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A LONDONER NOW

The Thames Valley drew closer to the plains of Texas. London gives honour, praise and a place in her heart to General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. With Air Chief Marshal Tedder beside him in the open landau, General Ike, of Abilene, Kansas makes his historic ride from Temple Bar to the Guildhall to become a Londoner.

First stage of the triumphal progress was to the Guildhall. Here, and later from the balcony of the Mansion House, he spoke immortal words warm and human. In a sense, for a few hours, London and the United States became as one. Officially the tribute was a token Sword of Honour and the Freedom of the City. More simply it was the thanks of the whole British people, freely given and magnificently earned.

NATURAL SOUND

GENERAL EISENHOWER'S SPEECH

"The high sense of distinction I feel in receiving this great honour from the City of London is inescapably mingled with feelings of profound sadness. Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends. Still even such a man would sadly face the facts that his honours cannot hide in his memories the crosses marking the resting-places of the dead. They cannot soothe the anguish of the widow or the orphan, whose husband or father will not return. My most cherished hope is that after Japan joins the Nazi in utter defeat, neither my country nor yours need ever again summon its sons and daughters from their peaceful pursuits to face the tragedies of battle. My Lord Mayor, I thank you once again for an honour to me and to the American Forces that will remain one of the proudest in my memories.

CHIEFS

Whether you know it or not, I am now a Londoner myself. I have just as much right to be down in that crowd, yelling, as you have. You do not have to listen for a motor in the sky and wonder whether there is a pilot in the blankety blank thing or not. We do not have to wait listening with fear for the first wailing notes of the siren. The job has been done - you and others like you in all the United Nations. a word of thanks for your hospitality to my soldiers, who came into your country in great numbers. Often to your great inconvenience, if not irritation. Every Londoner who has taken one of my soldiers

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into his home will always have unquenchable gratitude. I want to tell you one thing. You have done something in cementing the bonds that must always remain between your country and mine, and into which scope must be brought Russia, France and China, and other great countries that have helped to whip the Nazis, and we hope will quickly whip the Japanese. Probably I may never see many of you again. Therefore I say a word of goodbye and good luck.