

VICTORY

Nazis Reveal Surrender To Western Allies, Russia

Germany announced yesterday that it had surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and to Soviet Russia.

There was no official announcement of the surrender from the Allied governments or from Supreme Headquarters of the Allied or Russian Armies, but the British Ministry of Information issued a statement last night declaring that today would be treated as "Victory in Europe Day" in Britain.

Prime Minister Churchill will make "an official announcement at 3 PM today," the ministry said. Simultaneous announcements in Washington and Moscow and at Supreme Headquarters are expected.

In Washington, President Truman said he had agreed with the govern-

Nazis Still Fight Reds At Prague

Russian and U.S. Third Army troops, despite Germany's reported unconditional surrender, continued their sweep into Czechoslovakia yesterday after the Nazi commander there announced his forces still were at war with Russia.

Gen. Patton's famous Fourth Armored Div. last night was reported speeding toward Prague, where partisans and Germans were locked in a struggle for control of the capital. A Czech radio broadcast said Gen. Patton's troops were only 15 miles away and London reports said it was "entirely possible" that American vanguards already were in the city.

Koniev Army in Bohemia
Enemy sources said Marshal Ivan Koniev's First Ukrainian Army had entered Bohemia from Saxony at a point probably 60 to 75 miles north of Prague.

All fighting stopped yesterday in Breslau, the Silesian capital which has been a battleground since Feb. 17. Marshal Stalin in an order of

(Continued on Page 2)

Prayer, Tears, Laughter —The World Celebrates

People in Allied cities throughout the world yesterday accepted the news of the reported unconditional surrender of Germany as true—despite lack of official announcements from the governments of the U.S., Britain and Russia—and celebrated with prayer, liquor, tears and laughter.

Crowds milled in the streets of the world's great cities—in Times Square, New York; Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus in London, and along the Champs-Élysées, Paris—but it was not a wild jubilee. The absence of a clear-cut official announcement and the piece-by-piece collapse of the German Armies tended to dull the feeling of triumph.

Then, too, the huge casualty lists, the vast war against Japan that still lay ahead, the levelled cities and the shell-pitted fields and the absence of sons, fathers and brothers from homes, checked unrestrained exuberance.

Ticker Tape Showers Wall Street

Ticker tape poured from the office windows of Wall Street and shreds of telephone books from the windows of the Garment Center buildings in the Thirties, and men and women flooded Times Square, waving their arms and trying to express in words their happiness. Liquor, flowed inside bars, while people held newspaper extras and devoured the news.

But there was no special need for strict police measures, because the celebrating was orderly. Aristocratic Fifth Avenue in New York City also was covered with ripped sheets of paper which became shapeless messes in the wet streets, but stores remained open and some people seemed more dazed than jubilant there.

On one section of Fifth Avenue, an impromptu conga line was formed, and on another, a group of girls marched spontane-

(Continued on Page 8)

ments in London and Moscow to make no announcement on the surrender "until simultaneous announcement could be made by the three governments."

At 9:30 last night King George VI of England sent Gen. Eisenhower a message congratulating him and his armies on the "complete and crushing victory" in Europe.

Despite the apparent surrender by the German high command, hostilities were still in progress in Czechoslovakia, where both American and Russian troops were converging on Prague. Patriots were battling German troops for control of the Czech capital.

The Associated Press broke the news in a story from Rheims, France, that the Allies had officially announced that Germany had surrendered at 0241 hours yesterday morning. It said the surrender took place in the little red school house which is Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters.

Col. Gen. Gustaf Jodl, German army chief of staff, signed for Germany, it was reported.

The German announcement came from Count Schwerin von Krosigk, the new German foreign minister, over the

(Continued on Page 8)