

First Army Opens New Attack

Action Of Russians Has Dealt Terrific Blow Upon The Japs

John Lewis Is Denying All Strikes

Disclaims Blame For Instances Of Any Local Walkout

Washington, April 6.—(AP)—A spokesman for John L. Lewis said today the miners' union had not inspired a single work stoppage in soft coal mines. He predicted full production by Monday.

Tokyo Is Wondering About Its Meaning; Claim To Be Ready

Moscow, April 6.—(AP)—Soviet Russia's renunciation 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 announcing the treaty, declaring bluntly that Japan not only is an ally of the Soviet Union's greatest enemy—but is helping Germany in her war against the U. S. S. R.

(A Tokyo broadcast recorded today by the FCC suggested the Japanese believed Russia's action might possibly be only a prelude to a more serious breach between the two countries. The broadcast observed that, while the past has still a year to run, Japan is fully prepared to meet any abrupt change in existing Japanese-Soviet relations in view of the rapid progress of the world situation.)

In the opinion of some foreign observers here, the Russians signed the pact with Japan only in an effort to avoid a two-front war, being fearful of Hitler's intentions from the beginning.

News of the Soviet government's action, given to the Russian people by the Moscow radio four hours after Japanese Ambassador Saito was summoned to Molotov's office, created an electric effect throughout the Russian capital.

Cotton Prices Change Little

New York, April 6.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to ten cents a bale higher. Noon prices were five to ten cents a bale higher.

U. S.-Soviet Link Across Reich Bombed

London, April 6.—(AP)—A force of approximately 650 American heavy bombers, escorted by more than 600 fighters, today bombed railway yards in Halle and Leipzig, two main traffic centers on the link-up routes for the American and Russian armies.

Other targets in Germany, not immediately identified in Allied announcements, also were attacked by Flying Fortresses and Liberators in their fourth straight daylight assaults on the Reich.

The German radio indicated these targets were in the Magdeburg, Dessau and Chemnitz areas. There were no major raids on Germany last night, bad weather keeping even the RAF Mosquitoes from paying their nightly visit to Berlin.

Stocks Show Steadiness

New York, April 6.—(AP)—The stock market steadied today after Thursday's stumble, although buyers continued to approach favorites with a good deal of caution.

Occasional gainers included Santa Fe and Southern Railway. Declines were posted for Great Northern and Standard Oil of New Jersey.

FOREIGN AMBASSADORS CONFER WITH STETTINIUS



SECRETARY OF STATE Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., is shown as he conferred with the British, Russian and Chinese ambassadors in his Washington office. This is the first time that the Russian and Chinese diplomats have had discussions with Stettinius together. Shown at the meeting are (l. to r.): Earl of Halifax, British Ambassador; Stettinius; Andrei A. Gromyko, Russian Ambassador; Dr. Wei Tao-ming, Chinese Envoy. (International)

Soviets Are Closing Pincers On Beautiful City Of Vienna

London, April 6.—(AP)—Two Russian armies sought to close a giant pincer around Vienna today. Tank-led Soviet storm units, knitting through a Nazi defense belt at the southern city limits, drove within four and a half miles of the center of the Austrian capital.

Depleted along an 82-mile stretch, the Russians were within 46 miles of completely encircling the city. One Russian wing seized positions 12 miles south in the Danube river town of Tulln, ten miles northwest of Vienna. Capture of Tulln would sever all Vienna's westward communications along the so-called bank bank of the Danube, and also the main Vienna-Prague railroad.

Breaking across the Schwechat and Laaung rivers, a canal and a network of suburban railroads and highways constituting a highly fortified defense belt, units of Marshal Tolbukhin's third Ukrainian army battled to Vienna's southern city limits.

Several suburban cities adjacent to the boundary and four miles from the center of the city were captured in the face of a German artillery fire. Two of Vienna's vital supply links with the war-essential of Germany and Czechoslovakia were cut. The Russians also battled into the outskirts of the industrial suburb of Schwechat, site of a big aircraft plant, captured Laxenburg, and thrust a two to three miles wedge through the forested Vienna woods. The old imperial Austrian capital is located in Laxenburg, six miles south of Vienna.

Southeast and northeast of Vienna Marshal Malinovsky's second Ukrainian army yanked forward in gains of seven miles along both banks of the Danube.

Elsewhere along the eastern front, Soviet troops partially flattened a German bulge that had extended deep into eastern Slovakia, captured industrial Zvonec in southwestern Poland and seized Delino-Lendava.

9th Army Fights In Streets Of Hamelin

Nazis Surrendering By The Thousands; Trap Whittled Down

Paris, April 6.—(AP)—The ninth army fought three miles past the Weser river today and into the street of Hamelin, 23 miles from Hannover, as the first army opened a powerful new attack which carried 22 miles eastward close to the upper reaches of the river.

British on the north were across the Weser at three or more places in fighting over the north German plains within 35 miles of the great naval base of Bremen.

The ninth army crossed the Weser at several places northwest as well as south of Hamelin and deepened its original bridgehead to three miles. This drive threatened imminently to outflank Hannover from the south.

The Germans were in flight toward the Elbe river, last river before Berlin. The third army on the central Thuringian plain was close to the capital—137 miles away. The destruction of the German army continued. The ninth and third armies alone captured 25,638 Germans yesterday.

One third army column from the eleventh armored division advanced to a point 23 miles southwest of Gotha and 53 northwest of the Czechoslovak border. At that position it was within 32 miles of Saxony and 30 of the big rail center of Plauen, the capture of which would cut Germany in two. The tanks and infantry divisions of Lt. Gen. Hodges' first army drove both east and west.

Hodges' troops drove into the Ruhr trap on a 70-mile front seeking elimination of up to 150,000 Germans sealed off in the industrial basin for annihilation.

The first army advanced nine miles west into the Ruhr trap beyond Winterberg, where the 21 trapped enemy divisions were offering their most violent resistance.

Prized cities that fell included Bielefeld, population 128,700; Minden, 28,000, on the Weser; Muelhausen, 36,000; Almeda, 35,621. Also taken were Herford, 36,000; Detmold, 16,000; Bad Oeynhausen, 8,000, and Neheim, 11,000.

ROBINSON AND MCGUIRE URGED FOR ROAD AGENCY Raleigh, April 6.—(AP)—Two more delegations visited Governor Cherry yesterday in behalf of their candidates for posts on the state highway and public works commission.

Emmett Robinson, Goldsboro manufacturer and civic leader, was supported by a 20-old member delegation headed by State Senator Tom O'Berry, Rep. Frank Taylor and Editor Henry Bell of the Goldsboro News-Argus.

A western delegation headed by Jim Petchett of Lenoir, supported by D. McGuire of Lenoir. The Governor will name the new commission within the next two or three weeks.

Harrison Is Claiming His Innocence

Raleigh, April 6.—(AP)—Es-Ming Harry C. Harrison, 21, continued today to maintain his innocence after today's murder charges had been preferred against him in connection with the Easter Monday death of socially and prominently wealthy Mrs. John V. Higham, his 71-year-old distant cousin.

Mrs. Higham's body, badly charred, was found in her burned home, and a fracture of the skull, disclosed by the autopsy, led officers to the belief that she had met with foul play.

Harrison, a member of a prominent Scotland Neck family, was arrested Wednesday as he was driving north from Enfield. He was charged at that time with the theft of a watch from a friend with whom he had lived in Raleigh. Several pieces of expensive jewelry were found on Harrison's person, and in the car he was driving, Detective Sergeant W. C. Maddrey, who arrested the youth, stated. Most of the articles have been identified as having belonged to Mrs. Higham, the officer said.

A preliminary hearing, tentatively scheduled for today, was postponed until next week. Police said they had not concluded their investigation.

Meanwhile, Detective Sergeant Maddrey said several keys found in Harrison's pockets at the time of his arrest fitted doors to the Higham home. Locks were taken from the doors, he added, and will be preserved as evidence.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PLANNED AT SALISBURY

Salisbury, April 6.—District highway engineer George E. Rike has revealed here that postwar road plans in this area include a widening of the Statesville highway (federal route 70) for a distance of approximately eight miles beginning at Catawba college on the outskirts of the city and extending to Second creek.

The initial section of the project, from the college to the intersection of the Woodleaf road, he said, will be a four-lane highway of 40-44 feet in width.

Suzuki Finding Rough Going For Forming Cabinet

San Francisco, April 6.—(AP)—Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki lapsed today to name a list of ministers to the cabinet Emperor Hirohito called upon him to form after the fall of former Premier Koiso's government yesterday.

A Domei dispatch recorded by the Federal Communications Commission said Suzuki had succeeded in obtaining the cooperation of the army and navy in his first day as premier-designate, and expects to take up naming of candidates for the war and navy portfolios and other ministries tomorrow.

The composition of the cabinet is expected to be completed in the morning, and if possible the investiture ceremony he held in the afternoon, Domei said.

Suzuki spent the afternoon calling on former premiers soliciting their support and cooperation.

GAS RATION BOOST TO FOLLOW V-E DAY

Washington, April 6.—(AP)—Interior Secretary Ickes said today in agreement with the deputy petroleum administrator's prediction that there will be a 50 per cent increase in civilian gasoline allotments after V-E day.

Deputy Administrator Ralph K. Davies, who made the prediction during a west coast news conference last week, said today it will mean an increase of between 100,000 and 200,000 barrels of gasoline a day for civilian use.

About twice that much, he estimated, would be needed to lift rationing.

Ickes, who is petroleum administrator for war, said the rationing angle is "still up to the OPA." He said it depends entirely on army and navy movements in the future.

SWEDEN AND CHINA REACH AGREEMENT

Chungking, April 6.—(AP)—Sweden signed a treaty with China today relinquishing extra territorial and other special privileges in this country.

Planes From Philippines Strike China

Manila, April 6.—(AP)—Nearly fifty Philippine-based heavy bombers, with fighter escorts, spanned the South China Sea for the second straight day to deliver the heaviest attack of the war on Hong Kong Tuesday, headquarters reported today.

Harbor and water front area of the former British crown colony, 700 miles northwest of Manila, absorbed 168 tons of bombs. Nine Japanese ships, including a 7,000-toner, were sunk; a destroyer and two other merchantmen were damaged. In addition, six small freighters were sunk in the China Sea.

All the attacking planes returned. Heavy anti-aircraft raids on Formosa continued, with Liberators, Mitchells and Boston attack bombers bombing and strafing targets in the Kagi, where many parked planes were destroyed on the ground.

In the Philippines, General Douglas MacArthur's ground forces on southern Luzon cut the Japanese escape route from the shores of Laguna bay. Negroes, 40th division troops, pushed northward against "considerable resistance," front dispatches said.

Byssand Job, enemy strong point in the Sibuyan islands, was heavily hit by machine and dive bombers.

McNUTT WOULD KILL OFF ALL JAPANESE

Chattanooga, April 6.—(AP)—Chief of Paul V. McNutt of the War Relocation Commission declared here yesterday he was in favor of "extermination of the Japanese—in toto."

He made the remark in a departure from his prepared text at a luncheon meeting of business, labor and civic leaders. Asked later by a reporter if he meant extermination of the Japanese army or the people, he replied he referred to "the people."

"I know the Japanese people," he added. McNutt expressed the opinion America would be able to meet the current labor shortage in her war factories "because our people want to see this thing through."

Battle For Okinawa To Be In South

Jap Resistance Now Increasing; Armies In North Advancing

Atlet Ok Okinawa, April 6.—(AP)—Japanese planes today made their heaviest air assault on American invasion ships since soldiers and Marines of the tenth army went ashore on Okinawa April 1.

Increasing attacks started this morning and ranged from heavy to light into the late afternoon. The tempo of the raids indicated the Japanese may be making a major effort to cripple the invasion force and the next few days may give an answer to what strength the enemy has.

Heavy American naval gunfire continued to support the advances ashore.

Guam, April 6.—(AP)—The main battle for Okinawa appeared to be shaping up on the southern end of the island, where the Japanese were putting up increased resistance along fixed positions in caves, gulleys and ridges four miles north of the capital city of Naha.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz communique today announcing continued American gains on all Okinawa fronts reported remarkably low United States casualties for the first four days of a campaign only 325 miles from Japan itself, 175 soldiers and Marines killed; 798 wounded.

On the south end of the American line, Major General John R. Hodges' 24th corps infantrymen ran into stiff fighting as they moved ahead 3,000 yards.

Field officers said the Japanese commander evidently had pulled the bulk of his garrison, estimated at more than 60,000 troops, into the southern end of Okinawa, around Naha. The capital airframe is the largest in the entire Ryukyu chain. In the north, however, Major General Roy S. Geiger's third Marine amphibious division swept ahead four and a half miles to overrun the island's narrowest isthmus and invade tiny Yubuchi Island, off the east coast.

WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Partly cloudy and continued rather cold today and tonight. Saturday fair and warmer. Asheville weather bureau reported no frost, low of 31, no ice. Says no injury to crops seen.

ALLIES CLOSING HOLLAND GAP



WHILE CANADIAN AND BRITISH forces continue to push ahead in the Weser River area (1) after the fall of Kassel, with Hannover and Hagen as immediate goals, troops of the Canadian 1st Army were hitting straight for the Zuider Zee (2), as indicated by arrow. Through this section runs the last practicable escape routes through the Netherlands for the remaining Nazi 23rd Army caught in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and other Dutch centers. American troops are successfully battering remaining enemy units (3) in the Ruhr area. (International)

COMING AND GOING ON AUTOBAHN



THOUSANDS OF GERMAN PRISONERS plod along an Autobahn, heading for prison camps behind the lines, while vehicles and tanks of the U. S. 3rd Army pass them, heading for the battle areas beyond Giessen, Germany. The highways of which Hitler boasted so loudly now are cluttered with American vehicles rolling along in all directions as the Reich rapidly falls apart. Signal Corps Radiophoto. (International Soundphoto)