

France's former Marshal Petain, who is now in Paris, is today's editorial topic for the Charlotte News. Petain's interview with Admiral Georges Robert, in defense of Petain and as a spokesman of his probable defense.

ALL GERMAN FORCES SURRENDER

Doenitz Leads Germany With Hitler Gone

LONDON (AP)—Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz moved swiftly today in his role of successor to Adolf Hitler to shake up the Nazi military and diplomatic fronts in efforts apparently directed toward a last-ditch fight in Norway.

However, fifteen hours after the Hamburg radio had announced the death of Hitler not a single top-ranking Nazi Party man and only one commander had come forth to pledge allegiance to Doenitz as Fuehrer.

One of the first acts of Doenitz was to dismiss Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop and replace him with Count Lutz Schwerin-Krosigk, Finance Minister in the Franz Von Papen and Von Schleicher Cabinet, which immediately preceded Hitler's rise to power.

Gen. Franz Bock, army commander in chief in Norway, broadcast an order of the day yesterday, the Oslo Radio pleading allegiance to Doenitz and calling on German forces in the north to fight on as "fanatic community."

The Hamburg Radio, slightly amplifying last night's announcement of Hitler's death, told the Russians had attacked Berlin government quarter Tuesday, and in fighting which both sides heavy losses and during which the Fuehrer was killed, the Russians succeeded in dropping their breaches into the Wilhelmstrasse.

Whether top men of the inner Nazi gang—Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, and Dornmann—had fled, were dead, or were supporting Doenitz remained a mystery.

A Moscow broadcast said German sailors had rioted at the Baltic port of Rostock, menaced by a Soviet push.

NOT A HERO
British officials accepted as fact that Hitler was dead, but denied the idea he had died a hero's death. British newspapers, meanwhile,

Quisling Reported Out
Norway, Denmark Surrender Sought

By ROBERT N. STURDEVANT

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Free Norwegian circles reported today that the Vidkun Quisling government had resigned, but that Quisling had asked the Cabinet members to remain on "until another Norwegian government is in a position to take over power."

A proclamation to this effect was sent to the Norwegian Telegraph Bureau, Quisling's new agency, with instructions to broadcast it from the Oslo station.

The order was stopped, however, by the German Reichsminister for Norway, a Norwegian source here said.

Norwegian location quarters said Quisling's unofficial Foreign Minister, Sten Sten, had gone to Copenhagen in Denmark. With Dr. Werner Best he was said to be consulting there with a Swedish delegation undertaking to arrange the surrender of German troops in both Norway and Denmark.

UP TO GENERAL
But thelegation cautioned that the real decision on the Nazi surrender in Norway would be made at Lillehammer, where the German Commander in Chief Gen. Franz Bock has his headquarters.

"The Quisling Government has no influence and the question of the German forces in Norway is purely one for the Wehrmacht to decide," a Norwegian spokesman said.

(A dispatch from London said that Gen. Bockline had broadcast an order pledging allegiance to Grand Admiral Doenitz, self-announced successor to Hitler, and had called on the German forces in the north to fight on as a "fanatic community.")

A Swedish Foreign Office spokesman

Wide Gains Reported On All Fronts

Germans Fleeing Toward Denmark

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR

PARIS (AP)—British troops driving swiftly in a break-through north of the Elbe River came within 9 miles today of cutting off Denmark and Schleswig Holstein.

German troops fled madly toward Denmark through the shell-raked corridor near Luebeck, trying to escape both the British and the Russians.

The British moved within 40 miles of the Russian army at Luebeck and 80 miles of the Baltic at Waten.

PORTS THREATENED
These shelling advances by Allied forces, American, British and Russian, were threatening all North German ports.

American infantry as well as the 2nd Airborne Division were disclosed to be fighting alongside the British Second Army in the new burst from the Elbe bridgehead.

It is combining with the Russian advance to collapse the German defense in the north.

Germans fleeing in terror from the Russian advance in the north in many cases to surrender to the Americans.

DEEP IN ALPS
The American Seventh was fighting through the Alpine passes with ten miles of the Austrian Tyrol capital of Innsbruck and a dozen miles of the Brenner Pass. A hundred miles of snow-capped Alps lay between Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's army and the Allies driving up from Italy.

Gen. Patton's Third Army moved within 20 miles of Salzburg and 44 of Berchtesgaden in the area of Braunau where Hitler was born. His tanks closed within eighteen miles of Linz and less than 40 of the Russians at Amstetten.

The Ninth Army has established a bridgehead in the Bohemian north of Mladec in the area of Brumma where Hitler was born. His tanks closed within eighteen miles of Linz and less than 40 of the Russians at Amstetten.

The 6th motor division formed the new contacts which formed another pocket on the Western Front between the dissolving northern and southern fronts.

Destroy 1,207 Nazi Vehicles
LONDON (AP)—RAP warplanes destroyed or damaged 1,207 German vehicles on the jammed roads between Berlin and Luebeck.

The 2nd Airborne Division reported huge concentrations of Nazi transport fleeing northwestward from the Russian advance.

The 92d German vehicles knocked out yesterday gave the RAP its heaviest day since the Potsdam massacre last summer. The fighters also destroyed or damaged 23 German planes in the air and on the ground. Before noon today the RAP had destroyed or damaged another 20 enemy vehicles.

For the second day running U.S. Eighth Air Force Flying Fortresses dropped approximately 800 tons of food to civilians in the Netherlands, bringing up to 1,600 tons the amount delivered by air since Sunday.

Report British At The Baltic
LONDON—The London radio reported tonight that the British Second Army had reached Luebeck on the Baltic, cutting the German northern pocket in two.

Would Stop War Yanks Capture Von Rundstedt

By HOWARD COWAN
WITH U. S. SEVENTH ARMY—

Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt, former German commander on the Western Front who is now a prisoner of the Allies, declared today that it was senseless for Germany to fight any longer.

The man who could not keep the Allies off the beaches of Normandy, was captured in a hospital at Bad Toelz, 28 miles south of Munich today. He made his statement at an American command post.

The 40-year-old exponent of blitzkrieg strategy was seized by 36th Infantry Division troops.

His whereabouts had been a matter of conjecture ever since he was succeeded by Field Marshal Albert Kesselring as the Western Front commander.

The official announcement of the capture said: "Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt was captured by the 14th Regiment of the 36th Division of the Seventh Army, commanded by Col. Charles Owens With Von Rundstedt were his son and aide, Lt. Hans Gerd Von Rundstedt, and a medical aid.

"Von Rundstedt was in retreat and taking treatment at Bad Toelz. He was living in a house that was part of a hospital.

"At 2:30 hours (10 P. M.) on May 1 Von Rundstedt and his wife and son had finished dining and he was expected to return to the barracks in the morning. They saw an American tank approaching.

Parley Is Calmer
Pact Writing Task Begun By Groups

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The United Nations Conference today appeared safely past its worst obstacles to success in creating a world security organization, but several major arguments still lie ahead.

The Dumbarton Oaks proposal that veto controls be placed in the hands of great powers on the Security Council already is a subject of both attack and defense.

Announcement of sixteen United States amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks plan, which this country, Britain, Russia and China worked out last fall at Washington as a basis for this conference, is due in the next day or so.

Officials describe these as mainly technical but it is expected that they might cover such points as parameters of justice in enforcement of peace, provision for refugees, and the like.

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Spain Cold To Laval
Madrid (AP)—A German plane bearing Pierre Laval, Marcel Deat and the Vichy Education Minister Abel Bonnard landed at Barcelona today and was ordered personally by Generalissimo Franco to leave Spain immediately.

France acted after representations from the United States Embassy. He instructed Spanish aviation authorities at the Prat Des Luchers airport at Barcelona, to allow the Frenchmen just enough room to take their craft to the nearest frontier.

Spanish fighter planes were ordered to accompany the craft—a Junkers Ju-52—were aboard, including the crew.

(Laval, former chief of government in Marshal Petain's Vichy government, previously had attempted unsuccessfully to enter Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The Allies recently captured the regime's last seat of government at Sigmaringen, on the Danube in Southern Germany.)

With the trial of former French officials was an indictment remains on Laval's wife. She was authorized to remain in Spain "on humanitarian grounds."

At Barcelona, Laval and his companions had been held by police while the various legations were informed and instructions were awaited from Madrid.

Battle For Berlin Near Conclusion

German Garrison Cut To Pieces

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

LONDON (AP)—The German garrison of Berlin, compressed into the narrow Government quarter, has been chopped up into "separate groups," the Nazi command said today and it appeared that the fight for the German capital was near its end.

Russian troops beat in on Hitler's "Feld-chancellery," and a Paris broadcast said without confirmation that the Red Army flag already flies from the building—German account the scene of Hitler's death.

The Hamburg radio said Russian had smashed wedges into the last Nazi pocket from the south.

LONDON (AP)—Rostock on the Baltic was captured today by the Red Army, Marshal Stalin announced today.

LONDON (AP)—Marshal Stalin announced today that more than 120,000 Germans had been killed or captured after the encirclement of the German Ninth Army southeast of Berlin.

Ing and his commander, Lt. Joseph Burke of Co. A, 14th Regiment, took him prisoner. It was Burke's first combat assignment since receiving his battlefield commission three weeks ago.

"Von Rundstedt was the last saw Hitler alive March 12."

A Swedish report, last week on the Western Front, told off Von Rundstedt's shoulder ornaments and buried them in his face.

It was von Rundstedt who planned the Ardennes breakthrough of last December.

north, and east, carrying deep into the Wilhelmstrasse, at the Friedrichstrasse Railway Station, and the old town sector on the east.

NAZIS TRAPPED
A Pravda war correspondent declared trapped Nazis in the Tiergarten area had made another concentrated effort to break out through sewers and tunnels, but were repulsed.

The Chancellery had been under mortar and howitzer fire for three days and four nights, Moscow dispatches said.

German positions in this crumbling heart of Berlin are chaotic. Pravda said, and Russians are closing in step by step in heavy fighting. German planes again last night parachuted in supplies, and the Germans do not lack for ammunition, the front reporters said.

The Hamburg radio today said the Soviets had deepened their penetrations into the Wilhelmstrasse, chief Government quarter.

Surrender In Holland Likely
LONDON (AP)—The Luxembourg radio said tonight that a German capitulation in Holland was imminent. The radio, which is Allied-controlled, said reports from the Canadian front indicated armistice negotiations had been in progress more than 24 hours.

Truman Takes Action
War Spending Cut Initiated In Anticipation Of V-E Day

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman today began a Federal financial retrenchment drive in anticipation of V-E Day.

In a series of separate actions he recommended to Congress that a total of \$7,445,260,000 be withdrawn from war program funds already appropriated or projected.

"In swift succession the Chief Executive:

Germans Also Quit Fight In Lower Austria

Nazi Land, Sea And Air Forces Estimated At Nearly 1,000,000 Men Give Up

By NOLAN NORGAARD

ROME (AP)—All German land, sea, and air forces in Italy and southern and western Austria—estimated at nearly 1,000,000 troops—were surrendered unconditionally to the Allies today by their commander, with hostilities ordered to cease at 12 noon, GMT., (8 A. M., E.W.T.)

The capitulation, signed in the presence of Allied officers including Russians, ended more than 1½ years of the bloody Italian campaign, and permits the Allies to advance unopposed to within 10 miles of Adolf Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden in Austria.

The surrender document was signed Sunday afternoon at Caserta by representatives of Col. Gen. Heinrich Von Vietinghoff-Scheel, German commander-in-chief in the southwest, and of Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Wolff, supreme commander of the SS and police in Italy.

Von Vietinghoff-Scheel's command includes all North Italy to the Isonzo River in the northeast, and the Austrian provinces of Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg, and portions of Carinthia and Styria.

ALEXANDER ORDER
Field Marshal Sir Harold L. Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, announced the made surrender, and in an order of the day to his troops declared "You have won a victory which has ended in the complete and utter rout of the German armed forces in the Mediterranean" and freed Italy.

The surrender exposed the flank of Col. Gen. Von Lehr, German commander in the Trieste area. British and Yugoslav troops already have linked at the head of the Adriatic.

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President Truman Praises Victors

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Truman today announced the unconditional surrender of German forces in Italy and said:

"Only fully and chaste can now delay the general capitulation of the everywhere German Armies."

In a statement announcing he had now delay the general capitulation to the Allied commanders, the President added:

"Let Japan as well as Germany understand the meaning of these events."

TEXT OF STATEMENT
The test of the President's statement.

The Allied Armies in Italy have won the unconditional surrender of German forces on the first European soil to which from the west we carried our arms and our determination.

The collapse of military tyranny in Italy, however, is no victory in Italy alone, but a part of the general triumph we are expecting awaiting on the whole continent of Europe. Only fully and chaste can now delay the general capitulation everywhere of the German Armies.

I have dispatched extraordinary messages to the Allied and American officers who led our forces to complete defeat of the Germans in Italy.

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Mecklenburg 'cauldrons' (German tanks)