

LIFE



BALLET SWIMMER

AUGUST 27, 1945 **10** CENTS
BY SUBSCRIPTION: TWO YEARS \$8.50



PRESIDENT TRUMAN, WITH ADMIRAL LEAHY AND SECRETARY BYRNES PRESENT, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES JAPANESE SURRENDER TO WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

On Tuesday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m., the President announced that the Japanese had accepted the Allied terms of surrender. At the same time he appointed General MacArthur to govern Japan. MacArthur ordered the Emperor to order Jap troops to cease fire and send emissaries to Manila. After some stalling, the Japs indicated that they would comply. For the first time Emperor Hirohito spoke over the radio to broadcast the surrender news to his people. In effect he said, "We have lost but this is temporary." The Jap rulers were tackling an almost unprecedented situation, surrendering an entire nation which had not even been invaded by its conqueror.

Americans who had been holding their collective breath since Saturday morning when the Byrnes note went to Tokyo, let go with a tremendous whoosh on Tuesday night. Japs were still firing at U. S. ships

and planes. Fighting on Luzon and other islands continued. The Russians were reporting Jap counterattacks in Manchuria. But nobody at home cared very much. The country forgot the war and for three days went on the biggest spree in U. S. history.

From New York's Times Square to San Francisco's Market Street, people were bent on having a glorious holiday and they did. Churches were open and full but so were the bars and nightclubs. One veteran entertainer described the merrymaking in New York as "ten New Year's Eves rolled into one." It was as if joy had been rationed and saved up for the three years, eight months and seven days since Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. The tensions of war exploded into an orgy of frenzy and fun. Clock-around celebrations in the cities went on to a cacophony of church chimes, air-raid sirens, honking horns, blaring bands, singing,

shrieking and shouting. Telephone hooks were torn into confetti and streets were strewn with tons of paper. Servicemen kissed and were kissed (see pp. 26-27), ripped shreds from their uniforms and gave them out as souvenirs. For the most part it was all good-natured letting off steam. But in San Francisco, teeming with sailors on shore leave, the steam exploded. Store windows on Market Street were smashed and display goods looted. By the end of the third day of the blowout, authorities had to order sailors back to their bases and warn civilians off the streets.

After the party America was due to wake up to a reconversion hangover. President Truman, who knew what victory had cost and would still cost, proposed Sunday, Aug. 19, for prayer "to the memory of those who have given their lives . . ." and to God "that He will support and guide us into the paths of peace."

CHICAGO



Chicago's Loop (above) is solidly packed with surging celebrants soon after the surrender flash. The city and its suburbs had a fine time kissing, singing, shouting and, with no respect for history, kindling large bonfires. But on the whole Chicago was more reserved than other cities.

At White House gates in Washington (below) a wavering line of stout-armed MPs struggles to keep merry-makers from breaking into the grounds. In response to the chant, "We want Harry!" the President came out, waved and said, "This is a great day for democracy..."

WASHINGTON



SAN FRANCISCO



In San Francisco sailors break into a liquor store and pilfer the stock. Revel turned into a riot as tense servicemen, relieved from impending Pacific war-zone duty, defaced statues, overturned street cars, ripped down bond booths, attacked girls. The toll: over 1,000 casualties.

HOLLYWOOD



On Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles carousing servicemen neck atop the hood of a careening jeep. The city rocked with joy as impromptu pedestrian parades and motor cavalcades whirled along, hindered only by hurled whisky bottles, amorous drunks and collisions.

NEW YORK



New York's garment district is snowed under by cloth scraps and snips of all colors and materials. The remnants, mixed with ticker tape, began floating down early on Tuesday morning after the first Jap radio report and by noon they were five inches deep on the sidewalks.

NEW YORK



Little Italy in downtown Manhattan bedecks itself with flags and bunting. Tenement-house fire escapes and windows were jammed with joyful people watching the dancing and listening to the sound of exploding firecrackers. Everybody offered free beer and wine to everybody.

SAN FRANCISCO



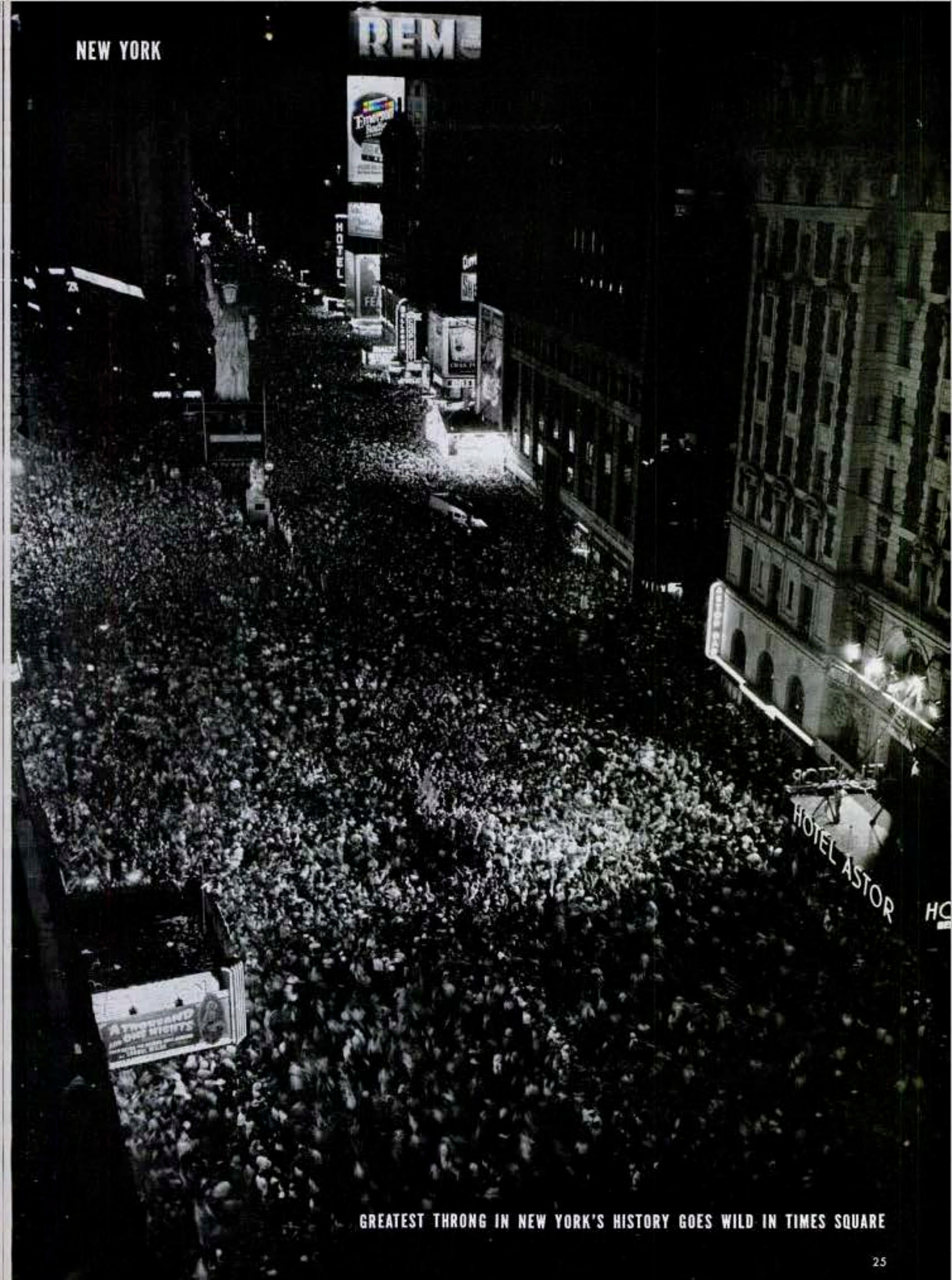
Waves pillow-fight in San Francisco barracks to work off V-J exuberance (above). Elsewhere in the city sailors and marines let off steam by re-enacting Mt. Suribachi flag-raising scene on the tops of automobiles while civilians dropped potted plants from second-story windows.

Two nude blondes, who left their clothes and inhibitions in a waiting taxi, frolic in the lily pond (below) near the San Francisco Civic Center. GIs lustily cheered the performers, took some pictures and then politely offered the girls towels as they returned to their taxi.

SAN FRANCISCO



NEW YORK



GREATEST THROG IN NEW YORK'S HISTORY GOES WILD IN TIMES SQUARE

WASHINGTON



IN WASHINGTON, D. C., SERVICEMEN SWEEP GIRLS OFF THEIR FEET WITH KISSES

KANSAS CITY



S/SGT. SAM KENNEDY, JUST PASSING THROUGH KANSAS CITY, GETS WELL BUSSED

THE MEN OF WAR KISS FROM COAST TO COAST

When peace news was confirmed, Americans, full of the same high spirits they had displayed abroad, put on a spirited display of public kissing at home. News photographers had long trained servicemen to assume ardent poses for the camera but there was little posing in last week's coast-to-coast frenzy of kissing. From city

to city and block to block the purpose was the same but the techniques varied. They ran the osculatory gamut from mob-assault upon a single man or woman, to indiscriminate chain-kissing. Some servicemen just made it a practice to buss everyone in skirts that happened along, regardless of age, looks or inclination.

MIAMI



IN TURBULENT MIAMI A LONGING, DETERMINED SAILOR GRABS A WILLING LIGHT-OF-LOVE AND HOISTS HER INTO POSITION FOR A PROLONGED, DETERMINED KISS

NEW YORK



IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE A WHITE-CLAD GIRL CLUTCHES HER PURSE AND SKIRT AS AN UNINHIBITED SAILOR PLANTS HIS LIPS SQUARELY ON HERS