

THE CAROLINA NEWS-LETTER

Move Deals Heavy Blow To Sagging Nip Morale

Kept Guessing As To Next Move

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — Soviet Russia's denunciation of her five-year non-aggression pact with Japan unquestionably has dealt a terrific blow to the sagging Japanese, who were left today in the position of not knowing precisely what the Russian action means.

The Japanese know this, however, that the Russians seldom, if ever, act without good reason, and they know the Russians believe they have a good reason for ending the pact.

The Russians themselves made this clear in denouncing the treaty, declaring bluntly that Japan not only is an ally of the Soviet Union's greatest enemy—Adolf Hitler—but is helping Germany in her war against the U. S. & R.

All Soviet newspapers printed the official announcement of the denunciation, but none commented or speculated on the future course of events.

Technically the pact has another year to run, but such a pact has lost its meaning and that to continue it is meaningless, one would hesitate to say that the spirit of the pact still existed.

Top Priority: Kill Or Capture Hitler Allied High Command Maps Plan To End War In Europe And Then Hurl Forces Against Japs

WASHINGTON—Gen. Douglas MacArthur had his "On to Tokyo" marching orders today, and on the heels of Russia's denunciation of her neutrality treaty with Japan.

With Pacific War thus pending possible new and startling developments, Allied military leaders were in agreement on the quickest way to end the fighting in Europe: Kill or capture Hitler.

The joint chiefs of staff assigned MacArthur, together with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, to command the final massive offensives against Germany.

2. Disclosure that Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, and the Secretary of War have authorized the capture of Hitler would contribute tremendously to a collapse of the already faltering Nazi military machine.

3. General belief among law-makers that President Roosevelt has extracted from Premier Stalin at the Yalta session a promise that the neutrality treaty would be denounced and that Russia would enter the war against Japan.

4. Belief, too, that Russia's action may smooth some of the rough spots out of the path to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco April 25.

The joint staff, composed of the top uniformed men of the War and Navy Departments, decided that turning the full offensive power of the United States on Japan was a job to be directed by two men. Ac-

Yanks, British Move Close To Prussian City

German Broadcast Suggests Airborne Troops Landed 90 Miles From Berlin

NEW YORK—The British radio said today that the Allies were "three kilometers"—less than two miles—from Hanover. The BBC recorded the broadcast.

By JAMES M. LONG

PARIS — (AP) — The famous Hell on Wheels (Second) armored Division fought five miles past the Weser River today possibly to within 18 miles of Hannover while the British Desert Rats of the Seventh Tank Division closed to within 25 miles of that Prussian metropolis.

A wholly unconfirmed broadcast by the official German news agency DNB said other American troops had been reinforced in "The area of Eisleben," 90 miles from Berlin.

This was 40 miles beyond last reported positions of the Third Army at Schlotheim, 180 miles from the capital. There was no confirmation at Supreme Headquarters of the operation, which the Germans suggested was by airborne forces.

"Light tanks have been landed from the air," the enemy agency said.

Pincers Closing Reds Driving At Vienna's Heart

LONDON — (P) — Two Russian armies sought to close a giant pincer around Vienna today as a tank-led Soviet storm unit, slipping through a Nazi defense belt at the southern city limits, drove within four and one-half miles of the center of the Austrian capital.

Deployed along an 83-mile edge of the Danube, the Russians were within 40 miles of completely encircling Vienna. One Russian wing seized positions along the Danube, the River town of Tulln, 10 miles northwest of Vienna. The capture of Tulln would sever all Vienna's westward communications along the south bank of the Danube and also the main Vienna-Fragau railroad.

Breaking across the Schwechat and Liesing rivers, a canal and a network of suburban railroads and highways constituting a highly-fortified defense belt, units of Marshal P. I. Tikhonov's Third Ukrainian Army battled Vienna's southern city limits.

The suburbs of Ober-Laa and Unter-Laa, adjacent to the boundary and four and a half miles from the center of the city were captured in the face of violent German artillery fire. The suburbs of the city's park, Two of Vienna's vital supply links with the war zone of Germany and Czechoslovakia were cut.

The Russians also battled into the outskirts of the southern suburb of Schwechat, site of a big aircraft plant, captured Laxenburg and thrust a wedge through the famed Vienna woods. The old imperial city, 12 miles southwest of Vienna, Southeast, east and northeast of Vienna, Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army swung forward in gale of seven miles along both banks of the Danube.

Appeal Made By Marshall

WASHINGTON — (P) — General Marshall appealed today for public understanding and support during the readjustment of the American people to Europe to the Pacific.

He declared that period will be even more difficult than the last one.

Once European hostilities end, he said, every man in that area will have an overwhelming urge to go back to his wife or family or his sweet home.

"They must be brought to understand the urgent requirements of the situation, they must be persuaded to support us in a last great effort to hasten the end of this war," he said.

Understanding urged

60,000 Japs Trapped Heavy Battle Near Okinawa's Tip

GUAM — (AP) — The main battle for Okinawa appeared today to be shaping up on the southern end of the island where the Japanese were putting up increasing resistance among fixed positions in caves, gullies and ridges four miles north of the capital city, Naha.

By LEIF ERICKSON

West Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today that American troops reported remarkably low U. S. casualties for the first four days of a campaign only 325 miles from Japan itself, 175 soldiers and Marines killed, 798 wounded.

No figures were given for U. S. naval casualties. Nor were Japanese casualties listed, although they are known to be considerably higher.

JAPS STIFFEN

Mine Wage Talks Fail

WASHINGTON — (P) — Wage negotiations between soft coal operators and John L. Lewis collapsed today with the producers announcing they will report a statement to the War Labor Board.

In an attempt to block a complete break-off of the contract bargaining, Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, defeated a motion of the operators to recess indefinitely, so the negotiations were scheduled to resume Saturday morning.

Conference Chairman Ezra Van Horn said, however, the operators would not be present at tomorrow's session because they would be at the War Labor Board regarding that the negotiators, after five weeks, were at a stalemate.

By clinging to the formality of the negotiations, even in the absence of the operators, Lewis places himself in the position of being able to walk away from the War Labor Board after its hearing last Saturday which brought about an extension of the contract for the month of April, asked for a report by tomorrow on the status of the negotiations.

The operators will make tomorrow, although Lewis is not joining in.

Seeks New Jap Cabinet

SAN FRANCISCO — (P) — Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki failed today to name a list of ministers to the Emperor Hirohito called upon him to form after the fall of former Premier Kuniida's government yesterday.

A Domei dispatch recorded by the Federal Communications Commission said Suzuki had success in obtaining the cooperation of the Army and Navy in his first day as premier-designate and expected to take up naming of cabinet candidates for the war and navy.

See SEEKS NEW ON page 11

Auto Production Must Wait Until V.E Day

DETROIT — (P) — The Government and the nation's automobile industry are agreed that no passenger cars should be authorized prior to victory in Europe.

This was emphasized by J. A. Krug, chairman of the War Production Board, and representative of the industry here last night in a conference at which war production problems and some of the preliminary preparations for reconversion were discussed.

See ISLE BATTLE on page 11

Encirclement Completed

Moscow's Denunciation Of Tokyo Pact Clears Way For Many Pronged Offensive

By MAX WERNER

Nationally Known Military Analyst

NEW YORK—Moscow's denunciation of the neutrality pact with Japan is the most important act of the world war since Japan's attack on the German declaration of war on the United States.

Nazi Traffic Centers Hit

LONDON — (P) — A force of approximately 600 American heavy bombers escorted by new British fighters today bombed railway yards at Halle and Leipzig, two major centers of the neutral zone.

The traffic centers on the Leipzig-Halle line, 100 miles northwest of captured Bratislava.

Malinovsky's units on the north bank pushed within three miles of the meeting point of the two rivers by taking Lennau, four miles northwest of captured Bratislava.

An Eighth Air Force announcement disclosing the results of the raid, said the results were "most notably menacing. It means a powerful pressure on Japan." The announcement also was accompanied by accusations of "the Soviet Union's complete freedom of diplomatic and military action against Japan. But

Two-Minute News Roundup

Western Front

Air Warfare

Today, American heavy bombers from Britain raided the rail centers of Halle and Leipzig, and the American Army, gains of 32 miles have been scored.

Russian Front

Italy

The Russian offensive has scored almost a two-mile advance. In one sector, though, the Nazis have rallied enough to form a back.

The Pacific

In the American campaign to defeat Japan, General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz have been given top assignments to finish the job.

Another offensive towards the Weser River has been launched by the American Army. Gains of 32 miles have been scored.

The German offensive has scored almost a two-mile advance. In one sector, though, the Nazis have rallied enough to form a back.

The Pacific

Mecklenburg Casualties

WEATHER

See ALLIES DRIVE on page 11