

1945

YEAR OF DECISION

(The story of the creation of the United Nations  
and the momentous events which surrounded it.)

UNR #13

AERIAL SHOT OF FIRST AVENUE IN 1945

TRAFFIC ON FIRST AVENUE

WOMAN IN WINDOW

STEERS IN RUNWAY

PAN OPEN LOT

KIDS PLAYING

BOY RUNS TO TOP OF MOUND

DISSOLVE TO  
IN BUILDING

FREEZE FRAMES

BATTLESHIP FIRING

HELLS EXPLODE ON IWO JIMA

U.S. SOLDIERS  
CARRYING WOUNDED

U.S. SOLDIERS ADVANCING

U.S. FLAG RAISED ON  
IWO JIMA

VIETNAMESE PLANS TO FOXHOLE

VIETNAMESE FIRING MACHINE GUN

VIETNAMESE BOMBS JAPANESE

The year 1945. The address 800 First Avenue,  
New York City.

On this depressed rectangle of slums, tenements and  
slaughter houses, the towers of the United Nations  
are soon to rise.

But not yet. We are still at war, bewildered by a  
Kaleidoscope of events in one of the truly  
decisive years in all history - A year in which  
one entire age ended, and another began, in which  
the hope of the world would be centered in the  
United Nations.

#### OPENING TITLES

Today we take a sober look at the year 1945 and the  
events that were only dimly seen, at the time, by  
men who were in the forefront of <sup>that</sup> the momentous year.

Let's go back to the struggle that meant everything  
to the men and women who were in it and to the  
families who looked on it from afar.

In the islands of the South Pacific, the Allies  
were bending every effort to drive the Japanese  
back, island by island, China was squeezed by  
three forces: Nationalists versus Communists; and  
both against the Japanese.

Burma was also a battleground, but by 1945 the  
gateway to India was secure.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN BERLIN

CU RUSSIAN DRIVER

GERMAN CIVILIANS PASS  
BURNING BUILDING

WINDOW OF BURNING HOUSE

U.S. Trucks Moving UP

M.P. DIRECTING TRAFFIC

LS REMAGEN BRIDGE

TROOPS EMBARKING  
IN BRITAIN

BALTIMORE SHIPYARD

CU SHIPYARD WORKERS

LS SHIPYARD

CU NUREMBERG SWASTIKA

LS SWASTIKA EXPLODES

ITALIANS BURNING NAZI FLAG

In Europe Russian columns were driving West, headed for Vienna and Berlin. This was the central battlefront of the war.

The Third Reich, the Nazi empire that was to have lasted a thousand years, was being demolished (by vast bomber fleets from the west.) By now Germany had lost 50,000 airplanes, and allied armadas were virtually unopposed.

On the western front, the German armies were pulling back from their last hopeless attempt at an offensive, and the Western allies were almost at the Rhine, ready to greet the Russians on German soil.

Britain, relieved at last from the perils of Nazi bombers, was the great staging area for this final phase of the European war . . . .

and nearly all the necessary boats and guns and tanks and planes were flowing in unhindered from the United States of America - the greatest arsenal in the history of war.

At last, it was over.

U.S. SOLDIER CHISELING OFF  
SWASTIKA ON BUILDING

SAILOR CLIMBS PICCADILLY LAMP-POST

IS CELEBRATION IN PICCADILLY

IS USS MISSOURI

MS JAPANESE SIGNING  
SURRENDER

TIMES SQUARE NEWS SIGN

SOLDIER GETTING KISSED

TIMES SQUARE CELEBRATION

S. SOLDIERS BOARDING  
TROOPSHIP

SOLDIERS SINGING ON DOCK

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS DANCING

BRITONS DANCING IN LONDON

BAND PLAYING IN PICCADILLY

AMERICANS CHEERING IN  
TIMES SQUARE

IF E CROWD IN TRAFALGAR  
SQUARE

CROWDS IN MILAN

NIGHT IN LONDON

The Axis was smashed.

In August.

Japan surrendered.

One hundred million men had been called to the armies  
in World War II. But now "The boys were coming home."

For the second time this century we gave thanks that  
the war was over, and that the nations would  
practise war no more. In that autumn of rejoicing,  
no-one foresaw three wars in the Middle East, no-  
one prophesied Korea, or the Greek guerillas, or  
Malaya, or the retreat to Formosa, or - Viet-Nam.  
And Walter Lippmann had not yet coined the phrase  
for what was to become the enervating, struggle  
of our times: The Cold War.

TWO-SHOT HAMBRO  
BEING INTERVIEWED

CU HAMBRO

PAN TO CITY OF YALTA

FDR AT AIRPORT

FDR AND CHURCHILL LEAVE  
AIRPORT  
IS YALTA MEETING SITE

CARS ARRIVE

PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOOTING

Ambassador Edward Hambro, of Norway, worked with the League of Nations and was at the San Francisco United Nations Charter Conference, in 1945. He compares that world with the world 1919 - when the first war ended.

HAMBRO: I should say that the differences that were most clear to everybody were that the destruction of Europe was on a much larger scale than the destruction after the first world war. Those of us who tried to think in the future thought the most important path before us was to rebuild Europe philosophically and morally as well as politically.

I think that was the first difference that we all noticed and I think the second we all noticed was that the world was bound to be dominated by super powers to a greater extent than after the first world war. After the first world war, after all, we had several great powers which might dispute each other's leadership and after the second world war it was the United States that was the giant and we all believed - I think we all believed - it's difficult to be sure when we think so far back, but we did believe that the Soviet Union would recuperate fairly quickly after its enormous losses and be the other super power and we were aware of the fact that the world might be a bi-polar world for many years to come.

It began in Yalta, a town in the Crimea, on the Black Sea.

Roosevelt was there, pale and sick, screened from the millions who would see this picture only after he was dead.

He was sustained mainly by the hope that a firm peace would grow from the amity of the victorious powers, and that they would commit their union to a world organization called the United Nations.

CHURCHILL ENTERS HOUSE

CHURCHILL INSIDE

STALIN ENTERS HOUSE

PAN MEETING TABLE SHOWING  
STALIN, GROMYKO, VYSHINSKY,  
ROOSEVELT, BYRNES, CHURCHILL,  
AND OTHERS

YALTA SHOTS

CU HAMBRO

Churchill was there, the man who had fought Hitler longest, and whose whole strength and power had gone into welding and wielding the great alliance.

And Stalin was the host. At his side the diplomats destined for high prominence in the age ahead: Vyshinsky ... Gromyko ... Molotov.

The war in Europe was clearly won, but a great deal of winning still remained to be done in Asia.

They agreed on Russian intervention in the war against Japan; they discussed - but did not agree - on the future of China and of Poland.

And they they turned attention to the age ahead, and to a World Organization to keep that age at peace. The five great powers, they said - America, Russia, Britain, France, China - would have the first responsibility. All five would have permanent places in the Security Council to be; and this unanimity would be the Council's main deterrent against aggression.

HAMBRO: We realized already at San Francisco very clearly that there were conflicts between the United States and the Soviet Union. Those conflicts were at times very much in evidence during the San Francisco Conference. So this ought not to have been a surprise to anybody afterwards and at the San Francisco Conference there was quite a lot of fight going on about the rules of vote in the Security Council. All the Great powers wanted the veto power. All of them - each one individually - the United States, and Great Britain just as strong as the Soviet Union, felt that they must be allowed to have the power of veto so as to prevent infringement or violation of what they considered their vital interests.

CHURCHILL, ROOSEVELT, STALIN  
POSING FOR PHOTOS

ROOSEVELT CASKET ON TRAIN

TRAIN LEAVES STATION

MOURNERS AT TRACKSIDE  
AS TRAIN PASSES

LS FUNERAL PROCESSION  
CAISSON WITH CASKET

WOMAN DRYING EYES

LS PROCESSION

HYDE PARK CEREMONY

RIFLE VOLLEYS FIRED

MS TRUMAN AND STALIN  
AT POTSDAM

CU TRUMAN

LS POTSDAM CONFERENCE  
TABLE

MS ATTLEE AT TABLE

RIOTING CROWDS IN MILAN

CU MUSSOLINI

BODY HANGING IN SQUARE

HOLE WHERE HITLER'S BODY  
WAS CREMATED

Of these three architects of the United Nations, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, only one was to survive in power long enough to see the United Nations in being.

Roosevelt died in April.

One of the last things he said was this:

"Some people don't think I ought to open that conference - in case it should fail. They think I ought to wait and see how it goes; and then if it's a success, I can go out and make the closing address. But I'm going to be there at the start - and at the finish too.

Roosevelt's responsibilities now passed to the man who was to lead the United States for seven years ...

Harry S. Truman.

He first met the other leaders at Potsdam. Churchill's successor was Clement Attlee.

The German and Italian leaders were already dead - violently, and within 48 hours of each other. One day Mussolini was shot and exhibited by his fellow-countrymen. Two days later Hitler died by his own hand in a Berlin bunker.

STILL:  
DE GAULLE WAVING TO CROWDS  
CU DE GAULLE

STILL: SPAAK

STILL: ROMULO

JKARNO ON BALCONY

NEHRU ENTERING MEETING

MORE CROWDS IN INDIA  
AND INDONESIA

CU HAMBRO

Exiles returned to take charge once again in the capitals from which they had escaped or been driven.

Men who had fought a long and bitter war were finally back home.

In the years of occupation, new leaders had emerged in countries formerly colonial; and now they were knocking at the door of independence ...

Nationalist parties were awake and active, from Indonesia ...

... to New Delhi, each of them asserting the principle that a country belongs to the people who live in it.

Before the war, one-third of the world had been ruled from Western Europe. In the generation after 1945, over a billion people were to change their allegiance. More than 50 new countries were to assert their pride and independence as sovereign states.

HAMBRO: It is quite clear that very many more nations of today, states which have been colonies, have gained their independence and their sovereignty by peaceful process than anybody would have believed possible 25 years ago, and I think, also, that the ground work has been laid for development aid much more than people realized 25 years ago.

LS FLAG

SEVERAL SHOTS  
CEMETERIES

MAIMED IN HOSPITAL  
WARD

VARIOUS SHOTS  
REFUGEES

BURNING RUINS  
MANILA SMOKING  
BURNING BUILDING  
BOMBED-OUT CHURCH  
HIGH SHOT OF RUINS  
SHELL OF BUILDING

BOMBED BUILDING,  
SLOW PAN

ZOOM IN ON WINDOW OF BUILDING

DISSOLVE TO CU DACHAU VICTIM

OTHER SHOTS OF DACHAU VICTIMS

LS GERMAN TOWNFOLK LOOKING  
AT BODIES

CU FEET PASSING  
CASKETS

This quick and glowing summary of the second war has overlooked one thing: the price the human race paid for the winning of it.

These were our losses:

Battle deaths .... 15 millions

Wounded, maimed, permanently injured ....

26 and a half more millions

The homeless, in a score of countries.....

uncountable.

Cities destroyed:

Coventry ... Dresden ... Hamburg ... Rotterdam ...

Warsaw ... Manila ... Stalingrad ... Cologne ...

Tokyo ...

Many of them beautiful cities, standing for all that we mean by civilization. Yet, civilized men had reduced them to this.

We told ourselves we had done it in the hot blood and the desperation of combat, but even that consolation was denied us in the concentration camps of Dachau and Buchenwald.

The local Germans were brought and made to see what was visible of six million human victims. We shuddered at this dimension of human bestiality.

Wiser men thought of all wars past and wars to come and put the

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE  
SAN FRANCISCO STREET

MOVIE THEATRE NAMED  
"UNITED NATIONS"

AUDIENCE IN THEATRE

THEATRE SCREEN SHOWING  
HILD REFUGEE

CU HAMBRO

THEATRE SCREEN SHOWING  
MAN ON STRETCHER

blame at their own doorstep - saying with Goethe -  
"There is no evil, no crime that I am not capable of."

These pictures were brought to San Francisco on  
the Pacific Coast where, in April, fifty nations  
met to try and give substance to the dream of  
Roosevelt - the United Nations.

These pictures burned a warning into the minds  
of the men who wrote the Charter - that such things  
must not happen again.

HAMBRO: What we tried to do was to lay the  
foundations for a world where conflict should be  
kept within bounds, that is, it would be possible  
to settle conflicts peacefully before they reach  
the acute stage of armed conflict, and we tried  
for that reason also at San Francisco, more than  
in the Paris Conference before the drafting of the  
covenant - we tried more strongly to emphasize the  
economic and social aspects, thinking that if we  
adhered to the same social ideals, we would be able  
to create the atmosphere in the world that would be  
conducive to peaceful settlement of disputes and  
to peaceful change. And that, I think, was the  
feeling that we all had and it was also quite clear  
that all the nations, particularly as you've  
mentioned, those that were occupied, felt that a  
new world war must not be allowed to happen again,  
I think that's all we can say about this.  
An absolute belief that it would never happen again,  
I think, was considered utopian even then.

There was suffering enough that summer, outside the  
concentration camps. That summer and the fall and  
winter which followed.

VARIOUS SHOTS OF  
WAR STRUCK CHILDREN

CHILDREN WALKING  
IN RUINS

US DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS

CU DECLARATION

CU HAMBRO

CU AFRICAN DRUMMING

AFRICAN CROWD  
CELEBRATING

This spectacle in a thousand places stirred the impulse that was to create UNICEF - the United Nations Children's Fund - which grew out of the shame and the revolt at the way the year of 1945 had punished and abandoned its young people.

It was decided at San Francisco that one of the first and most urgent tasks of the United Nations should be to write a declaration of human rights.

It promised that no longer should race or creed or colour of skin subject anyone to treatment as an inferior.

HAMBRO: I think it's quite clear that we are more aware today of the necessity of developing the poorer nations and try, as far as possible, to bridge the gap between rich and poor. I think in that way we have gone further than people expected. I also believe that the international concern for human rights and freedoms is stronger than it was in 1945. It was, of course, strong then in the countries under occupation, but I think that international concern has been growing. We have still got a very far distance to go before it's perfect and it's tragic to see today how much individual freedoms and human rights are being violated, but still the feeling - the intense feeling - among nations and among statesmen that it should not happen, I think, really has grown.

In any age there are always the cynics.

They say - "How can these people rule themselves when they don't have the education?"

AFGHAN MEDICAL  
CLINIC

AFRICAN OPERATING  
ROOM

CUS OF BABIES

FARMER DIGGING  
IN SOIL

FOOD LINES

HUNGRY PALES

MONTAGE OF  
HARVESTING MACHINERY

And the people, having seen Russia grow from feudalism to an industrial giant in two generations and China striving to do it in one, the people said - "we will get this education - now." The cynics said - "how can these people have the energy to build a nation when they suffer from age-old diseases?" But it dawned on people in 1945 that we were at high noon in the golden age of bacteriology. There was new hope for the sick everywhere in such magic new words as penicillin, and the sulphur drugs. They promised an end to their oldest diseases - leprosy and tuberculosis, malaria and yaws, diphtheria and pneumonia, scarlet fever and poliomyelitis.

Between 1945 and 1970 the population of the world increased by over 1200 millions - that is to say, the battle deaths of the war were replaced eighty times over.

It dawned on people in 1945 that we were going to find it hard to feed the world population.

Already that year nearly three-quarters of humanity was hungry. There was famine in Italy and Russia and Bengal and Burma and much of China; and there were unsellable surpluses in Canada and USA and some Latin American countries.

Food could be grown; that was obvious; grown and shipped and stored and sold in quantities enough to feed any conceivable population.

Henceforth the requirements for a decent life were to be a fundamental right for all, not a privilege for the geographically elite. Access to schools and hospitals houses fit to live in and books to read - these were proclaimed - for the first time - as a fundamental right for all.

No-one believed that these things could be achieved overnight, but that they could be achieved in time (and that they should be), was common ground between those who spoke for the rich countries and the poor.

Arnold Toynbee had summed it up. "This is the first age since the dawn of history," he said, "in which mankind has dared to believe it practicable to make the benefits of civilization available to the whole human race."

It was also the first time in history that we had to face the possibility of the extinction of the whole human race. 1945 was - the year of the bomb.

The Objective: to create the ultimate weapon of destruction by the use of the power that locks the particles of the atom together.

SCHOOL CHILDREN  
BY NEW HOUSES

CHILDREN ENTERING  
NEW SCHOOL

SEVERAL SHOTS  
INSIDE SCHOOL  
LIBRARY

CU FACES

CHILD AT MOTHER'S  
BREAST

OAK RIDGE PLAYGROUND  
FERRIS WHEEL

SWIMMING POOL

CU SIGN "PROHIBITED"

LS OAK RIDGE PLANT

SCIENTISTS WORKING  
ON REACTOR

Here at Oak Ridge, in Tennessee, it was done. Scientists from the U.S.A., England, Canada - not to mention the people the Fascists threw out, like Fermi and Meitner and Teller - found the kind of uranium that would work and assembled enough of it to form a critical mass.

BRIEFING SESSION  
AT ALAMAGORDO

23 days after the United Nations Charter had been signed, on July 16th, they tested it in New Mexico.

ALAMAGORDO TEST EXPLOSION

Nineteen days after that, it was dropped on Hiroshima and the war came to an end.

CU LUMINOUS CLOUD

There it sits, the mushroom cloud, and we all live in its shadow. Today we know this force can help cure cancer, can make electric power, can probe the hidden mysteries of life itself. Or it can kill.

AERIAL SHOT OF  
DESTROYED HIROSHIMA

AERIAL SHOT ATOMIC CLOUD  
OVER HIROSHIMA

These were the events of 1945 and threaded through their story is, of course, the story of San Francisco. No diplomatic gathering in history had ever captured the hopes of all the world as did the Organizing Conference of the United Nations when it opened on April the 25th, 1945.

FREEZE CLOUD

FADE TO BLACK

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT  
CROWDS AROUND PLANE

SEQUENCE OF  
DIGNITARIES ARRIVING

IS CROWD AT AIRPORT

CONFERENCE  
WIDE SHOTS

COMMITTEE SESSION

SMALLER COMMITTEE

ANOTHER ONE

AND YET ANOTHER

RYGIE SPEAKING  
STENOGRAPHER

APPLAUDING THE  
FINISHED CHARTER

DELEGATES GETTING UP

WALKING DOWN AISLE

ON TRAIN PLATFORM

The representatives of fifty countries assembled and the conference began.

They agreed on a procedure, moved into committee and started to write the Charter.

They made a General Assembly in which all United Nations member countries would have an equal vote.

They created a Security Council to keep the peace with permanent seats for America, Russia, Britain, France and China and based its power on the rule of unanimity of the permanent members.

They fashioned a Trusteeship Council to help certain colonies to independence ...

... and an Economic and Social Council.

They created the office of Secretary-General and set down the duties of the Secretariat.

Then they signed the Charter they had written and agreed on a way for governments to confirm the signatures of their delegates.

And they went home.

On October the 24th, 1945 the United Nations, as we know it today, began its official existence ...

CU CHARTER TITLE PAGE

.... and the Charter became a treaty, legally binding on the nations that signed it.

CU OPENING WORDS

It began with these words:

JAPANESE PEACE BELL

"We the peoples of the United Nations .... determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind ...

UN PUBLIC LOBBY

and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small ...

ZANETTI MURAL,  
THE PLUMB LINE

and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained ....

BLUEBIRD STATUE IN  
TRUSTEESHIP CHAMBER

and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

CU BRAZILIAN MURAL  
IN GA BUILDING LOBBY

and for these ends

SECURITY COUNCIL  
IN SESSION

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours ....

and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security ...

RUSSIAN STATUE IN  
ROSE GARDEN

SIGN: "ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL"

FLAG ROW

HAMBRO

ROSE GARDEN  
SIGN

ROSE GARDEN  
SIGN

DISSOLVE TO  
EXTERIOR UN BUILDING

CLOSING TITLES

THE END

to ensure by the acceptance of principles and  
the institution of methods that armed force  
shall not be used, save in the common interest ....

and to employ international machinery for the  
promotion of the economic and social advancement of  
all peoples ...

Have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish  
these aims.

HAMBRO: Nations do not become entirely  
peace-loving just because they are members of the  
United Nations and very often the underlying  
conflicts are so strong that not even the spirit  
of the United Nations is enough to secure solutions  
and I would say, as an observer, as my personal  
opinion, that one of the greatest weaknesses in the  
United Nations is that very often the most important  
questions are not even discussed in the United  
Nations because there is a feeling that nothing can  
be done anyhow and it is better not to talk about  
them, and certain people feel that a number of  
conflicts ought to be laid aside because they would  
only embitter the atmosphere of the United Nations.

This may be true but that is still an obvious  
sign of the weakness of the Organization and if  
the ordinary people in the world feel that the  
important questions are left completely on one side  
and are not even being discussed, they will lose  
the hope that the Organization will develop and  
I think that one of the main purposes of the present  
day is to act in such a way that the ordinary people  
will get back their faith in the United Nations  
which I do not think is as strong today as it was  
25 years ago, and my hope is that the United Nations  
will be used in such a way as to give new hope to  
the people all over the world, without whose support  
the United Nations can never amount to what it  
ought to do.