

# The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project



## Core Committee Members

Eric Brazil

Former USA Today Los Angeles bureau chief

Ray A. March

Former editor, Modoc Independent News

Frank McCulloch

Former M.E. L.A. Times, exec. ed. Sacramento Bee,  
Time-Life bureau chief, S.E. Asia and Life bureau  
chief, N.Y. & D.C.

Ward Bushee

Retired S.F. Chronicle exec. V.P. and editor

Warren Lerude

Former Reno newspapers publisher,  
Pulitzer winner, editorial writing

## The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project

Michael Pride  
Administrator  
The Pulitzer Prize  
Columbia University  
709 Pulitzer Hall  
2950 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Mr. Pride:

The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project's core members believe it is historically important to communicate with you as we renew our effort to win Pulitzer recognition for Ed Kennedy, who challenged and defeated political censorship to report Germany's unconditional World War II surrender exclusively and was vilified, professionally crippled and fired by his employer for his heroic effort. This letter and its attachments will, I hope, background you in our case.

Your staff aide Joseph Legaspi has assured us that there is no prohibition in Pulitzer Prize rules that would preclude the resubmission we plan after a disappointing attempt in 2013, and we are proceeding on that assurance.

The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project was inspired by the 2012 publication of "Ed Kennedy's War" by Louisiana State University, which was coincident with the apology by then-Associated Press President Tom Curley for AP's 1945 repudiation of Kennedy's courageous enterprise and his summary dismissal. With technical assistance from the San Francisco Chronicle and the volunteer efforts of a small cadre of reporters and editors, we managed to assemble a representative list of journalistic supporters, to which we are adding significant numbers in our new campaign. (See attachment.)

In every war, there are two kinds of censorship: military censorship, to save lives, and political censorship, by means of which one of the combatants tries to bend the press to its will on matters having nothing to do with saving lives. To personalize this, I became intimately familiar with both kinds when I was a combat correspondent during the Vietnam war, when political and policy censorship was largely a failure. I believe history will show that it has not been effective in any war. It's the policy and political kind that Ed Kennedy violated. Throughout his long career

as a combat correspondent, Ed Kennedy respected military censorship. The historical record shows that his career was ruined and his reputation destroyed because he did the right thing by reporting the news that the entire world had every right to know.

With this resubmission, the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project sharpens its focus. We believe that Ed Kennedy merits consideration for a special citation or award similar to those accorded several distinguished Americans, living and dead, including Herb Caen, James Agee, Sylvia Plath, Walter Lippmann and Duke Ellington. By recognizing, challenging and overcoming political censorship and letting the world know of German surrender, Kennedy upheld journalism's finest traditions. He also saved lives.

Thank you and the Pulitzer board for your consideration.

Very truly yours

/s/ Frank McCulloch  
Senior Adviser  
The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project

Eric Brazil  
embraz@att.net

Ray A. March  
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Co-chairmen  
The Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project

# Decades of Journalists Support the Ed Kennedy Pulitzer Project

“Surely this is also the right time to do whatever we can to correct the historical mistreatment of Ed Kennedy and replace it with a celebration of his brave and lonely performance on behalf of citizens’ right to know.”

-- *Howard Weaver, two-time Pulitzer winner*

**Ball, Andrea**

Austin American-Statesman social services reporter

**Barnes, W.E. “Bill”**

Political editor/columnist, S.F. Examiner (1974-1982)

**Barrett, Greg**

News journalist and nonfiction author

**Benedetto, Richard**

Former White House correspondent, USA Today,  
American Univ. professor

**Bensinger, Gail**

Former foreign editor, S.F. Chronicle

**Berthelsen, Christian**

Wall Street Journal reporter

**Berthelsen, John**

Editor-in-Chief, Asia Sentinel

**Bettinger, James**

Dir. John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships  
Stanford University

**Bhatia, Peter**

Former editor, Portland Oregonian

**Blackstone, John**

CBS correspondent

**Bradsher, Henry**

Retired AP foreign correspondent

**Brazil, Eric**

Former USA Today Los Angeles bureau chief

**Bridis, Ted**

AP Investigative/Terrorism news editor

**Brugmann, Bruce**

S.F. Bay Guardian editor-at-large

**Bushee, Ward**

Retired S.F. Chronicle exec. V.P. and editor

**Calkins, Royal**

Former editor, Monterey County Herald

**Carlson, Lon M.**

Former Oakland Tribune sports and business writer

**Christian, Shirley**

Winner, Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting 1981

**Clark-Johnson, Susan**

Former president Newspaper Div., Gannett Co.,  
former pub. Arizona Republic

**Cloud, Stan**

Former Time bureau chief, Saigon, Washington., D.C.

**Cochran, Julia Kennedy**

Ed Kennedy's daughter

**Crewdson, John Sr.**

Investigator for Project on Government Oversight

**Curley, John**

Retired president, Gannett, Inc.

**Curley, Tom**

Former AP president

**Currie, Philip R.**

Retired Sr. V.P. of News, Newspaper Div. of Gannett Co.

**DeRego, Greg**

M.E., KGO TV/DT

**Deutsch, Linda**

AP special correspondent

**Dubill, Bob**

Former exec. ed, USA Today

**Egelko, Bob**

Former AP legal reporter, S.F. Chronicle

**Enochs, Liz**

President, Northern Calif. Chap. of SPJ

**Fagan, Kevin**

Reporter, S.F. Chronicle

**Foster, Douglas**

Assoc. Prof of Journalism, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern Univ.

**Francis, Mike**

Portland Oregonian reporter

**Gale, Dennis**

Retired AP news editor, North Dakota & South Dakota

**Gallagher, Brian**

Editorial page editor, USA Today

**Gottschalk, Marina**

Reporter, Oakland Tribune retired

**von Hagen, Mark**

Author, professor of history, Arizona State University

**Hamilton, John M.**

Founding dean LSU Manship School of Mass Communications

**Haring, Bob**

Retired AP Dir. of Financial Services  
Former exec. editor Tulsa World

**Heinzerling, Larry**

Retired AP deputy international editor for world services

**Holmes, Mike**

Editorial page ed. Omaha World Herald & Retired AP bureau chief (1977-2004)

**Hook, Gary**

Retired Dir., Editorial Operations, USA Today

**Hooker, Elaine**

Former AP reporter, editor, bureau chief and executive

**Hottelet, Richard C.**

CBS News radio correspondent under Edward R. Murrow

**Huffman, J. Ford**

Independent editor and non-fiction reviewer, Military Times

**Hughes, Polly Ross**

Editor, Texas Energy Report

**Johnson, Jim**

Professor emeritus of journalism, Univ. of Arizona

**Jokelson, Andy**

Former reporter Oakland Tribune and Contra Costa Times

**Jones, Steve**

Former editor S.F. Bay Guardian

**Juillerat, Lee**

Regional reporter, Klamath Falls Herald-News

**Julin, Dale**

KSBW-TV-8 morning and midday anchor

**Kiefer, Frank**

Former editor San Leandro Morning News

**Knee, Rick**

Former President Northern California Chap. of SPJ

**Komenich, Kim**

Pulitzer photographer, S.F. Examiner

**Kramer, Larry**

President and publisher, USA Today

**Lagier, Jim**

AP former bureau chief, Tokyo, San Francisco (retired)

**Lang, John**

AP special assignment reporter 1963-1972

**Lederer, Edith**

AP chief correspondent-United Nations, former war correspondent

**Lerude, Warren**

Former Reno newspapers publisher, Pulitzer winner, editorial writing

**Litzinger, Sam**

Radio correspondent for CBS News, Washington, D.C.

**Livernois, Joe**

Exec. editor, Monterey County Herald, retired

**Loomis, Bob**

Bay Area newspaperman, Oakland Trib, etc. (1964-2001)

**Mackey, Jack**

Sacramento Bee, retired

**March, Ray A.**

Former editor, Modoc Independent News

**Mauro, Tony**

U.S. Supreme Court correspondent for the National Law Journal and the Legal Times. Former national reporter on legal affairs for USA Today in Washington, D.C.

**Mazzarella, Dave**

Former President, Gannett and USA Today International

**McCombs, Allen**

Chino Champion, publisher emeritus

**McCulloch, Frank**

Former M.E. L.A. Times, exec. ed. Sacramento Bee, Time-Life bureau chief, S.E. Asia and Life bureau chief, N.Y. & D.C.

**McGuire, Tim**

Former editor, Minneapolis Star-Tribune

**McKnight, Joe**

Retired AP editor

**Mealey, Mike**

Former McGraw-Hill World News Tokyo bureau chief, etc.

**Meister, Dick**

Former AP political reporter

**Mills, Brian**

Former Fox News, WPBT and WJHL news reporter

**Montgomery, Gayle**

Associate editor Oakland Tribune, retired

**Naegele, Tobias**

Former editor, Military Times

**Newhouse, Dave**

Oakland Tribune columnist, retired

**Nolte, Carl**

S.F. Chronicle reporter

**Norman, Jim**

Retired polling editor, USA Today

**Ogden, Roger**

Retired President Gannett Broadcast Div., former NBC  
London bureau chief

**Olson, Lynne**

Former AP correspondent, former Baltimore Sun  
White House correspondent

**Opotowsky, Mel**

Former Pulitzer judge and retired M.E. The Riverside  
Press-Enterprise

**Pakenham, Michael**

Former editorial page editor, Philadelphia Inquirer,  
NY Daily News; book editor, The Baltimore Sun

**Parsons, Al**

Former editor, Ocala, Florida Star Banner

**Perlman, David**

S.F. Chronicle science editor, Helen Thomas Award  
recipient

**Policinski, Gene**

Director, Newseum's Freedom of Information Ctr.

**Pollard, Vic**

Former Gannett News Service and Bakersfield  
Californian reporter

**Proctor, Stephen**

Former M.E., S.F. Chronicle, Houston Chronicle

**Putzel, Michael**

Former AP chief White House correspondent

**Pyle, Richard**

Retired AP staff writer and Saigon bureau chief

**Redmond, Tim**

Former exec. editor, S.F. Bay Guardian

**Roberts, Michael**

Former newsroom training editor, Arizona Republic,  
Cincinnati Enquirer

**Rodriguez, Rick**

Prof. at Walter Cronkite School of Journalism,  
former pres. ASNE

**Rogers, Dick**

Retired ombudsman & Metro Ed. S.F. Chronicle

**Rosenhouse, Sharon**

Retired M.E. Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

**Rosenthal, Robert J.**

Exec. Dir. Center for Investigating Reporting

**Rutland, Ginger**

Retired editorial writer, Sacramento Bee

**Scheer, Peter**

Executive Director, First Amendment Coalition

**Schmidt, Bob**

Former state capitol reporter, California Knight-Ridder

**Schulke, Robert L.**

Oakland Tribune reporter/photographer/rewriteman (1960s)

**Seton, Tony**

Award-winning veteran broadcast journalist and writer

**Shearer, Ellen**

Co-director at the Medill's National Security Journalism initiative.

**Simmonds, John**

Former assistant sports editor, Oakland Tribune

**Snapp, Martin**

Columnist, Bay Area News Group

**Snyder, Gary**

Pulitzer poet

**Stevens, Paul**

Former AP Kansas City bureau chief

**Stinnett, Bob**

Author, former photographer/reporter Oakland Tribune

**Sussman, Peter**

Former S.F. Chronicle section editor  
Co-author of SPJ's 1996 Code of Ethics.

**Thompson, Marty**

AP former managing editor

**Tomlin, David**

Retired AP associate general counsel

**Veder, Sal**

Pulitzer photographer, AP

**Waller, Michael E.**

Former publisher Baltimore Sun and Hartford Courant

**Weaver, Howard**

Pulitzer winner for public service,  
Anchorage Daily News

**Weil III, Louis A. "Chip"**

Member, Board of Governors, USO, and chairman,  
president and CEO (Ret), Central Newspapers Inc.,  
publisher of Time magazine 1989-91

**Williams, Lance**

Sr. investigative reporter, California Watch & Ctr. for  
Investigative Rept.



**ED KENNEDY  
AND  
THE QUESTION OF JOURNALISTIC ETHICS**

The biggest scoop scored by any reporter during World War II also brought on the war's most profound debate on journalistic ethics, one centered on censorship.

Edward Kennedy, European bureau chief for the Associated Press, filed an exclusive report of Germany's unconditional surrender on May 7, 1945, 24 hours before his competitors. His story touched off worldwide celebration – and fierce controversy.

Kennedy challenged censorship by breaking a military embargo imposed on war correspondents that forbid them to report one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most important stories for a full day. In doing so, he faced a journalistic dilemma: what is the ethical and professional obligation of a reporter confronted with a vitally important story that could ruin his or her career and possibly imperil national security if published?

Kennedy's answer was unequivocal. Alone among several hundred accredited war correspondents in Europe, he recognized the difference between legitimate military censorship and political expedience. He had the nerve and confidence to defeat censorship and report the news, then braced himself for the consequences. "I will fight political censorship wherever I find it...It has been freely admitted no military security was involved here," he later said.

Kennedy acknowledged that breaking the embargo "would cause a storm," and it did. Even as the global celebration continued, adverse reaction set in, and Kennedy became the cynosure of criticism.

The military, taken by surprise, was angry and embarrassed. Premature disclosure of the surrender wrecked "Operation Jackplane," the 24-page protocol developed by the military to deal with "a news event of transcendent importance," such as the surrender. Hours after Kennedy filed his story, the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEP) revoked his war correspondent credential and ordered him back to the United States.

AP refused to defend Kennedy, repudiating him publicly, consigning him to journalistic limbo for months and finally terminating him. Then-AP President Robert McLean apologized, expressing "profound regret" for the incident. Other critics insisted that permitting individual reporters to decide what constitutes military security betrayed a public trust that threatened to unravel the structure of American journalism.

Fifty two of Kennedy's fellow war correspondents, howling mad because they had been beaten on the most important story of their careers, wrote SHAEP a letter calling Kennedy's action "the most disgraceful, deliberate and unethical double-cross in the history of journalism."

(The New York Times exemplified the quandary that Kennedy had created for journalism by his intrepid reporting. It published Kennedy's story of the surrender with his by line under an eight column, four deck headline that dominated its front page on May 8, 1945. The next day the Times editorialized that Kennedy had committed "a grave disservice to the newspaper profession.")

Nevertheless, the brute fact is that Kennedy's refusal to recognize the legitimacy of political censorship in wartime and break the embargo brought relief and jubilation throughout a world exhausted by war, waiting and hoping for the end as loved ones on the front remained in harm's way while it ground down.

Despite the pummeling his reputation took during his lifetime, history has vindicated Ed Kennedy.

A year after the revocation of Kennedy's press credential, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, SHAEP's supreme commander, tacitly conceding that the facts were on Kennedy's side, quietly restored his

eligibility to apply for reaccreditation. But Ike's action did little to end the controversy.

It took an AP apology more than half a century later, on April 20, 2012, with Kennedy long dead, for the definitive validation of his decision to challenge political censorship and report the news.

"Kennedy did everything right," said then-president and CEO Tom Curley. "Once the war is over, you can't hold back information like that. The world needed to know." Failure to support Kennedy in 1945 "was a terrible day for the AP," he said.

Kennedy was among the most experienced and respected American war correspondents in Europe, having covered the Spanish Civil War, the rise of Mussolini in Italy, unrest in Greece and ethnic feuds in the Balkans. During World War II, he reported from Greece, Italy, North Africa and the Middle East before heading back to France to cover its liberation.

Kennedy was one of 17 reporters representing major print and broadcast associations picked by SHAEF to witness the signing of Germany's unconditional surrender in Reims, France, on May 7, 1945. All had been pledged to secrecy until the military cleared the news for release.

While reporters had been told that Gen. Eisenhower wanted the surrender news released immediately, they learned from Brig. Gen. Frank Allen, SHAEF's publicity chief, that Ike's "hands were tied at a high political level" and that an embargo extending until 3 p.m. May 8 was being imposed on reporting the most important event of World War II.

"To me, that meant just one thing – that this was not military but political censorship," Kennedy wrote in his posthumously published memoir. "The absurdity of attempting to bottle up news of such magnitude was too apparent. I knew from experience that one might as well try to censor the rising of the sun."

Upon returning to Paris from Reims, Kennedy learned that the military had in fact broken its own embargo on the German surrender news. It was being broadcast from German headquarters from the border town of Flensburg, to the German people, by Count Ludwig Schwerin von Krosigk, foreign minister in the regime of Admiral Karl Doenitz, Hitler's successor. He assumed that the transmission could not have been made absent authorization by the Allied military, an assumption later confirmed by Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, former SHAEF chief of staff.

Kennedy confronted the chief military censor with his discovery and announced his intention to file the story, which, under the accepted rules of western journalism, was fair game because the broadcast, as a practical matter, broke the embargo. The censor dismissed Kennedy's announced intention as rhetorical posturing.

Using a phone not connected to the military censorship network, Kennedy contacted AP's London bureau and dictated his story, dateline, Rheims. It moved on the wire one hour and 54 minutes after the Flensburg broadcast and headlined every newspaper and led every radio broadcast in the Allied world the next day. Kennedy's story remained exclusive for a full day, because military censors prohibited other accredited correspondents from filing their own stories until the embargo officially elapsed.

Back in the states, Kennedy was alternately lionized and demonized. He wrote a defense of his action "I'd Do It Again" for the Atlantic Monthly and a memoir of his life as a war correspondent, for which he could find no publisher. (That memoir, "Ed Kennedy's War," resurrected by his daughter Julia Kennedy Cochran, was published by Louisiana State University in 2012.)

By then, it had long since become clear that the embargo was the brainchild of President Harry Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who had agreed to announce Germany's surrender simultaneously with the Soviet Union, which was scheduled the next day in Berlin. In imposing the embargo, Eisenhower, SHAEF's supreme commander, was simply delivering a message from higher authority.

Eisenhower, who regarded accredited war correspondents as "quasi officers" under his command,

was furious at the breaking of the embargo and thought Kennedy should face court martial. Brig. Gen. Edward Betts, Judge Advocate General for the European theatre talked him out of it, arguing that a trial would be bitterly fought and highly publicized and that no possible good could ensue to the armed forces even if the army won the case.

(Note: When the controversy over Kennedy's scoop was at its height, Gen. Allen contended that the embargo was in fact imposed for reasons of military security. If the surrender were to be announced solely by the Allies, he said, Eisenhower would be placed "in the position of having broken an understanding with our Russian allies... he feared that the entire chain of negotiations, involving an agreed upon later meeting between the German, Russian and Allied high commands might break down, therefore prolonging the war. Had this occurred, the results would have been deplorable." That defense of the embargo was mentioned again.)

In a 1948 retrospective published in the San Francisco Call Bulletin, Lt. Col. Thor W. Smith, one of three officers picked to investigate the Kennedy case, wrote that "one basic fact which has never been emphasized adequately is that the Chiefs of State... the Big Three... had the fallacious notion, from which no one could shake them, that news about the end of a World War could be embargoed until they chose to announce it officially and simultaneously.... Both before and after the surrender signing, every public relations officer concerned... protested strenuously against such a fantastic embargo of world shaking news."

Smith also observed that "as time goes by, Kennedy's main defensive argument gets better and better. He puts the onus for delay on Stalin, where, in all probability, it actually lay."

Although Kennedy never doubted that he had exercised the First Amendment rights accorded American reporters that he had done the ethical thing, his old friend Wes Gallagher, former president of AP, said he was permanently scarred by the incident. "He became a sad and dispirited man after World War II, always seeking to justify his actions," Gallagher said.

Speaking to the Texas Press Association in 1947, Kennedy elaborated on the political dimension of the decision by Truman and Churchill to accede to Stalin's demand for a simultaneous announcement of the surrender. "Russia was fully represented at Reims by Gen. Susloparov, as plenipotentiary for Stalin, who formally signed Russia's acceptance of Germany's surrender there. The Berlin ceremony was wholly meaningless, except for propaganda purposes," he said, and it was the beginning of the Cold War. "The Russian move was designed to make the Russian people... believe that Russia had defeated Germany, with slight aid from the Western powers," he said.

In his best-selling post-war memoir "Crusade in Europe," Eisenhower made it clear that he had recovered from his anger that Kennedy's journalistic enterprise triggered. "One American reporter published the (surrender) story before the release hour, which infuriated other newsmen who kept the faith," he wrote. "The incident created considerable furor, but in the outcome no real harm was done, except to other publications."

Kennedy was killed in 1963 at age 58, struck by a car while crossing a street in downtown Monterey, CA., where he had been editor and assistant publisher of the Monterey Peninsula Herald since 1949. He is memorialized by a plaque in Laguna Grande Park in the nearby city of Seaside. It bears the inscription "He gave the world 24 more hours of happiness."

## CENSORSHIP AND ED KENNEDY

Before he earned notoriety for his World War II exclusive report on the German surrender, Edward Kennedy was one of the most respected senior reporters among more than 600 accredited correspondents covering the war.

Brooklyn born Kennedy, a working reporter from age 20, was already a seasoned, well traveled newsman experienced in combat coverage when the United States entered the war in 1941. He had already logged five years of reporting under fire in Spain, Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans.

By 1945, he had, in the words of a colleague “personally witnessed more hard fighting and endured more harrowing escapes than most professional soldiers in a lifetime of campaigning.” He was with U.S. troops in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, where he wrote some of the war’s most graphic accounts of fighting at Anzio beach and Monte Cassino before joining Allied troops for the push into Germany through France.

From an early stage of his development as a reporter, Kennedy demonstrated remarkable self assurance and the ability to act independently, whether covering Mussolini’s Fascist Italy, Hitler’s conquest of Czechoslovakia’s Sudetenland or chronic Balkan conflicts. AP trusted his news judgment and management skills and had picked him to manage its Middle Eastern and North African war coverage before placing him in charge of its Paris bureau at age 39, directing coverage for the entire European theater.

Although Kennedy was regarded as a renegade by his principal competitors for scooping them on the German surrender story, he insisted that he always played the game by the rules laid down by Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHEAF). What bothered him was that the military was attempting to subvert the pledge made by the late President Roosevelt that there would be no political censorship of war news.

“All war correspondents were pledged to observe such rules and not to attempt to evade censorship and had signed statements to that effect on being accredited. I had always scrupulously observed this pledge... Apart from the question of wartime censorship, I had never violated a release time set on news, nor have I to this day,” he wrote in “Ed Kennedy’s War,” his posthumously published memoir of his career as a war correspondent. That assertion was validated, in pertinent part, by Associated Press on April 20, 2012.

Nevertheless, Kennedy wore his aversion to censorship on his sleeve and was well known for his frequent arguments with military censors. Reflecting after the war on his action in breaking the embargo and reporting the surrender, he said “if any personal feeling affected my judgment, it was the accumulated vexation of the dishonesties of censorship during five years of war.”

In a letter he wrote to a friend from Cairo in 1941, Kennedy said “censorship here has been unduly oppressive, tyrannical and capricious at times, extremely unintelligent and even dishonest on some occasions.” He complained of errors edited into correspondents’ copy and that “...many censors are unwilling to make decisions and pass the buck... One dispatch of mine went to sixteen different censors and has never been either passed or rejected, though six months have passed.”

Eric Sevareid, a correspondent during WW II and later a prominent TV commentator for CBS, recalled Kennedy as “one of the most rigidly honest, most unflaggingly objective journalists, who never ceased his efforts to free the news... I cannot forget that he did more to hold the military to the letter of the censorship rules, to make them keep their agreements with the correspondents (which they frequently violated) than any other journalist I knew.” (Note: This quote is from Sevareid’s autobiography “Not So Wild a Dream.”)

But Kennedy also had his critics among fellow journalists, none more severe than Boyd DeWolf

Lewis, United Press manager in the European Theater, who called Kennedy a “recidivist violator” of censorship rules.

Lewis regarded Kennedy as his chief competitor. “I could never expect that man to compete by any but dog-eat-dog rules,” he said.

Competition among the wire service reporters was ferocious throughout the war. Minutes counted as they raced to file their copy first, and Kennedy, not unexpectedly, said the idea of communicating his intention to break the embargo with his competitors never crossed his mind. The frantic rush to be first “was imbecilic by any sensible standard. But it was what AP, the UP, the INS and Reuters wanted. It was what we were paid to do,” he wrote in his memoir.

Lewis still held a grudge 40 years after being scooped by Kennedy on the surrender. “He was going to take a terrific licking and he couldn’t take it,” Lewis said in an interview when he was in his 90s. Lewis managed to beat Kennedy in a race to SHAEF’s dispatch center and was first in line to file his surrender story. “So he went around the corner even though he was under a pledge to use the regular system of communications... It would have been better if he had been boiled in oil,” Lewis said.

Former AP President Robert McLean, frequently criticized for repudiating Kennedy the day after his article on the German surrender appeared before he had heard the reporter’s reasons for breaking the embargo, refused to change his position, even though Kennedy asked him to follow Eisenhower’s decision to do so. Nevertheless, McLean said in a 1974 letter to his friend Major Gen. John M. Hightower, a much decorated war hero, that “hindsight seems to suggest that a better course lay open to us than the one we took.”

Famed reporter Bob Considine, who worked for International News Service during the war, said “if AP had not chickened out on him, Ed would be remembered as the intrepid reporter who saw his duty and answered the call.”



"All the News That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION  
Cloudy with showers today. Partly cloudy and cooler tomorrow.  
Temperature Yesterday—Max. 64; Min. 47  
Barometer Today, 30.6 A. M. Sun. 3.0 P. M.

Copyright, 1945, by The New York Times Company.

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Printed at Special-Process Plant, Inc., New York, N. Y.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945.

THREE CENTS NEW YORK CITY

# THE WAR IN EUROPE IS ENDED! SURRENDER IS UNCONDITIONAL; -E WILL BE PROCLAIMED TODAY; OUR TROOPS ON OKINAWA GAIN

## ISLAND-WIDE DRIVE

### Marines Reach Village a Mile From Naha and Army Lines Advance

## 7 MORE SHIPS SUNK

### Search Planes Again Hit Japan's Life Line—Kyushu Bombed

By WARREN MOSCOW  
Special to The New York Times

GUM, Tuesday, May 8.—In an island-wide American advance on Okinawa yesterday the First Marine Division drove south to the edge of Dakeshi Village, about a mile from Naha, the main straightening out the line on our right flank. In the center the Seventy-seventh Army Division used flame-throwing tanks for considerable advances, while the Seventh Army Division moved forward on the left flank.

[Airfields on Kyushu, southern Japan, were bombed Monday and Tuesday by Superfortresses, two of which were lost in heavy air opposition.

[Allied fliers started operating from the Tarakan airfield although fighting continued on that island off Borneo, and in the Philippines American troops made advances on Mindanao and Luzon.]

## Japanese Dead at 36,535

As the United States forces on Okinawa resumed their drive, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz revealed that Japanese killed on the island had mounted to 36,535 on Monday, showing that the Americans were maintaining their rate of 1,000 a day.

The Americans have not yet taken the main Japanese artillery emplacements on Okinawa, which were the principal targets of the fleet of the island. The fleet's guns continued yesterday, along with carrier aircraft, to support the ground movements.

Meanwhile search bombers of Fleet Air Wing 1 continued to give an impressive demonstration of what the tightening air blockade of Japan will mean. Attacking at mast-head height with bombs and machine guns, these long-range aircraft, based in the Okinawa area, sank four more ships in waters off Korea and damaged five others.

The ships sunk were a large cargo ship, a medium cargo ship, a medium oiler and a large fleet tanker. Two small freighters were

Continued on Page 15, Column 2

## Leopold Rescued By 7th Army Troops

By The Associated Press  
WITH THE UNITED STATES SEVENTH ARMY Tuesday, May 8.—Leopold III, King of Belgium, and his wife, Princess Richy, have been liberated by the Seventh Army, it was announced today.

They were found near Stroob, eight miles east of Salzburg. The Americans had been told of their whereabouts by civilians.

With the King and his wife were eighteen members of their staff and four children. All were in good health.

Elements of the American 106th Cavalry Group had to overpower German Elite Guards to make the rescue. Seventh Army troops are now closely guarding the royal party.

## The Pulitzer Awards For 1944 Announced

The Pulitzer Prize awards announced yesterday by the trustees of Columbia University included: For a distinguished novel, to "A Bell for Adano," by John Hersey; for an original American play of the current season, to "Harvey," by T. S. Arthur. Among the newspaper awards were those to Hal Boye, Associated Press war reporter, for distinguished correspondence; to James B. Reston of The New York Times for his reporting of the Dumbarton Oaks Security Conference; to Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer, for his photograph of marines raising the American flag at Iwo and to The Detroit Free Press for "distinguished and meritorious public service" in its investigation of legislative corruption at Lansing, Mich.

Purcell, one of the awards will be won on Page 16.

## MOLOTOFF HAILS BASIC 'UNANIMITY'

He Stresses Five Points in World Charter, but His View on One Is Questioned

By JAMES B. RESTON  
Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—The major allies who forced Germany's unconditional surrender have reached "unanimity" on the kind of world security organization which should be created at the United Nations conference to protect their newly won victory, Vyacheslav M. Molotov, Russian Foreign Minister, said today.

While the delegates at the conference celebrated the end of the European war, and three Foreign Ministers, T. Y. Soong of China, Paul Henri Spaak of Belgium and Trygve Lie of Norway left the conference to deal with urgent official business elsewhere, Mr. Molotov told the press that the Soviet Union attached the "greatest importance" to its agreement reached by the heads of the Big Four delegations.

First, he said, these leaders agreed to support the principles of justice, international law, human rights and fundamental freedom for all.

Second, he added, the Big Four agreed not to make provision in the security charter for the revision of treaties.

His statement on this point was ambiguous and led to some speculation as to the unanimity of all four on the question.

Revision Power Called Danger  
A reference in the United Nations charter to the necessity of revising treaties, Mr. Molotov stated, "would play into the hands of enemy countries, who would certainly like to undermine and consummate these treaties." But therefore, he declared, to give the League of Nations authority to consider revision of treaties would be a violation of national sovereignty rights, which are guaranteed in the Dumbarton Oaks Charter.

For these reasons, he concluded, "the idea of revising treaties was rejected as untenable."

Third, Mr. Molotov said, it was agreed among the Big Four that treaties directed against Germany, such as Russia's twenty-year alliances with Britain, France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Warsaw Pact, "should remain in force until such time as the Government concerned felt that the international security organization was really in a position to undertake the accomplishment of the tasks of

Continued on Page 15, Column 2

## GERMANY SURRENDERS: NEW YORKERS MASSES UNDER SYMBOL OF LIBERTY



Thousands filling Times Square in spontaneous celebration yesterday.

## PRAGUE SAYS FOES ACCEPT SURRENDER

Czechoslovak Radio Reports All Fighting in Bohemia Will Be Ended Today

By The Associated Press  
LONDON, Tuesday, May 8.—The Czechoslovak-controlled Prague radio announced today that the Germans in Prague and throughout Bohemia, a last major holdout pocket of German resistance, had accepted unconditional surrender.

The announcement came as the United States Third Army was reported to have advanced to the outskirts of the Czechoslovak capital, and three Russian armies hammered toward the same goal from the east and north.

"The German military plenipotentiary is negotiating with the Czechoslovak National Council on the modalities of unconditional surrender," said the broadcast, detailing what purported to be the

Continued on Page 11, Column 2

## Wild Crowds Greet News In City While Others Pray

By FRANK S. ADAMS

New York City's millions reacted in two sharply contrasting ways yesterday to the news of the unconditional surrender of the German armies. A large and noisy minority greeted it with the turbulent enthusiasm of New Year's Eve and Election Night rolled into one. However, the great bulk of the city's population responded with quiet thanksgiving that the war in Europe was won, tempered by the realization that a grim and bitter struggle still was ahead in the Pacific and the fact that the nation is still in mourning for its fallen President and Commander in Chief.

Times Square, the financial section and the garment district were thronged from mid-morning on with wildly jubilant celebrators who tooted horns, staged impromptu parades and filled the canyons between the skyscrapers with fluttering scraps of paper, even in the metropolitan area, however, was plans continued to hum, schools, offices and

Continued on Page 7, Column 6

## SHAEFF BAN ON AP LIFTED IN 6 HOURS

Action Comes After Protests From Newspapers and Public—Writer Still Barred

Suspension of filing facilities of The Associated Press in the European theatre was clamped on by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEP), yesterday in an unprecedented action and was lifted six hours and twenty minutes later.

The ban was continued, however, on all copy submitted for clearance by the press association's staff on the Western Front, who set the precedent story announcing Germany's final surrender in a dispatch from Reims, France, which was received in New York over the AP wires at 9:35 A. M. (EWT).

It was not until seven hours and fifty-five minutes had elapsed after

## Summary of News of the War and German Surrender

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1945

The war ended in Europe yesterday after five years, eight months and six days of the bloodiest conflict in history. Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz surrendered unconditionally to the Allies in a little red schoolhouse at Reims, France. At 8:41 P. M. Sunday, New York time, Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl signed for the enemy and Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, General Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, for the Allies. In the absence of any official announcement there was some confusion as to the compliance with the surrender.

Fighting had been going on in Czechoslovakia and nothing had been heard from German pockets along the French coast. [17-8]

President Truman planned a broadcast from the White House at 9 o'clock this morning. Washington, gratified that the war in Europe was over, was confused by lack of confirmation. [2-2]

Prime Minister Churchill will also broadcast at 9 A. M. from London and Premier Stalin is

expected to make a simultaneous announcement in Moscow. King George will talk over the radio six hours later. [2-8] London will celebrate V-E Day today, but, unable to restrain its joy, staged many impromptu celebrations yesterday. [2-7]

Most New Yorkers took the news calmly and thankfully, sobered by realization that the war in the Pacific was far from over. There were, however, noisy outbursts in such centers as Times Square and Wall Street. Scrap paper showers fluttered from roofs and windows. [14-4, 5]

German Foreign Minister Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk broke the news to his people. The future will be difficult, he warned, and then added: "We must make right the basis of our nation. In our nation justice shall be the supreme law and the guiding principle. We must also recognize law as the basis of all relations between the nations." This sudden, complete reversal in German policy was received with

## GERMANS CAPITULATE ON ALL FRONTS

### American, Russian and French Generals Accept Surrender in Eisenhower Headquarters, a Reims School

## REICH CHIEF OF STAFF ASKS FOR MERCY

### Doenitz Orders All Military Forces of Germany To Drop Arms—Troops in Norway Give Up—Churchill and Truman on Radio Today

By EDWARD KENNEDY  
Associated Press Correspondent

REIMS, France, May 7.—Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union at 2:41 A. M. French time today. [This was at 8:41 P. M., Eastern Wartime Sunday.]

The surrender took place at a little red schoolhouse that is the headquarters of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The surrender, which brought the war in Europe to a formal end after five years, eight months and six days of bloodshed and destruction, was signed for Germany by Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl. General Jodl is the new Chief of Staff of the German Army.

The surrender was signed for the Supreme Allied Command by Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff for General Eisenhower.

It was also signed by Gen. Ivan Susloparoff for the Soviet Union and by Gen. Francois Sevez for France.

[The official Allied announcement will be made at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning when President Truman will broadcast a statement and Prime Minister Churchill will issue a V-E Day proclamation. Gen. Charles de Gaulle also will address the French at the same time.]

General Eisenhower was not present at the signing, but immediately afterward General Jodl and his fellow delegate, Gen. Admiral Hans Georg Friedeburg, were received by the Supreme Commander.

## Germans Say They Understand Terms

They were asked sternly if they understood the surrender terms imposed upon Germany and if they would be carried out by Germany.

They answered Yes.

Germany, which began the war with a ruthless attack upon Poland, followed by successive aggressions and brutality in internment camps, surrendered with an appeal to the victors for mercy toward the German people and armed forces.

After having signed the full surrender, General Jodl said he wanted to speak and received leave to do so.

"With this signature," he said in soft-spoken German, "the German people and armed forces are for better or worse delivered into the victors' hands."

"In this war, which has lasted more than five years, both have achieved and suffered more than perhaps any other people in the world."

LONDON, May 7 (AP)—Complete victory in

Continued on Page 3, Column 2 and 8



4 November 2014

The Pulitzer Prize Board  
Columbia University, 709 Pulitzer Hall, 2950 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board:

In this age of Wikileaks, government surveillance and Snowden revelations, questions about the proper relationship between the press and government are more important than ever. Certainly it is abundantly clear that journalists and citizens need to be thinking about this.

The lessons learned from the vitriol and career assassination that followed Ed Kennedy's decision to break an inappropriate news embargo and thereby alert the world to the signing of a European peace treaty in World War II is very much on point. This experienced war correspondent used careful judgment and grounding in American constitutional values in determining that he was being asked to censor what he knew for political convenience—not military necessity—and bravely discarded the order to publish what he knew. Unlike spies or leakers, he did not hide his behavior, but claimed it proudly and defended his decisions unto death.

The unfair and undeserved reprobation was no doubt partially intended to keep less courageous journalists in line. Kennedy struck a telling blow for responsible adversarial relations with the government, but instead of support and praise reaped mainly scorn from government, news industry leaders and even many colleagues.

Redwing Ranch  
Box 200 / Mount Aukum CA 95656  
[www.howardweaver.com](http://www.howardweaver.com)

As an editor throughout the protracted Gulf Wars and post-911 period, I learned repeatedly how easily xenophobia and blind obedience can replace the honest debate that should always animate discussion in a democracy at war. The widespread capitulation of so many national press outlets in reporting the George W. Bush administration's blitz over Saddam Hussein and Iraq's supposed nuclear and chemical threats shows how dangerous and deadly unquestioning acquiescence can be.

One bright spot has been our subsequent examination of how the press failed in that situation. Belated praise for the appropriate skepticism and tough-minded reporting of the Knight Ridder Washington bureau may, we hope, help bring corrections.

Surely this is also the right time to do whatever we can to correct the historical mistreatment of Ed Kennedy and replace it with a celebration of his brave and lonely performance on behalf of citizens' right to know. The Pulitzer Board is in a privileged position to help advance that effort by extending belated recognition of his accomplishment and some corrective attention to the price he was forced to pay.

The facts and history are by now well known, and it's easy to see what the right course is. May I encourage you to join the right side of history in this effort and help rehabilitate a journalistic beacon we would do well to follow today?

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Weaver", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Howard C Weaver



Tobias Naegele  
7958 Bolling Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

Pulitzer Prize Board  
709 Pulitzer Hall  
2950 Broadway  
New York, NY USA 10027

To the Pulitzer Judges:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Ed Kennedy for a special Pulitzer Prize for his courage and drive to report in May 1945 that Germany had officially surrendered to the allies, ending the World War II in Europe.

Ed Kennedy's reporting of the end of the war led newspapers and radio accounts the following day, alerting the world to the most important news event since the bombing of Pearl Harbor brought the United States into the war on Dec. 7, 1941. His was not a scoop in the traditional sense. He didn't doggedly seek out or uncover hidden documents; he didn't shine light on any hidden agenda; he didn't pull together dozens of disparate strands of evidence to tell a greater truth. But what Ed Kennedy did was no less significant: He risked his career to get out an important story that the government wanted to keep quiet, for political, rather than military reasons. And while everyone else in the military press pool in Europe was content to accept that political dictate, Ed Kennedy alone refused. In so choosing, he demonstrated just as much courage and fortitude as he and others had in reporting the war's bloody progress from the front lines in Northern Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

There are good reasons for the military to control the flow of news in certain circumstances, primarily to ensure the safety and security of military operations and the personnel involved in them. Any reporter who has embedded for a military operation in recent times has done so only after signing and agreeing to "ground rules" that limit what can be reported and how, and most routinely observe those rules carefully and go over sensitive content with commanders and public affairs officers to ensure that no secrets are unnecessarily exposed. Those of us who have covered military operations, either as reporters or as supervising editors, know that the application of these ground rules can also go too far. In 15 years as executive editor and, later, editor in chief for the independent Military Times newspapers – Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times – from 1998 to 2013, I sent dozens of reporters and photographers into harm's way to report on wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and to cover sensitive military operations in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. In every case, we agreed to ground rules and limitations, often arguing over wording to ensure our rights to report on what we saw, heard and learned, and most of the time, the process was clean and the public's right to know was protected. It is reasonable for the military to want to protect critical tactics, techniques and procedures from reaching their adversaries, and in most cases, a story can be told without divulging such highly sensitive information. Still, every now and then we ran into public affairs officers and commanders whose efforts were focused not on protecting sensitive military information, but rather on protecting the politics

surrounding it. In Iraq, for example, rules were written to forbid the publication of deceased soldiers out of concern that part of the military's mission was to "sustain the national will," as one officer, now a four-star Army general, put it at the time. He failed to see that sustaining the will is the job of the political leadership; sustaining operations and winning the war is the military's job. In another instance, a public affairs officer seeking to stop a sensitive story on the activities of the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg began by asking that we not include the name of the unit's commander, whose picture and bio were already on the JSOC web page. This was absurd. In still another, we were asked to delay reporting on the susceptibility of body armor to armor-piercing bullets while the Marine Corps rushed improved body armor to Marines in the field. This was reasonable. In every case, my guiding principal in deciding what we would and wouldn't report centered on ensuring that whatever we reported – and whenever we reported it – would not put troops or civilians at any increased risk.

In Kennedy's case, he rightly concluded that delaying the reporting of Germany's surrender was a political, rather than military expedient; that breaking the embargo would not put anyone at increased risk and, arguably, might have had the opposite effect by ending hostilities 24 hours sooner; and that the embargo, having already been broken with US acquiescence on German radio, should no longer be in effect anyway. His challenge to the censors should have been upheld, and the embargo should have been lifted. It was not.

So Kennedy, and Kennedy alone, refused to bow down, just as the Washington Post and the New York Times refused to bow to the national security arguments presented by the government in the case of the Pentagon Papers. Unable to have a private conversation with his editors, he circumvented US censors and got the story out. For that intrepid decision, made at great personal risk and cost, Ed Kennedy is deserving of recognition by the Pulitzer board.

Sincerely,

Tobias Naegele  
Alexandria, Virginia  
703-395-0971

7 November 2014

Michael Pride  
Administrator, The Pulitzer Prize  
709 Pulitzer Hall  
Columbia University  
2950 Broadway  
New York City 10021

Dear Mr. Pride:

Here's a letter of endorsement for the case, made so eloquently in documents sent to you by journalists I've long admired, for honoring the career of Ed Kennedy.

The argument for honoring the memory of Ed Kennedy, the legendary war correspondent, ought to be considered quite strong solely on the merits. That case is nicely summarized in the letter by Frank McCulloch, and fleshed out in the briefing documents by Eric Brazil and Ray March.

I'd like to add my voice to several of the key points, and also extend the argument in a particular way.

Given the current context, in which journalists the world over are increasingly treated like mere transmission vehicles for dissemination of propaganda by one side of another in conflict zones, it seems to me this is an important moment Prize administrators might seize to reassert, and clarify, the primary duty of a journalist to his or her readers, listeners, and viewers. Now more than ever we should emphasize the important role journalists play as honest interlocutors, with prime loyalty always to the public. As a former television correspondent, magazine editor, and director of one of the nation's best journalism programs, it seems to me that Kennedy's example deserves far more attention, and even celebration, against this rather grim backdrop. Among colleagues who also write magazine stories for major outlets, and students in my classrooms searching for guidance on ethical principles, there's plenty of focus on plagiarizers, dissemblers, and dishonest writers who betray our craft.

Too little attention is paid to the stories of those who lived up to the principles we profess and paid an enormous price for doing so. That, in brief, sums up Ed Kennedy's experience. So, part of the campaign to win him a prize is motivated by this effort to rectify the historical record.

There's something larger at work in this effort; it concerns Kennedy's principled stance as a journalist on the toughest assignments of his time, in Italy, the Balkans, Spain, and the biggest battlefields of his time in Europe. Kennedy wrote of "the accumulated vexation of the dishonesties of censorship" and the "tyrannical and capricious use of it," often stupidly applied, in his time. Eric Sevareid called him "rigidly honest," a stunningly powerful characterization against the backdrop I've sketched above. If Kennedy received a Pulitzer award posthumously this year, it would send a powerful message. The backdrop, of course, is the way in which enduring both state actors and non-state actors regularly constrain, censor, bully, and murder journalists.

At Northwestern University, it's a particularly poignant period to reflect on the deep values of journalism. This year, as you know, one of our former students, James Foley, was beheaded in Syria. In essence, he paid the ultimate price for continuing to work in combat zones in much the way Ed Kennedy advocated. This is the right year, then, to reassert the kind of ethical stance Kennedy took.

As a young correspondent in Central America and South America, it often struck me how the carefully-drawn lines about ethical responsibilities of journalists (which my editors rarely mentioned but were presumed to be the standard rules of operation) got so quickly blurred, or hopelessly mangled, when machine guns were involved. Kennedy's example resonates, I think, for a new generation setting out to hold to time-honored principle in the most difficult circumstances.

Here's hoping you'll agree to honor the memory of Ed Kennedy in some way, and seize the opportunity to underscore this principle.

Sincerely,

Douglas Foster  
Associate Professor  
Medill School of Journalism  
Northwestern University  
1845 Sheridan Road  
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Cell: 510 292 9771



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

November 5, 2014

To the Pulitzer Prize Committee:

As a veteran politics and government reporter for more than 40 years, and as a journalism and political science professor for eight years, I am writing to endorse the posthumous award of a Pulitzer Prize to former Associated Press European bureau chief Ed Kennedy. He scooped the world and exclusively broke the news of Germany's surrender in World War II, only to be wrongly charged with breaking an embargo. He was de-credentialed by the U.S. military, condemned by his competitors and abandoned, rather than defended, by his own employer, the AP.

As it turned out, Kennedy did not break the embargo. The embargo was strategically broken by those who issued it in the first place, the Allied Command, which ordered that the news be broadcast on German radio first. Kennedy, aware of the embargo, heard the news on German radio and followed the time-honored journalism tradition of assuming a story is fair game once the embargo is broken by someone. Thus, he only did what good news reporters, who as representatives of the people are supposed to do: provide them with accurate and truthful information they need.

Unfortunately, the AP, under heavy pressure from the Allied Command, did not defend Kennedy, thus blemishing his highly regarded reputation as a reporter of the first rank. After the war, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's chief of staff, Gen. Bedell Smith, acknowledged that the Allied Command had in fact ordered news of the surrender be broadcast first in Germany. But the damage was done.

In a 2012 mea culpa, then-AP president Tom Curley publicly declared that AP had erred in not defending Kennedy and that he had "done everything right" in reporting the surrender.

Therefore, in the interest of righting a serious wrong and honoring a courageous reporter whose reputation deserves to be fully restored, I urge the committee to make this most-deserved award.

Yours truly,  
Richard Benedetto  
USA Today White House correspondent (ret.)  
Adjunct professor  
American University Schools of Communication and Public Affairs.



Reynolds School of Journalism  
University of Nevada, Reno

November 6, 2014

The Pulitzer Prize Board  
709 Pulitzer Hall  
2950 Broadway  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Members of the Board:

I will be thankful if you can add my voice to the rising chorus asking the Board to give consideration for a special Pulitzer Prize citation posthumously to Ed Kennedy for his courage and professionalism in breaking the news of the end of World War II which undoubtedly saved many lives and shamefully and tragically resulted in The Associated Press firing him from its staff that his presence had helped make distinguished.

I have had a sense of moral outrage against Mr. Kennedy's treatment by The AP since I was a cub reporter in its San Diego Bureau in 1961 and read the absorbing story of his story in the classic book, A Treasury of Great Reporting.

Ed Kennedy was at a California Newspaper Publishers Association meeting representing the Monterey Peninsula Herald and I overheard senior AP executives from New York and the Los Angeles and San Francisco bureaus discussing his presence. There has been great disagreement within The AP about Ed Kennedy's fate but I knew where I stood even as a rookie which is where I continue to stand today fifty-plus years later in a continuing journalism career. And that is for the exemplary global public service he performed in journalistic excellence.

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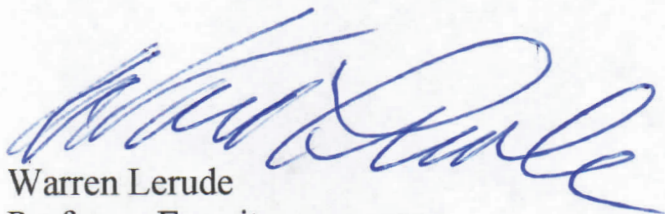
Page Two

I won't go into the detail of Ed Kennedy's well established story and the courage President Tom Curley demonstrated in issuing an apology for The AP's wrongful actions against its own well established and respected veteran war correspondent. The Board will have full documentation of that.

But I will say that in 20 years of newspapering as reporter, editor and publisher, and frequent service on Pulitzer Prize juries, as well as 30 years as a professor teaching media law and ethics that the Ed Kennedy story is one every journalism student should learn—do the right thing when facing choices of right and wrong. Ed Kennedy did, and I think the sum total of the story is worthy of that rare posthumous recognition that the stature of a Pulitzer will make historically significant.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,



Warren Lerude  
Professor Emeritus  
Reynolds School of Journalism  
University of Nevada  
Reno, Nevada



1355 Bleich Road  
Paducah, KY 42003-8701  
May 4, 2012

Dear Mrs. Cochran,

I just finished reading the story on the computer about the AP apologizing for firing your Father so many years ago for the story he released about the end of the war in Europe. When I read that it actually ended on May 7<sup>th</sup>, I was totally surprised. All these years, as far as I know, everyone has been under the impression that VE Day was May 8<sup>th</sup>. What surprises me the most is that I was over there when it was announced that the war was over, and actually flew in our bomber to Holland, thinking that the Germans had declared a truce for the 7<sup>th</sup> only. Let me explain.

I was attached to the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 334<sup>th</sup> squadron stationed in Horham, England. I was a gunner on a B17 "Flying Fortress." The morning of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1945, we all arose thinking we were going on another bombing mission over Germany. Instead we were told that the German Command had called a truce for one day so our planes, which had been loaded with canned food, could fly food to the starving people of Holland. (We did not know that the war was declared over by the Germans at 2:41 A.M that morning). Since the German forces had blown up all the dikes and flooded the farm fields, the people had not been able to raise anything to eat, and evidently the German forces who had envaded them were not feeding them. We were told that we would not be fired on as long as we did not arm our planes and only dropped food, not bombs. We had to fly at almost tree top level to make sure we hit our targets, which were large white crosses painted on the open fields. This, in it's self, is not too good on a large plane.

Our Commanding Officer had told us that after making our "Chowhound Runs", and dropping the food, we could fly around over the country and see the tulips, which were in full bloom, and some of the other sights, windmills, etc. Our pilot wasn't to eager to do this, so we turned and headed back to England. One of the other pilots, Lt. Scurman, decided to do it. Besides his crew members, there were also 4 ground crewmen who had talked him into letting them fly with him since they had never flown over the English Channel and Europe. Sadly, on their way back to England, he flew over a German E-boat base on the North Sea which was guarded by SS Troops, and they were shot down. Only two, out of the thirteen lived. We always said that it was the last plane to be lost just before the war ended, but after reading about your Dad, it seems as if they were lost after the war ended. That changes a lot for me and the history of the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. Our Group was the first to make daylight bombing raids on Berlin, and we lost a lot of planes and men on all our missions, but to lose the last plane, and men, AFTER the war ended is really hard to swallow.

We have a monument to the 95<sup>th</sup> in Dayton, Ohio at the Memorial Garden next to Wright Patterson Air Force Base where every year, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, we commerate the loss of said plane and the men that went down with her. I wish I was going this year, but I'm not. I have printed out the story and would like to take it to show to the few guys that will be there.

I guess that's about all I have to say, so I'll get off this thing and quit bothering you.  
May GOD BLESS YOU.

  
Charles M. Riggs