

*Omaha
Morning World Herald*

August 15, 1945

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society and the Omaha *World Herald*


NEBRASKA
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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August 15, 1945 Front Page Left Columns

Mayor Designates City's Observance

Noisy Throng Wildly Hails Peace Return

Crowds Jam Business
Area as Industry,
Taverns Shut Doors

Omaha exploded Tuesday night.

Following the greatest spontaneous celebration in the City's history, Mayor Charles W. Leeman, following the lead of President Truman, proclaimed a two-day "V-J" holiday. Business places are expected to remain closed until Friday morning. Taverns will not reopen until 6 p. m. Thursday.

A roaring, milling throng of thousands roamed through the downtown area for hours to exult over the end of the greatest war in history.

The celebration began slowly, quietly.

Few at Start

There were few persons downtown when the announcement came.

They huddled around loudspeakers, hushed, serious. They stood by until the text of the Japanese note and President Truman's full statement were read.

Their attitude then was expressed by a woman who, when the announcer paused, pleaded:

"Don't tell us it isn't true. Every time they quit talking, I'm afraid."

Hits High Spot

Then a car horn began to honk. A sailor threw his arms around a girl and kissed her. A small boy rode his tricycle across Farnam at Sixteenth Street yelling, "Whereee!"

From then on the tempo increased until the celebration reached a screaming crescendo that had not begun to abate at 10 o'clock. In the early hours of this morning the din on the downtown

Halsey Orders: 'Shoot Friendly'

Guam (AP)—Admiral William F. Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet, radioed his carrier planes sweeping toward Japan even as the surrender was announced:

"It looks like the war is over. Cease firing, but if you see any enemy planes in the air, shoot them down in friendly fashion."

Crowds Loot Frisco Stores

Liquor Taken, Bond Booths Burned

Compiled from Cable and Press Dispatches.

Police stood powerless to act as huge crowds of celebrants Tuesday night in San Francisco broke plate glass windows in some of the city's most exclusive liquor stores and looted the display shelves.

A crowd estimated at 50 thousand surged through the big war center, overturning automobiles and piling war bond booths in the streets for bonfires.

In Honolulu, the same air raid sirens which signaled the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, sounded the end of the Pacific war and set off a gigantic celebration.

14,000 Cops on Duty

In New York City's Times Square, an estimated 500 thousand persons set up a mighty roar when Japan's acceptance of the peace terms was announced. The entire police department of 14 thousand men maintained order.

In Milwaukee, the city's peace celebration was touched off by a parade of hoarded firecrackers in Chinatown. There was a one-man parade of a soldier carrying a postal truck, shouting, "Have you got my discharge in there."

In Chicago, after a wild burst of celebration in which servicemen stripped to the waist leaped on passing autos and rode cheering through a sudden rain, became quieter later.

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August 15, 1945 Front Page Center Columns

U. S. Erases All Controls on Workers

Draft Quota Slashed Sharply, Navy Cuts Many Contracts

The Start of Peace

1. All labor controls lifted.
2. Draft quotas slashed.
3. Draft halted of men over 26.
4. Navy cancels six billions in contracts.
5. Army may release five million men within 12 to 18 months.

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President Truman Tuesday night turned the whole machinery of Government loose to try to carry the nation swiftly and smoothly onto the broad path of peace.

The War Manpower Commission abolished all man power controls, effective immediately, giving the nation a free labor market for the first time in more than two years.

At the same time, the United Press reported, the WMC began a voluntary program to speed reconversion and achieve full employment. Its facilities will be used to help workers find jobs, with preference going to veterans, displaced migratory war workers and all reconversion activities.

Draft Cut 30,000 Monthly

Labor will be channeled by voluntary methods into civilian industries, especially those which may become reconversion bottlenecks and thus delay mass re-employment.

President Truman authorized selective service to reduce draft inductions immediately from 80 thousand to 50 thousand men per month.

He forecast that five million to 5,500,000 men now in the Army may be returned to civilian life within the next 12 to 18 months.

Only the lowest age group will now be drafted into the Army, the President said. Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey Tuesday night telegraphed all state directors ordering them to stop at once the induction of all registrants 26 or older.

Releases to Be Speeded

"It is too early to propose a def-

'I Thank a Merciful God ...'

By the Associated Press.

General MacArthur issued the following statement Tuesday night:

"I thank a merciful God that this mighty struggle is about to end. I shall at once stop hostilities and further bloodshed.

"The magnificent men and women who have fought so well for victory will return to their homes in due course and resume their civilian pursuits.

"They have been good soldiers in war. May they be equally good citizens in peace."



MacArthur

Surrender Unconditional

The text of the President's statement on the Japanese surrender:

"I have received this afternoon a message from the Japanese Government in reply to the message forwarded to that Government on August 11. I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration which specifies the unconditional surrender of Japan. In the reply there is no qualification.

"Arrangements are now being made for the formal signing of surrender terms at the earliest possible moment.

"Gen. Douglas MacArthur has been appointed the Supreme Allied Commander to receive the Japanese surrender. Great Britain, Russia and China will be represented by high-ranking officers.

"Meantime, the Allied armed forces have been ordered to suspend offensive action.

"The proclamation of V-J Day must wait upon the formal signing of the surrender terms by Japan.

"Following is the Japanese Government's message accepting our terms:

"Communication of the Japanese Government of August 14, 1945, addressed to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and



President Truman smiles broadly as he holds the surrender message after announcing the war's end.—AP Wirephoto.

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August 15, 1945 Front Page Right Columns

Torpedo Hits Indianapolis, Loss Heavy

Cruiser Sinks Fast; Had Just Delivered Atomic Bomb Stuff

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The 9,950-ton cruiser was sunk, the Navy said, just after delivery of essential atomic bomb material to Guam, the United Press reported.

The cruiser left San Francisco on July 16 on her special high speed run. She had delivered her cargo and was running unescorted in the Philippines Sea, within 450 miles of Leyte, when two explosions smashed her bow at 12 minutes past midnight, July 30.

She went down 15 minutes later, according to a delayed dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Morrie Landsberg.

Magazine Set Off

Survivors believed two torpedoes from a sub set off one of the eight-inch gun magazines of the 14-year-old ship, which had just smashed an hour and 10 minutes off the old Omaha's record of 79 hours 40 minutes for the 2,091 nautical miles between San Francisco and Diamond Head, Oahu.

The New York Times Service reported from Guam that it had learned a court of inquiry was attempting to learn why the Indianapolis was 60 hours overdue before its loss was learned from survivors spotted at sea by search planes.

Casualties Listed

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MacArthur Heads Occupied Japan; All Fighting Ends

Nips Yield Unconditionally as Bloody War Ends; Truman Makes Historic Statement; Hirohito Tells People

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World War II—history's most terrible flood of death and destruction—ended Tuesday night with Japan's unconditional surrender.

Six years—less 17 days—after the Germans had plunged the world into a bloody struggle with the invasion of Poland, the guns were silent, the bombs in their racks, the fighting men at rest.

Here at home, President Truman declared Wednesday and Thursday legal holidays so that those who helped whip Japan by staying on the job too may rest.

The last Axis partner was crushed and the lights of decency and dignity were ready to shine again on a shattered world.

For the treachery of December 7, 1941—the treachery that crippled terribly the American Fleet at Pearl Harbor—the Japanese paid with total defeat.

Formalities still remained—the official signing of surrender terms and a proclamation of V-J Day.

But from the moment that President Truman announced at 6 p. m. CWT Friday, that the enemy in the Pacific had agreed to Allied surrender terms—without qualifications—the world put aside for a time all care and celebrated in wild frenzy.

Formalities meant nothing to people freed at last of the dirty, bloody business of war.

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Transcript

Good Morning

Omaha and vicinity – Partly cloudy.

High temperature middle 80's.

Weather in other cities on Page 4

MORNING WORLD-HERALD

Victory Edition

Our 80th Year – No. 272.Omaha, Nebraska, Wednesday,
August 15, 1945 – Twenty-four Pages.Three Cents in Greater
Omaha and Council Bluffs.
Five Cents Elsewhere**Nation Celebrates End of the War;
Today, Thursday Named Holidays***(Left column)***Mayor Designates City's Observance****Noisy Throng Wildly Hails Peace Return****Crowds Jam Business Area as Industry, Taverns Shut Doors**

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