

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

1263

V-DAY POLICY
MAR. - AUG. 1945

Chief Commissioner

58

AUG 16 1968

11-25-27 for info

Gen Thiburn Brown, RARE, has been rung up by
AFSA warning him that VJ Day will be tomorrow
-telegram to follow. Then told staff when (Stecher to
action until we receive the telegram.

11/16/8

✓ [Signature]

11/16/8

Chief Commissioner

For information. EstSec is warning all heads.

11/16/8

Noted by CC [Signature]

1163

3

A/S&C

14 Dec 1972

15/3

4

PRO

Statement should be issued by CC
(as amended) ^{WJ}
CC

80
3

5

Office of EC

Statement approved by CC and is
being held for issue on V.F. Day

P. R. Branch
GSB/new

10 aprio 45

11/11 M/S

18

Excerpt 17 for information

Office of EC

Statement approved by EC and is
being held for issue on V-E Day

P. R. Branch
GSB/new.

10 April 45

8/11/45 MJS

18

Ex Com 17 for information.

1185

1185

8/12/48

8/13/48

23

Executive Commission

Please see 22. On V day celebrations. No decision
has yet been made as to which day will be set aside
for as a holiday.

15/8/45.

Ex Com

Please see min 23. 8/15/48

1 2 7 1

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

9273

36

Headquarters,
Rome Area Allied Command

16th August 1945

AUG 21 1945

Please make the following amendment to the D/O
letter sent you yesterday on the subject of V-J Day
services.

The service for soldiers of the Roman Catholic
Church will be held in the Church of Santa Susanna in
Via Venti Settembre, and NOT in the Gesu Church as
stated.

R. V. Palmer.

Captain
Office of the Deputy Commander

To: Brigadier M.S. LUSH CB CBE MC
HQ Allied Commission
ROME

(1A)

1183

Headquarters
Rome Area Allied Command

DC/PERS

15 August

Dear

Maurice

On V-J Day we are arranging the following services of
thanksgiving:

A service in the Stadio Nazionale, Via Flaminia for soldiers
of the Protestant Churches.

Mass in the Gesù Church for soldiers of the Roman Catholic
Church

A service in the Synagogue in Lungo Tevere Cenci for soldiers
of the Jewish faith

All will be Allied services and will be conducted by United States
and British Army chaplains. All will take place at 9.30 a.m.

It is not proposed to give any of them a specially official
character and no invitations are being issued. Places, however,
will be reserved for yourself and any senior officers, if you will
let me know whom to expect.

Instructions have not yet been received as to when V-J Day is
to be celebrated, but we will notify you at the earliest possible time.

Yours sincerely

Albanus

To: Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC,
HQ Allied Commission
Rome

185

All will be at the same time. All will take place at 9.30 a.m. and British Army chaplains.

It is not proposed to give any of them a specially official character and no invitations are being issued. Places, however, will be reserved for yourself and any senior officers, if you will let me know whom to expect.

Instructions have not yet been received as to when V-J Day is to be celebrated, but we will notify you at the earliest possible time.

Yours sincerely

Albert Einstein

To: Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC,
HQ Allied Commission
Rome

1183

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

9273 / 9 Ex Com (34)

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794, US ARMY

AG 380 (GS)

DCC/JWF/rlp
16 August 1945

AUG 1 1945

SUBJECT: Services Commemorating End Of Hostilities With Japan

TO : All Assigned and Attached Units, Rome Area Allied Command,
Map Reference: Town Plan of Roma (Rome) North Sheet.

1. Services of Thanksgiving for cessation of hostilities will be held for all troops in the Rome Area at 0930, on 17 August 1945, as listed in paragraph 2. All members of units assigned or attached to Rome Area Allied Command not on duty will attend the service of their choice.

2. a. Protestant: National Stadium (Stadio Nazionale) 733.704. Troops will detruck on the EAST side of the Stadium and enter the Stadium through the NORTH GATE.

b. Catholic: Solemn High Mass at the Church of Santa Susanna, Via XX Settembre.

c. Jewish: The Synagogue, Lungo Tevere Cenci.

3. Uniform: (US) Dress

(BR) K.D. Shorts/Longs, Web belts and anklets.

a. (Gush Shirt may be worn inside or outside K.D. Shorts/Longs subject to Discretion of Unit Commander, but uniformity will be maintained.)

b. Side arms will not be carried.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BROWN:

Donald C. Carp
DONALD C. CARP
VOJG, USA
Asst Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION
"R"

(PA)

1182

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794, US ARMY

CEM/jlc
16 August 1945

GENERAL ORDERS

NUMBER 28

HOLIDAY

Friday, 17 August 1945, will be a holiday for this command.

Regular Sunday schedules will be followed.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BROWN:

JOHN W. FISCHER
Colonel, GSC
Actg Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

C. B. Murphy
C. B. MURPHY
Major, AGP
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION
"11"

1182

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

AC DIST

32

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Suspense _____

Date 16 AUG 1945

FROM	TO	FROM	TO
Staff Officer to CC		Political Advisers	
Executive Commissioner	/	Establishment Section	/
Message Center		Executive Officer (A)	/
Inspection Division		Executive Officer (B)	/
Civil Affairs Section		G-1(A)	
Dis Pers & Rehab		G-1 (A) Civilian Emp.	/
Local Govt		G-1 (B)	
Patriots Branch		G-1 (A)	
Public Safety		G-1 (B)	
Security Division		2675th Regt	/
Public Health		Headquarters Commandant	/ ACTION
Legal		Allied Civ. Pers. Director	
Education		Adjutant, Allied Commission	/
Monuments & Fine Arts		Navy	/
Economic Section		Land Forces (MSTA)	/
Requisition Branch		Air	/
Agriculture		Communications	
Commerce		Civil Censorship Group	
Civil Div		WMD & PCW	
Finance		Truck Operating Group	/
Property Control Div		Public Relations Branch	
Food		Information Division	
Industry		Archivist	
Mining Division		O.C. 1st Dist	2
Labor		O.C. HQ 2675th Regt	
Public Works & Utilities			
Shipping			
Transportation			

Signature
Remarks & Recommendations
Information
Approval/Disposal
Appropriate Action
Investigation & Report
Dispatch

✓

Remarks: _____

1183

RHF/gb 1569

9273

Ex Comm

alam

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 006/147 D005-0

14 August 1945

AUG 10 1945

SUBJECT: V-J Day Celebration

TO: All Concerned

1. The following instructions are issued, in order that a common policy may be observed by all commands in connection with the celebration of the end of hostilities against Japan.

2. Victory against Japan is the culmination of many months of bloody, bitter battle, and marks the end of organized hostilities. The occasion should be one of profound thanksgiving, and of joy and happiness. It must be remembered, however, that much still remains to be done before our task is finally completed.

3. One day will be set aside to be observed as a theater holiday. The day selected will be announced to all Commands by Allied Force Headquarters. Those who cannot take a holiday on the announced date because they are performing essential services will be given a holiday later.

4. Commanders of formations, units etc., will arrange a program for the day, similar to the programs conducted on V-E Day. It is suggested that the ceremonies be brief, and that as much time as possible be devoted to entertainment, rest, special meals, recreation etc.

5. Extra issue of rations and Post Exchange/EPI supplies will not be made, but units will make their own arrangements for supplementing the normal fare.

6. It is desirable that, as far as possible, men should be discouraged from visiting larger towns. However, there is no objection to visits to the beaches or organized recreational areas.

7. Apart from the specific points mentioned, observance of the end of hostilities is discretionary with the commanders concerned. Insofar as possible they should be guided by the experience gained in the observance of the V-E Day celebrations.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:

1187

Ex Comm

Ext Sic

2075 Rpt +

A-1 (2)

HR Cmdt

C. W. CHRISTENSEN
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

1186

DISTRIBUTION:

1187
1186

(1186 L. H. H. H. H. H.)

1 2 7 8

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: C 12372
Date/Time of Origin: AUGUST 16/1041B

Message Centre No: F/4082
Date Time Rec'd: AUGUST 16/1350B
Precedence: PRIORITY
AUG 16 1945

FROM: AFHQ

TO: CINC MED COMKAVANW BTA, FIFTH ARMY, ROME AREA, ALCOM, IMRSI, DISTONE, DISTWO, DISTHREE, GREEKAID, GREEKAIL, MEDINE, AAF/MTO AFSC/MTO, AAFEC/MTO, COMGENIAAF, FIFTEEN, MATS, ABC, REPCO, PENBASE, PENSOUTH, FLOC, UTC, XIII CORPS, BALKAID, ALBAID, JUGAID, AAC ROMANIA, ACC HUNGARY, II DM POLISH CORPS, EURD/ATC 51 AACS, MTOUSA POW C ACC BULGARIA

22

UNCLASSIFIED.

Announcing Friday 17 August as the theater holiday mentioned in para 3 radio this headquarters 14 August. Notify allconcerned take action as prescribed para 4 thereof. This action provides the official holiday in this theater and is independent of any subsequent announcement of an official V-J

HEADQUARTERS
16 AUG 1945

ACTION

DIST

ACTION : EEC COMMISSIONER (2)
INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EST SEC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

reg 1700

PA
188

(Enc)

1 2 7 9

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

(27)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner
+++++

Ref: 9273/EG.

15 Aug 45.

SUBJECT: V-J Day.

- TO :
- CA Section
 - Est Section
 - Eccon Section
 - Navy Sub-Com
 - Land Forces Sub-Com
 - Air Forces Sub-Com
 - WHD/IPW Sub-Com
 - Comms Sub-Com
 - P.R. Branch

1. On instructions of AFHQ V-J Day will not be celebrated until official notification has been received from that Headquarters. This will be subsequent to the signing of the instrument of surrender.
2. This in fact infers that Thursday, 16 August will NOT be V-J Day and will therefore be considered as a normal working day.

For the Chief Commissioner:


 Brigadier,
 Executive Commissioner.

see 728

1178

92

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Ex comm
(26)

Originator's Reference: **FX 35597** Message Centre No: **W/3980**
Date/Time of Origin: **AUGUST 15/1128B** Date Time Rec'd: **AUGUST 15/1630B**
Precedence: **OPERATIONAL PRIORITY**
AUG 16 1945
FROM: **AFHQ SIGNED SACRED C ITE FHGAB**
TO: **HQ HFA, HQ FIFTH ARMY, GREEK MIL, HQ 13 CORPS, HQ RAAC, AAF/MTO, FENBASE, ADRIATIC
BASE COMMAND, DISTONE, DISTWO, DISTTHREE, HQ BTNA, ALCOM, REPCO**

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED.

V-J day will not be celebrated until official notification from this headquarters. This will be subsequent to signing of instrument of surrender

ME...
15 AUG 1945

DIST

ACTION : EX COMMISSIONER (2)
INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EST SEC
FILE (29)
FLOAT

RESTRICTED

1173

(Miss L. Longman)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

9373 EXEC COMM
INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: **C 12174**
Date/Time of Origin: **AUGUST 15/1318B**

Message Centre No: **F/3996**
Date Time Rec'd: **AUGUST 15/1715B**
Precedence: **PRIORITY**

FROM **MTUSA**

AUG 16 1945

TO: **COMNAVNAV, FIFTH ARMY, ROME AREA, ALCOM, DIMPSI, AAF/MTO, AAFSC/MTO, AAFEC/MTO, COMGENAAF TWELVE, COMGENAAF FIFTEEN, MATS, ABC REPCO, PENBASE, PENSOUTH, FLOCO, UTC, EURD/ATC, 58TH AACS, MTUSA, POW COMD, HQ COMD AF, ACC BULGARIA, ACC HUNGARY, ACC RUMANIA**

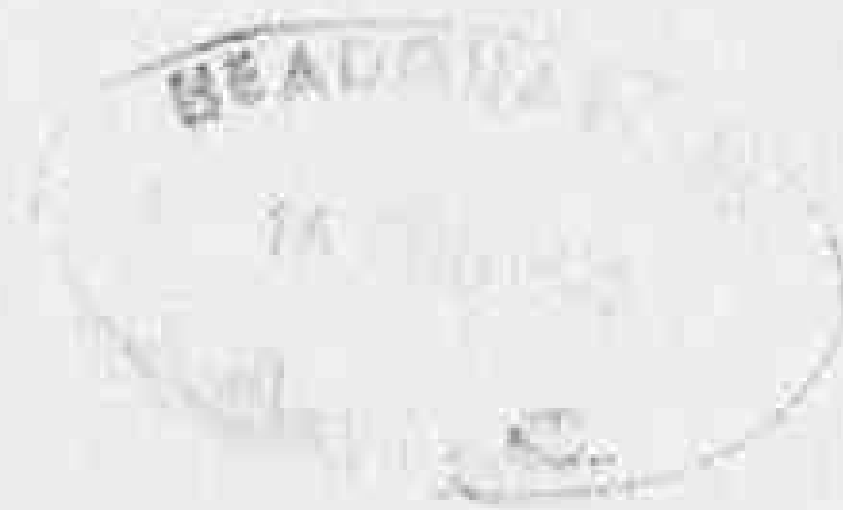
UNCLASSIFIED.

following radio received from AGWAR this date "this is official notification to you of the japanese capitulation ". this is not to be interpreted as designation of V-J Day

ACTION

DIST

- ACTION : EX COMMISSIONER (2)
- INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EST SEC
FILE (2)
FLOAT



1178
see P128

Pa
(Miss Llewellyn)

9273
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: C11856
Date/Time of Origin: AUG 14 1559B

Message Centre No: F/3949
Date Time Rec'd: AUG 1030B/15
Precedence: PRIORITY

FROM AFHQ
TO ALCON

AUG 15 1945

UNCLASSIFIED.

Book message.

1. The following instructions are issued, in order that a common policy may be observed by all commands in connection with the celebration of the end of hostilities against JAPAN.

2. Victory against JAPAN is the culmination of many months of bloody, bitter battle, of profound thanksgiving, end of joy and happiness. It must be remembered, however, that much still remains to be done before our task ^(is?) finally completed.

3. 1 day will be set aside to be observed as a holiday. The day selected will be announced to all commands by ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS. Those who cannot take a holiday on the announced date because they are performing essential services will be given a holiday later.

4. Commanders of formation, units, etc, will arrange a program for the day, similar to the programs conducted on ^(V?) V-E day. It is suggested that the ceremonies be brief, and that as much time as possible be devoted to entertainment, rest, special meals, recreation, etc.

5. Extra issue of rations and post exchange/EPI supplies will not be made, but units will make their own arrangements for supplementing the normal fare.

6. It is desirable that, as far as possible, men should be discouraged from

(Miss L)

- 2 -

(C11856 cont'd)

visiting larger towns. However, there is no objection to visits to the beaches or organized recreational areas.

7. Apart from the specific points mentioned, observance of the end of hostilities is discretionary with the commanders concerned. Insofar as possible they should be guided by the experience gained in the observance of the V-E Day celebration. All informed.

DIST

ACTION: Ex Commissioner 2
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Est Sec
File 2
Float

ACTION

HEADQUARTERS
15 AUG 1945
1174

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785617

9273

AMG LIGURIA REGION CMA AMG LOMBARDIA REGION CMA AMG PIEMONTE REGION CMA
AMG VENEZIA REGION CMA ~~AMG VENEZIA REGION CMA~~ AMG LIVORNO ZONE CMA AMG
NAPLES COMMUNE CMA ALOOM LO BOLOGNA ALOOM LO PALERMO CMA ALOOM LO BARI CMA
ALOOM LO CATANIA CMA MIA LO SARDEGNA

3633

13 AUG 45

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

SUBJECT IS ARMISTICE CELEBRATIONS PD

PAREN TO AMG LIGURIA REGION CMA AMG PIEMONTE REGION CMA AMG LOMBARDIA
REGION CMA AMG VENEZIA REGION CMA ~~AMG VENEZIA REGION CMA~~ AMG LIVORNO
ZONE CMA AMG NAPLES COMMUNE CMA ALOOM LO BOLOGNA CMA ALOOM LO BARI
CMA AL OM LO PALERMO CMA ALOOM LO CATANIA CMA MIA LO SARDEGNA FROM
HA ALOOM CITE ACXG PAREN

AMHQ HAVE RULED THAT ON TERMINATION OF JAPANESE WAR CMA WHICH HAS NOT
YET BEEN CONFIRMED CMA THE SUPPOSE ALLIED COMMANDER WILL ISSUE A
DIRECTIVE ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN PD THIS WILL INCLUDE ONE DAYS
HOLIDAY AND THE HOLDING OF CEREMONIES SIMILAR TO THOSE HELD ON VICTOR
EASY DAY

Executive Commissioner

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref : 9273/EC.

13 Aug 45

MEMORANDUM :
TO : Distribution Below.

ARMISTICE CELEBRATIONS

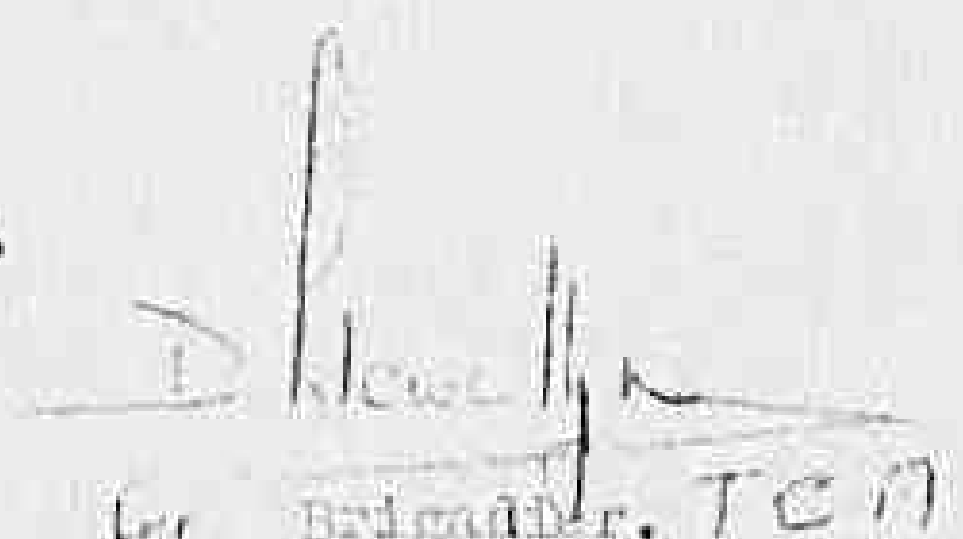
When the termination of the Japanese war is announced there will be one day's holiday for all Allied Military, and Allied and Italian civilian personnel.

Allied Church services will be held at the times and places of which will be notified later.

The Chief Commissioner has ruled that there need be only a minimum representation of signals, Message Centre and HQ Commandant personnel, a Duty Officer and one Duty Clerk in this headquarters during the holiday. The Duty Officer and the Duty Clerk will be nominated by the Adjutant and will be located in Room 20, Ground Floor telephone Ext. 405. Personnel on duty during V Day will take one day's holiday in lieu.

Instructions will be posted announcing the commencement of the holiday.

For the Chief Commissioner.


for Brigadier, T.C.M.
Executive Commissioner.

Distribution.
Group I list B
plus one copy Serials 54+59.

923
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: PX 34611

Message Centre No: T/3599

Date/Time of Origin: AUG 111901B

Date Time Rec'd: AUG 120930B

Precedence: **PRIORITY**

FROM AFHQ SIGNED SACRED SITE FHGAB

TO HQ BTA HQ 5 ARMY, GREENHILL, HQ 13 CORPS. DISTONE. PENBASE. AAF/ATO
ADRIATIC BASE COMMAND. DISTWO. DISTHREE. HQ RAC. HQ BENA
REPL AND TRNG COMMAND. ALCOM

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

On termination of Japanese War which has not yet been confirmed the Supreme Allied Commander will issue a directive on action to be taken. This will include one days holiday and the holding of ceremonies similar to those held on VE Day.

Dist

Action - Exec Commr 2
Info - Chief Commissioner
Est Sec
Econ Sec
CA Sect
PR BR
File 2
Float

ACTION

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS 1171
12 AUG 1945

PA
14/8

9273

Executive
Commissioner

16

JC/ab

~~RESTRICTED~~

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

AG 000.77/694 132-0

7 May 1945

SUBJECT: VE-Day Talk by General MCNARNEY

TO: All Concerned

MAY 11 RECD

1. The importance of the Theater Commander's VE-Day radio address to the troops of this theater cannot be over-estimated. Not only does it contain General MCNARNEY's personal message to every officer and soldier in the theater but it also constitutes the basic theater redeployment policy on which he desires that every individual have information.

2. In order that all officers and soldiers receive the Theater Commander's message, it is directed that at the first formation following receipt of this directive the message be read in person by the commander to his assembled organization.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MCNARNEY:

C. W. Christenberry
C. W. CHRISTENBERRY
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

1 Incl
VE-Day Talk by General MCNARNEY
DISTRIBUTION:
"2"

~~RESTRICTED~~

1143
12/5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

RESTRICTED

(18)

V-E DAY TALK BY GENERAL MONTELL

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ITALY:

The war with Germany is over. The German Army and the German Air Force have been crushed. To you members of the Allied ground, sea, air and service forces who have won this magnificent victory - my congratulations. For your courageous sacrifice and unfaltering devotion to duty, I cannot adequately express my admiration and appreciation.

Now only Japan remains. By crushing Germany, we are free at last to unleash our full might against Japan - to strike quickly and hard - to bring this long war to an end.

Your accomplishments in the Mediterranean Theater are now history.

The successful landings in Algeria and French Morocco on November 8, 1942, paved the way for the first major Axis setback in the West. In the Tunisian Campaign which followed, American, British and French troops drove the Germans out of North Africa and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. It was here that Hitler's famous Afrika Korps was destroyed.

We were assured control of the Mediterranean by the swift prosecution of the Sicilian Campaign. We knocked Mussolini's Italy out of the war.

At Salerno the Allies earned their first firm foothold on Hitler's European fortress, and from here, the Fifth and Eighth Armies launched their conquest of the rugged Italian Peninsula.

The fall of Naples, the bitter campaign of the Hitler and the Gustav Lines, Cassino, Anzio, and the liberation of Rome will always be remembered as examples of high courage and great skill.

After Rome, this theater launched the full-scale invasion of Southern France. In Italy our forces continued to drive the enemy north past the great part of Leghorn, past Pisa, Florence, Ancona and Ravenna. The Gothic Line defenses were pierced.

During the winter and early spring our Air Forces sealed in the enemy by blocking the Brenner and other exit routes. Transport of all types and their fuel supplies were destroyed by our air attacks. This plus the vigorous action of our ground forces enabled us to hold twenty-five German divisions between the Alps and the Apennines and prevented the enemy from diverting these badly needed troops to his Western Front in France or to the Eastern Front to stem the Soviet advance. By April our forces had overcome the difficult mountainous terrain and burst forth to destroy the enemy in the Po Valley. The accomplishments of our Armed Forces in the Po Valley and in Northern Italy are so well known that I need not recount the details of our final triumph.

It is a great tribute to our fighting men in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations that these victories have been won in spite of the fact that we have had no substantial superiority in numbers over the enemy, except in the air.

4163

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RESTRICTED

Throughout all our operations, our American troops have fought and worked side by side with soldiers from nearly every Allied nation - British, French, Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, Indians, South Africans, Palestinians, Brazilians, Poles and Italians. It has been an international army battling through mud and snow, heat and dust, over a nightmare battle-ground of mountains and marshes. The spirit of cooperation that existed here during the darkest hours of war will be a model for a world at peace.

This spirit of cooperation has extended straight through our entire Mediterranean Campaign - among our Allies and among our Armies, our Navies and our Air Forces.

The Allied Navies have established a superb record in conveying enormous tonnages of supplies to us and in supporting the flanks of the Fifth and Eighth Armies with effective bombardment. They have kept the Mediterranean clear of enemy shipping and enemy mines, and they have provided safe passage for convoys headed for Russia through the Black Sea, and for the East through the Suez Canal.

The Allied Air Forces achieved an early and a complete mastery of the air. Their progressive destruction and dislocation of the enemy's military, transportation, and industrial systems, coupled with their magnificent support of our ground forces in the field of battle, contributed greatly to our victory.

The job of all the supply and administrative services has been equally well done, and only through their unstinting efforts was it possible to accumulate the necessary means to achieve victory.

Now that the enemy has been defeated, I know that there is one question uppermost in your minds: When are we going home to the United States?

My answer will be disappointing to many of you, but it would be unfair to you if I were not absolutely frank in answering that question - even if it is unpleasant.

For most of you, your return to civilian life will come only when Japan has been utterly and finally defeated. With Italy and Germany out of the war, two-thirds of the job has been done. A big one-third remains to be done. Japan brought us into this war by her sneak raid on Pearl Harbor. Until Japan has been crushed, the war cannot be over for us.

It is the plan of the War Department to discharge soldiers as rapidly as the military situation and the availability of shipping will permit. We are just as anxious to return to the United States and to hasten your demobilization as you are anxious to be returned and demobilized.

All troops who have participated in the war have been divided by the War Department into three general groups for purposes of future disposition:

The first group will consist of men to be retained overseas and required for occupation, the tremendous job of reestablishing law and order in conquered Europe, and of moving out supplies and breaking up installations.

RESTRICTED

In the second group will come combat and service troops who will be transferred to active theaters in the Far East. Some of this group will go directly from Italy to the Pacific. Some have already gone. Others will go via the United States.

The third group will consist of men not needed in European Theaters or in the Pacific. This group will be returned to the United States and, if not needed there for military jobs, will be demobilized. I honestly doubt that this last group will be large. And looking at the situation today, I seriously doubt that those who are slated to be demobilized first will be able to leave Italy in any great numbers for several months. It is quite possible that some of the personnel earmarked for relatively early demobilization will be required to remain here for several months to help out with the military government of liberated Europe.

I know that all of you are tired of war. Your campaigns have been long and hard. You have suffered intensely through some of the fiercest fighting, the most treacherous weather, and over the most difficult terrain in modern warfare. You have lost many of your comrades in air, sea and ground battles.

It is fitting today to pay tribute to those comrades. Because of them the victory for which they fought and died must not be meaningless. We, the living, must remain true in the years ahead to principles for which they made the supreme sacrifice.

For those who will never see their homes or families again, we must fight on. For them we must achieve a world victory so total and complete that what has happened to them and to us can never happen again. For them we must see this global war through to a complete victory.

1168

9273

Headquarters,
Rome Area Allied Command

8th May 1946

DO/PERS/116

Dear *Maurice*

MAY 11 RECD

Tomorrow Wednesday 9th May we are arranging the following services of Thanksgiving:

A service for soldiers of the Protestant churches in the Stadio Nazionale in Via Flaminia to be conducted by chaplains of the U.S. and British Armies.

Mass will be celebrated in the Gesu Church for soldiers of the Roman Catholic Church by chaplains of the U.S. and British Armies.

A service for soldiers of the Jewish Faith in the Synagogue in Lungotevere Cenci to be conducted by chaplains of the U.S. and British Armies.

All these services will take place at 0930 hours.

As they have no official character no invitations will be issued. I hope ample notification will appear in the press and in orders for as many as possible to attend.

Yours *Lucas*
Almond

To: Brigadier M.S. LUSH, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
HQ Allied Commission.

1167

RON AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794 POSTMASTER NEW YORK CITY
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

8 May 1945

My dear Admiral:

An order prescribing certain services of thanksgiving on Wednesday morning, 9 May 1945, at 0930 hours, is being issued and you will receive a copy. If you are not planning services for your personnel, we would be delighted to have you join us in any or all of these services.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,


THEOBURN K. BROWN
Brigadier General, US Army

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 394, US Army.

1168

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO 794, US Army

9 May 1945

AG 380. (GS)

SUBJECT: VE Day Service

TO : All Assigned and Attached units, Rome Area Allied Command
Map: Town Plan of Rome (Rome) North Sheet.

1. A VE Day Anglo-American service of Thanksgiving will be held for all troops in the Rome Area at 0930 hours, 9 May 1945, in the National Stadium (Stadio Nazionale) 733.704. Units assigned or attached to Rome Area Allied Command not on duty and not attending Catholic or Jewish services will attend.

2. Troops will detruck on the EAST side of the Stadium and enter the Stadium through the NORTH gate.

3. Uniform: (US) Dress
(Pr) Battle Dress - with anklets and belts.

4. Allied Roman Catholic personnel will gather at Gesù Church, Piazza del Gesù at 0930 hours, for a Mass conducted by Chaplain Dommarson (Pr) and Chaplain C. F. Cahill (Am).

5. Allied Jewish personnel will gather at the Jewish Synagogue, Lungo Tevere Cenci (near Ponte Garibaldi) at 0930 hours for a service of Thanksgiving conducted by Chaplain M. Herman (Pr) Chaplain J. Hochman (Am) and Chaplain J. Potashnick (HDF).

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BROWN:

I. E. Cheek
I. E. CHEEK
Captain AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

"PR"

1165

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Extract from Minutes of SACMED's 8th Meeting
(Political) held at AFHQ on 26th April 1945.

MINUTE NO. 3.

3. TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES - ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS.

(Previous reference SAC (P) (45) 7th Meeting - Minute 8).

MR. KIRK reported that he had received a communication from the State Department giving their policy in regard to celebrations at the end of hostilities in EUROPE. The State Department views were, in fact, similar to those previously expressed by the Supreme Allied Commander.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, in answer to a question by Admiral Cunningham, stated that as yet he had received no reply to his letter on the subject to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTSON stated that SHAEF had informed him that no similar statement of policy had been considered for that theater.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of the above reports.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER:

Took note of the above reports.

1163

W. J. S.

9

File 9273/EC

APR 18 REC'D

Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting held on 17 April 1945.

+++++

V-E Day Celebration. A/Mx said a communication had been received from AFHQ directing that any celebrations must be soberly conducted and that no relaxation of discipline could be allowed. He would have to see A/President and CC in AG's arrangements.

Extract from the Minutes of SACMED's 7th Meeting (Political) held
on 12th April 1945.

MINUTE No. 8.

8. TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES - ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS.

(Paper No. SAC (P) (45) 22)

THE CONFERENCE had before them a paper suggesting that an order should be issued laying down a policy applicable to all troops in the Theater in regard to announcements of the cessation of hostilities in EUROPE and appropriate celebrations and speeches which would result therefrom.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER felt that any celebrations should not be of an extravagant nature as cessation of hostilities in EUROPE would not mean that the war was over. The war in the PACIFIC would not have been completed and large numbers of those now in this Theater would be dispatched to the FAR EAST. Moreover, it had been a very bitter war. It was, therefore, his opinion that victory in EUROPE should be celebrated in a level-headed manner, in a spirit of thanksgiving and much in the same way as Christmas. It was not his intention to condone any general relaxation of discipline.

ADMIRAL CUNNINGHAM remarked that the British Government had already announced that in the UNITED KINGDOM a general holiday would be declared. He was in agreement with the general policy which the Supreme Allied Commander had suggested and, in regard to Naval personnel under his command, he intended there would be a Sunday dinner, which would not involve the issue of extra rations but rather the saving of rations during the week in order to provide this meal. It was also his intention to hold church services and allow all personnel a half holiday. He added that it must be realised that the younger element in the services would be more exuberant in their demonstrations but he considered that the policy should be directed towards keeping all celebrations as dignified as possible.

MR. KIRK, referring to the Supreme Allied Commander's remarks, considered that the matter of celebrations was largely a question of the interpretation of the word extravagant. It was his view that there should be festivities although these should be well-organised and conducted in a tasteful, dignified manner.

MAJOR GENERAL CAMMION, expressing agreement with Admiral Cunningham's remarks, stated that he was declaring a similar policy for Air Force personnel. However, while the day allotted for celebrating the cessation of hostilities would be observed as a holiday, the next day would be one of normal activity.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTSON was of the opinion that any instructions issued by the Supreme Allied Commander should be general in nature, and that detailed instructions should be issued by the services themselves in accordance with this policy. He considered that extra food available to troops should be a saving from the weekly rations rather than an additional issue. He agreed with a suggestion by Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, that

suggested that, in regard to naval personnel under his command, no interest there would be a Sunday dinner, which would not involve the issue of extra rations but rather the saving of rations during the week in order to provide this meal. It was also his intention to hold church services and allow all personnel a half holiday. He added that it must be realized that the younger element in the services would be more exuberant in their demonstrations but he considered that this policy should be directed towards keeping all celebrations as dignified as possible.

MR. KIRK, referring to the Supreme Allied Commander's remarks, considered that the matter of celebrations was largely a question of the interpretation of the word extravagant. It was his view that there should be festivities although these should be well-organised and conducted in a tasteful, dignified manner.

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LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTSON was of the opinion that any instructions issued by the Supreme Allied Commander should be general in nature, and that detailed instructions should be issued by the services themselves in accordance with this policy. He considered that extra food available to troops should be a saving from the weekly rations rather than an additional issue. He agreed with a suggestion by Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, that the firing of arms and pyrotechnics should be prohibited.

AIR MARSHAL GARROD expressed agreement with the above and suggested that there should be a Committee appointed to organise celebrations locally so that all three services should receive similar treatment.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, in reply to a query by Rear Admiral Stone, said that instructions covering the Italian Forces would be issued through Military Channels. In answer to a suggestion by Admiral Cunningham, he agreed that it would be desirable to ascertain the policy which SHAFF proposed to adopt in regard to celebrations and announcements.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER instructed the Chief Administrative Officer:

- (a) In conjunction with representative of the Commanding General MTOUSA and the Naval and Air Commanders-in-Chief, to draft for his approval a general directive governing celebrations and announcements upon cessation of hostilities.
- (b) To dispatch a cable to SHAFF incorporating his views as outlined above and requesting information on the policy to be adopted by SHAFF.

See 10

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COPY.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Supreme Allied Commander's Secretariat

SAC(P) (45) 22
9th April 1945

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE
(POLITICAL)

TERMINATION OF HOSTILITIES - ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CELEBRATIONS.

1. It has been suggested that an order should be issued, laying down a policy applicable to all troops in the theatre in regard to announcements of the cessation of hostilities in EUROPE, and appropriate celebrations and speeches which will result therefrom. ⁶
2. Attached at Appendix "A" is an instruction issued on behalf of Field Marshal ALEXANDER in his capacity as commander of the British Land forces. It will be observed that this order is based on the policy that victory in EUROPE should not be marked by extravagant celebrations or by a general relaxation of discipline, but should be welcomed in a spirit of sober satisfaction and gratitude. It also envisages the publication of a Special Order of the Day to all members of the Allied forces in the theatre.
3. The United States forces propose that, following the announcement of termination of hostilities, there should be broadcast a number of special radio programmes and announcements, including recorded speeches by the Supreme Allied Commander, and the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander.
4. The Supreme Allied Commander is accordingly invited to direct that the policy outlined at para 2 above shall be adopted by all forces under his command and that all concerned in the arrangements for celebrations and the preparation of announcements and radio programmes should proceed in accordance with it.

(Sgd) J.G. SWEETMAN,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL,
SECRETARY.

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(Sgd) J.G. SWEETMAN,
LIEUTENANT GENERAL,
SECRETARY.

See (8)

6
APPENDIX "A".

COPY.

CAO OFFICE.

CAO/227

TO: See below.

SUBJECT: Armistice Celebrations.

Various enquiries have been received at this HQ regarding plans for celebrating the ~~armistice~~ or cessation of hostilities against GERMANY.

When this event takes place the Supreme Allied Commander will probably issue a Special Order of the Day to all troops under his command. Meanwhile, I am instructed to inform Commanders of British troops as to the policy which the SAC will wish them to adopt.

The SAC considers that the achievement of final victory over GERMANY should be welcomed in a spirit of sover satisfaction and heartfelt gratitude, but that it is not a fitting occasion for extravagant celebrations. Requests for the issue of additional rations or NAAFI supplies will not be approved. Discipline will not be relaxed.

The war with JAPAN will still remain to be won, and many other important and hard tasks will lie ahead. It will be very necessary to keep these matters in the minds of the troops and to discourage any feeling that no further efforts will be required from them.

31 March 1945.

DISTRIBUTION: CG 15 Army Group
CG Fifth Army

B.H. ROBERTSON,
Lieutenant General,
Chief Administrative Officer,

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31 March 1945.

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G-1(B)
G-4(A)
G-4(B)
CEFI

For information

B.H. ROBERTSON,
Lieutenant General,
Chief Administrative Officer,

1161

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

2
GSE/mow

100/FRB

27 March 45

MAR 27 1945

SUBJECT: V-Day Message

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Deputy Executive Commissioner)

1. Anticipating victory in Europe PRO, AFHQ, is preparing a number of press statements, messages and radio broadcasts to be issued by leading military men in this theatre on V-Day.

2. It has been suggested the Acting President or the Chief Commissioner might wish to issue a message to the press on V-Day.

3. There is attached herewith draft of a suggested statement for your consideration and possible approval. Naturally the statement will be held for release on the day victory in Europe is proclaimed.


G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

See Minutes 3 and 1163

17A

 (HAS STEWARTS)

1 Spec held

Statement of Rear Admiral W. H. Stone, USNR,
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

Today's joyous news is shared by hundreds of millions of people. Nothing in the world's history has cost so many so much in pain and death, ~~and~~ misery and want. We can be indeed thankful that the European war is ended. We must now hope and pray that the war in the Pacific also will be soon brought to a victorious conclusion.

We now have a debt to pay. It is for us, the living, to carry on and make the kind of peace our men died for. We need have no illusions about the future. This stricken country ^{of Italy} faces many complex problems. We of the Allied Commission are here to help - we have given much and know that we must continue to lend a hand.

It is for every ^{Italian} man, woman and child to work diligently and intelligently at whatever he or she can do to rebuild this country. It is for every Allied soldier or sailor or civilian here in the Allied Commission to do all that he can to help these people to their feet again. Let's not forget that we are all dependent upon each other.

This was our war, and the arms of all our people, ^{together with those of} ~~and all the~~ ^{the} ~~people of~~ other countries on our side, won it. ~~We~~ will win the war in the Pacific. We now face the hard task of peace. Let us all resolve to give it our best - to meet the new era with hard work.

