

WAR MAKES LAST-DITCH EFFORTS

Early Peace Action Hinted By Churchill

By LEWIS HAWKINS

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill hinted today that announcement of peace in Europe might be before Saturday, but told a packed House of Commons that he had no statement at this time.

Replying to a member's question, Churchill declared "I have no special statement to make on the war position in Europe except that it is definitely more satisfactory than it was at this time five years ago."

Then he added he might make a brief announcement later this week, but "only if information of exceptional importance reaches us."

"Should information of importance reach His Majesty's Government during the four days of consulting this week—as it might do—the nearest to a prediction that Churchill ever permitted himself to make," he said, "I should make no statement here that is not in accord with the statement which will be made by our Allies, explaining such announcements would be made only after consulting military commanders in different theaters."

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Nazis Try To Parachute Supplies To City's Forces

Final Chapter Unfolding

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW—(AP)—The German Air Force made a last gasp attempt to parachute supplies to the besieged defenders of Berlin today as the final chapter of the titanic battle for the German capital unfolded.

Soviet troops were closing in mercilessly on the Tiergarten, core of the last-ditch Nazi defense, and even that fortress was getting low on water, food and ammunition.

The fighting has been transferred to the immediate center of Berlin, said front dispatch to Red Star, Soviet air newspaper. "The paratroopers are adopting the most desperate efforts to hold the last prepared lines of defense."

Other rescues and concentrated fire came from the Tiergarten, apparently being supplied from a great fortress underground. Special squadrons of Soviet soldiers stormed German positions frequently in sory encounters in the suburbs, which evidently have some connection with the fortress beneath the Tiergarten.

Dozens of suicides were reported as the Red Army closed in on the fortress. Nazi officers draped themselves over their machineguns after wrapping themselves in Nazi banners and gave up the ghost by pumping bullets into their own skulls.

Soviet units which captured the Reichstag and the Interior Ministry hammered south through the Potsdam Park and down the Stages Alley which runs into the Charlottenburger Chaussee, the avenue which connects the Tiergarten with the city center.

A juncture of Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian and Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russians in this sector seemed imminent.



MUSSOLINI'S BODY HANGS BY HEELS—In Milan's Plaza Loretto the bodies of Benito Mussolini (left) and his mistress, Clara Petacci (center) hang by their heels as they were put on public display. At right of the Petacci body, Partisans hoist the body of Lt. Giuseppe Bazzani, former chief of the Italian Fascist militia and former secretary of the Fascist Party in Italy. This picture was obtained by The New York Times and was sent by radio from Bern, Switzerland, to New York. (AP Wirephoto)

Body Lies In Rude Coffin

By GEORGE BRIA

MILAN—(AP)—The beaten, mangled body of Benito Mussolini lay in a rude, wooden coffin in the Milan morgue today awaiting further disposition while conflicting reports spread over the fate of his military chief, Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.

One report said the former chief of staff of the Italian Army was at Allied Headquarters, where he had been taken by an American plane just before Graziani was scheduled to go on trial before a partisan court.

Other unofficial articles received at National Liberation Committee Headquarters in Milan said Graziani had been sentenced to death and executed immediately.

"Italian Partisans, revering their own Patriot dead, attended funeral services and held demonstrations throughout the city for their commander who fell to Fascist and German bullets earlier in the week."

From all appearances Leftist groups already had achieved official organization in Milan. Correspondents were contacted from the report to the city by Partisans in automobiles manned by partisan gun units. Partisan gun units appeared to be in full control.

Phrases proclaiming "Down With the Monarchy" were prominently displayed.

The bodies of Mussolini, his

War Situation Reason Molotov Might Leave Parley

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Word that Foreign Commissar Molotov soon may leave the United Nations Conference once because of war developments coincided today with New Big Four efforts to draft management details of this world meeting.

It was learned that Molotov's departure, expected any day, would not reflect displeasure with the progress of the conference, but would be due entirely to the war situation. There have been reports that not only he but also Foreign

U. S. 3rd Army 58 Miles From Hitler Center

7th Army Points For Innsbruck And Brenner Pass After Munich Falls

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR

PARIS—(AP)—The Third Army crashed southward to within 58 miles of Berchtesgaden today as Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch sent his Seventh Army from captured Munich against Innsbruck and the Brenner Pass.

The Third Army entered Griesbach in its closest approach to Hitler's roost in the Alpine foothills. The town near the Austrian border is 16 miles from Hitler's birthplace at Braunau and 47 from Salzburg, eastern rampart of the final Nazi hideaway.

The Third Army's 11th armored division, which was across the Austrian border in strength 27 miles from Linz, closed in on the Danube gateway city of Passau (28,000) from three sides. The Yankee (26th) Division ran 12 miles northeastward to Kollersbach, 10 miles northeast of Passau.

ACROSS CZECH BORDER

Fallon's 1st flank pulled up to or across the Czechoslovak border along nearly its entire western length.

The 13th Armored Division drove 28 miles out of its last hideaway and reached the Red River near Braunau, Hitler's birthplace on the Austria-Bavaria border.

MUNICH'S FALL HAILED

Gen. Eisenhower hailed the capture of Munich, largest German city yet to fall, in a terse order of the day.

"To every member of the Allied expeditionary force: The whole world congratulates the Seventh Army on the seizure of Munich, the cradle of the Nazi beast."

His appellation of "beast" passed by word of mouth from the press to the troops, carried the battle to the heart of Germany and was the response of a nation living peace of the world.

LAND FREE OF ENEMY

Gen. Alcorn Hanson, Chief of Staff, who spoke during the celebration declared that "the rest of Hitler's Germany was held in this war, our motherland is completely and forever freed of the enemy."

"Thousands of men, tanks, guns and military vehicles paraded through the Red Square, Czechoslovak planes roared. A large plane band played."

"Our country is celebrating the day proclaiming that the rest of Hitler's Germany was held in this war, our motherland is completely and forever freed of the enemy."

"The international holiday of the working people," said the announcer to all the armed forces and to the people. "This year the peoples of our motherland are celebrating May Day, the day of the workers' struggle and the day of a great patriotic revolution."

He hailed the victory in Berlin, declaring that Soviet troops "hoisted the banner of victory over the German capital. He announced that the Soviet flag flew over Hitler's Reichstag."

REFERENCE TO JAPAN

Stalin made a single reference to Japan—a passing reference.

"Germany is completely isolated and stands alone, not to mention her ally, Japan," he said.

Two-Minute News Roundup

Germany

American troops are blasting in the walls of Germany's most tumbled mountain fortress, the great mountain war in history drives into its last phase.

Five divisions of General Patton's Third Army are within 50 miles of the Iser River in an attack which has carried to within 60 miles of Berchtesgaden.

At the same time the American Seventh Army, hitting south from captured Munich is pushing toward Innsbruck, the northern entrance to the Brenner Pass.

General Eisenhower has issued a message to the victors in Germany which declares that the whole AEF congratulates the Seventh Army on the seizure of Munich, the cradle of the Nazi beast.

To the north the British have extended their line to cut off Dornbirn to a thrust six miles beyond the Fibre River to a point 25 miles below Innsbruck.

In Moscow, Premier Stalin has made a May Day filled with victories in a general order of the day which proclaims the imminent end of Nazi Germany.

The Soviet troops fighting to strike the death blow to Berlin were ordered earlier by Stalin to be making "the last assault," but the last ditch fanatical defenders of the devastated capital are fighting on in the heart of Berlin. The Reichstag, where Hitler tried to make his last stand, has been captured.

Peace Talk

Prime Minister Churchill has issued a broad hint that announcement of peace in Europe might be before Friday night.

The Premier said that if important information reaches the Government in the coming four days, he may make an announcement to the House of Commons.

The British Government today sanctioned a two-day public holiday upon announcement of the end of the war in Europe.

Italy

The northern Italian campaign is about over, with only remnants of the German force 150

Count Flies Back To Sweden From Denmark

STOCKHOLM—(AP)—Count Folke Bernadotte flew back to Stockholm from Copenhagen today and a well-informed American said he might be bearing a German-Swedish agreement for possible end of time."

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Invasion Reported Australian Troops In Action On Borneo

MANILA—(AP)—An Allied invasion of all rich Borneo, first reported by Radio Tokyo today, was practically confirmed today by official Australian sources.

The Japanese said Allied amphibious assault forces hit near Tarakan, great oil shipping port off the northeast coast of Dutch Borneo and that the Singapore garrison was putting up a heavy fight.

At Canberra, Joseph P. Clifflin, Australian Treasury Minister, told the House that a "tanque division"

Russians Celebrate

MOSCOW—(AP)—Premier Joseph Stalin, dressed in steel helmet and uniform and standing on Lenin's shining red marble tomb in the Kremlin Square, of the Soviet Army today celebrated the victory over the German Wehrmacht.

Stalin was greeted with spontaneous applause when he appeared on the tomb. He joined with his aides and with members of the diplomatic corps who had gathered in force to witness the spectacle.

"The celebration was one of the greatest because the people are pleased the war is over," he said in the words of Marshal Stalin to the Red Army, with his American and British Allies, had smashed the Wehrmacht, carried the battle to the heart of Germany and was the response of a nation living peace of the world.

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