

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

MEDITERRANEAN

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TWO LIRE

# NAZI ARMIES

# IN ITALY

# SURRENDER

By Sgt. HOWARD TAUBMAN

Staff Correspondent

**AFHQ, May 2—The German armies in Italy and in part of Austria have surrendered—completely and unconditionally.**

The long, bitter, back-breaking campaign of Italy has been crowned with victory. In the theater where the western Allies made their first breach in Adolf Hitler's Fortress Europe, the fighting has come to an end with the surrender of an entire front.

This front covers not only the rest of Italy where the routed Germans have been fleeing in disorder but the western area of Austria. The Germans defending the Austrian provinces of Vorarlberg, Tyrol, Salzburg and parts of Carinthia and Styria have surrendered to the Allied might of the Mediterranean Theater.

This means that vital cities like Innsbruck and Salzburg are ours without a fight. It means that Allied forces take over Austrian territory within ten miles of Berchtesgaden, where Hitler built what he thought was a personal fortress so deep in the fastnesses of the Alps that it would take months and years to approach it.

It means that the bankruptcy of German aggressive policy and German arms has caused an old line Prussian military leader like Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff and a convinced Nazi like SS General Karl Wolff, the two commanders on this front who have surrendered, to ignore Hitler's and Himmler's injunction—to fight to the end.

It means that other fronts where the Germans have any sort of sizable formations may choose to follow suit. It may be that here, in Italy, where the Allies have done their hardest and most sustained fighting, the way has been shown to German commanders how to end the useless slaughter at once.

But above all else, the surrender in Italy means that the valorous fighters of the 5th and 8th Armies, who have fought their way up the entire length of the relentless Apennines, need not begin the heart-breaking task of conquering the mountains that lead to the Brenner Pass and into Austria.

It means, too, that the fliers of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces need not go plunging into the flak alleys around Brenner Pass or in the other narrow passages among the Alps where the Germans (Continued on page 2)

# Nazi Armies In Italy Give Up

(Continued from page 1)

defended communication lines with murderous anti-aircraft fire.

The surrender documents were signed on Sunday afternoon, April 29, just after 2 PM in a closely guarded room in the Royal Palace at Caserta. The terms were to take effect no later than Wednesday, May 2, at noon, Greenwich mean time (2 PM, Italian time).

The signers were a German lieutenant colonel representing General von Vietinghoff and a German major representing SS General Wolff. Lt. Gen. W. D. Morgan, chief of staff of AFHQ, signed as the representative of Supreme Allied Commander Field Marshal Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander.

With the signing of the surrender documents, enemy forces estimated at somewhere between 600,000 and 900,000 men laid down their arms and became the prisoners of the fighting men of the Mediterranean Theater.

With the scratching of a pen on a sheet of paper—which is surely an act of peace—the Allies in Italy sealed their final victory. In one swoop they landed what may turn out to be the largest prisoner haul of the war at one time and the largest chunk of enemy-controlled territory to be ceded without a battle.

The surrender took place with the full knowledge and consultation of the heads of state and Chiefs of Staffs not only in Washington and London but in Moscow as well. Our Soviet ally was informed of every step of the negotiations and its representatives were among the witnesses to the signing of the surrender documents.

It can now be revealed that the first intimation of an interest in surrendering came before the final attack by General Mark W. Clark's 15th Army Group for the Po Valley began. Apparently that first glimmer of interest was not serious. The smashing success of the last Allied offensive in Italy accelerated German desires to quit in this theater.

A few days before the actual signing, the German commanders got word through to Allied leaders that they were ready to negotiate surrender. From the beginning it was made clear to them that the terms were complete and unconditional submission.

On Saturday, April 28, two German officers wearing civilian clothes were flown down to AFHQ. They arrived at 4 PM. The surrender terms were formalized and put into writing after a series of discussions. By 2 PM on Sunday the documents were ready for the signatures.

To record the historic event, six newspaper and radio writers representing the world press, who had been chosen by lot, were taken to the scene of the signing. We went secretly by plane from Rome. We had been told that the trip might be to see recently liberated territory. We thought it might be some kind of a linkup story.

The utmost secrecy was necessary because the Germans, under the surrender terms, were required to turn over vital information on installations before the documents became fully effective. Until the terms were fully effectuated, there was always the grave peril that the Nazi High Command might discover what was in the wind and might intervene to break up the fulfillment of the terms.

Under the terms of the surrender document, Von Vietinghoff, German Commander in Chief of the Southwest, quit fighting in all the territory in his charge. This included all of Italy as far east as the line of the Isonzo River. It does not include the city of Trieste, which is east of the Isonzo and under the command of General Lehr, German Commander in Chief of the Southeast.

SS General Wolff, supreme commander of SS and Police and Plenipotentiary General of the Wehrmacht in Italy, agreed to give up all resistance in the Austrian provinces that he controlled.

The signing of the surrender terms took exactly 12 minutes. Hundreds of thousands of enemy troops and thousands of enemy-held square miles of territory were forfeited in a room 18 by 25 feet in size. The signing was conducted with rigorous simplicity and with swift, military precision.

It took place in General Morgan's office. When the correspondents walked into the room at 1:45 PM, two photographers were there—one for stills and another for motion pictures. Eight powerful floodlights fed by a generator were set up and they filled the room with a brilliant white glare.

It was obviously a military leader's office. On one wall there was a huge map of the Po Valley. On another a detailed map showed the city of Vienna and its vicinity, with pins marking the course of the battle that raged for the Austrian capital from April 4 when the Russians entered until April 13 when it was finally and entirely liberated. On a third wall there was a map of the Mediterranean and the lands that enclose it.

A desk was over to the right near a small alcove. Two armchairs were pushed against a far wall. A long, polished conference table stood catty-cornered near the center of

the room. There was one chair at each end of the table. An inkwell rested on each end of the table, and pens with well-chewed wooden holders lay beside them.

The ceiling was brightly decorated in light blue and brown. Obviously the decorations were done during Mussolini's Fascist regime. The arms of the provinces were painted into the design. The center piece of the ceiling decoration had two Fasces—symbol of Mussolini's crushed state and party—and the now ironic Latin slogan "Incipit Novus Ordo (The new order begins).

There were two carpets, somewhat worn, on the floor and white curtains on the walls reflected the glare from the floodlights. In a corner stood a moving picture camera ready to make a pictorial record of the scene.

The correspondents lined up against one wall and began making notes. At 1:55 a young American colonel walked in through a side door and checked the inkwells. Satisfied that there was enough ink for the job in hand, he went out again.

At 2:05 PM, a group of Allied officers—American, British and Russian—entered through the main door. All the Allied services—ground, air and sea—were represented. The officers stood against the wall opposite us. General Morgan came in last and stood behind a chair at one end of the table.

At 2:08 PM the two German officers came in through a side door, escorted by an American colonel and a British lieutenant colonel. The Germans stood stiffly at the other end of the table across from General Morgan.

The German lieutenant colonel, Von Vietinghoff's representative, was tall, had blond, receding hair and a wisp of a mustache. His eyes were pale and aloof as if trying to mask all feeling. He looked the Hollywood version of a Prussian officer.

The German major, Wolff's emissary, was short, dark, intense-looking. His face had a high color as if he could be short-tempered. There was less cool dignity in him but he had an air of more suppressed tension. Several times, when the photographer came too close to him, he waved his hand with an imperious gesture but then hastily restrained himself. He looked his role, too—that of a spokesman for the thoroughly Nazified SS troops.

Both Germans were in civilian clothes, smartly dressed as if they had been outfitted on Bond Street in London or by Brooks Brothers in New York. They wore checked sports coats—the colonel's jacket had the gaudier checks—gray flannel trousers, gray shirts, dark blue ties and brown shoes. Even in these peaceable getups, though they looked as if they'd be perfectly at home on any country club veranda, they did not seem like men who would win friends and influence people easily—without force.

General Morgan, standing behind his chair, began the proceedings, by saying, "I understand that you are prepared and empowered to sign the terms of a surrender agreement. Is that correct?"

The tall Prussian colonel replied, "Ja."

General Morgan repeated the question to the SS major who did not understand the English. A translator put the question in German, and the major said, "Ja wohl."

General Morgan went on: "I have been empowered to sign this agreement on behalf of the Supreme Allied Commander—the terms to take effect by noon, May 2, Greenwich mean time. I now ask you to sign and I shall sign after you."

The Prussian colonel, speaking in clipped, rapid German, interjected: "May I repeat, before signing, the point which I made during negotiations—namely, that I personally am going a little beyond my powers, but I presume that my commander in chief, Von Vietinghoff, will accept. But I cannot be entirely responsible."

The translator repeated these words in English, and General Morgan said, "I accept."

Speaking forcefully and deliberately, General Morgan said, "It is understood, is it not, that these terms, if accepted, enter into force at noon, May 2, Greenwich mean time. Is this correct?"

The German colonel said, "Ja wohl."

The German major said, "Ja."

"I now ask you to sign the documents," General Morgan said.

The Prussian colonel sat down and signed his name hastily on five copies. The SS major followed him. It took them two minutes to surrender for their commanders. General Morgan sat down at the other end of the table and signed, as the Allied officers standing behind him looked on. It took him a minute. At 2:15 the job was done.

General Morgan stood up and said, "I give you three copies, one of which is in German. I am retaining the others for the Supreme Allied Commander and the Allied Governments."

He handed the three copies to Col. E. J. Bastion Jr., (U. S.) secretary to Field Marshal Alexander. Colonel Bas-

(Continued on page 3)

## Terms Of Surrender Instrument Brief, With 3 Appendices

AFHQ, May 2—The terms of the unconditional surrender of the German and Italian Fascist land, air and naval forces were concisely listed in the Instrument of Surrender in six short paragraphs. Three appendices gave details.

The first of the five terms imposed unconditional surrender upon the German Commander in Chief Southwest of all forces under his command or control. The second set the time of 1200 hours, GMT, May 2, 1945, for the cessation of all hostilities.

The third required immediate immobilization and disarmament of enemy ground, sea and air forces, and the fourth affirmed the obligation of the German Commander in Chief Southwest to carry out any further orders issued by the Supreme Allied Commander.

The final term stated that disobedience of orders or failure to comply with them was to be dealt with in accordance with the accepted laws and usages of war.

The Instrument of Surrender stipulated that it was independent of and would be superseded by any general Instrument of Surrender imposed by the United Nations upon Germany and the German armed forces as a whole.

The Instrument and its appendices were written in English and German.

It stipulated that the decision of the Supreme Allied Commander would be final if any doubt or dispute arose as to the meaning or interpretation of the surrender terms.

## U. S. Troops Within Six Miles Of Davao

MANILA, May 2—American troops on Mindanao in the southern Philippines have driven to within six miles of Davao, largest city on the island, General Douglas MacArthur announced today.

The communique did not confirm the Borneo landings reported by the Japanese yesterday.

Speaking in Australia's House of Representatives, however, Acting Prime Minister Joseph Crifley said that famous Australian divisions from the Middle East were taking part in Borneo operations.

### GAIN ON OKINAWA

GUAM, May 2—The U. S. 7th Infantry Division has entered the village of Kahuzu, on the eastern flank of the southern Okinawa front, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz reported today.

Only local gains were scored yesterday on the bitterly-contested line in front of Naha and Shuri, largest island cities, the admiral said. Japanese planes attacked American shipping, damaging one medium-sized vessel.

## British Go Ashore South Of Rangoon

KANDY, Ceylon, May 2—Landings south of Rangoon, the Burma capital, have been made by Allied amphibious forces, aided by paratroops, the Southeast Asia Command announced today, Reuter's reported.

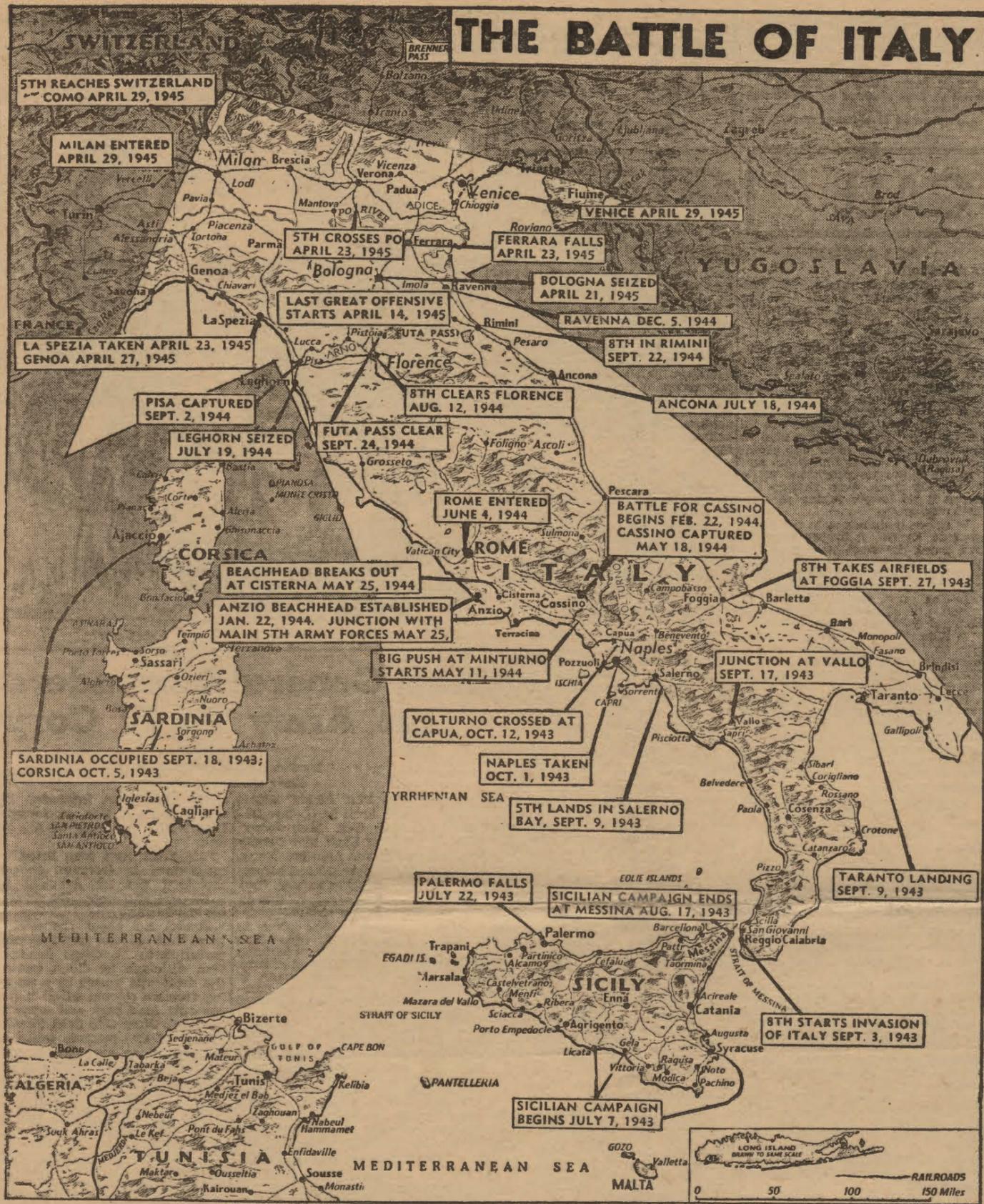
British and Indian troops established themselves on both banks of the Rangoon River a few miles inland from the Gulf of Martaban, advancing toward Rangoon from beachheads about 40 miles to the south.

Their landings have caught the Burmese capital between the jaws of north-south pincers. The 14th Army driving down the railroad from Mandalay is less than 35 miles from the city.

The amphibious operation near the southern coast of Burma was coordinated with an attack by battleships, cruisers and destroyers of the British East Indies Fleet on Car Nicobar Island, in the Indian Ocean.

### Duce Buried

MILAN, May 2 (AP)—Mussolini was buried late yesterday in pauper's cemetery after an autopsy showed that the Duce was not suffering from ulcers, cancer or any other ailments reported in recent years.



## General Vietinghoff Gives Up After Only Month On Italy Job

By A Staff Correspondent  
 AFHQ, May 2 — The favorite phrase and motto of Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, the German commander who surrendered in Italy after only a little more than a month in charge was, "I lead from in front."

Facts revealed here for the first time about his career showed that he is 58 and was brought up and educated in Prussian military circles.

During World War I, he was a regimental staff officer. From 1921 to 1938, he served as an infantry officer in various units in addition to a tour of duty at the War Ministry in Berlin.

In November, 1938, he took command of the new 5th Panzer Division in the Wehrmacht that Hitler was building rapidly for his dreams of conquest. In 1940, Von Vietinghoff commanded the XIII Panzer Corps in the west and received the Knight's Cross. He also became a General of Panzertruppe.

In the Balkan campaign, Von Vietinghoff led the XLVI Corps which captured Sarajevo. Then he moved to the central front in Russia where he fought in 1941 and 1942.

In 1943 he became head of the 15th Army in France, and in October of that year took over the 10th Army in Italy, when he was made a colonel general.

In October, 1944, he took over as commander in chief in place of Field Marshal Albert C. Kesselring, who, it is believed, was injured at that time. When Kesselring returned to action in December, Von Vietinghoff resumed his 10th Army command.

In mid-March, when Kesselring was shifted to the west front command, Von Vietinghoff took over.

The German southwest command included only Italy, but recently the section of Austria surrendered by Von Vietinghoff and SS General Wolff was switched to this command.

Before the Po Valley offensive by the 5th and 8th Armies began, the German 10th and 14th Armies and the Ligurian Army of Fascist Italians, which was also under effective German direction, consisted of 22 divisions, according to an Allied intelligence officer here.

These divisions were at a strength of about 12,000 each and among the best in the Wehrmacht. The Germans had here one panzer division, two panzer grenadier divisions, two parachute divisions, one mountain division and the rest were infantry.

The commander of the 10th Army was General Herr, of the 14th General Toppelskirch and of the Ligurian Army Italian Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.

## German Evacuation Of Norway Doubted

LONDON, May 2 — While there were some reports from Sweden today that an agreement has been reached on German evacuation of Norway in talks between the German minister in Copenhagen and Swedish representatives, Allied military quarters were treating these reports with reserve, Reuter's said.

Latest reports from Norway indicate that the German commander in chief, as well as Josef Terboven, Reich Commissioner for Norway, have taken measures to carry out Admiral Karl Doenitz' order to resist.

The German garrison in Norway has been estimated at about 300,000 troops, together with a few hundred Luftwaffe fighters and some U-boats. This force generally was regarded as the principal obstacle which might stand in the way of an early end to the war in Europe.

Meanwhile, a Reuter's Stockholm correspondent said that German naval forces in Denmark had begun to surrender, and that German marines had dismantled the guns of their ships. This was not confirmed by any source other than "telephone contact with Copenhagen."

## Gen. Eaker Visits

CHUNGKING, May 1 (AP)— Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker recently visited 14th Air Force headquarters and conferred with Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault. It was announced today. Plans for transfer of a part of the American air strength in Europe to the Far East are believed to have been discussed.

# Signing Was Dramatic Scene

(Continued from page 2)

tion, who had wielded the blotter during the signing while Lt. Col. J. G. Sweetman, British officer, had handed the documents to the signatories, turned the copies over to the Germans. Colonel Bastion put his fountain pen back into his pocket; his pen had been used, instead of those on the table.

One of the correspondents whispered later, "Damn that fountain pen. I was going to try to take one of the other pens, if they had been used."

His colleague replied, "So was I."

When the Germans had their copies, which seemed to include half a dozen sheets each, General Morgan said, "Thank you, gentlemen. I now ask you to withdraw."

The Germans withdrew at 2:17 PM. It was believed that they were returning to their chiefs that afternoon.

General Morgan came over to the correspondents and answered several questions briefly. About the terms, he said they "are, in effect, complete and unconditional surrender." He described the areas commanded by the surrendering generals and guessed at the number of men in their control.

Speaking of the territory ceded, he said, "This puts us practically in Berchtesgaden."

Among the Allied officers witnessing the signing of the surrender documents were:

Maj. Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer (U. S.), deputy chief of staff, AFHQ.

Brig. Gen. W. C. McMahon, assistant chief of staff, 15th Army Group, representing General Clark.

Rear Admiral H. A. Packer (British), chief of staff for the commander in chief, Mediterranean, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham.

Rear Admiral S. S. Lewis (U. S.), chief of staff, U. S. Naval Forces, Mediterranean.

Air Vice Marshal G. V. H. Baker, chief of staff, RAF, Mediterranean.

Maj. Gen. C. C. Chauncey (U. S.), chief of staff, MAAF.

Maj. Gen. T. S. Airey (British), asst. chief of staff, G2, AFHQ.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Noce (U. S.), asst. chief of staff, G3, AFHQ.

Brig. Gen. A. J. McChrystal (U. S.), chief of information, News and Censorship Section, AFHQ.

Lt. Gen. Sir Brian H. Robertson, chief administrative officer, AFHQ.

Maj. Gen. A. P. Kislenco, Soviet representative to the Allied Commission in Italy.

Lt. M. Vraevsky, on General Kislenco's staff.

Lt. Col. W. M. Cunningham (British), military assistant to Field Marshal Alexander.

The other press and radio men were Herbert G. King, UP, and Winston Burdett, CBS, Americans; Hubert D. Harrison, Reuter's, Patrick Smith, BBC, and Bill Taylor, Union Jack, British.

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MAIL CALL

OLD MEN

Dear Editor: In all its preparations for "after the war," the Army is overlooking its "minority" — the men in our armed forces of the older age group. The majority of these men had to sacrifice a well established business or a good position when drafted. Upon their return to civilian life, the task of starting a business in face of well organized competition is not going to be an easy one. The positions they left will be handled by others, who have acquired a good knowledge of their work, while the returning veteran lost contact with all phases of his former job while serving his country.

The Government guarantees the return of the job to the veteran, and I'm sure that most employers will be patriotic enough to give their jobs back to the "old men." But no man with any sort of pride and ability will accept a job offered him, feeling as though he is not wanted. Consequently, many will seek other employment, where they feel they are needed most. The "old men" can not avail themselves of the different college courses offered by the Government, their school days are over, and the group that will have no jobs to go back to, will face the competition in a labor market of young aggressive men, with many new ideas and technical knowledge acquired in the Army.

Men of the older age group are not wanted by the Army, and at the present time not drafted in the service. When the Army demobilizes part of its own forces, why not give a chance to those who served for three year or over to go out and establish themselves before they are forced in the "apple seller" class by the competition of millions of younger men who are bound to flood the labor market just as soon as the war is over? —T-4 I. J. Rechter, QM

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Dear Editor: Being TC men, we have often wondered why we are not allowed to wear the TC patch. We have noticed several men coming over from the States wearing our patch, which is a red shield with a yellow boat-wheel in the center. We are not ashamed to wear the PBS patch, but with all the wonderful work being done by the TC Corps, we think that is the least they can do for us. Why was the patch designed if men serving under TC, especially those serving overseas, can't wear it? —Pfc. James E. Clark, TC

Puptent Poets

COLD

Two slept on a cold paving. Wrapped in each other As blankets are wrapped about Legs and thighs—hips and breast For comfort. Their legs are entwined And one held the other, Spoon curled, In protection. They were bent and twisted in a dark little corner. Forsoot and neglected by all but the win. The wind found them—and froze them. Their eyes were open and held no expression. Not even a cold expression. They were dead!

We, who saw them, Shivered in our warm coats And removed our heavy gloves To reach for handkerchiefs In our grief. We felt the cold paving through Our sturdy shoes and stockings. We felt a nameless shame And cast our eyes to their dead, bare feet. —Sgt. Shirley Colker, WAC

BAEDEKER

If I had the money, The world to see You can bet your life, No Italy for me. —Pfc. John W. Mills, AF

AGE GROUPS

Dear Editor: A recent article published in The Stars and Stripes stated that no consideration is given to age under the existing U. S. Armed Forces demobilization plan.

The British demobilization plan only considers two factors; (1) age; (2) time in the service.

Certainly age is an important factor and should be given consideration in our plan, especially since men over certain ages are no longer being drafted. Many men in the service of the older age group have served three to four years and still there are no provisions made to benefit them, even though the Army is no longer taking men in their age group.

Why not include age in the point systems on the following basis of one point for each year past the 18-year-old mark or on some equitable basis where it will benefit all men in the service who have a combination of points, the total of which will allow them to be discharged from the service.

If it is the Army's or Navy's desire to hold certain essential key men, let them pick these men as they have officers and not penalize the entire group.

Should age be included in the point system, there would not be a wholesale release of men in a certain age group, but only those men would qualify, who have a combination of time in the service, dependent children, time overseas and combat awards. —Sgt. Richard Waincott, QM

CLUMSY SATIRE

Dear Editor: Having read your feature "The Barber Comes Back to Leghorn" in The Stars and Stripes, I am wondering if, in the official publication of our armed forces in Italy, such clumsy satire is not somewhat out of place and unnecessary. Perhaps the following bits of advice would not be wholly inappropriate:—First, that it would be wise not to criticize a performance unless the critic stays until its end. Second, that "ham" acting is synonymous with opera the world over and not merely in Leghorn; and that a set routine of slap-stick is traditional in all productions of the "Barber," everywhere—Third, that despite the orchestra, the Angeli production was in the end a very creditable one with the Rosina, at least, a really first-rate artist. Fourth, last, and not only the "authoritative music critic" but to us all, that charity is the first obligation of real authority, and humor its most gracious complement. —Cpl. William G. Hope, AF

Bologna 'U' May Admit GI Scholars

BOLOGNA, May 2 — Troops of the 91st Division were the first to come in contact with higher education in northern Italy. The "Powder River" boys last fall captured the University of Bologna observatory and a few other of its buildings, near Loiano. The 91st used one as division command post long enough for everyone to be entitled to some sort of degree.

When the 91st and other troops passed through last Sunday, they were not concerned with advanced learning. But perhaps in a few weeks some might be interested. Professor Felice Battaglia, temporary rector of the University of Bologna, said he was confident that American soldiers with proper qualifications would have no difficulty in enrolling at the university for postwar studies.

The University of Bologna, founded in 1088, is the oldest in Europe and one of the most famous in the world. Its list of distinguished alumni is long—Dante and Petrarch in letters, Irnerio in law, Galvani and Copernico in science, Dr. William Harvey in medicine and Rossini in music—and scores of others in almost every field of human endeavor.

Check Faculty . . .

The university is now closed while Allied officials investigate past activities of some of the institution's faculty members and other personnel. The Fascist rector, Goffredo Coppola, fled before the Allies entered the city. The enrollment has dropped from approximately 12,000 in 1943 to 3,000 this year.

It is much too early to say how all the faculty members conducted themselves under the Fascists and Nazis. Jewish professors, of course, were dismissed. It may take some time to determine how many teachers were active Fascists—how many gave only passive support and how many opposed Fascism. One professor said active Fascists on the faculty numbered only four. Some of the teachers are known to have fought the Fascists.

Dr. Alessandro Novaro of the medical school, returned two days after the liberation. He had been held for months by the Germans, and tortured many times. Through his bravery, half of the university's supply of radium was saved from the Nazis. Other professors are still in German hands. When the full story of the work of the anti-Fascist professors is known, it may prove one of the finest chapters in the university's history.

Like L. S. U. . .

Judging from a catalogue circulated in 1938, the position of the University of Bologna was not unlike that of Louisiana State University during the Huey Long regime. Just as Huey gave L. S. U. new buildings and money, so the Duce made improvements and added chairs to this university. The 64-page catalogue has only one picture and four or five references that plug the Fascist rule.

Here is an example: "The enormous number of students, amongst whom the . . . Fascist group develops a most active propaganda and political education, in cooperation with the academic authorities, needed an adequate meeting place to fulfill those duties which Fascism has imposed. The old and well founded desire of the students has now been fulfilled in the very best way, thanks to the Regime . . ."

Like some universities in large cities back home, the University of Bologna is scattered throughout the town, with no campus. The only building damaged by air raids housed the library and the famous anatomical theater. The treasured Lelli statues, which show the muscles but no skin, were damaged but can be repaired, an AMG officer said.

Some of the young Fascist students, it is said, shunned the practice of apple-polishing. Instead they would enter the professor's office with a gun and tell him to pass them. What would you do? —Sgt. TOM McRAE

Merit Plaques

MAAF HEADQUARTERS, May 2 — The 12th and 13th Weather Squadrons of the Army Air Forces have received the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque. Since the North African landings, these weather squadrons have served in Tunisia, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and southern France.

UP FRONT . . .

By Mauldin



"I'm headin' fer th' la-a-a-st round-up!"

Nazi General Surrenders His Army To IV Corps

By Sgt. STAN SWINTON Staff Correspondent

WITH THE 5TH ARMY NEAR LAKE COMO, April 29 (Delayed)—Monocled Maj. Gen. Max Joseph Pemsel, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Ligurian Army, unconditionally surrendered his entire five-division force to Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittenger of the IV Corps at 1114 hours today.

The capitulation took place in General Crittenger's van, which was parked beside a school building in a picturesque village east of here. Efforts are now being made to communicate news of the surrender to General Pemsel's scattered forces.

It was Lt. Col. James Simmerman of the 1st Armored Division's Combat Command AAA who paved the way for the mass surrender. The Virginia tank commander had been told by another captured German general that two enemy garrisons in the Lake Como sector would surrender if contacted. He went out hunting them yesterday.

PARTISANS REPORT

In the village of Lecco, Partisans stopped Simmerman, said they had the Ligurian Army headquarters surrounded and that Marshal Rodolfo Graziano, commander in chief of the Fascist Republican Army, who nominally commanded the Ligurian Army, was a prisoner. The Patriots added that General Pemsel was in a mood to give up.

Twenty-four hours earlier the Partisans had established a truce with the German general. Army headquarters itself was ringed with barbed wire. Inside, German sentries stood on guard while only a few feet away Patriots walked post. The remainder of the village, named Mandelo, was in Partisan hands and the Patriots had telephone communication with the Tedeschi.

The Partisan commander telephoned General Pemsel, told him Colonel Simmerman was there, and arranged for a German officer to come out and serve as escort.

GENERAL ARRIVES

Colonel Simmerman was taken to the German headquarters and informed Pemsel his army's position was hopeless. Pemsel admitted he was without communication to his troops or to his army group, and offered to accompany the 1st Armored Division officer back to division headquarters.

I was in the G-2 section at midnight when the general and his aid, a Major Kneip, drove up in their sedan with Colonel Simmerman. General Pemsel, a brick-complexioned blond who wears a magnificent soft black leather greatcoat, was in good spirits. He laughed at a joke by his aide. When I offered him a spam sandwich, which Sgt. Norbert Kiefer of Eagle Rock, Calif., had just made, he accepted, saying, "Thank you," without the trace of an ac-

cent. What most interested him was a chart of German forces in Italy which was hung on the tent wall.

"My army isn't even listed," he complained in German. Someone explained the 1st Armored had never run into them. He shrugged his shoulders.

Pemsel sat about the tent for more than an hour awaiting transportation to IV Corps headquarters. Although he didn't know it, the delay was caused by a retreating German column which had cut the only road back and seized the division's Piper Cub field. Finally a convoy of two medium tanks, two light tanks, an armored car and a jeep was arranged. Pemsel saluted, wheeled and walked out with Capt. Walter Freudenberg of Boulder, Colo., a divisional interrogator.

The Nazi general was red-eyed from lack of sleep. When he finally arrived at Corps, the conference with General Crittenger began at 0840 hours. At 1105 Pemsel said: "I am ready to surrender the Army of Liguria." Nine minutes later the unconditional surrender was signed amidst the flashing of Army Pictorial Service photo bulbs.

STORY COMES OUT

Later the story of what happened within General Crittenger's van came out. Pemsel admitted he had no contact with his forces—two divisions. He said he had no idea of their present location or fighting power.

General Crittenger crisply replied that he was in contact with the Germans, even if the general wasn't. He described the situation of each, and said only immediate surrender would save the army from destruction.

At 1042 hours, General Crittenger withdrew while Pemsel and his chief of staff conferred. The surrender followed. The announcement was transmitted to Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, 5th Army Commander, and broadcast to all Ligurian Army troops.

The surrender of an entire army was a proud victory for the IV Corps, which has been in combat for 320 days without rest and has liberated 600 Italian cities.

Probably it is a day General Pemsel won't forget either. His first surrender and his first spam sandwich both came within 24 hours—and that's enough for any man.

Say That Again

WASHINGTON, May 2 (ANS)—Local Draft Board members and other uncompensated Selective Service personnel would be eligible for a certificate and medal for faithful and patriotic service under a bill approved today by the House Military Affairs Committee.

# Germans, Weather 5th's Joint Enemies

The collapse of German resistance brought cheerful, much-needed relief today to the war-rugged, battle-tryed veterans of the 5th Army.

The day for which they had been fighting their way for so long up the Italian Boot from Salerno had come at last.

For 19 hard and bitter months, 5th Army men had been driving the Jerries out of the Italian Apennines and from the narrow, sometimes picturesque Italian valleys.

Together with men of the British 8th Army, they had cleared more than 100,000 square miles of Krauts. Through mountain snow and summer's heat, they had pushed the Germans northward yard by yard, mile by mile for nearly 600 miles.

Surrender of the Germans brings to a close the 5th's Italian campaign—the longest and perhaps the hardest-fought campaign of the European war.

It was in North Africa—on Jan. 5, 1943—that the 5th Army came into being—the first U. S. Army of this war to be organized outside the Continental United States.

Its first task was protection of the huge area of North Africa behind the Tunisian battle-front—the lines of supply and communications and the vital supply and personnel bases. It also had the job of training troops for future operations.

## TRAINED IN AFRICA

At its head was placed General Mark W. Clark—then a lieutenant general—who as deputy commander-in-chief to General Dwight D. Eisenhower had integrated plans for the 1942 invasion of North Africa.

From January into the summer of 1943, 5th Army training centers popped up all over North Africa, one of them being an invasion training center. Nearly all of the U. S. troops taking part in the Sicilian invasion and campaign received training in one or more of these 5th Army centers.

The 5th Army's biggest and most important job—the liberation of Italy from the Germans—began at Salerno on Sept. 9, 1943, the day after Italy surrendered.

At 3 AM (Italian time), under cover of heavy U. S. and British naval bombardments, invasion-trained 5th Army troops assaulted the Salerno beaches for the first U. S. landing in force on the mainland of Europe since the 1918 armistice.

That landing was probably the toughest amphibious operation of the European war. The Jerries then were strong—and they were ready. When 5th Army troops hit the beaches from the invasion fleet that covered 1,000 square miles of the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Jerries let loose.

Within 24 hours, 5th Army troops repulsed a half-dozen Nazi counterattacks and for a week the battle of Salerno raged furiously—a sample of the many bloody, rugged battles that lay ahead in Italy. Veterans of Salerno will tell you the Germans battled there with everything they had—and they had plenty in those days.

## ALMOST LOST

Now it can be revealed that for eight days the battle of Salerno hung in the balance, and at times it seemed certain the Jerries would push the invading Yanks back into the sea.

The Jerries threw their best tanks into the battle. They threw heavy mortar and peppered the beachhead with artillery fire. They also bombed and strafed—for then the Jerries had planes. They threw into the battle such crack outfits as the 11th Panzers (which fought at Stalingrad) and the 15th, 16th and 29th Panzers.

So narrow was our hold that Army, Corps and Division headquarters were under a single roof.

Blood of the 5th Army covered the Salerno sand and bodies of both Yanks and Krauts piled high. But the beachhead held.

Slowly, yard by yard, the 5th began to move toward Naples, 35 miles northward. It reached Naples Oct. 1, 21 days after the initial Salerno landings.

They were 21 days of hell—of continuous battle against a powerful enemy.

The road from Naples to Rome was even harder. It took the 5th four disheartening, perilous months to make that 45 miles up the Via Casilina to Cassino, and then it stopped until May 18, 1944.

After Naples everything seemed to conspire against the hard-fighting Yanks—weather, rivers, mountains. Day after day, 5th Army troops looked up at well-entrenched Krauts and day by day the Yank troops had to climb the crags and sharp cliffs to exterminate them. They had to slush



The invasion of the mainland of Europe began here on the sandy beaches of the Gulf of Salerno on Sept. 9, 1943. This is the way it must have looked to the Krauts who were waiting on Mt. Soprano, a mountain feature which dominated the landing area. The first seven days was hell for the men who worked the beaches. The Krauts had a Luftwaffe then. Shipping and the beaches were raided more than 56 times in one week.

through deep, gooey mud, wade swift mountain streams in face of perfectly patterned enemy fire.

It was winter as they crossed the Voltorno, as they battled through dozens of towns like Isernia and Venafro to reach Cassino, the gateway to Rome.

Just before Cassino, they had to cross the rain-swollen Rapido River. It was the most deadly river the 5th Army ever crossed. As the troops tried to bridge the stream, the Jerries opened up from the mountains from which they had perfect observation.

Then Cassino—and the Yanks bumped into the Nazi winter Gustav Line. Here the 5th Army troops found the Germans had even fortified the ancient St. Benedict's monastery atop Monte Cassino, a mile above the town.

Then came the Anzio beachhead. In hope of leap-frogging around the winter line which ran through Cassino, the U. S. 3rd, 34th and 45th Divisions with part of the 1st Armored Division and several British units landed on Jan. 22, 1944, at Anzio, 20 miles south of Rome. The landing was a surprise and a beachhead eight miles deep and ten miles wide was established before the Germans caught on.

## FALSE HOPE

The Allies hoped the Germans would withdraw some of their divisions from the Cassino front to meet the Anzio threat—but instead Field Marshal Albert Kesselring shifted only a few troops from the Cassino front and brought in seven fresh divisions from south of Rome.

For the next weeks, blood again marked the Italian campaign. Kesselring threw a total of 11 divisions against the bridgehead and his biggest guns, including the "Anzio Express."

The tenacious beachhead defense put up by the 3rd Division rivaled the division's stand on the Marne during World War I. Other divisions also held firm. And instead of pushing the beachhead into the sea, Kesselring lost thousands of men in dead and wounded.

Meanwhile, battle raged in a deadlock around Cassino. The 36th Division suffered heavily in repeated efforts to take the town. At one time another U. S. division could have taken the town, if it had had but a few hundred fresh troops. But entrenched in underground tunnels and behind piles of rubble, the Germans held firm. Finally Allied planes smashed the Nazi-fortified abbey atop Monte Cassino and artillery and planes together leveled the tiny mountainside town.

On the night of May 11, 1944, the 5th Army and the British 8th Army together started a spring offensive to break through Cassino and get to Rome.

The British 8th had been moved from the Adriatic sector to the Cassino front and the 5th was moved to the west coastal sector along the Garigliano. On May 18, New Zealanders and Poles of the 8th Army crashed through Cassino and the 5th began to move all along its sector to reach and pass the Pontine Marshes. French forces, between the 5th Army and the British, also began to move.

On May 23, the Anzio beachhead burst out in three directions and two days later contact was made between the beachhead and the main 5th Army coming northward. From then on, there was no stopping of the 5th until it reached the mountains protecting the Po Valley, some 200 miles to the north. At dusk on June 4, units of the

5th Army entered Rome amid the cheers of a jubilant people. The units liberating Rome included the 85th and 88th Divisions and the 1st Armored Division.

Rome became the first Nazi-held capital of Europe—and the first capital of a former Axis nation—to be liberated.

Men of the 5th Army did not tarry in Rome. Through the Holy City, they chased the fleeing German army. For the next 20 days, the 5th moved northward better than ten miles a day. By July 18, it was 150 miles north of Rome—in Leghorn, Italy's third largest port. By the first week of August, it was at the outskirts of Pisa.

Here the Jerries, using Pisa's Leaning Tower as an OP, battled to delay the 5th's advance. On Sept. 2, however, Pisa fell. Soon thereafter the 5th crossed the Arno and bumped into Kesselring's Gothic Line. Last November the 5th was about nine miles south of Bologna.

Soon after the 5th broke through the Gothic Line, winter and mud began to slow up the drive. The first cracks came in the Gothic Line on Sept. 18 when units of the 5th took Mt. Altuzza, Mt. Prato and Montecelli. A few days later, a battalion of the 91st Division (aided by flanking movements of elements of the 85th and 34th Divisions) took Futa Pass, and the 5th Army stormed Mt. Battaglia, Il Poggio, Mt. Canda and Mt. Bastione. Then the Jerries began counterattacking and the drive that had started the preceding May slowed to a halt.

Several factors figured in the slow-up last fall. For one thing, the 5th had been on the move for more than six months—and sooner or later armies have to rest and restore supplies. The Germans then were relatively strong, having 28 divisions on the Italian front which was far more than the Allies had. The 5th Army, as it moved up the Boot, lost many of its original divisions. The 3rd, 36th and 45th Divisions and the French troops were shifted to SHAEF after the invasion of southern France.

## WEATHER AGAIN

Too, the weather was deteriorating—and big mountains stood between the October lines and the Po Valley where Allied armor could be used effectively. The 5th then was but nine miles from Bologna—but they were nine miles of Apennines—and on every peak, the Jerries had carefully prepared defenses.

On Nov. 26 came a shift in commands, Field Marshal Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander, 15th Army Group commander, became Supreme Allied commander, and Lt. Gen. Clark of the 5th Army (soon to become a four-star general) became new 15th Army Group chief. Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott Jr., commander of the 3rd Division during Anzio beachhead days, more recently VI Corps commander and one of the leading U. S. generals of the war, took over the 5th Army.

During December, along a winter-bound front, limited battles see-sawed in the Serchio Valley.

During the winter months, more Allied troops were to be pulled from Italy. The British sent several divisions to Greece during the civil war there. In February the Canadian I Corps began moving to the west front in Holland and Germany.

Early in February some advances were made in the Serchio Valley area, and on Feb. 8 the 92nd Division opened a "limited objec-

tive" offensive. Other divisions also started limited offensives, and on Feb. 20, the 10th Mountain Division—one of the main participants in the winter's warfare—captured Mt. Belvedere, a strategic peak overlooking the Po Valley.

During March, things were relatively quiet as preparations for a big spring push got under way. On April 16, it began. Preceded by preliminary attacks and advances by the British 8th Army, the 5th shifted into high gear almost immediately. On April 20, it cut the Bologna-Milan highway, partially encircling Bologna. On April 21, Bologna fell.

Things began rolling again as they had the preceding spring. Two days after veterans of the 34th Division and the Polish Corps entered Bologna, the Yanks reached the Po River, crossed it quickly on April 24 and proceeded to capture Ferrara, La Spezia and Modena. On April 26, Verona—the setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"—fell. The next day other 5th Army units entered Genoa, the home of Columbus, which had previously been liberated by Partisans. A few days later, the 5th reached Milan.

On April 30, General Clark announced that practically all organized German resistance in Italy had been shattered and only mopping up of scattered pockets remained.

The 5th Army had completed its job which was: to chase the Germans out of Italy.

While clearing Italy of Krauts, the 5th and 8th Armies played an important part in keeping Ger-

man troops away from the western front, and they maintained a constant threat until the last on the Nazis' Alpine "redoubt" which the Nazis promised to use for last-ditch fighting. The Italian campaign also opened up the Mediterranean and gave the Allies bases from which U. S. and British planes could attack German supply bases, communications and industries in the Balkans and central Europe.

In addition, the 5th Army was instrumental in liberating nearly 40,000,000 Italians who passed from the terror of Fascism to the terror of Nazism after the Italian armistice of Sept. 1943.

The 5th, of course, did not do the entire job. MAAF planes and the Allied navies and the armies of many Allied nations (British 8th, French, Polish, Brazilian and other troops) played equally important roles in the Italian campaign. But this story is the story of the 5th.

Now nearly two and a half years old, the 5th Army's records carry probably more individual heroes than any other U. S. Army in the war. Its records are chock-full of heroes who wore the 34th Division's red bull, the 36th Division's Texas T, or the 45th Division's thunderbird.

## HISTORY BRIGHT

Units of the 5th also have written outstanding battle records—records like that of the 1st Armored Division (which in April moved 30 miles in a single day to capture an airfield at Bergamo), and those of the 3rd, 34th, 36th, 45th, 85th, 88th, 91st and 92nd Divisions, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 473rd AAA, and the Special Service Forces and Ranger units.

The 92nd Division of U. S. Negroes, which went into action last year, began killing Jerries ten minutes after reaching the line. Also playing a big part in 5th Army history is the 442nd Regimental Combat Team made up of Americans of Japanese descent who fought from Salerno to the Arno.

Special mention should also be made of the 1st Ranger Battalion which at Anzio fought heroically, although trapped, rather than surrender.

In support of the 5th and 8th Armies, the Allied navies cleared mines from Mediterranean waters, opened the entire Mediterranean.

The Air Force provided direct tactical support of the land offensives, struck at enemy communications and bases, carried food and munitions to Partisans behind the German lines, and provided aerial intelligence.

Today Italy is liberated. What Germans remain—including their generals—are in PW cages.

The Battle of Italy—the battle which the 5th Army has been fighting since Salerno—has been won. —Cpl. WALTER PULLIAM



This was Italy. Soldiers who fought the campaign here will never forget the bitter, winter cold and deep mud. Neither will they ever forget Cassino. This photo was taken in the Cassino sector and was typical of the conditions endured by men of the 5th Army during the winter of 1943-44.

# Bomb Load Exceeds Half-Million Tons During MAAF's 19-Month Stay In Italy

With the collapse of all German forces in Italy, flying and ground personnel of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces can look back on some of the most brilliant performances in the history of aerial warfare—the complete defeat of the Luftwaffe in this theater, the drying-up of German oil sources and reserves, and the crippling of vital communications and industrial facilities, all accomplished while also giving close support to Allied armies in their drives up the Italian boot.

Since Sept. 9, 1943, when assault troops hit the Italian mainland, 594,476 tons of bombs have been unleashed against tactical and strategic objectives. 919,294 sorties have been flown by the MAAF, 5,423 enemy aircraft have been destroyed in the air and more than 3,000 were destroyed on the ground. In the 20 months since the start of the campaign 7,637 of our planes have been lost.

MAAF is an organization of more than a quarter of a million officers and men, representing some ten nationalities, although predominantly American and British. Thirty types of aircraft were employed to carry the war to the enemy. The four principal tasks of the air forces were:

1. Strategic job of bringing maximum pressure on German industry.
2. Tactical assignment of supporting the ground forces.
3. To help keep the sea lanes of communications free and protect our shipping, harbors and rear establishments from enemy air assault.
4. To supply the greatest possible aid to Partisan forces in the Balkans, France, northern Italy and Poland.

## BOMB REFINERIES

The battle of oil, one of the principal commitments of the strategic air forces heavy bombers, reached a high point with the start of attacks on the 11 refineries in the Ploesti, Rumania, area together with a few smaller installations in Rumania.

During the entire period of attack on heavily defended Ploesti, the average production rate was reduced by 60 percent. The exports of gasoline to the German armed forces were cut to one-third their previous level, a loss representing about 15 percent of the enemy's gasoline supply.

After the Ploesti campaign, which lasted from April 1 to August, 1944, MAAF struck at almost every crude and synthetic oil refinery in the German-occupied territory of Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and plants in southeastern Germany itself.

MAAF's attack on oil centers was mirrored in the German military machine, which commenced to move with increasing effort because it lacked the vital lubrication. The war on oil, combined with the counter air program designed to reduce the enemy air strength by striking at aircraft production plants and by knocking the Germans out of the air, resulted in greatly reduced fighter opposition and sharply cut the enemy's power to attack from the air our ground installations and troop concentrations.

## OIL ELIMINATED

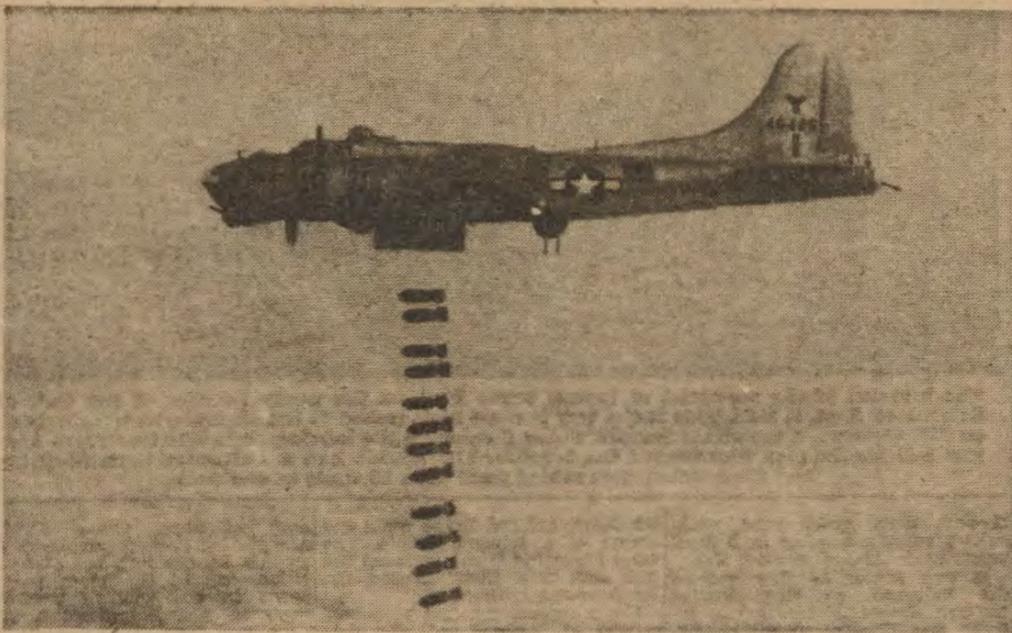
On March 24, 1945, Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, 15th AAF commander, stated: "At this moment no gasoline is being produced at any of the known German refineries within the operational area of the 15th AAF."

While strategic bombers were ranging deep into enemy territory, planes of MATAF were dealing heavy blows at bridges, roads and rail lines upon which the Germans were depending for supplies and reinforcements. Notable examples of tactical ground coordination were executed by the medium and fighter-bombers.

Following the stalemate at Anzio and Cassino, the air forces, principally MATAF, were employed in the famed "Operation Strangle" which effectively cut off the enemy's supplies, crippled his gun positions, forward depots and troop concentrations, and then, when the ground forces put him to flight, sought him on the roads to kill his soldiers and destroy his transport by thousands.

Before and during the landings in southern France both heavy and medium bombers cooperated to blast paths inland for the ground troops. Other examples of air-ground coordination occurred in "Operation Mallory," a spectacular bridge-busting campaign in the summer of 1944 resulting in the destruction by medium bombers of 25 primary road and rail spans across the Po River.

## HITTING BEHIND THE LINES



Like rungs on a ladder, heavy bombs fall from the bomb bay of a 15th Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress during a raid on German industrial targets. (MAAF Photo)

In the early part of last year, heavy air assaults were made on the enemy-held monastery at Cassino.

The most recent phase of air-ground cooperation has been the softening up blows delivered by the air forces for the final attack by the 15th Army Group in the battle for Italy. Known as "Operation Plaster," enemy defenses south of the Po River were saturated with high explosives, by heavy bombers in preparation for the 8th Army's push. Meantime, medium and fighter-bombers rained bombs before the 5th Army's drive.

On April 16, General Carl Spaatz, commander of the U. S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, had signalled the victorious end of the long range air war and had directed the heavies to devote their time to close support of the ground offensive.

## SUPPLIES AIRBORNE

The successful Partisan offensives in both the Balkans and northern Italy were supplied to a large extent by planes of MAAF. Arms, ammunition, food, clothing and medical supplies were carried almost daily to the forces of Marshal Tito and to the Italian Patriots.

MAAF assumed a major role in the airborne invasion of southern France last August when thousands of parachute and glider troops were placed on and beyond the Riviera beaches. Air protection for this vast airborne operation also was provided by planes from Mediterranean bases.

In addition to the strategic, tactical and troop carrying phases of MAAF's assignment it has played a large role in convoy defense and anti-submarine war in the Mediterranean. An air-sea rescue service also has operated effectively during the Italian campaign. Hundreds of ground force casualties have been ferried from forward airbases to hospitals in rear echelons.

For an organization that has flown to targets in Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Czechoslovakia and Poland, thousands of supporting ground personnel are necessary. Bases have been maintained by MAAF as far away as Russia for the shuttle bombing program and for the Big Three conference in the Crimea.

## FOUND THAT ROCK

Since Salerno, millions of tons of rock have been gouged from quarries by aviation engineers for surfacing the hundreds of miles. Hundreds of tons of steel plank landing mats have been laid. Pipe line engineers surveyed an average of 40,000 barrels daily of high test gasoline through a pipeline network of more than 500 miles.

It was the job of the air service command to run the depot-giant warehouses and factories of air power. Among ASC's jobs is assembling planes and supplying bombs. A sidelight illustration of the magnitude of its task is the fact that it handles an American air force payroll in this theater of 200,000,000 dollars a year, of which about half is paid in cash.

Today the men of the air forces can share with pride in the victory won by the Allied armies in Italy.

## 'Freedom' Germans Patrol Munich Before 7th Comes

By Sgt. PETER FURST  
Staff Correspondent

MUNICH, April 30 (Delayed)—Armed German motorcyclists with the red armbands of the anti-Nazi Bavarian Freedom Action Committee, patrolled the crowd-filled streets of the capital of the Hitler movement this afternoon, hours before the first 7th Army Americans entered the city limits.

Five Freedom Committee motorcycles, mounting machine guns, roared into the town from the west at noon, and others were said to be operating in the north and south. White flags fluttered from thousands of windows all along the street from suburban Pasing into the center of Munich, and here and there red flags or the old blue-white Bavarian banner made their appearance when the people realized that the SS had definitely gone.

With Marguerite Higgins, 23-year-old New York Herald-Tribune war correspondent, who yesterday was offered surrender by an SS officer of the notorious Dachau concentration camp, I was taken into Munich's center today by a civilian with a red armband, who said he was a member of the Freedom Committee which had revolted against the SS two days ago.

## STRANGE SIGHT

The scenes in the streets of this great Bavarian city, which was to have become the focal point of Nazi resistance, were fantastic beyond description. Armed German soldiers were walking calmly toward our jeep and surrendering rifles, pistols and hand grenades without the slightest attempt at resistance. The first Germans encountered were two heavily armed Luftwaffe non-commissioned officers who looked more than mildly surprised, and who inquired politely who we were. When told "Americans," they said in unison: "What, already?"

By the time we reached the Zollamt (customs house) where Poles, Russians, Germans, Kraut soldiers, Frenchmen and others were busy looting Wehrmacht stores, our jeep was crowded with two Freedom Committee civilians armed with rifles taken from Kraut soldiers. A Munich policeman picked us along the road, and a score of rifles and pistols of all descriptions and origins.

Hundreds of civilians and a few German soldiers surrounded the jeep, wanting to know who we were. They smiled and pumped our palms when we identified ourselves as Americans. They asked us if they could now get out the white flags they had prepared weeks ago, and one man inquired if a red flag were all right, too.

Munich radio, which apparently broadcast proclamations from the revolutionists for the better part of two days, has not been heard from since yesterday, according to civilians. The revolt itself, which

## Munich's Defenders Showed Little Fight

MUNICH, April 30 (Delayed)—Contrary to all expectations, we did not hear a single shot fired by the would-be defenders of Munich. Internal disintegration appeared complete.

There wasn't much evidence of the four SS Divisions—two German, one Hungarian and one Russian—which were supposed to be concentrated in the area, although one 30th Infantry company of the 3rd Division captured a comparatively large number of Totenkopf Waffen SS just before they reached the city limits. The SS surrendered without fuss, and didn't seem depressed at their fate.

started early Saturday morning was "put down," but actually most of the members of the *Bayrisches Freiheits Aktions Komitee* (*Goet Fascismus* (Bavarian Freedom Committee Against Fascism) appear to have gone underground—at least until the Americans have taken all of the city. Some of them, like the armed motorcyclists and our escort, resumed their activities around noon today.

## 3RD DIV. MEN IN

Wehrmacht prisoners taken by the 30th Infantry of the 3rd Division today while one of its units moved toward Munich from the town of Pasing, stated that they had been kept inside their barracks since the revolt started until today, apparently out of fear that they might join other Wehrmacht troops who fought the SS.

It was impossible, due to the confusion in the city to ascertain immediately just how much of what is known of the revolt was rumor, and how much fact. It was confirmed that several high Nazi leaders were executed by the Freedom fighters on a given signal from Saturday morning on, but no one appeared to know their names. Several civilians and one German soldier said, however, that the three brothers of Gauleiter Goebler were definitely among them.

## Linkup With Tito Completes Noose Around Germany

By Sgt. JACK FOISIE  
Staff Correspondent

ALONG THE NORTH ADRIATIC COASTLINE, May 2—The encirclement of Germany is complete.

The Italian front was joined with the East front yesterday at the town of Monfalcone, 17 miles northwest of Trieste at 2 PM yesterday, when the 8th Army's spearheading New Zealanders met troops of Marshal Tito's Yugoslavian Army.

The historic junction came after tank-riding Kiwis had raced 70 miles in 27 hours along the Adriatic coastal highway against only sparse German resistance, according to New Zealand official correspondents.

It was more of a triumphal procession as Italian villagers lined the roads to cheer and shower with flowers the two Allies as they came together for the hearty handshakes, exchange of souvenirs and then the curious glances of appraisal.

The New Zealand commander, Lt. Gen. Sir B. C. Freyberg, who was with advance elements of his troops, conferred on the spot with Yugoslavian field officers over details of effective liaison between the two Allied forces in their continued drive to round up German remnants still in the areas north of the Adriatic. But jovial congratulations took precedence over military matters.

## SYMBOLIC MEETING

The New Zealand 22nd Infantry Battalion, with tanks of the 20th New Zealand Armored Regiment and armored cars of an English regiment, participated in the symbolic meeting—symbolic politically as well as militarily.

The Kiwis had actually pushed through Monfalcone, and were momentarily expecting to join up when they ran into a pocket of German resistance. It was soon cleaned out. This proved to be an outpost for a German coastal defense station, all that now stood between the Tito's men and the New Zealanders.

The German commander came toward the New Zealanders to discuss surrender terms. The terms, of course, were unconditional surrender.

"Very well, we will fight on," said the German commander.

Three rounds from a tank—and the presence of the Yugoslav Army to the east—convinced the Germans that they could do nothing further to prevent the junction. Four hundred men surrendered with their tanks and anti-aircraft guns.

Throughout the advance the New Zealanders saw evidences of a welcome heavily tinged with political significance. Slogans praising the Allied commanders and just about everyone else were everywhere, but the name of Tito was more numerous than anyone else's. And the clenched Communist salute predominated.

## IN GULF OF TRIESTE

Monfalcone, now assured a note in history books, is situated on the Gulf of Trieste, and has a population of more than 12,000. It was taken by the Italians in the last war in June, 1915, and has since doubled its area.

The junction, marked by a heavy rain, came 23 days after the opening of the 8th Army offensive in which General Freyberg's forces have played a key role, being credited with the first crossing of the Po and, unofficially, the first entrance into Venice. In their fighting they have virtually annihilated three German divisions—the 98th, the 278th and the ragged 1st Paratroop Division.

## U. S. Soldier Finds Hitler's Original Racial Manifesto

SHAEF, May 2—Original copies of the infamous "Nuremberg Laws," signed by Adolf Hitler, have been found by a U. S. Army sergeant and are now being held by Allied Military Government authorities in Nuremberg.

A New York Herald-Tribune correspondent said the documents, which regularized Jewish persecutions in Hitler's effort to "purify" German blood, were found in the home of Prof. Hans Reusch, director of the Nuremberg office of the Reich Treasury.

The correspondent said the documents were found by Sgt. Frank Paris of Los Angeles, whose father had fled Germany as result of the racial discriminations fostered by the Nuremberg laws.

# SHAEF Doubts Hitler Died A 'Hero's Death'

LONDON, May 2—Adolf Hitler met no hero's death, a statement issued at SHAEF and authorized by General Dwight D. Eisenhower indicated today, Associated Press reported. The facts pointed to death from a brain hemorrhage or other illness, if the German radio's dramatic announcement of the Fuehrer's passing could be given credence, SHAEF's report revealed.

The statement confirmed the previously reported meeting of Count Folke Bernadotte and Heinrich Himmler, saying that they met April 24 at Lubeck. At the meeting, Himmler told the count that Germany was finished and that "Hitler was so ill he might as well be dead," the statement disclosed.

Himmler was reported to have said at the time—more than a week before Hitler's announced hero's death—that the Fuehrer could not be expected to live more than two days longer.

The German general, Schillenberg, who was present said that Hitler was suffering from a brain hemorrhage.

The SHAEF statement concluded: "Admiral Doenitz' statement, therefore, that Hitler met a hero's death is in contradiction with the facts given by Himmler and Schillenberg."

Warning after warning, urging the world to beware of some new Nazi trick concealed beneath last night's dramatic announcement of the death of Adolf Hitler, swept the Allied nations today.

The German broadcast may be "a mere interlude in surrender negotiations designed to wring some last concession from the western powers," Robert Lloyd, Reuter's correspondent here, commented.

Lord Vansittart, formerly chief diplomatic adviser to the British Government, voiced doubts and said the broadcast may be the beginning of a buildup for a "Hitler legend." Moscow radio warned that it may be a subterfuge to enable Hitler to disappear, to show up later as part of a Nazi underground.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill and members of the British cabinet conferred into the early hours this morning following the announcement of Hitler's death. Service chiefs have also been in consultation.

Last night's announcement from enemy sources had related that Hitler died a "hero's death" at his command post in Berlin, and said that Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, Commander in Chief of the German Navy, had not only succeeded Hitler—at the Fuehrer's wish—but would continue the war "against Bolshevism."

Some of the situations emerging more clearly today from the confused background to the broadcast included the following:

—That Heinrich Himmler has not, in fact, made a second offer of unconditional surrender, so far as latest reports from Stockholm would indicate; it had been stated earlier that Himmler would make a second offer, this time to Russia as well as to the other Allies.

—That Himmler's first offer was tied up with a plan to surrender some 200,000 Nazi soldiers now in Norway to Sweden, thus side-stepping all the Allies, and to surrender Nazi-held Denmark directly to King Christian of that nation.

—That the Wehrmacht communicate three days ago said all German troops fighting U. S. forces on the western front were "turning their backs" on the Yanks and concentrating on the Red Army.

—That substantial numbers of German soldiers now holding a half-dozen French ports on the Atlantic coast are involved in the deal somewhere.

Other questions arose. The last clearly official statement from Hitler as to his successor was on Sept. 1, 1939; when he said Hermann Goering would come after him and, after Goering, Rudolf Hess, Deputy Fuehrer. Yet the radio announcement declared that Hitler named Admiral Doenitz.

Immediately after what purported to be the voice of Doenitz had declared that "Hitler died a hero's death," the ghost voice which sometimes interrupts enemy broadcasts was heard to shout: "It's a lie!"

The London Daily Mail editorially stressed the threat of continued German resistance, and took a generally gloomy view of the shift to Doenitz. The Yorkshire Post, a newspaper that frequently reflects the views of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, also stressed the likelihood of continued Nazi resistance, adding, according to Reuter's, that "the Allies would naturally prefer to see the war ended without a fight to free Norway, Denmark and Holland."

## REACTION IN CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, May 2 (ANS)—Skepticism was the main theme

## Von Rundstedt Prisoner Of 7th Army At Munich

SHAEF, May 2—Field Marshal Karl von Rundstedt, Germany's top-rank general and until last March commander in chief of German armies in western Europe, has been captured by the U. S. 7th Army in its sweep south of Munich.

A SHAEF communique today said Von Rundstedt was taken in a hospital at Badtoz, a town on the Isar River 25 miles south of the Nazi shrine city of Munich near the Austrian border. He is the highest ranking active German army officer to be taken prisoner thus far in the west.



FIELD MARSHAL RUNDSTEDT

of reaction here to the announcement that Hitler had died.

Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (D., Colo.), said, "I would like to have a look at his body before I believe it," and Sen. John H. Overton (D., La.), said: "I want absolute proof."

Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP, N. Y.), said: "The announcement, coming from the Germans, doesn't convince me that it's true. It may be just another bit of propaganda. I'll believe it when it is confirmed by our side."

Sen. Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), said it was "significant and interesting that Hitler's death, if the report is true, should come with the complete collapse of his philosophy. Incidentally, it will save the Allies a lot of worry about dealing with the captured Fuehrer."

## Conference To Discuss Trusteeships

SAN FRANCISCO, May 2—With the four main commissions and 12 newly-appointed committees of the World Security Conference here scheduled to start work today, discussions are heading toward the trusteeship problem, Army News Service reported.

The trusteeship problem concerns the disposition to be made of colonial areas previously seized by Axis powers and later seized by an Allied power.

The principal Russian representative, Vyacheslav M. Molotov, has made engagements for the next day or so, according to Reuter's, but is expected to leave the conference soon. United Press said it had learned that Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, although under "similar pressure to get back to London, will stay in San Francisco at least two more weeks, probably through the duration of the conference."

Reuter's correspondent said Mr. Molotov had informed Mr. Eden and Edward R. Stettinius Jr., U. S. Secretary of State, on Monday night that in view of the war situation, he would like to return to Moscow at the end of this week or beginning of the next.

Dr. E. N. van Kleffens, Dutch Foreign Minister, has asked eight

amendments to the proposed world security organization as outlined in the Dumbarton Oaks agreement.

The Arab nations' delegations have drawn up a statement declaring that the covenant of the recently organized League of Arab States is in "perfect accordance" with those provisions of the Dumbarton Oaks agreement covering regional blocs of nations.

The trusteeship problem will be discussed by the Big Five delegates—from the U. S., Britain, Russia, China and France—on Thursday, after preliminary discussions that took place Monday, according to OWL.

One of the U. S. delegates, Cmdr Harold E. Stassen, former Republican governor of Minnesota, has already outlined the position that U. S. delegates will take, it was said.

Back of the trusteeship question was said to lie the Atlantic Charter declaration, that the U. S. and Britain "seek no aggrandizement, territorial or otherwise," that they "desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned," and that they "respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live."

## DER FUEHRER'S SUCCESSOR



Two years ago almost to the day, Adolf Hitler is shown here congratulating the up and coming Oberbefehlshaber der U-Bootwaffe for the successful accomplishments of the Nazi wolf-packs. Six months later, Karl Doenitz was promoted to Grand Admiral of the German naval forces. Today, by his own declaration over the Nazi radio, Hitler is dead and Doenitz is the new Fuehrer of the battered Reich.

## Von Ribbentrop Thrown Out As Reich's Foreign Minister

LONDON, May 2—Joachim von Ribbentrop has been thrown out as Reich Foreign Minister by Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz in his first move since taking over the German state from the dead Hitler, the German radio revealed today, as reported in United Press.

According to a Hamburg radio broadcast, Doenitz replaced Ribbentrop with Count Schwerin von Krosick, who had been Minister of Finance. Von Krosick is a former Rhodes scholar at Oxford and speaks perfect English, suggesting that Doenitz may have been trying to put in Ribbentrop's job a man capable of negotiating with the Allies.

Ribbentrop's fate was not revealed. Nothing has been heard of him for some time. He may have fled to some part of Germany where he could no longer maintain contact with the rest of the government.

## Russians Advancing In Northern Sector

MOSCOW, May 2 (Reuter's)—As remnants of the German garrison were today being systematically cleared out of the center of Berlin, Marshal Zhukov was beginning to swing his right flank in step with Marshal Rokossovsky's headlong advances through the lakelands toward another linkup in the north with the western front Allies.

The big German crack-up in the northern sector was spreading hourly, as Rokossovsky's three-pronged drive on Rostock had reached within 30 miles of that Baltic Sea port.

The Soviet offensive in Czechoslovakia, well under way with the capture of Brno in the south and Moravska-Ostrava in the north, is folding up Germany's salient with a speed that suggests imminent collapse over the whole area back to Prague, Czech capital.

The Red Army has massed an enormous air fleet to batter the way along the road toward Prague.

The battle for Berlin itself, now going on well behind the main Soviet front line, has developed into a gigantic mop-up operation. Enemy units are laying down their arms in increasing numbers, and sometimes lining whole streets with white flags of surrender.

Already Col. Gen. Berzarin, Soviet commandant in Berlin, is getting some sort of normal life re-established in the occupied areas of the city. Twenty hospitals have been opened for German wounded.

The official supplement to last night's Soviet communique states that south of Berlin "our infantry alone killed over 4,000 German officers and men during the day and captured 28 tanks, 31 guns and other booty."

# The Wehrmacht Agreed To Unconditional Surrender in Italy



Lt. Gen. W. D. Morgan, AFHQ chief of staff, signs the unconditional surrender documents on behalf of Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, with Allied officers looking on, among them Soviet representatives.



The representative of the German Wehrmacht, Karl Wolff, signs the documents of unconditional surrender in the office of AFHQ chief of staff at Caserta. The representative of Col. Gen. Heinrich Vietinghoff (in civilian clothes stands behind Wolff).

## Alexander . . .

AFHQ, May 2—Here is the Order of the Day issued by Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean, to the soldiers, sailors and airmen of all Allied forces.

"After nearly two years of continuous fighting started in Sicily in the summer of 1943, you stand today as the victors of the Italian campaign.



FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER

"You have won a victory which has ended the complete utter rout of the German armed forces in the Mediterranean, clearing away of the last aggressor, you have liberated a country of over 40,000,000 people.

"Today the remnants of a once proud Army have laid down their arms to you—close on a million men with all their arms, equipment and impedimenta.

"You may well be proud of this great and victorious campaign which will long live in history as one of the greatest and most successful ever waged.

"No praise is high enough for you sailors, soldiers, airmen and workers of the United Forces in Italy for your magnificent triumph.

"My gratitude to you and my admiration is unbounded and only equaled by the pride which is mine in being your commander in chief."

## McNarney . . .

AFHQ, May 2—The victory is yours, General Joseph T. McNarney, Deputy Supreme Allied commander in the Mediterranean, said in a message tonight to all Allied forces in Italy.

"The enemy in Italy has surrendered unconditionally. Your magnificent victories in the spring offensive left him only two alternatives: to surrender, or to die.

"This hour is the glorious climax of one of the greatest triumphs in the long, hard-fought war in Africa and in Europe. Your part will live always in the hearts and mind of our peoples.

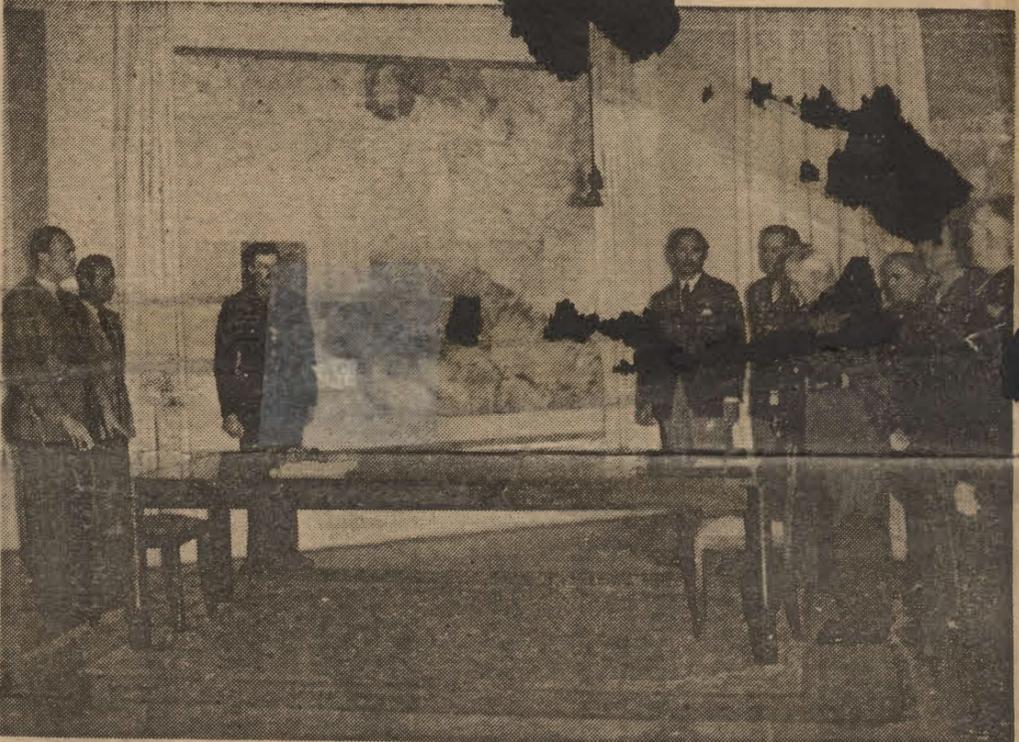
"The attack against the enemy's so-called 'inner fortress' began in the Mediterranean. You have come from Alamein and from Casablanca to the Alps. After the successes in North Africa, you smashed the enemy in Tunisia. You drove him from Sicily. You invaded Italy, and, despite ferocious resistance and incredibly difficult terrain and weather, you drove him back, always back. You have destroyed the best troops he possessed. At this moment of surrender he is against the Alps, helpless under your blows to defend himself.

"The victory is yours — you of the ground, sea and air forces of many nationalities who have fought here as a single combat team. The surrender today is to you.

"Now with final and overall victory in sight, let us go forward until the last foe, Japan, is crushed. Then, and not until then, will freedom-loving men and women be able to enjoy lasting peace."



GENERAL McNARNEY



At this table at Allied Force Headquarters in Caserta, two German officers (in civilian clothes at left) signed the unconditional surrender of German armies in Italy and in part of Austria. Lt. Gen. W. D. Morgan, AFHQ chief of staff, stands at the other end of the table, hands behind back. The German officials signed on behalf of Col. Gen. Heinrich von Vietinghoff, Wehrmacht commander, and SS General Karl Wolff, SS commander. (AFPU Photos)

## Clark . . .

WITH THE 15TH ARMY GROUP IN ITALY, May 2—Mark W. Clark, Commanding General of the 15th Army Group, today issued the following Order of the Day to the soldiers of the Group which includes the 5th and 8th Armies:

"With a full and grateful heart I hail and congratulate you in this hour of complete victory over the German enemy and join with you in thanks to Almighty God.

"Yours has been a long, hard fight—the longest in the war of any Allied troops fighting on the continent of Europe. You men of the 5th and 8th Armies have brought that fight to a successful conclusion by your recent brilliant offensive operations which shattered the German forces opposing you. Their surrender was the inevitable course left to them, they had nothing more to fight with in Italy.

"You have demonstrated something new and remarkable in the annals of organized warfare. You have shown that a huge fighting force composed of units from many countries with diverse languages and customs, inspired, as you have always been, with a devotion to the cause of freedom, can become an effective and harmonious fighting team.

"This teamwork which has carried us to victory has included in full measure the supporting arms which have worked with us throughout the campaign. The services that

have supplied us have overcome unbelievable obstacles and have kept us constantly armed, equipped and fed. The magnificent support which we have always had from the Allied air and naval forces in



GENERAL CLARK

this theater has written a new page in the history of cooperative combat action.

"Our exultation in this moment is blended with sorrow as we pay tribute to the heroic Allied sol-

diers who have fallen in battle in order that this victory might be achieved. The entire world will forever honor their memory.

"The war is not over. The German military machine has been completely crushed by the splendid campaigns waged by you and your colleagues of the western and Russian fronts. There remains the all important task of inflicting a similar complete defeat on our remaining enemy—Japan. Each one of us in the 15th Army Group must continue without pause to give the full measure of effort to that task wherever we may be called upon to serve.

"I am intensely proud of you all and of the honor which I have had of commanding such invincible troops. My thanks go to each of you for your capable, aggressive and loyal service which has produced this great victory.

"Men of the 15th Army Group, I know you will face the task ahead with the same magnificent, generous and indomitable spirit you have shown in this long campaign. Forward to final victory. God bless you all."

## 'Ernie Pyle Day'

NEW YORK, May 2 (ANS)—The Motion Picture Industry War Activities Committee announced yesterday that June 6 will be "Ernie Pyle Day" in Wisconsin theaters, with free admission for everyone who buys a bond during the Seventh War Loan Drive.