

HITLER DEAD: DOENITZ SUCCEEDS

GERMAN ANNOUNCEMENT FUEHRER'S END IN BERLIN "FIGHTING TO LAST BREATH"

NEW LEADER CARRIES ON WAR

(Received May 2, 7.30 p.m.)
Hitler is dead. This announcement was made by the German radio last night. "It is reported from the Fuehrer's headquarters," said the German radio, "that our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen this afternoon at his command post in the Reich Chancellery, fighting to the last breath for Germany against Bolshevism. On Monday the Fuehrer appointed Grand Admiral Doenitz as his successor."
Germany's determination to carry on the fight against the "Bolshevik enemy" and to defend itself against the Western Allies was announced by Doenitz last night.

The diplomatic correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the announcement of Hitler's death and Doenitz's proclamation as the new Fuehrer are regarded in authoritative circles in London as ending, at least for a time, the surrender negotiations initiated by Himmler.

Before the announcement of Hitler's death the German radio had said that a grave and important announcement was to be made by the German Government to the German people some time last evening. The Daily Express radio station says that "Lord Haw-haw" gave the warning. Immediately he had finished shots rang out within the studio. According to an earlier statement by the radio, Hitler at midday yesterday was fighting as a common soldier in the northern district of Berlin.

The announcement of Hitler's death over the radio was preceded by the playing of Wagner's "Twilight of the Gods." This was followed by the slow movement of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, which commemorates the death of Wagner.

Speaking over the radio Doenitz said: "German men and women, soldiers of the German Wehrmacht—our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen. The German people bow in deepest mourning and veneration. He recognised the terrible danger of Bolshevism at an early date and dedicated his existence to this struggle. His life was one of single service for Germany. His action in fighting against the Bolshevist spring tide was waged beyond that, for Europe and the entire civilised world.

"The Fuehrer has appointed me his successor. Conscious of this responsibility, I am taking over the leadership of the German people in this grave hour of destiny. My first task is to save the German people from annihilation by the advancing Bolshevist enemy. The military struggle continues only with this aim.

"Inasmuch and as long as the attainment of this aim is being hindered by the British and Americans, we shall have to continue to defend ourselves against them as well, and shall have to continue the fight against them. The British and Americans will then continue the war no longer for their own peoples, but to further the spread of Bolshevism in Europe. "The fighting achievements of the German people in this war and the suffering of the homeland are unique in history. During this time of the plight of our people I shall endeavour, as far as is in my power, to create bearable conditions for our brave men, children and women. For all this I need your help. Grant me your confidence, for your path is also my path. Maintain order and discipline in town and country. May everyone fulfil his duty at his post. It is only thus we shall be able to mitigate the sufferings which the coming period will bring to each one of us and prevent collapse. If we do what is in our power God will not forsake us after so much suffering and sacrifice."

After Doenitz's speech the band played the two German national anthems, "Deutschland Uber Alles" and the "Horst Wessel." The radio then observed a three-minute silence, after which an Order of the Day by Doenitz to the Wehrmacht was read and the Funeral March played.

Biographies of Hitler and Doenitz appear on page 3.

LONDON VIEWS PRESS COMMENT HATED FIGURE INTENTIONS OF NAZIS DEIFYING HITLER

LONDON, May 2
Some London papers have headlines an inch and a-half high announcing without question that Hitler is dead. Others are not quite sure.
The Daily Express featured a front page panel headed: "Obituary. The newspaper commented: "The Daily Express rejoices to announce Hitler's death. It wastes no space on his career. The evil of his deeds is too well known. It gives no picture of the world's most hated face, and merely records his days upon the earth he sought to conquer too long."
The Daily Express prints every line of information about the manner of Hitler's death. By way of obituary it says merely that Hitler was born Schickelgruber at Braunau, Austria, on April 20, 1889.

Five Columns in the Times
The Times, on the other hand, runs an obituary notice of five columns with a two-column portrait.
The Daily Telegraph, in an editorial, says the disappearance of the figure which to millions has been the incarnation of fear and horror for so long makes the world a cleaner and sweeter place. The most likely reason for Doenitz's appointment as Hitler's successor is that part of the gang rejected Himmler's lead for capitulation and are attempting earlier plans for continued resistance.

The Daily Telegraph says that the announcement that Hitler died in action fighting against Bolshevism is no doubt a polite figure of speech. The wording of the German announcement creates the impression that Hitler was killed in action. Himmler is still the leader. The timing is perfect.
Murder and Destruction
The Daily Mail says never has any being in all the annals of recorded time been so steeped in murder and destruction as this man who had been so dearly loved by the German people. He was a man who would kill for the sake of killing. He will keep company in history with the Nero and Torquemada, but he will out-top them all.
The Daily Herald says: "He snatched power at a moment when moral conviction and mutual trust were at a low ebb among democratic Governments and it is for democracy to ensure no such moment shall recur. If he does, the moment will find its man and he may be cleverer than Hitler."

The diplomatic correspondent of the British United Press says Hitler's death is almost too perfect. At no moment of his career could he have died with better effect in order to be created a Nazi or German saint, and the first announcement of his death shows this to be the Nazi aim. Coincidence could not go much further. The Russians possess nine-tenths of Berlin and organised resistance cannot be maintained for more than another 48 hours, possibly less. If Hitler were to die defending the capital, the Germans could not risk having him live much longer.

RIBBENTROP OUT NO NEWS OF FATE NEW MINISTER APPOINTED

LONDON, May 2
An announcement by the German radio says that Ribbentrop has been appointed. This means that Ribbentrop has been superseded, but no mention is made of what has happened to him.



Joachim von Ribbentrop took a leading part in the negotiations which preceded Hitler's assumption of the Chancellery in 1933. In 1938 he was appointed German Minister of Foreign Affairs and in the same year he became German Ambassador in London. He held this post until his appointment as Foreign Minister in February, 1938.

JAPANESE OVERTURES PEACE OFFERS TO CHINA

LONDON, May 2
Must Approach Allies
Dr. Sunning said a press conference that Japan was making peace overtures to China by the bushel. China's answer was: "Go and talk to the United Nations. We are not talking to you alone."

RUSSIAN PRISONERS COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS

LONDON, May 1
The Russian Government has commented on allegations about Russian citizens captured in German uniforms, but replied that it had no further interest in renegade citizens, writes Reuter's military correspondent, commenting on General Golikov's allegations of ill-treatment of Russian prisoners in Allied hands.

ROOTING OUT NAZISM NEW MAYOR OF WEIMAR

LONDON, May 2
The Allied military authorities on Monday released a gaunt 64-year-old partly Jewish Social-Democrat from the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp and installed him as Lord Mayor of Weimar in an effort to root out Nazism in that city, says Reuter's correspondent. Weimar is the original birthplace of the Weimar Republic, the birthplace of Goethe and Schiller, and is steeped in traditions of German culture.
The new officials in Weimar are pledged to a strong effort to reduce the influence of Nazi sympathisers who are reported to be still holding influential positions.



ADOLF HITLER



GRAND-ADMIRAL DOENITZ

ALMOST OVER BATTLE OF BERLIN FORTS GOING DOWN ENEMY STILL FIGHTING

RESERVES THROWN IN
LONDON, May 2
German strongholds in the center of Berlin are going down one after another under what the Germans themselves call the incessant onslaught of overwhelmingly superior Russian forces. The Russians have cleared the districts of Charlottenburg and Schöneberg and captured 100 more blocks of buildings. They are now near the Tiergarten, the big park where the Nazis have built an underground fortress.
More than 8000 Germans have been wiped out in another day's fighting in Berlin. In two days the Russians have taken more than 23,000 prisoners.

City in its Death Throes
"Berlin is in its death throes," said the Moscow radio, quoting Russian front-line reporters, who say that the great historic battle for Berlin is near its end. The radio added that Storm Troop and battalions of Volkstruppen were holding the last inner defence positions along the railway and had erected giant barricades consisting of cobblestones, bricks and wrecked railway wagons.

GAINS IN AUSTRIA PATTON NEAR LINZ

LONDON, May 2
The American Third Army in the Bavarian Alps has gained up to 25 miles along a 300-mile front. Some of General Patton's tanks are reported 13 miles from Linz after racing across the Austrian frontier. The Americans, after a four-mile advance, crossed the Oberdanube in the vicinity of Oberkappel, 14 miles east of Passau, which is at the confluence of the Inn and the Danube.
General Patton's tanks reached the Inn River, on the Austrian and German frontier, in the vicinity of Braunau, Hitler's birthplace, stated Reuter's correspondent with the Third Army.
Tanks and infantry of the American Seventh Army have entered the Austrian province of Tyrol, south of Munich, and have fought their way through the mountains to a village ten miles from Innsbruck.

DRIVE TOWARD INNSBRUCK RUNDSTEDT CAUGHT

LONDON, May 2
The American Seventh Army forces, captured Field-Marshal von Rundstedt.
The first detachment of the exiled Czechoslovak army, fighting with the Western Allies across the Czecho-Slovak border this morning and raised its flag on Czech soil.
Flying Fortresses, by means of instructions, yesterday bombed Salzburg, the Austrian communications centre, which is highly important for supplying the so-called southern redoubt.
The French First Army has cleared the whole north shore of Lake Constance, says the British United Press correspondent. They finished off their job by taking Oberstaufen and Immenstadt, at the eastern end of the lake on the Austrian border.

OUTSTANDING GENERAL CAPTURED BY AMERICANS

LONDON, May 2
Field-Marshal von Rundstedt
Field-Marshal von Rundstedt for a time commanded the German armies on the Western Front until he was succeeded by Kesselring a few weeks ago. It was then stated that possibly he had been relegated to a command in the interior of Germany. He was regarded as one of the best German generals and the most prominent anti-Nazi among the senior German officers.

NO RECOGNITION NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

LONDON, May 1
The diplomatic correspondent of the Evening News says that the British and American Governments have notified Russia that they decline to recognise the Austrian Provisional Government, at least until after consultations between the three Allies.
John Amery talks
John Amery, son of Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, who is in custody in Northern Italy, told Reuter's Milan correspondent that he was not interested in Italian internal politics and had been completely inactive since his arrival from Germany on March 2.
Amery was unwilling to discuss his experiences in Germany, but he agreed that he made excellent radio propaganda talks last autumn.

BALTIC DRIVE BRITISH NEAR LUBECK LINK WITH SOVIET AHEAD

ROKOSSEVSKY'S NEW GAINS
LONDON, May 2
British tanks driving to meet Rokossovsky from their bridgehead over the Elbe are 14 miles from Lubeck and meeting on strong resistance. Rokossovsky's forces, driving for the link-up with the British Second Army, are sweeping forward on an 80-mile front under 40 miles from Rostock. The naval base of Stralsund and a number of smaller places have been captured.

Thousands of tanks, trucks, Bren carriers, jeeps, staff cars and the whole headquarters of the generals of the infantry are hurrying over the last big water barrier of the war in Europe. Peace rumours do not affect Field-Marshal Montgomery's offensive. The commanders and the troops read the reports, but there is no relaxing.

Confusion Among Germans
Fresh evidence is coming in every hour of growing chaos and confusion on the German side. This is a marked lack of control and cohesion, which our commanders are exploiting. It is impossible to say when or where the first contact with the Red Army will be made or who will make it, but we have expert information on Red Army signs and snafus, and tactical Air Force fighter-bombers are keeping a sharp lookout for identification.

Retreat Impedes British
German troops and material retreating from the Russians have impeded the Eleventh Armoured Division's advance from the Elbe. Many Germans are anxious to be taken prisoner by the Allies, but others are trying to get to Denmark.

SWEDEN'S RETURN NO NAZI OFFER HIMMLER NOT SEEN

LONDON, May 2
Upon his return from Copenhagen to Stockholm yesterday, Count Bernadotte, the Swedish Red Cross leader through whom German surrender offers are reported to have been made, conferred with M. Boheman, former Under-Secretary of State in the Swedish Foreign Office, who was recently appointed Swedish Minister to France.
There is no sign, says the Associated Press correspondent in Stockholm, that Count Bernadotte has yet made contact with Allied representatives. This would probably be done through the Foreign Office.
No Message Forwarded
"I last met Himmler ten days ago in Lubeck," said Count Bernadotte at his press conference in Stockholm. "I did not see him during my last visit to Germany and Denmark. I have not forwarded any message from Himmler or any other authoritative German source to the Allies."
Count Bernadotte said that Himmler, on recent occasions when they met, did not show signs of nervous strain.

SWEDEN IN COPENHAGEN THREE SWEDISH DIPLOMATS

LONDON, May 2
Three Swedish diplomats, including M. Lennart von Post, a former member of the Swedish Legation in Berlin, have arrived in Copenhagen, where they are reported to be in constant touch with Dr. Best, Reich Commissioner in Denmark, and two of Himmler's representatives. Himmler is reported to have returned to Lubeck.
Germany's best-known radio commentator says Himmler's recent offer of unconditional surrender was believed to have brought a message from the enemy command last week when he entered the Allied lines, says the military correspondent of the Daily Express. The correspondent adds that the message Dietmar brought may have some bearing on the present peace negotiations.

POSITION STILL OBSCURE CLOSE OBSERVERS OF GERMAN AFFAIRS

Close observers of German affairs do not think there is any common link between the two, but the position is obscure and will remain so until Himmler speaks. When he does it is expected that he will reject Doenitz's authority and may even continue his fight to end the war. Himmler recently declared he himself was only leader still sane.
The Hamburg radio closed down at 2 a.m. with the usual greeting, "Heil Hitler!"

GERMANS IN DENMARK INDICATIONS OF WITHDRAWAL CONTROL BEING LOOSENED

LONDON, May 2
There are a number of conflicting stories about what is going on in Denmark, but agency messages suggest a general loosening of German control. Reuter's correspondent in Stockholm, who has been in touch with Denmark by telephone, says there is every indication that the Germans are preparing to leave Copenhagen. In three Danish towns the local German forces have capitulated.

It is also reported that a list of Cabinet Ministers has been drawn up ready for the expected resignation of M. Scavenius, who has been Prime Minister during the occupation.
The Danes are resuming control of their own country, says the British United Press correspondent in Stockholm. Danish police, in full uniform, are again patrolling the streets of several towns in Jutland and have been enthusiastically cheered by the population.

The Daily Telegraph's Stockholm correspondent says that negotiations are proceeding between the German commissar, Dr. Werner Best, and the Danish Home Front leaders for the bloodless capitulation of the Germans throughout Denmark.
One report says the Germans in Copenhagen are packing big removal vans in front of the S.S. headquarters and Dr. Best's office. Fires are burning in the Gestapo courtyard as the Germans destroy documents.

PEACE MOVES SWEDEN'S RETURN NO NAZI OFFER HIMMLER NOT SEEN

LONDON, May 2
The broadcaster said: "The German forces still remain ready for action in Denmark. Avoid provocation, and quietly await developments. If there is no official announcement in the next few hours, do not become demonstrative. There are still more negotiations to be carried out on the outcome of which the life and death of many may depend. The sun of freedom is now rising over Denmark."
Shootings in Copenhagen
A later broadcast stated: "The picture has changed in character, as the Gestapo and Quisling police have continued street round-ups in Copenhagen. Shootings took place. One did not gain the impression that evacuation was imminent. The Danish Resistance Movement has not lost its head. It has adopted a waiting attitude."

Prior to the second broadcast, the British United Press correspondent in Stockholm said that Danish forces expected to return to Denmark today in order to take over the areas as soon as the German evacuation occurs.
First Departures Reported
Germans throughout Denmark are prepared for a great withdrawal, says the Malmö correspondent of the Daily Express, who said he got his information from dozens of excited Danes. German troops have been commandeering cars, lorries and horse-drawn vehicles. Danes have been standing by watching Germans piling kits and rifles into carts. The first German troops at 11 o'clock last night began to move from Denmark. The word of their departure spread like wildfire, and crowds numbering thousands collected in the streets of Copenhagen excitedly watching them go.

FORCES IN NORWAY ORDERED TO FIGHT ON

LONDON, May 2
The German Commander-in-Chief in Norway has issued a "fight on" Order of the Day to his soldiers, reports the Oslo radio. "The Fuehrer died for you," says the Order. "His life work was for Germany. His command to us to fight for Germany is as valid today as ever. We continue to proud guard in the north, unbroken, proud and faithful."
Reuter's correspondent quoted a "usually well-informed source" for a report that an agreement had been reached for a German evacuation of Norway. This conflicts with earlier reports. The Swedish radio, for instance, said that there was no outward sign in Oslo that the Germans had changed their attitude.
The Quisling Government is said to have prepared a proclamation announcing its resignation, but the Germans refused to allow its publication.

SOME SCEPTICS REACTION TO NEWS PROOF LACKING

BUILDING UP LEGEND
EVIDENCE INDICATED
LONDON, May 2
The reaction to the announcement of Hitler's death has been varied. Messages from various parts of the free world show that while some commentators take the line that it is a "good riddance" others are inclined to regard the announcement as just another Nazi trick.
There is, of course, no means at present of telling for certain whether Hitler is actually dead and, if he is dead, when and where he died. It is recalled that the Nazis have been hinting at his approaching death for some days and it is suggested that they have now found it convenient to say that he has "fallen in action."

MOSCOW RADIO VIEW

The Moscow radio at 3.30 a.m. today broadcast the announcement of Hitler's death and called it a Fascist trick by which the German Fascists hoped to prepare a way for him to go underground.
The Exchange Telegraph Company's Parliamentary correspondent says some members of the House of Commons are inclined to regard the announcement as a ruse to facilitate Hitler's escape.
The Press Association says Hitler's death may have occurred a week ago, when Himmler announced that he was suffering from cerebral hemorrhage and was not likely to survive more than 48 hours.

POSSIBLE TRICK OPINION IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, May 2
Reports of Hitler's death left New Yorkers cold, says the New York Times. They stopped only briefly in the chill rain to gaze at the headlines and shrug in disbelief before diving like moles into the subway.
Scepticism was the most dominant reaction. There was no cheering, only a subdued gloating. Eight out of ten people thought it was a Nazi fake or a trick.
The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald-Tribune states that renewed tension over the expected surrender of Germany rose in Washington with the report of Hitler's death. President Truman apparently shared the sceptical view regarding the report and warnings were given at White House and various Government departments that it might be only a Nazi trick.

ALFRED HESS CAUGHT FAMOUS LINERS' FATES

LONDON, May 1
Alfred Hess, brother of Rudolf Hess, formerly deputy-Reichsfuehrer and now a prisoner in Britain, has been taken prisoner near the Czechoslovak border.
Two great German liners, the Europa and the Bremen, are reported to be docked at Bremerhaven. One is being used as a billet for naval personnel and the other is a complete wreck.

MUST FIGHT ON NEW FUEHRER'S ORDER OBEDIENCE DEMANDED

LONDON, May 1
In his Order of the Day to the German Army Doenitz said: "Comrades, the Fuehrer has fallen. He fell faithful to his great ideal of saving the people of Europe from Bolshevism. He staked his life and died a hero's death. With the Fuehrer's passing one of the greatest heroes in German history has passed away. We lower our flags for him in proud reverence and sorrow."
"The Fuehrer appointed me his successor, head of the State and Supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht. I assume supreme command of the Wehrmacht with determination to continue the struggle against Bolshevism until the fighting troops and hundreds of thousands of families in German eastern territories have been rescued from enslavement and extermination."

"I shall continue the struggle against the British and Americans so far and so long as they hinder me in carrying out the fight against Bolshevism. The situation demands from you, who have already accomplished such great historical feats, and who are now longing for the end of the war, a further struggle without question."
"I demand discipline and obedience. Chaos and downfall can only be prevented by obedience without reserve to my orders. He who at this moment shrinks his duty is considered a traitor because he brings death and slavery to German women and children. The oath of allegiance you swore to the Fuehrer now applies, without further formality to me, the successor appointed by the Fuehrer. German soldiers, do your duty. The life of our people is at stake."

DOENITZ'S ROLE LAST RALLYING POINT HATER OF BRITAIN

LONDON, May 2
Much space is given to Admiral Doenitz by the London newspapers. The Daily Mail prints a picture of him under the heading: "Hater of Britain takes over." All the newspapers express surprise at the appointment of Doenitz as Hitler's successor.
Doenitz is not believed to be in Berlin. The Parliamentary correspondent of the Times says his broadcast to the German people was made on the Bremen wave-length, suggesting that he is somewhere on the North German coast, or even at sea.
Remains of Germany Split
The Daily Mail's political correspondent says that the naming of Doenitz as the new Fuehrer suggests that what remains of Germany has been split in two—those wishing to fight on, led by Doenitz, and those wanting to surrender, led by Himmler.
The political correspondent of the Times says that what part of the armed forces Doenitz will be able to rally to his side in a last desperate stand is not certain. He can perhaps rely on such of the German Navy as remains, but the Wehrmacht is dispirited and dispersed, while the Volkstruppen is ceasing to count. The S.S. may elect to follow Himmler. Nevertheless, Doenitz may gather a sufficiently large force to cause trouble.
Considerable Strength in Norway
The diplomatic correspondent of the Times says there is a formidable number of U-boats based on Norway, where the enemy also has some 200,000 members of the land forces and some hundreds of aeroplanes. Therefore, it is likely that Doenitz contemplates making a stand there rather than in the overrun Reich or in the southern redoubt, now threatened from both north and south. He may delay somewhat, but cannot alter, the decision.
Reuter suggests two possible explanations of Doenitz's appointment as Hitler's successor. First, his unquestionable loyalty to National Socialist ideology and to Hitler personally. Second with the German Army and Air Force in ruins he represents the one arm, namely, the Navy, with which Germany could still continue some form of effective guerrilla warfare.
Reuter adds that the unexpected choice of Doenitz also supports the theory that Hitler elected him to continue the fight against Bolshevism, while entrusting Himmler with the practical job of negotiating surrender.