

Food Deal in Holland May End in Surrender, German Officer Hints

By WILLIAM BOSS

With the 1st Canadian Army, May 2 (CP).—High-ranking Germans from the enemy's Netherlands Command intimated during the course of negotiations with Canadian authorities on supplying food to the Dutch civilian population that the talks had wider possibilities, not excluding the possibility of surrender.

Maj.-Gen. Harry W. Foster of Winnipeg and Picton, Ont., commander of the 1st Canadian Division, who was one of the group conferring with the Germans April 28, said he would transmit the news to the proper authorities.

(A despatch from Ross Munro, another CP war correspondent, said a captured German officer asserted Wednesday that Admiral Karl Doenitz had ordered troops facing the Western Allies to cease fighting and to withdraw to the east to oppose the Russians. The report was attributed to a Canadian Army source. The despatch said there was no confirmation or further information.)

Capitulation Imminent

Luxembourg radio said Wednesday night a German capitulation in Holland was imminent. The radio, which is Allied-controlled, said reports from the 1st Canadian Army front indicated armistice negotiations have been in progress more than 24 hours.

Reports reached Canadian Army Headquarters, through Dutch refugees and German deserters, of an uncontrolled civilian demonstration at Utrecht Monday. The German garrison was said to have watched Utrecht citizens shout and wave Netherlands flags without taking

any disciplinary action. The demonstration was said to have been related to rumors the war had ended.

It may also have been connected with plans to deliver food to Dutch civilians, negotiations for which have been going on since April 25.

The negotiations began after Gen Eisenhower, Allied Supreme Commander, said it was planned to drop food from airplanes over German occupied Holland, the population of which has been reported near starvation.

First Convoys Move

After messages had been exchanged for several days, a German delegation crossed the Grebbe Line to a rendezvous in no man's land, west of Wageningen. Gen. Foster listened to the German delegation, headed by the Judge Advocate-General of the Netherlands, which made suggestions regarding routes to shipment of food.

Another meeting was held April 29, at which Allied representatives included Lt.-Gen. Charles Foulkes of London, Ont., commander of the 1st Canadian Corps, senior staff officers of the 21st Army Group, Allied Supreme Headquarters, and the Netherlands military government, and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

A third meeting was held later, attended by Arthur Seyss-Inquart, gauleiter for Holland, at which military matters related to the food movement were quickly settled.

The first convoys consisting of several hundred trucks, loaded with food, began to move at 7 a.m. today from the Canadian lines across no man's land in front of the Grebbe Line. They were headed for an unloading depot.

149
WAR
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