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HANDS ACROSS THE REICH

First contact between advance units of the American First Army and the Russian First Ukrainian Army Group in the heart of the Reich, was made by radio. A Russian Officer, freed from a prisoner of war cage by the Americans, broadcast a message to his countrymen which was picked up and acknowledged. Three days later the actual link-up was made on the banks of the Elbe. We, in this country, heard the meeting described by Frank Gillard B.B.C. War Correspondent, in these dramatic words—

FRANK GILLARD SPEAKS

"This is the news for which the whole Allied world has been waiting. East and West have met at twenty minutes to five on Wednesday afternoon April 25th, 1945. American troops of General Bradley's 12th Army Group made contact with service elements of Marshal Koniev's 1st Ukrainian Army Group near the German town of Torgau on the Elbe. Nazi Germany tottering to her final collapse has been split clean in half. Forces of liberation have joined hands."

History was made on this day, when East met West across the body of the Third Reich. This is the American flag used to signal to the Russians. A bed sheet decorated with paint from a Torgau drug store. From Moscow radio came the voice of Marshal Stalin announcing the historical link-up.

STALIN'S VOICE

And our own Prime Minister adds his voice in celebration of a great and memorable occasion.

CHURCHILL SPEAKS

"We meet in true and victorious comradeship and with unflexable resolve to fulfil our purpose and our duty. Let all march forward upon the foe."
