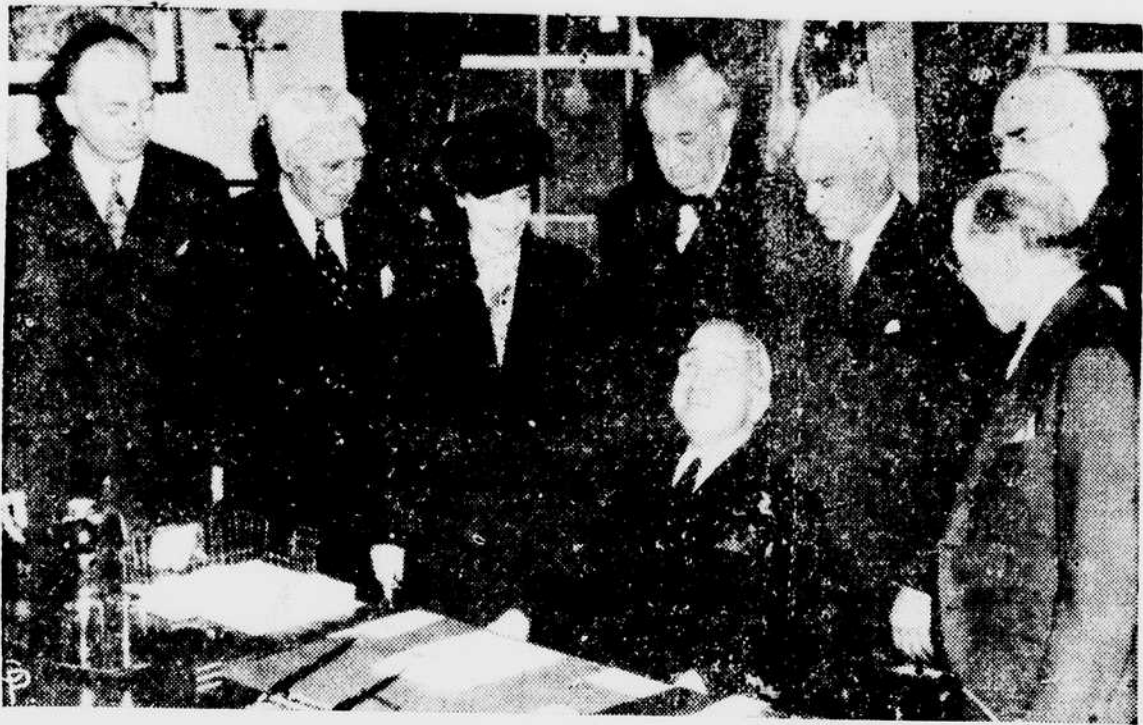


Russians In Suburbs Of Berlin

U. S. AND SOVIET ARMIES NEAR JUNCTION

TRUMAN RECEIVES SAN FRANCISCO DELEGATES



PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN and the U. S. delegates to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco are pictured at the White House as they meet for informal discussion. The delegates are (l. to r.): Commander Harold Stassen of Minnesota; Rep. Charles Eaton, New Jersey; Mrs. Virginia Gildersleeve, dean of Barnard College; Senator Tom Connally of Texas; Secretary of State Edward Stettinius; Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan; and Representative Sol Bloom of New York.

Yanks Take Asch, Great Czech City

Three Allied Armies Hammer Toward Nazi Hideout In Bavaria

Paris, April 21.—(AP)—The dramatic link-up of Russian and American forces appeared today to be only a matter of hours away. Reports that patrols already had made contact were made here, but lacked confirmation at supreme headquarters.

Berlin broadcasts placed the forces only 32 miles apart, and Moscow earlier indicated the distance had been narrowed to 25 miles.

Paris, April 21.—(AP)—The U. S. third army troops, smashing into Czechoslovakia, captured Asch today in a drive toward the munitions cities of Pilsen and Prague. At the same time Moscow dispatches declared Soviet and American out-riders were but 25 miles apart south of Berlin.

The latest word at supreme headquarters put the two forces within 40 to 45 miles of a link-up.

Three Allied armies—the French first and the U. S. seventh and third—hammered southward toward the Nazis' Bavarian-Austrian redoubt, and fought within 70 miles of Munich, and 30 from Lake Constance.

Asch, just inside the old Czech border, fell to third army units fighting to cut off the redoubt from Czechoslovakia war factories. Asch is 40 miles from Pilsen. Lt. Gen. Patton's troops farther south were 50 miles from Pilsen and 125 from Prague.

Red army front dispatches said Russian and U. S. patrols were as close as 25 miles south of Berlin, and a junction on the Elbe river, 75 miles south of the German capital, was believed imminent.

The best information at Allied headquarters was that 40 to 45 miles still separated Russians northeast of Dresden from U. S. first and third army forces along the Mulde river east of Leipzig. But it was clear that the two forces now could meet almost at will, perhaps within the next 24 to 48 hours.

Doughboys were 15 to 20 miles from the Elbe opposite the Russian wedge, and the Soviets were reported to be 25 miles from the Elbe.

A British correspondent with the U. S. ninth army declared the muffled thunder of Russian guns could be heard.

Two ninth army divisions opened a flank attack this morning west of Wittenberg, about midway between Berlin and Hamburg, and thrust half way through the Gartow forest. Dierdorf and Abendorf were recaptured and enemy forces were mopped up.

General Eisenhower quickened his drive to crush open the areas where the Germans may make their last great stand—the northern part belt and the southern redoubt.

British armor plunged into the outskirts of Zeven, 20 miles north-east of Bremen, in a drive to encircle the river port, and also cut the main road five miles south of Zeven. British troops were a mile from the suburbs of Hamburg, second city of Germany, and now dominated 20 miles of the Elbe southeast of the city.

The Canadian first army intensified a drive on the naval parts of Emden and Wilhelmshaven against bitter opposition. Polish tanks captured Aschenburg in the railway to Emden, and patrolled into Papenburg.

Cotton Mixed At The Close

New York, April 21.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 15 cents a bale higher, and closed ten cents a bale higher to five cent lower.

	Open	Close
May	22.69	22.63
July	22.46	22.46
October	21.86	21.87
December	21.76	21.76
March	21.69	21.63

Middling spot, 22.94, off one.

Named to New Post



PRESIDENT TRUMAN has nominated Spruille Braden, New York, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic. Braden will take the post formerly held by Norman Armour who was recalled to this country more than a year ago when relations between the United States and Argentina cooled. (International)

Capital Is Entered In Five Directions, The Germans Admit

Berlin Is Now Being Enveloped; Konev Breakthrough Is Growing

London, April 21.—(AP)—The Germans said today that massive Russian forces were enveloping Berlin through suburbs on the east, north and southwest, and were shelling Potsdamer Platz in the center of the doomed city.

Soviet forces, by enemy account, had fought their way into Berlin's suburbs at five places. The Russian drive to Berman, three miles from the city limits, was announced by the German high command. This action constituted part of the northern envelopment move against Berlin.

In a swift penetration of Nazi defenses below the capital, after Russian forces advanced to within 100 yards of the capital, the German high command announced. In this attack, the Russians reached the vicinity of Breditz and Trebnitz, respectively 12 and 22 miles southwest of Berlin's great southwestern suburb of Potsdam.

Stoewer dispatches indicated American and Russian forces may be only 25 miles apart.

The German high command communique announced a 55-mile breakthrough scored by Marshal Konev's first Ukrainian army had reached Juteborg, 27 miles south of Berlin.

To the north the first White Russian army, making a frontal assault on Berlin, was locked in a bitter battle with Nazi defenders of the capital, the German high command said. Still farther north, other Russian forces were declared to have erected two bridgeheads over the river between Schweid and Stettin, guarding the northern approaches to Berlin.

Polish troops of the British eighth army and the U. S. 91st division and the 34th division all entered the historic Italian fortress city on the southern edge of the Po valley at the foot of the Apennines.

With Bologna captured, the major German defense position south of the Po river was eliminated, and the Nazis once again moved northward.

Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, in a message of congratulations to the victorious troops, said: "Let us keep moving forward until the last enemy soldier has been driven from Italy."

General Mark Clark, Allied ground commander, said his 15th army group now stands "inside the gateway to the Po plain, poised to destroy the Germans, who continue to enslave and exploit southern Italy."

The fall of the city of 270,000, which had housed Allied troops for months, came quickly after fifth army troops had severed the important Bologna-Milan highway northwest of the city yesterday.

WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Partly cloudy and warm tonight; Sunday, partly cloudy and warm, with showers in west portions during afternoon.

Fighting On Okinawa Is Very Fierce

Stubborn Defense Offered By Japs As Yanks Advance

Guam, April 21.—(AP)—Fighting on southern Okinawa raged fiercely today as Japanese troops fought a stubborn defense action against three American divisions driving toward Naha, the island's capital.

Admiral Nimitz' communique yesterday said 15 American ships of all types were lost during Okinawa operations between March 18 and April 18. The Japanese lost 100 vessels, among them the prize 45,000-ton battleship Yamato. Added to this total in sea, land, air warfare were 2,569 blasted Japanese planes.

American losses included five destroyers, a destroyer transport, two mine craft, a gunboat, four landing craft and two ammunition vessels.

Despite terrific casualties from artillery bombardments for the southwest push of the 27th, 96th and 7th divisions, the enemy on southern Okinawa was resisting stubbornly. The 27th passed Kasaru ridge, but was mopping up bypassed pockets of Japanese. The 27th advanced 1,000 yards in the first 24 hours, and was only 800 yards from the Machinato airstrip, both east of Naha. In the center of the three-pronged drive the 96th was bucking rough terrain, its right flank deluged nearly a half hour in starting because of a fierce enemy artillery bombardment. Men of the seventh, after a 1,400-yard advance, were inching toward Yonahara airstrip, a bare 200 yards from its target.

On little Ie island, the enemy defenses had taken a suicide aspect as the 7th division coped with makeshift defenses, including wooden mines, depressed anti-aircraft guns which raked the beaches, and 500-pound bombs rigged with detonating grenades.

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World Organization Must Be Open To All, Churchill Says

Senator George Is Urged As Morgenthau Successor

Washington, April 21.—(AP)—A quiet boom was under way today for the appointment of Senator Walter F. George as secretary of the treasury.

Friends of the senator disclosed they have urged President Truman to choose the Georgian if Henry Morgenthau, Jr., leaves the cabinet.

The President's reaction was not known. Nine days ago, when he took the oath as chief executive, he asked all members of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet to stay on indefinitely. Nevertheless, there is good reason to believe that a number of changes are in the making.

An intimate personal friend and neighbor of the late President, Morgenthau may decide to step aside after the seventh war loan, and clear the way for Mr. Truman to choose a new fiscal adviser. Such a decision would hardly surprise Capitol Hill.

Morgenthau, treasury chief for eleven years, apparently never found the correct formula for acting along with Congress. Some of his appearances as the government's chief witness on tax legislation have been stormy.

Intensely loyal to Mr. Roosevelt, Morgenthau irritated members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee last year by his brick-wall insistence on a Roosevelt-sponsored tax bill which the law-makers considered too heavy for the nation's economy.

Significantly, when Mr. Roosevelt vetoed the smaller revenue bill written by Congress, Mr. Truman joined other members of the Senate in overruling the President's disapproval, 72 to 14.

His views were expressed under a new roof in the fire-blackened hall of the University of Bristol, to which he came to present medals to two members of his war cabinet.

Churchill told the University audience that inside the vast structure of the new world organization, "from which will come a long and peaceful period, there will be open, and inseparable, friendship and affection as the great English-speaking nations of the world."

He said the Allies were approaching a period "when the Germans will be conquered completely, and Europe will be entirely liberated from their thrall; when they will be added to those long melancholy and humiliated streams of prisoners that, having done their worst against the world, had no hope in but in its mercy."

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ECTC Students Demand Greater Campus Freedom

Raleigh, April 21.—(AP)—Student body officers of East Carolina Teachers College at Greenville called upon Governor Cherry today to grant them more freedom of action and assembly.

They said their chief concern was the welfare of the college, and they wanted to rid the campus of dissension and friction. They said they were unable to hold mass meetings unless approval were given by faculty advisors and acting President Howard M. Gimmis.

They said that dissension, similar to that present last year before, during and after former President Leon Meadows was given a hearing before the board of trustees, was still present.

They asked the governor's help in clearing the situation, that he replied that that was purely a matter for the trustees, five of whom see their terms expire June 30.

Governor Cherry said the delegation pledged its cooperation in behalf of the college's welfare.

tion of price stabilization. Royster said a meeting of the board of governors of the Bright Belt Warehousemen's Association was held in Raleigh Friday and ratified the action of the farm group held there on Thursday in requesting action by government agencies in stabilizing tobacco prices on the basis of the weighted average ceilings.

The committee which Royster heads to go to Washington to present the appeal will call on Frank W. Hancock, of Oxford, chairman of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Broughten Lawyer For Leaf Group

Raleigh, April 21.—(AP)—Fred Royster, of Henderson, president of the Bright Belt Tobacco Warehousemen's Association announced here today that former Governor J. M. Broughten has been retained as general counsel for the association, which represents 343 warehouses in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina and Virginia.

Royster said the board of governors of the association has endorsed proposals of farm groups which met here Thursday and recommended a 39-cent minimum and a 41-cent a pound maximum on the Georgia-Florida belt and a 43-1-2-cent minimum and 45-1-2-cent maximum weighted average on all other belts. He explained that the difference in price lies in the fact that Georgia and Florida tobacco is ungraded and untied, while tobacco throughout the other belts is both tied and graded.

A proposal was adopted, Royster said, to ask the Commodity Credit Corporation to stabilize the tobacco market. Should a downward trend indicate that prices would fall below the minimum set, he said, the CCC would step in and stabilize the market at the minimum.

Royster said such a guarantee from the CCC would help avoid trouble which has beset tobacco growers for the past several years, and might prevent market holidays. He plans to head a committee which will go to Washington soon to confer with CCC, War Food Administration and Office of Price Administration officials on the ques-

AS SLAVE HORDES ROAM GERMANY



TYPICAL OF SCENES reported throughout the shattered Reich is this view on a German road as hundreds of liberated Russians, former slave laborers for the enemy, march wearily toward the rear. Carrying the Soviet Union's hammer-and-sickle emblem, they are beginning the long journey back to their homeland. British official photo. (International)

Negro Prisoner Killed In Escape

Raleigh, April 21.—(AP)—The State penal department announced today that Alex Hanks, 29, Negro, sentenced in Warren county in 1943 to serve eight to ten years for assault with a deadly weapon, was killed yesterday afternoon when he fled from the Scotland county prison camp.

Officials said Hanks and another Negro, Henry Cummings, sentenced in Cumberland county last June to 15 to 18 years for manslaughter, attempted to escape together, and that Hanks was shot by Prison Guard Marvin Jernigan.

Cummings fled into the woods, where he was still being sought today. A coroner's jury exonerated Jernigan.