

MAY 11, 1945

Victory in Europe

VICTORY tarried long, then came in a clap of thunder; but it was not, and still is not, peace. Peace is on the way. It will come to Europe, and finally to the whole world, but not at a single leap. Peace cannot come suddenly any more than a troubled pool can suddenly go calm. It is the settling of the waters, the dying down of the storm, and that is still some distance ahead. But this is victory, the most crushing, complete, and spectacular victory in modern history. Our enemies are scattered, crushed, disarmed and dishonoured, blown away like chaff from a thresher's floor, and we are entitled to harbour more than feelings of relief. It would not have happened if we had faltered or failed, and it is not boastful to say so. But it is not safe to say it too often. We did not falter, but we almost failed. We were not ready morally or materially when the storm burst, and it is with humble and contrite hearts that we now give thanks for our escape: thanks to God; to the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who fought and died for us; to the leaders who inspired us; the workers who produced for us; the civilians who endured for us when the sky rained mutilation and death. But gratitude is not enough; contrition is not enough. It is not enough, though it is important, to remember the bereaved and the lost. We dishonour the dead unless we use our victory to restore the dignity of the human race, which has sunk lower in five years (as well as climbed higher) than in any other such brief space in civilisation. New Zealand has been spared the worst horrors of this decline, as have most New Zealanders; but it no longer doubts them. It has seen knowledge perverted to bestial uses, the human mind glorying in brutality and crime. It has seen a great nation prostrating itself before a megalomaniac, throwing itself under his chariot wheels, disfiguring itself for life in his glory. All those things and many more we have seen with eyes that began by refusing to see anything in our enemies that we could not see round about us, and it is not enough now to repent. We must save ourselves, and salvation is by works as well as by faith.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, MAY 11

THREE VICTORY MESSAGES



HON. WALTER NASH
Acting Prime Minister of New Zealand

Message broadcast at 7 a.m., May 3, 1945:

THE news through to-day is the best that we have received since the war broke out in September, 1939. Field-Marshal Alexander's message records the surrender of all the German forces in Northern Italy and in several provinces of Austria.

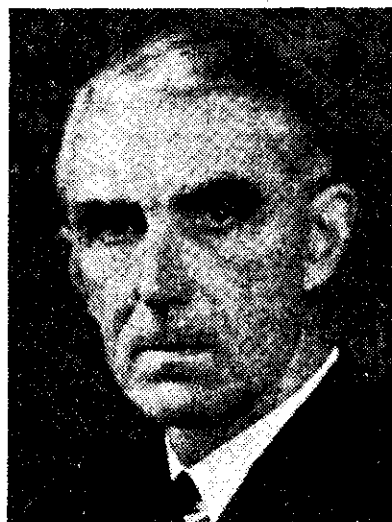
The people of New Zealand will receive the news of the capitulation with joy and thanksgiving. It means that New Zealand's share in the war in Italy has been brought to a brilliantly successful conclusion. The anxiety that has filled our hearts in the past few weeks as our men have been engaged in the bitter final struggle may now be banished. We thank God and rejoice that our men have completed their part of the task against Germany, and we hope that V Day with final victory in Europe is close at hand. There is other work ahead until Japan also is defeated.

In this moment of national rejoicing we remember the sacrifices that have been made to make it possible to have this day of victory. Thousands of our men have given their lives, many have been grievously wounded, others still overseas and also at home have rendered services that have built up the good name of New Zealand throughout the world. We owe them all a debt that can never be repaid.

In the area surrendered there are many prisoners of war camps in which New Zealanders have been detained, and we are looking eagerly forward to receiving the news of the liberation of large numbers of our men.

We thank Britain; we thank the United States; we thank Russia; we thank the other members of the British Commonwealth and all the United Nations.

We pray God that the deliberations at San Francisco may result in a united world and our joy and gladness and the thanksgiving associated with victory is tempered by the sorrow of the relatives of those who will never return and to them our heartfelt sympathy goes out this day.



SIR HARRY BATTERBEE
High Commissioner for United Kingdom

Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, Wellington.

I HAVE lived in New Zealand as representative of the United Kingdom Government since shortly before the German attack on Poland precipitated the world conflagration which is now ending in Europe and will, we hope and pray, be shortly ended in the Pacific also. Living here all through these years, I have shared New Zealand's dangers and anxieties, her setbacks and victories, and now the hour of final triumph in Europe. I saw the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force set sail for the Middle East to win a glorious name for itself under the gallant leadership of General Freyberg; I followed the news of all the desert fighting, the retreats in Greece, Crete and North Africa, and then the victorious advance from Alamein to Tunis, across the Mediterranean and up the whole length of the Italian peninsula, until now, as part of the Allied Armies under Field Marshal Alexander, they have brought the campaign in Italy to a triumphant close. I remember also the work of the New Zealand Division in the Pacific. I recall the gallant deeds of the New Zealand Navy, especially in the Battle of the River Plate, and of the R.N.Z.A.F. in all parts of the world. My mind goes back to the dark days of 1940 and 1941, when the nations of the British Commonwealth stood alone against all the might of the

ADVERTISERS MAKE WAY

WE have been compelled in this issue to take liberties with advertisers as well as with contributors. To get the victory news in, most of the advertising news has had to go out, and in most cases it has not been possible to announce this in advance. We have had to assume that our advertisers have the same feeling about victory as we ourselves have, and that they have surrendered their space as cheerfully as we have surrendered their money. We thank them sincerely for this considerable concession.



HON. K. S. PATTON
American Minister to New Zealand

American Legation, Wellington.

IN commemorating the overthrow of Nazi Germany, we should be restrained in our joy of victory and must be gravely mindful that not only will the war against Japan demand its toll of sacrifice and sorrow and require the unremitting efforts of the armed and civilian forces of all of the nations engaged in the crusade against totalitarianism, but that, even when Japan is humbled, there will still remain the arduous task of welding the post-war world into an effective custodian of the peace.

It is a tragically sobering thought that men must still die in the Pacific before complete victory can be achieved. Let this time therefore be one of dedication, by everyone in the Armed Forces, in the mills and factories, in the transport services, and in the councils of the freedom-loving nations, to the hard work and generous, unrelaxing co-operation which are necessary to win the final victory, and to build a future of peace and happiness for the generations to come. Full Speed Ahead!

Axis Powers, and to the grim months in 1942, when the danger of attack by the Japanese on New Zealand itself was acute. All through these years I have watched the efforts and sacrifices made by the people of the Dominion and my heart has gone out in sympathy to all those who have lost their dear ones fighting in the common cause. Through all these experiences I have been inspired by the brave and steadfast spirit with which every new vicissitude and every new task has been faced. Now we can devote the whole of our war effort to the still arduous work of liberating the Pacific and the lands which border it from the Japanese invader. As soon as that work is accomplished, we shall be free to turn all our thoughts to the future and to devote the whole of our energies to the task of building a happier and better world for the generations to come. In that task I am confident, that New Zealand will be in the forefront of the nations as she has been in the war.