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Parkersburg, West Virginia, Wednesday Morning, Aug. 15, 1945

The Weather

By U. S. Weather Service
Thunderstorms early today followed by cooler with lower humidity tomorrow fair with moderate temperature.

12 Pages, Five Cents

Allies Officially Accept Japanese Surrender, Armed Forces Get Order to Cease Firing, MacArthur Will Receive Japs' Capitulation, Truman Proclaims 2-Day National Holiday Bloodiest Strife in All Human History Comes Officially to an Ending

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—(UP)—President Truman, acting swiftly to begin demobilizing the nation's vast military machine, tonight ordered selective service to end monthly induction from 80,000 to 50,000 immediately.

Inductions will be limited to men in the lowest age groups. Preliminary estimates indicate that only those under 26 will be affected.

In a statement issued shortly after he proclaimed the Japanese surrender, he said it should be possible to release from 5,000,000 to 5,500,000 men from the army during the next 12 to 18 months. He did not estimate how many navy men could be released.

Mr. Truman's directive, made with the approval of the war department and selective service, will provide only the men required to support troops needed for occupation of Germany and Japan and to relieve men with long service overseas.

The president's statement came as congressional leaders opened a drive to halt all inductions immediately and to release from the armed forces all men not needed for essential purposes.

Mr. Truman said a constant flow of replacements to the occupational forces is imperative "in justice to the millions of men who have given long and faithful service under the difficult and hazardous conditions of the Pacific war and elsewhere overseas."

"Mathematically and morally," he added, "no other course of action appears acceptable."

He said it is too early to specify the number of occupational troops who will be needed in the Pacific or to predict what reductions may be possible in German occupation forces.

"It is apparent, however, that we can release as many men as can be brought home by the means available during the next year."

The present problem, he said, (Continued on Page 12)



Crowds at the corner of 5th and Market St. cheered wildly when the 'cease firing' order became known.

People of Parkersburg Area Wildly, Joyously Celebrate Official Ending of World War II And Great American Victory Over Japanese

By Harry T. Catterall

"PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARDS MEN"

—Verily this exhortation to our world, heard many times during each Christmas season, has come to us this day.

At near 11 o'clock last night the long-awaited official word came from President Truman that the Japanese government had accepted to the surrender terms of the Allies and that the war, which has caused untold suffering and bloodshed for these many years was indeed finally at an end.

Here in Parkersburg, Mayor Golden Underwood issued orders to the city's air-raid sirens.

That was a series of dramatic events ensued, such as has never before been seen in the history of Parkersburg.

As the sirens began their plaintive notes, small knots of people, standing here and there at nearby street corners stood gaping in apparent amazement, as though struck by some tremendous blow.

Open-mouthed, and without so much as a smile they stood—stunned by the sudden turn of events, which undoubtedly will have far-reaching effects on thousands.

Then, as if suddenly realizing what was happening, these small groups of people disappeared as though by magic, we presume, in their haste to spread the glad tidings to their friends and families. Hardly a soul was left on the downtown streets for several minutes.

Then, as the good news spread like wild-fire throughout the city, people poured from their homes and within a short period of time it appeared that the entire population of Parkersburg was jammed into the space of a few city blocks in the downtown area.

Other noise-makers appeared as became a bedlam of noise such as one might expect if the celebration of Christmas, Hanukkah, and the rest were all rolled into one, creating a confusion and confusion.

Service men in uniform were unashamed as they loudly proclaimed their feelings that no longer would they be called upon to go out and kill and be killed, and the most of the celebrators displayed.

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President Declares Today and Tomorrow Are Legal Holidays

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14.—(UP)—President Truman today officially declared Aug. 15 and 16—Wednesday and Thursday—legal holidays to permit payment of back pay and a half to essential workers who must stay on the job.

He said that since the National War Labor Board had permitted the payment of straight time wages for employees who are excused from working on those days, many employers had requested that workers who do work on the days should receive premium compensation.

The amendment also makes these Victory holidays, whether or not work is performed by a war worker, holidays which must be counted as days of work in determining whether an employee has worked seven consecutive days in a work week.

The Victory holidays, the White House said, must also be counted in computing the sixth day worked in the work week unless the employment contract specified otherwise.

Under the executive order, the President said, V-J Day becomes a holiday subject to all the rulings and interpretations issued by the Secretary of Labor with respect to the other six holidays previously specified in executive order which is amended by the one issued tonight by the President.

Robert Nathan, aide to War Mobilizer John W. Snyder, said he interpreted the proclamation as ordering a "full force" two-day legal holiday in which banks and stock markets will be closed along with department stores and most of the nation's offices.

All federal employees in Washington throughout the country will also celebrate the Victory holidays.

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N. Y. Has Wild Celebration Navy Reveals Huge Outbacks

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—(UP)—One hundred thousand persons were shrieking at the same instant. The ear-splitting and joyous roar reached the topmost floors of the surrounding skyscrapers where other persons, shrieking for joy and excitement, were waving thousands of office-waste paper baskets out the windows.

And the 100,000 gathered around the trucks and taxis it set off fanfare and excitement at the sight of the man of the world and of its temperature. At the very same instant millions of others were shrieking out wherever they were when that instant caught them.

One word and one word only was being repeated over and over: "It's over! It's over!"

It was a word that set off a chain of steamboats in the Hudson and East rivers. It set off the drivers of trucks and taxis. It set off the diners gathered at their dinner tables in restaurants. It set off the crowds in theaters. That word was like a trigger releasing a mighty sound of triumph. It was a simple word, so simple it conveyed precisely the same meaning to every heart.

That word was "PEACE!"

Japanese Planes Strike at Fleet

Japanese warplanes attempted an attack on the 7th fleet off the coast of Japan an hour after peace was proclaimed officially in the Pacific, broadcast from Adm. William F. Halsey's naval armada reported by 7:45 p. m. PWT.

Only 14 minutes after a giant 20-foot American flag was raised triumphantly over the USS Halsey in token of victory, a Japanese aircraft was shot down.

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Stock Exchange Observes Holiday

NEW YORK, Aug. 14.—(UP)—The New York Stock Exchange will close for tomorrow and Thursday, the eighth day of the nation's Victory over Japan.

The board of governors, announced today that the exchange will close for tomorrow and Thursday.

The closing was voted in a telephone poll of governors who could not be reached. The New York City and other security agencies and exchanges are expected to follow suit.

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Atlee Proclaims Two V-J Holidays For Great Britain

LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 15 (UP)—Prime Minister Clement Atlee, announcing the unconditional surrender of Japan at midnight, proclaimed today and tomorrow V-J Day holidays.

At the same time, Mr. Atlee announced the surrender, said Emperor Hirohito ordered all Japanese armed forces to cease military operations, give up their arms and follow orders from Adm. Supreme Commander. It was in recognition of the announcement in Japan's surrender note that the Emperor was prepared to do this.

Japan has surrendered," Atlee said. "The last of our enemies is laid low."

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World War II—the bloodiest conflict in all human history—was at an end, except for the formality of signing surrender documents. V-J Day will not be proclaimed until after the instruments of surrender are signed.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, "the man who came back," was named Supreme Allied Commander to receive the formal Japanese surrender.

America's three Allies in the Pacific war—Great Britain, Russia and China—will be represented at the signing by high ranking officers.

Mr. Truman proclaimed the tidings at 7 p. m. (EWT), shortly after he received Tokyo's formal reply to the Allied surrender terms. Summoning reporters to his office, he read a statement which said:

"I deem this reply a full acceptance of the Potsdam declaration which specified the unconditional surrender of Japan. In the reply there is no qualification."

Tokyo informed Mr. Truman that Emperor Hirohito is prepared "to authorize and ensure the signature by the Japanese government and the Imperial General Headquarters the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam declaration."

"His Majesty is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations, to surrender arms and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces of the execution of the above mentioned terms." Thus was the "infamy" of Pearl Harbor fully avenged three years, eight months and seven days after Japanese planes struck a nearly-mortal blow against United States without warning. Japan had paid the full penalty for the treachery that plunged the United States into a two-front-war—the costliest in all history.

In terms of blood and treasure, the great conflict had cost the United States more than 1,000,000 casualties and \$300,000,000. The cost to the world was more than 55,000,000 casualties and a trillion dollars in money, materials and resources.

World War II ended six years—less 17 days—after Germany precipitated it by marching into Poland.

The end was announced calmly by Mr. Truman who declared a two-day holiday—tomorrow and Thursday—for all federal employees throughout the nation.

He also authorize selective service to reduce draft inductions immediately from 80,000 to 50,000 men per month as a result of Japan's capitulation.

Bedlam Breaks Loose
Bedlam broke loose in usually reserved Washington the moment the White House flashed the word that "it's all over."

A snowstorm of ticker tape went cascading into the streets.

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Peace Parade Planned For 3 P. M. Today

By Richard Suter

A grand celebration of V-J Day for the Parkersburg area will be staged today beginning at 3 p. m. when a parade embraces virtually every phase of community life will proceed through the downtown streets and back to the high school stadium for a peace parade.

Arriving at 10th and Market St. at 3 o'clock, with the Big Red and Blue bands, patriotic organizations, civilian defense organizations, representatives, labor groups and citizens of every description expected to participate.

Mayor Underwood will introduce the master of ceremonies, who will be Atty. James S. McChesney, who will give a brief address. Mr. Atlee, announcing the unconditional surrender of Japan at midnight, proclaimed today and tomorrow V-J Day holidays.

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Daily Almanac

By U. S. Weather Bureau

WARM, MOOZY and a bit of rain yesterday. The Ohio river had a peculiar deep green color this day.

Temperatures
8:00 a.m. 84°
3 p.m. 89°
9 p.m. 87°
Midnight 81°
Lowest 79°
Record High Aug. 14, 1918 94°
Record Low Aug. 14, 1941 50°

Atmospheric Pressure
5:30 p.m. 29.90 inches
11:30 p.m. 29.89 inches

Relative Humidity
5:30 p.m. 53% 11:30 p.m. 68%

Precipitation
Total for 24 hours ending 8 p.m. yesterday—none.

River
Stage at 8 a.m. yesterday, 10.5 feet, pool.

River Forecast
The Ohio river in the Parkersburg district will remain in pool during the next several days.

Sun, Moon and Stars
Sun sets today 8:29 p.m.
Sun rises tomorrow 6:40 a.m.
Moon sets today 12:30 a.m.
Moon rises tomorrow 12:30 a.m.

Morning Stars: Venus, Mars, Saturn, Evening Stars: Mercury, Jupiter.

AUGUST CALENDAR
Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR
Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu. Fri. Sat.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30