

# WICTORY

V-Day

The Shelby Daily Star

Extra

CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894

TELEPHONES 1100

VOL. XLIII-109

ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS

SHELBY, N. C.

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1945

TELEMAT PICTURES

SINGLE COPIES—5c

# GERMANY QUITS

## Greatest War In All History Comes To End

### Surrender Of Reich To Western Allies And Russia Made At Eisenhower Headquarters

By The Associated Press

LONDON, May 7.—The greatest war in history ended today with the unconditional surrender of Germany.

The surrender of the Reich to the Western Allies and Russia was made at Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters at Reims, France by Col. Gen. Gustaf Jodl, chief of staff for the German army.

This was announced officially after German broadcasts told the German people that Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz had ordered the capitulation of all fighting forces, and called off the U-boat war.

Joy at the news was tempered only by the realization that the war against Japan remains to be resolved, with many casualties still ahead.

The end of the European warfare, greatest, bloodiest and costliest war in human history—It has claimed at least 40,000,000 casualties on both sides in killed, wounded, and captured—came after five years, eight months, and six days of strife and overspread the globe.

Hitler's arrogant armies invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, beginning the agony that convulsed the world for 2,319 days.

### GERMANY ADMITS DEFEAT

Unconditional surrender of the beaten remnants of his legions first was announced by the Germans.

The historic news began breaking with a Danish broadcast that Norway had been surrendered unconditionally by its conquerors.

Then the new German foreign minister, Ludwig Scherwin von Krosigk, announced to the German people, shortly after 2 p. m. (8 a. m. Eastern War Time), that "after almost six years struggle we have succumbed."

Von Krosigk announced Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz had "ordered the unconditional surrender of all fighting German troops."

The world waited tensely. Then at 9:35 A. M., E.W.T., came the Associated Press flash from Reims, France, telling of the signing at Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters of the unconditional surrender at 2:41 A. M. French time (8:41 P. M., E.W.T.) Germany had given up to the western Allies and to Russia.

### LONDON GOES WILD

London went wild at the news. Crowds jammed Piccadilly Circus. Smiling throngs poured out of subways and lined the streets.

(Cheers went up in New York, too, and papers showered down from skyscrapers.)

### SOUR NOTES

A sour note came from the German-controlled radio at Prague. A broadcast monitored by the Czechoslovak government offices in London said the German commander in Czechoslovakia did not recognize the surrender of Admiral Doenitz and would fight on until his forces "have secured free passage for German troops out of the country." But the Prague radio earlier announced the capitulation of Breslau, long besieged by Russian forces.

The BBC said telephone conversations were going on between London, Washington and Moscow in order to fix the exact hour of the V-E Day announcement by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin.

## THIS IS HIS DAY!



## How Allies Won; Cost In Lives, 30 Millions Killed, Injured And Captured, On Both Sides

### SHELBIANS GIVE THANKS

#### Joyful News Of Victory In Europe Spreads "Like Wild Fire"

War weary and thankful Shelby citizens rejoiced with the world today at the close of the European war. The joyful news spread over the city like wildfire soon after the radios began telling the story this morning.

It was a prayerful group which met at the Cleveland county courthouse this morning at 11 o'clock to join with all the ministers of the city, white and negro, in prayers of thanksgiving for victory.

Never has the old courthouse bell in Cleveland rung under more happy circumstances as it pealed out the call to the assembly. Crowds began to collect on the streets. The fire siren whirled out the news at 10 o'clock on the dot. This was followed by the honking of automobile horns, extra edition of the Shelby Daily Star and a deluge of telephone calls to the Star Office.

**THANKFUL PEOPLE**  
"Has Germany surrendered?" came the query over the wire to the newspaper office from more than one voice.

"Germany has quit," always went back the reply. "Thank God," "O Happy Day," and many such other ejaculations were made over the telephone.

Marshal Karl Gerd von Rundstedt, whom General Eisenhower once called "the greatest German strategist" of World War II, tells why Germany lost the war. Captured by American Seventh Army units near Bad Tolz in Bavaria, the stiff-necked, typically Prussian officer who had directed German campaigns in North Africa, Italy and finally in western Europe gave these reasons: (1) The Allies' strategic and tactical bombing campaigns; (2) Germany's lack of oil and gasoline for motorized transport; (3) The power of the Allies' naval guns, which reached deep inland in the time of the Normandy invasion, making impossible the bringing up of reserves needed to hurl Allied invasion forces into the channel.

"Had it not been for these factors," the 65-year-old Marshal said, "and had I been able to draw divisions and reserves together I am positive that the first Allied landing would not have been successful and I could have knocked out the Allies." As it was, he continued, "the Allies' terrific airpower" broke up all bridges and pinned me down completely and the terrific power of the naval guns made it absolutely impossible for reserves to come up. There was little petrol and everything had to be moved on foot and in wagons."

### GUNS AND BOMBERS

These bitter words from the defeated commander, along with his comments on other phases of the war, sketched the back ground of last week's events on Europe's battlefields. Air power certainly had paved the way for them. In five years and eight months of war American and British bombers had rained 2,500,000 tons on the factories that made the weapons of the Wehrmacht. It was air power and sea power, too, that had first halted Hitler's jack-booted legions at the English Channel in June, 1940. Before the turn in the tide came, the Wehrmacht had carried Marshal von Rundstedt and the other

such as Prussian militarism had never known before. At their peak the Nazi conquests stretched from the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia almost to the Nile, from the Bay Biscay almost to the Caspian Sea.

What silenced the trumpets that had announced Nazi victories? In July, 1942, the British stopped Rommel at El Alamein, despite the Axis' optimistic preparations for a triumphal march into Cairo. In October the Russians dug into Stalingrad and fought to the death to hold the Germans at the Volga. Thus both arms of the pincers that was closing on the Middle East were stopped. It was the highwater mark of the Nazi conquest; Hitler had overreached himself.

The liberation of Sicily and the invasion of Italy rounded out 1943, a year of burgeoning Allied hopes. D-Day—June 6, 1944—brought a great climactic in the war. Thereafter, as the Allies drove toward the Reich from the west and the Russians from the east, it was only time that mattered. Axis Europe fell apart.

**THE GIGANTIC COST**  
The war that Adolf Hitler began on that black day—Sept. 1, 1939—when his planes and tanks swept eastward into Poland, has in its sixty-eight-month course, taken a

and material resources than any conflict in history. The total cost is beyond computation; it will take generations to draw up a balance sheet. Yet here and there estimates by experts give clues to the vast loss of life and treasure.

The most reliable estimates of battle casualties indicate a death toll of between nine and ten million men in the European war. To these are added another nine or ten million men permanently disabled, besides millions more who suffered slighter wounds. Prisoners are believed to have numbered about twelve million. Axis and Allied battle losses are believed to have been approximately equal, or about 15,000,000 each. Some observers think Germany may have suffered as much as four-fifths of the Axis losses. Russia, it appears, has sustained well over two-thirds of the Allied losses. American casualties in the European theatres total about 700,000, of which about 145,000 are battle deaths.

### CIVILIAN TOLL

The civilian casualties include the millions who have succumbed to disease and starvation or have been murdered in Nazi concentration camps. They include, too, other millions who have survived but whose minds and bodies will continue to bear the marks of their long ordeal. No accurate total is possible but certain figures give glimpses of the civilian toll. British civilian casualties from enemy bombings and the robot and V-2 weapons numbered about 145,000. Of Poland's pre-war population of 35,000,000, it is believed that nearly 10,000,000 have perished or "disappeared"—a large proportion of them into Nazi death camps.

War expenditures by the United Nations by February of this year were estimated to have reached \$500 billions. The cost to the United States alone through June 1945

## Surrender Is Signed 8:41 PM E. W. T. Sunday

### Signed At Eisenhower Headquarters By Representatives U. S., Germany, France, Others

By EDWARD KENNEDY

REIMS, France, May 7.—(AP)—Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and Russia at 2:41 A. M. French time today.

(This was at 8:41 P. M., Eastern War Time Sunday).

The surrender took place at a little red school house which is the headquarters of Gen. Eisenhower.

The surrender which brought the war in Europe to a formal end after five years, eight months and six days of bloodshed and destruction was signed for Germany by Col. Gen. Gustav-Jodl.

It was signed for the Supreme Allied command by Lieutenant General Walter Bedell Smith, chief of staff for General Eisenhower.

It was also signed by General Ivan Susloparoff for Russia and by General Francois Sevez for France.

General Eisenhower was not present at the signing, but immediately afterward Jodl and his fellow delegate, General Admiral Hans George Friedeburg, were received by the Supreme Commander.

They were asked sternly if they understood the surrender terms imposed upon Germany and if they would be carried out by Germany.

They answered Yes.

Germany, which began the war with a ruthless attack upon Poland, followed by successive aggressions and brutality in internment camps, surrendered with an appeal to the victors for mercy toward the German people and armed forces.

After signing the full surrender, Jodl said he wanted to speak and was given leave to do so.

"With this signature," he said in soft-spoken German, "the German people and armed forces are for better or worse delivered into the victors' hands."

"In this war which has lasted more than five years both have achieved and suffered more than perhaps any other people in the world."

By The Associated Press

Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl who signed the unconditional surrender for Germany apparently is the same as Gen. Alfred Jodl who was wounded last July 20 in the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler.

The surrender dispatch said Jodl was the new German army chief of staff.

Precisely when he became chief of staff was not clear. Col. Gen. Heinz Guderian had occupied that position until the closing days of the siege of Berlin. His fate and whereabouts has not been reported since Berlin fell.

On March 17, Jodl inspected the Bavarian redoubt where the nazis had hoped to make their last stand. Back in 1942, Jodl was reported to have been Hitler's personal