

# ROOSEVELT DIES

EXTRA

## The Bakersfield Californian

EXTRA

Vol. 57

TWO SECTIONS

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1945

20 PAGES

No. 219

## Cerebral Hemorrhage Claims President on Eve of Victory



PRESIDENT DEAD—President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died at 3:35 p. m. (central war time) at Warm Springs, Ga., of cerebral hemorrhage. The President died in the bedroom of his little white bungalow atop Pine mountain, where he had been coming for 20 years to take treatments for infantile paralysis.

**Nips Loose Okinawa Mad Men**

**267 Italians Killed in Allied Ship Blast**

**CASUALTY TOLL 1900 IN MUNITIONS VESSEL BARI HARBOR EXPLOSION**

**ROME, April 12. (UP)—**Almost 1900 Italian civilians and undetermined number of Allied service personnel were killed or injured today when a munitions ship exploded in Bari harbor.

First accounts from the scene indicated the disaster was even greater than that which occurred on December 2, 1943, when German bombers blew up five munitions-laden American ships, at Bari, wrecking the harbor and causing about 1000 casualties.

At least 267 Italians were believed to have been killed in the blast today and another 1600 were injured.

The report indicated that Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov had lit the fuse of his long-brewing push against Berlin, synchronizing it with the United States Ninth Army drive to squeeze the heart of Nazi dom in a nutcracker.

**Cossacks on Move**

Zhukov's assault on Berlin hit the German defenses in the Oder valley about 30 miles east of Berlin. There he had massed in his bridgehead across the Oder a great array of Soviet troops and arms. Only yesterday formidable forces of Cossack cavalry were reported on the move, evidently into positions to spearhead a lightning sweep westward.

In the Danube valley west of virtually conquered Vienna, another Red Army push was aimed at Berchtesgaden and the Bavarian Alps, touted as a sanctuary for the Nazi hierarchy.

**Retreat in Austria**

Soviet armor was reported far up the Danube from Vienna and a Nazi commentator, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred von Oberle, bluntly admitted that the Germans were retreating in Austria.

Continued on Page Four

**WITH THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY, GERMANY, April 12. (AP)—**General American gains were reported in the Philippines, ranging up to 21 miles on Luzon and 30 on Negros Island. British armor swept east and south from Thailand in central Burma to trap fleeing Japanese. Nipponese recaptured Sichuan in north central China and renewed their drive toward Shensi province on the northern road to Chungking.

Spain broke off diplomatic relations with Japan, in protest against

Continued on Page Four

**Reds Drive for Nazi Capital**

**LONDON, April 12. (UP)—**President Franklin D. Roosevelt died unexpectedly today of a cerebral hemorrhage, at 3:35 p. m. (C. W. T.) at his summer cottage here.

The shocking news of the fourth term President's death was announced to the press by Secretary William D. Hassett shortly before 5 p. m. (C. W. T.).

"It is my sad duty," he told the reporters, "to announce the President died at 3:35 p. m., of a cerebral hemorrhage."

Hassett urged the reporters to rush to their telephones immediately as a simultaneous announcement was being made at the White House in Washington.

In quivering voice, in the presence of other members of the White House staff who came here with Mr. Roosevelt March 30, for what was to be a three-weeks rest, Hassett said further details as to the cause of death would be given out later by Commander Howard Bruenn, naval doctor who was taking care of the nation's thirty-first President, in the absence of Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire, navy surgeon-general.

There was no information immediately available here as to when Vice-President Harry S. Truman, a former Missouri senator, would be sworn in as Mr. Roosevelt's successor.

In Washington, at the moment this was dictated, Truman and the cabinet were in an emergency meeting at the White House.)

So insistent was Secretary Hassett that the news be made public immediately that details were left for future announcement.

The President, the nation's first chief executive to break the two-term tradition, had planned to stay here another week, then he was to return to Washington and spend one day before taking a train to San Francisco to

Continued on Page Four

## Gap Between U. S.-Red Lines Cut to 100 Miles

**First, Third Armies Move Up on Front Aimed for Leipzig**

**PARIS, April 12. (UP)—**United States Ninth Army mobile forces broke across the Elbe river at Magdeburg today and raced for Berlin, which lay only 49 miles or less ahead of the rampaging "Hell on Wheels" Second Armored Division by unofficial account.

Three other Allied armies were surging eastward on either side of Lieutenant-General William H. Simpson's lightning columns, chopping deeper by the hour into the waistline of unoccupied Germany, already less than 100 miles wide between the Russian and American prisoners.

The American people, the two secretaries promised, "will not forget" the criminal Nazi treatment of the prisoners.

**Justice Pledged**

"The perpetrators of these heinous crimes will be brought to justice," they said.

Stimson read the statement to his press conference shortly after the International Red Cross disclosed in a cable from Geneva that truck convoys carrying Red Cross food supplies started a daily service today from Switzerland to prison camps in Germany. It informed the American

Red Cross that 296 trucks are available for this work.

Earlier, a state department official said that the sufferings of 1,100,000 Allied war prisoners in Germany will increase as long as German resistance continues. Conditions have been growing worse, he said, ever since the Russian offensive began last winter.

**Suffer in Moving**

The Geneva convention sets 12½ miles a day as the limit for prisoners moved on foot, but weakened men moving in cold weather suffer greatly.

The International Red Cross officials here said that it was doubtful that Germany could deceive agents about conditions in camps they visited. However, it was pointed out, the inspection agents have worked under extreme difficulties, some losing their lives on missions. In addition, because of the large number of camps, periods between visits may have been long and conditions may change radically.

The Red Cross said that the Germans will have a difficult time proving they have followed the Geneva convention closely.

## CHURCHILL HINTS ALLIES TO FORCE NAZI PIECEMEAL TOTAL SURRENDER

**PRIME MINISTER QUESTIONED ON EISENHOWER'S STATEMENT THAT CAPITULATION IMPROBABLE**

**LONDON, April 12. (UP)—**Prime Minister Churchill hinted in Commons today that the Allies foresee a necessity of forcing isolated German army segments and areas into unconditional surrender over some period of time.

Churchill said in a brief answer to a question in Commons:

"The policy of unconditional surrender does not exclude unconditional surrender."

Laborite Rhys Davis questioned Churchill regarding General Dwight D. Eisenhower's letter to President Roosevelt saying there probably never would be a clean-cut military capitulation.

Asked whether he had read the statement, Churchill answered "Yes sir." It was "No sir" to a question whether he would make a statement on it. The Laborite persisted:

"Does not the prime minister agree that General Eisenhower stated in this letter that the policy of unconditional surrender is completely unworkable? If the Allies are considering pronouncing a proclamation to end the war in Europe, will he bear in mind that during the Boer War a proclamation to end that war was made and then it lasted for two years?"

It was then that Churchill gave his version of unconditional surrender, applying it to piecemeal giving up, which he indicated he expects rather than any mass German surrender.

**ACTRESS BETTER**

**HOLLYWOOD, April 12. (UP)—**U.S. film stars behind German lines in northern Italy, General Mark W. Clark said the "final battles for the liberation of Italy have begun."

(He warned, however, that the moment for co-ordinated actions had not yet arrived. The instructions were broadcast over the Rome radio and recorded by the Federal Communications Commission.)

**Allies Push Across Santerno Barrier**

**Americans, Italian Partisans Take Carrara**

**ROME, April 12. (UP)—**Eight Army troops battling heavy opposition have pushed across a second barrier thrown up by the Germans at the Santerno river, while on the opposite end of the front American troops, assisted by Italian Partisans, have captured Carrara, Allied headquarters announced today.

The crossing of the Santerno was forced "against strong opposition," the communiqué said.

The Santerno river runs parallel to and about 5 miles west of the Senio river line from which the Eighth launched its new offensive four days ago.

Carrara is 4 miles north of Massa, west coast hub whose capture by the Fifth Army was announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, in a message to Italian patriots behind German lines in northern Italy, General Mark W. Clark said the "final battles for the liberation of Italy have begun."

(He warned, however, that the moment for co-ordinated actions had not yet arrived. The instructions were broadcast over the Rome radio and recorded by the Federal Communications Commission.)

**Machinists Protest Strike Assessments**

**HOLLYWOOD, April 12. (UP)—**Sixty-three members of an A. F. L. Machinist's union, none of whom is employed in motion picture studios, have protested against assessments from \$3 to \$5 weekly for support of the film strike.

They asked William L. Green and permanent officers of the union to pend offices of their local and unit locals. The F. L. Conference of Studio unions, has refused to accept dues unless assessments are paid up, they said. All 63 work for a camera company engaged in war work.

"People! To grips with the enemy!" A broadcaster exclaimed after reciting instructions on what information was wanted about the strength and activity of the Allied strike装饰者, and the strike is an outgrowth of the controversy.