

Seventh Takes Munich; New Junctions Made; Red Banner Raised Over Berlin; Himmler's Peace Offer Studied; Italian War Is Ours

Last Assault Is Underway, Stalin Says

Russians Make Bid For Entire City On Soviet May Day

LONDON, Tuesday, May 1.—(AP)—Russian troops raised the red banner of victory over the gutted shell of the German Reichstag in Berlin yesterday and were splitting the city's last Nazi defenders today in what Premier Stalin described as the "last assault."

Berlin was not yet finally won, but Stalin's special May Day order, issued "during the victorious completion of the war," left little doubt that the city's end—and the end of the war—were close at hand.

The Russians stepped up their overwhelming assault for Berlin to unprecedented proportions in a possible bid to win the entire city today while the Soviet Union celebrates May Day, its traditional holiday.

Soviet troops were within a mile of tearing the capital into two isolated pockets each less than nine square miles. They had won the ministry of interior near the Reichstag, were laying siege to Hitler's underground fortress in the Tiergarten, were at Berlin's triumphal arch, the Brandenburg gate, and were across the Spree river from Berlin's cathedral.

German broadcasts admitted that the 10-day battle for the devastated capital was as good as lost, while Premier Stalin in a May Day order of the day, said that the war was approaching its end and declared: "The last assault is on."

Stalin said that 1,800,000 Germans had been killed or captured during the last three or four months of fighting on the eastern front. His announcement meant that 11,540,000 German casualties had been inflicted by the Red Army in less than four years of war.

As 9,000 more Nazi troops surrendered in Berlin, raising to 65,700 the toll of enemy dead and captured in four days, north of the dying capital Red army troops, rolling out mile-an-hour gains across Mecklenburg province, seized the Baltic port of Greifswald and smashed with 42 miles of Hochof. The island-bound port of Swinemunde was isolated.

Far to the south, Gen. Andrei I. Yeremenko's Fourth Ukrainian Army captured Moravsko-Ostava, the "Pittsburgh of Czechoslovakia," while cavalrymen of the Second Ukrainian Army plunged through the Morava river valley toward a junction that would roll up a German salient in eastern Moravia.

Capture of the famous Reichstag building, which was wrecked by fire in February, 1933, four weeks after Hitler assumed power, was used by the Nazis as a pretext for seizing dictatorial powers, was announced in Moscow's nightly war bulletin.

Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's battle-grimed First White Russian Army street fighters captured Germany's legislative chambers after they had stormed over the Molke river bridge from Moabit, and seized the ministry of the interior.

Sweeping across the barricades in wide Koenigsplatz, they broke the Reichstag and "hoisted the banner of victory," Moscow said.

44 Wounded Are Taken To Peace Conference To See Security Plan

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—(AP)—The Navy brought 44 wounded sailors and Marines today to see for themselves how the United Nations are trying to organize to prevent another war. All young men, they were amputation cases. Some had lost both legs, some an arm in the Pacific war. They came from the Navy hospital at Mare Island, 35 miles away.

Argentina Gets Seat Over Red Objections

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30.—(AP)—Over stern Russian objections, the United Nations conference voted 31 to 4 tonight to give Argentina a place immediately in its peace-shaping councils.

U. S. DISPUTES AUSTRIAN RULE

State Department Says It Does Not Recognize Government

WASHINGTON, April 30.—(AP)—The United States today emphatically lined up with Britain in refusing to recognize the provisional Austrian government which has taken over in Russian-occupied Vienna without hindrance from Moscow.

The State Department said flatly that it does not recognize the government which is headed by one-time Austrian Chancellor Karl Renner. The British earlier had turned thumbs down.

The State Department admitted that, except for a brief Russian note saying the government was in the making, the United States was not consulted on the development. When asked if it loomed as a new sore spot—along with the Big Three Polish dispute—in American-Polish-Russian relations, a qualified American official said it would take "a few days to decide."

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 1)

32,000 INMATES FREED BY YANKS

Germany's Most Dreaded Extermination Camp Is Captured

By HOWARD COWAN

DACHAU, Germany, April 30.—(AP)—Dachau prison, Germany's most dreaded extermination camp, has been captured and its surviving 32,000 tortured inmates freed by outraged American Doughboys.

The camp, a fortress of barbed wire and concrete, was captured in a furious battle. Dashing to the camp atop tanks, bulldozers, self-propelled guns—anything with wheels—the fighting Yanks of the 42nd and 45th Divisions hit the notorious prison northwest of Munich shortly after the lunch hour yesterday.

Dozens of Nazi guards fell under withering blasts of rifle and carbine fire as the soldiers, catching glimpses of the horrors within the camp, raged through its barracks for a quick cleanup.

The troops were joined by trusty prisoners working outside the barbed wire enclosures. Frenchmen and Russians, grabbing up weapons dropped by the slain SS guards, acted swiftly on their own to exact full revenge from their tormentors.

Sorting of the liberated prisoners was still under way today but the Americans learned from camp

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Truman Chooses Friend As Administrative Aide

WASHINGTON, April 30.—(AP)—Big EdMcKim who followed President Truman as a soldier and as a political campaigner, became his chief administrative assistant today.

The 49-year old Omaha, Neb., insurance executive was sworn in for the \$10,000 job by Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court. The oath was administered at the same time to John W. Snyder, St. Louis banker, as Federal Loan Administrator and Edwin W. Pauley of California as American member of the reparations commission with the rank of ambassador.

25 Divisions Defeated By Allied Army

Only Report Of German Resistance Reported In Brenner Pass

ROME, April 30.—(AP)—German armies in Italy have been "virtually eliminated as a military force" by the shattering onslaught of the Allies, Gen. Mark W. Clark announced tonight as American Fifth Army troops marched into the great arsenal city of Turin and found it already in the hands of Italian patriots.

Gen. Clark, commander of the 15th Army Group, declared that the long, bitter campaign which began on the shell-swept beaches at Salerno in September, 1943, had ended except for mopping up scattered Nazi resistance.

More than 120,000 German prisoners and tremendous quantities of arms and equipment have been swept up in the maelstrom set off by the British Eighth Army 22 days ago and joined by the American Fifth Army a week later.

Twenty-five Nazi divisions have been ripped to shreds. "The military power of Germany in Italy has practically ceased, even though scattered fighting may continue as remnants of the German armies are mopped up," said General Clark, commander of the 15th Army Group, in a statement to correspondents at his command post.

"Troops of the 15th Army Group have so smashed the German armies in Italy that they have been virtually eliminated as a military force. Twenty-five German divisions, some of the best in the German army, have been torn to pieces and can no longer effectively resist our armies."

British Eighth Army forces, sweeping beyond captured Venice, drove across the Piave river at a point only 74 miles by highway from Trieste around the head of the Adriatic sea. A Beigrade announcement said Marshal Tito's Yugoslav partisans were fighting the Germans through the streets of Trieste.

Elements of the American 91st Division and South African armored forces captured Treviso, north of Venice, and British troops seized an important bridge across the Piave near Nervesa. The veteran U. S. First Armored Division captured more than 12,000 prisoners in the past 24 hours, including four German major generals.

Units of the American 10th Mountain Division, leading the Pursuit of enemy remnants through the Alps toward the Brenner Pass, crossed Lake Garda in storm boats and captured Benito Mussolini's former Villa on the west shore at Gargnano. They then cut one of the few escape roads left to Brenner Pass. The only report of German resistance was in that area.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

Communists Lead Votes In France

PARIS, April 30.—(AP)—The Communist party won a sweeping victory in yesterday's French municipal elections, the tabulation of more than 15,000,000 votes showed today, but political analysts were cautious about conceding that the nation as a whole had "gone Communist."

The trend toward the leftist movement, however, was undeniable. By 8 o'clock tonight returns had been received from all but the most remote provincial areas.

A breakdown of the figures indicated the Communists had won nearly 25 per cent of the estimated total vote of 18,000,000. Less than one per cent of the electorate endorsed Communist candidates in 1935 when the last previous French municipal elections were held.

Socialists and that group of parties lumped together under the heading of "resistance organizations" also polled substantial support. The latter bloc sprang from the erstwhile French underground movement, and can be classified as leftists.

Extension On Contract Is Refused By Miners

NEW YORK, April 30.—(AP)—John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers tonight refused to agree to a 30-day extension of their existing anthracite contract expiring at midnight, and the controversy was almost immediately referred to the War Labor Board in an attempt to prevent a strike in the all-important hard coal producing field.

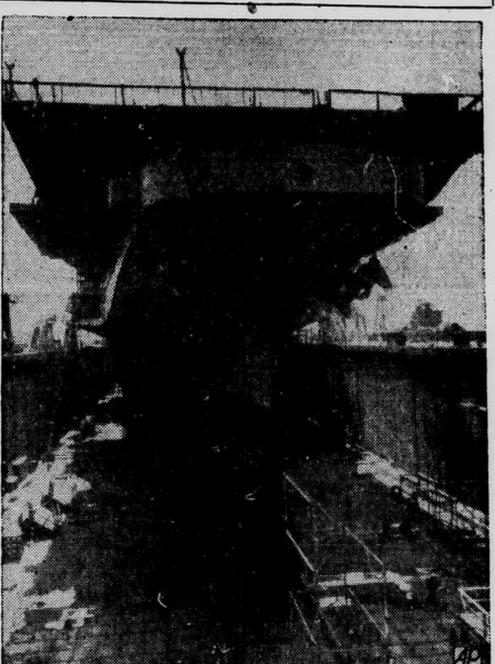
The 72,000 anthracite miners already had voted to go on strike if no agreement was reached, and in effect, Lewis tonight told the men to stop work at midnight. He indicated that the strike already had started.

Within an hour, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins had certified the controversy to the WLB. In Washington, WLB Chairman George W. Taylor said an emergency meeting of the board had been called.

Lewis had called the union's tri-district scale committee into session after a meeting of the negotiating committee, the operators and Mrs. Perkins had ended without agreement.

"The tri-district committee," he said, "by unanimous vote, has resolved to request the miners' work in the industry when the operators agree to the secretary of labor's proposals for a new contract."

Carrier Named For Roosevelt



The U. S. S. Franklin D. Roosevelt, second in the class of the world's largest, strongest and fastest aircraft carriers, stands on the ways at the New York Navy Yard in Brooklyn. Launching of the 45,000 ton ship, named in honor of the late president, was scheduled for April 29.

Doughboys Are 17 Miles From Davao

Guerrillas Advance Along Talikud Nine Miles From Port

MANILA, Tuesday, May 1.—(AP)—Overrunning elaborate gun emplacements, 24th Division Doughboys swept to within 17 miles of Davao city Sunday while guerrillas seized five-mile-long Talikud island, nine miles off that big Mindanao port.

Maj. Gen. Roscoe Woodruff's Yanks drove 10 miles from Digos up to the western shore of Davao gulf against disorganized resistance. Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today.

The extensive system of anti-aircraft positions and intact coastal guns seized in the advance indicated the Japanese expected and had prepared for an assault on Davao gulf proper. Instead, the Americans came overland from their landing in Moro gulf.

Lack of opposition on the southern approaches nonetheless surprised the Americans, who expect a stiff fight for Davao, one of the major ports of the Philippines and a Japanese stronghold. The roads were bobby-trapped, but otherwise there was little to impede the swift foot soldiers.

P-T boats, darting swiftly into the bay, again shelled shore positions.

On northern Luzon, the 37th Division, which helped take Baguio Friday, pushed five miles north to seize La Trinidad, where the Japanese once had a large concentration camp for Americans and other United Nations nationals.

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 5)

Shooting Of Mussolini Related By Executioner

By GEORGE BRIA

MILAN, April 30.—(AP)—The beaten, mishapen body of Benito Mussolini lay tonight in a rude wooden coffin in the Milan morgue while still-vengeful Italian partisans, moving against other former Fascist leaders, were reported already to have tried and executed Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.

Headquarters of the National Liberation Committee received an unofficial report that Graziani, former chief of staff of the Italian Army and loser of the first Libyan campaign, had been sentenced this morning and the execution carried out immediately, but there was not immediate confirmation.

Demonstrations continued in Milan during the day as funerals

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 4)

Munich Falls After Single Fighting Day

Capture Of City Hailed Second Only To Fall Of Berlin

PARIS, Tuesday, May 1.—(AP)—Munich, birthplace of the Nazi movement and the third greatest city of Germany, fell last night to the triumphant U. S. Seventh Army after a short but savage one-day battle.

Gen. Jacob L. Devers, commander of the Sixth Army Group, hailed the fall of Munich as the accomplishment of one principal objective of his army group and declared "it may well affect the final stages of the war to a degree second only to the fall of Berlin."

All organized resistance was crushed in the three-quarters of Munich lying west of the Isar river and today Doughboys were crossing the stream to clear out snipers from the final quarter.

More than 50 miles south of this reputed northern citadel of the Nazis' last-stand fortress in the Alps, other Seventh Army tanks and infantry plunged into the Bavarian Alps, 12 miles northwest of Innsbruck at the northern end of the Brenner pass, impelling the entire German position in the west third of the redoubt.

Amid reports that the Germans were trying to negotiate final surrender, Gen. Eisenhower's armies hammered ahead in both the north and south.

The U. S. First and Ninth Armies made two new junctions with the Russians on the Elbe southwest of Berlin and were about to snap shut a trap on large numbers of the capital's defenders farther north.

The U. S. 82nd Airborne Division, fighting as part of the British Second Army, forced a second crossing of the Elbe river in the Hamburg sector and drove north about two miles.

The British in their own bridgehead 20 miles east of Hamburg were, at least six miles beyond the river and were 25 miles south of Luebeck, whose fall would seal off the North German province of Schleswig-Holstein as well as Denmark.

(An unconfirmed Stockholm report said German Marines multiplied at the Kiel naval base rather than go to the front.)

In the south, the U. S. Third Army seized control of 60 miles of the Isar river northeast of Munich, crossed at three points, and armored columns fought 65 miles north of Salzburg, eastern anchor of the redoubt.

On the east flank, two more crossings were made into Czechoslovakia and armored columns were heading south for what may be a big tank battle in Austria with German tanks moving north to meet the attack.

(The Luxembourg radio said the Third Army and the Russians were about to meet at Linz, Austrian communications city, but there was no hint in field dispatches of any big American movement inside Austria on that sector.)

Plugging at the western end of the redoubt, the French First Army captured the aircraft center of Friedrichshafen on the north side of Lake Constance and at the east end of the lake plowed three miles into Austria and captured Bregenz.

The Seventh Army was pounding two steel wedges into the formidable Alpine country east of Lake Constance where, if anywhere, the Germans should be able to put up a stern defense.

But a dispatch from the field said that a large force of German standing guard on the northern approaches to Innsbruck was unofficially reported to be negotiating for surrender.

It was on this sector that the Americans were a dozen miles from Innsbruck, which controls all east-west roads through the Alpine redoubt, after capturing the Alpine town of Mittenwald.

Twenty-six miles to the west, a second wedge had been driven 10 miles into Austria, and forking out along the Alpine highways two columns both were about 15 miles from the main east-west highway leading into Innsbruck.

It was the 45th Division which

(Continued on Page Three; Col. 3)