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THE ARMY



WEEKLY

**The Army Weekly • JUNE 1, 1945**

p. 19

Los Angeles celebrated by launching a 445-foot Victory ship in the California Shipbuilding yards—the 438th ship the yards have turned out. Churches of all denominations held special services, and public offices, retail stores and banks remained open as usual.



From Portland, Ore., came a report of a conversation between a Broadway street car conductor and a young woman passenger wearing a service star.

“So this is VE-day,” the motorman said. “But we’ll have to lick the little yellow men before I go on a toot.”

The young woman said: “And my husband will have to come home before I go on a toot.”



Houston’s reaction was summed up in one sentence: VE-day came to Houston like Christmas morning to the kid who peeked in the closet the week before and saw his electric train.



San Francisco took it easy. Schools closed an hour early, the Bartenders Union voluntarily shut the saloons. The Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsored an “On to Tokyo” rally in the Civic Auditorium. The United Nations Conference on International Organization went right ahead working in the Opera House and the Veterans’ Memorial Building.