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## Manila Almost Entirely Freed

RED ARMY TANKS RUMBLE ALONG ROAD TO BERLIN



ALONG A SNOW-COVERED military highway in Poland, Red Army tanks push in the general direction of Berlin. A preponderance of heavy equipment like the weapons pictured above is responsible for the success of the Russian offensive. The Nazis are still unable to check the drives. (International Soundphoto)

## First Army Almost Through Siegfried Line Fortresses

### Wallace May Be Blocked Even From Commerce Job

Washington, Feb. 5.—(AP)—Prospects of Henry A. Wallace becoming secretary, even of a broad-based commerce department, were darkened today by a developing situation in the house.

A combination of Republicans and a segment of southern Democrats—which often dominates legislation in the House—threatens to scuttle the George bill. This would force a direct Senate vote on confirmation of Wallace as head of commerce, including supervision of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and other lending agencies.

This, some coalition leaders believe, would result in outright rejec-

tion of the former vice-president for the commerce post.

However, Senator George, Democrat, Georgia, author of the Senate-approved bill divorcing the loan agencies from the Commerce Department, expressed the hope that the measure would become law without amendments, saying today "I can't think it is necessary to go any further than we have gone."

Friends of Wallace joined in support of the George bill when it became evident he could not be confirmed in the Senate so long as the loan agencies remained a part of the Commerce Department.

Now 13 Miles Deep Inside Germany as Other Units Gain

Paris, Feb. 5.—(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.

Paris, Feb. 5.—(AP)—The American first army fought 13 miles deep into Germany today within a mile of the Siegfried line towns of Gemund and Schleiden and was reported in battle dispatches to have broken clean through the last of a double row of fortifications between the fortresses.

The German radio said Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' infantry had entered Schleiden, but were expelled. The Americans reached within 20 miles of the Rhine and the city of Worms.

Just north of the clean Siegfried line break, infantry advanced to the Urftthal, within sight of the first of the Roer river dams controlling flood levels of that barrier stream before Cologne.

South in Alsace, the Colmar death pocket fast was becoming just a memory. French and American troops, driving into the cross-line pocket south of Strasbourg, moved within eight miles of a junction that would split and dissolve the German front.

Fighting within a mile of Neubruch, the United States 21st corps shelled repeatedly the steel and concrete rail bridge across the Rhine. More than a dozen Alsatian towns, including Colmar, were taken.

The United States third army, fighting six miles inside Germany just south of Hodges' command, advanced a mile and were within three and a half of strongly fortified Plam, one of the stoutest Siegfried line defensive points. At points the third army was a mile and a half deep in the Siegfried line and within three-quarters of a mile of bypassed Brandeis, key German defense point.

The first army front, like that of the United States ninth army along the Roer to the north, within 20 miles of Cologne, was wholly inside Germany.

## General Assembly Faces Session's Busiest Week

BY LYNN NISBET  
Daily Dispatch Bureau

Raleigh, Feb. 5.—The 1945 General Assembly, moving into its fifth full week Monday night, faces what many observers believe will be the busiest week of the entire session.

Practically all of the major administration bills are expected to come in before midweek and legislators can square away to handle them with as much dispatch as possible. Public hearings, except for one or two that will not require much time, have been concluded on the money bills and these two committees can get to executive session work on them. Afternoons from now until final passage will be devoted largely to the money bills.

Meanwhile, the mornings are getting jammed with conflicting committee meetings. Tuesday there will be simultaneous hearings on colored desegregation, the separate game division and the one-year separation for divorce measure—all three expected to attract much popular interest and occasion fights both in committee and on the floor.

The local fight over annexation of Wilkes territory to Caldwell county, and another said to be in prospect to take a slice off Harrell and add it to Lee county, after

### Butner Gets Big Hospital

Durham, Feb. 5.—(AP)—The station hospital at Camp Butner has been temporarily converted into a general and convalescent type of hospital, the War Department has informed Carl Durham, and will be the largest combination general and convalescent hospital in the nation, with reconditioning and vocational training offered patients to prepare them for their return to civilian life.

The announcement by the War Department said that the step is being taken as a part of its program to increase the bed capacity of army general and convalescent hospital facilities throughout the country.

### Peace Stocks Again Leaders

New York, Feb. 5.—(AP)—Buying selectivity, centering mainly in stocks with good peace prospects, helped today's market keep its balance.

Favorites at 1944-45 peaks included International Telephone, Chryslar, Packard, Goodyear and American Rolling Mills. In front were DuPont, U. S. Rubber, Bethlehem, American Telephone and American Cable and Radio.

Franklin Corn Contest

Louisburg, Feb. 5.—Franklin county will have another corn growing contest this year, sponsored by the First Citizens Bank & Trust Company and the Franklin County Farm Bureau. Entry fees are now being accepted, according to County Agent W. C. Boyce of the State College Extension Service. Growers will strive to beat last year's record of 74.1 bushels per acre, produced by W. J. Bowen of Henderson, Route 1. Several growers will test corn hybrids and high rates of fertilization.

American Troops Take Jolo Island, Tokyo Radio Says

By The Associated Press  
An unconfirmed Tokyo broadcast today said 3,000 American troops landed January 18 on Jolo island in the Philippines. Jolo is the largest of the Sulu group, lying midway between Mindanao and Borneo.

The broadcast claimed that up to January 27 the Japanese garrison on the island had inflicted casualties on the landing party amounting to more than 300, the loss of one mountain gun, three amphibious tanks and 20 bivouacs, which were demolished.

The broadcast, recorded by the Federal Communications Commission, said the Yanks brought ten tanks ashore.

### WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA.  
Partly cloudy and slightly cooler tonight. Tuesday partly cloudy and continued rather cool.

## Zhukov May Outflank Berlin

Large Guns  
Duel Across  
Oder River

Some Russian Units Push Near Stettin: New Nazi Defenses

London, Feb. 5.—(AP)—German and Russian guns duelled across the Oder today as Marshal Gregory Zhukov moved first White Russian army tanks to the river line along a front of 110 miles, threatening to outflank Berlin through north Germany, as well as in the South.

The German high command said violent Russian attacks were in progress against the Oder river fortifications of Kustrin, 40 miles east of Berlin.

Latest official Moscow announcements told of the capture of Barweide, 38 miles northeast of the German capital, in an 18-mile advance which outflanked Kustrin on the north and placed Russian spearheads within 15 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 encircle Berlin on the north, were traveling in silence. Moscow said, but were believed to be cutting behind enemy groups and causing great damage.

German reports, far ahead of official Moscow announcements in that area, told of Red army repetitions in the area of Schwedt on the Oder, 23 miles south of Stettin, and the region of Pyritz, 22 miles southeast of Stettin.

Simultaneously, Zhukov's forces in the Frankfurt bulge between the Oder and the Wartze poised a southwest bankhead threat by the capture of Ziegenhain, 13 miles southeast of Frankfurt and five miles from the Oder.

German underground reports received in London said the Germans already were building flying bomb dumps 50 miles west of Berlin and facing the German capital for use against the city if it falls to the Russians.

Moscow dispatches failed to bear out reports of Russian attempts already made to cross the tempestuous Oder in the Frankfurt-Kustrin area, where it is nearly 1,000 feet wide, but said widespread mopping up was going on in numerous pockets along the river, stretching from the area south of Stettin to the Russian hinge midway between Frankfurt and Breslau, where the first White Russian and first Ukrainian armies join.

Fighting within a mile of Neubruch, the United States 21st corps shelled repeatedly the steel and concrete rail bridge across the Rhine. More than a dozen Alsatian towns, including Colmar, were taken.

Just north of the clean Siegfried line break, infantry advanced to the Urftthal, within sight of the first of the Roer river dams controlling flood levels of that barrier stream before Cologne.

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