list their real and personal property during the month of January.

Mr. Coffey points out that in addition to the listing of real and personal property, all persons between the ages of 21 and 50 are required to list for poll tax payment.

The dates for listing in the different townships of the county will be announced next week. In the meantime Mr. Coffey asks that the list takers come to his office in the courthouse this week and get their supplies.

Following are the names of the various list takers:

Bald Mountain—W. F. Norris, Todd.
Beaver Dam—Eledge Trivette.
Blowing Rock—Spencer Greene.
Blue Ridge—Stacy Ford.
Boone—Ralph G. Greer.
Brushy Fork—L. M. Hodges.
Cove Creek—W. Kemp Wilson.
Elk—Mrs. Mansfield Miller.
Laurel Creek—Charlie Mast.
Meat Camp—Leonard Wilson.
New River—Alfonso Elrod.
North Fork—John Potter.
Shawneehaw—Lum Miller.
Stony Fork—Lloyd Wilcox.
Watauga—O. J. Coffey.

Germans Penetrate Deep Into Belgium; Nears French Border

Paris, Dec. 27—German power generated by two and possibly three armies has broken loose in a new 11-mile surge to within four miles of the fortress of Dinant on the Meuse, opening the battle for that river barrier against American forces who last night were reported fighting with their backs to its banks.

Advance German elements also had penetrated within eight miles of the French border and reached within 14 miles of the Meuse stronghold of Namur after linking their two main spearheads across Belgium as part of a solid, 35-mile breakthrough front. The maximum penetration of Belgium was approaching 60 miles.

Incomplete reports showed that more than 3,600 allied war planes bombed and strafed Nazi communication lines, troops and tanks yesterday, bringing their toll of destruction for the past four days to at least 598 enemy planes and 4,091 vehicles, including 571 tanks and armored cars.

Allied authorities last night said that as of Monday noon, 36 hours earlier, the Germans had not arrived at the Meuse itself "in any strength."

Huge allied columns including one five miles long were reported moving into the Meuse area to meet the German spearheads and the first phase of the battle was apparently already under way.

Over 800,000 Huns Taken Since D-Day

Washington, Dec. 26—More than 80,000 German troops have been captured by allied forces since D-Day in all the bloody battles of western Europe, the war department disclosed today.

In addition, the number of Germans killed, wounded and missing was estimated unofficially to be approaching the 500,000 mark.

Latest available figures on the number of American troops captured by the Germans show 25,277 made prisoner through October. In other casualty categories, the ground forces alone through December 1, lost 44,143 men killed, 189,118 wounded, and 24,863 missing for a total of 258,124.