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WWII Weekly Front Pages, The Press, Pittsburgh, PA

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The Press, Pittsburgh, PA

V-E Day. At last.

The Pittsburgh Press

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WEDNESDAY and other daily and Sunday Press in the nation
PITTSBURGH, PA., TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945

V-E DAY PROCLAIMED

Fighting Will Stop at 6 Tonight

JAPAN NEXT--TRUMAN

Stalin Announcement Of War's End Delayed; Reds Continue Attacks

Other Important News on V-E Day

Victory Only Half Won, President Says; Work, Work, Work, He Urges

WASHINGTON (AP) President Truman today proclaimed victory in Europe but said that the fighting job would be finished only when the last Japanese soldier has surrendered unconditionally.

Stalin Announces The Russian war in Europe's history will end at 12:01 a. m. tomorrow at 12 p. m. today, Stalin's spokesman announced. The announcement was made in the capital, the city of Moscow.

APRIL THE GERMANS SURRENDER of Adolf Hitler's army, the German army, the German navy, the German air force, the German submarine force, the German merchant navy, the German coast guard, the German customs, the German police, the German fire department, the German post office, the German telephone, the German telegraph, the German radio, the German press, the German cinema, the German theater, the German sports, the German music, the German art, the German science, the German technology, the German industry, the German agriculture, the German commerce, the German finance, the German law, the German religion, the German culture, the German society, the German life, the German death.

Churchill Pledges Help in Pacific

LONDON (AP) Winston Churchill today pledged that the British government would do its utmost to help the United States in the Pacific war against Japan.

Bright Lights Go Back on Tonight Central and West Utilities Head

PITTSBURGH (AP) The city's power and gas utilities today announced that they would resume normal operations tonight.

Marines Advance On Okinawa Capital

WASH. (AP) Marines today advanced toward the capital of Okinawa, Japan, in a major offensive.

Sale of All Japan Held for V-E Day

WASHINGTON (AP) The sale of all Japan was held today in a ceremony at the White House.

Truman At Today

Important Features On Inside Pages

Diagnosed, Unethical, War Reporters Charge--AP's Story of Surrender Called 'Double Cross,' Violation of Oath

Ding Drops Plan For V-E Gaiety

Text of Truman's Speech Announcing Joe's Defeat

THE WEATHER

Step-by-Step Account of War

Press Telephone

War News

EUROPE

At the start of the week, three German armies of as many as 400,000 surrendered unconditionally to the Americans and French in Austria and southwestern Germany. Almost three million had surrendered in three days. The last major pockets of resistance in Europe – Norway and Czechoslovakia – were on the verge of collapse. General George Patton's Third Army was the only western army still fighting as they advanced on Pilsen in Czechoslovakia. Patriots had seized Prague and on 9 May the Red Army completed the capture of the city.

The bloodiest war in Europe's history ended on 8 May 1945 at 6:01 P.M. Pittsburgh time with the unconditional surrender of Germany, scheduled to be ratified in the ruins of Berlin. Guns were still firing in some parts of the continent, but the cease fire order had gone down from the high command of the western Allies. V-E Day, the end of the war in Europe, was proclaimed by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and General DeGaulle. Victory had cost the US Army around 800,000 casualties, including 150,000 killed.

On 9 May Hermann Goering, chief of the Luftwaffe and a close Hitler confidant, surrendered to the Americans. He had been in hiding since 24 April when Hitler condemned him to death for expressing a desire to take over the German government. On 10 May the bodies of propaganda minister Goebbels and his family as well as a number of other top Nazis were found by the Russians in Hitler's bunker in Berlin, but none had been identified as being that of the Führer. Late in the week the commander of Heinrich Himmler's SS Guard surrendered to US forces in Austria but Himmler himself had fled.

PACIFIC/ASIA

Early in the week 3,000 Japanese were killed in heavy fighting on Okinawa as Marine divisions repelled a desperate counterattack behind American lines. Enemy casualties now included more than 33,000 killed on the island. 168 enemy planes had been shot down during an assault against US Pacific Fleet warships, and midweek Marines had pressed to within slightly more than a mile of Naha, the capital of Okinawa. By the end of the week they were in its outskirts. Three other Marine and Army divisions also battled southward across the southern tip of the island as a general offensive to crush the last 45,000 defenders. They made slow but steady progress with tanks, flamethrowers, tommy guns and bayonets through the toughest defenses yet encountered in the Pacific war.

A force of nearly 50 Superfortresses struck early in the week at Japanese suicide plane bases on Kyushu. On 10 May the greatest force of B-29s ever assembled, 400 strong, attacked the home islands of Honshu, Kyushu and Shikoku to ignite devastating fires in the enemy's largest fuel storage and oil production centers. Enormous cloud of black smoke billowed 18,000 feet high.

Captured B-29 airmen, liberated from a Japanese camp at Rangoon, Burma, described how they were beaten and starved during their captivity. They had been placed in a "special treatment group" on charges of indiscriminately bombing women and children. They had been given their freedom by the Japanese commandant at the camp, and had marched 50 miles to Army lines, without food or water.

HOME FRONT

The success of the World Security Conference in San Francisco was endangered by a Big Three blow up on the Polish question. The Russians had revealed that 16 Polish democratic leaders had been arrested and were being held for trial in the Soviet Union for "diversionist activity against the Red Army."

The War Department disclosed plans for an Army of nearly seven million to defeat Japan. At the same time it said that two million men now in service would be returned to civilian life within a year, based on a point system that included factors such as the length of service and whether the soldier had any children.

The Price Administrator outlined a plan that would bring back at 1942 prices most of the items now missing from store shelves. He called for an “avalanche of civilian goods” as reconversion proceeded to “smother the fires of inflation.” An interim price program would promote the interests of business, labor and the consumer.

The city of Pittsburgh observed V-E Day with prayer, work and gaiety. Thousands filed solemnly into churches to give thanks, while the district’s hundreds of thousands of war workers stayed at their posts. Laughing, singing and a paper storm were seen on the Golden Triangle, but the sale of liquor was halted – all state stores and taverns were included in the order. On 9 May the midnight curfew on amusement places and the ban on racing were lifted but restrictions on transportation would continue.

President Truman reminded the country that the war was only half over, and its fighting job would only be done when the “last Japanese division has surrendered unconditionally.” He added his wish that FDR had lived to see this “solemn and glorious hour.”

(Photo courtesy newspapers.com, Pittsburgh Press)