

# 南太平洋時報

## 小磯内閣総辞職

小磯内閣は四月五日現下の非常時局に鑑み、本内閣の力充分ならず、一層強力なる内閣を要すとの声明と共に総辞職を決定、重臣会議の結果、後任首相として枢密院議長鈴木貫太郎海軍大將(当年七十九才)が組閣に當り、結局その顔ぶれは、東郷(外務)阿部(内務)阿南(陸軍)米内(海軍)松阪(司法)の他、言論界の下村宏、或ひは左近司、櫻井の諸氏が無任所大臣として列り、八日組閣を完了した。

サイパンの喪失が東條内閣の命取りであつた如く、比島に於ける敗戦、硫黄島の喪失、沖繩本島への敵軍上陸、サイパン、グアムよりする連日の本土爆撃等が小磯内閣に祟つたもので、同内閣の壽命は八月半、又新内閣としてもヨーロッパでは十子の崩壊があり、それに関係もありさうなソビエトよりの通告(後欄参照)等をも考へると、人格者には違ひなからうが、政治至験皆無の鈴木首相がどう出るか、在界は注目してゐる。

## 日ソ中立條約不継続発表

ソビエト外相モロトフ氏は「日ソ中立條約は明年期限完了を以

て終り、継続せざる旨を日本大使佐藤氏に言明、現下の情勢が昭和十六年四月、同條約締結當時と異なるに至りたる事を説明、曰く「ナチドイツは以て東ロシアに宣戦を布告し、日本も亦ロシアの敵ナチドイツを援助、且ロシアの同盟國たる米英と交戦してゐる。斯かる事情の下に於て本條約の継続は無意義である」と。南方からは米英軍日々に迫り来る今日、今回のソ聯の通告は日本にとり又一つ難関を増加するものと見るの他をからう。

## 戦線九州の南五百軒に近迫

### 米軍沖繩に上陸

硫黄島陥落に引續き、米國

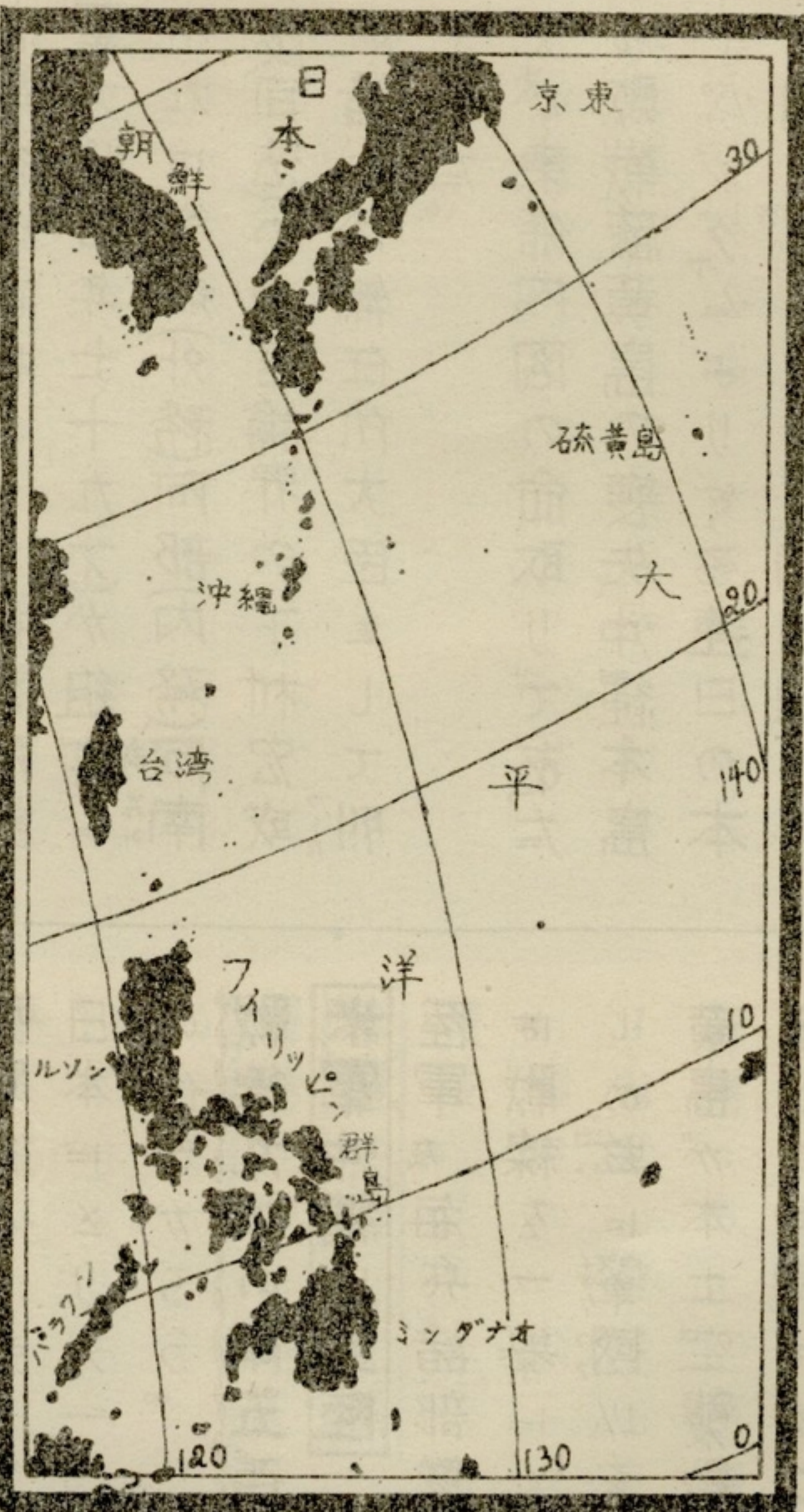
陸軍及海兵諸部隊四月一日沖繩本島上陸の報は戦線を一舉に九州南方四百八十軒近近迫せしめ、茲に鞏固、以て空前の危機が到来した。硫黄島が本土空襲戦印機用基地を提供するに呼応して、沖繩でも二日正午迄に飛行場五の中三は既に米軍の手に歸して居り、共に昨年十月比島沖海戦に於ける日本海軍の敗北を証明するものである。即ち戸余に亘り聯合軍が大軍を長距離輸送、硫黄島に沖繩に隨時上陸せしめ、或ひは又聯合海軍が三回に亘り日本近海に游弋、艦載機を放つて大空襲を敢行するも日本海軍より何等の妨害を受けず、爲に米内海相が議會に

於て敵機動部隊に對する海軍の無爲を陳謝するの止むなきに至つた程である。今回の沖繩上陸作戰參加艦船は大小合せて千四百、上陸に先立つ砲爆撃は例に依つて熾烈を極めた。日本側の情況報告では戰艦十隻を根幹とすと云ひ、又該島至近の二小島は数日前米軍が占領、其所に重砲を据えて本島上陸を掩護したものである。日本海軍は久し振りに瀬戸内海の泊地を出

て、今回の上陸阻止を計つたが、結局、虎の子の四万五千噸型超戰艦大和及巡二、駆三は雷沈され、航空機三百を失ふといふ結果に終つた。米軍の損失は

駆六、航空機七といふ輕少なものであつた。一方英國太平洋艦隊の一部は先島諸島を攻撃し、又占領後の硫黄島に於ける聯合軍飛行基地の建設は着々進んで居り、既に陸上戰車機隊が本土空襲に参加してゐる。

**内地軍需工場**の空襲熾烈 本年二月下旬二回の艦載機による大空襲に引続き、内地空襲は



益熾烈化してゐるが、三月十六日の如きは神戸工場地帯に二五〇〇噸の焼夷弾を投下、東京、大阪、名古屋も同様の空襲を受け、何れも新式四介一噸焼夷弾に悩まされてゐる。東京地方では太田製作所、小泉武藏野、中島、中島多摩発動機等の諸製作所を始め、上野停車場、旭小倉両製油、日清紡績、日本製機、中央電話交換局、東京航空機、名古屋では三菱の諸工場が破壊され、三月廿四日の空襲の時の如きビー廿九二百廿機が参加した。又三月十八日より十九日にはかけての米機動部隊の日本本土再攻撃は前回のものより一層大膽なもので、十八日には九州の諸飛行場に對して攻撃を集中、続いて東北方に進航、瀬戸

内海に待避中の艦船をも襲撃、戰艦一、空母四、巡二、駆四に全弾を命中、日本側防衛機約一千を撃墜破といふ副戦果をも収めた。

**比島掃蕩戰** 米軍のパラワン、パネイ、ネグロス、セブ奪回は比群島西岸千三百軒の完全制圧、南支那海の制海権を附与、既に比島作戰の戦略的意義は達成、其規模の如何に拘らず掃蕩戰の

段階に入た。此南支那海が聯合側空軍潜水艦の自由活動圏に入た結果、基地としてのシンガポールの價値は激減した。

### 中部ビルマ日軍の敗退

チンドウィン、イラワチ両河の扼を失た日軍は其両河に依た守を喪失し、マンダレイ及其南方一四四軒のメイタチラを棄て、退却の余儀なきに至た。英印軍によるチンドウィンの渡過は去年の十一月、イラワチ渡過は實に本年の一月で爲に約三万の日軍が戦略的包囲に陥り、中華軍は又旧ビルマ公路の要衝ラシオを占領した。顧るにビルマ作戦は茲に三年、兵員の喪失約十萬、カチン山岳地帯現住民遊蕩隊の手に仆れたるもの三千余、加ふるに海上輸送の不安定に依る諸種の悪條件、飢餓病癘による將兵の消耗、實に惨たる記録を残した。制空権を失た事は日軍の行動を夜間に限たのみならず、英方十四軍の如き迅速なる行動をなし得たる原因として、一日三千噸の空輸補給をあげる事が出来る。

### ナチ崩壊に瀕す

西部戦線に於けるナチ軍抵抗の崩壊は英米佛三軍怒濤の進軍となり、其速度ロシア軍のそれをも思はしむるものあるの有様で、ラインの守り破れてより未だ同日を経ざるに三軍進攻百六十軒、ナチドイツ心臓部

を突かんとした大なるルール工業地帯は包囲に陥り、約十萬のナチ軍が袋の鼠となり、一方聯合軍の進路には放棄された陣地、無防備の市邑等、到る所はナチ崩壊の跡を残してある。オランダ方面では英軍に退路を断たれんとする一軍が急遽退却中で既に抗戦の無益有害を悟たドイツ將兵は続々抵抗を止めて居り、西部戦線で聯合軍に降た数は一、一、二〇、五〇三名に達して居るが、前大戦後と同様戦後ドイツの再建に大に役立つ事であらう。又一方ロシア軍はハングリー首府ブダペストよりオーストリアの首都ウィーンに迫り、イタリー方面ナチ軍の後背もこゝに脅威を感ずるに至り、又ロシア、柏林方面軍は最後の大攻軍の準備中で、其最前線は柏林を去る僅か六〇軒である。

とゆるぎの

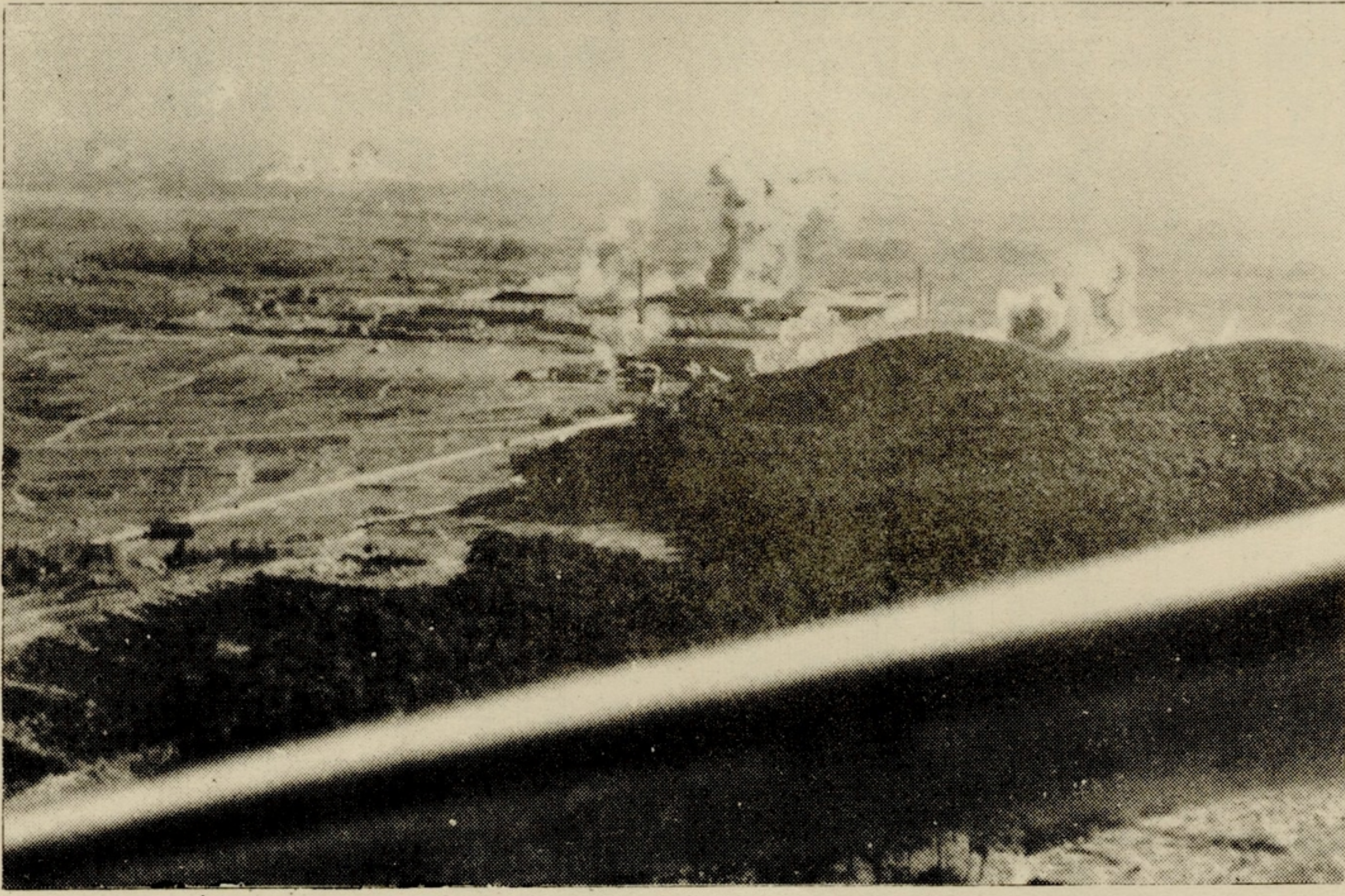
磯の松原打けむり

言せぬ波に春雨を降る

ひかりと

上に休くふ山か

頁の真実



ビー甘九の襲撃により炎上の関東  
平野軍需工場



硫黄島波打ぎわに突撃の命令をまつ  
アメリカ海兵。同島は日軍の健闘も空  
しく今や聯合軍側の前進基地となつ  
た。

**SOUTH PACIFIC NEWS BULLETIN No. 43.  
THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN JAPAN.  
HEAVY TASK FACING ADMIRAL SUZUKI.**

Unable to cope with the daily worsening war situation, Prime Minister Koiso and his cabinet resigned on April 5.

The new Prime Minister is 77 year old Admiral Suzuki, for many years Grand Chamberlain to the Emperor.

It will be remembered that he was seriously wounded when an attempt was made to murder him on February 26, 1936.

Among the other members of his cabinet are Togo, Foreign Minister; Abe, Home Minister; Anami and Yonai, Army and Navy Ministers respectively; Matuszaka, Minister for Justice, while propagandist Shimomura, Sakonji and Sakurai are Ministers without Portfolio.

The fall of Saipan, of course, caused the resignation of Tojo and his cabinet. During Koiso's term of office, since July, 1944, the Philippines were lost, Iwojima was lost, and the Americans landed on Okinawa. The Japanese fleet was badly defeated, and large scale bombing attacks on industrial and military targets in Japan, from American bases on Saipan and Guam, began.

Meanwhile Allied onslaughts have brought Germany to the point of defeat, and Russia has announced that she will not renew her neutrality pact with Japan.

This is the situation confronting the new government, headed by a man who, though of the highest repute, is untrained in the arts of government.

**SOVIET-JAPANESE NEUTRALITY PACT WILL END  
IN 1946.**

Russia's denunciation of the Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact means that this agreement comes to an end in 1946.

Denouncing the pact, M. Molotov, the Russian Foreign Minister, told the Japanese Ambassador, Sato, that the situation had considerably changed since the signing of the pact on April 13, 1941.

"Germany has since attacked Russia, and Japan is helping Germany in the war against Russia," he said. "In addition Japan is at war with Britain and America, who are Russia's allies. The pact, therefore, has lost its sense."

This new development in the international situation cannot but cause grave anxiety in Japan. Already threatened from the south, the main guarantee of security in the north has been removed.

**BATTLE FRONT 500 KM. SOUTH OF KYUSHU.  
American Forces in Okinawa.**

Hard on the heels of the news of the cessation of Japanese resistance on Iwojima came the announcement on March 31 of American landings by a combined force of Army and Marine troops on Okinawa, only 300 miles south of Kyushu.

This new development confronts Japan with her gravest peril yet. Aerodromes on Iwojima are within fighter range of Japan. Now aerodromes on Okinawa, too, are in American hands. Three of the island's five airfields were captured 36 hours after the landing.

The full significance of the defeat of the Japanese Navy off the Philippines last October is only now apparent. In the space of one month seaborne forces have been landed on Iwojima and now on Okinawa, while Allied naval forces have three times sailed unscathed into Japanese home waters to launch attacks against the homeland. Admiral Yonai, who rightly declared that the oceans are verily the first line of defence for Japan, was constrained to apologise to the Diet for the Navy's failure to inflict any damage on the bold enemy task forces.

The landing on Okinawa was carried out from 1400 ships, and preceded by a terrific sea and air bombardment. Tokyo reported 10 battleships amongst the Allied warships present. The invasion was also covered by artillery fire from two small islands off Okinawa, seized by the Americans a week previously.

For days before and while the landing was in progress a British carrier task force, detached from the British Pacific Fleet, was pounding the Sakishima group.

After long neglect of the Allied challenge, the Japanese Navy sent a force out of the Inland Sea in an attempt to disrupt American operations on Okinawa. As a result, the 45,000 ton "Yamato," Japan's largest battleship, 2 cruisers and 3 destroyers were sunk. Over 300 Japanese planes were also destroyed. The Americans had previously lost 6 destroyers and 7 planes.

Meanwhile the building up of Iwojima into a strong Allied base is proceeding. Already land-based fighter planes have joined in air attacks on targets in Japan.

**JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL CENTRES NOW FREQUENTLY  
ATTACKED.**

Since the two heavy attacks by carrier borne planes at the end of February, industrial and military targets in Japan have been subjected to ever-increasing air attacks. The heaviest raid yet made on any target in Japan took place on March 16, when 2,500 tons of incendiaries were dropped on industrial plants and administrative centres in Kobe. Almost equally heavy incendiary raids have been made on Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya. A new and improved 500 lb. incendiary bomb was used during these attacks.

In Tokyo the following installations are known to have suffered severe damage as the result of various attacks: the Ota assembly plant, the Koizumi plant, the Nakajima, Musashima and Nakajima-Tama engine factories, the Ueno railway station, the Rising Sun Petroleum Terminal, the Ogura Oil Co., the Nisshin Spinning Mill, the Japan Machine Industry, and the Maranouchi Telephone Exchange. In addition to the Tokyo aircraft factories, the Mitsubishi plant at Nagoya has suffered extensively. On March 24, 230 B-29s concentrated high explosive bombs on this target alone. The output of new aircraft is inevitably being affected.

The return of an American carrier task force to Japanese home waters on March 18 and 19 was an even bolder stroke than its earlier attacks on Tokyo. On the first day the carrier planes concentrated their attacks on airfields in Kyushu. Then the carriers moved north-east and attacked units of the Japanese Fleet in their home bases in the Inland Sea. One battleship, four carriers, two cruisers and four destroyers were among the vessels known to have been hit.

As well as inflicting heavy damage on airfields and aircraft factories, these attacks are costing the Japanese airforce dear in planes. Over 1,000 were shot down or destroyed on the ground during the carrier-plane raids alone.

#### **MOPPING UP IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

The establishment of American forces on Palawan, Mindanao, Panay, Negros and Cebu has given the Allies control of the whole 1300 km. west coast of the Philippine archipelago, commanding the South China Sea. Further fighting in this area is only a mopping-up operation, whatever its scale.

Allied planes and submarines now range freely in this vital sea route connecting the Inner Zone with the Southern Regions. This means that Singapore is becoming useless as a supply base.

#### **JAPANESE CENTRAL BURMA POSITION CRUMBLES.**

The Japanese position in Central Burma was secure so long as the river barriers of the Chindwin and the Irrawaddy stood between the Japanese and the Allied armies. The crossing of the Chindwin in November, 1944, and the crossing of the Irrawaddy in January, 1945, deprived them of these barriers. And now Mandalay has been recaptured by British and Indian forces, and Meiktila, 90 miles south of the city, down the Irrawaddy, has been captured. Over 30,000 Japanese troops are trapped in the intervening country.

At the same time Chinese forces have recaptured Lashio, terminus of the old Burma road.

Over 100,000 Japanese soldiers have been killed during the fruitless Burma campaigns, 3,000 of them at the hands of Kachin guerillas. Thousands more are dying of sickness and starvation. They are cut off from sea-borne supplies, and without air support. Allied command of the air not only forces the Japanese to carry out almost all movements at night, but permits our cargo planes to supply the 14th Army with 3,000 tons of food daily.

#### **NAZIS FACE THEIR DOOM.**

The collapse of German resistance east of the Rhine is enabling British, American and French armies to advance into the heart of Germany at a speed reminiscent of some of the spectacular Russian advances. In little more than a week after the main advance over the Rhine, Allied forces had advanced over 100 miles beyond the river.

Germany's most important industrial area, the Ruhr, has been encircled, and thousands of German soldiers left in the trap. Meanwhile the Allied advance goes on, past undefended towns and deserted defensive positions.

British troops have struck up into Holland, and the Germans are withdrawing as fast as they can, in an attempt to avoid being cut off from their own country.

As inevitable defeat looms closer, more and more German soldiers are realising the futility of further resistance and bloodshed. 1,120,503 German soldiers on the Western Front alone have taken the wise decision to live for the new Germany that will emerge after the Nazis have been swept away.

Meanwhile Russian forces have driven into Austria and are laying siege to Vienna, the capital. The Russian armies opposite Berlin are preparing new blows.

#### **Literary Items.**

- (a) A modern poem describing how a light spring rain falls on the quiet sea, making hardly a ripple, throwing a thin veil of mist over the pinetrees on the rocky coast of Japan.
- (b) A famous "haiku" describing a lofty mountain pass, towering higher in the sky than the lark flies.

#### **Photograph Captions.**

Marines crawl up the beach of Iwo during their initial assault. This hotly contested island is now an American base.

A war factory near Tokyo burns after B-29s have dropped their bombs on it.

TARGET: Japanese troops—general.

LATEST DATE OF

DISTRIBUTION: One month after receipt.