

COUNT NARROWLY ESCAPES DEATH

STOCKHOLM, April 29.—(AP)—Count Folke Bernadotte, vice-president of the Swedish Red Cross, narrowly escaped death when Al-

The foreign office statement added nothing more, but it was presumed that Himmler's message was the one which offered capitulation to the western Allies only.

Bernadotte reached Sweden last Tuesday, and since has left the country again, ostensibly on a Red Cross mission to Denmark.

Bernadotte, whose American wife is the former Estelle Manville, is one of the few men who has negotiated with top leaders of both the Allies and Germany during this war.

He visited Gen. Eisenhower in France last fall. In recent weeks, he saw Himmler on several occasions in connection with a Swedish mercy mission which obtained the release of thousand of Nazi-interned Danes and Norwegians.

SWEDEN REPORTED TALKING PEACE

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possibly today to America, Britain and Russia.

Most London newspapers carried sensational headlines on the prospect of German capitulation, predicting the end anywhere from a few hours away to two or three days away.

A United Press Stockholm dispatch said that Bernadotte, a nephew of King Gustav V and an official of the International Red Cross, was reportedly at the Danish-German border town of Flensburg, site of a big Red Cross camp.

Well-informed sources believed it was probable that Bernadotte is in contact with Himmler, although authorities had no definite knowledge, this dispatch said.

Official sources in Stockholm said that Bernadotte had returned on Red Cross errands.

But these missions did not exclude further capitulation discussions, Stockholm dispatches said, particularly those which might concern Denmark and Norway.

Swedish press reports said today that Himmler's offer was made last Tuesday and that Bernadotte flew immediately to Stockholm where he contacted the Swedish foreign office.

Stockholm said it was not revealed whether Himmler's assertion that Hitler is not a well man was part of the original message or was added later.

Well-informed London sources believed that Hitler might be dead. They suggested that his death would be concealed from remnants of German forces so long as they continued their battle in Berlin or until an unconditional surrender had been made.

Prime Minister Churchill will make a statement in commons this week on the state of affairs in Germany, the daily telegraph political correspondent said, adding that the facts relating to a surrender offer and the possibility of further surrender moves were reported to the cabinet at a routine meeting Sunday.

This dispatch asserted that it was expected generally in Whitehall tonight that Allied governments would know within 48 hours whether an acceptable surrender offer would be forthcoming. It added that Himmler was believed the only person with whom dealings could be effected.

The authoritative British press association said that London had been "buzzing" with rumors of emergency cabinet meetings and other preparations, but that today ministers had the usual meeting at the usual time. That was all in Whitehall, it had been anything but a quiet weekend inside No. 10 Downing Street, the official residence of the prime minister and the foreign office across the road.

Tension is similar in Denmark, a United Press Stockholm dispatch said, and the strong underground organization is awaiting a chance to go into action.

The Americans, Russians Effect Junction At Torgau



Second Lt. William D. Robertson, of the American First Army, embraces Lt. Alexander Sylvashko of the Russian Army before a furling American flag and a crude sign reading "East Meets West." Lt. Robertson was the first American to meet the Reds. (upper left). In the upper right photo, infantrymen of the First Army extend hands in greeting to Russian troops on a broken bridge over the Elbe. Lower left, Russian and American troops, carrying their respective flags, advance after their juncture. In the lower right picture, little need be said as the Yanks and Russians celebrate their victory in vodka.

DEWEY ACCLAIMS COURT OF WORLD

NEW YORK, April 29.—(AP)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey last night declared the proposed Court of International Justice to be discussed at the San Francisco World Conference was "the heart and soul of all our efforts" for peace.

"If we do not lift our eyes and our hopes to the higher level of settlement of disputes by legal process, we have made little progress away from international rule by force alone," the 1944 Republican Presidential nominee said in an address prepared for delivery at the 48th annual banquet of the American-Irish Historical Society.

The work of the conference, Dewey said, will be divided into four main steps. "The first will deal with the preamble and statement of principles, the second with the assembly and its powers, the third with the council and the fourth with the permanent court of international justice."

Dewey said the first three had been discussed widely. "I believe," he added, "that the fourth major part of the San Francisco conference, of which we have heard so little, is the part which will finally determine whether we have succeeded in starting down the true road to the final abolition of war."

"For the world court is the conscience of mankind determining, under principles of justice, the disputes which otherwise would bring down on us another holocaust."

"This will not be achieved today; not fully, perhaps, for decades. But only if we work toward the concept of judicial settlement of all disputes, will we ever reach the goal."

"The large and powerful nations," Dewey said, "must acknowledge the principle that as all nations are equal before the law of their state, all nations are equal before the law of nations."

The Governor said the International Court would not be a substitute for the World Security Organization but an "integral part of it."

"What we hope for first," Dewey continued, "is the fusing of mankind's aspirations into an international charter defining principles of conduct as basic to the world organization as our constitution and the ten commandments are basic to American life."

"Then, as the years pass, a body of international law will develop around that charter. The assembly and security council of the World Organization will arrive at decisions in conference which will establish patterns of procedure and juristic justice which will develop the field of operation of the court within the framework of the International Charter."

SCREEN STAR DIES

HOLLYWOOD, April 29.—(AP)—Malcolm McGregor, 53, actor of silent screen days, died today from burns apparently received when he fell asleep in bed while smoking.

ROGERS ENTERS SERVICE

SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 29.—(AP)—James B. Rogers, 29-year-old son of the late cowboy, humorist, actor, columnist Will Rogers, has arrived at the Marine Corps base here for recruit training, it was announced today.

WITH THE AEF Yank Simplifies Captures

By KENNETH L. DIXON

WITH THE U. S. ARMY IN GERMANY, April 27—(Delayed)—

(AP)—Capturing Germans has become so commonplace in these parts that people have practically quit talking about it, except for unusual cases.

But this was not true a few days ago. It was then that Capt. Francis S. Schommer, Sheboygan, Wis., put his improvised "party line surrender system" into operation.

Capt. Schommer belongs to the third battalion of the 329th Infantry regiment, which then was making its rush from the Rhine to the Elbe river. In addition to usual methods of capturing prisoners—at gun's point, for instance—the battalion rigged up a sound truck which warned enemy soldiers they had better call it quits, or else.

But one day the sound truck broke down, and the thunderbolt doughboys had no immediate means of inducing the Germans to surrender, excepting the old shoot-it-out method, at which they do all right, too. But they naturally preferred a less drastic plan.

Then Schommer got his idea. "As soon as we captured a town I hooted it over to the local Burgomeister," he explained. "My German isn't the best in the world, but it was good enough to make him understand I wanted him to call the Burgomeister in the next town just ahead of our advance."

"As soon as he got the next town's Burgomeister on the phone, he would ask him two questions: 'Are there any troops in your town?' and 'Do they want to surrender?'"

If the answers to both questions were "yes," then a three-way conversation ensued. Schommer told his Burgomeister to tell the other town's Burgomeister that white flags were to be flown from every house—as conspicuously as possible.

In addition, all soldiers within the city were to lay down their arms and go to an open field at the outskirts of the town, and wait till they could be picked up.

"I didn't fail to impress the Burgomeister making the call with a clear idea of what would happen if we got double crossed," the captain said.

Schommer's system worked in town after town, for amazingly enough the telephone lines remained comparatively intact, at least in the area through which the battalion made its drive.

tar crew forced the civilians to remove the flags and help the troops to defend the town. We were forced to pound the place with artillery."

Otherwise his plan worked effectively until the sound truck was operating again.

Ironically, the war in which Hitler aimed, among other things, to "purify" Germany racially, has brought a melting pot conglomeration of luckless citizens into the Reich in tremendous numbers.

Typical was the population of the prison camp near Halberstadt, which was liberated recently by the 19th Corps. It contained citizens of 20 lands, and of varied colors, races and creeds.

Just to give you an idea of the language difficulties alone encountered in such a liberation, the political prisoners of this one camp included: 195 Poles, 178 Frenchmen, 65 Russians, 28 Czechoslovaks, 28 Belgians, 2,622 Italians, 21 Germans, 16 Dutchmen, 14 Yugoslavs, 12 Latvians, Eight Spaniards, four Austrians, three Lithuanians and two Estonians.

In addition there were one each from Persia, Turkey, Algeria, Luxembourg, Serbia and Romania. Imagine what ensued when all those poor, half-starved, tortured, miserable people attempted to tell their pent-up stories—all at once—to army officers and interviewers.

Spaniards Flay Fascist Salute At Flag Raising

MONTSERRAT, Spain, April 29.—(AP)—Ten thousand Spaniards today angrily shouted down a few hundred others who greeted the raising of the Spanish flag with the Fascist salute.

Franco police armed with riot guns stood idly by as the angry men hooted at the stiff-arm, open-palm salute which still is the official greeting in Spain.

"We have had enough of Fascism," shouted the crowd which was composed of Carlists, reactionary monarchists.

AMBASSADOR DIES MADRID, April 29.—(AP)—The death of Gines Vidalysaura, 53, Spanish ambassador to Berlin, in Bern, Switzerland, of a cerebral hemorrhage this morning, was announced in Madrid. The embassy recently was transferred to Bern.

GI IS 7,000th PATIENT FRAMINGHAM, Mass., April 29.—(AP)—The 7,000 patient to be admitted to Cushing General Hospital here since its opening 15 months ago was Cpl. Emile Berard of Woonsocket, R. I., who was wounded in Strasbourg, France, Feb. 4,

Explosion At Foundry Rocks Los Angeles Area

LOS ANGELES, April 29.—(AP)—Metropolitan Los Angeles was shaken for a 20-mile radius today when an explosion wrecked the modern foundry and pattern company in suburban Vernon, damaging neighboring property for a total loss of \$250,000, but the blast miraculously killed no one.

Force of the explosion, believed

caused by an over heated tempering vat in the foundry, injured four men painfully but apparently not seriously.

EARTHQUAKE FELT

SEATTLE, Wash., April 29.—(AP)—An earthquake definitely felt throughout all areas of the city and described by University of Washington geologists as probably "local" in origin, was recorded here at approximately 1:15 p.m. No damage was reported.

Escaped German Prisoner Gives Up To S. C. Police

CHARLOTTE, April 29.—(AP)—Bernd Brinkman, escaped German prisoner of war, surrendered to Camden, S. C., police this afternoon, Ed Scheidt, special Federal Bureau of Investigation agent here, announced tonight.

Meanwhile, the local FBI office received word of the escape of three German prisoners of war

from Camp Ashby, 12 miles east of Norfolk, Va., between 10 p.m. Saturday and early this morning. The three were listed as Arthur Hoelke, Alfred Sutter and Erwin Severth. All were wearing brown shirts and fatigue uniforms with the letters "PW" upon them.

Miss Chic, an elephant in the Jacksonville (Fla.) zoo is insured for \$3,000 by Lloyds of London. American companies refused the risk.

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