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First Day Cover: U.S. 50th Anniversary of Allies Liberation of Holocaust Survivors

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**WORLD WAR II
50TH ANNIVERSARY
VICTORY AT LAST
1945**

The Allied assault on Japan continues in 1945 as **Marines land on Iwo Jima** on February 19, planting the flag after three days of stiff resistance. The small strategic island and its two airfields are not secured until March 16. Meanwhile, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's ongoing campaign to retake the Philippines is successful, and the city of **Manila is freed** on March 3. The largest amphibious American operation in the Pacific war, the successful invasion of **Okinawa** begins on April 1. Fighting continues until June 21. On the European front, the Allies advance rapidly across Germany; by April 25 the Soviet army encircles Berlin and **links up** with the Allies at **Elbe River**. Hitler commits suicide on April 30. **Holocaust survivors** rejoice and grieve: after the war, the Jewish dead number nearly 6 million, including at least 3 million murdered en masse in death camps. German forces in Italy surrender on May 4; those in north Germany, Holland and Denmark on May 6. Gen. Alfred Jodl of **Germany surrenders** formally and unconditionally on May 8 at Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters in Reims. **Millions uprooted** by the war that devastated Europe are homeless, including 7 million Jews; the United States and others create recovery and refugee resettlement plans. After the atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9, President Harry S **Truman announces the end of the war**. **Japan's surrender** is officially accepted by MacArthur aboard the flagship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. **Returning veterans** are cheered in ticker-tape parades, but face new economic challenges; those who died in battle are mourned and remembered.

This First Day Cover was produced by Artmaster, Inc., P.O. Box 7156, Louisville, KY 40257-0156.

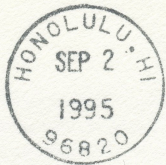


Allies liberate Holocaust survivors, early 1945

WWII
50th ANNIVERSARY

First Day of Issue

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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE