

History Is Made: A Schoolhouse in France Is the Scene of the Signing of Germany's Unconditional Surrender



Col. Gen. Gustaf Jodl signing the pact at Reims for Germany. At the left is Maj. Wilhelm Oxenius, his aide, and at the right Gen. Admiral Hans Georg Friedeburg.



Lieut. Gen. Walter B. Smith, General Eisenhower's chief of staff, affixing his signature. At left is British Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough and at right is Russian Maj. Gen. Ivan Susloparoff.



General Eisenhower and Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur W. Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander, wear victory smiles as General Eisenhower announces end of war in Europe.

PRESS AT SHAEF HAS TENSE WAIT

50 Alarms in 10 Days Leave Reporters With the Jitters When Big News Comes

By GLADWIN HILL

PARIS, May 7 (Delayed)—The German surrender was announced in confidence at 10:30 A. M. today to the corps of 100 correspondents who, since Oct. 10, have been covering SHAEF's press headquarters in the Hotel Scribe.

The announcement was made at the regular morning press conference by Col. R. Ernest Dupuy, chief of headquarters operations of SHAEF's public relations division. Mounting a rostrum before a huge map on which the Allies' operations have been traced daily, Colonel Dupuy said: "The unconditional surrender took place this morning, effective at 0001 Paris time on the ninth of May." He gave the release time for the public announcement as 3 P. M. on May 8, although it was generally expected that the news would leak out before that.

The announcement surprised nobody, since almost a score of the correspondents had been whisked to Reims yesterday evening for the signing—and since the correspondents' corps, in one of the strangest "death watches" on record, had been awaiting the surrender news from minute to minute for more than a week. With the Russian junction and the Germans' wholesale surrender in the north, it had become evident that the German war effort was disintegrating. It was a question only whether the internal situation in Germany left anyone capable of offering an effective unconditional surrender.

On this, SHAEF correspondents were probably as much divided as the public. Some thought that the German High Command would be able to put forward an effective representative. Others thought as late as yesterday that, despite the Germans' obvious collapse, the lack of an effective negotiator might mean two more weeks of fighting to clean up shattered German units.

The result of this uncertainty was that SHAEF's orderly thrice-daily press conference system itself disintegrated into a nightmare series of extemporaneous assemblages for important announcements heralded by horns from a klaxon-horn system throughout the correspondents' working, sleeping and eating quarters in the Scribe. This reduced the hardest to a state of jumping jitters.

Fifty times or more in the past ten days and nights the horns have been heard, and the correspondents rushed from typewriters, meals, drinks or beds, primed for word of the surrender, only to be let down by less important announcements—the junction with the Russians, the Germans' northern surrender, the Germans' southern surrender, the American First Army's junction with the forces from Italy—until finally somebody remarked: "The next announcement will be of Colonel Dupuy's junction with SHAEF."

In the last two or three days many correspondents were afraid to go to bed lest they miss the surrender announcement, yet uneasy about staying up lest, when it came, they would be too sleepy to handle it. The pay-off came last night when an unidentified colonel called radio broadcasters into a conference on facilities. In the middle of a heated discussion they suddenly noticed that the colonel had gone fast asleep.

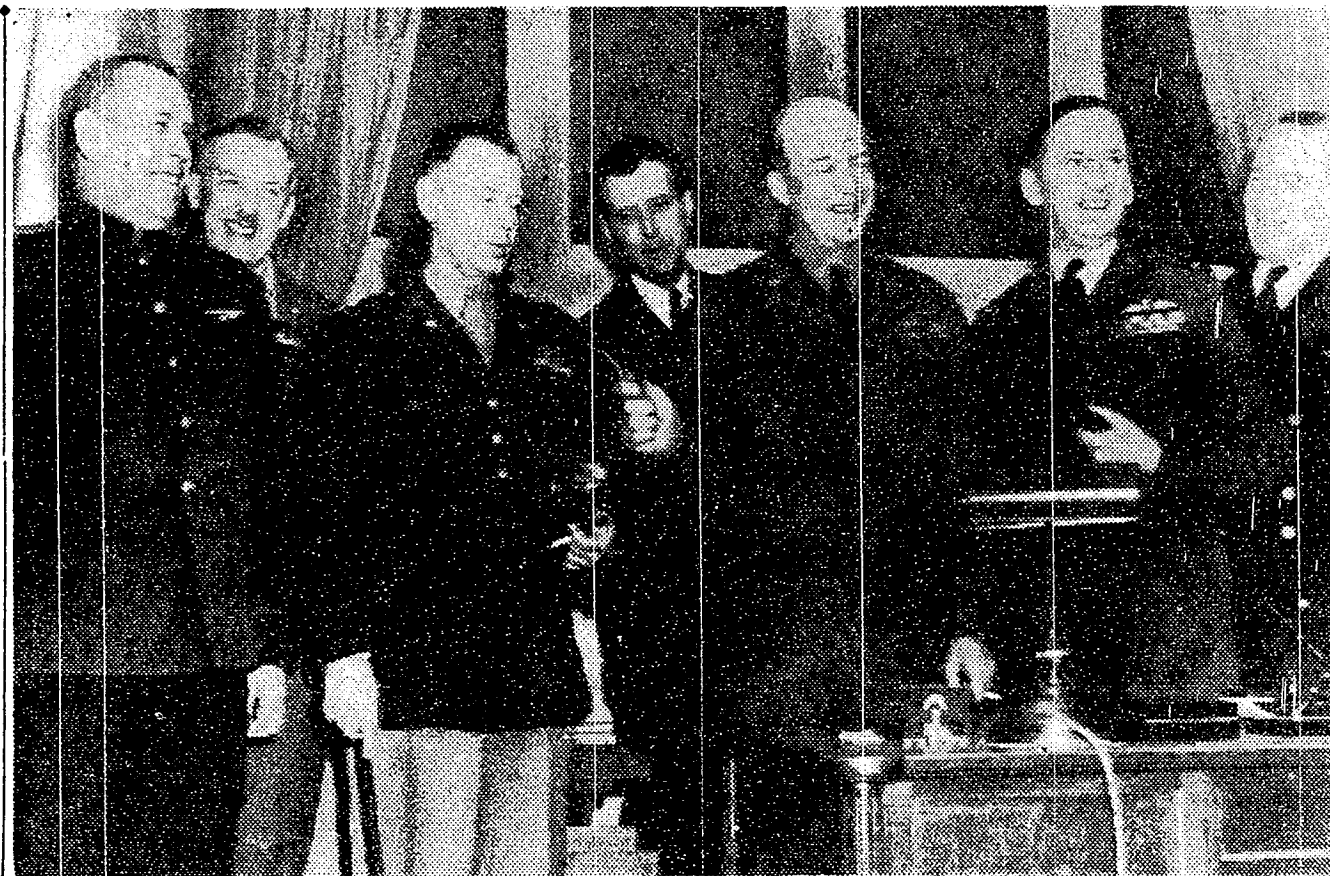
WACS RETAIN RECRUITING

Waves, Spars, Women Marines Also Seek More Personnel

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 8—Recruiting as usual for the women's armed services was the report for V-E Day. The Wacs said that about fifty recruiting stations will continue on duty all over the country, each manned by one officer and two enlisted personnel. There is, as yet, no word, the War Department said, on what further use will be made of the 7,000 Wacs now in the European zone. Present strength of the Wacs is 96,500.

The three Navy services were unanimous in pointing out that there is plenty of work yet for them to do in the Pacific war. The Waves announced increased recruitment quotas yesterday, from 800 to 2,000 a month. Wave strength is 82,000. The Spars, with a strength of 10,000, are recruiting at thirty-three stations and the Women Marines, numbering 19,000, also are recruiting.



General Eisenhower displaying the fountain pens used by the Germans in signing. Left to right: Russian Maj. Gen. Ivan Susloparoff, British Lieut. Gen. Sir Frederick E. Morgan, Deputy Chief of Staff; Lieut. Gen. Walter B. Smith, Chief of Staff; Capt. Harry C. Butcher, naval aide to Gen. Eisenhower; British Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur W. Tedder, and British Admiral Sir Harold M. Burrough.

Germany's Act of Military Surrender

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 8—The text of "An Act of Military Surrender" as announced today at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force:

1. We, the undersigned, acting by authority of the German High Command, hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and simultaneously to the Soviet High Command, all forces on land, sea, and in the air who are at this date under German control.
2. The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours [11:01 P. M.] Central European Time on Eight May and to remain in the positions occupied at the time. No ship, vessel or aircraft is to be scuttled, or any damage done to their hull, machinery or equipment.
3. The German High Command will at once issue to the appropriate commanders, and ensure the carrying out of any further orders issued by the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and by the Soviet High Command.
4. This Act of Military Surrender is without prejudice to, and will be superseded by, any general instrument of surrender imposed by, or on behalf of the United Nations and applicable to Germany and the German Armed Forces as a whole.
5. In the event of the German High Command or any of the forces under their control failing to act in accordance with this Act of Surrender, the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, and the Soviet High Command will take such punitive or other action as they deem appropriate.

Signed at Reims, France, at 0241 hours [2:41 A. M.] on the seventh day of May, 1945.

On behalf of the German High Command—JODL.

In the presence of:

On behalf of the Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force—W. B. SMITH.

On behalf of the Soviet High Command—IVAN SUSLOPAROFF.

On behalf of the French—F. SEVEZ.

[The Act of Surrender signed in Berlin yesterday was virtually identical with that of the Reims document. It was dated May 8, 1945, Berlin, and signed "In the name of the German High Command: Keitel, Friedeburg, Stumpf." Marshal of the Soviet Union Zhukoff signed on behalf of the Supreme Commander in Chief of the Red Army and Air Chief Marshal Tedder on behalf of General Eisenhower. Witnesses to the signatures were Commander of United States Strategic Air Forces Gen. Carl A. Spaatz and Commander in Chief of the French Army Gen. de Lattre.]

WIVES OF GENERALS JOIN IN BROADCAST

They Express Gratitude for the Victory in Europe and Voice Hope for One in Pacific

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 8—Wives of American commanders, most of whom heard their husbands' voices over the radio today, joined today in an NBC V-E Day broadcast which originated here.

Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower gave this by telephone:

"We dare not relax—one iota—in our support of our men who are still facing the enemy."

Mrs. Mark Clark sent this:

"My thoughts, mingled with deep thankfulness on this great day of victory, are with those who have lost a dear one."

Mrs. Alan G. Kirk, who was in England when the war began, said:

"As the war ends in Europe, most of our naval forces will be released to join the Pacific fight and will add their share to the splendid victories our Army and

Navy are winning in that theatre. We wish them good luck and good hunting."

Mrs. James Doolittle, speaking from Houston, said:

"To show our gratitude for the victories won it's up to us to have strength, endurance, patience and understanding and to do our best so that ultimate victory in the Pacific will come."

Other messages were:

Mrs. Jacob Devers: "I feel that the men who have won this war, having accomplished this difficult mission, will be so much better prepared to put their shoulders to the wheel to prevent the possibility of such a tragedy ever happening again."

Mrs. Carl Spaatz: "The hearts of all of us who have men in the European theatre are filled with a deep, deep pride in their magnificent achievement in crushing the Nazi might."

Mrs. Omar Bradley: "Every bit of help we can give is needed for that last final push, so that all of our men may come home again."

Mrs. Harold Stark: "The remarkable cooperation of our Army and Navy—their splendid teamwork, will with our help and prayers result in victory in the Pacific as it has already resulted in the victory in Europe."

Hadassah Urges Hard Work Jewish women were urged to continue working "on all fronts, in all types of war effort until the day of full and final peace," in a statement celebrating the end of the war in Europe issued yesterday by Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

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REIMS SLEEPS ON AS CURTAIN FALLS

Only Little Girl in Hair Ribbons Sees Germans' Arrival and Senses Meaning

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PARIS, May 7 (Delayed)—The war ended here today at 2:41 A. M. Officially it will cease at 12:01 A. M. Wednesday as the American Expeditionary Force sets its watches over here to conform with British summer time, six hours ahead of the clocks in New York.

It all happened between midnight and dawn, when most of the people of Reims were in bed. They did not know that the fates had decreed that their city was destined to play a rôle as historic as neighboring Compiègne, where first Marshal Ferdinand Foch and then Adolf Hitler accepted a capitulation, leaving considerable unfinished business in each case.

But there were some people in Reims who knew as long ago as last Friday afternoon, thanks to a little girl, that the war was over.

This little messenger to Garcia, her straight black hair tightly tied in ribbons, was the first in all this world to see what was happening and to announce it to her neighbors. She saw and remembered those field-gray uniforms that the Allies had chased from France, and she went running to broadcast the tidings to all and sundry on the main street, one block away from SHAEF's advanced headquarters. "Les Alle-

mands sont venus, la guerre est finie [The Germans have come, the war has ended]," she said.

Vaguely the people of Reims knew that something was happening in their midst, just as people in France, in Germany, in Britain, in America knew that the end was near. But even when it was all over, they were left to guess along with the rest of the world. Yet they sensed, as did many of their compatriots, that it was all over, for, as we went back to Paris in a jeep this morning after having seen the undramatic conclusion to the greatest drama of our time, farmers and burghers waved with enthusiasm that has not been matched since the day of the liberation of the French capital.

It was an undramatic curtain that fell in Reims on the tragedy of Europe. The scene was a schoolhouse alongside the railroad tracks. Outside it last night there was a little group of American and British newspaper men. They were told to go to bed because nothing was happening. But they stuck around. A few minutes later, big staff cars began to arrive.

Outside the red brick building, the newspaper men almost broke their necks trying to see in through the windows—not that there was much to see except M. P.'s and Wacs on the staff who managed to be on deck. About midnight it looked hopeless for any decisive development. The trouble seemed to be that the German delegation lacked authority to act on behalf of its Government. Finally Gen. Admiral Hans Georg Friedeburg sent a message to Doenitz. Then everybody waited excepted the people of Reims, who went straight to bed at the accustomed hour.

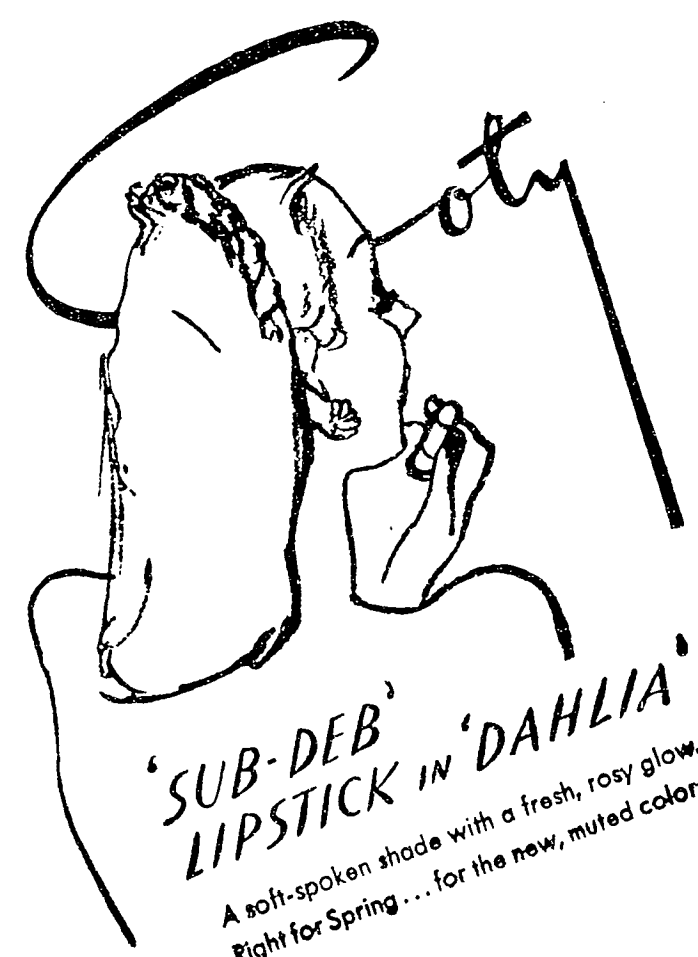
V-E DAY CLOTHING GIFTS

New Yorkers Give a Tangible Expression to Sentiments

Many New Yorkers gave tangible expression to their V-E Day sentiments yesterday by bringing bundles to the depots of the United National Clothing Collection, explaining that their gifts were special tributes to the occasion. The depot at 730 Fifth Avenue recorded clothing arriving at the rate of 100 pounds an hour.

Joel Turner, ex-Army medical man, came in bringing seven pairs

of shoes sized 11 and 11½. They were no longer of any use to him, he said. "My feet grew a size larger in the Army. I marched so much," he explained. "Besides, it's a good way to celebrate." John Muller, nine months old, turned in all his outgrown baby wardrobe to the Brooklyn Civilian Defense Volunteer Office headquarters at 131 Livingston Street. Other Brooklyn juniors are asked to make their gifts to the Brooklyn CDVO at the Navy Yard-Heights office, 136 Montague Street, on Saturday morning, which has been set aside to spotlight the need for children's clothing.

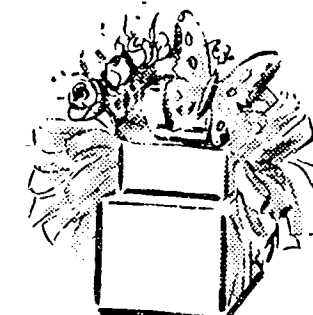


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