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Hitler began to make the final preparations for his. He had his favorite Alsatian dog poisoned and two other dogs in the household shot. Then he called in his two remaining women secretaries and handed them capsules of poison to use if they wished to when the advancing Russians broke in. He was sorry, he said, not to be able to give them a better farewell gift, and he expressed his appreciation for their long and loyal service. Evening had now come, the last of Adolf Hitler's life. He instructed Mrs. Junge, one of his secretaries, to destroy the remaining papers in his files, and he sent out word that no one in the bunker was to go to bed until further orders. This was interpreted by all as meaning that he judged the time had come to make his farewells. But it was not until long after midnight, at about 2:30 AM of April 30, as several witnesses recall, that the Fuehrer emerged from his private quarters and appeared in the general dining passage where some 20 persons, mostly the women members of his group of associates, were assembled. He walked down the line shaking hand with each and mumbling a few words that were inaudible. There was a heavy film of moisture on his eyes and, as Mrs. Junge remembered, "They seemed to be looking far away, beyond the walls of the bunker." After he retired, a curious thing happened. The tension which had been building up to an almost unendurable point in the bunker broke, and several persons went to the canteen to dance. The weird party soon became so noisy that word was sent from the Fuehrer's quarters requesting more quiet. The Russians might come in a few hours and kill them all though most of them were already thinking of how they could escape but in the

meantime, for a brief spell, now that the Fuehrers strict control of their lives was over, they would seek pleasure where and how they could find it. The sense of relief among these people seems to have been enormous, and they danced on through the night. Berlin was no longer defensible. The Russians already had occupied almost all of the city. It was now merely a question of the defense of the Chancellery. It too was doomed, as Hitler and Bormann learned at the situation conference at noon on April 30, the last that was ever to take place. The Russians were just a block away. The hour for Adolf Hitler to carry out his resolve had come. His bride apparently had no appetite for lunch that day, and Hitler took his meal with his two secretaries and with his vegetarian cook, who perhaps did not realize that she had prepared his last meal. While they were finishing their lunch at about 2:30 PM, Erich Kempka, the Fuehrers chauffeur, who was in charge of the Chancellery garage, received an order to deliver immediately 200 liters of gasoline in cans to the Chancellery garden. Kempka had some difficulty in rounding up so much fuel, but he managed to collect some 180 liters and with the help of three men carried it to the emergency exit of the bunker. While the oil to provide the first for the Viking funeral was being collected, Hitler, having done with his last meal, fetched Eva Braun for another and final farewell to his most intimate collaborators: Dr. Goebbels, Generals Krebs and Burgdorf, the secretaries, and Miss Manzialy, the cook. They finished their farewells and retired to their rooms. Outside in the passageway, Dr. Goebbels, Bormann and a few others waited. In a few moments a revolver shot was heard. They waited for

a second one, but there was only silence. After a decent interval they quietly entered the Fuehrers quarters. They found the body of Adolf Hitler sprawled on the sofa dripping blood. He had shot himself in the mouth. At this side lay Eva Braun. Two revolvers had fallen to the floor, but the bride had not used hers. She had swallowed poison. It was 3:30 PM on Monday, April 30, 1945, ten days after Adolf Hitlers fifty-sixth birthday, and twelve years and three months to the day since he had become Chancellor of Germany and had instituted the Third Reich. It would survive him but a week. NEW

WORDS bunkern. strongly-built shelter for soldiers, esp. one built underground 地堡 fascista. 法西斯主义的 n. 法西斯分子 dictatorm. a ruler who has absolute power over a country, esp. one who has obtained such power by force 独裁者 partnern. 伙伴 aggressionn. the starting of a war, fight, or quarrel without just cause 侵略 mistressn. 情妇 Italiana. 意大利的 n. 意大利人 ; 意大利语 guer(r)illan. 游击队员 executevt. kill (sb.) by law. carry out, perform 处死 ; 实施 , 执行 executivea. & n. dumpvt. 0drop or unload (sth.) in a heap or carelessly 倾倒 stringvt. hang with a string or ropeheeln. (脚) 后跟 lamppostn. post for a street lamp 路灯柱 paupern. a person with no means of livelihood, esp. one who is supported by charity 贫民 plotn. a piece of land (usu. small)cemeteryn. place for burying the dead 公墓 ; 墓地 horriblea. causing a feeling of great shock, fear or dislikehorror n.climaxn. the point of greatest interest or intensity 高潮 degradationn. 羞辱 Fascismn. 法西斯主义 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目 直接下载。 详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)