

Partly cloudy and cooler today. Yesterday's temperatures: High, 80—Low, 66.

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ESTABLISHED 1867

Reds Cross Elbe, Drive For Link With Yanks; Doughboys Push Within 15 Miles Of Austria; Truman Dedicates Meeting To World Peace

46 Nations Open Talks On Security

President Addresses Delegates At San Francisco By Radio

SAN FRANCISCO, April 25.—(AP)—President Truman opened a conference of statesmen of 46 United Nations today and solemnly dedicated them to the task of forging a permanent peace, to becoming the architects of a better world.

In a single, succinct sentence the President brought sharply into focus the challenging opportunity confronting them:

"We still have a choice between the continuation of international chaos—or the establishment of a world organization for the enforcement of peace."

Into an impressive stone building, whose flag flew at half staff in honor of the late President Roosevelt, the voice of his successor was brought from Washington to launch one of history's great international meetings.

Other voices were raised in expressions of confidence and hope—the hope of a world scourged for years by bursting steel—that delegates from many lands will weld their polyglot tongues into one mighty voice for enduring tranquility among nations.

The delegates themselves in San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House appeared grimly determined to succeed.

Prospects for success seemed bright—save for serious Anglo-American differences with Russia over a new Polish government and giving it representation here in United Nations councils. And there were the inevitable comments when an April sun was lost behind rain clouds as early comers reached the Opera House.

Perhaps in indirect recognition of the Polish threat to unity at the very beginning of the conference, Mr. Truman declared:

"Differences between men, and between nations, will always remain. In fact, it held within reasonable limits, such disagreements are actually wholesome.

"All progress begins with differences of opinion and moves on toward as the differences are adjusted through reason and mutual understanding."

The sole objective at San Francisco, the President said, is to construct the delegate machinery

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PROPERTY-OWNER BODY IS FORMED

Organization Named For 'Protection And Betterment Of City'

At a meeting of property owners on South Third street between Market and Castle streets, at St. James Parish house last night, Mrs. Walter R. Marvin was unanimously elected president of a newly-formed permanent organization for the "protection and betterment" of that section of the community.

Other officers and directors also unanimously elected were Col. Lawrence Simpson, U. S. Army Engineers (Ret.), Vice President; and Empie Latimer, secretary and treasurer.

From Market to Castle, the blocks are numbered from one to six with Robert Strange, St. James, and Mrs. Walter Williams Colonial Dames, Directors for Block 1; for Block 2, Empe Latimer, American Legion home, and W. M. Dickson; for Block 3, H. Edmund Rodgers and Mrs. E. Jordan; for Block 4, Mrs. David Marchison and Mrs. Walter R. Marvin; Block 5, Mrs. Isabel Scott and Miss Emma Woodward; and for Block 6 Waddell Watters and Tom Murrell, it was reported.

Col. Simpson, chairman of the temporary organizing committee, in outlining the aims of the organization, said that four major jobs were necessary to prevent a repetition of the Chestnut street

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Old Glory Flies On Nazi Shrine



Carrying two battle-worn American flags, soldiers of the U. S. 45th Division mount the tiers of the Luitpold Arena in Nuremberg, Germany, where Adolf Hitler formerly rallied his Nazi party followers, for the thousands for his reviews of the army and the Hitler Youth members. (AP Wirephoto from Signal Corps Radiophoto).

War Production Let-Up Seen Within Few Months

WASHINGTON, April 25.—(AP)—A sharp drop in war spending and a let-up in civilian production controls within a few months were predicted today as the United Nations plunged on toward victory in Europe.

Three high government officials painted the brightened domestic picture.

1. Rep. Snyder (D-Pa), chairman of the House subcommittee which handles War Department appropriations, informed President Truman today that a quick victory in Europe may mean a cut in Army spending amounting to billions of dollars next fiscal year as compared to last.

2. War Production Chief Krug estimated that WPB may be able to release nearly one-third of its controls on industry in the next four months.

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Giant Aircraft Carrier, 'Franklin D. Roosevelt,' Will Be Launched Sunday

WASHINGTON, April 25.—(AP)—A giant aircraft carrier to be launched at the New York Navy yard Sunday has been re-named the "Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

The 45,000-ton vessel, sister ship of the Midway launched last month at Newport News, Va., will be sponsored by Mrs. Roosevelt.

In an unprecedented move the Navy assigned the name of the late President to the carrier as a token of honor for his long and intimate association with the Naval service.

It will be the first carrier to bear the name of an individual. The vessel originally was assigned the name of "Coral Sea," in recognition of the battle which occurred in that area in May, 1942.

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City Discards Rating System For Employees

The City Council yesterday abolished the employe merit-rating system it authorized in 1943 on the theory that it was the wrong grading method.

At the same time, the municipal body followed through on the recommendation by Councilman Robert S. LeGwin that a new type of system, evolved by himself and Robert R. Romeo, be presented at the group's next meeting for "consideration and action."

The committee was named to consider a new method of grading the efficiency of City employes shortly after the Council forwarded a recommendation for promotion of two firemen to the City

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U. S. Troops Hit Mantova, Nearing Alps

Yank Fifth Army Reaches Area 25 Miles From Foothills

ROME, April 25.—(AP)—U. S. Fifth Army troops today reached the area of Mantova (Mantua), 25 miles from the foothills of the Alps, taking thousands of prisoners as the routed Germans fled pell-mell towards Hitler's mountainous retreat.

The First French army meanwhile drove a wedge two miles wide and five miles deep into Italy in the Maritime Alps 25 miles north of Nice.

Both the Fifth and the British Eighth Army were pushing swiftly northward from the Po river. Mantova is seven and one-half miles north of the Po and 36 miles north of Modena.

A special Allied communique announcing the pursuit, said: "Every road is jammed with the retreating enemy, who is using not only horses but oxen, cows and human beings to draw his transport. The desert air force reports seeing 300 enemy vehicles set on fire by the Germans south of the Po. Thousands of prisoners of war and vast quantities of every type of equipment continue to be taken by our forces."

(Swiss press reports relayed by the U. S. Office of War Information said the Germans had abandoned Milan, that Italian patriots had occupied part of Genoa, and that Benito Mussolini had fled his Villa east of Milan after telling his staff that the war was lost, that it was only a question "of days, perhaps weeks, but it is lost.")

The Eighth Army, whose New Zealand infantry and third battalion of grenadier guards were the first to cross the Po, reported capture of Lt. Gen. Graf von Schwerin, commander of the 76th Panzer Corps, along with his staff, by the British 27th Lancers.

The Fifth Army's 88th Division, led by Maj. Gen. Paul W. Kendall of Palo Alto, Calif., captured Maj. Gen. Schellwitz, commander of the German 305th Division.

Allied planes steadily strafed and bombed the fleeing Germans while tank forces eliminated trapped pockets of the enemy.

Substantial gains up the west coast of Italy were reported by American troops moving toward the big port of Genoa, 53 airline miles beyond captured La Spezia.

A security blackout still prevented disclosure of where the two Allied armies crossed the Po but they were known to have been massed along the south bank of the

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Gerdes Is Renamed Head Of Wilmington Red Cross

At the annual meeting of the Wilmington chapter of the American Red Cross yesterday, Chairman J. Henry Gerdes was re-elected for the following year.

Other selected were E. A. Laney, vice-chairman; Mrs. J. B. Sidbury, secretary; L. D. Latta, treasurer; and Mrs. Harrison Newman, assistant treasurer.

Directors elected to serve three years were Paul Wilson, Mrs. Harriette Newman, J. Henry Gerdes, Mrs. J. K. Wise, Mrs. J. B. Sidbury, Mrs. Lawrence Sprunt, L. A. Raney, E. A. Laney, C. McD. Davis, Bishop Thomas C. Darst and Charles D. Parmele.

Elected to serve two years filling the unexpired term of B. B. Cameron were Mrs. Graham Keenan. Members at large chosen were Mrs. W. A. Dick, Mrs. J. D. Freeman, Mrs. George L. Mitchell, Walker Taylor, Robert Strange, Paul Wilson, Alex Sprunt and H. Edmund Rodgers.

It was recommended and approved that the chairman of Home Service, Volunteer Special Services and Junior Red Cross serve on the Executive Committee by virtue of their positions. By-laws were amended to permit this.

Gerdes revealed that during the past War Fund Drive \$127,604.75

was received with approximately 7,000 pledges to be collected. The goal was \$88,000. Of this 68 per cent will go to the national organization and the remainder stay in this area.

Robert Strange, chairman of the War Fund drive was presented a certificate of honor for his work. In expressing his feeling he said that he "was more indebted to the Red Cross than the Red Cross was to him."

The type of work to be carried out by the American Red Cross at Camp Davis was outlined by Field Director Harold Arnoff.

Arnoff, who is stationed at Camp Davis, told the group that the primary job to be done there by the Red Cross was one of supplying the men with recreation. In this respect he pointed out that there were men at the camp representing all theaters of war, indicating that the work is one of rehabilitation.

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Yanks Within 76 Miles Of Nazi Retreat

Seventh Breaks Enemy Positions, Is 45 Miles From Munich

PARIS, Thursday, April 25.—(AP)—U. S. Third Army tanks punched within 15 miles of the German Austrian border last night as other American and French forces raced almost unchecked across southern Germany, threatening Munich and Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat, which the RAF attacked yesterday with 12,000-pound "earthquake" bombs.

The Third Army spearhead, already east of Berlin although 250 miles to the south, cut the last direct route to the Nazis' so-called national redoubt by mopping up the rail and highway center of Regen and then drove straight for the frontier of Austria at Passau. This column was 76 miles north of Berchtesgaden.

To the west the American Seventh Army broke through German positions and fanned out on an 80 mile front along or across the Danube river within 45 miles of Munich and the French First Army completely smashed Germany's veteran 19th Army in the Black Forest.

The Allied armies—estimated at nearly 400,000 men and thousands of tanks—were charging into the Alpine foothills along a 200-mile front in a determined effort to crush any last-ditch Nazi stand in the southern redoubt before it could get started.

Resistance at most points was extremely light, bearing out an official announcement from Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters that "the German Army has ceased to exist as an integrated fighting force."

An Associated Press field dispatch declared that the encirclement of Munich, birthplace of the Nazi party, was shaping up swiftly.

Leading the rapid surge of Allied forces today was the 11th armored division of Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, which stabbed 18 miles southeast beyond captured Regen to a point only 15 miles from the Austrian border and 76 miles due north of Berchtesgaden.

Striking ahead of the advancing armies, two waves of British Lancasters escorted by fighters deluged the entire Berchtesgaden area with six-ton bombs, many of whose fuses were set to explode at a great depth in underground emplacements. One was seen to score a direct hit on Hitler's chalet.

There was no official suggestion that the bombing was a direct attempt on Hitler's life, but unofficially an allied spokesman pointed

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Hitler's Alpine Home Wrecked By RAF Raid

Berchtesgaden Retreat Obliterated, Returning Bombardiers Say; Six-Ton Bombs Shatter Eagle's Nest

LONDON, Thursday, April 25.—(AP)—Adolf Hitler's chalet near Berchtesgaden was obliterated and the adjoining weird "Eagle's Nest" fortress was damaged yesterday by more than 350 RAF heavy Lancasters which raided the mountain retreat for the first time in an apparent attempt on the Fuehrer's life.

The big barracks of Hitler's bodyguard, munitions stores, and the whole fabulous establishment from which the Nazi overlord once ruled German Europe were smashed by the six-ton British bombs while American Eighth and Ninth Air Force planes by the hundreds ravaged selected targets throughout the Berchtesgaden area.

Simultaneously the Eighth Air Force hurled more than 300 Flying Fortresses at the Skoda munitions works at Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, advertising the devastating attack in advance with a radio warning to slave laborers to flee from that last great Nazi war plant.

Whether Hitler was at the sumptuous Berghof chalet or inside the almost-impregnable Kehlstein fortress was not known, but returning fliers left no doubt that the two-story chalet had been wiped off the face of the earth by a direct hit of a 12,000-pound bomb, and said delayed-action bombs of the same great weight had buried themselves deep in the Kehlstein (hollow-stone) mountain of the Eagle's Nest.

The nest itself, with a roof 17 yards square protruding above the mountain peak apparently was straddled but not squarely hit.

German radio propagandists in (Continued on Page Two; Col. 4)

21,269 Japanese Die In Okinawa Fighting

GUAM, Thursday, April 25.—(AP)—The first general advance on the fiery southern Okinawa battlefield since the all-out offensive began just a week ago was reported by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz today.

The communique reported 21,269 Japanese had been killed and 399 prisoners taken in the 25-day Okinawa campaign as of yesterday. By midnight last Sunday, American casualties were 7,424—1,146 dead, 5,982 wounded and 296 missing.

The ratio of nearly 20 Japanese killed for every American was the best for any major invasion of the Pacific war. The Iwo Jima death ratio was about 5 to 1. The Japanese count on Okinawa covered nearly three days more fighting than did the American toll.

Yanks of Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge's 24th Army corps, which included the Seventh, 27th and 96th Divisions, captured the village of Kakazu in the center of the stubbornly-held line on southern Okinawa and seized an important strong point at hill 168 on the east coast. Japanese defenses around the town and airfield of Yonabaru on the east coast were being reduced by Naval gunfire and low-level plane raids as the infantrymen advanced.

Nimitz in his summary of enemy casualties on Okinawa, where (Continued on Page Seven; Col. 6)

U. S. COMPLETING MINDANAO DRIVE

Yanks Push Within 2,000 Yards Of Shattered Summer Capital

MANILA, Thursday, April 25.—(AP)—Mindanao, last large Philippine island in Japanese hands, is passing swiftly into American control. Maj. Gen. R. B. Woodruff's 24th Division veterans toled to within 57 road miles of Davao Tuesday.

By far the toughest of many fights in the islands was that around Baguio, where the Yanks were pushing down highway No. 9 from the northwest to within 2,000 yards of the center of the shattered summer capital on north Luzon.

Guerrillas on northern Luzon have captured the good port of Vigan, its adjacent airfield and the city of Bantay Neoroy, and are clearing the entire province of Ilocos Sur of Japanese, Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today.

Vigan was one of the original Japanese invasion points in 1942. Far to the south on Mindanao island, meantime, 24th Division Doughboys, with strong air support, advanced 16 miles along a fair highway to within 45 miles of Davao, one of the major ports of the Philippines.

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Edouard Herriot Freed From Nazi Camp By Reds

LONDON, April 25.—(AP)—Portly Edouard Herriot, three times premier of France who was thrown into a German concentration camp in 1942 after criticizing Marshal Petain's collaboration policies, has been liberated by the Russians, the Soviet communique announced tonight.

No details were given of the liberation of the 72-year-old Frenchman who was serving as president of the Chamber of Deputies in the Vichy government when his blunt protest at a decree by Pierre Laval was followed by announcement of his arrest.

Three times he was reported dead—once by the German news

Soviet Units Have Circled Nazi Capital

500,000 German Troops Reported Trapped In Wrecked City

LONDON, Thursday, April 25.—(AP)—Doomed Berlin was completely encircled by two mighty Soviet armies and as the Russians fought through subways and streets toward the city's blazing heart, Red Army spearheads to the southwest swarmed across the Elbe river toward an imminent link-up with American forces.

Perhaps 500,000 Nazi troops were trapped in the historic encirclement of the wrecked capital, and late German broadcasts reported that massed waves of Soviet armor had smashed through jungles of twisted steel and stone and had reached the "center" of the half-conquered city.

There was a possibility that Adolf Hitler and Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels had been caught in the Red Army trap at Berlin. Throughout last night the Hamburg radio—principal Nazi station still operating—began every report with the slogan: "The Fuehrer is in Berlin."

No less momentous than Premier Stalin's triumphant announcement of Berlin's encirclement—three years and 10 months after Hitler's legions invaded the Soviet Union June 22, 1941—was the Soviet high command's disclosure that Red Army forces were pouring across the Elbe.

There, in the narrowing waist of Hitler's "Fortress Europe", Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian Army surged across the water barrier and captured the west bank fortress of Reisa, 22 miles northwest of the Saxony capital of Dresden. These forces were 22 miles west of American positions on the Mulde river—but only 18 miles from German-reported American bridgeheads across the Mulde.

German broadcasts said that Konev's troops had reached the Elbe on a 24-mile front between Reisa and Torgau and indicated that Russian engineers were pouring men across the Elbe along the entire sector at points less than 17 miles from the Americans.

On top of these victories on the central front, Marshal Alexander Vasilenovsky's Third White Russian Army captured the East Prussian port of Pillau and cleared the east Prussian mainland of the last German hold-out troops.

Far to the south, Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army was fighting in the outskirts of the Czechoslovak arsenal city of Brunn (Brno), one of Hitler's last war production centers after capturing the suburbs of Lisen, Carnovice and Prizrenice on the east and south.

The Moscow radio, meanwhile, announced that nearly 2,000,000 German troops had been killed or captured on the Eastern Front since January 1, raising to more than 11,000,000 the vast toll of German casualties announced by the

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German Officer Appeals Over Luxembourg Radio For Nazis To Surrender

LONDON, April 25.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Heinrich Kirchheim in a Luxembourg Radio broadcast tonight appealed to the German high command to "make the Fuehrer cease fighting at once" because "the war is irrevocably lost." He was the first high ranking German officer captured by the Americans to make such an appeal.

Directing his remarks to chief of staff field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, but privately admitting he thought the effect "very doubtful", Kirchheim said:

"You, Field Marshal Keitel, are the Fuehrer's highest military adviser. It is your duty to stop this senseless slaughter of our youth and destruction of our last cities. You must succeed in making reason conquer against military amateurs and make the Fuehrer cease fighting at once."

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Court Writ Enroute To Philippe Petain Ordered By France

PARIS, April 25.—(AP)—A court writ addressed to Philippe Petain summoning him to Paris to answer charges of "plotting against the state" was enroute tonight to the Swiss frontier point where the silver-haired Marshal is expected to re-enter France.

The document was carried by a court official. It was the first formal step to bring back Petain, who reached Switzerland from Germany yesterday offering to return to France for trial.

For reasons of national security his return is being shrouded in the greatest secrecy but it is understood the formalities will be completed tomorrow and Petain will then be arrested by French border guards and brought into French territory.

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