

Germans

Unconditionally

Surrender *May 8, 1945*

Their Radio Announces That Surrender Terms Went Into Effect at 7:41 a. m., Monday, May 7

The end of the war in Europe came suddenly Monday morning, when the German radio announced that Admiral Karl Doenitz, self proclaimed successor to Adolf Hitler as German fuehrer, had ordered the surrender of all German armies now fighting to the three major allies, the United States, Great Britain and Russia at 7:41 a. m., central war time. Official confirmation from Washington was delayed, pending conferences between the heads of the three governments.

The announcement of the Germans said that the surrender had been signed in a "little red school house," and added that they "had been forced to accept unconditional surrender."

It was believed that the official proclamation from President Truman would not be issued until fighting on all fronts had ceased. This will probably be today.

The news came almost an anticlimax, for it had been expected hourly for the past week, following the capitulation of the Italian Fascist forces in Northern Italy last Monday, followed by the surrender of the German armies in Italy and the fall of Berlin, Wednesday and the surrender of the German armies in Holland and Denmark, Friday.

While it wasn't quite clear yet, it was presumed that almost 1,000,000 Germans still holding out in Germany, Norway, Czeckoslovakia, Austria, France, and the channel islands (Jersey, Guernsey, etc.) were included.

Still Fighting

Fighting had stopped Sunday in all areas except Czeckoslovakia against General George S. Patton's Third army and the Russians. Sporadic activity was to be found in these areas, but the German armies were too disorganized to put up real resistance, although they might have held out for some time with much bloody fighting.

Radio reports from Europe were that the soldiers on all fighting fronts, both Allied and German, were noisily celebrating the cessation of fighting after almost six years. The war had opened on September 1, 1939, with the German blitzkrieg through Poland, and American troops had been engaged since the summer of 1942, although our entrance in force came with the North African landings on November 8, 1942.

The surrender came only one day over eleven months after the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944, and showed the overwhelming power of the Allied armies on the three European fronts—eastern, western and southern.

Store Closing Plans

Mayor C. G. Batman planned to proclaim VE-day in Newton with the receipt of official word from President Truman. Warning will be given by six short blasts on the light plant whistle, after which the proclamation will be read over the telephone. If VE-day comes before 12:00 a. m., the Newton stores will close and remain closed for the balance of the day. If received after noon, they will close all the following day.