

Vital Leningrad Railway Severed; Lines Tightened

CUT SOUTH OF CITY Nazis, Finns Bearing Down on Great Baltic Port From Two Sides

BERLIN, Thursday, Aug. 28.—(AP)—German troops striking east 35 miles from captured Novgorod were reported early today to have reached the Leningrad-Moscow railway, cutting off the main supply route of the menaced Baltic port.

The report was issued by DNE. No details were given immediately. Earlier the high command had announced that the 22nd Russian army had been annihilated in a tremendous battle in the Nevel area on the northern wing of the front. The Wehrmacht advanced 40 miles, captured the roundhouse and airport town of Velikie Luki, killed 40,000 Russians and took 20,000 prisoners, Adolf Hitler's headquarters announced.

The report of this new step toward the fuhrer's avowed goal of crushing the Red army said the Soviet troops were encircled and annihilated in several days of fighting. Velikie Luki is a railroad center of 30,000 population 275 miles west of Moscow and 250 miles south of Leningrad. Before the war, Velikie Luki was the aerial crossroads of northern Europe. Its field served Russia, Germany and the Baltic countries.

Capture of the town put German troops on the north central front 40 miles deeper into Russian lines from Nevel, where they had been reported previously.

No Losses Mentioned The high command made no reference to German losses, which generally have been reported as "comparatively low." A glimpse into one hospital train, given by German War Correspondent Hans-Joachim Volland, indicated the Germans were not escaping unscathed.

The chief surgeon aboard the rolling hospital, Volland said, told that "except for short rest periods we are always under way" from the front to hospitals in the Rumanian winterland and then back to the front.

On the Leningrad front, the high command said, operations "proceeded successfully." On the lower Dnieper the Germans were said to have captured the town of Berislav after working their way through minefields on the outskirts and fighting hand-to-hand in the streets with pistols, rifles and bayonets.

A DNE dispatch said 1,500 prisoners were taken and added that "innumerable dead Bolsheviks covered the streets." The date of the fighting was not given but it was presumed to have been before yesterday's high command announcement of the fall of Dnieperpetrovsk, which the communists said was the last Russian bridgehead west of the river below Kiev.

German military experts said the Russians lost the southern Ukraine because they had made the mistake of thinking the fuhrer would do what he had led them to expect.

Fell Into Trap One expert attached to the propaganda organization explained that before the Ukraine drive the German northern wing made a big push, occupying most of the Baltic states and pressing forward ostentatiously to contact Finnish troops coming from the north for a joint thrust on Leningrad.

He said the Russians probably withdrew troops from the Ukraine (Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

WEATHER

FORECAST North Carolina: Fair to partly cloudy Thursday and Friday, continued cool. (By U. S. Weather Bureau) Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. (yesterday). Temperature: 1:30 a. m. 50; 7:30 a. m. 79; 1:30 p. m. 82; 7:30 p. m. 82; maximum 92; minimum 75; mean 85; normal 76. Humidity: 1:30 a. m. 96; 7:30 a. m. 85; 1:30 p. m. 74. Precipitation: Total for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.14 inches. Total since the first of the month 6.15 inches. Tides For Today (From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey). Wilmington High 1:54 a. m. 9:08 a. m. 2:29 p. m. 8:42 p. m. Low 7:16 a. m. 5:47 a. m. 12:16 p. m. 6:50 p. m. Moonrise 5:14 a. m.; sunset 6:44 p. m.; moonset 11:30 a. m. Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville at 8 a. m., 11.10 feet. (Continued on Page Five; Col. 5)

Red Army Holding Moscow

NAZIS APPEAL TO FINNS Scores German Troops in Southern Ukraine Attack

(By The Associated Press) MOSCOW, Thursday, Aug. 28.—Soviet Russian officials indicated today the Red army was holding its ground on all fronts against strong German attacks and front-line dispatches said scores of thousands of Germans were killed when the invaders were routed from the outskirts of the city of "K."

The Soviet communique declared the Red Army was putting up a fierce struggle on the fronts made familiar in the recent communique—Kingisepp, 70 miles southwest of Leningrad, Smolensk and Gomel, both on the central front, and Dnieperpetrovsk and Odessa in the Ukraine.

(A report that the giant hydro-electric development on the Dnieper river, the Dnieperostroi dam, had been dynamited by the Russians was carried by Reuters, British News agency, from Vichy, unoccupied France. Reuters quoted a Vichy news agency dispatch from the Soviet frontier. There was no confirmation. If the dam had been blown up, it would indicate the Russians have safely moved their Ukraine armies across the Dnieper. A wide stretch of territory in the lower Ukraine thus would be flooded.)

Tremendous Toll Russia has acknowledged the fall of both Smolensk and Gomel to the Germans but the communique indicated the Red army still had its lines in those general areas. A tremendous toll was exacted of the Germans in the Gomel fighting, Maj.-Gen. I. Berezovsky declared in the first detailed study of the battle. He said the Nazis lost 80,000 killed and wounded men before they could take the city, which then was empty of its civilian and martial population.

Both Leningrad, where the Red army commander has appealed for a civilian army, and where re-doubts have been thrown up for street fighting, and Odessa are working continually on defense measures.

Front-line Russian dispatches last night said the Germans were driven far back after standing for more than a month in the outskirts of "K."

The city was not identified except by the initials. (It might be Kiev.)

Battle Continues This account was published in Izvestia, the official government newspaper, as the battles for Leningrad in the north and Odessa in the south continued. The Soviet information bureau reported merely that heavy fighting was in progress all along the front.

At the opposite end of the front, Leningrad reported it was carrying on with the slogan: "More production with fewer workers." As an indication that Russia ex-

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REDS OCCUPY IRAN CITY

LONDON, Thursday, Aug. 28.—(AP)—A Reuters dispatch from Moscow today said Soviet troops in Iran had occupied Turkmanchal, 50 miles southeast of Tabriz yesterday.

East Seaboard Gasoline Price Virtually Pegged

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—(AP)—Leon Henderson, public administrator, made public tonight a table of what he said was fair maximum retail prices for "regular" gasoline in 40 cities in the Eastern states. Henderson said the prices were designed to serve as a guide to motorists. Officials explained that it was not a mandatory price ceiling and that vendors were not under compulsion to observe it. "They are the maximum prices which motorists should pay," Henderson said. The retail prices range from 20.1 cents, including tax, in Manchester, N. H., to 16.5 cents a gallon in Washington. The prices, Henderson's office said, were based on the tank wagon price now being charged by major oil companies, state and federal taxes, and a uniform dealer margin of four cents a gallon. Henderson said that the list was made because of "widespread" increases in retail prices. Aug. 1 Prices For most of the cities the prices are those which prevailed August 1, officials said. The prices for Richmond, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston and most other Massachusetts cities are lower than those being charged by most dealers. "In those cities motorists may properly expect service station operators to bring prices down to those listed and should urge the



PHILIP W. KNISKERN LESTER E. FRAILEY

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTERS — Philip W. Kniskern, president, left, and Lester E. Frailey, right sales consultant, respectively of the National Association of Real Estate Boards have been chosen to deliver the main addresses to the North Carolina Association of Real Estate Boards which open its 20th annual convention at the Ocean Terrace hotel at Wrightsville Beach today. Mr. Kniskern will deliver the banquet address closing the convention tomorrow night while Mr. Frailey will address the group on "How to Make More Money Out of the Real Estate Business" at the morning session tomorrow.

State's Realty Leaders Open Convention Today

With more than 100 delegates already in town and checked into Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach hotels, the 20th annual convention of the North Carolina Association of Real Estate Boards was ready to swing into executive sessions today with an anticipated total registration of 300 delegates.

Expected to climax in attendance, interest and importance any convention in the history of the group, the sessions will get under way at 10:30 o'clock, an hour after registration opens at the Ocean Terrace hotel at Wrightsville Beach.

While the delegates have a full list of business and addresses on the docket, there will nevertheless be time for a number of formal and informal social functions, starting this afternoon with a boat ride at 4 o'clock and winding up this evening with a buffet supper, entertainment and dance at the convention hotel.

Meanwhile, wives of delegates will find an entertaining round of events mapped out for this with a number of informal bridge lunches and private parties planned. The women will also be taken on the boatride this afternoon and will take part in the evening hotel function.

Presided over by Lloyd W. Moore, Wilmington realtor and

Huge Revenue Increased Reported By Coast Line

Atlantic Coast Line railway monthly report issued yesterday revealed operating revenue increase of \$10,275,000 for the first seven months of this year as compared to the like period of last year. Total revenue for the period from Jan. 1 through July 31 amounted to \$39,693,058, according to the report issued from the lines' general office here.

Operating revenues from January 1 to July 31 in 1939 totaled \$29,045,505. During the period, the report amounted to \$26,334,696 in comparison to \$23,693,690 for the first seven months in 1940 and \$21,647,577 for a like period in 1939.

Net operating revenues were \$13,358,362 from January 1 to July 31 against \$5,733,626 for the corresponding time in 1940 and \$7,397,928 for the seven months in 1939.

THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS GRANTED LEAVE AT CAMP

Special Trains, Busses Chartered By Men Taking Furlough Over Labor Day Week-End; 15,000 Going Home

With three-quarters of the 20,000 officers and men stationed at Camp Davis scheduled for three-day furlough over the Labor day week-end, the Atlantic Coast Line railroad and the Seashore Transportation company yesterday announced plans to have special excursion trains running out this city to all population centers in the east and midwest to accommodate men who wish to spend the holiday with their families.

Six thousand of the Camp Davis personnel have already signified their intention of using this special service so that they may visit home towns during the three days. Special trains and busses are poised for limited service to Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Detroit, Chicago and points between, in order that the army men

may reach their destinations in the shortest possible time. First of the special trains are due to leave Wilmington tomorrow afternoon, with still others ready to make the trips if the rush necessitates it. Buses will be waiting at the gates of the camp tomorrow afternoon to rush the men to the local station. Seaboard Air Line railway has announced similar special excursions out of Raleigh for those men stationed at Fort Bragg. In order to expedite the mass exodus of soldier vacationists, a ticket office operated jointly by the Seaboard company and the A.C.L. rail road opened Tuesday in the camp service club. Queues of soldiers waited in line to inquire about (Continued on Page Ten; Col. 4)

PERSIANS TALK PEACE; MOLOTOV WARNS JAPAN AGAINST INTERFERENCE

SOVIET REPLY TERSE

U. S. Joins Russians in Advising Nipponese Against Hindering Oil Shipping

(By The Associated Press) MOSCOW, Aug. 27.—The Soviet government has notified Japan to keep hands off all trade between Russia and the United States. Any attempt at hindrance would be construed as an unfriendly act, said an unequivocal Russian statement made on Monday in reply to Japanese complaints against shipments of American gasoline, oil and other supplies to Vladivostok.

The Japanese ambassador, Lieut. Gen. Yoshitsugu Tatekawa, had told Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov the shipments through waters close to Japanese territory were creating an extremely delicate and difficult situation for Japan.

(In Tokyo it was admitted that the sight of high-octane American aviation fuel "passing under the very noses of the Japanese" was especially displeasing because such shipments are refused to Japan.)

Terse Reply Molotov's reply, delivered in Tokyo by Ambassador Constantin Smetanin, said the Soviet government saw no grounds for Japanese anxiety, and remarked in passing that Russia herself entertained no anxieties over the fact that Japan imported food from abroad.

To Japanese inquiry as to routes and methods of the shipments from America, Molotov replied: "The usual trade routes, including Far Eastern Soviet ports."

Since Japan and Russia have a neutrality pact—even though Japan is an ally of Russia's foe, Germany—Molotov added this reassurance to his warning: "At the same time, the Soviet government confirms that goods purchased by the Soviet Union in the United States are destined in the first place for the satisfaction of the growing needs of the U. S. S. R. in the west in connection with the defensive war imposed upon the Soviet Union, as well as for agricultural needs in the Soviet far East."

JAP REPRESENTATIONS

TOKYO, Aug. 27.—The Japanese government has made representations to both the United States and Russia against shipments of American aviation fuel to the Soviet Union under the very noses of the Japanese.

(The Soviet government, confirming the report, announced that in reply it had warned Japan that any attempt to hinder trade between Russia and the United States would be regarded as an unfriendly act.)

U. S. Secretary of State Hull made it clear that this country was standing on a freedom-of-the-seas policy regarding Pacific shipments of war supplies to Russia across the Pacific. Hull had a con-

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)



PIERRE LAVAL He Deserted His People

ASSASSIN FAILS TO KILL LAVAL

French Ex-Premier Is Seriously Wounded; Germans Start Communist Drive

(By The Associated Press) VICHY, Unoccupied France, Aug. 27.—Pierre Laval was shot today by a French assassin who posed as a faithful follower of his collaboration program with Germany in order to gain entry to a Versailles barracks where a French legion was being recruited to fight Russia.

Marcel Deat, of "Why die for Danzig?" fame, and two other collaborationists also were shot, but all four are expected to recover. The shooting occurred under the eyes of German officials and was in reckless defiance of the death decrees which Nazi occupation forces have sought to quell the tide of violence following Marshal Petain's announcement that France would cooperate with her conqueror.

The 29-year-old gunman, Paul Collette, calmly surrendered. (Continued on Page Ten; Col. 6)

Sea Freedom Emphasized To Japs By Cordell Hull

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—(AP)—The United States, insisting on freedom of the seas in supporting foes of the Axis, indicated today that Japanese protests would fail to halt the movement of American war supplies to Russia's Pacific port of Vladivostok.

Secretary of State Hull, refusing to say whether formal Japanese representations had been received, told his press conference that it could be assumed that the freedom of the seas policy applied in the Pacific until it was revoked. Hull made his statement in response to questions after he had conferred with the Soviet ambassador, Constantin Gurnansky, and just before a meeting with Admiral Kichisaburo Nomura, the Japanese ambassador.

Covered Many Subjects The Secretary of State said his conference with Gurnansky covered a number of subjects of mutual interest but both of them declined to say whether the delicate issue with Japan over the shipments to Vladivostok was among them. Nomura also was reticent on this subject but said his call on Hull was not for the purpose of delivering formal representations. The shipments to Russia, he said, were one of the problems disturbing American-Japanese relations which he still hoped would be settled amicably.

Hull's conferences with the Russian and Japanese ambassadors followed Tokyo reports that Japan had made formal representations (Continued on Page Five; Col. 3)

BRITISH IN COMMAND

Iran Believed Prepared to Force Exit of All German Nationals From Country

TEHERAN, Iran, Thursday, Aug. 28.—(AP)—The Shah tonight accepted the resignation of the Iran cabinet.

(By DANIEL DE LUCE) TEHERAN, Iran, Aug. 26.—(Delayed)—Iran was reliably reported today to have delivered to the British and Russian ministers a plea that the Iranian war end and a guarantee that all Germans save a few in indispensable technical posts would be ousted within a week.

Even those allowed to remain, it was said, would be expelled as soon as substitutes could be trained. Reporting to parliament on the invasion, Premier Ali Mansur declared that "wherever the transgressing armies encountered the Iranian army there naturally were clashes and fighting."

He accused the Russians of bombing open, undefended towns and said that the Soviet offensive on Tabriz (which the Russians now say is in hand) was loosed "with a great number of troops."

The British, he said, "took our ships by surprise and damaged them" in attacks on the ports of Bandar Shapur and Khorramshahr on the Persian gulf. "Their aircraft," he added, "have thrown bombs at the city of Ahwaz (which is in the heart of the oil fields 75 miles northeast of Bandar Shapur)."

As the Allied attack began, the major Iranian force was stationed in the Abadan district to defend the nearby great British-operated oil fields. (These fields are now claimed to be in British hands.)

The Germans in this country appear afraid that their evacuation via Turkey may be prevented. A German diplomat who started Sunday for Turkey was unable to cross the frontier.

About 800 men, women and children with German passports gathered today at the German summer estate of Shemran, outside the capital, and raised tents to intern themselves.

There was a trial blackout here last night but today there was little excitement, other than extraordinary business for the bakery shops.

The premier's speech has been the only official war news. Neutral witnesses told of Russian bombs smashing buildings in the villages about Tabriz, killing civilians, but it is believed that no such attacks will be made on Teheran.

Premier Mansur, in appearing before parliament on Monday to tell of the beginning of the tide of violence following Marshal Petain's announcement that France would cooperate with her conqueror.

The 29-year-old gunman, Paul Collette, calmly surrendered. (Continued on Page Five; Col. 4)

'Patrols Not Enough,' Declare America First Group, Want Convoys

NEW YORK, Aug. 27.—(AP)—In a statement declaring that the battle of the Atlantic was far from won, the Committee to Defend America were being lulled into a false optimism by "periodic decreases in the sinking of Allied shipping by German raiders."

"A thorough test has demonstrated that use of the United States Navy for 'patrol' service is not enough," the committee said. "Our naval vessels must be used for convoys, with all the shooting implications that go with convoys. x x x"

Washington Women Reporters And How They Get The News

It's a man's job, covering Washington. It's tough, nerve-wracking, never ending. But there is a corps of women writers who hold their own with the men. These women and their jobs are in a class all by themselves. How they do it is the subject of a three-part series, the first article of which appears today on the Editorial Page.