

'ZERO HOUR' NEAR FOR HITLER PUSH

Japs May Smash at U. S.

Or Siberia as Nazis

Strike Near East.

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the allies must maintain on that world front.

Chinese dispatches recently have put increasing emphasis on reports of Japanese preparations to attack Siberia in co-operation with Hitler's expected drive on the Black sea front.

The seizure of Kiska's good harbor might well be to protect the Japanese flank in Siberia and prevent American aid to Russia.

There was little doubt, however, that the Aleutian operations are now on a considerable scale and the enemy might well be aiming at Dutch Harbor.

Russian News Indecisive

Danger to Hawaii also was re-emphasized by Lieut. Gen. Delos C. Emmons in advising non-essential civilians to leave the islands because the yare not immune to attack.

Thus, on the first anniversary of Hitler's invasion of Russia, the United Nations faced one of the grimmest stages of the war and the prospects of the U. S. opening a second front in western Europe this summer still were concealed in the secret conference of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

May Drive From Crete

The most encouraging news still came from the Russian front, where Russian tanks were attacking and scoring gains on the Kharkov, Byansk and Volkov fronts, but these were indecisive so far and meant only that the Russian army still was barring the northern end of the axis pincers on the Near East despite severe allied losses in Libya.

The fierce battle of Libya suddenly became the battle of Egypt and the Suez when encircled Tobruk on the Mediterranean coast, 100 miles from the Egyptian border.

fell to a whirlwind axis siege after the bulk of the British eighth army had fallen back to the Egyptian border.

The German and Italian armored forces pushed on to take Bardia and battle the British along their new frontier line in the vicinity of Sidi Azeiz.

Col. Gen. Erwin Rommel, who has bested three different British commanders in the battles of the desert, also pushed 40 miles south from Tobruk and took Bir El Gobi, indicating that he may try to outflank the British frontier line and push 125 miles to the Egyptian railroad center at Marsa Matruh, then on another 165 miles to Alexandria naval base.

There was strong possibility that the axis forces might cut loose with all-out air bombings of Malta in an effort to open up and keep open a Mediterranean route of supply and Alexandria, and that parachute troops from Crete 250 miles away might be landed behind the British lines.

Brighter Than Year Ago

On the Russian front the Russian high command acknowledged that, after 16 days of pitiless siege, the Germans had succeeded in driving a wedge into the northern defenses of Sevastopol and that the defenders were fighting "yard by yard" in new "intermediate positions."

The Germans told of street fighting in the northern bay district, a part of the city itself, after the fall of the last fort in that sector.

Dark as the outlook was for Sevastopol the outlook all along the 1,800-mile Russian front was not as a surprise, since one of the navy's first announcements on enemy action in the Aleutian area reported that vessels of the enemy invasion fleet had been seen in Kiska harbor, one of the best natural anchorages in the Aleutian chain.

Invasion Force Small

The navy indicated that the invasion force on Kiska, like that on Attu, was small. It said "tents and minor temporary structures were observed to have been set up on land."

The weather has been the major factor on action in and around the Aleutians, and thus far has been favorable to enemy operations.

There has been no mention in communiques yet of any fleet action by the U. S. navy in that area, all reports referring only to aerial activity. The fog, which is almost always present in the area, hampers aerial observation and attack tactics.

Last Saturday a spokesman for the 13th naval district at Seattle said the action in the Aleutians was "a strange struggle of give and take," with the enemy "getting smacked whenever there is rift in the fog banks."

Fog Screens Activities

"It's a weird, wild country up there," he said. "There are great patches of fog and rain in which an enemy could hide, as a band of guerrillas may hide in the brush. There are literally thousands of small bays and inlets. The Japs know the country, but so does the navy."

Delegates Anthony D. Dimond of Alaska viewed the new occupation as "fraught with danger." Not only does it put the enemy in position to cut off aid to Russia in case of a Japanese attack on Siberia, but it gives them facilities for an attack on the western hemisphere, he said.

He said there also is great danger that the enemy now would organize land air bases on Kiska; that would give them a "powerful advantage over our carrier-based aircraft, the same as we had and used so effectively in the Midway battle."

Action May Be Defensive

"If we allow them 60 days to complete their construction, we will have to bring immense pressure to bear before we can remove them," he said.

Most observers here continued to believe that the Japanese objective in the area is defensive rather than preparation for anything approaching a grand-scale offensive against the North American mainland. They believe the Japanese are seeking to prevent the use of those small islands that stick out 2000 miles from Alaska toward Japan as possible bases for aerial attacks on Japan proper.

SUB SHELLS, SINKS
SMALL SHIP IN GULF

BY UNITED PRESS
A small Norwegian merchantman sunk in the Gulf of Mexico June 17 was torpedoed by an axis submarine which first shelled it furiously.

They said the raider attacked without warning, firing 36 shells at their vessel before launching the torpedo which sank it. Al Christensen, a Norwegian sailor, was killed, and three other seamen wounded.

The survivors, including 16 other Norwegians and two Swedes, were rescued by a coast guard boat after drifting for 30 hours and were taken to a gulf port.

AUXILIARY 42 TO MEET
U. S. S. Indianapolis auxiliary 42 will meet at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the Service men's club, 128 S. Wabash st. Officers will be elected and a report made on furnishing a recreation room at the signal corps school at Butler.

DIES IN CYCLE CRASH

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 22 (U. P.)—Charles D. Dillman, 18, North Manchester, Ind., employee of an aircraft factory, was injured fatally yesterday when the motorcycle on which he was riding with a companion collided with a street car.

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