

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7, 1944

WAR AT 'CRISIS,' HIROHITO WARNS

American Invasion Possible,
Koiso Admits at Diet
Session.

By UNITED PRESS

Emperor Hirohito and his prime minister, Gen. Kuniaki Koiso—the highest authorities in Japan—told the Japanese diet today that the country faced a grave crisis and had reached "the decisive stage of the war."

The emperor's acknowledgment of the situation was contained in an imperial rescript to the 85th extraordinary session of the diet, while Koiso addressed the body to warn of the possibility of an American invasion of the homeland in which he said the life or death of the nation would be at stake.

Hirohito's rescript and Koiso's address were broadcast in Tokyo and recorded at San Francisco.

A Japanese Domei news agency dispatch, recorded by FCC, said the Japanese government would begin a national labor registration of occupations and skills on Nov. 1. The program will affect all males from 12 to 60 and all women from 12 to 40.

Situation 'Grave'

The emperor called on members of the body to "rouse yourself afresh" and "wreck the inordinate ambitions of the enemy countries." He said he had ordered ministers to present to the diet "bills of special and grave urgency connected with the current situation."

While he claimed that the work of constructing greater East Asia was progressing "with great rapidity" and Japanese troops were "smashing the formidable enemy everywhere," Hirohito noted that "a further increase is seen in the violence of the enemy's resistance."

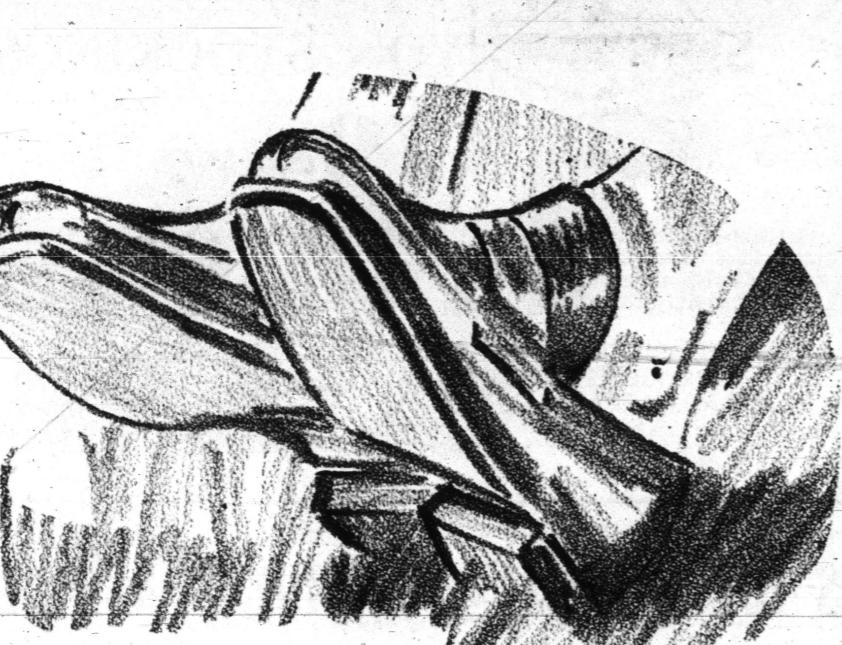
"Day by day there is an addition to the urgency of the critical war situation," he added. "The opportunity for Japan to engineer a victorious settlement . . . is indeed at this stage."

Koiso said that "we are now in the midst of a grave situation upon whose outcome depends the rise or fall of our empire."

Koiso "took cognizance of American B-29 attacks, which he said 'are likely to increase in frequency and scale.'

"And," he continued, "we might do well to consider the possibility of Americans landing on our own home soil."

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Showdown Struggle Rages Along 30-Mile Moselle Line

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last hope and once it is pierced by allied armor and infantry in force they will give up the ghost and seek peace.

The Germans were contesting every inch beyond the Moselle.

First Lt. Paul P. Bellou of New Orleans told me the story of the battle which had raged around the village of Pont a Mousson, straddling the west bank of the river, for the last 48 hours, and which was continuing.

"Some of our units crossed the river about 4 p.m. yesterday," he said. "Then around 11 p.m. we went down with a larger group to assault boats and slipped across the canal and everything was so quiet you could hear the guy next to you breathing."

Some Were Killed

"We put the boats into the water and our guys climbed aboard. The minute they were under way all hell broke loose. The Germans opened up with mortars, 88's, 150's and even ack-ack 20 millimeters."

The sky and water was filled with Jerry lead.

"Some of my buddies were killed but the others kept right on across, paddling those damn little boats."

When dawn broke the Americans could see one of their assault craft caught on one side of a gap that had been blown in the river dam on the German side. One lieutenant and six men were trapped hopelessly.

All appeared wounded.

"It looked tough for those guys," said Lt. James B. Turner of Memphis, Tenn. "Lt. Newman MacCleery, a Texas boy and a graduate of Texas A. & M., saw them and said, 'Hell, give me a rope and I'll go get them.'

Almost Succeeded

Berlin said the Soviet army already had invaded Bulgaria, but Moscow dispatches indicated the Russians must have seen him but for some reason they held their fire. He almost reached the boat but swift water pouring through the crack in the dam forced him back and he had to return. Then a French civilian came down and swam to the boat with a rope and it was towed safely to shore.

Pfc. Ronald J. Mohski, 34, of New York city, told me he sat around the other night listening to a radio program from back home and heard how folks had been sitting up for two nights waiting for the war to over."

"The next day I was thinking about this and walking down a road

when I was nearly killed by a Nazi machine gunner," he said. "Those folks back home might come over here and sit in this damned orchard."

NAZIS DENY BULGAR DECLARATION OF WAR

(Continued From Page One)

would leave Hitler with only Hungary and revolt-torn Slovakia of the five satellite states that entered the war with him.

Finland sued for peace last week and gave the Nazis until Sept. 15 to leave the country or be interned.

A United Press dispatch from Ankara quoted Bulgarian diplomats as saying that Russia had demanded that Bulgaria break relations with Germany, get rid of the Nazi troops in the country, grant Yugoslav partisan troops right of passage through Bulgaria and "co-operate" with the partisans.

Last German Gone

A Bulgarian telegraph agency broadcast intercepted by B. B. C. monitors in London said Sofia had broken with Germany and Nazi Minister Adolf Hitler was preparing to leave for Berlin.

The agency reported that the Bulgars had severed relations with Benito Mussolini's Fascist government of northern Italy and with the puppet Croatian and Slovak regimes.

Radio Sofia said the last German troops remaining on Bulgarian soil had been disbanded and turned in compliance with a Russian demand.

Cabinet May Change

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(An N. B. C. broadcast from Cairo said there was a possibility that Premier Constantin Muraviev's cabinet might be replaced by a new government headed by Georgi Dimitrov, Bulgarian Communist leader who was tried and acquitted by a German court for conspiracy in the reichstag fire.)

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

YANKS PLUNGING AT WEST WALL

Push Deep Into Forests
Beyond Meuse, Strike
Frontally at Metz.

(Continued From Page One)

captured Jodoigne, about 15 miles southeast of Louvain, which had been captured by the British.

The London radio quoted its correspondent with the 2d army as saying British columns were about 30 miles from Germany east and northeast of Louvain, and reconnaissance units were even nearer.

An American column was reported to be at Yoncq, 10 miles southeast of Sedan, which still was in German hands, but official reports did not make clear whether it was a 1st or 3d army formation.

A general feeling was manifest at headquarters that another phase of allied operations in western Europe was finished, and that an interim period had set in preparatory to a new and probably final phase of the war, to come as soon as the buildup of communications and consolidation of newly won territory is completed.

Channel Push Continues

The German Transocean news agency reported that the Americans had concentrated strong forces between Namur and Sedan. The Nazi agency acknowledged Meuse crossings at several places "behind a creeping barrage."

Transocean said powerful U. S. forces "thrust against the Moselle" on either side of Pont a Mousson, midway between Nancy and Metz, where "crossing attempts and counter-attacks followed each other in rapid succession throughout the day."

The allied sweep along the channel coast closely invested Calais and Boulogne, and troops who bypassed Calais were reported approaching Dunkerque. Latest advice placed them in the area of Gravelines.

Canadian troops reached the famous first world war town of Ypres, and front reports said the city was captured.

By R. J. MCQUAID

Times Foreign Correspondent

HEADQUARTERS OF PATTON'S 3D ARMY, Sept. 6 (Delayed).—Contrary to some reports, the German boundary has not yet actually been crossed by any allied forces, including the most forward cavalry patrols.

(Editor's Note: This dispatch, written at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, French time, contradicts yesterday's reports that Yank patrols had stabbed across the border and returned.)

Rain and heavy clouds held down air operations early today. Headquarters disclosed that the German 1st army, a relatively small force formerly stationed in the Bay of Biscay area, had been mauled after being withdrawn to the Paris area and eastward. This made a total of four German armies defeated in northern France—the 7th, 15th, 1st and 5th panzer army.

Today's early reports at headquarters disclosed that the British had captured Gent (Ghent), Courtrai and the French border town of Armentieres immortalized by its mademoiselle song of the first world war.

Ghent Is Captured

Richards' dispatch disclosed that the stiffening German resistance had turned suddenly into a full dress stand against Patton's forces pushing stubbornly toward the Reich.

In many sectors of the Metz-Nancy front, Richards said, the Germans were exploiting to the utmost the advantage of the pillboxes studding the region since the early days of the war.

Fortifications of the old Maginot line reached to this area, and it appeared that the Nazis had refurbished them in the week that Patton's forces had been stalled by the lightning over-extension of supply lines to prepare for a stand in the Moselle valley.

Far to the west, allied ground

On Sea, in Air



REPORT RUSS IN YUGOSLAVIA

250,000 Nazis Face Trap
As Soviets Race for
Link With Tito.

(Continued From Page One)

were launched. Of this number, 46 per cent were brought down by defenses, 25 per cent went astray, and 29 per cent reached the London area.

Sandys disclosed that the flying bombs had a speed of 400 miles an hour and flew at an average height of 2300 feet—too low for heavy guns and too high for 40 mm. guns.

Guns and anchored balloons were moved into prepared positions southeast of London within 24 hours after the first attack, and in the first month of the blitz they brought down 40 per cent of the bombs launched.

The crossing, which Moscow's early morning communiqué did not mention, apparently was made at some distance below Turnu-Severin, where the Danube swirls through the Iron Gate bottleneck at a speed of nearly 2000. The balloons were the last line of defense against the robots, and were spotted in the back row nearest London, but the balloons downed nearly 15 per cent of the bombs missed by fighter planes and guns.

LONDON, Sept. 7 (U. P.)—The German D. N. A. B. agency reported today that Soviet troops crossing Bulgaria in the direction of the Aegean sea, had reached Demotica. The only town of that name shown on maps here is in Greece at the Turkish border, 60 miles from the Aegean.

People who chose the Roosevelt statements in the current survey were asked: "Is there anything you think might happen that would make you want to vote for Dewey?"

The replies: No, 79.8 per cent; yes, 11.9 per cent; don't know, 8.3.

Among the 11.9 per cent who could think of something that would send them over to Dewey, more than half (7.6 per cent) mentioned the end of the war, while 1.6 per cent mentioned Roosevelt's health.

Of the people who indicated preference for Dewey, 88.1 per cent said that nothing could happen that would make them change to vote for Roosevelt; 4.4 per cent said they might change, and 7.5 per cent didn't know.

Of the 4.4 per cent who could think of something that might make them desert Dewey, the largest single group mentioned the war; 8 per cent of Dewey's present followers said they would leave him if the war were not over by election time or if it took a turn for the worse; 6 per cent said they would go to Roosevelt if the war were over.

Has Strength in Cities

A breakdown of the replies reveals that Dewey is showing greater strength in large communities than in small ones. In places over 2500 in population, Roosevelt had 54 per cent to 42.5 for Dewey with 3.5 per cent undecided. In places under 2500 population, Roosevelt had 55.6 per cent to 38.4 per cent for Dewey with 6 per cent undecided.

Another breakdown of the survey by sex indicates a slight shift toward Roosevelt among men. The poll showed 52.7 per cent of the men for Roosevelt now, as against 49.9 per cent on Aug. 5; of the women polled, 56.1 per cent indicated preference for Roosevelt now, as against 55.4 per cent on Aug. 5.

Comparison of the last two surveys also revealed a minor shift toward Roosevelt among voters under 50.

and air forces attacked die-hard enemy garrisons in Brest and the French channel ports with fury that presaged the early conquest of those by-passed German strongholds.

While hundreds of allied planes shuttled overhead unloading block-busters and fragmentation bombs, American troops pushed in their siege lines on Brest and Canadian veterans stormed into Boulogne and Calais and approached historic Dunkerque.

It was revealed that German casualties in the battle of the west already exceed 500,000, excluding thousands killed by French Maquis.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

EVENTS TODAY

Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce dinner, Lincoln hotel.

Indiana Hampshire association meeting,

state fairgrounds.

EVENTS TOMORROW

Optimist club meeting, Columbia club,

6:15 p.m.

Key Club, fall meeting, school

69, 7:45 p.m.

Contract termination conference, Claypool

Hotel.

East Central Berkshire show, state fair-

grounds.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

These lists are from official records

therefore, is not responsible for errors

in names and addresses.

Neal Wayne Brown, 1302 W. McCarthy,

Eva Helen Wills, 1104 E. Vermont,

Charles E. Stringer, 2115 N. Kenwood,

Mark Starks, 1001 W. 2nd,

William Grant Daffron, 1835 Leonard,

Lana Darling Young, 1222 Olive,

Robert E. Parker, 1420 W. 2nd