

# Siegfried Line Broken by French Guns

## Russ-Nazi Armies Link Foreseen

### Von Ribbentrop Visiting Slavs' Leaders Today

Second History - Making Parley May Mean Military Pact

Soviet Sore at Estonia for Sheltering Sub in Her Waters

MOSCOW, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Soviet Russia announced tonight the expected arrival of German Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop tomorrow for a second history-making visit which diplomatic quarters predicted might lead to a Russian-German military pact.

At the same time the government lifted the veil on mysterious negotiations with neighboring Estonia by charging that country was harboring unknown submarines in her Baltic waters.

Tass, soviet official news agency, announced Von Ribbentrop was coming at Moscow's invitation "to discuss with the government of the soviet union problems connected with developments in Poland."

Non-Aggression Pact Follow-up Seen

Some observers expressed the belief that Von Ribbentrop was following up his August 23 visit, when he signed the German-Russian nonaggression pact, to negotiate a military pact between the two governments.

The accusation against Estonia was included in a communique which said negotiations had begun with Estonia when her explanation of the escape of the interned Polish submarine Orzel proved "unsatisfactory."

The submarine made a dash to freedom from Tallinn, Estonia, Sept. 18 after having taken refuge in the harbor there. The Estonian government said the craft escaped under fire but Russia accused the Tallinn regime of "abetting."

In view of dissatisfaction at the Estonian explanation, the soviet communique tonight said the negotiations were opened "regarding measures ensuring the security of soviet waters against diversionist acts on the part of foreign submarines hiding in Baltic waters."

The communique said that according to the Estonian account, the submarine was damaged when it entered Tallinn harbor, and added that "it is inconceivable how, under the circumstances" it could have escaped.

Submarine Is Refueled and Repaired, Charge

"It is believed almost verisimilar—(having the appearance of truth) that in Tallinn the submarine was repaired and probably provided with fuel," the communique said.

"Bearing in mind that according to a report from Leningrad, submarines of unknown submarines were sighted today at two spots in the area of Luca bay, one can arrive at the conclusion that some known submarines have a secret base somewhere near the Estonian coast."

"In consequence of these circumstances the question of ensuring the security of soviet waters against diversionist acts on the part of hidden submarines acquires great importance."

Soviets Seize More of Poland

A soviet high command communique meanwhile said soviet troops advancing towards the German-Russian demarcation line in Poland occupied a number of additional towns on a line running southwest from Ballystok.

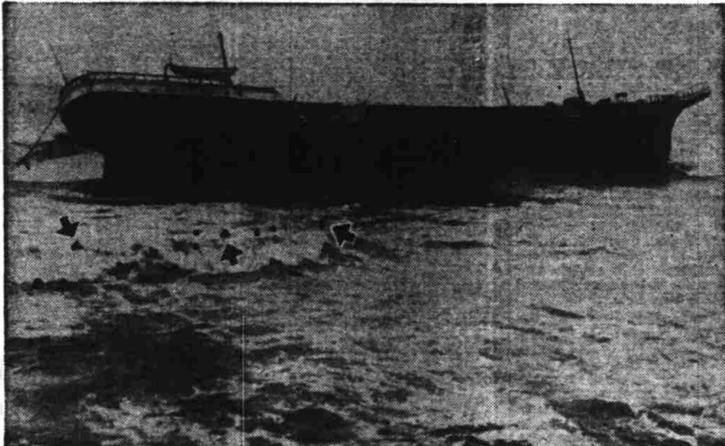
Thirty trainloads of Polish troops numbering a total of 25,000 were said to have been seized between Brest Litovsk and Voldava.

Moscow tonight was a center of European diplomatic activity with Von Ribbentrop's arrival awaited, the presence of Turkey's foreign minister, Sukru Saracoglu and the expected return of Karl Selzer, Estonian foreign minister who suddenly left Moscow yesterday after arriving only Sunday night for mysterious negotiations.

The intentions of soviet Russia toward Estonia, and toward Bessarabia, incorporated into Rumania after the World war, aroused intense speculation in foreign quarters as the red army in Poland neared the lines of demarcation arrived with Germany.

Premier Kaarel Eenpalu of Estonia, declared through his secretary, he was confident soviet Russia would respect Estonia's neutrality. The spokesman refused to comment on reports negotiations over possible trade and nonaggression pacts were not going well and said Estonian officials were not aware of any special soviet troop movements near Estonia's borders.

### STORM-WRECKED SHIP CREW SWIMS ASHORE



At least 35 persons were believed drowned in the Pacific ocean near Los Angeles in the violent rain and wind storm which roared out of the tropics Sunday following southern California's recent deadly heat wave. Dramatic picture above shows members of the crew of the fishing barge Miamie A. Cain swimming ashore after the craft was beached off Santa Monica in a 60-mile gale. Off Oxnard, Cal., meantime, a sport fishing boat capsized, drowning 24 persons. Two were saved. (IIN photo.)

### California Storm Deaths Mounting

100 May Be Counted Lost if Fears Realized on Unreported Craft

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Deaths resulting from the tropical storm along Southern California's coast may approach 100 if the fierce gales of Sunday sank any appreciable number of the numerous small ocean-going craft still missing or unreported today.

More than two dozen boats, mostly pleasure cruisers and yachts, had not been heard from since the storm broke.

Aboard these craft were parties ranging from two to ten persons each. Best available information indicated the average number was at least four or five persons.

Already dead or believed dead were more than 35 persons, most of whom perished in boat wrecks. These include 24 lost when the fishing boat Spray capsized near Oxnard.

At least 14 boats are known to have been sunk or wrecked.

The US coast guard began a systematic search today from Santa Barbara to San Diego for missing craft—along the beaches, in coves and on island shores.

Several pleasure boats previously listed as missing were reported safely moored today.

After leaving probably more than \$1,000,000 damage in a day of cloudy skies, and a new all-time rainfall record for September, the storm practically ended today.

(Turn to Page 2, Col. 5.)

### Tiny Salem Boat Puts Into 'Frisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 26.—(AP)—John Oslund, 22, Salem, Ore., lone mariner who sailed his home-made 21-foot ketch Talibus from Coos bay to San Francisco, said today light winds were responsible for his prolonged 16-day trip.

Oslund arrived last night and furling his sails today off Belvedere, across the bay from San Francisco.

A 40-mile an hour gale kept Oslund busy for two days, but otherwise he was plagued by faint breezes and one day made only four miles headway.

"Otherwise, I had no trouble," said the calm-voiced sailor. "I took things as they came."

Oslund built the Talibus at Salem and sailed Oregon inland rivers before he attempted the trip down the coast. He said he wanted to sell the boat here, but after that his plans were indefinite.

### First American Visits Famed Siegfried Line

Lochner, With Other Newspapermen, Conducted Into big Defense Works; Concludes Break-Through Would Be Attained Only by Heavy Losses

(Louis P. Lochner, chief of the Berlin bureau of The Associated Press and a 1938 Pulitzer prize winner, was taken today on a 200-mile tour of sections of Germany's Siegfried line along the Belgium-Luxembourg border. This is his story of what he saw on the first tour by newspaper correspondents to that part of the western front. His tour tomorrow will take him close to the French lines.)

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER  
WITH THE GERMAN ARMY ON THE WESTERN FRONT, Sept. 26.—(AP)—German officers told me on a tour of the German border facing Belgium and Luxembourg today that their preparations had left nothing undone to smash any attempt of Britain or France to break through these neutral countries.

But from the German side of the border I saw no signs that these two countries were making preparations which might indicate fear of German attack.

American Treads  
Together with two other Americans, one Netherlands, one Norwegian and one Finnish newsman, I was able today to go where no Americans hitherto have set foot—on the Siegfried line for 200 miles from Cologne to Trier and more particularly on 100 miles of German soil directly and immediately along the Belgium-Luxembourg frontier.

More than that, we were taken into the depths of that gigantic fortification and were shown things that, according to conservative estimates, not more than 100 living persons have seen to such an extent and over such a vast space.

We drove along roads skirting the Belgium frontier within 10 feet.

Along 100 miles of the Belgian frontier, (Turn to Page 2, Col. 4.)

### Silverton Child's Death Is Probed

Trace of Arsenic Is Shown by Autopsy, Trooper Captain Reports

Captain Walter Lansing of the state police disclosed here last night that an investigation was being made of the death of Mary Ann Summerfield, 14-month-old Silverton child, in a Portland hospital Sunday night.

An autopsy performed in Portland "showed the presence of a small amount of arsenic in the body," Captain Lansing reported.

State troopers and District Attorney Lyle J. Page spent several hours yesterday in Silverton in connection with the investigation. Page said he was awaiting a detailed report from autopsy surgeons.

The little girl was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Summerfield, who moved to Silverton from North Bend following her birth in July, 1938. Also surviving is a brother, Robert.

### 40th Portland Victim

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 26.—(AP)—Portland recorded its 40th traffic fatality of the year tonight when Mrs. Anna Hummer, 67, succumbed to injuries suffered when struck by a car on Southwest 82nd avenue. Elma Longwell, 22, the victim's granddaughter was walking with her at the time and suffered leg and arm injuries. Patrolman H. I. Stevenson, who investigated, exonerated the driver.

### British Ships All Fight in Sub Campaign

Nation's Merchantmen Join Navy in War, Churchill Says

Admiralty Chief Reports Convoy System in Full Operation

LONDON, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Great Britain's first lord of the admiralty, Winston Churchill today told the nation that enemy submarines were being checked with greater success than in the world war and that the empire's merchant marine was being armed for a fight that "is only just beginning."

Speaking in the house of commons immediately after Prime Minister Chamberlain had made his fourth report on the war's progress, Churchill stole the show from his chief.

He declared that Britain had seized more German cargo than she had lost to submarines. British losses have been reduced from 65,000 tons in the first week of war to 46,000 tons in the second week; 21,000 in the third and only 9,000 in the past six days, he said.

Overwhelming Naval Power to Prevail  
Chamberlain added "a word of warning against over-optimism but expressed belief Britain's sea power eventually would cripple Germany's ability to prolong hostilities."

The first lord of the admiralty, back in his world war post, also added the caution that "we must not dwell upon these reassuring figures too much. . . . We must expect further losses."

"The whole vast business of our world-wide trade continues without interruption or appreciable diminution. Great convoys of ships are escorted to their destinations and enemy ships of commerce (Turn to Page 2, Col. 1.)

### Grid Fans' Train Wrecked, Two Die

Engine Crew Victims; 100 TCU Routers Escape on Journey West

MILLSAP, Tex., Sept. 26.—(AP)—A Texas and Pacific train bearing Texas Christian university football fans to Los Angeles was wrecked near here early tonight, killing the engineer and conductor, and injuring the fireman.

None of the passengers was reported seriously injured.

The dead:  
Leonard J. Perry, engineer, Fort Worth.  
M. McNeely, conductor, Fort Worth.

J. B. Hammer, 55, the fireman, of Berthoff, Tex., whose injuries were said to be not serious.

More than 100 persons, including the Texas Christian university band, were aboard the special, which was to have picked up the university football team at Sweetwater, Tex., where the quad had gone on a regular train earlier in the afternoon, and stopped for a workout.

The wreck, cause of which had not been determined, occurred three miles southeast of Millsap. The engine and baggage cars were almost demolished. The diner and most of the remaining six Pullmans and lounge car, turned on an angle on their sides.

The fans were en route to the season's grid opener at two o'clock Friday between UCLA and TCU.

### War Briefs

BUDAPEST, Sept. 27.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Warsaw's dogged defenders called upon again today to surrender to "save the lives of your women and children."

The call went out at 7 a. m. (1 a. m. EST) from a German radio station broadcasting on the wave length of the now-silent Warsaw station—on the 20th day of Warsaw's siege.

The command of the Polish capital's defense was condemned in this broadcast for "permitting the city to be destroyed and its citizens killed."

The German announcer added:  
"The German staff deeply regrets the necessary destruction of so many people, but it is entirely due to the obstinacy of the resistance."

(A German communique yesterday said that a big scale assault to crush the Warsaw defense had been launched.)

### Hole Blasted in Saar Defenses During Duel

Hitler Weighs 'Ultimatum' to Allied Powers

Western Situation Is Irksome; May Ask if War Is Aim

Fuehrer Back in Berlin Hears Warsaw Holding Although Stopped

BERLIN, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler returned to Berlin tonight to concentrate his energies on the war on the western front while his foreign minister prepared to leave for Moscow to discuss "political questions" arising from the German-Soviet Russian occupation of Poland.

The Fuehrer, self-styled first soldier of Germany, had been absent from his Berlin chancellery since he joined his troops in the east on September 3, the day Britain and France declared war on Germany.

The taking of Warsaw appeared to be the most serious business remaining in the east. A communique today said German forces had started to storm the city after failing to win a negotiated surrender.

"German Patience" Near Snapping Point  
Hints were heard, meanwhile, that "German patience," about which Hitler speaks frequently, was approaching the exhaustion point over the situation along the western front and at sea and that England soon would be called upon to declare positively whether she wants war or peace.

Today's military communique mentioned only artillery fire and minor scouting operations on the western front.

In official quarters it was pointed out that Germany thus far had not recognized a state of war between her and England and France, but it was expected in many quarters that the German attitude toward the western opponents soon would be clarified.

There were informal reports in informed quarters, but without official substantiation, that an ultimatum to England either to make war or peace was among suggestions being weighed by the German government.

Hitler was represented as being particularly exercised over the British sea blockade of Germany which Germany calls a war on women and children.

### France Disperses Communist Party

Outlawing Believed Reply to Russian Tactics Toward Poland

PARIS, Sept. 26.—(AP)—The French government today outlawed the communist party in France in what political circles interpreted as an answer to soviet Russia's new pact with Germany and invasion of Poland.

The severe decree adopted by Premier Daladier's war cabinet also meant the end of all the party's affiliates and banned communist propaganda in France. Penalties not yet revealed were provided for violations.

The action had been foreshadowed by suppression of the newspapers, L'Humanite and Ce Soir, dismissal of communists from parliamentary committees and a break between the communists and the General Confederation of Labor.

The amendments, submitted to a grower referendum earlier this month, received 85 per cent of the 445-votes. A favorable two-thirds majority was necessary.

The amendments included:  
A redefinition of the term "grower-dealer" so as to exclude from this classification growers who handle only crops of their own production, and provision making applicable to 1938 crop crops the 1939 allotment of a grower, if such grower's 1939 production could not equal his 1939 allotment.

### Al Smith Comes to Aid of FDR Neutrality; Speech Set

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—(AP)—Alfred E. Smith, often a bitter critic of the Roosevelt administration, has come to the president's assistance on the neutrality question, it was announced today, and will present his views in a radio speech next Sunday.

The Columbia broadcasting system said Smith "plans to support President Roosevelt's proposals," which include the highly controversial point of repealing the present embargo on shipments of arms, ammunition and implements of war to the European belligerents. The radio speech is to be made at 4 p. m. PST, under the auspices of American union for concerted peace efforts.

This word came simultaneously today with a strategy meeting of senate opponents of repealing the embargo at which it was decided to concentrate upon the embargo issue alone and exclude from the debate other questions presented by the administration neutrality bill.

Besides the embargo repealer, the administration bill contains clauses forbidding American ships to carry goods to belligerents and banning loans to them. Ninety-day commercial credits would be permitted in the president's discretion.

At his press conference today, President Roosevelt said he could not explain the 90-day credit clause. It was a complicated question, he said, on which he had, as yet, no knowledge.

### Germans Feverishly Hasten to Cover Vulnerable Spot as Artillery Protects From Attack

Poilus Seep Through to Shadow of Siegfried Wall in 30-Mile Drive in Other Sector

PARIS, Sept. 27.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—French artillery was reported today to have blasted a hole in the Siegfried line fortifications between Merzig and Saarbruecken.

Dispatches said the entire French-German frontier, between the borders of neutral Luxembourg and Switzerland, blazed with artillery fire.

These advances said heavy German counterfire on advanced French positions in the Saar and Palatinat regions was designed to protect feverish efforts by German troops to rebuild shattered blockhouses backing their line from Merzig to Saarbruecken—a distance of about 20 miles.

BASEL, SWITZERLAND, Sept. 26.—(AP)—French forces were reported in advances reaching Basel today to have attained a number of limited objectives set at the beginning of a series of attacks launched Saturday along a 40-mile stretch of the western front.

Only before the towns of Zweibruecken and Pirmasens, in the central sector 15 and 30 miles east of the industrial town of Saarbruecken, were the French attacks said to have been thwarted by the Germans.

The central area was reported to have been the scene of a heavy German counterattack this afternoon following three days of stubborn German resistance to the French attacks.

Village Control Changes 5 Times  
Disparities reaching Basel said the fighting had been so intense between small, picked forces since Saturday that the village of Bottenbach, just north of the frontier between Pirmasens and Zweibruecken, had changed hands five times.

BASEL, Wondering for three weeks whether it would hear a shot or see action on the heretofore dormant Rhine front, stretching north of the city, both saw and heard today.

A French plane flew over the German side of the frontier nearby, apparently to see how far it could go.

The French plane winged its way about a quarter of a mile over nazi territory, then circled back, then turned over the border again. French Active In Air War

Its second sortie across the border brought such a concerted burst of German anti-aircraft fire that thousands of Basel citizens scrambled to rooftops in anticipation of witnessing their first air battle.

A French squadron, however, roared into sight, crossed the Rhine and escorted the plane safely back to the French side.

PARIS, Sept. 26.—(AP)—French infantry, edging forward under cover of a heavy artillery barrage, were said by military sources to have hit Germany's main Siegfried line through a salient formed at Hornbach on the western front.

These sources described the battle this way:  
German big guns replied to the French barrage with blasting fire, sending shells screaming into the wooded hills and steep ravines southeast of the German town of Zweibruecken.

Overhead French and German air forces clashed, the French holding their own against superior numbers.  
Surprise Attack By Nazis Turned  
Despite violent German reaction the French succeeded in consolidating the Hornbach salient, which was one of the most important.

### Seaplane Attacks Dutch Air Liner

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 26.—(AP)—An unidentified seaplane, attacking from the rear, killed a passenger aboard a Dutch K.L.M. airliner off the German fortified island of Heligoland today while eight other passengers sat calmly unaware.

Then the seaplane flew off toward Germany.  
The assailant's fire continued for five minutes, a member of the transport's crew reported.

One bullet through the back of his chair killed a Swede named Lamb. In all, fifteen bullet holes were found in the plane. Other passengers, however, did not notice the attack. The neutral plane bore the name "Holland" painted in large letters on both sides.

BERLIN, Sept. 26.—(AP)—An official announcement late tonight said a Netherlands commercial airplane flying over the North sea near Heligoland was shot at by German aviators but managed to continue its flight.