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Lunchtime crowds in the West End of London could hardly believe that the world war really was over. But it was true. For the second time within three months there were victory scenes. Peace had returned to the world.

WORLD WAR OVER.

Japan has gone down to defeat. After a week crowded with sensation beyond any before the arrogant millions of Emperor Hirohito have been humbled more ignominiously than even the Germans. The great armies that carried all before them early in 1943 know themselves powerless under the threat of the atomic bomb. The Potsdam declaration, demanding unconditional surrender and outlining the minimum demand of the Allies, has been accepted. Without one Allied soldier having to invade Japan the enemy has ~~annihilated~~ bowed down before the annihilating powers now possessed by the free world. Far back in 1931 began the great Japanese adventure - the long planned war to dominate the world. Into Shainghai and Manchuria went the invading armies and for all who had their ear to the ground the first shots had been fired of the Second World War.

(pan down building) The first round was won. Manchuria was conquered. Under the puppet Emperor Pu Yi Japanese Government was set up. No effective protest was made by Western nations. The caps had got away with it the ring was clear for the second round.

War fires raged in Shainghai again in 1937, the invasion of China proper. Primitive to modern eyes appear the bombers employed to terrify the helpless population. Primitive but, immensely significant. Air power, used against civilians was a main weapon of war, used by a ruthless people blissfully unaware that science already contemplated the atomic bomb.

Into the Shainghai international settlement, haven of refuge from the invader, surged the refugees, surged in such numbers that the gates had to be closed. China was at the beginning of an 8 year ordeal such as no other nation has been called upon to withstand. ~~ZZZZ~~

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Then in December, 1942 came Japan's master stroke, the attack on Pearl Harbour. At one fell swoop the

American Pacific Fleet was crippled. Completely taken by surprise the U.S. Mid-Pacific Outpost was devastatingly raided with an effect equalling the most sanguine hopes of the Japanese. As the result the enemy was the supreme Naval power in the Pacific, free to dispatch his armies wherever he liked.

Never was military opportunity more promptly grasped. Within a brief hundred days the invaders overran the Southern Pacific, threatened Australia, stood at the gateway of India. In that disastrous three months the ~~del~~ deliriously successfully Japanese were masters of all they surveyed. British possessions fared no better than the rest. Hong Kong was quickly conquered, one of many outposts once thought impregnable. And there was but worse to come. Britain was compelled to ~~drink~~ ^{drink} the cup of humiliation to the dregs, for Singapore, the very bastion and pride of our Far Eastern possessions, fell almost as easily as Hong Kong.

Only in the nick of time did the women and children get away. The Japanese thought they had achieved their long cherished aim and driven the white man from the Far East.

Small wonder the war lords gathered to congratulate themselves that world conquest was within their grasp.

In the Burma jungle we began to hit back. The little publicised command of South East Asia slowly began to turn the scale. The 14th Army, for long the forgotten 14th Army, removed the threat to India and became the first military force to beat the Jap at his own game as a jungle fighter. How good it is to remember that the gallant 14th can now come home again.

Admiral Nimitz, masterly strategist in the Pacific led the new American fleet from one triumph to another. Pearl Harbour was wiped out. The U.S. Pacific Fleet dominated the ocean. Rapidly and without hope Japanese Naval power went to the bottom.

On land too the Americans proved the better fighters. In one grim assault after another they arrested Tarawa and other islands from the Japanese. Fanatically though the enemy defended he paid the supreme price all along the stepping stone battle to Okinawa.

Gratifying indeed was the recapture of the Philippines, particularly to MacArthur, the great General whose gallant defence in the darkest hour wrote a page of glory in military affairs.

Then as the German war neared its end the Royal Navy was switched to the Pacific. Overwhelmingly were the Allies now Supreme where, less than three years ago, the Japs had it all their own way. The navy, daringly commanded by Admiral Fraser, challenged the enemy within gun range of the Japanese coast. The now desperate enemy, his own navy gone, replied with suicide bombers. That reckless measure availed him little. Yet, hopeless as seemed the plight of the Japanese, their homeland was still not invaded, their army of six millions was still intact. Pessimists believed they might hold out two years.

Then came the Super Fortress, based on the Marianas specially designed ~~XXXX~~ for the job. The whole of Japan was in range. Unknown to the enemy something without precedence was now ready, the atomic bomb. Man had achieved the ultimate in war, the force ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ that no nation would withstand.

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The atomic bomb will be made the force to end all war.
That is the determination of the allies. By it we have
achieved complete victory sooner than was hoped. By it
we shall at last outlaw war.

We do well to rejoice. No more will men be killed.
The soldiers, sailors and airmen will come back. Six
long years - a big slice out of all our lives - have
been eaten up in war, the greatest madness of mankind.
We do well to rejoice.