



Index

EDITORIALS . . . 14
Ask The News . . . 21
Classified . . . 26-28
Columnists . . . 15
Mrs. Roosevelt . . . 20
Radio . . . 22
Pictures . . . 16, 17
Serial . . . 13
Short Story . . . 20
Society . . . 21
Sports . . . 23-25
Theaters . . . 18, 19
Woman's . . . 20-22
Pages . . . 20-22

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MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1941

Weather

Mostly cloudy, occasional showers this morning; likelihood of thunder shower this afternoon or tonight. Humidity: 73 a. m., 70.

Yesterday's high, 93; last night's low, 71. Today: 9:30 a. m., 81; 10:30 a. m., 81.

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Main Armies Expected to Meet in Battle Soon NAZIS POUNDING AT RUSSIAN FORT

Romanians in Drive on Bessarabia City

(See full page of pictures on Page 16, Ludwell Denny's analysis of the new war on Page 3, editorial "Plague on Both Houses" on Page 14, and Raymond Clapper's column on Page 15.)

Hitler's armed forces, backed by unprecedented artillery bombardment and paced by dive bomber squadrons, are reported advancing into Russia today and hammering at the fortress of Brest-Litovsk.

German and Romanian troops also are reported from Bucharest to be advancing in the direction of Chisinau, capital of Soviet Bessarabia, about 60 miles from the Prut River frontier of Romania. Chisinau is about 20 miles west of the Dniester River where it is believed the main Soviet defense lines are located.

The German High Command says only that the invasion is proceeding successfully according to plan, but Nazi reporters at the front say important gains have been made, particularly in the Brest-Litovsk sector, by use of collapsible boats, artificial fog, flame throwers and an artillery barrage greater than any previously employed in the war.

Soviet pill boxes were blown to pieces, surrounded or attacked with flame throwers and in one sector (presumably along the Bug River facing the important communications center of Brest-Litovsk) at least 70 defense bunkers fell in the first Nazi thrust, the dispatches say.

The official Berlin news agency says tremendous clashes between the main German and Soviet armed forces are expected momentarily.

Nazi sources also report that, on the basis of unofficial information so far available, the Luftwaffe apparently has destroyed as many as 1200 Soviet planes on the ground and in the air during the first 24 hours of fighting.

Russia's first war communique says, however, that the bulk of German forces has been thrown back with heavy losses after fierce fighting, and only in two regions, in Poland below Lithuania, have the Germans made slight gains.

Russia says 65 German planes were shot down in the first day of fighting.

The Moscow communique says German planes attacked many Russian cities, towns and airdromes, but were driven off everywhere by Russian planes and anti-aircraft guns.

Russian and British air attacks on east Prussia, north Germany and the Rhineland are admitted officially in Berlin, but it is said they caused little damage.

London, however, says British bombers and fighters are sweeping over Nazi-dominated European areas in daylight again today in the opening phase of a greatly intensified aerial offensive.

British experts point out that Germany has shifted an important part of her air strength to eastern Europe in connection with the invasion of Russia and thus has given the Royal Air Force an unprecedented opportunity to strike from the west.

(Continued on Page 2)

1700-Mile War Front



Map shows location of Nazis' drives into Russia. Moscow admits penetration of one column in the vicinity of Grodno. Berlin says heavy forces are pounding at the Russian fort of Brest-Litovsk, and Bucharest reports Romanians are marching with the Germans toward Chisinau, Bessarabian capital.

Japan Bans Reds, but Stays Neutral

By United Press

TOKIO, June 23 — Premier Konoye and Wang Ching Wei, head of the Japanese-sponsored Nanking government, pledged themselves in a joint statement tonight to collaborate in eradicating the "evils of Communist aggression" in establishing a "new order" in East Asia.

An announcement of Japanese policy in connection with the war between its Axis partners and Russia, with whom it has a neutrality treaty, is expected tomorrow after a meeting of the war council and High Command.

'GOOD NEIGHBOR' POLICY PLEDGED

The statement reaffirmed previous declarations concerning the establishment of a "new order" and pledged "good neighborly relations" with all nations.

(Continued on Page 2)

U. S. Communists Plead for Aid to Soviet

(Page 9)