

THE WEATHER
The Wisconsin: Warmer extreme west, colder central, east portions tonight. Increasing cloudiness Tuesday.
Local weather facts for 24 hours preceding 7 a. m.: Maximum 29; minimum 17. Precipitation .55.

Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

A CONSTRUCTIVE NEWSPAPER

WAR BONDS
MEAN MORE THAN A GOOD INVESTMENT

Thirty-First Year—No. 9697.

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Monday, February 5, 1945.

Single Copy Five Cents

Reds Reported 30 Miles from Berlin; Outflank Kustrin

Berlin Reports Massive Force At Banks of Oder
New York—The Red army is about 30 miles east of Berlin, in the Frankfurt-Kustrin sector of the Oder river front, an NBC broadcast from Moscow said today.

London—(AP)—The Berlin radio said tonight that "particularly massive" Russian forces had reached the Oder river at Kienitz northwest of the fortress of Kustrin and but 35 miles from Berlin.

Other forces reached the river below Frankfurt, the broadcast said. The Germans saw Marshal Ivan Konev had fished out from his bridgeheads south of Breslau in Silesia and deepened his foothold to 12 miles.

Konev attacked from both sides of Brieg about midway between Breslau and Oppeln, the Germans said, and reached the area of Grottkau, 12 miles west of the Oder and about 24 miles northwest of Oppeln.

A Soviet breakthrough in this area might send the Russians surging toward Dresden, a city of 625,000 140 miles west of Breslau and 90 miles south of Berlin.

While this new attack was not confirmed by Moscow, dispatches from the Soviet capital indicated big news might be expected from Konev's first Ukrainian army front shortly.

In the central front, Berlin admitted that German bridgeheads on the east side of the Oder in front of Frankfurt had been cut down.

So far Moscow had not confirmed German reports of an attempt to storm the water barrier, but Moscow dispatches said big guns were dueling across the river, that Zhukov was marshalling heavy forces of men, guns and tanks and threatening to outflank Berlin from his front of 140 miles up and down the Oder.

The German high command said a violent Russian attack was breaking against the fortress of Kustrin, 40 miles east of Berlin.

Latest Announcements
Latest official Moscow announcements told of the capture of Barwalde, 38 miles northeast of the German capital, in an 18-mile advance which outflanked Kustrin on the north and placed Russian spearheads within 45 miles of the Baltic port of Stettin at the mouth of the Oder.

Zhukov's tanks thrusting toward Stettin in a threat to topple that port and circle Berlin on the north were traveling in radio silence, Moscow said, but were believed to be cutting behind enemy groups and causing great damage.

NAZIS TRAPPED AS ALLIES CUT COLMAR POCKET

Paris—(AP)—American tanks and French Moroccan mountain troops cut the Colmar pocket in two today, trapping elements of perhaps three German divisions in the Vosges mountains south of Strasbourg.

American tanks of Maj. Gen. Frank W. Milburn's 21st corps crashed down from south of Colmar while the Moroccans advanced from north of Mulhouse in a combined gain of eight miles. The pocket, reduced to less than 200 square miles by midnight, was virtually erased and the threat to Strasbourg from the south was eliminated.

In the center of the Western front where the American First army has penetrated the Siegfried line, infantry captured one of the Roer river headwater dams and won high ground controlling another, 13 miles inside Germany.

The Americans were fighting 13 miles inside Germany in the Schnee Eifel—snow mountain—and were within a mile of Gemund and Schleiden, Siegfried line bastions at the eastern edge of the last west wall fortifications. Battle dispatches said the line had been broken clear through between the Germans towns at a point 28 miles from the Rhine city of Bonn and 16 from the communications hub of Euskirchen.

As the First army hacked away at the last concrete zone of the double Siegfried line, the Third army just south drove a mile and a half into the single belt defenses against only mediocre resistance. The Third was six miles in Germany and three and a half from Prum, a Siegfried fortress.

As many as 10,000 Germans were perhaps doomed by the severance of the Colmar pocket. Maj. Gen. Rodenok Allen's 12th Helicopter armored division linked up with the Fourth Moroccan mountain division of the French first corps this morning at Rouffach, midway between Colmar and Cernay. The Helicopters are the third division fighting in the 21st corps, presently under French First army command.

German Circle Collapses
West of the cutoff was a collapsing German circle roughly 16 miles across. To the east, the Germans were jammed into a box against the Rhine about ten miles wide and extending 19 miles along the Rhine. See—WESTERN FRONT—Page 7

Private Lamb was born June 26, 1910, at Wall Lake, Ia., attended grade school there, and later moved to Wisconsin Rapids in 1929. He was employed by the Central Wisconsin Transport company for many years and then worked briefly for Consolidated Water Power and Paper company before entering the armed forces at Fort Sheridan, Ill., June 25, 1944.

He received training at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort George Meade, Md., before going overseas in December, 1944. Last Thursday his wife was notified by the war department that he had been seriously wounded on January 16.

Private Lamb is survived by his wife and two small children, Priscilla Ann, and Roger Virgil, his mother, Mrs. Jessie Lamb, Eagle Grove, Ia., seven brothers, Marion, Charles, Pearl and James, all of Pittsville, Jess of Racine, Edward of Wisconsin Rapids and S/Sgt. Earl Lamb, serving in the army at Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., and two sisters, Mrs. Clarence Krause, LuVerne, Ia., and Mrs. James Hill, Eagle Grove, Ia.

John W. Paulson, seaman second class, was slightly wounded in the left arm in the Philippines and is now hospitalized in New Guinea. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Paulson, 1050 Wylie street, today received their first letter from him in over a month. He informed them that his arm had been put in a cast.

Thousands of Civilians Freed As MacArthur Forces Enter Manila

Tank Batters Down Gate To Prison Grounds

Santo Tomas Prison Camp, Manila—(AP)—Liberty was a steel tank with a 75 mm. gun for a torch and a white star on its tempered flank.

The driver slipped the clutch and Liberty idled before the chained gate of this war prison which held—prayed—some 3,000 men, women and children of the United Nations.

"Open up" roared the tank commander. No hand appeared to slip the gate's bolts.

"Open the Goddam thing or I'm coming anyway," the commander shouted. Again the order brought no response.

Inside the prison a low speculative murmur had risen to a crescendo of cries with overtones of fear, and doubt and hope. The prisoners sensed that this was not just another of the inexplicable Japanese orgies. The voice beyond the gate was American and contained a resolution of its own kind. But the gate did not open.

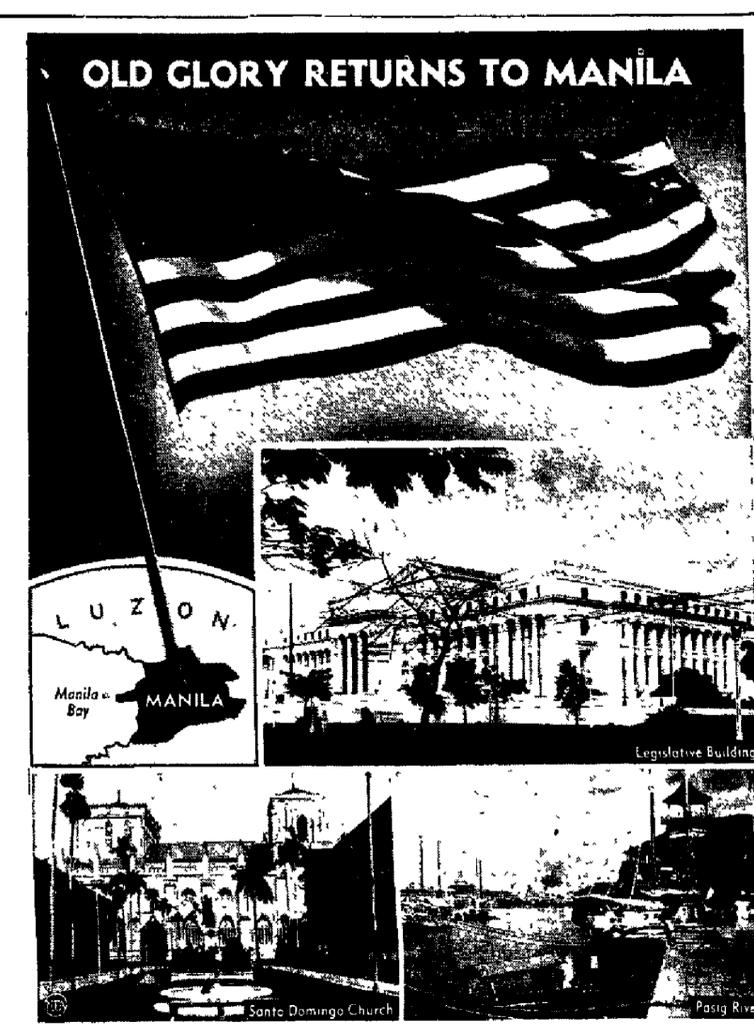
"Go on in," the tank commander directed quietly, "but don't shoot unless you have to. And be sure they're Japs."

Crash the Gate
The snorting tank pushed against the gate. The engine clattered. The gate groaned, cracked and crashed under the pressure.

Prisoners, gaunt, hollow-eyed, afraid of their own hopes, poured from the buildings. In the gathering dusk they saw this was an American tank. And as from a single throat they poured out an agonizing cry of relief and thanks and welcome.

There was a pause as if they were still afraid to believe their eyes. The American tank stopped atop the twisted gate of Japanese bondage, and slowly the wretched captivity began slipping away from them.

On an upper floor of one of the houses on the campus, a Japanese prison commandant with his Formosan guards were ready for a last fight. The commandant, Colonel Hayashi, offered to surrender the prison in return for a guarantee of safe passage through the gates.



\$3,218,808,000 Office Supply Bill Is Submitted to Congress

TRADE PRACTICE PROBES PLANNED

Washington—(AP)—Federal trade commission proposals for seven investigations of trade practices were disclosed today as the house appropriations committee recommended a fiscal 1946 appropriation of \$1,897,883 for this agency.

Edwin L. Davis, FTC chairman, submitted to the committee outlines for these inquiries:

1. Production and distribution policies and practices of large companies and their effect upon small business;
2. Survey of mergers;
3. Cost of production, costs of distribution and prices of farm implements, tractors, motor vehicles, household appliances and household furniture and furnishings;
4. Lumber and other building materials, costs, prices and profits;
5. Wholesale breadmaking industry;
6. Present degree of concentration in industry and of industrial price policies and their effect upon trade and commerce;
7. Survey of trade association activities.

Stalled Car Hit By Another Vehicle

The heavy snow which blanketed central Wisconsin over the weekend was responsible for at least one accident in this area.

A car driven by Edward Saeger, Route 1, Wisconsin Rapids, got stuck in the deep snow as Mr. Saeger was attempting to enter his driveway about 10:20 Sunday night. While he was shoveling out the driveway, a car driven by Ernest Meinberg, 920 Second street north, hit the back end of the Saeger car, according to police, causing damage estimated at \$75.

Mrs. Saeger and four children were in the stalled car at the time of the crash, but escaped with minor bruises. The accident occurred on County Trunk W, in the village of Kellner.

COUNCIL MEETING
There will be a city council meeting at 7:30 Tuesday evening. A resolution from the fire and police commission on the subject of salary increases for those departments are among the items to be considered.

Maritime Program Dropped

The decrease was due primarily to the fact that no funds were sought for continuation of the maritime commission's ship construction program, which received \$6,766,900 last year.

The \$2,707,119,250 recommended for the veterans administration is a boost of \$1,436,707,185 over current year funds and reflects the added cost of administering new legislation, including the G.I. bill of rights.

The committee approved to the penny a budget recommendation of \$70,339,886 for constructing hospital and domiciliary facilities providing 14,100 additional beds and establishing 18 new hospitals.

Other major outlays approved for the veterans agency included \$227,675,000 for administration and operation of existing facilities; \$1,080,150,000 for compensation, pensions and allowances to veterans and their dependents, about half of which is for World War II veterans, and \$1,000,000,000 for payments to the National Service Life Insurance fund for obligations under service men's insurance policies.

Other Large Outlays
Large outlays recommended for other agencies included: civil service retirement and disability fund, \$245,000,000; federal works agency \$139,978,637.

Backing up his request for additional funds, Brng. Gen. Frank T. Hines, veterans administrator, told the committee the average daily hospital load in veterans facilities will reach 90,172 in 1946. Eventually, Hines added, 300,000 beds will be needed.

During the coming year, Hines said, 600,000 loans to veterans under the G.I. bill of rights will be guaranteed, over 371,700 veterans will receive readjustment allowances, approximately 239,000 claims for insurance benefits will be received, nearly 400,000 veterans will be receiving education or vocational rehabilitation, and the number of veterans and dependents of deceased veterans on pension and compensation rolls will reach 1,974,821.

Pfc. Robert Rickaby Wounded in Pacific
Pfc. Robert C. Rickaby has been wounded in the Pacific theater of operations, according to a war department casualty report. Private Rickaby is listed as the stepson of Donald Douglas, Wisconsin Rapids.

Other agencies included: civil service retirement and disability fund, \$245,000,000; federal works agency \$139,978,637.

Back up his request for additional funds, Brng. Gen. Frank T. Hines, veterans administrator, told the committee the average daily hospital load in veterans facilities will reach 90,172 in 1946. Eventually, Hines added, 300,000 beds will be needed.

During the coming year, Hines said, 600,000 loans to veterans under the G.I. bill of rights will be guaranteed, over 371,700 veterans will receive readjustment allowances, approximately 239,000 claims for insurance benefits will be received, nearly 400,000 veterans will be receiving education or vocational rehabilitation, and the number of veterans and dependents of deceased veterans on pension and compensation rolls will reach 1,974,821.

Only Sniper Resistance Encountered

By the Associated Press
General MacArthur's Headquarters, Luzon—The Stars and Stripes flew over half of Manila today and thousands of American and British civilian prisoners were free as Yank columns, including a new paratroop regiment landed to the south, pressed against little more than sniper fire toward complete liberation of the Philippine capital.

First cavalry and 37th infantry division forces controlled the northern part of Manila a few hours after entering the city late Saturday night, and penetrated Sunday as far south as the wide and deep Pasig river, which divides the city.

The First cavalry Yanks, in an encircling move by night, speared immediately to the Santo Tomas internment camp from the east and liberated

perhaps 3,700 civilian prisoners, mainly American women and children, held there since May 1, 1942.

Associated Press Correspondent C. Yates McDaniel reported that for 34 hours the lives of 270 of the internees hung in the balance as the Japanese commander bargained for a truce of safety for his men.

A Blue network broadcast said the truce was finally arranged and 65 Japanese soldiers were escorted to a mile from Santo Tomas and were released.

Lucien L. Rock, former oil man, was quoted as saying the Japanese held the 270 internees, including two women and 35 children, in the Santo Tomas university education building until the exchange was agreed upon. Two of the children were under 10.

(The exchange was made at Monday noon, the report said.)
Only last Tuesday night 518 American and British prisoners of war were freed from a stockade at Cabanatuan, 60 miles to the north, in a daring raid by American Rangers and Filipino guerrillas.

First cavalry units also seized Malacanang palace, former governmental headquarters of the Philippine commonwealth, finding no Japanese officials, while Yanks of the 37th division entered the capital.

Wheeler Demands Investigation of Death Sentence
Washington—(AP)—Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.) demanded in the senate today an investigation of an army court martial death sentence for Private Henry Weber.

The sentence was assessed at Camp Roberts, Calif., Feb. 3 for violation of the 64th article of war which concerns assaulting or willfully disobeying a superior officer.

Wheeler said it was his information that Weber had been sentenced for refusal to join his squad at drill. He declared:

"It is inconceivable to me that army officers would sentence a man to death because he refused to drill. If the military committee does not take up this matter, I shall introduce a resolution calling for an investigation.

Hold Everything



"When I'll be old enough to stay up all day!"

Rep. O'Konski Urges Congress to "Wake Up" On Polish Developments

Washington—(AP)—Rep. O'Konski, (R-Wis.) has called on congress to "wake up" on the Polish question, declaring that "without a free Poland there can be no free Europe or a free world."

"It is well to note that Poland today is a testing ground not only of our sincerity in this war, but also a testing ground to find out if freedom is secure," O'Konski said in the Congressional Record.

City Employee Is Found Dead

Andrew Komatz, 59, 1660 First street north, was found dead in the garage of his home about 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon by his wife. Dr. H. C. Pomainville, coroner, was called and stated that death was due to natural causes.

Mr. Komatz had left his home between 7 and 8 o'clock Saturday evening and the coroner stated that death occurred soon after that time. Funeral services will be held at 9 o'clock Thursday morning at SS Peter and Paul Catholic church with burial in Calvary cemetery.

Born in Switzerland July 18, 1885, Mr. Komatz came to the United States at the age of six and resided in central Wisconsin since that time. He married Wilma Williams at Black Creek February 26, 1920, and has been a city employee of Wisconsin Rapids since 1927.

Surviving are his wife, his mother, Mrs. Rose Komatz, city eighth children, Mrs. Gordon Griffin, Wisconsin Rapids, Pvt. Herbert, Fort Knox, Ky., Pvt. Edward, on duty in the South Pacific, James, David, Roy, Raymond and Frederick, all at home; one brother, Anton, West Allis; four sisters, Mrs. F. X. Gamma and Mrs. Mary Gamma of this city; Mrs. George Bangard and Sister Mary Concetta of Milwaukee; and three grandchildren.

AFL Council Will Attempt to Bring Miners Back Into Fold

Miami, Fla.—(AP)—The AFL executive council opened its mid-winter sessions here today determined to bring the United Mine Workers back into membership if a reasonable compromise can be reached.

John L. Lewis and the miners' union left the federation in 1937, but the November AFL convention authorized a resumption of negotiations toward re-affiliation. Previous efforts at a reconciliation had ended in a jurisdictional deference involving chemical workers.

Tribune To Carry 'The Rocket Story'

The U.S. is a newcomer to rocket warfare, but Yank scientists are taking a backseat from no one.

Instead of aimless terror devices, like Hitler's V-2, they're developing powerful and accurate weapons.

They've given a fighter plane the punch of a destroyer salvo.

Read The Rocket story, by Associated Press science writer Frank Carey, in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, starting Tuesday on the editorial page.