

P. J. - Standard. Monday, May 7, 1945.  
Sunoco.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It seems natural to be back in America tonight and then to discover that it was V-Day, but it isn't. That's just the way it was in Paris, last week. I wonder how many people think it really matters when there is a premature announcement like the one that I ran into when I stepped off the plane this <sup>afternoon.</sup> ~~morning~~ ~~a little while ago?~~ Coming back from Europe where I've been seeing something of your sons and fathers and brothers and husbands, somehow the idea of a celebration doesn't seem very important ~~xxxx~~ one way or another. When I first heard the news that it ~~xxx~~ had been announced, this really was V-E Day, I was standing with some fliers who had just come back

from the war with Japan, and I thought their remarks were rather sensible. One chap said:- "Let's hurry up and celebrate. Where's the nearest place ~~where~~ we can start? When I asked him why he was in a hurry to celebrate he said: "Why, I'm always ready to celebrate. And if it has been officially announced that this is the day when the war with the Germans comes to an end, that's just about a perfect reason for holding ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ a celebration".

One of his pals broke in much in the same vein. Said he: "You're darn right we're glad the war in Europe is over. That in itself is good news, although we've known it for a number of days now. And it's doubly good news because it means that we can all get busy now and concentrate on the Japs".

~~I haven't been back long enough to know~~  
just what has happened today. But, <sup>As</sup> I drove through

a few miles of New York streets on my way to Radio City, ~~late this afternoon~~, I saw enough colored paper to make me think that what happened here this morning must have been about the biggest thing ~~New York~~ <sup>America</sup> has seen in many a long year.

Hurrying to my office, and trying to collect my thoughts, it ~~isn't~~ <sup>wasn't</sup> so easy after ~~being~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~in the air on the~~ west bound flight across the Atlantic. You <sup>almost</sup> always encounter head-winds in flying West. This means the ship takes a good deal longer than going the other way. And then if you hit storms, which we did, why, that ~~makes~~ <sup>makes</sup> a little difference too. Shortly before we reached the coast of North America our plane was struck by lightning. In all the years that I have been flying -- and that goes back to World War One -- it is the first time I had had that experience. So, I may ~~xxx~~ sound even more incoherent than usual. ~~At any rate, now for the news.~~

V-E day

Although the White House issued no such proclamation today, we hear <sup>now</sup> ~~not~~ that there will be one at nine o'clock tomorrow morning -- Eastern War Time! President Truman told the White House correspondents that he had agreed with the London and Moscow governments to make no ~~announcement~~ <sup>announcement</sup> until a simultaneous one can be made in Washington, London and Moscow. And evidently tomorrow it is to be!

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The story of the surrender of Germany broke when Count von Krosigk, the new German ~~Foreign~~ Foreign Minister,

broadcast from Flensburg in Schleswig-Holstein an announcement that ~~Grand~~ Admiral Doenitz had declared the unconditional surrender of all German fighting troops.

Krosigk added that the continuation of the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. ~~He added that the war did not end simultaneously in the west and in the east, and that was made obvious by news of continuing hostilities on the Russian fronts in Silesia and Czechoslovakia.~~

Before the <sup>at</sup> broadcast by the new German Foreign Minister, Edward Kennedy of the Associated Press sent home a dispatch from Rheims in France that Germany had surrendered unconditionally to Britain, the United States and Russia. Allied supreme headquarters in Paris thereupon issued a statement which rebuked the Associated Press, but did not deny the story. The statement was couched in these words: "S H E A F authorizes correspondents at four forty-five P.M. Paris

Time to state that S H E A F has made nowhere any official statement for publication up to that hour concerning complete surrender of all German armed forces in Europe, and no story to that effect is authorized." Later, headquarters in Paris announced that the filing privileges of the Associated Press for the entire European theatre had been suspended.

~~It would be fun~~ to be sitting at this moment in San Francisco with Roy Howard, former head of the United Press. The world has never forgotten how Roy in Nineteen Eighteen reported the Armistice a week before it happened. It was a mistake made in perfectly good faith, but how his rivals did rub it in. Roy takes it all with a grin and has explained quite cheerfully how it came about. He did not even gloat a year ago when the mistake of a stenographer caused the Associated Press to announce D-Day, the invasion of Normandy, three days

The premature announcement of V-E Day has produced one of the great comedies in the history of the distribution of news -- a comedy of errors. Early today Count von Krosigk, the new German Foreign Minister broadcast a statement from Flensburg in Schleswig Holstein, that Admiral Doenitz had declared the unconditional surrender of all German fighting troops. Krosigk added that the the continuation of the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. About the same time or even before that Edward Kennedy of the Associated Press sent home a dispatch from Reims in France that Germany had surrendered unconditionally to Great Britain, the United States and Russia.

Thereupon Allied Supreme Headquarters in Paris issued a statement which put the Associated Press in the hole but did not deny the story. The headquarters announcement said: "S H A E F authorizes correspondents at four forty-five P. M Paris time to say that S H A E F made nowhere any official

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statement for publication up to that hour, that all German armed forces in Europe had surrendered completely and no story to that effect is authorized. Later, Allied Headquarters in Paris added that the filing privileges of the Associated Press for the entire European theater had been suspended. <sup>TP</sup> It would have been fun to be sitting at ~~that~~ moment in San Francisco with Roy Howard, former head of the United Press. The world has never forgotten how Roy in Nineteen Eighteen reported the Armistice a week before it happened. It was a mistake made in perfectly good faith, but how his rivals did rub it in. Roy takes it all with a grin and has explained ~~with~~ quite cheerfully ~~how~~ it came about. <sup>TP</sup> He didn't even gloat a year ago when the mistake of a stenographer caused the Associated Press to ~~announce~~ announce D-Day, the invasion of Normandy, three days before it happened. Neither did he rub it in when Jack Bell of the Associated Press reported the surrender of Germany nine days ago in San Francisco. Roy's only comment on



that was: "I've been locked in my room at the hotel with three witnesses, to prove I didn't do it this time".

~~Later~~ This evening Roy Howard showed the kind of stuff he's made of when he sent a telegram to President Truman saying: "May I respectfully but earnestly urge your intercession to end <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ suspension <sup>of the Associated Press. And he added:</sup> ~~and Roy added,~~ "This error, if any, was doubtless due to the high tension under which all American war correspondents have been performing with such great credit to American journalism". ~~Howard~~ <sup>Howard</sup>

*He* said further, "I am wiring you as a correspondent in the last war who was pilloried personally and whose organization was condemned unjustly for a legitimate reporting job which, under identical circumstances, I would unhesitatingly repeat. ~~Howard~~ <sup>Roy</sup>

~~Howard continued:~~ "The Associated Press" <sup>he went on,</sup> ~~has a~~

<sup>has a</sup> well earned reputation for public spirited

journalistic service". ~~That it seems to me, sounds~~

~~like American sportsmanship.~~ <sup>Nobly done, Roy. Nobly done!</sup>

~~One point upon which the~~ <sup>The</sup> early merrymakers  
~~stubbed their toe was their forgetting~~ <sup>apparently forgot</sup> that there  
was only one man in this country entitled to announce  
V E Day, ~~and that was the gentleman in the White~~  
~~House,~~ the President of the United States. ~~the~~ <sup>When</sup> White  
House correspondents asked Mr. Truman about it ~~and~~  
he replied that he <sup>had</sup> agreed with Winston Churchill  
and Stalin to make no announcement until it could  
be made simultaneously in Washington, London and  
Moscow. Until then, said the President, "I can and  
will tell <sup>you</sup> ~~me~~ nothing more."

On top of that came the news from London  
that Churchill would speak to the British Empire  
at three o'clock in the afternoon, Greenwich time,  
nine o'clock in the morning Eastern War Time. At  
the same time, the British government said King George  
the Sixth would speak to the people of the British  
Dominions at nine o'clock in the evening London time  
three o'clock in the afternoon Eastern War Time.

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It was not until six P M Eastern War Time that the White House announced that President Truman would hold a press conference at eight thirty A M Eastern War Time tomorrow morning following which he expected ~~to~~ to speak to the people over the radio at nine o'clock Eastern War Time. Obviously this ~~means~~ means that the President's announcement will be simultaneous with that from Downing Street and Moscow.

~~In short, stripped of all wordage, if you~~

*if you'll*  
~~will~~ listen in at six o'clock tomorrow morning, Pacific Coast Time, you will hear the President of the United States telling you that it is V E Day.

*TP* And may ~~God speed~~ the date <sup>not be far off</sup> when the President ~~comes~~

*likewise*  
~~on the air to~~ report the unconditional surrender of ~~the Empire~~ of Japan!

before it happened. Neither did he rub it in when Jack Bell of the Associated Press reported the surrender of Germany nine days ago in San Francisco. Roy's only comment on that was: "I've been locked in my room at the hotel with three witnesses, to prove I didn't do it this time."

~~Three hours~~ Today  
~~Just fifteen minutes ago~~ the British government

released the text of a message that King George the Sixth sent across the Channel, congratulating General ~~Dwight D.~~ Eisenhower. The message said:- "Eleven months ago you led an Allied Expeditionary Force across the English Channel carrying with you the hopes and prayers of millions of men and women of many nations."

And the message continued: "All the world knows that after fierce and continuous warfare this force had accomplished its mission with a finality achieved by no other such expedition in history. ~~On behalf of all my~~

## WAR

Despite the reports of German surrender, the Russians today were apparently still fighting. Stalin, in issuing an order-of-the-day announcing the capture of Breslau, tells of taking another forty thousand German prisoners there -- along with the German General and his staff. The siege of Breslau lasted eighty-four days. Ten times as long as the ~~xxxx~~<sup>siege</sup> of Berlin.

More air warfare over the Baltic also. On the Danish island of Bornholm, a young German Navy captain, one of those fanatical Nazis, refused to surrender in spite of that order sent out by Admiral Doenitz telling all Germans on land and sea to surrender. So, two waves of Soviet bombers smashed the island and its harbor filled with German naval vessels.

Then, too, according to reports from Prague, diehard SS troops in the Bohemian capital are still at it, killing civilians in the streets -- mowing them down with machine guns. The Czechoslovak government in London had announced that the vanguard of Patton's Third Army had entered Prague last night. But, at six o'clock

this morning, Eastern War Time over here. General Patton reported that his Fourth Armored Division was still forty-eight miles to the southwest of Prague.

There was earlier word about units of Soviet fighters now in Prague. But it turns out that they are White Russian troops that had been fighting with the Nazis. These people had suddenly turned on the Germans when their chance came.

By the way, large formations of planes took off from England this afternoon -- carrying Czech soldiers bound for their homeland, all hoping to get there in time to get revenge on the Germans. Heavy fighting is still going on, a hundred and thirty miles east of Prague, also in Saxony, near the Bohemian border -- so says a German radio report.

The Hitler mystery hasn't yet been solved. Over in France we read in the Stars and Stripes how ~~Rx~~ President Truman, last week, gave out the word that he had information enough to satisfy him that the mad man of Europe had perished. Well, today some doubts were

with the American flag flying from it.

Toward the end of the war Berchtesgaden became the Nazi headquarters -- the house where Hitler himself lived, ~~fixxxxxxxx~~ and numerous other office buildings and villas for guests, most of which ~~are~~ today look as though a cyclone had hit them.

expressed, in Soviet newspapers. And, they ought to have a fair idea about it by now.

One Russian correspondent says today that they ~~xx~~ simply have no positive information or proof of any sort. And that Red Army patrols are scouring the cellars and subterranean places under the ruins of Berlin. So far with no results.

However, PRAVDA insists that Hitler's end will not remain a riddle long. RED STAR, the official paper of the Russian armies, tells how many officers of the German general staff and prominent Storm Troopers and Nazi civil officers, committed mass suicide in the courtyard of the Chancellery of the Reich on the Wilhelmstrasse. So far, among all those bodies, the Russians have found neither Hitler nor Goebbels, nor Goering.

One story is that Hitler's former neighbors at Berchtesgaden have the notion that he is hiding ~~xxxxxx~~ somewhere in the Bavarian Alps, even that his own mountain retreat is now a charred and smoking ruin,



## ATROCITY

The Soviet Commission on Atrocities claimed today that it had found the largest individual murder plant operated by the Nazis at Oswiecim (Ozveeaychim) in Poland. According to the Russian Commission, the Nazis systematically killed no fewer than four million persons there, some of them by torture and some of them in the course of scientific experiments. According to this report, one million individuals were processed at Oswiecim every year.

## NORWAY

The official radio in Oslo today broadcast a proclamation from a man whose name has become an odious byword the world over -- Major Vidkun Quisling. The head of the pro-Nazi Norwegians used these words: "In this grave hour I appeal to all Norwegians to maintain calm and order, and avoid everything that might endanger public security."

At about the same time a telephone message to Stockholm from Oslo reported that an Allied naval force was in sight, steaming through the entrance to Oslo harbor; a fleet of forty-eight ships. So, the ~~landings~~ landing of Allied troops in Norway, may have taken place by now.

PACIFIC

~~Here is~~ Encouraging news from the Pacific. The  
Australians have taken Tarakan in northeastern Borneo,  
center of the richest oilfields that were taken by the  
Japanese three years ago. The "diggers," from Down Under,  
took the place by frontal assault, a desperate and  
costly method. They first had to take enemy pill boxes  
and great networks of tunnels guarding the surrounding  
heights.

The Australians captured the town first, and  
then Tarakan Hill, ~~which is~~ inside the town. Finally,  
they cleared all <sup>S</sup>Japanese troops from the high country  
surrounding the airfield, which the Australian engineers  
immediately began to repair. ~~They reported that they  
had cleared away more booby traps in that area than  
they had ever met before anywhere, including the  
battlefields in the Middle East.~~

## JAPAN

Japanese newspapers today were demanding that Tokyo break relations with Germany. Evidently this precedes action by the Mikado's government, since the Tokyo Foreign Minister last week declared that the offers of surrender made by Himmler were in flagrant violation of the ~~ax~~ Axis Tripartite Agreement.

May be the Japanese have the quaint idea that if they turn around and declare war on Germany, they will be invited to San Francisco! <sup>Japan's</sup> ~~xixpwx~~ moves from now on are going to be increasingly interesting to watch.

## CONFERENCE

The question of using German war prisoners to rebuild Europe came up today at San Francisco -- came up in a big way. Delegates of no fewer than six European nations overrun by the Nazis, demand the use of at least three million German and Italian prisoners for post-war reconstruction. The countries being France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Yugoslavia and Greece.

In Moscow, the Russians were even more emphatic about it. The Soviets are not asking. They are demanding. A semi-official publication in Moscow declares that the time has come to settle accounts, and that the Yalta Conference decided to make Germany repay damage in kind, to the full. Europe to be restored at Germany's expense, by German labor.

ENDING

In concluding my first broadcast since leaving Paris Saturday night, here are a few jumbled thoughts, things that came rushing to my mind as the plane came in over the good old U.S.A. And, as I drove here to the N.B.C. from the airport: First, in looking down from the plane it was an agreeable but pleasant shock to find that the George Washington Bridge and the Pulaski Highway, and the Brooklyn Bridge, and all the other bridges around New York, are not all down. It helped me to realize that those great bridges at the Golden Gate are still standing in all their beauty. Since leaving America I can hardly recall seeing a bridge that wasn't a wreck. The bridges along the Rhine, the bridges on the Weser, the Mulde, the Elbe, and other rivers, all in smithereens.

And then, it seems awfully good to look down on cities where the roofs were on the houses. Most of the time that I have been away I have been in

And the people on the streets, over here, they all seem to have on their best Sunday clothes. And the women wear stockings. They may not be silk, or even nylon, but the ladies all seem to wear stockings, and it looks strange. You have no idea ~~xx~~ how dismal it is in Europe, in comparison.

Those are just rambling thoughts. Maybe not very important, but, I can understand just a little better now what a thrill it is to our boys, the first hours, here at home, in America.

I wouldn't have missed my trip, brief as it was, for anything. The things I've seen and the experiences I've had, most of which I did not have an opportunity to tell about in broadcasts from Europe, should help me do a better job in the days to come.

Germany, where as I mentioned in one broadcast last week, there is only one city that I know of, with a population of a quarter of a million or more, that still stands. The rest, are flat, demolished, or mostly in ruins.

And the automobiles over here. They all look brand new. Even the New York taxicabs that have been taking a beating for years now, even they look new. And the buildings as you drive along our streets, it is actually thrilling to see that they have glass in <sup>them</sup> time. In cities where the Allied armies have been making their headquarters over in Europe, even when headquarters is all ~~xx~~ set up in a hotel, or what was once a handsome home, you find you need to keep your overcoat on indoors, most of the time, because of the breeze blowing through your room. But you know all about that.



*I hear that* Ambassador Hugh Gibson, ~~is sitting here~~  
~~with me in the studio tonight.~~ In taking my place  
on the air, while I have been away I hear ~~that he~~  
*did* ~~has done~~ a superb job. There are few people in this  
or any other country who knows as much about world  
affairs as Hugh Gibson. It was lucky for me,  
and also for you, that he could take the time to  
pinch hit for me, and in signing off, I just want  
to tell him how much I appreciate it.

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Now here is our other golden voiced and  
indispensable Hugh, Hugh James. Hugh, it is grand  
to see you again. How have you been?