

Tuesday, May 8, 1945

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AMERICANS SING, DANCE AND PRAY AT VICTORY NEWS

Times Square Roped Off, Thousands Parade in Wall Street

New York city's reaction was a snowstorm of waste paper that cascaded from buildings as people shouted and sang in the streets. Others openly wept and prayed on sidewalks.

Thousands Parade

Police roped off Times Square and all vehicular traffic was stopped in the financial district. Thousands left their jobs to parade with flags and banners.

Thirty girl workers fainted when the news was broadcast over a public address system at the Continental Undergarment Company, Brooklyn. After they were revived, the firm's president told all 500 employees to take the day off—with pay.

Wall Street Celebrates

News of the surrender spread like wildfire in Wall Street and set off an all-morning celebration by jubilant downtown workers who left their jobs.

Thousands of hatless and coatless stenographers and clerks began to jam the narrow streets in the financial sector within half an hour after word arrived.

Amid streaming ticker tape, scraps of paper and confetti, the cheering throngs celebrated until shortly after the lunch hour. Activity then diminished and streetsweepers were busy cleaning up the mess when the Stock Exchange closed at 3 P. M.

Mass at Treasury Building

Much of the celebrating occurred around the Sub-Treasury Building across the street from the Stock Exchange. The workers vied for positions as news and official Army photographers went to work picturing the crowd, many of whom had newspaper extras announcing "Nazis quit."

At the peak, the crowd jammed Wall Street for five blocks up to the entrance of Trinity Church on Broadway. At 10.30 A. M. the church bells rang and some went inside to pray.

VICTORY NEWS

Business went on as usual in the Stock Exchange. At first, the visitors' gallery was lined with servicemen and civilians, but most of these went outside to join in the celebration.

Plans Two-Minute Silence

Emil Schram, president of the exchange, said a two-minute period of silence would be observed on the trading floor when President Truman officially announces V-E Day.

The Stock Exchange plans to operate as usual Tuesday, but some officials expressed concern that operations might be handicapped slightly if workers in the trading mart leave their jobs to celebrate.

Trading on the New York Curb Exchange was suspended for five minutes at 10.15 A. M.

But perhaps the most active Wall Street participants were some unidentified overzealous persons who from time to time tossed electric light bulbs from the skyscraper windows.