

CHAPTER XXXI.—THE ANNUAL REGISTER

CONSPECTUS

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Section 1.—Principal Events of the Year

The War.—The final act of unconditional surrender of the German Armed Forces took place at Reims, France, on May 7, 1945. Here Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl, German Chief of Staff, signed the surrender instrument at Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Headquarters in a local schoolhouse. Unconditional surrender was simultaneously made, to the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet High Command. Thus the War in Europe was brought to a successful conclusion.

On July 4, 1945, Canadian military troops entered Berlin as part of the British garrison force to take over their assigned occupation zones of the German capital.

On July 17 to Aug. 2, 1945, representatives of the "Big Three" Powers met at Potsdam, Germany. The Conference was interrupted for the British general election. On July 28, the new British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, replaced Mr. Churchill at the Conference.

On Aug. 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb dropped on the Japanese army base of Hiroshima wrought great devastation. Russia declared war against Japan on Aug. 8. Following warnings to the Japanese people, the second atomic bomb was dropped on the naval base of Nagasaki on Aug. 9. On Aug. 10, the Government of Japan notified the Allied Powers that the Potsdam Declaration laying down the broad conditions of surrender for Japan would be acceptable to her, provided the Emperor be allowed to retain certain of his prerogatives. On Aug. 11, the United States, Britain, China and Russia accepted the Japanese proposal on the understanding that the Emperor should exercise his powers under instructions from the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. Aug. 14, Japan announced the acceptance of the Allied terms. On Aug. 21, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in the Pacific, arranged for the occupation of Japan by American Forces to take place Aug. 31, 1945.

Japan surrendered formally and unconditionally to the Allies on Sept. 1, 7·18 p.m., E.S.T. (Sunday, Sept. 2, 9·18 a.m., Tokyo Time), on board the battleship, U.S.S. *Missouri* anchored in Tokyo Bay, Japan. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, signed on behalf of the Nations at war with Japan. Canada's representative at the formal surrender was Col. L. Moore Cosgrave, Canadian Military Attaché to Australia.

The San Francisco Conference.—A United Nations Conference was held at San Francisco, Apr. 25 to June 26, 1945. Representatives from fifty Allied Nations attended, the purpose being to prepare a Charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security.