

At a Royal Air Force Station in Huntingdonshire, five Lincolns of Bomber Command were loaded with flowers --- and with leaflets bearing messages of goodwill, from Britain to the people of Holland. This was an air ceremony in commemoration of one of the notable events in the closing phases of the Second World War. It was called Operation Manna. In 1955, the Lindolns flew low over the Hague and their flowers and greetings fluttered down to land. To a free land; recalling to the Dutch people below the food that came down to them in 1945 --- just before the liberation. Ten years ago, After nearly six years of the grimest and greatest struggle between nations since the dawn of the world, the Allies had carried the battle into Germany itself; the scourge of war had been sent out from Hitler's ill-starred Third Reich, had come back to the Rhine.

Arnhem was liberated --- the scene of one of the most heroic stands against overwhelming odds --- the deathless glory of the airborne men. <sup>There had been the</sup> false climax of the previous autumn --- when the war had already seemed to be won --- and Von Runstedt's armies postponed defeat with a terrific counter-attack in the Ardennes.

And when that offensive was crushed --- and the armies of the Commonwealth penetrated into the heart of Germany --- the foul prison-camps of Belsen and Buchenwald, proved that the Nazi design for world-conquest was far more horrible than the wildest ~~xxxx~~ had ~~xxxx~~ pictured.

As the conquering Allied Armies marched on --- ~~xxxxxx~~ people began to learn to smile again.

And the vile evidence of unbelievable degradation, was given to the flames.

The armies of Russia, advancing from the east, joined hands with their allies from the west.

A name to remember: Luneborg Heath --- where on a day of May in 1945, Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the surrender of a German army.

U-Boats came in to the coasts of Britain --- surrendering to the island they had tried to starve.

One by one the Nazi chiefs surrendered too. Some cheated the reckoning by committing suicide, others later stood trial at historic Nuremberg.

And in London --- embattled London, bombed and blitzed --- the crowds celebrated V.-E. Day --- Victory in Europe. Ten years ago

In Berlin --- in the ruins --- the German surrender was ratified by her Army's Commander-in-Chief, Keitel. And --- one by one --- the occupied Scandinavian countries were liberated too. Denmark.

And Norway.

And Holland.

Ten years ago. Since then, so much has happened --- and so little has been achieved. But it will be much if, ten years from now, the nations are still calling conferences instead of waging wars.