

Marshal Petain Surrenders At Swiss Border

Paris, April 26 (AP).— Marshal Philippe Petain surrendered to French officials at the Swiss border today to await trial in France on a charge of high treason, which his scheduled prosecutor said deserved punishment by death, although due to the marshal's age "consideration of humanity should prevail" in execution of such a verdict.

The 89-year-old former Vichy Chief of State was met at the frontier by Lt.-Gen. Joseph Pierre Koenig, commander of the French Forces of the Interior at the time of the Normandy invasion and before. Marshal Petain extended his hand, but Gen. Koenig did not respond.

The Commissar of Dijon and a French guard of 30 men also were present at the frontier station of Valorbe to form an escort for the aged marshal and his wife, who proceeded by automobile to Les Hopitaux-Neufs and there boarded a special train for Paris. He is expected in Paris before dawn.

No Salute

The soldiers gave no salute and there was no fanfare as the marshal stepped across the frontier. Swiss dispatches said there had been a small, spontaneous demonstration along the way as the Petain party proceeded toward the border in four automobiles from Wessen, Switzerland.

Precautions were taken to prevent disorders during the French journey, reported to a prison fortress in the Paris area, where it was planned to confine the marshal, still remembered by many Frenchmen as the hero of the Battle of Verdun in the first Great War.

His return was called by the Communist newspaper L'Humanite today a "supreme manoeuvre of the fifth column" engineered by Nazi leaders, allegedly to create civil disturbances.

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