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Unit 9 Text In the last days of World War 11 , Adolf Hitler and his closest associates had sought shelter in a command bunker before the fall of Berlin. He knew that defeat was close at hand and that he must prepare for his own death. Here is a detailed description of how he ended his life.

The Death of Hitler William L. Shirer During the afternoon of April 29 , news arrived at the bunker where Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun were separated from the outside world. Mussolini , Hitlers fellow fascist dictator and partner in aggression , had met his end , and it had been shared by his mistress , Clara Petacci. They had been caught by Italian guerrillas on April 27 while trying to escape to Switzerland and executed after a brief trial. On the Saturday night of April 28 the bodies were brought to Milan in a truck and dumped on the town square. The next day they were strung up by the heels from lampposts and later cut down so that throughout the rest of Sunday , they lay in the gutter. On May Day Benito Mussolini was buried beside his mistress in the paupers plot of a Milan cemetery. In such a horrible climax of degradation Mussolini and Fascism passed into history. It is not know how many of the details of Mussolinis shabby end were communicated to the Fuehrer. One can only guess that if he heard many of them he was only strengthened in his resolve not to allow himself or his bride to be made a spectacle not their live selves or their bodies. Shortly after receiving the news of Mussolinis death

, 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 Hitlers 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 Fuehrers 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 escaped 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 he 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. 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