

Fair and cooler today. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 81—Low, 69.

Wilmington Morning Star

Served By Leased Wires of the ASSOCIATED PRESS and the UNITED PRESS With Complete Coverage of State and National News

Moscow Denounces Red-Jap Neutrality Pact; Ninth Army Breaks Across Weser River Line; British Drive To Within 39 Miles Of Bremen

Third Pushes Across Hills Of Thuringia

Patton's Army Lacks 63 Miles of Cutting Germany In Half

PARIS Friday, April 6.—(AP)—The U. S. Ninth Army broke across the Weser river 157 miles west of Berlin yesterday and the British Second Army in a 30-mile lunge swept up 39 miles south of the great shipping city of Bremen as the enemy fled east along the north German plain.

Without losing a man, the Ninth Army crossed the Weser with tanks and troops south of Hameln, 23 miles southwest of Hannover.

Simultaneously, the U. S. Third Army struck across Thuringia's hills 130 miles southwest of Berlin in a fanning push that lacked 63 miles of cutting the Reich in half, and the enemy was reported falling back south for the expected last stand in Bavaria's mountain fastnesses.

The Canadian First Army shook loose an armored column on a 12-mile tear that ripped back into the German peninsula and into Uelsen, on the highway to Bremen and within 53 miles of an arm of the North Sea.

This drive, sweeping northward parallel to the British armored push, increased the threat to two German armies, now in retreat toward the Elbe river.

Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Canadian and British forces were battling north on a 100-mile front, and by capturing Stolzenau on the Weser river 39 miles from Bremen the British vanguards had traveled 120 miles from the Rhine. Minden also was seized.

One column on the west also was 40 miles from Bremen after fighting up within less than three miles of Diepholz.

The battle of Annihilation in the Ruhr basin rose in fury as both the U. S. First and Ninth Armies pressed the assault on possibly 150,000 German troops, reported trapped there with Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, commander of all enemy armies on the Western Front.

The Ninth Army was knocking in the roof of the trap, advancing up to nine miles both east and west of pivotal Hamm, and was five miles from the Ruhr city of Dortmund. One robot bomb factory had been overrun.

Pilots said the enemy was massing tanks and self-propelled guns on the east side of the pocket, apparently to attempt a breakout.

On the southern end of the front, the U. S. Seventh Army scored gains of 14 miles, battled into Kitzingen beyond the river Main, and severed the highway between Weuerzburg and Nuernberg, only 34 miles ahead of advanced American forces.

The French First Army farther south fought nearly two miles south of the captured city of Karlsruhe and the Paris radio said one column now was but 12-12 miles from the south German city of Stuttgart.

The U. S. Third Army was striking across Thuringia's hills and was closest to the capital. One tank column roared due east to within 170 miles of a junction with the Russians and 66 miles from Plauen, while another was 63 miles from Czechoslovakia.

The fall of Plauen also would cut Germany in two, since it controls the last good highways and railways leading into Bavaria, and pilots said already considerable movement of enemy forces had been spotted moving southward along that route.

The Germans also were in flight toward the Elbe river—last river barrier 50 miles west of Berlin—after the U. S. Ninth Army wound up a day of dazzling 28-mile gains by hurling troops and tanks across the Weser river without a single casualty.

The Second Armored and the 30th Infantry Divisions crossed south of Poldkro's Pled Piper city of Hameln, 22 miles southwest of Hannover, and began pounding up the Hannover highway.

Definite Surrender Of Nazis Ruled Out

Eisenhower Sees Long Guerrilla Warfare And Calls For Large Force Of Occupation To Complete Defeat

WASHINGTON, April 5.—(AP)—General Dwight D. Eisenhower, convinced that "a clean cut military surrender" of Germany is not in the cards, foresees a bitter-end fight to wipe out bands of Nazi guerrillas.

"A very large number of troops" will be needed to run down and destroy them, he wrote President Roosevelt in a letter released by the White House today.

"We should be prepared," he said, "mentioning moves already planned to prevent bands of Nazis from slipping away to the mountains of southern Germany in a desperate determination to string out the agony of war."

Thus, to the supreme Allied commander, there is no prospect of massed legions of the foe laying down their arms, nor of sudden quiet along the Western Front like that of the armistice in 1918.

His letter, dated March 31, said: "The further this campaign progresses, the more probable it appears that there will never be a clean cut military surrender of the forces on the Western Front."

"Our experience to date is that when formations as small as a division are disrupted, their fragments continue to fight until surrounded."

Force or the threat of force he said, will have to be applied particularly to Nazi paratroopers, panzer men and the swartzer storm troopers who Adolf Hitler has fondly called his elite guard.

What the cost in American and Allied lives will be in cleaning them all out, or how long it will take, Eisenhower did not attempt to estimate.

(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 2)

WLB Warns John L. Lewis Of Federal Mine Seizure

WASHINGTON, April 5.—(AP)—The War Labor Board tonight warned John L. Lewis that unless work stoppages in approximately 200 bituminous coal mines end promptly "the government will have no alternative but to seize and operate the mines on strike."

WLB Chairman George W. Taylor addressed a telegram to Lewis as president of the United Mine Workers and John J. O'Leary, UMWA vice president, saying mine strikes are interfering with production of steel and other war materials.

"The board calls upon the United Mine Workers of America at this critical stage of the war to take every step necessary to bring about the immediate termination of these work stoppages and the resumption of the production of coal," Dr. Taylor's telegram to Lewis said.

Taylor said that blast furnaces of some steel mills have been forced to close and that others probably would close down within the next 24 hours unless full bituminous production is resumed.

Soft coal operators and mine representatives have been bargaining here, so far without success, for a new contract to replace one that expired last Saturday.

Lewis agreed to extend the contract 30 days, but nevertheless wildcat strikes have been widespread this week.

This morning Secretary Ickes urged quick government seizure of the mines to head off "a serious interruption in the production of steel."

Ickes wanted such action today, but there were indications that it would be delayed at least until later in the week.

Text of Chairman Taylor's message to Lewis and O'Leary follows: "Work stoppages in approximately 200 bituminous coal mines in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky have occurred despite the extension of the contracts between the United Mine Workers of America and the national bituminous coal operators."

Reds Battle In Vienna's City Limits

Other Soviet Units Open Drive To Encircle Austrian Capital

LONDON, Friday, April 6.—(AP)—Tank-led Russian shock troops battled to the southern city limits of Vienna yesterday while other Red Army veterans launched a drive to encircle the Austrian capital after slashing across two of its vital supply links with the war arsenals of Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Assault forces broke across two rivers, a canal and a network of suburban railroads and highways constituting a highly-fortified defense belt and captured the suburban towns of Ober-Laa and Unter-Laa, four and a half miles south of famed St. Stephens church in mid-city, Moscow revealed.

Simultaneously, other Soviet troops rolling up a German bulge in Czechoslovakia's Carpathian mountains, captured industrial Zywice in southwest Poland and battled closer to the Croatian puppet capital of Zagreb in northern Yugoslavia.

Capturing 6,500 prisoners in Yugoslavia, the Russians jumped to 63,000 the number of enemy troops taken in that sector; and in southwestern Hungary in the past five days, while in the far north Red Army men hurled enemy remnants back into Danzig bay in a clean-up of coastal territory north of captured Gdynia.

While three Russian armies surged forward along a blazing 350-mile front stretching across Yugoslavia, Austria, Slovakia and Poland, Berlin said that a giant Red Army offensive on the Oder river before the Reich capital was expected "in the next few days."

Two mighty armies were involved in the battle for Vienna. Southeast of the city, they were believed to have linked after the capture of the Bratislava Gap fortress of Bruck, and together they extended a siege arc around the city to 83 miles. The arms of a developing pincer southwest and northeast of the city were 46 miles apart.

South of Vienna, Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian Army battled to the city line in the face of violent Nazi artillery fire from the capital's parks and captured Ober-Laa and Unter-Laa, adjacent to the municipal boundary in a three-mile gain.

To take these points, Tolbukhin's troops broke across the Schwechat river, hurdled a highway and railroad defense line, crossed the Neustadter canal and another railroad, and then smashed over the Liesing river.

By the Associated Press

Racked by military defeats and a rising storm of criticism at home, Premier Kuniaki Koiso's cabinet resigned en masse today and Emperor Hirohito called on an elder statesman, Adm. Baron Kantaro Suzuki, to form Japan's third wartime government.

In quick succession to the fall of the doomed Koiso regime, announced by Tokyo radio, came the denunciation in Moscow of the Russo-Japanese neutrality pact.

Soviet Russia explained in a note handed the Japanese ambassador, said the Moscow radio, that the treaty was terminated because Japan had aided Germany in the latter's war with Russia.

In facing the "gravity of the situation" which Tokyo said forced Koiso and his ministers to step down, Japan turned to a 77-year-old veteran of public service who had been considered a "moderate" in pre-war years. Suzuki, president of the Privy Council, has been looked upon as an opponent of the extreme army clique's program of conquest.

Military disasters in the field and on the seas which have harassed Koiso since he took over the reign of government from Premier Gen. Hideki Tojo nearly nine months ago made certain his downfall was not far off. Close students of Japan predicted the succeeding government would be a "moderate" one that might project peace feelers to the United States and her allies.

Suzuki, who had been in semi-retirement since being wounded in the revolt by young Japanese army officers in 1936, may fit into this picture as the "front man" for a Japanese peace offensive," in the opinion of Glen Babb, Associated Press foreign news editor. Babb spent many years in Japan.

Beyond accepting the office of president of the Privy Council last August, Babb added, "Suzuki has given no public intimation of sympathy with the army extremists who have dominated the government virtually ever since the 1936 attempt on his life."

Until the complexion of the Suzuki cabinet is known, however, Babb cautioned, "it may be too early to conclude that the shift presages a peace offensive." He continued: "There remains the chance, of

(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 6)

Okinawa Push Has Cost 175 Yankee Lives

Nimitz Reports Incredibly Low Casualties; Drive Advances

GUAM, Friday, April 6.—(AP)—Incredibly low American casualties for the first four days of the Okinawa invasion were reported by the Navy today in announcing a sweeping advance on the north end of the Tenth Army line and increasing resistance in the south near the capital city of Naha.

Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz said 175 U. S. soldiers and Marines had been killed and 798 wounded up to midnight Wednesday. This reflected the lightness of the opposition he gave no figures for naval casualties. A fleet of 1,400 ships aided the momentous invasion of the Ryukyu island only 325 miles south of Japan proper.

No Japanese casualty figures were announced, although they are considerably higher.

Marines at the north scored gains up to four and one-half miles along the narrow Ishikawa isthmus, still finding "ineffective" opposition, but 24th Corps infantrymen moving on Naha, a city of 60,000 population rain into increasingly stiff resistance among fixed defensive positions.

Their advance, previously measured in miles, was only about 3,000 yards. It appeared possible that the first big action of the campaign was building up.

Associated Press Correspondent Robin Coons told how the Americans on the south end of the line could look ahead to rolling hills with sharp gullies and caves—ideal terrain for the Japanese type of defense.

Sixty-five planes were destroyed out of Japanese air fleets raiding American positions and shipping in the first five days, Nimitz reported.

Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger's Third Marine Amphibious Corps secured the Ishikawa isthmus, narrowest of the 65-mile-long island — an area which could have been defended comparatively easily by the Japanese but was not.

Maj. Gen. Andrew D. Bruce's 77th Division, moving down the west coast upon the capital city of Naha and its nearby airbase, advanced about 3,000 yards into areas which Admiral Nimitz described as "organized for defense by the enemy."

"By nightfall," Nimitz reported, "resistance to the advance was increasing."

The Yanks were closely supported by naval gunfire and carrier aircraft.

Capital Welcomes Soviet Denunciation Of Treaty

WASHINGTON, April 5.—(AP)—Russia's denunciation of her neutrality pact with Japan sent a wave of jubilation through this capital today in the belief that it probably spells much swifter victory in the Pacific.

On all sides, the action was interpreted as a long step toward Russian participation in the war against the Japanese, who would thus be caught in a gigantic squeeze and go down to their doom at a greatly reduced cost in Allied lives.

Some were inclined to restrain their elation, on the ground that only time will tell whether Russia actually intends to strike in the near future. But the general opinion was that the diplomatic move was a forerunner to eventual hostilities.

Chairman Thomas (D-Utah) of the Senate Military Committee, saw the development as certainly meaning "the eventual entry of Russia into the war with Japan."

Senator Connally (D-Tex), foreign relations chairman, said "Japan and Germany are in an embrace of death; they chose that course and the stars will bring both to their doom."

(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 5)

MacArthur Will Lead Army Against Japan

Nimitz Given Complete Command Of All Naval Forces In Pacific; Move Will Expedite Future Blows At Nippon

WASHINGTON, April 5.—(AP)—General Douglas MacArthur drew the assignment today to command all American Army forces in the final cleanup of Japan.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff settled the much-discussed point by reassigning commands in the whole Pacific area, with MacArthur in charge on land and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz directing the United States drive at sea.

The new assignments were disclosed even as Japan reeled under the double blows of Russia's denunciation of a neutrality pact and the fall of the Japanese cabinet.

It was the close approach of American forces that toppled the Japanese politico from power, and it was this same factor that made the realignment of American Army-Navy leadership necessary.

Heretofore the commands had been geographically separated, with sea forces in MacArthur's Southwest Pacific area coming under his command and land forces in Nimitz' Pacific Ocean area taking orders from the admiral.

There had been much unofficial discussion whether MacArthur would go on with the job, or step in the Philippines where he is now established, and leave the Japan and China campaigns to others.

MacArthur's forces, driving (Continued on Page Nine; Col. 4)

Japan's Cabinet Resigns Under Homefront Censure

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(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 6)

Two Russian Armies Face Japan On Siberian Front

WASHINGTON, April 5.—(AP)—If Russia goes to war with Japan, at least two Red armies, equipped with the finest modern military material, will be ready to join combat immediately in the Far East.

Behind them will be a string of brand-new air strips, swarming with fleets of fast, hard-hitting bombers and fighters.

With them will be large, well-organized United States and British military missions, prepared to cooperate with the Russians to whatever extent they permit in prosecution of their part of the campaign.

These are the highlights of the little that is known about the world's most mystery-shrouded military theater. The secrets of the Red Army's far eastern military establishment have been so closely guarded that, in comparison, the Russian forces in Europe are wide open.

So tightly are those secrets held that even the identity of the Soviet commander in the far east is not known. The former commander, General Apanasenko, was moved west and killed in the battle of Kursk in June, 1943.

Before Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 the Russians had three Red-bannered armies in the standing force of two armies in

Foe Accused Of Assisting The Germans

Move Leaves Question Of Soviet-Nipponese War Unanswered

LONDON, April 5.—(AP)—Russia denounced her neutrality pact with Tokyo today, bluntly accusing Japan of helping Germany and possibly clearing the way for eventual Soviet entry into the Pacific war.

In a strongly-worded note, Moscow linked the European and Pacific wars for the first time by declaring Japan had aided Germany and, "in addition, Japan is fighting against the U. S. A. and Great Britain, which are allies of the Soviet Union." Moscow broadcast the announcement of its action to the world.

The question whether Russia will go to war against Japan was left unanswered. The denounced five-year neutrality pact does not expire until April 25, 1946 — more than a year from now. But the note which Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov handed Japanese Ambassador Naotake Sato this afternoon in Moscow placed Japan squarely in the enemy's camp and stated Soviet Russia's opinion that Japan had violated the pact.

Shortly before Moscow acted, the government of Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso in Tokyo fell in the midst of a political and military crisis, and Emperor Hirohito summoned Adm. Baron Kantaro Suzuki, 77-year-old president of the Privy Council, to form a new government. Suzuki has been regarded as a moderate — aloof from previous military cliques ruling Japan — and his selection raised the possibility a Japanese "peace cabinet" might be installed.

The Japanese crisis was precipitated by the American invasion of Okinawa and perhaps also by strong indications of the ominous Soviet diplomatic blow.

Moscow's announcement said that Molotov told the Japanese ambassador that "lost its meaning and continuance of this pact has become impossible."

Russia ratified the pact April 25, 1941, and it was to have been continued for another five years unless denounced a year before its expiration.

The note given Sato was reminiscent of the same line taken by Russia last September when Russia went to war against Bulgaria, accusing that Axis satellite of aiding Germany against Russia and declaring "Bulgaria actually has been in a state of war with the Soviet Union for a long time."

Amistosity has marked Soviet-Japanese relations for 50 years, and both countries have strong armies massed on the Soviet-Manchurian frontier, where border "skirmishes" amounting to large-scale battles were fought and largely overlooked by the rest of the world during the opening days of World War II in Europe.

The repudiation of the pact gave Russia a free hand for joining in any joint action the United Nations might decide to take against Japan at the San Francisco conference opening April 25.

The main purpose of this meeting is to lay the foundation for an international security organization against aggressors — a Premier Stalin already has publicly branded Japan "a typical aggressor nation" — equally guilty with Germany.

British official circles here were silent on the possible implications of Russia's latest move, but the first comment from the British Press Association's diplomatic correspondent said "it seems something more than coincidence that the resignation of the Japanese government should precede so shortly the Soviet announcement."

The first official reaction came from H. V. Evatt, Australian foreign minister here for a Dominions conference, who said that the Molotov declaration "demonstrates that Russia will play a notable part in the future security and welfare of the peoples of the Pacific."

Describing the Moscow announcement as "characteristically

(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 3)

Tide Water Gets Permit To Sell Bus Facilities

The State Utilities Commission yesterday issued an order authorizing the Tidewater Power Co. to sell its transportation facilities to the Safety Transit Co., a new corporation, for \$150,000, it was disclosed last night in an Associated Press dispatch from Raleigh.

The City Council, meeting in a special session yesterday, agreed not to oppose the sale of the transportation system to R. O. Self and others associated in the newly organized company. A telegram expressing the City's attitude was forwarded to the Utilities Commission at the request of the commission.

Judge Fred C. Hunter, of the commission, pointed out that the new application proposes no changes in bus rates and sched-

ules. He said that the commission would require an additional application if such proposals were projected. However, none are contemplated, it was learned.

The purchase price covers the power company's bus franchise in Wilmington, bus equipment and franchises in suburban areas, including Wrightsville Beach.

The Safety Transit Co. is to be incorporated by Self, former chief clerk of the Utilities Commission; Claude A. Jessup and S. A. Jessup, both of Charlottesville, Va., and C. F. Cassell of Wilmington.

At the special session of the City Council yesterday, a resolution was adopted which showed the Council was in complete accordance with the sale.

(Continued on Page Nine; Col. 4)