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RUSSIANS CLAIM OIL DRIVE SLOWED

News Behind The News

by Paul Mallon

Washington, Aug. 7—Intimations that the Russian war effort is in danger of complete collapse, and a separate peace is imminent, have been swirling around the fringes of news from Moscow.

The same suggestions has gone into official ears here from the official grapevine.

Paul Mallon

Even U. S. congressman have heard from Russian lips such comments as:

"Well, if you get pushed back and back, what can you do?"

An eminent American newswriter in Moscow has gone as far as to predict the war will be lost for us on the Russian plains within 40 days unless a British-American invasion relieves the pressure on the reds.

An American columnist in Washington has broadcast on the radio the same prophesy, which he expects will come to pass unless the invasion is started "immediately."

All these things make the Russian prospect seem certainly disastrous and convey the implication that we must bear a responsibility for the disaster when it occurs.

* * *

ONE thing to remember, while reading and hearing the current stress placed on this viewpoint, is that it all comes from Moscow one way or another—not from the nazis or even from our own officials.

Russia, unlike the United States, controls all outlets of comment from within its borders. Any newspaper account really has an unofficial government label, as the Russians generally use foreign news outlets for diplomatic purposes (again unlike the United States).

All that these stories really prove to the initiated, is that Stalin is using diplomatic resources to hasten Washington and London into a diversion effort.

This second front propaganda method is also a natural one for the reds to follow for their

(Continued on Page Ten)

Radio Highlights

MBS will broadcast highlights of the 13th annual Chicagoland Music Festival Saturday, Aug. 15, from Soldier field. A cast of 10,000 singers and musicians from 30 states and Canada is being assembled to appear before an expected audience of 100,000. Henry Weber of WGN will lead an orchestra of more than 100 pieces and Dr. Edgar Nelson will direct a choir of 5,000.

Marine Is Lucky In Blazing Berth

Riverside, Calif., Aug. 7—(AP)—The marine landed—with the situation well out of hand. Pvt. Earl M. Cotton slept as his train pulled through the yards—but not for long. A cigaret was burning in his berth.

Trainmen helped toss his smoking clothing from the train.

At a water stop a moment later, a station clerk came galloping down the track. Cotton's trousers in one hand and a wallet containing his ticket, money and a medal in the other.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Mary Christensen being surprised when she turned over her breakfast egg this morning.

Frances Bunce, in a nifty play suit, doing a bit of lawn work.

Anna Gilbert pridefully showing some premium produce from husband Van's victory garden.

NAZIS SAY THEIR TROOPS NOW NEAR WELLS OF MAIKOP

Huge Baku Fields Still Many Miles Across Mountains —Reds Fight Back Hard.

By Roger D. Greene
Associated Press War Editor

Adolf Hitler's blood-for-oil drive into the Caucasus was slowed in two key sectors today, Russian accounts said, as the Red armies beat off repeated mass tank assaults and mopped up fresh swarms of Nazi parachutists and plane-transported troops behind the Soviet lines.

An entirely different version came from German field headquarters, which declared that Gen. Fedor Von Bock's armies had captured three strategic towns and advanced to a depth of 160 miles on the road to the Caucasus oil treasures.

Near Maikop Wells

A bulletin from Hitler's headquarters asserted that Nazi troops swarming across the Kuban river had advanced to within 30 miles of the Maikop oil fields. The Maikop wells are important but far less vital than the huge Baku fields which lie across the towering Caucasus mountains hundreds of miles to the southeast.

The Nazi communique also asserted that Axis columns were approaching Krasnodar, 150 miles southwest of Rostov, on the rail line to the Black sea.

Arrival of Soviet reinforcements in the critical struggle below the Don river was acknowledged by the German command which said the Russians were counter-attacking north of the Sal river—apparently in the Kotelinikovski sector, 95 miles south of Stalingrad.

Stukas Help

The high command emphasized the role of Nazi dive-bombers in helping German troops "in their heavy defense" against Soviet "relief attacks" in the Rzhev sector, northwest of Moscow, and conceded that the Red armies were striking back in the big bend of the Don river before Stalingrad.

Conflicting versions of the battle came from Moscow and Berlin.

The Germans reported the capture of Armavir, on the Baku rail line, 160 miles south of Rostov; Yeisk, on the Sea of Azov, 70 miles southwest of Rostov; and Timashevskaya, 130 miles southwest of Rostov.

Capture of Armavir would place the Germans within 65 miles of the Maikop oil fields, which produce seven percent of Russia's oil, and would represent a 50-mile advance from Kropotkin, the southern-most point claimed by the Germans previously in their drive down the Rostov-Baku railway.

Contrasting Claim

By contrast with the Nazi claims, a mid-day bulletin from Red army headquarters gave this picture of the 350-mile battlefront:

Kotelnikovski sector, 95 miles south of Stalingrad—"the Germans are sending in large numbers of tanks in attempts to smash our defenses. Our troops have repulsed these attacks."

Kushchevka sector, 50 miles south of Rostov—"the Germans launched repeated attacks against our positions, but were repulsed with heavy losses."

Kletskaya sector, 80 miles northwest of Stalingrad—"our troops launched a number of counterattacks and pressed the enemy back, destroying nine German tanks and killing about 800 enemy officers and men."

M'ALLISTER BUSY ON SPEAKERSHIP

Portland, Aug. 7—(AP)—William M. McAllister, Medford, here yesterday furthering his candidacy for the speakership of the State House of Representatives, said he already had some early support but did not indicate the number.

Cavemen "Deed" Crater Lake To War Bond Buyer

Grants Pass, Aug. 7—(AP)—Charles R. Cooley, president of the chamber of commerce, retained for Grants Pass today the tenuous claim of local residents to "rights" in Crater Lake.

He outbid H. H. Deemer of Provolt, Jackson county, and bought $225 in war bonds to receive from the Oregon Cavemen a "deed" from the tribe which claims to have originally dug the big hole.

Showing the relative importance of food and scenery in wartime, a young pig was auctioned for $538, more than twice as much as the lake. You can't eat scenery!

Total bond and stamp sales in the city yesterday totalled $18,028.85.

ISSUE PERMIT FOR TEN NEW HOUSES ON HAVEN STREET

Work on construction of a block of 10 new houses on Haven street in the northwest section of Medford was started this week permits for the construction having been issued yesterday at the city inspector's office. It will be a $30,000 project with George S. Rusco of Klamath Falls as owner, and is an F.H.A. defense housing project.

The houses, being built on both sides of Haven street between Summit and Oak streets, will be one-story structures of four and one-half rooms, according to the plans. The exterior of each is to have different architecture, with some of shake and others of siding finish. All will have oil floor furnaces and floors of oak and linoleum and are to have garages either attached or on the lot.

I. S. Stenerson of Klamath Falls is in charge of construction for Mr. Rusco and the Suburban Lumber company of that city. Mr. Stenerson stated today that the houses would be completed in about 75 days and would be put up for sale, with preference given to military and workers on essential defense projects as required by the federal housing authorities.

The houses are being constructed on lots purchased from the city. It is understood that construction of another group will be started as soon as priorities for material can be secured.

Harold Brown is the local agent for Mr. Rusco.

Tuna Luxury Food As Prices Rocket

Astoria, Ore., Aug. 7—(AP)—The way prices were going today tuna was well on the way to becoming a luxury food.

Albacore went up to $415 a ton—$7 above the all-time high set here last week in private sales.

Rent Gougers Here Get Final Warning

500 FLYING BOATS APPROVED BY WPB NELSON REVEALS

First 100 to Be Built For Navy in Kaiser's Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Plants

Washington, Aug. 7.—(AP)—Chairman Donald M. Nelson said today the WPB had approved construction by Henry J. Kaiser, west coast shipbuilder, of 500 huge "Mars"-type flying boats, with an initial order for 100 to be placed by the navy shortly.

The other 400 70-ton cargo carrying planes will be built Nelson said, if the initial program is accomplished successfully in Kaiser's Pacific coast shipbuilding plants.

"This is all contingent upon the construction not interferring with our combat plane program," Nelson added.

Asked whether WPB believed it could be done without hampering war plane production he replied:

"I have hopes—at least we can try."

Nelson said Kaiser now in Washington, would go to the coast and then "come back and tell us what materials and facilities he needs, when he can get started, and where he will build them."

Other WPB officials said they believed Kaiser planned to construct the big sky freighters at Richmond, Calif., on San Francisco bay.

Los Angeles, Aug. 7.—(AP)—Gigantic cargo planes, capable of mass transport of troops across the Atlantic out of reach of lurking submarines, are not a vision of the future—they are an actuality, in quantity production.

And even greater ships, with a capacity of 400 soldiers, able to span the Atlantic in 10 to 12 hours, have passed the speculative stage to the point where the industry could begin their construction.

Tom M. Girdler, chairman of the board of Consolidated Aircraft Corp. and Maj. Reuben H. Fleet, the company's founder and present adviser, made these statements last night as they told the nation, in separate radio talks, that the industry is prepared to tackle the heavy transport problem.

CANNING SUGAR PERMIT GOOD ONLY SIXTY DAYS

Portland, Aug. 7—(AP)—William H. E. Cox, state OPA food rationing official, warned housewives today that certificates for canning sugar are void 60 days after issuance.

Federal income tax levies on department store earnings were about three times greater in 1941 than in 1940.

DRAFT STATUS OF MARRIED MEN IS TOLD BY WOOTON

Get Jobs in One of 34 Essential Occupations or Be Drafted, Warns Director.

Salem, Aug. 7—(AP)—Married men with children had their notice today from Colonel Elmer V. Wooton, state selective service director, to get jobs in one of 34 essential occupations, or to be drafted into the army, possibly early next year.

Colonel Wooton, declaring there are not enough men between the ages of 20 and 45 to fill both the needs of the army and of essential war industries, said many non-essential jobs either will have to be eliminated, or filled by older men or men who are physically handicapped.

Many Jobs Listed

Attempting to correct the mistaken idea that essential occupations are limited to the shipyards and aircraft factories, the colonel announced that the list of 34 industries and activities ranges all the way from production of war materials to the processing of food, repair of essential motor vehicles, communications services, newspapers, and police and fire protection.

"I urge every man between the ages of 20 and 45 to search the list of essential activities and industries to determine whether he is now employed in one of these essential activities or industries," Colonel Wooten said.

"If he finds that he is employed in one of the essential industries or activities, he should next ask himself if his job could be filled by an older man, a physically handicapped man, or by a woman. If he is not employed in an essential activity or industry, or if he can be replaced in his job in an essential activity or industry, he should be able to resolve for himself the course to follow in the interest of the national welfare and this country's freedom."

Essential Activities

The list of essential industries and activities follows:

Aircraft production, ship production, ordnance production, ammunition production, agriculture, food processing, logging and lumbering, construction of buildings and highways, coal mining, non-metallic mining, smelting and refining, production of metal shapes and forgings, finishing of metal products, production of industrial and agricultural equipment, machinery production, chemical production, rubber production, leather production, textile production, production of apparel, production of stone, clay and glass products, petroleum production, production of finished lumber products, production of transportation equipment, transportation services, production of materials for packing and shipping products, production of communication equipment, communication services, heating and power services, repair services, health and welfare services, educational services, and governmental services.

STORES TO CLOSE FOR 91ST'S DAY

The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce announced today it expected all Medford stores and business firms to close all morning and to 1 p. m. Saturday, August 15, in order to give everybody the opportunity of attending the activation day ceremony of the 91st Infantry Division at Camp White.

The ceremony will start at 10 a. m. and close at noon. From 8 to 10 a. m. civilians will be taken on tours of the camp, exhibits will be viewed and registrations received.

Oregon State's New Prexy Is Dr. Strand of Montana

Albany, Ore., Aug. 7.—(AP)—Dr. August Leroy Strand, president of Montana State college became president of Oregon State college today.

Willard L. Marks, president of the State Board of Higher Education, announced appointment of the 48-year-old educator and scientist as successor to Frank L. Ballard, resigned.

Marks said that Dr. Strand, interviewed with other candidates for the Oregon State presidency by the state board at Portland last week will take over his new duties immediately.

A recognized authority on entomology, Dr. Strand was head of that department on the Montana State faculty before his elevation to the presidency in 1937. He is listed in Who's Who in American Men of Science and the Educational Blue Book. Among organizations of which he is a member are the American Society for the Advancement of Science and Sigma XI, science honorary.

Dr. Strand has served with Dr. Donald M. Erb, University of Oregon president, as a member of the board of trustees of the Northwest Regional Educational council.

Born at Victoria, Tex., February 12, 1894, Strand was graduated from Montana State in 1917. He went into the navy's aviation branch in the first World war, commissioned as an ensign. After the war he returned to Montana and became assistant state entomologist.

He received his master's degree in 1925 and his doctorate in 1927, both from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Strand is married and has three children. James Allen is a student at the U. S. naval academy, Patricia Marilyn is in high school and Roy Douglas is a fifth-grader.

Dr. August L. Strand

ROOSEVELT STILL EYING EVIDENCE

Washington, Aug. 7—(AP)—President Roosevelt told a press conference today he had not yet finished his review of testimony in the case of eight alleged Nazi saboteurs and added that he did not know whether he would finish today.

The President made no amplification of that brief statement.

Shortly before the press conference, the White House said that "the President has not yet concluded his reading of the testimony" in the saboteur case.

This statement was read to reporters by William D. Hassett, an assistant secretary, in response to inquiries about reports that Mr. Roosevelt had decreed death for six and clemency for two Nazi agents tried by a military tribunal on charges that they came to this country to sabotage vital war activities.

Cloudburst Traps 9 In Mountain Canyon; One Survives Flood

Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 7—(AP)—A cloudburst and wall of water hurtling down a mountain canyon nine miles north of here last night trapped nine people in an automobile, killing eight of them as the machine rolled and was carried several hundred yards down the hillside.

Russell Kirk, 27, a logger, the driver, escaped. Thrown free, he crept through the mud and debris to the highway and was found by a passing motorist.

Early today six of the bodies were found in the buried machine.

The dead:

Mrs. Ann Kirk, 24; Mrs. Lena McCann, 22, Lena Firpo, 17; Wilbur Hale, 27, and his 22-year-old wife; Frank McCann, 27, and his wife, 21; and Ray McCann, 32.

The bodies of Wilbur Hale and Frank McCann were believed buried deep in the debris.

BRIG. GEN. COOK WILL HEAD ADAIR DIVISION

Salem, Aug. 7—(AP)—Brig. Gen. G. R. Cook, commander of the 104th division to be activated next month at Camp Adair, has arrived in Salem with his two daughters and is living temporarily at a hotel.

FEDERAL CONTROL PLANNED UNLESS PRACTICE HALTED

County Coordinator Board Says Military Cooperating But Landlords Are Not.

Despite wholehearted cooperation by the military in all efforts to cope with various phases of the local housing situation, rentals in many cases have been increased far beyond reason and unless the practice is halted immediately the Jackson County Coordinating Board will have no alternative but to request government aid in eliminating the condition, a board spokesman declared today.

"The law of supply and demand has forced families of Camp White military personnel to bid among themselves for housing accommodations, and many of our landlords are taking advantage of this fact to boost rentals sky-high," the spokesman charged. "Unless we civilians decide to cooperate more fully in fighting a tough housing situation there will be nothing else to do but call in a government rental administrator to clamp down on the recalcitrants."

Find Rent Boosted

The spokesman pointed out that families of military personnel, obtaining houses and apartments upon their being vacated by cantonment contractors and workmen, often find the rents have been raised far above the previous level. "The army has cooperated 100 per cent," he stated, "and now the burden rests entirely upon us. We must see to it that such conditions are overcome at once."

A rumor that the military has asked landlords to eject civilians in order to provide housing units for army families was blasted by the spokesman. "This is entirely untrue," he said. "The military does not expect, and does not want, civilians to give up their homes to families of army personnel. All it wants is a square deal from the landlords in the matter of rentals."

General Writes

Major General Charles H. Gerhardt, commander of the 91st Infantry Division, commenting on the situation, wrote the following letter to the coordinating board:

"I feel that the housing situation in Jackson county as to families of military personnel of the 91st Infantry Division and attached troops has been extremely satisfactory up to the present time. Your committee and the majority of residents of the county has been most fair in this matter. However, conditions now indicate that some people are raising prices due to the approaching scarcity of houses for our increased demand. I trust this situation may be handled by the local committee without further action by other government agencies."

"Save Russia" Conference Said Under Way in Moscow

London, Aug. 7—(AP)—Representatives of major united nations were reported assembling in Moscow today for a "save Russia and win the war" conference, the urgency of which was accented by the increasingly desperate plight of the southern Soviet armies.

This information came from sources whose identity could not be disclosed. The British themselves maintained dead silence on the movements of their own leaders except for their ambassador to Russia, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, who has gone from Kuibyshev to Moscow along with the United States ambassador, Admiral William H. Standley.

Dispatches from Moscow said conferences were proceeding today between Admiral Standley, Maj. Gen. Follett Bradley of the U. S. air force, and Soviet officials.

A Moscow communique announced that Bradley, who arrived in Moscow by bomber three days ago, came for "a discussion with the appropriate Soviet authorities of practical questions connected with the supply of arms and war materials to the U.S.S.R. from the United States."

The Moscow dispatches indicated that Bradley had not yet seen Premier Stalin for whom he brought a letter from President Roosevelt.

As reports streamed into London from both axis and allied sources indicating that the cast was being assembled for grand strategy talks of the utmost importance in the Soviet capital, Lord Beaverbrook's Evening Standard coupled these black-faced banner lines:

"Allied diplomats reported gathering in Russia."

"Germans speed up oil field drive."

Wilhelmina Decorates Five Officers of American Navy

Washington, Aug. 7.—(AP)—Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands conferred decorations upon five members of the United States navy today, including Admiral Thomas C. Hart, retired, for distinguished service in the southwestern Pacific campaign against the Japanese.

The ceremonies at the residence of The Netherlands ambassador, A. Loudon, followed an appearance of the queen as a guest at President Roosevelt's press conference at which time she said contributions of the press and radio to efforts of war leaders was of "immense value" in helping lead mankind "toward a brighter morrow."

Others decorated were:

Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, American chief of staff of the combined fleets in the western Pacific.

Commander T. H. Binford, commander of destroyer division 58, which took part in the battle of the Lombok strait during the night of February 19, 1942, against numerically superior Japanese forces.

Commander H. E. Eccles, commander of the destroyer Edwards, which took part in that battle.

Lieutenant Commander H. P. Smith, commander of the destroyer Stewart, which also took part in the Lombok strait battle.

Upon Admiral Hart, a former commander in chief of the united nations fleet in the western Pacific, the queen conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau with Swords. In making the award, the queen said:

"You, Admiral Hart, as commander in chief of the combined fleets, have shown great leadership and you have contributed largely to their collaboration.

"You have rendered great services in planning joint operations against the enemy, especially during the first part of the war in the southwestern Pacific."

ALL IS CONFUSION ASSERTS HOLMAN

Portland, Ore., Aug. 7—(AP)—Charging that "well nigh every operation under the executive branch of the federal government can be characterized by the word 'confusion,'" Sen. Rufus C. Holman of Oregon, returned last night from a tour of west coast defenses.

The senator, who previously on his tour charged that there was a lack of coordination among military services and that coastal defenses were inadequate, will go to Alaska next week with a senate military affairs subcommittee of which he is a member.

The Cliffside field near Amarillo, Tex., is estimated to contain more than two billion cubic feet of recoverable helium.