

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

V-E DAY!

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THE RATTTLER

B-29s FROM PYOTE TO TOKYO!

Rattlesnake Army Air Field, Pyote, Texas May 8, 1945

NAZIS SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY

President Harry S. Truman announced the War in Europe has ended, in a proclamation at 8 AM (CWT) released simultaneously with announcements by Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin.

"Eisenhower", he announced, "has informed me that Germany has surrendered to the United Nations."

He expressed the regret that Franklin D. Roosevelt might not have lived to see this day of victory achieved.

He asked the peoples of America to subdue their rejoicing, and to mark the solemn occasion with the dignity it deserves.

"Ahead," he said, "lies work and sweat and more work. Victory is half-won. The west is free, but the east still lies in bondage".

The President called upon every American

to stick to his post until the last battle is won.

In the official proclamation declaring Unconditional Surrender, President Truman set next Sunday, May 13, aside as a day of national prayer and Thanksgiving. Calling upon all peoples, whatever their faith, to give thanks to God and to guide us to the ways of peace, Truman stated, "Let us all dedicate that day (Sunday) to the memory of those who have given their lives that freedom might be achieved."

Hinting at the hard peace terms awarded Germany, the President remarked, "The United, peace-loving, Nations demonstrated their arms are stronger than military cliques or dictators who once called our peoples 'soft'."

The announcement from Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces

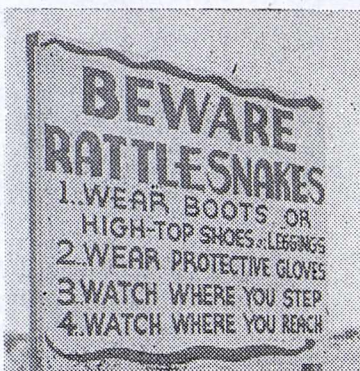
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THE RATTLER

PYOTE, TEXAS

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RATTLESNAKE ARMY AIR FIELD

The Lights Are Going On

On September 1, 1939, we were listening to the radio. A man was talking in Berlin, Germany, and somehow, we have never quite forgotten many of the things he said—that he would never take off his uniform until victory was his; that should he die, Goering was to be his successor, and Hess was to be Goering's successor; that Germany deserved its rightful place in the sun. . . . The sound of that voice, ranting in the cool, quiet sweetness of a late summer night still jangles in our ears.

Yes, it jangles—along with many another war sounds that we have become so accustomed to since that time, we wonder what it might someday be like to know it is past—the calm fury of the President's voice when he stated that December 7 was a day that would live in infamy; the staccato incessiveness of H. V. Kaltenborn chattering the headlines, the syrupy optimism of Gabriel Heatter, the raucous shouts of the newsboys on the corners about some tiny little town in Africa, or a "hill 609" that was nothing until it had become soaked in blood.

All this comes back to us as we listen to the news that one major phase of this war is ended. But most of all, more, much more, than any of these, we hear one comment, a wistful, tragic comment, fraught with sighs, desperation, and tolling bells.

That is the remark made by Lord Edward Gray of Great Britain in 1914. When the news of World War I came to Lord Edward, he was sitting in a comfortable chair in a fashionable club on Fleet Street. Not a young man, Lord Edward took the shocking news with considerable calm, and strolled thoughtfully to the window. He looked at the scene of newsboys shouting the Declaration to startled passers-by, to people leaving their offices, to women scurrying home after a day's shopping; and through this street-scene passed a little old man with a big moustache who was busily lighting the gas-lamps down the thoroughfare. And Lord Edward Gray, with sombre eloquence, remarked:

"No, no, my man. The lights are going out—not on. The lights are going out all over Europe. And I am afraid we shall never see them re-lit in our time."

Behind each radio announcer's excited rendition of a communique, and behind the eager analysts' explanations of what the communiqes mean—we hear that statement of Lord Edward's.

Perhaps, Lord Edward, this is the beginning. Perhaps the lights are beginning to glow feebly now. No, not flaming brightly—not glowing like the lights inside a warm room seen through a frosted window-pane; but sputtering feebly, beginning to glow again.

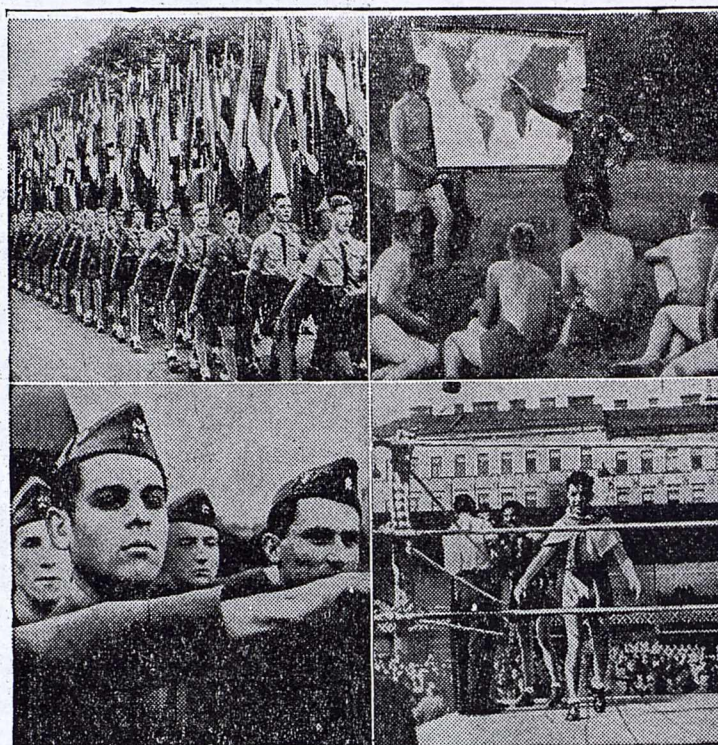
And perhaps, Lord Edward, when Japan—the last of the Axis—falls, the lights can flame again brightly, and a man, a country, a continent may live in good neighborliness with another.

It will take a lot of doing, Lord Edward, a powerful lot of doing for a group of mere human-beings. It will take tolerance, and faith, and charity, and prayer—ever so much prayer.

But the lights are going on again. It is the first streak of light in the east after a long, bitter, dark and doom-ridden night—a long, long night. It is the presage of dawn, Lord Edward; it is a curious glow from a light that has long been lowered. It is a light for which we have paid a stupendous price.

Perhaps, it is a light not unlike Aladdin's magic lamp, from which strange and wonderful things came forth. Perhaps, it is a light similar to those gleaming cheerily from the windows of small

THE NAZIS' CROP



The Nazi organization's most fanatic supporters were the youth of Germany. War analysts fear that these fanatics will refuse to accept the German surrender, and suicide fashion, harass occupational troops.

THIS WAS GERMANY



This was Germany in 1933, before its borders inflated like a pregnant balloon. To the key-cities above, war was a long time coming but when it came—it came as a conquerer.

houses after dark; gracious, welcome little lights.

It took a good many hands to light that lamp again, Sir Edward. Some of them were Russian, and British, and Danish, and Jewish, and Catholic, and Christian, and Buddhist, and Confucianist, and black and white and yellow and red and brown. And many of them are bloody hands . . .

Dawn is breaking gradually now. And the lights are twinkling on, cautiously, warily, but nevertheless twinkling.

And to us, those lights—and may we keep them burning brightly—look exactly like the light that leads us home.

For that light, for that small, feeble light, we thank Almighty God.

WHEN ARE THE GI JOSEPHS GOING HOME?

War Dept Says Point System Limits Chance

With the day and hour fixed on V-E Day, servicemen puzzled the dateline on their discharge papers. A confusing series of statements, denials and re-statements, left them wondering how the end of the German phase of war would effect the length of their job for the war department.

From Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, head of the Veterans Administration, had come the report that the war department planned to release from 200,000 to 250,000 men a month after V-E Day. The monthly discharge quota was to be filled up until the Japanese phase was ended.

In answer to a Congressman's question "What about sending men from the European theater to the Pacific", Hines said that approximately one half of the men discharged after the German collapse will be those with disabilities.

A prompt denial of the Hines statement was released by Secretary of War Stimson, claiming the War Department's demobilization plan made public Sept. 6, remained unchanged.

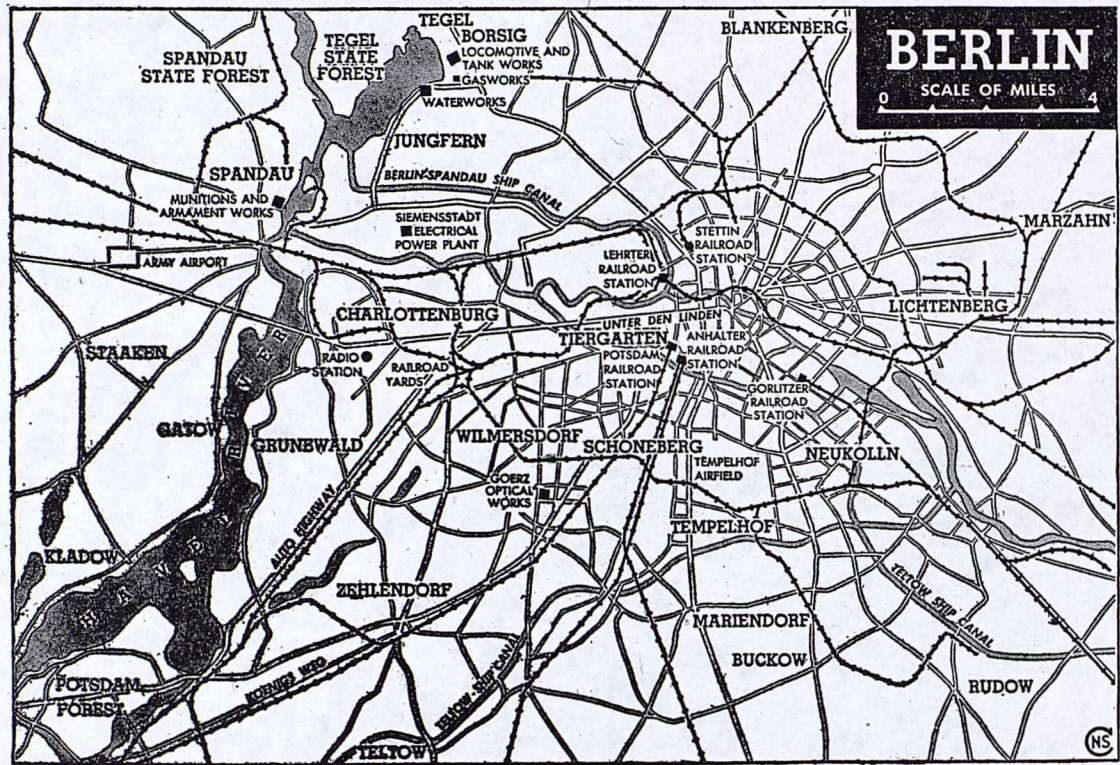
Mr. Stimson said that when V-E Day came, the War Department would immediately center all attention to marshaling every soldier and every useful item of equipment to speed final defeat of Japan. This means that shipping priority will be given to the transfer of men and material in the Pacific areas.

Stimson's final further statement quieted the cheers that followed Hines. "Any suggestion that large numbers will be coming home for discharge immediately after fighting stops in Europe can only lead to cruel disappointment."

GIs still wondered when G-1's Major General Henry followed Hines and Stimson with more predictions. He reported that after German collapse the Army planned to reduce its size, but "if a man is found to be indispensable after the point system goes into effect, he will be held."

GIs decided to believe it when they climbed aboard for that pre-paid ride home, the discharge signed and sealed in the back pocket.

THE MOST DEVASTATED CITY IN THE WORLD



Germany's Fall In Last War Gave Doughboys Discharge

In 1918, Demobilization Moved Fast And Furious

When will Johnny (G. I. Joe) come marching home again?

Already, wives of overseas soldiers are wondering how long their husbands will have to serve in the Army of Occupation in Europe, and they are seeking permission to go over and join them. In 1919 wives were permitted to join their husbands overseas, and their expenses were paid as they would be in a change of station in the United States.

The Point System-

The Point System, by which surplus men will be released from the Armed Forces now that Germany has fallen, works like this:

An "adjusted service rating card" will be issued to all GIs. Thereon, he lists the: 1. Number of months in Army since Sept. 16, 1940. 2. The number of months served overseas (from embarkation until debarkation). 3. The number of decorations and bronze service stars. 4. The number of children he has, under 18 years of age.

The War Department will shortly release the number of points these credits entitle him to. Then surplus men will be released according to the highest number of points.

Important: If a GI is considered essential in uniform the points

This time the Army of Occupation will be much larger, its duration longer. But officials statements indicate that the combat veterans will be replaced by reserves and non-combatant units.

As in the last war, the great majority of seasoned soldiers may be starting the homeward trek, or a trek in "some direction within a few weeks after hostilities cease. Comparisons with 1918, however, are complicated by the fact that there is still a war with Japan to be concluded.

(Army sources in Washington have indicated that, between the fall of Germany and the fall of Japan, about 200,000 men will be discharged each month, with 50,000 per month being drafted).

Upon the signing of the Armis-

might as well go up in smoke. He's in and he's gonna stay in.

tice in 1918, the whole machinery of transporting troops to France was thrown in reverse. Virtually every man of the two million in the AEF wanted to return at once. With the limited number of ships available, this was impossible.

Those who did not catch the first ships had the advantage of a vast school system set up in the Army, in which more than 230,000 were enrolled while awaiting transportation home. Elementary and advanced instruction was provided in almost every subject. Many of the units organized theatrical troupes, which traveled throughout the AEF. Sports and games were organized and athletic meetings were held. The men were allowed regular leaves to visit other countries.

However, the machinery of demobilization began to pick up speed almost immediately after Nov. 11, and by Christmas more than 500,000 men had returned; by the following September virtually all of the AEF had left France.

When the war ended the United States had 3,757,624 men under arms, 2,086,000 of them in France.

With the dissolution of the Army of Occupations in July, 1919, the American forces in Germany, consisting of 6,800 men came into being and remained on the Rhine for more than three years.

The American flag on Fort Ehrenbreitstein was finally lowered on Jan. 24, 1923, and the American zone was turned over to the French.

HISTORY OF WORLD WAR II IS ST

Flames From Spark Struck In Danzig Inflamed And Enveloped 5 Continents

Germany's dream of world conquest has had a nightmare's ending. The Third Reich that Adolf Hitler boasted would last a thousand years has collapsed.

With the news of the destruction of German military resistance, GIs summarized the standing score—two down, only one to go. Movement of men, supplies and equipment from Europe to the Pacific had begun weeks before the

Nazis ran up the flag. While the focus of Allied military strength shifts to Japan, GIs review the 5 years of war in Europe. Five years that cost one trillion dollars, six million lives. Five years that saw the advent of the flying bomb, the block-buster, the rapid-firing artillery, the air-borne army, and the flying battle ship. Five years that brought us from the edge of disaster to the doorstep of success.

Just how far the Allies have come is forcefully pointed out in a review of those five years—1939 to 1945.

1939

POLAND SURRENDERS

At 3 o'clock, Friday morning, September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, touching off the most titanic struggle of all time. Within three days Great Britain and France had declared war on the Third Reich. Surprised by the blitzkrieg and unprepared for lightning war, the Poles surrendered September 27, with the fall of Warsaw.

1940

LOW COUNTRIES FALL

The deceptive lull of the next eight months caused some spectators to dub the conflict "the Phoney War". Frenchmen waited calmly behind the Maginot Line expecting Germany to hurl its forces at the string of supposedly impregnable fortresses. But the Germans had plans for a different brand of offensive. On May 10 the Nazis struck a series of quick blows against Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Holland fell in four days. Two weeks later, on May 28, King Leopold announced the surrender of the 300,000-man Belgium army. The capitulation placed the British forces in an untenable position on the continent



Eisenhower

making the evacuation of Dunkerque necessary. During this epic, a strange armada of 900 warships, tugs, skiffs, and yachts rescued an army of 337,000 stranded on the beach.

FRANCE CAPITULATES

With the British out of the war, Hitler turned to the conquest of France. The Maginot Line—its northern flank exposed and vulnerable as the result of the conquest of the Low Countries—was quickly turned. On June 10, the French government evacuated Paris. Mussolini perpetrated his notorious "stab in the back", moving Italian troops into the border area of France and plunging Italy into her most disastrous war. On June 17, Marshal Petain took over the French government and announced "with a broken heart" that he had been compelled to ask Hitler "as one soldier to another" for an honorable armistice. On June 21, in the railway car where Marshal Foch dictated peace terms to Germany in 1918, France signed an armistice taking her out of the war. Grandly pleased by his revenge for "the dictates of Versailles", Hitler visited the tomb of Napoleon.



Hitler

ENGLAND AWAITS INVASION

Alone, but grimly determined to fight on, England prepared for attack. Home Guards were hastily organized, hunting rifles, old tanks, World War I guns were hastily imported from America. Churchill vowed: "We will fight on the beaches and the landing grounds, in the fields, in the streets, on the hills. We will never surrender." With only 700 Spitfires and Hurricanes, the RAF pitted its strength against the entire German Air Force, estimated at 5,000 front-line planes. The "Battle for Britain" had begun.

1941

BALKANS SUBDUED

Expecting an easy conquest, Mussolini invaded Greece only to have thousands of his troops ambushed and slaughtered in a successful counter-offensive. Eventually, Hitler came to the rescue of the Italians, subjecting Greece and driving the British from Thermopylae and Crete. He added the heroic country to his growing list of conquests including Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. An uprising in Yugoslavia balked his efforts to take over that country entirely.

AFRICA BATTLE BEGINS

The British Navy, in a tragic prelude to the "Battle for Africa" attacked the French fleet to prevent warships of their former allies from falling into enemy hands. On August 6, 1940, Italian armies under Marshal Rudolfo Graziani, began the Axis offensive against Egypt with the invasion of British Somaliland. Successfully counter-attacking, Britain's General Wavell chased the Italians back across the desert freeing Ethiopia and destroying Mussolini's dream of a North African empire. But in February, 1941, German motorized units under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel landed at Tripoli to begin the first of three major German offensives aimed at the conquest of North Africa, seizure of the Suez Canal and control of the southern shores of the Mediterranean. High point for the Germans was reached with the capture of the fortress city of Tobruk on June 25, 1942. Nazis columns were within 60 miles of Cairo when Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery stopped them at El Alamein.



Rommel

RAF WINS AIR-WAR

The RAF decisively won the air battle for Britain and began the campaign for the ultimate destruction of the Luftwaffe with the expansion of the RAF bomber command, later to be joined and overshadowed by the U.S. Eighth Air Force. Plans were laid for strategic bombing of the German aircraft plants and manufacturing centers. This campaign culminated in the great daylight raids during the week of February 19-26,

1944, which destroyed German capacity to replace combat losses.

NAZIS INVADE USSR

His plans to conquer England thwarted, Hitler turned east and loosed his invasion of the Soviet Union. Joined by Finland, Romania, Hungary and Italy, he attacked along a 2,000-mile front from the Arctic to the Black Sea. Expecting a 6-week conquest, German armies sliced through Russian-annexed Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Karelia, Bessarabia, swept across White Russia and the Ukraine, besieged Leningrad, captured Kharkov, and reached the gates of Moscow. The winter saw the first of a series of counter-offensives which grew more powerful with every month.

PEARL HARBOR

With the Germans victorious everywhere, the Japs decided the time was ripe to strike. On this date—"A day which will live in infamy"—they loosed the treacherous attack at Pearl Harbor and on the U.S., British and Dutch possessions in the Pacific. Hours after the attack, Japan, then Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. U.S. and Allied military leaders decided immediately that the Jap attack was all part of one global war, and the Germans was the more dangerous enemy and must be defeated first. The fate of Germany as well as Japan thus was decided at Pearl Harbor where the dastardly attack turned on the spigot unloosing a flood of American men, planes, machines, weapons and supplies against the Nazis.

1942

U.S. TROOPS INVADE AFRICA

While the American fleet united with Canadian and British forces to eliminate the submarine, our troops went into action for the first time against the Germans with the landing under Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in Morocco and Algeria. A junction with Marshal Montgomery's forces pursuing Rommel from the east was effected. Trapped on Cap Bon, in Tunisia, the Germans and Italians surrendered on May 12, 1943, ending victoriously the battle for North Africa and setting the stage of the Allied invasion of Sicily and Italy.

1943

ITALY INVADED, CONQUERED

At the fall of Sicily, General Pietro Badoglio ousted and arrested Mussolini and took over the

TRIPPED IN BLOOD, SWEAT, TEARS

government of Italy. The British Eighth Army, under Marshal Montgomery, invaded the European mainland for the first time with the landing on the southwestern tip of the Italian peninsula, early in September. On same day, representatives of Gen. Badoglio



Montgomery

signed an armistice with General Eisenhower's representatives. On September 9, the U.S. Fifth Army, commanded by Gen. Mark Clark, landed at Salerno.

On December 3, the meeting of President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin, and Prime Minister Churchill at Teheran removed the last hope for compromise or negotiated peace. The Teheran agreement, symbol of Allied unity, was a victory on a par with any won on the battlefield.

1944

Jan. 24: Allies in Italy established a new beachhead near Anzio to force a diversion of enemy strength in the south. Meanwhile, overwhelming superiority in men, planes, and equipment was built up and on June 4, Rome was entered and the first Axis capital was liberated.

D-DAY

June 6: American, British and Canadian troops with units from other United Nations, began the invasion of northern France to open the long-awaited "Second Front". The invasion, termed the most difficult military operation in history, was an unqualified success. We got there, we stayed there, and we did it at less cost than expected.

Depending on beach installations for a flow of supplies, Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley struck out to seal the Normandy peninsula and on June 27 captured the port of Cherbourg, while the British and Canadians held off the Germans at Caen. Meanwhile, the first V-1 rocket had crashed into Britain. The "buzz-bombs" that followed killed over 2,752, wounded 8,000.



Bradley

Spearheaded by hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles, Lt. Gen. Patton's Third Army scored the breakthrough at St. Lo and raced across the Brittany peninsula and deep into France. The British had taken Caen by July 9. By Aug. 13, the German 7th Army was trapped between Arentan and Falaise and forced to withdraw. One of Patton's columns turned east toward Paris and the Siegfried Line. By Aug. 20, the Third Army had reached the Seine on both sides of Paris. Inside the French capital, resistance forces under General Jacques Leclerc rose against the Nazis helping to bring about the German surrender of Paris on Aug. 25.

NAZI COUP FAILS

Following the disaster in France, a group of German officers attempted on July 30th, to overthrow the Nazis in order to seize control of the German army and end the war they were so obviously losing. The coup failed and an iron control over all phases of German life was instituted, with Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler placed in control.

A new Allied Army, the Seventh, consisting mostly of American troops shifted from Northern Italy, landed in Southern France on August 15, between Marseilles and Nice to liberate that part of the country and join with the 3rd and 1st Armies for the assault on Northern Italy.

Romania, knocked out of the war by advancing Russians, accepted Allied terms of unconditional surrender and declared war against Germany on August 23.

MAGINOT LINE PASSED

On Sept. 1, in Northern France, American troops pushed on to the Maginot Line. 1st Army patrols crossed into Belgium north of Sedan. Two days later Brussels was liberated. Traveling 225 miles from the Pas-de-Calais area in four and one-half days, the British and Canadians rolled through Antwerp. The 1st Army reached the German frontier on a wide front through Belgium. On Sept. 15, U. S. troops occupied Maastricht, in Holland, first place in the Netherlands to be liberated. An airborne invasion of Holland, by British and Polish parachute forces in the area of Arnheim was unsuccessful and costly when the British 2nd Army was unable to reinforce the airborne troops.

Bulgaria broke relations with and declared war on Germany under pressure from the Soviet Union. On Sept. 9, Bulgaria concluded an armistice with Russia, the U.S., and Britain. On October 15,



Marshal Josef Stalin's Russian Armies clawed the heart out of the German war machine.

Admiral Nicholas Horthy, regent of Hungary, was deposed when he tried to take that country out of the war as an ally of the Germans and conclude peace terms with the Allies.

WEST WALL REACHED

Having reached the Siegfried Line by fall, Gen. Eisenhower prepared for an all-out smash into Germany. In a surprise move Marshal Von Rundstedt, who had assumed command of the German forces in the west, opened a powerful offensive of his own. Using armor and crack S.S. troops, he struck against the weakest held sections of our line, catching us off-balance. The German offensive gained about 25 miles on a 30-mile front before it was halted before New Year's by the combined efforts of the U.S. 1st and 3rd Armies, aided by the British and Canadians.

1945

Having contained the German drive, the slow and costly job of wiping out the enemy's gains and straightening our lines was begun. The Germans were forced to withdraw and Allied air forces gave them no mercy, smashing thousands of enemy tanks and vehicles. On January 10, the Red Army uncorked its Sunday punch with a drive to capture Berlin and end the war.

While Allied troops began beating at the Ardennes bulge, Russian juggernauts began rolling toward the back door to the Third Reich, Vienna. Reds fought in the streets of Budapest. Segments of the 2,000,000-man Russian Ukrainian Army reached the Oder river by January 25. The world kept pace with the Red Army as it kept rolling ever closer to Berlin. On the Western front, the Allies paused, ready to plunge across the Roer River before the Cologne plain.

BIG 3 AT YALTA

Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met for the second time during the war at Yalta, Crimean sea-port during February. They re-affirmed "unconditional surrender", laid groundwork for world peace organizations. The Russians took Budapest, and 100,000 German prisoners. The pincer movement on Berlin evened its flanks as the frontal assault paused some thirty miles from Germany's capital. Flood waters still held back the Allied spring offensive. But by March 1, Eisenhower's boys ripped toward Dusseldorf, and the roads were clogged with Nazi refugees heading east before the onslaught. The Russian Army steam-rolled north to pinch off Danzig and all East Prussia on the Baltic.

BERLIN PUMMELED

Thousands upon thousands upon thousands of planes hit Berlin, again and again and again. British night-fighters, American bombers, Russian air forces gave Berlin a 1-2-3 that became the most terrifying air pounding in the history of warfare. Cologne fell within a week, the largest German city captured at that time. The Reds reached the mouth of the Oder, destroying any German chance to out-flank the force straightaway from Berlin.

RHINE CROSSED

Then to startled, surprised Americans came the news of the amazing bridgehead across the Rhine. The supposed-impregnable river, where Germany might have put up a major stand, was flanked. Confused Nazis ousted Von Rundstedt from the command of the Western front, installed Kesselring who had been handling the masterly defense on the southern front. The Russian Army started again toward Berlin, and Allied units broke out of numerous bridgeheads across the Rhine. By March 25, the two Armies, and the two fronts, were less than 250 miles apart—the greatest pincer movement in the war book was on, nut-cracking the Nazi war machine that had invented the pincer.

CURTAIN FALLS

And with the two-front war a stern and pressing reality, the German army collapsed into retreat, leaving the stage and ending the 5-year drama that had taken a vast toll in human lives. The goose-stepping actors had played out the tragedy they embarked upon, and like all tragedies end—they died, the curtain fell, and the lights went on again.

PEACE CAME EARLY

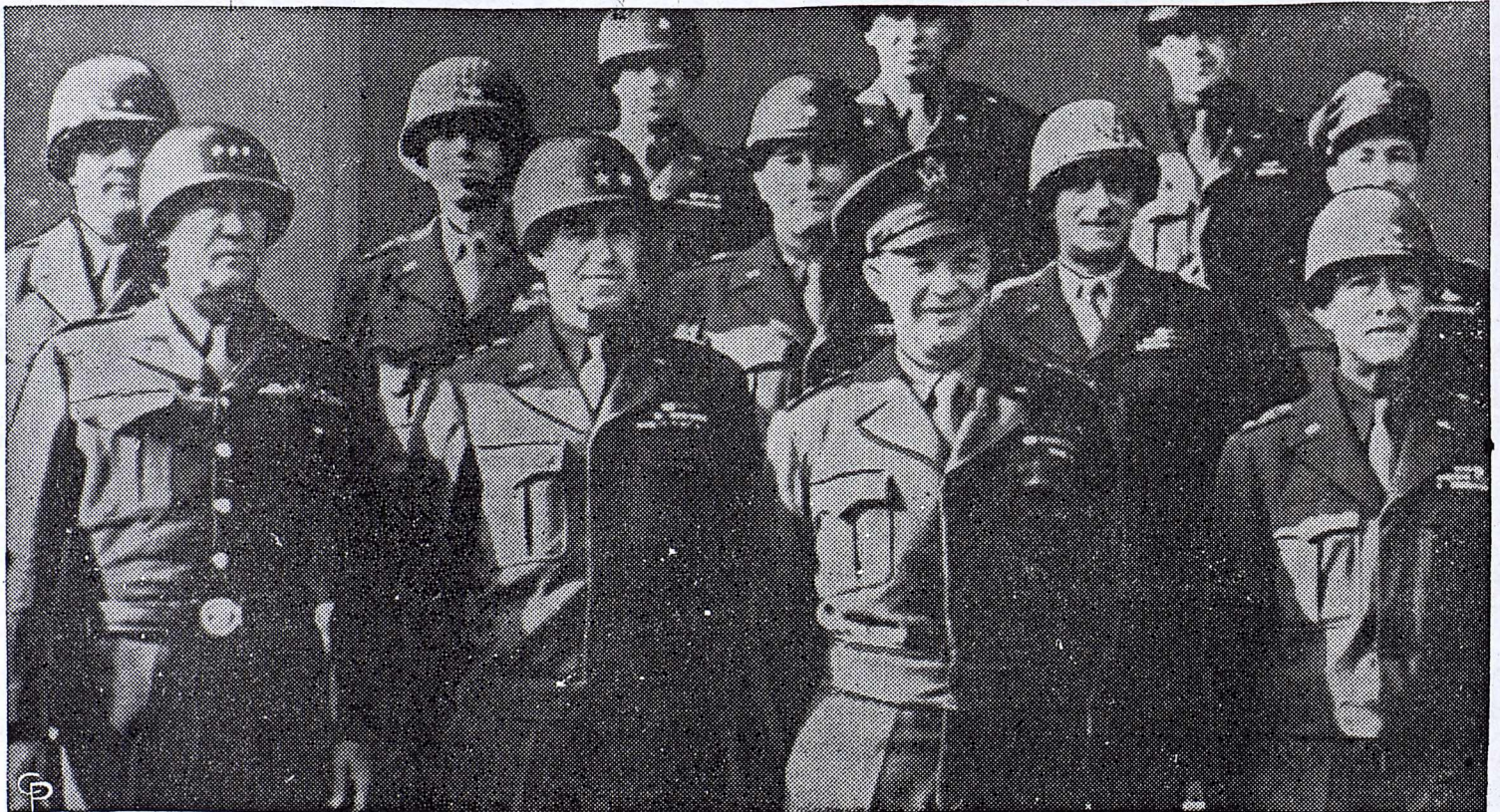


These are German dead, left unburied in the Nazi retreat across the western plains. U. S. infantrymen look briefly and then march on.

SUPERIOR ARYAN



This "superior Aryan" is given the once over by his captors. Yank doughboys who took Metz. A typical Junker, who fought for a hopeless cause until defeat crashed around the Third Reich.



THIS STAR ARRAY of American generals lined up at an unspecified headquarters in Belgium when King George of England visited the Lowlands front. Left to right, front row, are Lt. Gen. George Patton, U. S. Third Army commander; Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, commander 12th U. S. Army group; Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower; Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges; second row, Maj. Gen. William B. Keen, chief of staff First Army; Maj. Gen. Charles H. Corlett, 19th Corps

commander, First Army; Maj. Gen. J. Laughton Collins, Seventh Corps commander, First Army; Maj. Gen. Leonard P. Gerow, Fifth Corps commander, First Army; Maj. Gen. Elwood Queseda, commander of Ninth Fighter Command; third row, Maj. Gen. Leven C. Allen, Brig. Gen. Charles E. Hart and Brig. Gen. Truman C. Thorson. Last three named officers are members of Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army staff. (International Soundphoto)

Armistice Recalls German Surrender In World War I

Twenty-six years ago, a Germany torn by revolution and on the verge of military and national disaster, heeded the advice of one of her greatest military figures and sued for an end to a war she knew she could not win.

The Allies, principally France, Britain and the U.S., accepted promptly, thereby renouncing the opportunity for an overwhelming military triumph.

Some voices of warning were raised, voices that said the Armistice was premature, yet the armistice of 1918 was no sudden proposal which required an immediate yes-or-no answer. It could be seen coming a long way off.

As early as Dec. 1916 Germany, with victory still an excellent prospect, made overtures for direct peace negotiations among the belligerents in some neutral country.

Britain and France denounced the German offer as intended to show discord among them. They demanded the expiation for Germany war crimes and indemnity for war damages.

But Imperial Germany then, as Nazi Germany in 1940, wanted a peace which amounted to victory. She cornered the terms the Allies had given to President Wilson: reduction of German territory, freedom for the subject peoples in the Austrian-Hungarian empire, expulsion of the Turks from Europe, and payment for destruction to civilian property.

Germany—at least to the eyes of the outside world—still was strong and solid, with her position actually improved during 1917 and the early months of 1918. She had disposed of Russia as an enemy and in May, 1918, forced peace on Romania, which she had almost entirely occupied.

But behind the facade Germany was shaky. The allied blockade was squeezing the life out of her; mutiny and unrest in the armed forces were becoming increasing problems. Gen. Erich Ludendorff, her premier military leader, who since has been called the virtual dictator of Germany, decided on one desperate bid for victory—a supreme offensive on the Western Front. For the task he had 193 excellent divisions. It looked like a good gamble to the German militarist.

He almost succeeded. Until the failure at the second battle of the Marne, in July, 1918, victory was in Ludendorff's sight. But he lacked reserves, and when the Allies in turn launched a great offensive, Ludendorff knew the game was up.

On Aug. 14, conferring with the Kaiser and the high command at

headquarters in Spa, Ludendorff said that all chances of victory were gone; that at best he could only hope to fight defensively while the diplomats quickly negotiated the best peace they could get.

From this point onward the melodrama moved in dizzying sequence to the denouement, in which the villain escaped alive.

Bulgaria, battered and reeling, sued for peace and on Sept. 29th was granted an armistice that amounted, to unconditional surrender.

Six days later, Ludendorff got permission from the German government to ask for an armistice, and Austria and Turkey appealed to Pres. Wilson for an armistice. Wilson's reply demanded immediate evacuation of all allied territory, cessation of submarine warfare, and acknowledgment of defeat, with a flat surrender, not a negotiated peace.

Ludendorff then called for a mass levy of men to defend the Fatherland against imminent invasion, but other German commanders insisted further fighting was useless, and the angry Ludendorff resigned from the high command, eventually to flee to Sweden and later to return to assist the upstart Nazi movement and participate in the abortive Munich putsch of 1923.

Unknown to the allies at the time, the German army had mutinied on Oct. 29, an uprising of

tremendous significance that led the way to the German revolution.

Turkey at this juncture despaired of a general armistice and made a separate one on Oct. 31, 1918.

Austria-Hungary followed suit on Nov. 3. The emperor Charles fled. There were military revolts in Vienna, Budapest and elsewhere.

In Germany there were runs on banks, wild demonstrations for peace, flights of the wealthy to what they hoped were safer quarters, distant from the Rhine and outbreaks of rioting and bloodshed.

On Nov. 6, 1918, the German Imperial Government sent delegates to the front to receive terms from Generalissimo Ferdinand Foch. The Germans reached the French lines by car on Nov. 8, were taken on a 10-hour motor journey and put aboard a shuttered train. The train pulled into the Forest of Campiègne, where Foch had his headquarters in another train.

The stiff German delegates mostly in uniform and with Iron Crosses dangling from their necks, were presented to Foch.

"Qu'est-ce que vous desirez, Messieurs?" (What do you want, Gentlemen) inquired Foch coldly.

Taken a bit aback, the Germans replied they had come to receive allied proposals for an armistice.

Foch replied that the allies were content to finish the war in the field. The Germans stammered

something about their urgent need for an armistice and Foch said, "Oh, I understand—you have come to seek an armistice."

The terms were handed to them, calling for evacuation of Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine and Luxembourg within two weeks; evacuation of the left bank of the Rhine and creation of a neutral zone on the other bank; surrender of military equipment; repatriation of prisoners held by the Germans; evacuation of Black Sea ports; abandonment of the treaties which had put Russia and Romania out of the war; internment of the German fleet; reparation for all damages done; and continuance of the allied blockade.

The Germans complained that the terms were 'inhuman' but had to take them.

A courier plane took the terms back to Berlin. The waiting German delegation meanwhile was provided with Paris newspapers which headlined the story of the abdication of the Kaiser and the crown prince. A republic was proclaimed in Germany.

When the courier finally returned from Germany the delegation which regarded its credentials as still binding under a new government, signed the armistice in Foch's railway car at 5 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 11. Hostilities ceased at 11 a.m., the deadline Foch had set for the courier's return.

LAST GERMAN OFFENSIVE FAILS



Tight-lipped, furious Yanks check one of the bodies of American dead for identification. Taken prisoner in the ill-fated Nazi Ardennes offensive, these Americans were shot by their captors. The arrow points to the American helmet with the Red Cross insignia of an unarmed medical aid man.

V-E DAY ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

said that Germany had surrendered on all fronts to all the allies. This marked defeat of Germany's last psychological trick—an effort to split Soviet Russia and the rest of the allies by surrendering her armies piecemeal to Britain and America.

The war which brought a fantastic toll of human lives ground to a halt with the thoroughly whipped Germans having at last had a first-hand taste of the misery and devastation of total war. Berlin, greatest city on the Continent and heart of the German military system, is little more than a pile of rubble. Damage throughout other parts of Germany is on a comparable scale.

The unconditional surrender followed on the heels of the capitulation of Norwegian Nazi forces, and earlier the German Armies in Italy, western Austria, Denmark, and Holland had thrown in the towel.

Gen. Eisenhower was not present at the surrender negotiations. A few minutes later he received the German delegates, and asked them sternly if they understood the terms of the surrender and would live up to them.

The German generals said "Yes."

Thus victory came to Europe, five and a half years after England and France declared war against Germany after the Nazi invasion of Poland, September 1, 1939. V-E Day was proclaimed two days short of five years since the mighty German Army rolled into France and cut short the "phony" war. Churchill's proclamation of victory came almost five years to the day since he was named Prime Minister of the British Empire and pledged those peoples nothing but "blood, sweat, and tears".

Prime Minister Churchill, in a brief statement this morning, declared two days of rejoicing for the British people. "Tuesday we shall think mostly of ourselves, and Wednesday of our Russian allies."

He expressed gratitude to all the British allies. Giving a brief outline of the surrender, the Prime Minister said that the surrender was signed by the Chief of High Command and the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of Germany, and should the German remnants resist further they will deprive themselves of the protection of the Articles of War.

Concluding, Churchill said, "Advance Britannia; long live the cause of freedom; God save the King." His statement echoed the pledge given by Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in his declaration of war against Germany on September 3, 1939, which touched off the greatest European conflict in history.

The terms of the surrender become effective at midnight British time. (5 PM, CWT).

This long-awaited announcement does not mean, however, that America's greatest feat of arms in history is at an end. On the contrary, this country faces in the Pacific an enemy strongly entrenched, with great resources and great fanaticism to back up her bid for world conquest.

The German Foreign Minister made an appeal over the Hamburg radio to the German people to lay down their arms peaceably and reestablish their nation "on a basis of justice."



HITLER—DEAD OR ALIVE?

He dwelt at length on the "heroic fight" and the "great sacrifices" of the German people. "You have sacrificed more and accomplished more" than any other people ever have done, he said.

"No one must be under any illusions about the severity of the terms," he warned the Germans. He stated that a hard life was ahead for the Germans and warned them that they "must face the future unflinchingly."

"We must recognize law as a basis for our future life among the nations of the world."

Peace reigned on the U.S. Seventh and French First Army fronts in western and central Austria, where the unconditional surrender of up to 400,000 troops of the First and 19th German Armies became effective at noon. Austrians were streaming happily back to their homes—many of which were only heaps of rubble. Thousands of released political prisoners and slave laborers also were homeward bound along every main highway.

The Canadian First Army entering German-surrendered western Holland was scheduled to occupy Rotterdam Tuesday.

Here Are The V-E Propheteers

A pool formed last August 1 on the date of V-E Day was paid off today to Capt. William R. Schuster on the Pyote AAF maintenance line.

Capt. Schuster, who picked May 15th as the date of Germany's total capitulation, received 143 one-dollar bills.

A second pool formed shortly thereafter with a total of \$110 was divided equally between Sgt. de

V-E DAY, FOR CIVVIES, MEANS HARDER WORK

The following message was directed from Deputy Commander of the Army Air Forces to all civilian employees:

"When the day of victory in Europe arrives you will justifiably have a feeling of having contributed a large part. You have a two-fold message for you at this time.

"First and foremost, do not get panicky about your job. Your services are vitally needed. The conclusion of the war in Europe will mean concentration of all our efforts on Japan. The transfer from the European theater to the Japanese theater must be made quickly and smoothly. I know how anxious you are that this global war be ended as soon as possible, so I urge you to stay on the job and see it through.

"My second point is that when we find it necessary to release forces within the AAF, it will be done as fair and systematically as we know. I do not know when the time will come to reduce forces or the extent of the reduction. I do know that for most installations it is not just around the corner. Above all do not let V-E day be a signal for lessening your efforts. Remember the B-29's still have a job to do in hastening victory over Japan."

Brig. Gen. Longfellow Says Europe Victory Proves U. S. Mettle

"With the most profound sense of gratitude, I share this day of Victory in Europe with the military and civilian personnel of your station, who individually contributed so much to make victory possible. We have seen the men we have trained cover Europe with B-17s and B-24s, smash the enemy. We have shared the glory of those who returned and shared the grief of irreplaceable losses.

"As we reflect, with satisfaction, the victory, let us not lose sight of the job at hand—keeping B-29s over Japan. Let us continue our work with renewed courage and determination. Victory in Europe has proven our mettle and now as tempered steel we move forward together to crash our last enemy."

Brig. Gen. Longfellow,
Commanding General,
16th Bomber Wing.

Felice of Flight Line Maintenance and Lt. B. Weisman of Flight Control Communications Office. Sgt. de Felice picked May 4th and Lt. Weisman guessed May 10th.

Capt. Schuster left ten bucks for drinks on the line (hot coffee, if you're wondering) and Sgt. de Felice left five.