

- [Home](#)
- [About me](#)
 - [Academic C.V.](#)
 - [Contact me](#)
- [Projects](#)
 - [Photos](#)
 - [Travels](#)
 - [Wiki](#)
 - [Blogs](#)
 - [Copyright info](#)
 - [Site rules](#)
- [Climate change index](#)
- [Climate in one page](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

[a sibilant intake of breath](#)

climate, photos, miscellany

The fall of Berlin, 1945, part 7/X

2014-12-14

in [Bombs and rockets](#), [Writing](#)

“It almost seemed as if the authorities were not prepared to face the fact that Berlin was endangered. Although the Red Army was now barely thirty-two miles away, no alarm had been given and no official announcement had been made. Berliners knew very well that the Russians had attacked. The muffled thunder of artillery had been the first clue; now from refugees, by telephone, by word of mouth, the news had spread. But it was still fragmentary and contradictory, and in the absence of any real information there was wild speculation and rumor. Some people said the Russians were fewer than ten miles away, others heard that they were already in the eastern suburbs. No one knew precisely what the situation was, but most Berliners now believed that the city’s days were numbered, that its death throes had begun.

And yet, astonishingly, people still went about their business. They were nervous, and it was increasingly difficult to preserve the outward appearance of normality, but everyone tried.

At every stop, milkman Richard Poganowka was besieged with questions. His customers seemed to expect him to know more than anyone else. The usually cheerful Poganowska could not provide any answers. He was as fearful as those he served. On the Kreuznacherstrasse the portrait of Adolf Hitler still hung in the living room of the Nazi postal official, but that no longer seemed reassuring to Poganowska.”

Ryan, Cornelius. *The Last Battle*. 1966. p. 368-9

[Report a typo or inaccuracy](#)

{ 0 comments... [add one now](#) }

Leave a Comment

Name *

E-mail *

Website

Notify me of followup comments via e-mail

You can use these *HTML* tags and attributes: <abbr title=""> <acronym title="">
 <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <s> <strike>

Previous post: [The fall of Berlin, 1945, part 6/X](#)

Next post: [The fall of Berlin, 1945, part 8/X](#)

-
- **Photography**
 - [Coffee House talent show](#)
 - [Kinder Morgan vigil](#)
 - [Theda Skopcol on the Clinton/Trump election](#)
 - [Massey College](#)
 - [My Flickr page](#)
- **Photo info**
 - [Milan Ilnyckyj Photography](#)
 - [Mailing list](#)
 - [Usage guide](#)
 - Pa
- **Active discussions**

- [Confronting ineffectiveness as an activist](#)
- Be advised — the ads below are likely to be scams or stupid, but they are based on your own search history and browsing habits

• Recent Comments

- anon on [Graeme Smith on NATO's war in Afghanistan](#)
- [Milan](#) on [Postponed freshman fifteen](#)
- . on [Seeking USB stick crypto](#)
- . on [Keystone XL rejected](#)
- . on [Open thread: Trudeau on climate](#)
- . on [Ubiquitous surveillance](#)
- . on [Third rule of the internet](#)
- . on [Trick or Treatment](#)
- . on [Donald Trump elected](#)
- . on [Open thread: energy storage](#)
- . on [Sweden](#)
- [Milan](#) on [Open thread: Trudeau on climate](#)
- . on [Japan's earthquake and nuclear power plants](#)
- . on [Japan's earthquake and nuclear power plants](#)
- . on [Space tourism is pointless and damaging](#)

• Most Comments

- [Where Grades Come From](#) - 4 comments
- ["We won't stop using fossil fuels tomorrow"](#) - 3 comments
- [Google's AdWords suck for internet security AND content generators](#) - 3 comments
- [Now 100001](#) - 2 comments
- [Into December](#) - 2 comments
- [Markham Christmas tree](#) - 2 comments
- [Anticipation of the solstice](#) - 1 comments
- [Postponed freshman fifteen](#) - 1 comments
- [Graeme Smith on NATO's war in Afghanistan](#) - 1 comments

• Pages

- [About me](#)
 - [Academic C.V.](#)
 - [Contact me](#)
- [Oxford blogs](#)
- [Projects](#)
 - [Copyright info](#)
 - [My blogs](#)
 - [My photos](#)
 - [My travels](#)
 - [My wiki](#)
 - [Site rules](#)
- [Top posts](#)

- **Subscribe to Posts**

- [RSS](#)
- [Email](#)

- **Subscribe to Comments**

- [RSS](#)
- [Email](#)



BuryCoal.com



Make a difference on climate change

- **Search site**

- [Advanced search](#)
- [Tweets by @sindark](#)

- **Climate action**

- [350.org](#)
- [Citizens Climate Lobby](#)
- [Climate Action Network Canada](#)
- [Environmental Defence](#)
- [PipeLeaks.org](#)
- [Stand](#)

- Toronto350.org

• Environment blogs

- [BuryCoal](#)
- [Climate Progress](#)
- [DeSmogBlog](#)
- [From the Living Soil](#)
- gracenjohanson.com
- [Grist](#)
- [Heliophage](#)
- [nothing new under the sun...](#)
- [Picture Framing](#)
- [R-Squared Energy Blog](#)
- [RealClimate](#)

• General blogs

- [Educating Silicon](#)
- [George Monbiot](#)
- [Mica Prazak's Videos](#)
- [Praesidium](#)
- [Put This On](#)
- [Some Writing on the State of Vancouver](#)
- [Strobist](#)
- [The Sounds of Sash](#)

• Key pages

- [Climate change index](#)
- [Climate in one page](#)

• Ottawa blogs

- [Adorkable Undies](#)
- [Apt 613](#)
- [David Scrimshaw's Blog](#)
- [ELgiN StreEt iRReguLars](#)
- [Greater Ottawa](#)
- [Inside Politics](#)
- knitnut.net
- [the most exquisite moments](#)
- [tonyfoto/drool](#)

• Personal

- [/LaTeX/](#)
- [AES](#)

- [△](#)
- [Chess](#)
- [Genre experiments](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Photo.net](#)
- [Vigenere Cipher](#)

• **Politics**

- [Groundwork for Change](#)

• **School**

- [/phd/](#)
- [Massey College](#)
- [My University of Toronto page](#)
- [Oxford IR](#)
- [Toronto politics](#)
- [UBC](#)
- [Wadham College](#)

• **Security**

- [Citizen Lab Research Blog](#)
- [Oxford Strategic Studies](#)
- [Schneier on Security](#)
- [William J Perry Project](#)

• **Toronto blogs**

- [Amanda Lewis](#)
- [fullerenes](#)
- [Only a Northern Song](#)




• **Categories**

- [Art](#) (55)
- [Bombs and rockets](#) (354)
- [Books and literature](#) (335)
- [Canada](#) (780)

- [Daily updates](#) (1,598)
- [Economics](#) (1,088)
- [Films and movies](#) (224)
- [Geek stuff](#) (1,349)
- [History](#) (35)
- [Internet matters](#) (568)
- [Language](#) (12)
- [Law](#) (467)
- [M.Phil thesis](#) (70)
- [Massey College](#) (135)
- [Music](#) (99)
- [Ottawa](#) (238)
- [Oxford](#) (545)
- [PhD thesis](#) (17)
- [Photo essays](#) (52)
- [Photo of the day](#) (1,455)
- [Photography](#) (400)
- [Politics](#) (1,751)
- [Psychology](#) (200)
- [Rants](#) (521)
- [Science](#) (1,077)
- [Security](#) (487)
- [Space and flight](#) (23)
- [Teaching](#) (20)
- [The environment](#) (1,471)
- [The outdoors](#) (264)
- [Toronto](#) (799)
- [Travel](#) (484)
- [Writing](#) (524)

• Archives

Archives 

Get smart with the [Thesis WordPress Theme](#) from DIYthemes.

Content copyright [Milan Ilnyckyj](#) (2003-2016). May be used [non-commercially with attribution](#). For more details see [this page](#).