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WWII Weekly Front Pages - The Inquirer, Philadelphia, PA

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The Inquirer, Philadelphia, PA

The monster was dead.

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HITLER IS DEAD
Nazi Radio Reports Fuehrer Killed Fighting Russians, Doenitz Takes Over Rule; Resistance Fading in Berlin

By IVAN H. (CY) PETERMAN, Inquirer War Correspondent

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY, May 1 (By Wireless)—Adolf Hitler has been killed fighting the Russians in Berlin, according to a dramatic announcement at 10.27 o'clock tonight (4.27 P.M., E.W.T.) over the Hamburg radio.

Admiral Karl Doenitz, chosen by Hitler as his successor, has taken command of the crumbling Reich, the radio added.

"The military struggle continues," said the first proclamation of the new Fuehrer, whose elevation came as a complete surprise. It is his first task to save Germany from destruction.

"Adolf! Adolf! An announcement of utmost importance to the German people will soon be made."

REPORTED KILL IN CRANFLEURY

Probably at 3.15 P.M., according to radio chatter at Army and Navy Allied listening posts throughout Europe heard the announcement, twice again.

"It is reported from the Fuehrer's headquarters that our Fuehrer Adolf Hitler, fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism, fell for Germany, this afternoon in his operational headquarters in the Reichsbachgebäude."

"On April 30 the Fuehrer appointed Grand Admiral Doenitz his successor. The Grand Admiral and successor of the Fuehrer now speaks to the German people."

Doenitz' speech called for increased resistance to Bolshevism, after citing Hitler's death as showing a "shining path" against Communism. He omitted the "final responsibility of the hour."

BERLIN'S FUTURE UNKNOWN

There is the Admiral told of Hitler's dying by a man's death, a reporter about town, according to his sources. "This is a lie."

The leading newspaper throughout Doenitz's address, when he referred to the Fuehrer as "one of the greatest leaders in German history," the radio said, will it be known.

"The greatest of all leaders."

The radio broadcast, apparently, omitted the following:

"Hitler will speak tonight and tomorrow, we have the German nation told."

"The night will speak to us, the great night that calls for order and discipline."

The German radio, commander of the German Fleet who made his appearance in various warlines, planned for order and discipline, as before and under his able. (Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

Von Rundstedt Is Captured by U. S. 7th Army

WITH THE U. S. SEVENTH ARMY, May 1 (Wireless)—The first of the U. S. Third Army's American captured German military leaders in the Western Front, Gen. Von Rundstedt, is now in American hands.

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14,000 One-Hour Patton Army Grabs Bresenbrunn in Berlin; Resistance Fading in Berlin

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 (AP)—The U. S. Third Army, under the command of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., has captured 14,000 German soldiers in the city of Berlin, according to a report received here today.

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GERMANY'S DEAD FEUERER AND ADMIRAL DOENITZ, WHO SUCCEEDED HIM

Admiral Karl Doenitz, chosen by Hitler as his successor, has taken command of the crumbling Reich, the radio added.

Graziani Surrenders His Army in North Italy

ROME, May 1 (AP)—General Rodolfo Graziani, Italian commander of the 10th Army, has surrendered his army in North Italy to the British Eighth Army.

Fierce Fighting Rages in Borneo

ALBANY, N.Y., May 1 (AP)—Fierce fighting is reported to be continuing in Borneo, where Japanese forces are resisting the advance of British and American troops.

Pay Tax Repeal Adequate Diet Assured Security Parley Killed by Senate In U.S. Despite War Aid Appoints Boards

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—The Senate today rejected a bill to repeal the income tax, and the House today passed a bill to provide for a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage.

27 Die in Action, 38 Are Wounded

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—Twenty-seven soldiers and 38 wounded in action during the fighting in the Philippines.

Promotion of Doenitz Puzzles U. S. Army

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—The promotion of Admiral Karl Doenitz to the rank of Grand Admiral has puzzled U. S. Army officials.

Shakespeare Line Applied to Hitler

WASHINGTON, May 1 (AP)—The Shakespeare line has been applied to Adolf Hitler, according to a report from the State Department.

GERMANY

At the start of the week a report of German unconditional surrender was denied by President Truman. The rumor followed a statement by Churchill that accounts of a German surrender offer "were in harmony with the

enemy's desperate situation." The prime minister's statement referred to reports that Heimlich Himmler, Hitler's propaganda minister, had offered to surrender.

Paris radio said the German Reichstag, the seat of the Nazi government, had been seized by the Russians. This was confirmed on the 1st of May. Soviet armies had hurled German defenders back into a shell-raked 25 square mile pocket in the city's center while thousands of German troops gave up the suicidal struggle and surrendered to the Red Army. Two American armies had driven to within 20 miles of the capital. An order from Premier Stalin declared that "The World War is approaching the end. The downfall of Hitlerism is very near. Mortally wounded, the Fascist beast is at his last breath."

Tanks and infantry of the US Seventh Army took over Munich, meeting practically no opposition as they rolled into the birthplace of Nazism. North of Munich Patton's Third Army liberated 27,000 Allied prisoners of war, mainly American airmen.

On 2 May Berlin radio announced that Adolf Hitler was killed fighting the Russians in Berlin. Admiral Karl Doenitz, who made his name in submarine warfare, had been appointed the new Führer, taking command of the crumbling Reich. "The military struggle continues," said his first proclamation. "It is my first task to save Germany from destruction." By 3 May Berlin had fallen and Nazi resistance was collapsing.

ITALY

Swiss radio said that the Germans had agreed to surrender in Lombardy and Piedmont and all fighting had ceased in those provinces which border on Switzerland. On 2 May the Fascist commander announced the unconditional surrender of his million man army in northern Italy and Austria. Only a few skirmishes were reported as Allied troops spread over the northern end of the Italian peninsula to engulf the few knots of German soldiers weakly resisting.

Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was brought into Milan by patriots, according to Swiss radio. The broadcast said he had been turned over to a court-martial. The Archbishop of Milan appealed for the populace to refrain from violence and vengeful measures and to leave judgement to the proper authorities. On 30 April it was announced that Mussolini had been executed by a firing squad, along with his mistress.

PACIFIC/ASIA

Long-defended Baguio, summer capital of the Philippines on northern Luzon fell to the Americans on Friday. The Japanese garrison was destroyed.

Tokyo radio reported that an Allied force had landed on the east coast of Borneo, under cover of an offshore bombardment. Borneo was one of the richest oil producing centers in the southeast Pacific islands.

A Japanese counteroffensive on Okinawa by land, sea and air against US forces was repulsed with heavy Japanese casualties. Multiple sea landings were attempted, along with an attack by an enemy regiment and a heavy air strike which caused some damage to shipping.

HOME FRONT

The US was warned from the highest official circles that it must tighten its belt still further in order to help feed the liberated areas of Europe and prevent political chaos there which might impair the prospects of a stable and lasting peace. President Truman said that he was "very sympathetic" with the needs of liberated areas but did not specifically endorse the recommendations.

President Truman ordered government seizure of 363 strike-bound Pennsylvania anthracite mine properties, 48 hours after the War Labor Board had failed in its attempt to enforce peaceful extension of the United Mine Workers' contract.

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Philadelphia Inquirer)