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VICTORY

Nazis Reveal Surrender To Western Allies, Russia

The unconditional surrender of Germany to the Western Allies and Soviet Russia was announced by the German high command yesterday morning.

The official announcements from the Allied governments are expected to come simultaneously from Washington, London and Moscow today.

The British Ministry of Information, proclaiming that today would be 'Victory in Europe Day,' said Prime Minister Churchill would make 'an official announcement' at 3 PM.

President Truman said he had agreed with the British and Russian governments that no surrender proclamation would be made 'until simultaneous announcements could be made by the three governments.'

King George VI of England sent Gen. Eisenhower a cablegram last night

congratulating him and his armies on the 'complete and crushing victory' in Europe.

Nazis Still Fight Reds At Prague

Russian and U.S. Third Army troops, despite Germany's reported unconditional surrender, continued their sweep into Czechoslovakia yesterday after the Nazi commander there announced his forces still were at war with Russia.

Gen. Patton's famous Fourth Armored Div. last night was reported speeding toward Prague, where partisans and Germans were locked in a struggle for control of the capital. A Czech radio broadcast said Gen. Patton's troops were only 15 miles away and London reports said it was "entirely possible" that American vanguards already were in the city.

Russians Capture Breslau
Enemy sources said Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian Army had entered Bohemia from Saxony at a point probably 60 to 55 miles north of Prague.

All fighting stopped yesterday in Breslau, the Silesian capital which has been a battleground since Feb. 17. Marshal Stalin in an order of

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Prayer, Tears, Laughter—The World Celebrates

By David A. Gordon
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

People in Allied cities throughout the world yesterday accepted the news of the reported unconditional surrender of Germany as true—despite lack of official announcements from the governments of the U.S., Britain and Russia—and celebrated with prayer, liquor, tears and laughter.

Crowds milled in the streets of the world's great cities—in Times Square, New York; Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus in London, and along the Champs-Élysées, Paris—but it was not a wild jubilee. The absence of a clear-cut official announcement and the piece-by-piece collapse of the German Armies tended to dull the feeling of triumph.

Ticker Tape Shows Wall Street

Then, too, the huge casualty lists, the vast war against Japan that still lay ahead, the levelled cities and the shell-pitted fields and the absence of sons, fathers and brothers from homes, checked unrestrained exuberance.

Ticker tape poured from the office windows of Wall Street and shreds of telephone books from the windows of the Garment Center buildings in the Thirties, and men and women flooded Times Square, waving their arms and trying to express in words their happiness. Liquor, flowed inside bars, while people held newspaper extras and devoured the news.

Orderly Celebration Makes Things Easy for Police

But there was no special need for strict police measures, because the celebrating was orderly. Aristocratic Fifth Avenue in New York City also was covered with ripped sheets of paper which became shapeless messes in the wet streets, but stores remained open and some people seemed more dazed than jubilant.

On one section of Fifth Avenue, an impromptu conga line was formed, and on another, a group of girls marched spontane-

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The Associated Press broke the news of the surrender in a story from Rheims, France, that the Allies had announced Germany's surrender at 0241 hours yesterday morning. It said the surrender took place in the little red school house that is Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters.

Col. Gen. Gustaf Jodl, German army chief of staff, signed for Germany, it was reported.

The Associated Press story apparently was premature. From dispatches coming from Washington and London, it appeared that arrangements were being made to announce the surrender simultaneously in the three capitals when the news broke. This seemed apparent from President Truman's statement and news stories from London saying that Truman, Churchill and Stalin had conferred by telephone during the day.

Supreme Headquarters said it authorized no such story to be sent out. However, the American Broadcasting Station in Europe—operated by the Office of War Information—was reported by International News Service to have

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ETO VICTORY SUPPLEMENT



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Gen. Eisenhower views the ruins of Bastogne.

Box Score: Two Down One to Go

By Carl W. Larsen
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

THE European phase of World War II—which Adolf Hitler had hoped would fulfill Germany's dream of world conquest—has come to an end with the collapse of the Reich that the former Wehrmacht corporal promised would endure 1,000 years.

The ground, sea and air forces of the United Nations joined to defeat the two European members of the Axis—Germany and Italy. Now, Japan remains to be finished off.

The war that engulfed 46 nations and three continents opened with a razzle-dazzle of propaganda, secret weapons, armored spearheads, bombing armadas, parachute troops, fifth columnists and political sleight-of-hand.



By Associated Press

Adolf Hitler and Nazi officers survey damage in a German town.

Eisenhower and Allied Team Led Allies to Victory in West

By Richard Lewis
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

GEN. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, who characterized himself simply as a soldier of a democracy working for civilians, led Allied armies to victory in the West with an international top echelon of ground commanders whose teamwork is unparalleled in history.

On the northern flank of the 500-mile Western Front was Gen. H. D. G. Crerar's Canadian First Army which included British, Polish and Dutch troops. South of the Canadians was Lt. Gen. Sir Miles Christopher Dempsey's British Second Army.

It was Dempsey who helped reorganize the British Army after Dunkerque. He later commanded the British Eighth Army's famous XIII Corps through the North African battles of Mareth and Enfidaville.

Ninth Once a Ghost Army

On Dempsey's right flank was Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's U.S. Ninth Army which made a ghostlike crossing of France and Belgium to appear suddenly last fall between the British Second and U.S. First Armies. Simpson had commanded the U.S. Fourth Army in the United States.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' U.S. First Army, which invaded the Continent June 6, joined in a double offensive with the Ninth starting in late February. After Hodges' First Army made the break-through at St. Lo, the Third Army of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. broke out of the Cotentin Peninsula and swept across France to the Moselle River.

It was Hodges' First Army which met Marshal Ivan Koniev's First Ukrainian Army at Torgau, Germany, Aug. 26, after a 700-mile battle trek across Europe from the Normandy beaches.

Patton's men made a second spectacular drive through Germany after they smashed across the Rhine, seized Frankfurt-on-Main, and then drove southward toward Hitler's mountain Redoubt.

Tanker in the Last War

Probably the most colorful personality of the Allied staff, Patton demonstrated his genius at armored warfare. He was one of the first members of the U.S. tank corps in the last war and led the 304th Tank Brigade in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne battles.

He commanded the Western Task Force which invaded the west coast of Africa Nov. 8, 1942, and seized Casablanca three days later. Then he commanded the First Armored Corps, which became overnight the U.S. Seventh Army—the first American field army to

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Planes Blazed Victory Trail

Gen. Eisenhower's long-range weapon was the Allied air force which blasted the road to victory for the armies on the ground.

In the two-dimensional conflict in Europe, air and ground became inseparable. Strategic forces destroyed the power of the German air force, smashed the Nazis' oil, paralyzed much of the enemy's communications and disrupted the Reich's entire economic system.

Eisenhower's air generals and ground commanders operated as a team. The Supreme Commander's deputy was Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur William Tedder, who directed the greatest air armada ever built.

USSTAF Components

Functioning in co-operation with the Theater Commander were two great forces of heavy bombers. They were Britain's Bomber Command, under Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, and the U.S. Eighth Air Force, under Lt. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle.

The Eighth was a part of Gen. Carl A. Spaatz' USSTAF, which also included the Ninth AF.

When the strategic mission of Bomber Command and the Eighth Air Force was completed in April, their bombers and fighters became available for special and tactical missions at Gen. Eisenhower's request.

The Eighth itself flew 332,056 bomber sorties and 260,006 fighter sorties from the beginning of its

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Hitler Sets Pace

"In this war," Hitler threatened, "there will be no victors and losers, but merely survivors and annihilated"—and he set a pace for ruthlessness and cruelty unprecedented in modern war.

Shortly before dawn on Friday, Sept. 1, 1939, the Wehrmacht smashed into Poland. Two days later, at 11 AM—the same hour another war ended—Neville Chamberlain announced that Great Britain, abiding by her pledge to Poland, had declared war on Germany. A few hours later France followed suit.

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, involved the United States in a two-front land, air and sea struggle which mobilized the nation's manpower and industrial resources as never before in history. The conflict became:

1. A war of swift, mechanized movement and a war of long, bloody yard-by-yard battles, of blitzkrieg and foxholes.
2. A war of secret battles—long, silent struggles to smash the German invasion fleet off Britain, to master the submarine which imperiled U.S. shipping lanes, to crush robot and V-2 bomb-launching sites.
3. A war of secret weapons—in which the Allies with radar, a new conception of massed fleets of invasion barges, the technique of mass bombing through clouds and a host of inventions outdid Hitler.
4. A war of cities—Stalingrad.

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Pres. Roosevelt Died As Victory Dawned

The death of Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12 was a saddening blow to Allied forces flushed with hope by the great successes of previous weeks.

The President died of a cerebral hemorrhage at Warm Springs, Ga., when victory in Europe was assured and when American forces the world over were making great strides against the foe. He had served as the nation's Chief Executive longer than any other man.

Harry S. Truman, who succeeded him to become the 33rd President, pledged a continuance of Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policies.

What Now? Some Goto Pacific, Some Stay—Others Go Home

By David A. Gordon
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

NOW that European shooting is over, and countless gallons of questionable cognac, half-passable wine and anemic beer have been swallowed in celebration of the event, soldiers in the ETO are asking "What now?"

The first idea which soldiers might well throttle in their

noggins is a return, tout de suite, to their homes.

The transfer of ETO troops to the Pacific has been in progress for some time now—although on a small scale. Army officials have declared that there would be a rapid transfer of greater numbers immediately following V-E Day.

The amount of shipping available will determine the speed with which units are transferred to the Pacific or returned to the United States.

Three Tasks Ahead

The Army has several immediate tasks:

1. The occupation of an allotted zone in Germany.
2. The transfer of many troops to the Pacific theater.
3. The selection of soldiers, on the basis of the point system, for discharge.
4. The inauguration of a broad educational and recreational program for soldiers who will remain in the ETO pending shifting or demobilization, and for troops of the Army of Occupation.

The Army's demobilization plan has already been outlined, although some specific details—the number of points, for example—have not yet been announced. In brief, discharge will depend on the number of points a soldier has amassed, according to his length of army service, his length of overseas duty, battle decorations and his status as a father. He will get points for each child under 18, up to a limit of three children.

Points for Medals

Points will be given for each of nine decorations: the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart.

Unlike the demobilization of the last war, soldiers will not be mustered out by units or divisions. The selection will be an individual one.

The number of men to be discharged soon will, naturally, be based on the needs of both the war against Japan and the troop requirements for the policing of Germany. There will be no general large-scale demobilization until after the defeat of Japan.

The 4,000,000 men in the Navy
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Peace Rumors Were Frequent

V-E day rumors and false alarms of peace offers brought a few premature celebrations in the ETO and the United States as an impatient world waited for the knock-out count over the Nazis.

Seizure of the Remagen bridge by the Ninth Armd. Div. in March was followed by rumors of a German request for peace terms, but these, along with reports circulated when Allied armies crossed the Rhine in strength, were proved unfounded and quickly scotched.

Stockholm and Bern "travellers" and "reliable sources" were quoted almost daily by press associations in late March and through April as stories from the neutral capitals told of the arrival of alleged peace emissaries.

The greatest flurry was created by an Associated Press flash from San Francisco on April 29 which said: "Germany has surrendered to the Allied governments unconditionally . . ." AP quoted "a high American official." There was a wild hour of jubilation until President Truman and SHAEF denied the report.

Heinrich Himmler had offered unconditional German surrender but only to Britain and the U.S., the official Soviet news agency said April 29. The following day, London dispatches reported the Himmler offer had been changed to include capitulation to Russia as well. Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden was identified as the intermediary in the initial Himmler offer.

A Glimpse at Postwar Plans for Veterans

POSTWAR prospects for returning veterans: The GI Bill of Rights is already a law of the land. It provides unemployment benefits, medical care, educational facilities and loan guarantees. The late President Roosevelt had outlined a goal of 60,000,000 jobs and government departments are ready for the reconversion of American production into peaceful channels and the absorption of the returning veterans into gainful occupations.

For example, the Interior Department has already announced a program of projects costing \$4,563,613,000 for postwar America. Included in its plans are park work, geological land surveys, construction of dams and general reclamation work.

Civil service policy reserves 25 per cent of all Federal jobs for veterans, and certain jobs will be open only to veterans. Legislation insures return of veterans to their old jobs if they desire them.

