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BRUSSELS DELIVERED.

On the 5th Anniversary of the declaration of war, the British Army crossed into Belgium. Here is an eye-witness report, broadcast by B.B.C War Correspondent Chester Wilmott.

Belgian women went down into cellars and cupboard to produce the mass of flags, streamers, rosettes, banners, placards and dresses that they had been getting ready for months for this very day.

As the news of our coming spread like wildfire from village to village along the main roads from Le Toumai to Brussels, Belgian men grabbed their hidden arms and went hunting for the Germans.

For the second time in this war the roads of Belgium feel the angry touch of war.....and Germans again experience the twist of fortune. Overlords yesterday, captives today...feeling the lash of scorn. Some shed tears at their miserable lot; but tears won't help them. The body of a civilian murdered by the Nazis. But mostly our troops met nothing but jubilant Belgians.

And so it went on until we came to Brussels itself, and there our welcome was wildest of all. There had been Germans in the streets only an hour before and not a flag had been in sight. "Welcome to our Allies". "Through Brussels to Berlin" they said. "Through Belgium to Victory".

Their main trouble was not dealing with the Germans but getting through the crowds who thronged the roadside every mile from the frontier to Brussels.....sheering, laughing, shouting people with wild delight in their voices and tears of joy in their eyes.

Captured Germans might have been roughly handled, but for the protection of their guards, including, ironically enough, men of the White Army & the Underground Movement of Belgium.

A great moment came when men of the 1st Belgian Group of the Allied armies entered their liberated capital. They had been away a long time, and to say their welcome was tumultuous is putting it mildly.

The burning building is the Palace of Justice, set on fire by the fleeing Germans to destroy important papers which might be used against them later on. But citizens of Brussels form a human chain, to rescue as many documents and books as they can from the building

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This girl must have done some secret needlework under the Germans' noses to get her costume ready for the occasion. The city's inhabitants have been looking forward to this day for years, and many other hidden flags are brought out to greet their liberators.

The Burgomaster of Brussels, who was until recently held as a prisoner by the Germans, warmly receives the British and Belgian soldiers at the Hotel de Ville. One of the first places they visit is the tomb of Belgium's Unknown Warrior, where the never-quenched flame bears witness to those who have died fighting the Hun. Citizens show their feelings by destroying all the tokens of Nazi occupation they can lay their hands on.

The unrecognisable portrait was of Hitler, until the people of Brussels showed what they thought of it. And these are some of the fallen Nazis who will fight for him no more.

Among the cheering crowds, almost crazy with joy, came Pathe Cameraman, Kenneth Gordon (fresh from witnessing similar scenes in Paris), to get these pictures for you. And so Brussels is added to the ever-lengthening chain of liberated capitals.