



The Indianapolis Times

FORECAST: Showers today, tonight and tomorrow; cooler tonight and tomorrow; Sunday, mostly cloudy with rising temperatures.

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FINAL
HOME

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Roosevelt Funeral Train On Way To Washington

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press Staff Correspondent

WARM SPRINGS, Ga., April 13.—The body of Franklin D. Roosevelt today was borne from the "Little White House" of Georgia to the roll of muffled drums, starting the long, last journey to Washington.

The hot southern sun shone in a blue sky as the funeral cortège left the green hills the President loved so well. The procession slowly moved down the winding mile-long road to Warm Springs station.

In the distance a church bell pealed from some country steeple.

The cortège left the "Little White House" at 10:30 a. m. (9:30 a. m. Indianapolis Time). Along the road stood hundreds of residents of the President's "other home." They bared their heads and stood in silence as the cortège passed.

First came the U. S. army band from Ft. Benning, Ga. The roll of its muffled drums carried softly over the countryside in the still, warm air.

Behind the band marched 1000 infantrymen, led by three companies of carbine-carrying troops, followed by

riflemen. Their colors flew black streamers to signify the mourning of the nation.

Then came the hearse bearing the President's body in a copper-lined, flag-draped mahogany casket.

As the troops reached the little station across the tracks from the Warm Springs hotel and the little row of Warm Springs stores and business buildings, they deployed into company front and presented their arms at the salute.

Behind the hearse and at each flank was the honor-guard of high naval officers, afoot. Next came Mrs.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, dressed in black, with a fur cape. She sat stiffly upright, outwardly composed, as she had been throughout.

With Mrs. Roosevelt rode Fala. He sat quietly at Mrs. Roosevelt's feet, apparently sensing that something was wrong—what, he could not quite know.

Along the route, troops—overseas veterans—stood at attention. Many of them cried openly as they stood rigidly presenting their arms.

The cortège wound through the pleasant grounds of

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Report Yank Troops 15 Miles From Berlin

NAZI DEFENSE LINE APPEARS TO BE BROKEN

Germany Virtually Cut in Two in Twin Drive by 1st And 2d Armies.

BULLETINS
LONDON, April 13 (U. P.)—Vienna has been captured by Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's 3d Ukrainian army and 130,000 prisoners have been taken. Marshal Stalin announced in an order of the day.

WITH U. S. 1ST ARMY IN GERMANY, April 13 (U. P.)—American 1st army troops rolled ahead as much as 25 miles today and drove to within seven miles of Leipzig.

By BOYD D. LEWIS
United Press Staff Correspondent
PARIS, April 13.—American troops were reported officially only 15 to 16 miles from Berlin today.

Field dispatches said German resistance appeared to have collapsed even on the last approaches to the wrecked capital.

Far to the south, the American 1st and 3d armies virtually cut Germany in two with parallel advances that carried almost two-thirds of the way across the Reich and brought the great military base of Leipzig within artillery range.

Leipzig is 115 miles from a junction with the Red army.

First army troops reached and perhaps entered Leipzig's companion stronghold of Halle, 15 miles to the northwest, and German spokesmen said other Yank columns were about 10 miles west and southwest of Leipzig at Merseburg and Pagan.

2d Out in Front

Flying tank columns of the 2d armored division officially were out in front of the U. S. 9th army drive on Berlin after crossing the Elbe river near Magdeburg and pushing ahead more than five miles to positions 55 miles or less southwest of the capital this morning.

Unconfirmed Radio Paris reports said, however, that American paratroopers had dropped into Brandenburg province only 15 to 16 miles west of Berlin and linked up with the 2d armored division at an undisclosed point.

At the same time, United Press War Correspondent Robert Vermillion reported that the German defenders east of the Elbe were fighting no harder than those overwhelmed by the Americans west of the river—where resistance for three days has been almost negligible.

Vermillion disclosed that strong infantry reinforcements already were over the Elbe and moving up to join the battle for Berlin, with three more divisions at the west bank on a 75-mile front loosing to within 45 miles of the city.

Fighting in Magdeburg

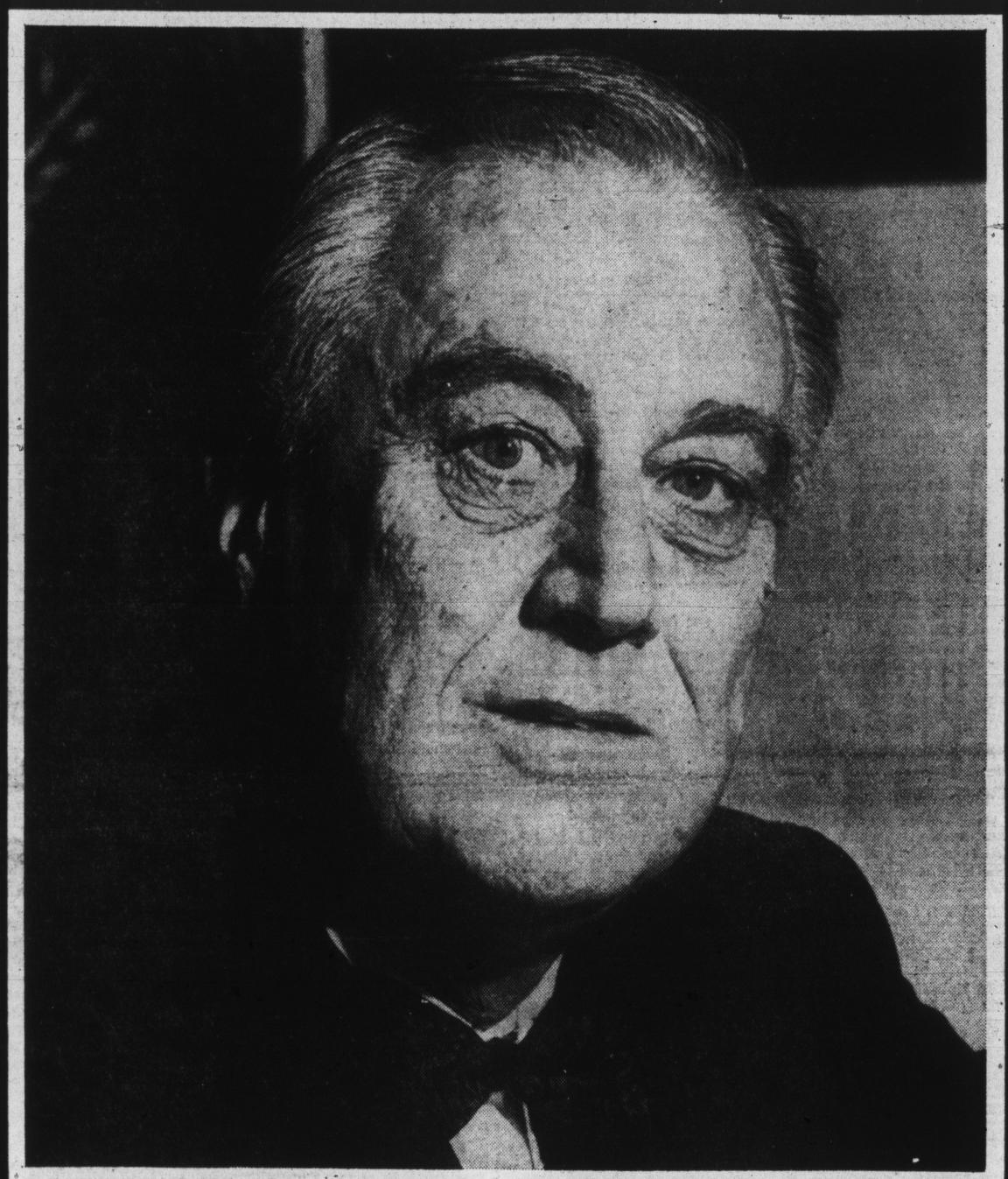
Stiff fighting continued in the Elbe fortress of Magdeburg, but the supporting divisions moving up to join the battle for Berlin advanced 37 to 60 miles in less than 24 hours in their breakthrough to the Elbe.

The 2d armored division was under a military security blackout. But strong infantry forces already were ramming across the Elbe in the wake of the armored leaders to exploit the break-through effected 24 hours ago near Magdeburg, 60 miles southwest of the capital.

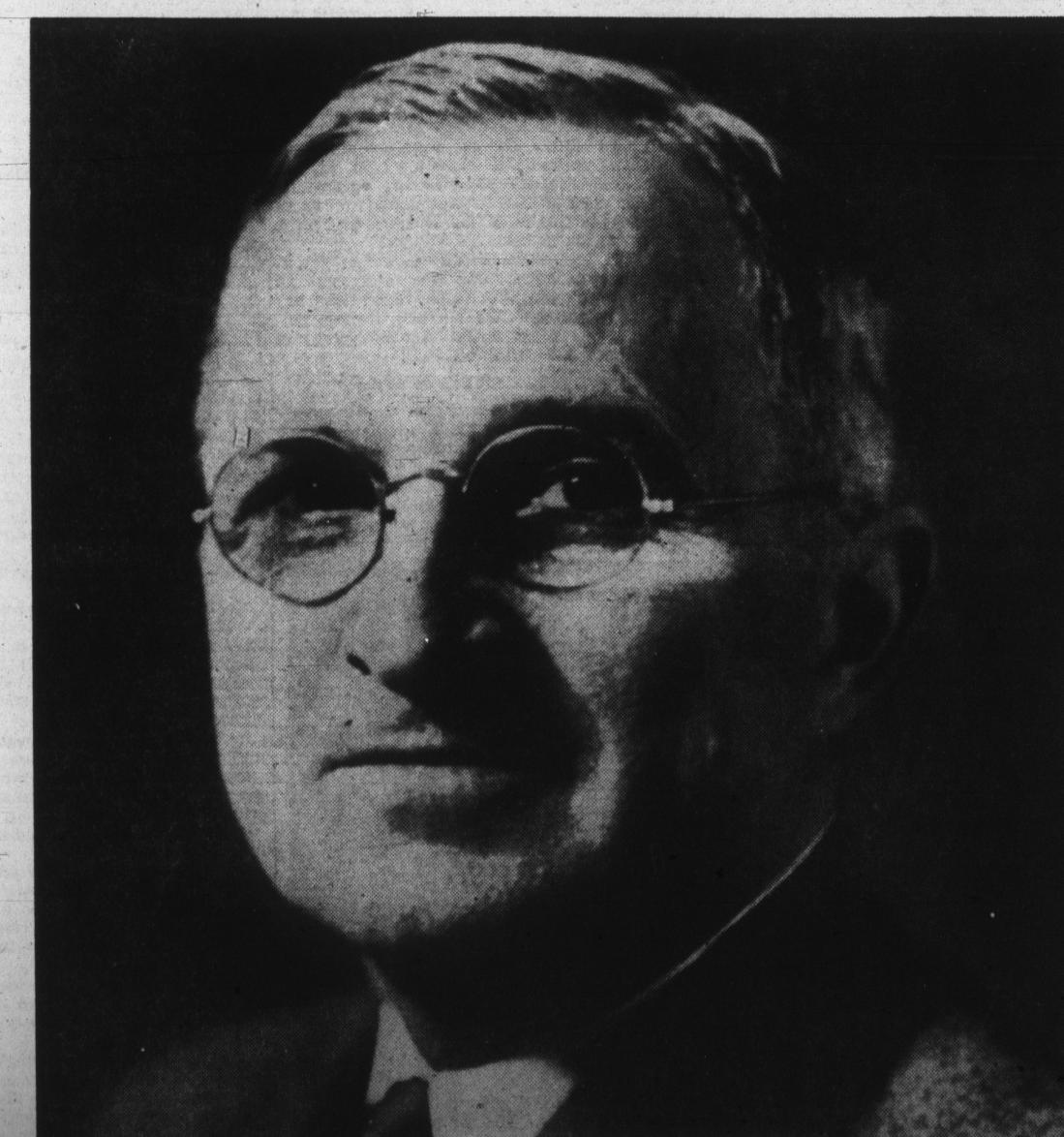
Others Reach Elbe

At the same time, three more 9th army divisions—the 5th armored, 83d infantry and an unidentified armored unit—reached the Elbe at

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Harry S. Truman

TRUMAN CONFERS WITH WAR CHIEFS, DECREES MOURNING

MOST STORES, OFFICES HERE TO BE CLOSED

Gates Issues Proclamation Suspending Business in Honor of Roosevelt.

State, county and city offices and most downtown stores will be closed all day tomorrow in observance of funeral services for President Roosevelt.

Governor Gates today issued a proclamation suspending business in all public offices, except the federal building, which is not under

WASHINGTON, April 13 (U. P.)—President Truman today proclaimed Saturday as a day of mourning and prayer throughout the United States in respect to the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius also ordered that:

1. Flags remain at half staff on all public buildings of the United States for one month until the close of Monday, May 14.

2. All executive departments and agencies of the government be closed tomorrow afternoon—the day of the funeral.

his jurisdiction. Postmaster Adolph Seidensticker said he had not yet received any authority to close the federal building.

All members of the Merchants' association, including a majority of downtown stores, and all large department stores, will be closed all day.

Indianapolis banks will remain open, declared Otto Frenzel, president of the Clearing House association. He said they were unable to close because Governor Gates had not declared a legal holiday due to possible legal entanglements.

More than a hundred arraignments scheduled in criminal court for tomorrow will be postponed until next Saturday, Judge William D. Bain announced.

INDIANA ACTIVITIES CANCELED BY DEATH

State Mourns, Flags Fly at Half Staff.

By UNITED PRESS
Indiana mourned with the nation and the world today the death of President Roosevelt.

Flags flew at half staff. Activities in Hoosier government, business and political circles were curtailed as Governor Gates expressed shock and sorrow and prepared a proclamation calling for a period of mourning.

Democrat party leaders, whose political organization the President headed and kept in national control of 16 years, canceled a series of nine Jefferson Day dinners scheduled for tonight in Hoosier

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2 DEAD, 81 MISSING AFTER SHIPS COLLIDE

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., April 13 (U. P.)—Eighty-one crew members of an American freighter and a Canadian tanker which collided and burned in Buzzard's Bay during a heavy fog were missing today.

Two crew members were known dead and 52 others were hospitalized, three in serious condition.

DEATH TOLL 360 IN ARMS SHIP BLAST

BARI, Italy, April 13 (U. P.)—Three hundred and sixty persons were killed and 1730 injured in a munitions ship explosion in Bari harbor yesterday, the prefect of the city announced today.

But inside, in the cool oval room

Pledges Speedy Victory, Firm Peace; Lunches With Congress Heads, Plans Address Soon.

WASHINGTON, April 13 (U. P.)—President Harry S. Truman took the nation's helm today.

He summoned to the White House the chiefs of war and foreign policy to pledge his determination to carry forward President Roosevelt's objectives of speedy victory and firm peace.

His first official act was to issue through Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. a proclamation of a month's mourning for Mr. Roosevelt.

But already he had plunged deep into the monumental task of carrying on the national war effort, without pause or hesitation, both in the west and in the east.

Lunches With Congressional Leaders

Within three hours of his first working day as President, Mr. Truman had shattered his first precedent.

After conferring at the White House with military and diplomatic chiefs, he drove to Capitol Hill for a luncheon conference in the office of Lester Biffle, secretary of the senate, with the leaders of congress.

It was also announced that he would address a joint session of congress in the near future.

Mr. Stettinius came to the White House for confirmation of Mr. Truman's pledge that the San Francisco conference shall be held as planned and for affirmation of Mr. Truman's hope that at San Francisco will be erected the foundation stones of a permanent peace after the plans long advanced by Mr. Roosevelt.

And to the White House came the top leaders of the war effort to hear Mr. Truman implement the pledge he gave the nation as he was sworn in last night to succeed Mr. Roosevelt. The pledge was that the war would be prosecuted "on both fronts, east and west, with all the vigor we possess to a successful conclusion."

In the nation's sorrowing capital leaders of all shades of opinion promised to stand with Mr. Truman and the nation in the sudden hour of tragedy.

From the senate Republicans came a pledge of co-operation "for the winning of the war and a successful peace at home and abroad."

To which the Republican senators added an "expression of our faith and trust" in the man who until Jan. 20, 1945, had been their Democratic colleague from Missouri.

As Mr. Truman entered the White House with a brisk step at 9 a. m. today and sat down at the President's desk—still littered with the jumble of knick-knacks and curios which was Mr. Roosevelt's joy—the funeral cortège was forming up in the green Georgia hills at Warm Springs.

Proclamation of Mourning

At the White House Mr. Truman plunged into work. He talked briefly with Mr. Stettinius who had already called in the representatives of the Big Four for a noon conference to affirm the pledge that the San Francisco conference would go forward as planned.

He arranged for issuance of the proclamation of mourning—30 days for the government and the nation and a half day closing tomorrow in respect to Mr. Roosevelt.

Then he swung into his war duties. For 55 minutes he talked with the chiefs of the war effort—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson; Secretary of Navy James Forrestal; Admiral William D. Leahy, Gen. George C. Marshall and Adm. Ernest J. King, members of the joint chiefs of staff.

Contrast in Backgrounds

They left the conference grim-faced and silent. But there was no doubt of what they had told the new President—that the war in Europe stood at the verge of victory and that the war in the Pacific was moving smoothly, if more slowly, toward the same end.

It was a mellow day in Washington, soft with the April sunshine. Outside the White House there was little to indicate that the helm of the nation had changed hands at a critical moment in the world's history.

But inside, in the cool oval room where for 12 years, one month and eight days Franklin D. Roosevelt had guided American destiny, sat a new President and commander-in-

chief, once a Missouri farm boy and a man of background and career that could hardly have contrasted more vividly with that of the man whom he succeeds.

War Study First Task

The new President gave no outward sign that his sudden responsibilities gave him any pause. He strode into the White House springily, like a soldier summoned to a new command.

His first task was to learn the top facts of a fast-moving world situation—a situation moving so rapidly on the European war front that even the generals and high commanders could hardly keep abreast with the lightning pace of the American armored forces.

In the international field his first task was to give reassurance to America's shocked allies, numbered by the loss of Mr. Roosevelt and worried about the future.

Already from London where

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Churchill Calls Special Session

By PHIL AULT

United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, April 13.—Prime Minister Churchill called the British cabinet into special session today to consider the effect of President Roosevelt's death, which many diplomats feared might have great repercussions on world security plans.

Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden will attend Mr. Roosevelt's funeral, it was announced officially.

Churchill and George VI led the British in paying tribute to Mr. Roosevelt. For the first time in history the house of commons adjourned in observance of the death of an American President.

Commons met for eight minutes, heard Churchill speak briefly but feelingly of the "immortal renown" of his good friend, and adjourned.

When it reconvenes next Tuesday, Churchill is expected to offer a traditional motion expressing

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LOCAL TEMPERATURES

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