

Yanks in Munich, Peril Redoubt

Report Ultimatum Demands Surrender Tomorrow

Nazi Offer Is Denied By Truman

Quick denials by President Truman and Gen. Eisenhower put the damper on reports that Germany had surrendered unconditionally, but dispatches from the San Francisco Conference—quoting high officials—said yesterday that acceptance was "expected hourly" of a reported Allied ultimatum calling on the Germans to surrender by tomorrow.

According to these reports, the United States, Great Britain and Russia had delivered the ultimatum to the German government controlled by Heinrich Himmler after a surrender offer to the U.S. and Britain had been rejected because Russia was not included. The alternative, reports said, would be the intensified destruction of Germany's physical assets.

"The German offer is generally acceptable to the American authorities, except that all the Allies must be included," Morgan Beatty, NBC commentator, said in a broadcast from Washington. The offer, Beatty said, was made in the middle of last week.

"There is no foundation for reports that Germany has surrendered unconditionally. These rumors are unfounded," Mr. Truman told newspaper correspondents Saturday night after an Associated Press dispatch from San Francisco quoted a member of the U.S. delegation as saying that an announcement of Germany's unconditional surrender to the Allies "without any strings" was expected momentarily.

It Was Connally Who Talked

The spokesman later was identified as Sen. Tom Connally (D.-Tex.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and vice-chairman of the delegation. Connally's statement was supported by another member of the delegation, AP stated. The Texas Democrat later said he had authorized the statement and that he had no wish to change it.

The Swedish Foreign Office yesterday confirmed reports that a surrender offer had been made and that Count Folke Bernadotte, vice-president of the Swedish Red Cross, had been the intermediary.

Gen. Eisenhower told The Stars and Stripes early Sunday morning he knew nothing of any surrender offer. He said he had heard the press reports but knew nothing of such negotiations. Mr. Truman said Gen. Eisenhower had been contacted before the President's denial was made.

Connally, AP reported, said the surrender offer was made by Himmler with the explanation that Adolf Hitler was ill and might not live another 24 hours. Himmler also, according to reports, offered to hand over Hitler's body as a token of good faith.

Many diplomats in San Francisco interpreted the report on Hitler's illness as meaning that Hitler was dead and that Himmler had killed him. Others explained that what Himmler meant was that Der Fuehrer was a very sick man and that the announcement of unconditional surrender would be such a shock it would cause death.

Delegates believed that an announcement (Continued on back page)



SHRINKING NAZI POCKETS: With the historic link-up of American and Soviet troops forged at Torgau, Nazi pockets of resistance were dwindling last night. Red troops were clearing Berlin, while the U.S. 3rd and 7th Armies drove toward Hitler's southern redoubt, with the 7th entering Munich.

Berlin Tottering; New Pocket Forming In Czechoslovakia

Reports of imminent peace in Europe, spawned by Allied hope and German despair, flew throughout the world over the week-end, but bullets and shells continued flying on the Continent's various battle fronts as Allied and Russian armies continued to mop up enemy forces still showing fight in the shattered Third Reich.

Nazi Germany was in its last throes. Berlin, its heart, was being crushed beneath the weight of Soviet forces apparently eager to secure the Reich capital as a May Day prize for Marshal Stalin. Munich, cradle of the Nazi movement and capital of Bavaria, had been entered by American forces as the redoubt in southern Germany was squeezed from both north and south. American and British forces were lunging through northern Italy in stabs such as the campaign on that peninsula had never before witnessed.

While American and French troops pushed on to clear the Germans from the southern redoubt, one of the two huge pockets formed by the American-Russian link-up at Torgau, U.S. and British forces lunged eastward from their Elbe River positions west of Berlin in a move to liquidate the northern pocket.

Push Toward More Suicides, Desertions Link-Ups With Reds Said Mounting

Munich, birthplace of Nazism and one of the last German redoubts, was entered yesterday by American forces after a slashing 20-mile advance. Dispatches so far have failed to clarify week-end reports that the Nazis had succeeded in quelling a revolt in the city, which was the site in 1923 of Hitler's first great failure—the beer-hall putsch—and which will serve again as a symbol of his forthcoming last defeat.

While the troops in the south had reached the heart of Hitler's last-stand area, in the north both the British and Americans jumped off from their Elbe River positions, driving to the east toward Berlin and other junctures with the Russian forces.

U.S. 9th Army troops, given the green light to strike out from their bridgehead over the Elbe opposite Barby, southwest of Berlin, captured Zerbst, 36 miles from Brandenburg, on the road to the battle-torn German capital.

On the 9th's left flank, British forces lunged across the Elbe near Lauenburg, east of Hamburg, and drove several miles to the east. The offensive began early yesterday after a 400-gun, 76,000-shell barrage. Opposition was described as moderate.

On the Elbe's eastern banks, meanwhile, the Russians were reported moving up solidly from Wittenberge southward almost to Dresden, a 70-mile stretch. West and south of Torgau, where the Reich-splitting juncture occurred, little if any opposition seemed to be facing the Americans and prospects of a solid link-up between the Americans and Soviets appeared bright, a dispatch from SHAEF said.

Dispatches said three American columns (Continued on back page)

The battle for Berlin appeared to be in its final stages, with three quarters of the city already in their hands, launched a powerful assault against the core of German resistance now compressed in the heart of Hitler's capital.

Moscow reports said the Red Army was battling for a May Day victory as Marshals Zhukov and Koniev fought to drive a wedge through the Nazi garrison by linking-up in the central area of Unter den Linden.

As the siege entered its final round an epidemic of suicides and desertions appeared to be sweeping the capital. Nazi leaders, according to reports, were taking their own lives rather than be captured by the Russians. Other reports trickling through the lines said at least 40,000 German troops had stripped off their uniforms and were hiding in cellars, subways and sewers.

"The Germans took it for a time, but now they are cracking in blazing Berlin," a United Press correspondent wrote from Moscow. "From all parts of the city come reports of mass surrender to the Nazis, of commanders taking drastic measures to prevent their troops deserting and, when that fails, shooting themselves."

Other dispatches said the streets were littered with Nazi party badges, emblems and uniforms, discarded by the Germans in an effort to hide their affiliation with the Nazis. A snowstorm of charred, blackened paper also was falling on the streets, reports said, as the Nazis burned all documents and state archives. Civilians were doing likewise—destroying everything that would connect them with Hitler and his regime.

SS troops, supported by groups of officers and cadets, appeared to be the (Continued on back page)

Report Mussolini Shot With Other Top Fascists

Persistent but unverified reports yesterday indicated that Mussolini, like Hitler, with whom he collaborated in the Nazi-Fascist plot to conquer the world, may have died at the hands of his own countrymen.

The report came at the same time that Himmler was said to have notified the Allies that Hitler was on the verge of death, while other sources said Der Fuehrer had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mussolini's death, together with those of his latest mistress and a number of Fascist Party officials, at the hands of a firing squad of Italian patriots, was reported by Rome Radio, relaying broadcasts from Milan by the Italian Liberation Committee there.

A Milan broadcast said crowds spat on the body of Mussolini when it was exhibited with the bodies of 15 other Fascists in a Milan square, United Press reported. Il Duce's body was said to have been brought from Como on the Italo-Swiss frontier, where he was said to have been caught with several of his Ministers trying to sneak across the border.

German Civilian Diet To Be One-Third GI's

SHAEP, Apr. 29 (Reuter)—Military Government officers at U.S. 15th Army HQ announced yesterday that German civilians will be allowed a diet one-third that of American soldiers and little more than half the standard for liberated Europe. The majority of civilians in Germany will be allowed 1,150 calories a day, compared with 4,000 a day consumed by American soldiers, and consumption of between 2,500 and 3,000 in the U.S. and 2,000 which is the standard of liberated countries.

Disposition of Other Fascists

Milan Radio also gave the following unconfirmed reports on the disposition of various Fascists: Executed: Alessandro Pavolini, Secretary-General of the new Republican Fascist Party, set up by Mussolini on Sept. 23, 1943; Carlo Scorza, former Secretary of the Fascist Party; Roberto Farinacci, Mussolini's delegate to the German High Command in Italy; Francesco Baracca, vice-president of the Fascist Council of Ministers; Achille Starace, former Secretary-General of the Fascist Party; Clara Petacci, said to be the former Duce's mistress and to have been with him when he was captured. Captured: Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, former Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Army; Lt. Gen. Renato Ricci, Mussolini's Minister of State; Buffarini Guido, Minister of Interior in the present Republican Fascist Party.

Hidden Nazi Ammo Will be Used by Allies

CHICAGO, Apr. 29 (ANS)—Army Ordnance crews cleaning up the shattered German city of Aachen have uncovered vast quantities of hidden ammunition which will be used against the Nazis, Col. John Slezak, Chief of the Chicago Ordnance District, said today.

Pinned on Fourth Star News Orderly Elevated Patton

By Pat Mitchell
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH 3RD ARMY, Apr. 29—A fourth star was added to Gen. George S. Patton's shoulder straps, it was revealed today, even before the 3rd Army Commander was aware of the promotion.

Patton's personal orderly, M/Sgt. William Meeks, of Johnson City, Kan., had sewn the Army's second highest rank on the general's uniforms. When Patton was informed of his promotion from the rank of lieutenant general he raised Meeks' rank from T/Sgt. to Master in accordance with his custom of successively raising his orderly's grade as he was promoted himself. Meeks started with the rank of Pfc. Meeks, who has been Patton's striker since The Old Man was a lieutenant



WOLF! WOLF! GIs gathered in Rainbow Corner, London, early Sunday morning to exult over a premature report of Germany's surrender as published in a London paper. The second edition of the paper carried somewhat modified headlines.

The World Today and Tomorrow



in two by bombs dropped from American planes, starts its swan dive. Escorts of P38s and P47s, which accompanied the bombers, shot down 16 of 20 intercepting planes. At least three of the convoy's transports and six escorting ships were sunk. Others were damaged.



LOOKING AHEAD: Preparing for the post-war age, Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace is taking flying lessons. Here the stormy petrel of American politics steps out of a plane after finishing his first lesson.

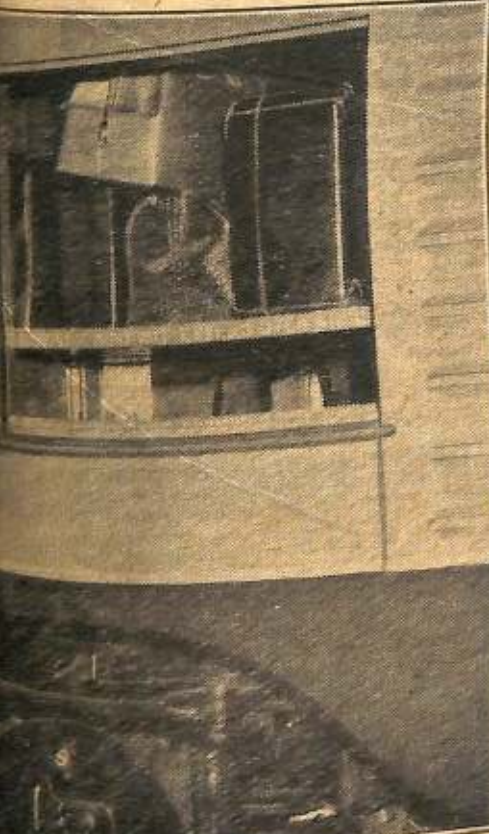


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WELCOME BACK: Jean Bartel, who was "Miss America of 1943," is back in Los Angeles after a four-months tour of Central and South America. She entertained U.S. and Latin-American troops.

aret Truman daughter of "break" between Washington U.



"Daylight" stream-lined coach trains will compartments. They are located at the ends of both the outside and inside.

Dittmar Says Nazi Redoubt Not So Tough

By Wade Jones

WITH U.S. 9TH ARMY, Apr. 26 (delayed)—Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, Germany's leading military analyst, who surrendered yesterday at Magdeburg, said he expected "within a few days," would precipitate the piecemeal surrender of remaining German armies.

He ventured no date for the complete cessation of hostilities, but indicated the much-discussed national redoubt in the mountains to the south might not prove too tough to clear.

Dittmar, who left Berlin last Thursday night, said Hitler was there then and as commander of the defenses of the capital, he undoubtedly would remain. Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, as far as he knew, said Dittmar, was also in Berlin, but, he added, he had no information on the whereabouts of Himmler or Goering.

"No one talks about Goering these days," he said. "He is rather forgotten."

Gives Himself Up

The slight, 54-year-old officer, clad in a green Wehrmacht uniform and black boots, surrendered late yesterday afternoon with his son, Brandt, 16, an army cadet.

Under a white flag, he crossed the Elbe River in a boat to ask American military authorities in Magdeburg to permit Germans across the river to evacuate about 300 wounded soldiers and civilians to our lines. He was met by Capt. Henry Abbes, of Glendale, N.Y.

After his request was refused, Dittmar was confronted with the choice of returning to his own lines or surrendering. He decided, after about an hour, to give himself up. Dittmar said that Magdeburg, on the east side of the river, was his former home and that he had gone to the front there to get first-hand material for his broadcasts.

Accompanying Dittmar and his son were two lower ranking officers, one of whom reiterated Dittmar's statement to an American officer that "Hitler will die in Berlin."

The Nazi General said he believed the national redoubt was the product of events. "Germany has been split in half with a pocket at the north and another to the south," he said. "In this situation her defenses now must naturally be in terms of these two separate sectors."

Didn't Like Idea

Dittmar rolled up to the regimental CP in a jeep which had brought him from the river bank.

The American troops on guard at the CP had been ordered to salute him, and though they didn't like the idea worth a damn, they did. Dittmar vaulted over the side of the jeep and saluted. His only weapon was a small dirk attached to his belt.

His manner in answering questions of newspaper correspondents was not forceful and his bearing was not impressive. His face was thin and lined and his hazel eyes had no fire. He was a beaten man and he knew it.

Allied Troops in Italy Really United Nations

ROME, Apr. 29—Allied troops fighting in Italy probably constitute the greatest array of nationalities ever welded into a united striking force.

They include Poles, Italians, Americans, Yugoslavs, Palestinian Jews, Brazilians, British, New Zealanders, South Africans, Gurkhas, Greeks and French.

2-Army Parlay

1st Held Winning Ticket In Soviet Race to the Elbe

False Alarms Kept 9th Army on Its Toes

By Ernest Leiser

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WAITING AT THE ELBE FOR RUSSIANS, Apr. 26 (delayed)—For every winner, they say, there has to be a loser.

Here's the sad story of a loser—in this case the 9th Army. The 9th and 1st, both waiting along the Elbe for Uncle Joe's boys, were like spectators at the Kentucky Derby.

Both just sat there on their backsides, rooting for their horse to finish first so they might share in the reflected glory. But this race had more suspense even than the best of derbies, because in this race you couldn't see who was running. All you could do was sit and wait at the finish line, or inch up to the home stretch and wait and look—and wait.

It got to be quite a game on this front. Front line doughs would sit on rooftops, looking through glasses to the ridges on the far side of the river, waiting for vehicle columns to come over the horizon into view. You'd spot something and naturally it would be the Russians.

The report would go back over the radio, everyone would get excited and maybe even the division commander would come down to the river, cross in an assault boat, and go Russian hunting. Then everyone would discover the column consisted of Jerry civilians and soldiers hauling tail out of the way of the Soviet advance, and everyone would settle back and start looking again.

The atmosphere was like a court house pressroom while the jury was out deliberating a verdict. Poker games, phone calls, rumors, tall stories helped pass the time. A flash would come in that the Russians had been sighted six kilometers east of the Schloss bungalow—the game would break up, everyone would go out and then gradually everyone would filter back again, and the poker game would begin anew.

Lt. Richard Scott, of Centralia, Ill., and this correspondent made a town-to-town canvas today up and down the Elbe looking for something beside frightened Germans. There had been rumors of Russians a mile from the river, two miles, a dozen kilometers. There wasn't a thing except a haziness in the distance and absolute stillness along the river's east banks.

And then you came back and learned that the horse you had backed had lost the race, that it wasn't even a photo finish. That's when you decided—not for the first time—playing the races was not a very good idea.

Winners Found Reds Big, Tough, Hearty

By G. K. Hodenfield

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AT A RUSSIAN CP EAST OF THE ELBE, Apr. 25 (delayed)—There are no fat men in the Red Army. At least, that's the first impression you're apt to get when you meet these soldiers—men who are just about as rough and tough as any character ever thrown into GI khaki.

Likewise, it is probably equally true that there are no teetotalers in the Soviet Army. If there are, they haven't dropped in at this CP yet today. Every time another American wanders in or another Russian reports, it calls for a drink all around, and the stuff they prefer is enough to dissolve the glass if you don't drink it quickly. There is an endless round of toasts to everything from the San Francisco conference to the repeal of prohibition.

The Russians set a good table, too. For lunch today there was a big plateful of sardines, plenty of zweiback and noodles and the Russian equivalent of hamburger. At least, it tasted like hamburger until 30 seconds after I swallowed it. Then my stomach felt the same way it would have had I eaten a hot stove instead of an innocent-looking chunk of meat.

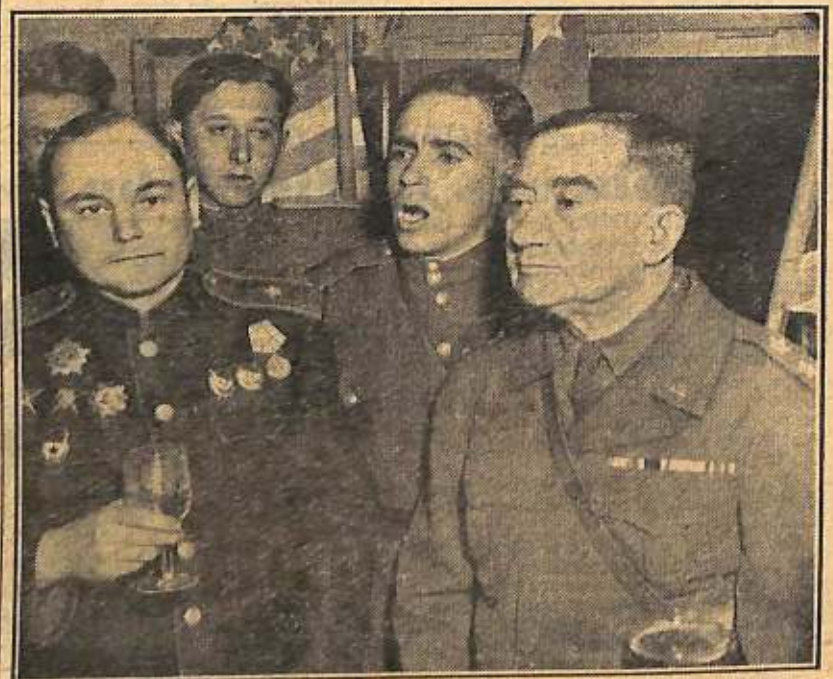
The hamburger, incidentally, seemed to be part of a vicious circle. When you had taken a bite of it you had to wash it down and when you'd wash it down you'd need another bite. You not only had a big meal, but you were apt to end up drunker than 700 rubles.

It is obvious, of course, that you can't run hogwild over German troops, as the Russians have, by the mere act of swigging from a bottle. But these Russians here today were so genuinely happy to see the Americans that the enemy was almost, not quite, forgotten.

Aided and abetted by Pfc Walter Hajdamacha of Manville, N.J., who was born in Russia and did not leave there until 1935, I engaged in what might be called a mutual congratulatory drinking bout with a man who is probably the Russian equivalent of a Stars and Stripes correspondent. He's been in the Red Army since Russia was attacked by Germany in June, 1941. And he started reporting during the siege of Stalingrad. Like many American correspondents, he takes his pictures with a "liberated" Leica camera. But, unlike most of our front-line reporters, he seems to have no particular deadline. Most of his copy goes to Moscow with ordinary mail.



THE LAST ACT: Gathered at the edge of the Elbe River near Torgau, Germany, war-weary, but happy, Russian refugees await the historic link-up between the 1st Army and the Red Army.



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos

BOTTOMS UP: Commanding general of the Red Army's 58th Infantry Division bends an elbow at the Elbe, toasting the link-up with the U.S. 69th Division. At right is Maj. Gen. E. F. Reinhardt, CG of the 69th. In the glass—vodka.

