WESTERN ITALY EDITION

UNION JACK

BRITISH FORCES DAILY

FORCES DAILY

Friday, May 4, 1945 • • • No. 479 Two Lire

Hamburg Taken: Over Kiel Canal

GERMANY'S northern front crumbled fast yesterday as thousands of the Wehrmacht surrendered, Hamburg capitulated without a shot being fired, British troops were reported over Kiel Canal and the men of Montgomery and Rokossovsky linked-up.

8 Armies Defend Big Pocket

PRAGUE, capital of Czechoslovakia, has been proclaimed a "hospital city" by Fuehrer Doenitz broadcasting from Hamburg Radio, only a few days after the Germans had named it and Berlin as the twin strongholds of the Reich.

It stands in the centre of the last big pocket left to the Germans which is defended by eight German armies, four of them Panzer armies.

The military commander, Field-Marshal Schoerner, yesterday saw his pocket menaced from all sides as the notorious Gauleiter Frank pledged loyalty to the new Fuehrer.

The armies of Malinovsky and Yeremenko are driving into this area from the east. In the north huge forces of Koniev's troops, released after the fall of Berlin, offer a serious threat through the Moravian Gap.

Through Austria

From the south, Tolbukhin's armies now sliced westwards through Austria, and the British and American forces freed by the liberation of Italy, are drawing nearer while two American and one French army advance steadily from the west.

An Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin last night announced that Gen. Yeremenko's troops had taken the important mining centre of Teschen on the Czechoslovakian-Polish frontier.

Passau, where the Danube crosses the Austrian frontier, fell to Third Army troops yesterday and Linz, great Austrian heavy industry and communications centre, is now seriously menaced by American artillery.

Other Third Army troops are lining the Inn south of Passau and driving along the autobahn towards Salzburg and Berchtesgaden.

Braunau, Hitler's birthplace, was occupied yesterday.

Back in captured Berlin the Russians are working hard to restore the heavily damaged city centre to some semblance of order. Moscow reports indicate that there will be an appalling food shortage in the capital.

Up to a late hour last night no trace had been found of the bodies of Hitler and Goebbels.

MOSQUITOS LEAVE KIEL IN FLAMES

MANY U-boats were known to be lying at the naval base of Kiel which was attacked on Wednesday night by Bomber Command Mosquitos. Over 50 four-thousand-pounders were dropped, in addition to many other bombs.

Crews reported several large explosions. Fires were burning as they turned for home with a tall column of smoke rising from the port.

Night-fighter and Intruder aircraft supported the bombers and attacked airfields. Three RAF aircraft are missing. Six German troop-carrying aircraft were wrecked and others severely damaged on the ground by two Mosquitos when they swooped on an airfield south of Copenhagen during the night.

LATEST

British troops reported to have crossed frontier of Jutland.

Hamburg, Germany's second city and third port in the world—only London and New York are greater—surrendered to Gen. Dempsey's Second Army yesterday.

The garrison commander negotiated the surrender of the city, the port and an area in an arc of 10 miles from it, and later marched in at the head of British troops.

It was disclosed that Bomber Command raids of July and August, 1943, laid nine square miles of the city in ruins and brought life to a virtual standstill for many months.

Canal Crossed

The Swedish Radio last night quoted information from Denmark that British forces have crossed the Kiel Canal and reached Eckernfoerde.

Eckernfoerde is 30 miles from the Danish border near Flensburg. It stands at the head of an inlet on Kiel Bay and is about eight miles north of the canal.

An Order of the Day from Marshal Stalin last night confirmed that the British 6 Airborne Divison, commanded by Maj.-Gen. Bols, had linked up with Rokossovsky's forces at Wismar on the Baltic.

Another link was made by the Second Army at Schwerin, while American Ninth Army troops made contact at three more places south. There is now a solid Anglo-American-Russian link-up on a front of 70 miles from the Baltic coast down to Wittenberge.

The speed of Montgomery's armoured columns has stunned this northern front into ribbons and correspondents at 2nd Army Group HQ say about 500,000 prisoners have been taken though some are not yet counted in the past 36 hours.

Everywhere the roads are choked with Generals, SS men, Volkssturm, Hitler Youth, Police and Wehrmacht fleeing west from the Russians.

To Surrender

Yesterday the generals commanding the Fifth and First Panzer armies arrived in person at a British HQ to negotiate the surrender of their armies. Later they found this was impossible as the armies were still fighting Rokossovsky's men.

The serial massacre of long German convoys moving bonnet to tail towards the Danish frontier before the Second Army continued yesterday. TAF threw in every plane and before lunch had destroyed or damaged over 800 vehicles.

Our planes attacked German troops leaving the Baltic coast and Schleswig-Holstein in shipping ranging from merchantmen to fishing smacks.

Back in the north-west corner of Germany, Canadian troops drove into Oldenburg, pivot of the defences covering the ports and naval bases of Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Bremerhaven and Cuxhaven.

The surrender epidemic continued on the Middle Elbe front held by the American Ninth and First Armies, and throughout the last two days whole units have been surrendering or negotiating surrender.

Release Not Affected

THE decision not to call up any man over 30 will not affect the rate of release of men from the Services, Mr. Bevin told the Commons yesterday.

He said he was glad to give this assurance to the men overseas, and added they would have all they could do to train the men under 31 who, in any case, could not be trained in time for the war in the Far East.

The younger men being called up would meet, not only the needs for release, but would provide the army of occupation.

When Mr. Bevin was asked if he was prepared to give priority in release to pre-war Territorials, the Minister said that based on age and length of service, as they had gone in first, he did not think they would have any grievance.

Sir James Grigg was questioned about retaining men over 40 in the Army at a time when men over 30 were not being called up.

He replied: "The Army needs all trained men it has, regardless of their age and only in exceptional individual cases can any be released until military commitments are reduced."

THE SURRENDER AT CASERTA

At the historic meeting at Caserta, Lt.-Gen W. D. Morgan, Chief of Staff, AFHQ, signs the instrument of surrender of German forces in Italy and Western Austria on behalf of Field-Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean theatre. A few moments before, the two German envoys had signed. Looking on, left to right, are: Lt.-Col. J. G. Sweetman, Deputy-Secretary to the Supreme Allied Commander, Rear Admiral S. S. Lewis, C/S to the Commander of United States Naval Forces in North African waters, Air Vice-Marshal G. B. A. Baker, C/S to Deputy Air C-in-C, MAAF, Maj.-Gen. A. P. Kislenko, USSR, Lt. M. Vraevsky, USSR, Maj.-Gen. L. L. Lemnitzer, Deputy C/S, AFHQ. (Other pictures on Page Three)

NEW ZEALANDERS OCCUPY TRIESTE, GORIZIA

BEYOND the surrender area in North-Eastern Italy, the New Zealanders of Eighth Army have occupied the important port of Trieste and also Gorizia. Their brilliant advance from the Senio River has brought them 221 miles in 23 days.

On the western outskirts of Trieste the New Zealanders joined forces with Marshal Tito's Yugoslav Liberation Army. The surrender of the German garrison was accepted by the divisional commander, Lt.-Gen. Sir Bernard Freyberg, VC.

The 75 German Army Corps, comprising 40,000 Nazi troops of the Ligurian Army, has surrendered, AFHQ announced yesterday.

The commander, General Schlemmer (states AP), refused the higher command's orders to surrender two days ago because he had given his personal oath to Hitler never to give in. In view of Hitler's death he felt the oath no longer valid.

The Last Act

The last act of the campaign in the rest of Italy is thus summed up in yesterday's communique:

"Fighting ceased on Wednesday in Northern Italy west of the Isonzo River with the unconditional surrender of all enemy troops under the command of German Army Group "C". There remain only the multitudinous administrative details of assembling and disarming scattered and disorganised elements of the once-proud Wehrmacht."

The number of prisoners taken by 15 Army Group up to

(Turn to Page Four).

CHURCHILL TO ITALY

MR. CHURCHILL, in a message to Sgr. Bonomi, the Italian Premier, on the final liberation of Italy, praises the part played by the Italian regular forces and by patriots behind the lines in achieving the defeat of the German troops "with so little human suffering and little damage to material resources.

"The knowledge that they have contributed to an unprecedented victory and have materially accelerated the cleansing of their country's soil will be a source of strength to the Italian people in the no-less strenuous days which lie ahead.

"The good wishes of the British Government are extended for the great work of reconstruction which now faces the Italian Government and people. I look forward to the time, which cannot be long delayed, when Italy, whose forces have co-operated in the war with those of the United Nations, will work with them in the more fruitful labours of peace."—A.P.

Hurried Exit

A GREAT armada of several hundred German ships, including U-boats, was sighted by pilots of the Second Tactical Air Force yesterday off the Baltic ports on the east coast of the Schleswig Holstein peninsula.

They were all moving in the direction of Norway.

REDUNDANT

THE German Legation in Stockholm will be disbanded next week, it is reported from a usually well-informed source.

Those members of the Legation who are known Nazis will be interned and other members of the staff ordered to gather at a place in the provinces, the report states.

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BRITISH ITALY AND AFTER

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

THE effect of the German mass surrender in Italy will be felt far beyond Italy's borders.

This is no stone cast into a mill pond, sending gentle ripples to the farthest shore, but a mighty depth charge heaved into already deeply troubled waters.

Look at the map on this page, and you will see how the Nazis' dream of a southern fortress has all but vanished. What the Allies do not hold in Austria by virtue of the surrender the American and Soviet armies are rapidly making secure by their advances from west and east.

Great as is the triumph in Italy itself, the full measure of it has yet to be seen. The map puts it clearly in terms of military geography, but there is no way of showing how great the psychological effect will be.

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NOW that the southern fortress and Berlin have gone there remain two possible centres of resistance, in Bohemia and in Denmark and Norway.

Bohemia has already been entered, and the Germans are trying to declare the city of Prague a hospital area. But in Norway and Denmark there are some 250,000 troops, and, what is more important, the Norwegian coast harbours all the remaining German U-boat bases.

In the German Navy, and most of all in the submarine service, the prestige of the new Fuehrer, Admiral Doenitz, is considerable. If anyone obeys him, then the Navy will, at least for a time. The German army commander in Norway, Boehme, the Nazi Commissioner Terboven, and the traitor Quisling cannot feel so sure about their following.

There is no support for rumours that the Germans have already agreed to evacuate Norway. But the Swedish Government has begun to interest itself in the situation, and it may be that an alternative to surrender may be found which would still not involve the Allies in another Norwegian campaign.

Such a way out might be provided by a laying down of German arms across the Swedish frontier.

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IN Denmark the situation is rather different. There it appears that the Germans have been preparing to pull out but they are not yet gone, and it is now rather late to do anything about it.

The Red Army's sweep to the Baltic from east and west has cut Denmark off from Germany, and Doenitz has deprived the Germans of nearly all their supply ports.

Yet the first time since 1940 the death, a newspaper correspondent of Hitler's has reached Denmark, Western Europe, the Danish underground and they have found from them that a state of the time of his own state of high has been signed which flags are of the surrender Germans have

The preliminary from some ming to 15 pages out since the arise out of the is no talk

It gave direction eat will Navy, with its great detail in dealing with the further as a whole.

In the last war the greater Navy to the Allies, their ships at Scapa Flow on

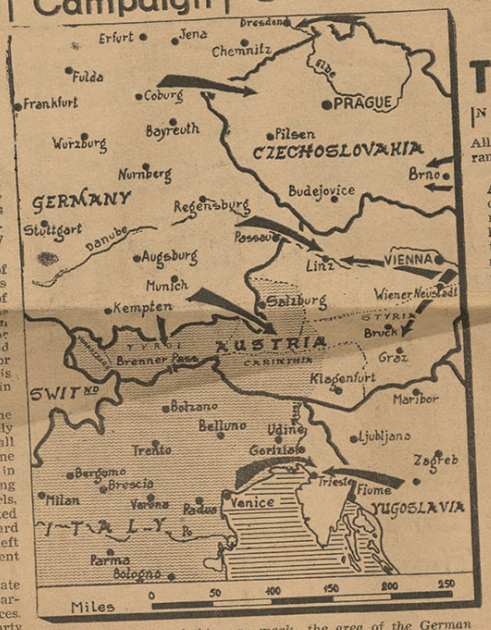
military undertaking by the official representatives of a beaten army. It is not likely that the Allies would even deal with a German spokesman unless they could be sure of his credentials and following. They must still keep a wary eye for Nazi trickery.

Doenitz's appointment of Count Schwerin von Krosick as his Foreign Minister in place of Ribbentrop suggests that he may be preparing his own attempt to surrender. For such a task Ribbentrop would obviously have been useless, for no one among the Nazis is more heartily despised in Britain and America.

The notorious figures of the Nazi party have been quietly disappearing, one by one—all except Himmler, and no one can be sure where he stands in relation to Doenitz. Goering "retired" Hitler and Goebbels, it is now known, committed suicide, and nothing is heard of Martin Bormann. Those left are Nazis, but not prominent figures in the party.

A few weeks ago the state and party offices were separated in towns and provinces. It may well be that the party has now completed its plans for going underground, leaving the Nazis of convenience rather than conviction to go through the acts of surrender.

End Of A Campaign



The shaded part of this map marks the area of the German surrender to Field Marshal Alexander. (The limits of the surrender area in Carinthia and Styria do not purport to be exact). Arrows mark the Russian and American attacks farther north.

THE HIMMLER OFFER: FULL STORY

AN account of Himmler's peace negotiations has been given in Washington by Mr. Joseph Grew, acting Secretary of State.

Himmler, he said, last week asked the Swedish Government to arrange for him to meet Gen. Eisenhower in order to arrange German capitulation on the whole Western Front.

Count Bernadotte, the Swedish intermediary, asked whether Norway and Denmark were included in the surrender.

Himmler agreed to order the German troops in Norway to surrender to American, British, or Swedish troops.

Himmler said he hoped to be able to continue the fight on the Eastern Front, and stipulated that his offer was for the Western Allies only.

Mr. Grew then disclosed that early on the afternoon of April 23 President Truman, the joint Chiefs of Staff, and himself attended a meeting at the War Department at which the President communicated with Mr. Churchill and they jointly agreed on sending a message to Marshal Stalin.

The President sent the message to Marshal Stalin, summarising Himmler's offer and stating that the British and American governments proposed to reject it and inform Himmler that unconditional surrender to all three major powers was the only acceptable offer.

On April 26 the Soviet Charge d'Affaires called upon Mr. Grew and presented Marshal Stalin's reply, thanking Mr. Truman for his information and agreeing to the proposed message to Stockholm.

The same day the President telegraphed to the American legation in Stockholm advising the Minister that the only acceptable terms were unconditional surrender to all three Allied governments on all fronts; that, if accepted, the German forces should surrender to the local commander in the field; and that, where resistance continued, Allied armies would continue to press the attack.

Next day the American minister reported that the President's message was communicated to the Swedish Foreign Office, and that Count Bernadotte left on April 27 for Flensburg in Germany, just south of the Danish frontier, to communicate with Himmler.

Count Bernadotte returned to Stockholm on May 1 and advised the American Minister that he had delivered the President's message, but received no reply.

THIS IS RANGOON, capital and chief port of Burma, which British troops have entered after their speedy advance from Mandalay.

Admiral Cunningham To Fleets:

GREAT SHARE IN ITALY TRIUMPH

IN a special Order of the Day, Admiral Sir J. Cunningham, Allied Naval C-in-C, Mediterranean, says:

To all men and women of the Allied Fleets and the Merchant Navies in the Mediterranean Theatre: I send my hearty congratulations upon the great contribution you have made in conjunction with your comrades in all the seas of the world, toward the surrender of the enemy in Italy.

You have totally destroyed the enemy's sea forces in the Mediterranean and through nearly six years of war against a powerful and unscrupulous enemy you have successfully transported, supported and sustained the land and air forces which have now achieved so glorious a victory.

Close co-operation between all ranks and Services has alone made this great victory possible.

In complete confidence that this team work will continue and enable us to complete our task—the total defeat of all our enemies in the shortest possible time—I send you my thanks for your continued success.

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LITTLE ships of the Royal Navy have played a great part in the Italian victory.

For months past, Royal Navy coastal craft and ships of the United States Navy have been ceaselessly harassing German shipping in the Gulf of Genoa.

It was officially stated yesterday (says Reuter) that from September last to March this year 24 German vessels were sunk, and probably sunk, and at least 10 damaged. The sunk shipping included corvettes, merchantmen, coasters, and lighters.

Although there were more than 42 close-range naval actions, only one craft was lost. It was an American PT, which is believed to have struck a mine.

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SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON, defence member of the India Executive Council, sent this message through Reuter on the German surrender in Italy:

"I am delighted. Through General Alexander I should like to congratulate the Indian forces. The whole of India is proud of the great part Indian divisions have played in Italy—a part which will go down in history."

Goebbels' Way Out

PAUL JOSEPH GOEBBELS, who in his last big speech said he would prefer suicide to living in a Germany occupied by the "Bolshevist terror," chose that way out—and thus escaped trial and a just punishment.

Moscow has announced, that news of his suicide was given by one of his chief propaganda assistants, Dr. Hans Fritsche, who was captured with several high officers of the Berlin garrison.

According to Dr. Fritsche, Hitler also committed suicide, as well as the newly-appointed chief of general staff, Gen. Krebs.

Goebbels was last heard by the world when the German News Agency, on April 22, issued the text of a speech he was said to have made to Berliners over the capital's internal relay system.

He then stated: "I and my colleagues are, of course, remaining in Berlin. My wife and children are also here, and will remain."

For long the Nazi Government's chief spokesman, charged with the increasingly difficult task of justifying German actions before the world and marshalling the people in support of Hitler's policy, he persisted in this attitude to the last.

His final words were: "Onslaught will and must be broken at the walls of our city. Our struggle will be a beacon for the most determined fight of the whole nation."

Credited by many with having been the author of many of Hitler's speeches, Goebbels was, next to Himmler, the most unpopular Nazi leader in Germany. But there can be no doubt that, if German resistance in the West and particularly in the East, outlasted expectations, this was in a large measure due to the propaganda issued to the German nation from Goebbels' headquarters in the Propaganda Ministry in Berlin.

As the war moved closer to the Reich's defeat Goebbels was appointed to a series of new positions, including that of chief of total mobilisation, which he combined with the Gauleitership of Berlin. He planned the capital's defences.

Goebbels, a native of Rhineland, was 48. Allied troops captured his birthplace in Rheydt some time ago.

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BRITISH FORCES DAILY

NAZIS SIGN SURRENDER

Signing the unconditional surrender of almost 1,000,000 men. German representative (left) of Obergruppenfuhrer Karl Wolff, Supreme Commander of SS and Police and German General Plenipotentiary of the Wehrmacht in Italy, puts his signature to the terms. On his left stands the representative of Gen. von Vietinghoff, C-in-C German South-West forces.

Lt.-Gen. W. D. Morgan addresses the Press (below) just after the historic nine-minute meeting.

Lords Discuss 'Unnecessary' Service Charities

CLAIMING that the public and men in the Forces should be protected by the War Charities Act from the unnecessary collection of money and the frittering away of it by inexperienced organisations, the Earl of Cork and Orrery moved in the Lords yesterday that the formation of new Service associations and charities should be prohibited.

Lord Winster said that if these appeals were not unnecessary they ought to be.

Viscount Trenchard suggested that the three Services departments and older organisations should form an advisory council which should refuse licences for new organisations set up for purposes already being served.

The Admiralty Parliamentary Secretary, Lord Bruntisfield, replied for the Government that, failing agreement among the charities themselves, he could not hold out any hope of anything being done, but a "hopeful sign" was a drop in new charities registered, from 73 in 1941 to five last year.

The charities, he said, could not agree on a scheme of regulation but Service departments might look further into the possibility of voluntary action to prevent redundancy in Service charities.

The motion was withdrawn.

BREMEN'S BLACK NEW YEAR'S DAY

RAF bombing of Bremen in 1940 and 1941 deprived the Germans of their last real coffee, and possibly stopped the invasion of Britain, Bremen dock officials have told RAF officers, it is now officially reported.

Bremen Harbourmaster told the airmen:

"Since the Bomber Command raid on New Year's Day 1941, when 2,500 tons of real coffee were destroyed, we have only had ersatz. Thousands of tons of tobacco were left smoking for weeks in warehouses after that attack."

Bremen dock workers refer to that "Black New Year's Day" as the worst raid of the war, though much more damage was caused by later attacks, an official of the organisation controlling the total turnover of the port told an RAF officer.

"If all the Army rations, ammunition, weapons and spares for our Navy and Luftwaffe had reached their destination instead of being destroyed in attacks on Bremen up to June 1940, I think the invasion of Britain would have come off.

"In spite of the damage to Bremen, casualties to civilians were surprisingly light—less than 150 workers being killed in the whole dock area in all Bomber Command attacks."

Women Want To Stay In Industry

MOST women directed to work in factories want to continue in jobs after the war, according to investigations by the Amalgamated Engineering Union in 228 factories in London, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, and Coventry.

This was made known at a Blackpool conference of women shop stewards by Mr. Ben Gardiner, who said that two-thirds of women war-workers wanted to remain in industry.

Ex-Servicemen First

Sir Ian Fraser, Vice-Chairman of the British Legion, says that the Government should make it law that a separate registry be kept in employment exchanges for ex-Service men and women. Parliament must see that ex-Service men and women get preference for jobs, and this must be done before the present Parliament ended.

JANE

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HE HADN'T GOT HIS PASS

A MAN in a blue suit arrived at the entrance to the India Office in Whitehall the other day and the policeman on duty asked him for his pass.

The man replied that he had left it in his other suit, and the policeman said he could not enter without it.

"Hang it all," said the man, "I come in here often."

"Not while I've been here," replied the policeman.

"Oh yes, I have," replied the man in the blue suit. "My name is Wavell—the Viceroy."

This story was told by a London "Evening News" columnist yesterday.

Books That Get Nowhere

LAST year nearly a million books were sent out to this theatre. They were gifts from the public at home and went to libraries or were issued to units.

But fewer books are now being printed and the flow of books from home has fallen off badly during recent months.

Since the first consignment of gift books reached North Africa nearly two years ago libraries in this theatre have been very largely dependent upon the generosity of the public at home.

Now, however, Army Welfare Services are launching an appeal for books received by officers and men from their relatives to be handed in to the nearest AWS library. So many books sent out by relatives to soldiers in this theatre, after they have been read, lie forgotten. The libraries would be glad to have these books and to keep them circulating so that they could continue to give pleasure to other readers.

There are AWS libraries in most of the large towns, at all AWS centres, in big EFI and other CYWW clubs and in rest camps, training camps and training depots. If you have any books for which you have no further use hand them in to one of these libraries so that the needs of men who have nothing to read can be met.

IT WAS LONDON'S LAST 'ALL CLEAR'

FROM midday on Wednesday Britain's sirens were discontinued, and the Minister of Home Security announced that the Control of Noises Order has been rescinded and that sirens, hooters and whistles can now be put to their proper use.

London's last siren—the 1,224th of the war, sounded on March 28.

While the official ending of the European war is still a large query it is almost over for Britain's mothers and children. The Health Minister, Mr. Willink, has made a welcome move in authorising the return home of 560,000 London evacuees with a telegram to 1,500 local authorities: "Operate London return plans."

Mothers with children can return at the beginning of June.

The standing down of the Royal Observer Corps has begun. Plans have been made for a moderated voluntary service.

Public air raid shelters are being closed, but they cannot be demolished because housing demands on labour have first priority.

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CENSORSHIP restrictions on reporting movements of the royal family and other leading personalities have been removed.

For the first time since war began the date of investiture at Buckingham Palace can be revealed.

There was one on Tuesday, when the King decorated the first Canadian VC of the war—Lt.-Col. Charles Merritt, who won the award at Dieppe in 1942 and returned a few days ago from a war prisoners' camp.

During heavy air raids, the King, after working during the day at Buckingham Palace, motored usually in the evening with the Queen to Windsor Castle, where the Princesses stayed most of the time.

Pillbox Flat

A concrete pillbox flat specially built to give the maximum protection against air attack was also provided for the King and Queen in Curzon Street.

Mr. Churchill has been living throughout at 10, Downing Street, and spending weekends at Chequers.

Not The Same

"IF people tell you that it is all going to be like last time don't believe them," said Jack Tanner, Amalgamated Engineering Union President, at the Union's youth conference at Blackpool yesterday.

"If they say that just such high hopes were entertained in 1918 as today, and will be as surely betrayed, give them no ear. Democratic advances have been made which are a guarantee for a post-war world different from last time," he added.

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"DON'T go on the loose," was Lady Astor's V-Day advice yesterday. She told the annual meeting of the Ladies Golf Union in London that she hoped V-Day would be observed as a day of prayer and thanksgiving and not a day "to go on the loose."

"I hope," she said, "that golfers will not hit a ball without a thought for those who 'rumar given their lives in this to be fight for freedom."

ODD

of it still distant

The Ch who enriche power language wit was such phrases as "puppet govern-ment" and "scorched earth," now come up with "Jeep girls" derisive ence to mount.

EIGHT

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May 4, 1945

UNION JACK

Western Italy Edition

NORTH FRONT

Late last night British troops were reported to have crossed the Kiel Canal, south-west of Kiel, and to have reached points 30 miles from Flensburg. Oldenburg, which covers the north-west German ports, has fallen to the Canadians.

14th Army Sweeps On Into Rangoon

TROOPS of the Fourteenth Army yesterday entered Rangoon, capital and chief port of Burma, after an advance of more than 300 miles in less than a month. Their progress down the main road and railway from Mandalay to Rangoon has been the most spectacular of the whole campaign.

Lying 20 miles from the sea up the Rangoon river, which connects with the Irrawaddy, the capital was the British administrative centre before the Japanese entered on March 8, 1942.

The enemy used the port as their chief supply base for Burma, for which it was well suited, with its excellent port facilities and road and rail systems radiating to the Arakan, Central Burma and South-east Burma.

Peace-time population of the city was more than 400,000.

To the south of Rangoon, SEAC planes were reported yesterday to be battering Japanese positions in support of British sea and airborne landings made in the last three days.

North-east of Rangoon, the important rail junction of Pegu was captured, severing the Japanese escape route towards Siam via Moulmein.

Pressing down the banks of the Irrawaddy north-west of the capital, other Fourteenth Army troops occupied Prome, cutting the Japanese route from the Arakan.

In the waters to the south of Burma, the Japanese reported Allied battleships, cruisers and destroyers continued to bombard the Indian Ocean stronghold of Nicobar for the second successive day.

Australian forces who have invaded the oil island of Tarakan, off the north-east coast of Borneo, were reported to be meeting stiff resistance as they pressed towards the airfield and town of Lingkas.

It was officially revealed yesterday that planes from Britain's three newest and fastest carriers —Indomitable, Indefatiguable and Victorious — pounded the Sakashima islands, in the Ryukyu chain, in a recent co-ordinated Allied attack against the "springboard islands."

Super-Fortresses from the Marianas yesterday struck again at airfields on the Japanese home island of Kyushu.

MOSCOW MADE A NIGHT OF IT

THE fall of Berlin gave Russians their greatest thrill of the war.

Traffic stopped in the streets as loudspeakers boomed out the news to the crowds. Complete strangers embraced each other like long-lost brothers. Others executed involuntary dances, burst into a storm of cheers and hurled caps into the air. "It's wonderful—wonderful," they kept on saying.

Sending this description from Moscow, Duncan Hooper, Reuter's correspondent, said the number of rockets used was so great that caretakers in big buildings were warned in advance to have men on roofs to safeguard against fire.

Passers-by in British and American uniforms were enthusiastically hailed and warmly shaken by the hand. The square was lit as brightly as day with huge blue searchlights roving over the Kremlin walls and slanting across the Kremlin towers which were topped with glowing red stars.

Then the first rockets soared up from all sides, breaking away into myriads of red, green and yellow lights which floated down to earth against a sky flushed bright red by the simultaneous flash of hundreds of salute guns.

Britain's Move Over Austria

BRITAIN and the United States are making strong representations to Russia because it formed a Provisional Government in Austria without the approval of the British, American and French Governments M. Law, British Minister of State, said in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Law said the formation of an Austrian Government should be a matter of equal concern to all four governments, since all are supposed to share in the occupation and control of Austria.

He said the Russians informed the British Chargé d'Affaires in Moscow on April 26 that Karl Renner had proposed to the Russians that he form a provisional government. The British replied they wanted to consider the matter.

"Nevertheless," Mr. Law continued, "three days later the Russians made a radio announcement that the Renner Government had been formed."

Mr. Law announced that the zones of occupation by American, French, British and Russian troops in Austria have been agreed upon.

What's On

The San Carlo Opera House management announces that a new system has been introduced whereby unsold civilian seats are now sold to the military at military prices, after 1100 hrs. for matinees and 1500 hrs. for evening performances. This means that there are often good seats available just before a performance.

BENEVENTO—Patrick the Great (D. O' Connor), 1800, 2000.

CANCELLO (Precast Hall)—What Cheer, ENSA—snow.

CASTELLAMMARE—Sea Hawk (E. Flynn), 2000.

CASERTA (Esedra Cinema) — Kiss the Bride Goodbye (J. Hanley), 1730, 2000.

CASERTA PALACE (Room 143)—Recorded Concert, 2030.

CERVINARA—This is the Life (D. O'Connor), 1800, 2000.

GRAGNANO (Town Cinema)—Films for RAF: Mon., Wed., Fri., at 1930.

ISCHIA (ENSA Cinema)—Don't Take It To Heart (R. Greene), 1930.

LAURO CASTLE—The Way Ahead (D. Niven), 1900.

NAPLES—ENSA Bellini Theatre—Pocket Varieties, Italian show, 2000. Matinees Wed., Sat., 1430. Garrison Cinema—Mr. Deeds Goes To Town (G. Cooper), 1230, 1500, 1730, 2000. Augusteo—Lake Placid Serenade (V. H. Ralston), 1100, 1330, 1530, 1800, 2000. Palm Theatre—Something For The Boys (C. Miranda). Alhambra—Guest in the House (A. Baxter), 1430, 1630, 2000. Odeon Cinema—Pin-Up Girl (B. Grable), 1200, 1430, 1700, 1930. San Carlo Opera House—Adriana Lecouvreur, 1900. Royal Palace (EFI)—Lady, Let's Dance (Belita), 1130 to 2100. Church Army, Via Roma — Cafeteria, lounges and writing rooms, etc., first floor; gift shop, billiards, shuffleboard, darts, table tennis and teas, 2nd floor; Buffet until 2130. Three Arts Club, 58, Via Santa Brigida—1000 to 1500 for all Service personnel interested in the Arts; Christian Science, 64, Via Santa Brigida—Quiet rooms. Jewish Services' Club, 23 Via Tarsia—Canteen 1100-1400 and 1900-2100. Lunch; 1200-1400, suppers 1700-1900. YWCA Services Club, 256, Via Roma. NOLA—Kid from Spain (E. Cantor), 1430, 1900.

PORTICI (RAF)—Films, 1430 1800, 2000.

SALERNO (Garrison Cinema) — Home in Indiana (W. Brennan), 1730, 2000.

SORRENTO (RAF)—Ghost Catchers (Olsen and Johnson), 2000.

TORRE ANNUNZIATA (Garrison Cinema)—Two Girls and a Sailor (J. Allyson), 1930.

Radio

British Forces Station (249 metres, 1,205 kilocycles).

News: 0800, 1300, 1700, 1900, 2100. News Headlines: 0700, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1400, 1600, 2200, 2258.

0630 Dawn Patrol; 0701 Geraldo's Orchestra; 0730 Parade for Happiness; 0815 Morning Star, Allan Jones; 0830 Close Down; 1000 Morning Merry-Go-Round; 1101 Contact with Max Wall; 1130 Carnival of Music; 1202 Sax Appeal; 1215 Here's Wishing You Well Again; 1310 Rhythm of the Rhumba; 1330 British Band of the AEF, with Webster Booth and Anne Zeigler; 1401 Voice of the Violin; 1415 Close Down; 1601 Radio News Reel; 1615 BBC Scottish Orchestra; 1715 Tino Rossi; 1730 Anton's Orchestra, with Nancy Logan; 1800 Radio Rhythm Club; 1830 Home Town Reporter; 1843 Ivory Interlude with Lauri Donay; 1905 Evening star; 1930 Down Beat; 1945 What's Cookin'? Radio Quiz, RAOC Sergeants v. RAOC Serjeants; 2000 Ballet Mosaic; 2018 Starlight, Phyllis Robins; 2030 Bellini Theatre Night, Pocket Varieties; 2115 Remember Cissy Street? presented by Percy Clemens; 2130 Count Basie's Orchestra; 2201 Gems of Opera; 2230 Serenade with a Song; 2245 Nightfall; 2300 Close Down.

Kiwis Occupy Trieste

(Continued from Page One).

the end of hostilities was over 230,000.

The United States Secretary of War, Mr. Stimpson, said yesterday that the Italian campaign had cost the United States more than 109,000 casualties.

The story of 2 New Zealand Division's part in the recent achievements of Eighth Army is one of the outstanding features of the campaign.

Throughout its long march from the Senio to Trieste the division never lost touch with the enemy by day or by night.

The division has advanced over some of the most difficult fighting country in Europe, intersected as it is by major water obstacles. The fiercest opposition was met all the way from the Senio up to and including the crossing of the Po. In addition to the river Senio the division carried out opposed crossings on the rivers Santerno, Sillaro, Gaiana and Indice, as well as on the Po itself, which major obstacle it forced with the greatest rapidity.

Since crossing the Po the division has given the enemy no respite, and has pressed him back relentlessly over the rivers Adige, Brenta, Piave, Tagliamento and Isonzo.

This feat of arms has called for the utmost endurance and fortitude on behalf of the troops and has given proof of expert leadership and planning.

Since operations became mobile on April 13 the 12 Royal Lancers have co-operated continuously with the New Zealand Division. This famous British cavalry regiment, which so greatly distinguished itself in France in 1940 and in which the Army commander, Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard McCreery, served throughout his regimental service, has led the advance with great dash and skill.

On every occasion the regiment has shown the greatest desire to close with the Germans and by its exertions has allowed the enemy no time to reorganise his troops.

Spain Arrests Laval

THE Spanish Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs has stated that Pierre Laval, former Vichy Premier, his wife, and four other Vichyites are now under arrest incommunicado in a fortress near Barcelona after landing there in a German plane, piloted by two Germans.

Upon arrival, the passengers were told they could not remain in Spain and would have to return or continue their journey in accordance with United Nations declarations that neutral countries could not harbour war criminals.

Laval stated that he could not go elsewhere and preferred to surrender himself to Allied authorities.

The United States Ambassador was kept informed of details.

A Paris message says that negotiations have already been opened between the French and Spanish Governments for the extradition of Laval and other French fugitives now in Spain.

Ribbentrop's Job

VON RIBBENTROP, of whose whereabouts there is no news, has been replaced as German Foreign Minister by Schwerin von Krosick, formerly Finance Minister.

Von Krosick, a Right-Wing aristocrat, was at Oxford and speaks perfect English.

Japs Have "Deep Sympathy"

THE Japanese News Agency yesterday reported a speech by Admiral Suzuki, Prime Minister, who said: "The trend in Germany has become extremely unfavourable. We express deep sympathy with the German people who, up to this moment, have for more than five years fought valiantly and paid enormous sacrifices.

"Japan's war aims lie solely in self-existence and self-defence. Our position in East Asia has become more difficult and our responsibility heavier by the current development in Germany. But our nation's faith can by no means be shaken by European developments."

World Flashes

950,000 TONS OF BOMBS

THE RAF dropped approximately 54,000 tons of bombs in all theatres of war in April, making the total since war began well over 950,000 tons.

About 8,000 bombers have been lost.

During April, Allied forces in the West captured more than 1,500,000 prisoners including 150 generals and admirals.

◆ ◆ ◆

The United States War Shipping Administration has announced that the Liberty Ship "Dan Beard" broke in two and sank after being torpedoed off the British Isles a few weeks ago: Twenty-nine are dead or missing.

◆ ◆ ◆

Streicher, German Jew greater Nazi even listed as a war their ships at sea, Richard Law, reply to a ques He added that so far of

Bari Stars For Naples Soccer Tie

A 3-1 win over Gibraltar means that the South-East Italy team from Bari will meet our soccer stars at the Vomero Stadium, Naples, on Saturday afternoon.

Colleague Don MacWhinnie has given me the low-down on the Bari XI which have arrived in the Naples area along with the Gibraltar team.

The line-up is: Hoyle (Bradford); Erickson (Skelmersdale United) and Waterman (Grays Athletic); Reid (Notts County, capt.), Fleggard (Portsmouth), Whyte (Dunfermline); Kelly (Denny Hibs), Fielding (Charlton), Clements (amateur), Ferguson (Tranmere Rovers), Garvie (amateur).

Stan Cullis is travelling as coach and trainer but will not be playing owing to injuries received in recent games.

The star of the team, Don tells me, is Fielding at inside-right. A former Walthamstowe Avenue stalwart, he signed papers for Charlton just before coming abroad. In the words of MacWhinnie: "He'll walk through your team."

If he does, with the strength of our rearguard, then he's a wonder!

The only likely change in the visiting side might be the inclusion of the now ailing "Spud" Murphy, of West Bromwich Albion and Wales, who is with the team and hopes to be at right-half on Saturday.

If that happens, Reid will take Kelly's place at outside-right.

Other Results

North Africa and Desert Air Force played a scoreless draw after extra time on May 1, at Ancona, and the next day the North African side won by 4 goals to 2.

Malta had a 4-2 victory over No. 1 District, so that the other quarter finals on Saturday will be North Africa v. Malta at Rimini, and 2 District v. Fifth Army at Arezzo.

The Eighth Army has withdrawn from the championship owing to difficulty in assembling its widely-scattered players. Land Forces, Greece, thus have a bye into the semi-finals, and will meet the winners of 2 District and Fifth Army at Ancona on May 9.

The other semi-final will be the winners at the Vomero on Saturday v. the winners of the North Africa-Malta match, to be played at Florence on May 9.

The final will now be played in Florence, and not in Rimini, on May 13. The champions will then play the United Kingdom touring side at a venue to be decided by Eighth Army.

The UK tourists' stay in Naples is now extended, and the final game against Greece has been fixed for June 9 instead of June 2.

ANDY GRAY

Food For Dutch —By Road

DRIVEN by Canadians across No Man's Land through the German lines, trucks carried 1,000 tons of food for the Dutch to prearranged unloading points.

This followed an agreement with the German commanders reached at a meeting at which the enemy delegation was headed by Seyss Inquart. The chairman was Lt.-Gen. W. B. Smith, Chief of Staff at SHAEF, and among the Allied leaders present was Prince Bernhard, C.-in-C. Dutch Land Forces.

Arrangements were also made for food ships to enter Rotterdam.

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