



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for April 2022

Apr 01 1943 – WW2: USS Shad (SS-235) torpedoes and damages the Italian blockade runner Pietro Orseolo, shortly after the Italian ship reaches the Bay of Biscay and her escort of four German destroyers.

Apr 03 1943 – WW2: USS Pickerel (SS-177) sunk by Japanese minelayer Shirakami and auxiliary subchaser Bunzan Maru off northern Honshu, Japan. 74 killed. Also on this date the USS Haddock (SS-231) sinks Japanese fleet tanker Arima Maru north of Palau, and USS Pickerel (SS-177) sinks Japanese submarine chaser Ch-1.

Apr 04 1945 – WW2: American troops liberate Ohrdruf forced labor camp in Germany. It was the first Nazi concentration camp liberated by U.S. troops. They discovered piles of bodies, some covered with lime, and others partially incinerated on pyres.

Apr 04 1943 – WW2: USS Porpoise (SS-172) sinks the Japanese whaling ship Koa Maru near Eniwetok. Also on this date the newly built gas chamber/crematory V opens at Auschwitz.

Apr 03 1865 – Civil War: Confederate Capital of Richmond Is Captured » The Rebel capital of Richmond, Virginia, falls to the Union, the most significant sign that the Confederacy is nearing its final days. For ten months, General Ulysses S. Grant had tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate the city. After Lee made a desperate attack against Fort Stedman along the Union line on 25 MAR, Grant prepared for a major offensive. He struck at Five Forks on April 1, crushing the end of Lee's line southwest of Petersburg. On 2 APR, the Yankees struck all along the Petersburg line, and the Confederates collapsed. On the evening of 2 APR, the Confederate government fled the city with the army right behind.

Now, on the morning of 3 APR, blue-coated troops entered the capital. Richmond was the holy grail of the Union war effort, the object of four years of campaigning. Tens of thousands of Yankee lives were lost trying to get it, and nearly as many Confederate lives lost trying to defend it. Now, the Yankees came to take possession of their prize. One resident, Mary Fontaine, wrote, "I saw them unfurl a tiny flag, and I sank on my knees, and the bitter, bitter tears came in a torrent." Another observer wrote that as the Federals rode in, the city's black residents were "completely crazed, they danced and shouted, men hugged each other, and women kissed." Among the first forces into the capital were black troopers from the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry, and the next day President Abraham Lincoln visited the city. For the residents of Richmond, these were symbols of a world turned upside down. It was, one reporter noted, "...too awful to remember, if it were possible to be erased, but that cannot be."

Apr 04 1865 - Civil War: President Abraham Lincoln visits the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, a day after Union forces capture it. Lincoln, accompanied by a small group of soldiers and a growing entourage of freed slaves, walked to the Confederate White House and sat in President Jefferson Davis's chair. He remained in Richmond a few more days in hopes that Robert E. Lee's army would surrender, but on 8 APR he headed back to Washington. Six days later, Lincoln was shot as he watched a play at Ford's Theater.

FYI- The Gower American Legion is having a fundraiser breakfast Saturday April 30th from 7 - 9 am. Following breakfast I will be conducting a Suicide Prevention Workshop from at 9:30 - UTC. Moms Breaking the Silence will be presenting first, then we will move into QPR Gatekeeper training. This training is open to the public.

Address:

American Legion Post #393

91 N 3rd St

Gower Mo 64454

This month's Promenade will be on April 27th Post 61 Kansas City, MO. Dinner at 18:00 HRS and Promenade following.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, and your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379