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# "JOIN HANDS WITH ME IN TOKYO"

*Hard-Hitting Admiral Halsey Comes  
To Town*

**B**ULL, they call him, Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., U.S.N., Commander of Allied Naval Forces in the South Pacific Area, and Bull it would have to be if you tried to find one word to describe him.

He was shadowed by three or four giants as he came into the press conference room in Auckland last week, so he looked short. They opened the doors for him, and he came into the room, no pause, no hesitation on the threshold — just *blam*, and he was in the room, bare-headed, wide-shouldered, arms hanging straight at his sides. And he looked so purposeful as he stood there square and straight for a moment, his eyes like a couple of turret holes shooting inquiry from under those eye-brow awnings, I could imagine him in action shouting Lady Macbeth's lines: "Infirm of purpose! Give me the dagger!"

But no one gave him a dagger. He got a right hand from each of us instead. No doubt about that either, a good, warm handshake, as downright and abrupt as his entry had been.

He sat. We sat. Glasses were handed round. It had begun.

A message for New Zealand? "Yes. I bring a very decided message. For 19 months now New Zealanders have been fighting in the South Pacific under my command. If they make any better fighting men anywhere in the world, I'd like to know where! I hope some of them will join hands with me in Tokyo—if I'm lucky enough to get to Tokyo. My admiration for the New Zealand fighting forces I cannot express in words. He mentioned the "cordial and very friendly attitude" of New Zealanders to American servicemen. "The way our tired and battle-weary men have been received and rehabilitated



ADMIRAL HALSEY  
*He's a gregarious man*

will never be forgotten by the American people. I expressed that very badly, but it's very heartfelt."

### The Ever-Ready Smile

He was sitting on a couch, elbows on his knees, hands clasped round a glass; those hands were long and bony. He sat square, comfortably, feet apart; and while he spoke or while someone put a question his feet were still. But in the pauses after statements, between questions, the toes of those polished shoes were busy—tap, tap, tap, tap—tap. "The only good Jap is a Jap who's been dead six months," he said a year ago. I watched those tapping shoes and thought of that statement: punctuation marks, I thought; a comma, a full-stop for the enemy with each tap. . . After each statement he raised deep-set eyes to our table, a quick glance to make sure the question was done with; or, very often, opened his unusually wide mouth into a straight smile. The curious thing about this smile was that it did not fade, die away again at once; it flickered across his face, returned, hovered round the corners of his mouth to be savoured once more before it was banished. Admiral Halsey seemed to have a special, a very intimate friend in that smile of his; as if he and that smile shared a few jokes, somewhat wry jokes at that. . .

"Our shoe-string Navy has now grown into a good-sized boot; the Jap is a small man, a very small man, and he can easily be dislodged by a good-sized boot. . ." The smile. . .

### The Weakened Spine

"There are not more than about 15,000 Japs left in this area, and of

(continued on next page)

*does you good!*  
*right from the first*



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