

# Russ Abrogate Jap Neutrality Pact

## Action Is Seen as Prelude to Soviet War on Nipponese

LONDON, April 5 (UP)—Russia today denounced her neutrality pact with Japan in an action believed to foreshadow her ultimate entry into the Pacific war. Announcement of the action came a few hours after the fall of the Japanese government of Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso, presumably upon the receipt of word from Moscow of the Russian action.

## Cabinet Quits As Jap War Crisis Grows

LONDON, April 5 (UP)—Premier Gen. Kuniaki Koiso and the entire Japanese cabinet, powerless to halt the American advance on their homeland, resigned today with a frank admission that Japan's plight had become grave.

After a conference of elder statesmen, it was announced that Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki, 77-year-old president of the privy council, has been ordered by the emperor to form a new cabinet.

Japan's second wartime cabinet fell only four days after American invasion forces stormed ashore on Okinawa island, 330 miles southwest of the enemy's home islands, against almost nonexistent opposition.

## Draft Slow-down After V-E Day Is Hinted By Army

WASHINGTON, April 5 (UP)—The war department expects to draft nothing but 18-year-old boys after the collapse of Germany, it was reported in congressional circles today.

Plans for army strength after V-E day have been under discussion recently between military and congressional representatives in connection with two bills now pending in the senate.

One measure would extend the selective service act for one year beyond the present May 15 expiration date.

The other would permit resumption of enlistments in the regular United States army instead of the war-time army of the United States. It is designed to build up a regular army force that will continue in service through the period of post-war demobilization of draftees.

Discussions in connection with these two bills, in addition to general demobilization plans, have given congressional leaders the impression that the army wants only 18-year-olds after Germany is defeated.

## Entrenched Enemy Slows U. S. Gains In Okinawa Drive

AN ADVANCED ARMY COMMAND POST, Okinawa, April 5 (UP)—Army troops driving southward toward a 600-foot hill mass guarding the approaches to Shuri met heavy Jap artillery, machine gun and mortar fire from well-prepared emplacements today that slowed our advance on Okinawa to a snail's pace.

Apparently the Americans have reached the outpost of enemy defenses in the south where a force of as many as 60,000 Japs may be concealed.

Frontline troops encountered mine fields. A unit advancing toward the village of Kaniku was halted while artillery and planes struck at an unknown number of enemy tanks and troops massed about 1,000 yards ahead.

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## Change In Park Name Is Proposed

J. E. Reynolds, speaking in the interests of the Union county Historical society, last night petitioned city commission to change the name of Pioneer park to Gangloff park. This request was made by the society because two other parks in the county are named Pioneer park.

He was advised by the commission that since the park was named by the people it must be changed by the people. No action was taken by the commission.

# La Grande Evening Observer

ESTABLISHED 1896 LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 5, 1945 HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON Union and Wallowa Counties

Weather Data for 24 hours ending 7 a.m. Temperatures: Maximum 50, Minimum 25, Precipitation .85. Forecast: Cloudy with probable showers tonight and Friday.

# Weser River Crossed by Americans 7th War Loan Drive Will Start Monday

## Soviets Push Into Suburbs Of Vienna

LONDON, April 5 (UP)—Moscow revealed today that the second Ukrainian army is sweeping westward from captured Bratislava to join in the siege of Vienna, where other Russian forces were battling in the southeastern suburbs.

## Local Agencies Join In Clothing Collection Drive

The united national clothing collection for the benefit of destitute peoples of liberated countries was launched in La Grande last night when an organization was completed and committee appointments adopted at a meeting in the Red Cross headquarters at which 11 organizations were represented.

## Washington Hails Russ Abrogation Of Nippon Treaty

WASHINGTON, April 5 (UP)—Russia's denunciation of her neutrality pact with Japan was hailed by observers here as meaning that she will ultimately join the allies in war against the island empire. The prospective Russian participation might shorten the Pacific war.

## Committee Aides Named Under Leadership Of A. E. Olson

Under the leadership of A. E. Olson and Lynn H. Larson, co-chairmen representing the Lions and Rotary clubs, respectively, the conferees chose Sam B. Zion as chairman of a committee to obtain containers.

## La Grande Wins Honor In Traffic Safety Contest

La Grande today has the honor of being placed on the 1944 honor roll of the National Safety council as the result of going through the year without a traffic fatality within the corporate limits of the municipality.

## Union County Objective Set at \$964,000; E Bond Sales to Be Stressed With \$741,000 Quota

Union county Monday, in collaboration with the rest of the nation, will launch its campaign in "The Mighty Seventh War Loan Drive," in an effort to gain the heaviest quota in E bonds in war loan history.

## County Challenges Portland To Race On E Bond Sales

W. C. "Cy" Perkins, Union county war finance chairman, yesterday expressed a supreme confidence in the people of his county by challenging without reservation, except on a "reasonable basis," Multnomah county in the forthcoming bond drive.

## Tough Period Ahead

"Americans have got to realize two things," he said, "that first is that the war is not over. Even if Germany falls, the greatest fight of all is still to come in the Pacific. The other is that in buying bonds, individuals in no sense are making a contribution. What they are doing is guaranteeing their own future welfare."

## Jap 'Life Line' Is Severed As Yanks Invade Masbate

MANILA, April 5 (UP)—American forces brought the Philippines campaign to its final stage today with the seizure of Masbate island and General Douglas MacArthur said Japan's entire stolen empire to the south now was isolated.

## Counterfeiters Of Ration Stamps Held

NEW YORK, April 5 (UP)—Daniel P. Wesley, OPA regional administrator, disclosed today that "a gang of counterfeiters" from New York, east side had been rounded up for passing counterfeit ration stamps "on a large scale" in New York and Boston.

## No Surrender Is Expected By Eisenhower

WASHINGTON, April 5 (UP)—The White House disclosed today that Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of Allied armies in Europe, has written President Roosevelt that there probably "will never be a clean cut military surrender" of the German armies.

## Guerrilla Warfare Foreseen

He foresew "guerrilla warfare which would require for its suppression a very large number of troops."

## Rampaging Rivers Menace Wide Area

NEW ORLEANS, April 5 (UP)—Half a dozen rampaging rivers threatened today to bring to Louisiana the worst floods in the state's history.

## Allies Advance On Adriatic Port

ROME, April 5 (UP)—Eight army troops have consolidated newly-won positions on a sandspit between Lake Comacchio and the sea and were reported advancing today toward Porto Garibaldi, major port on the Adriatic, 15 miles north of Ravenna.

## Bremerton Is Hit By Fuel Shortage

SEATTLE, April 5 (UP)—The office of price administration today reported a wood fuel famine at Bellingham and said more than 2,000 Bellingham families will have to divert their heating plants to coal as soon as possible.

## 9th Army Closes on Dortmund; Patton Drives Toward Berlin

PARIS, April 5 (UP)—The American ninth army stormed across the Weser river today, two miles south of Hameln, and drove forward 153 miles west of Berlin and 20 miles southwest of Hannover, Germany's 12th city.

## Germans Urged By Hitler To Hold On For New Offensive

LONDON, April 5 (UP)—A Nazi broadcast said today that Adolf Hitler, in his first public utterance since the Allied breakthrough in the west, appealed to German soldiers to hold until a new German offensive is launched soon.

## Mine Seizure Is Urged By Ickes

WASHINGTON, April 5 (UP)—Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes said today he believes the government should take over the soft coal mine at once.

## Army Cargo Plane Reported Missing

EVERETT, Wash., April 5 (UP)—A twin-engine army cargo plane C-45 with three men aboard is missing on a cross-country training flight from Mount Rainier, Wash., to Seattle.

## Fruit Is Menaced By Frigid Wave

CHICAGO, April 5 (UP)—A cold wave hit the Midwest today, periling fruit crops in areas that escaped damage in yesterday's heavy snowstorm.