

JAPAN SURRENDERS 1945

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World War II Surrender Documents

JAPAN SURRENDERS 1945

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Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz of the United States signs the Japanese surrender document aboard the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945. Standing immediately behind

Nimitz, from left to right, are General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Adm. William Halsey, and Rear Adm. Frederick Sherman. (Navy Department photograph.)



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Preface

The documents reproduced in this booklet are part of the Federal Government's permanently valuable records administered by the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. These archival holdings date from the days of the First Continental Congress and consist of the basic records of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of our government. From time to time, we reproduce various documents in a publication aimed at reaching a much wider audience than would normally consult the records for research or use in the ordinary processes of government.

This publication is the successor to the 1945 booklet *The End of the War in the Pacific: Surrender Documents in Facsimile*. It attempts to present its material in a more objective manner

than the earlier work, which was written when the memory of the attack on Pearl Harbor was still fresh in mind and the war criminals were still unpunished. The passage of more than 30 years, however, only heightens the importance of the surrender documents, which remain among the most significant records of the 20th century. They range from simple paragraphs in English typed on standard military notepaper to elaborately lettered Japanese credentials affixed with the great seal of a defeated Emperor.

The text was written by Richard Herbert. It was edited by Richard Hall; Robert W. Krauskopf served as consultant.

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States



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Introduction:

The Background of the Surrender

Diplomatic and military events moved speedily and dramatically during the months leading up to the Japanese surrender. The road back from the U.S. defeat at Pearl Harbor, however, had been a long and difficult one. On the diplomatic front, Allied leaders had conferred periodically at locations ranging from Washington, D.C., and Quebec, Canada, to Casablanca and Cairo in North Africa, Tehrān in Iran, and Moscow, the Soviet capital. The surrender of both Nazi Germany and Japan were major items on the agenda, as were discussions of the relative disposition of Allied war power between the European and Pacific theaters of operations.

As in Europe, the tides of war ebbed and flowed on the battlefields of the Pacific until Allied forces began the long drive toward the island heartland of the Japanese Empire.

Major landmarks in this process included the following:

December 7, 1941.

The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, then the base of 70 U.S. warships, 24 auxiliary vessels, and about 300 planes. Four battleships are sunk, 140 aircraft destroyed, and 2,330 service personnel killed and 1,145 wounded. Clark and Iba airfields in the Philippines are also attacked on the same day (December 8 by local time).

December 22, 1941.

A three weeks' conference code-named "Arcadia" opens in Washington, D.C., and is attended by British leader Winston S. Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and their advisors. It emphasizes the "Europe first" strategic principle; on *January 1, 1942*, the Declaration of the United Nations is issued as a statement of Allied war aims.

January 2, 1942.

Manila, capital of the Philippines, falls to the Japanese.

February 15, 1942.

The 90,000-strong British, Australian, and Indian garrison at Singapore surrenders to the Japanese.

February 27, 1942.

Allied attempts to halt a Japanese invasion fleet fail in the 7-hour Battle of the Java Sea, and on *March 9* the 20,000 Allied troops in Java surrender.

January 7-April 9, 1942.

The battle for the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines ends with an Allied surrender.

May 5-8, 1942.

A Japanese naval force is defeated at the Battle of the Coral Sea.

June 3-6, 1942.

American forces sink four Japanese heavy carriers during the Battle of Midway, the turning point in the Pacific war.

August 7, 1942-February 7, 1943.

Guadalcanal becomes the first major Allied offensive in the Pacific.

Mid-January 1943.

Roosevelt, Churchill, and their advisors meet at Casablanca. Roosevelt publicly announces a demand for the "unconditional surrender" of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

March 2-4, 1943.

The Japanese lose 8 transports, 4 destroyers, and 6,000 troops in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea.

May 11, 1943.

U. S. troops invade Attu in the Aleutian Islands and inflict heavy casualties on the Japanese defenders in three weeks of fighting.

Mid-May 1943.

Roosevelt, Churchill, and their advisors meet at the Washington, D. C., conference code-named "Trident." The ambitious strategic plans made at Casablanca for the Pacific are modified.

Mid-August 1943.

At the Anglo-U. S. Quebec conference code-named "Quadrant," it is decided that a new Southeast Asian theater of war should be organized under British command.

November 20-23, 1943.

American forces in a major amphibious operation attack and occupy

Tarawa and Makin Islands in the Gilberts.

November 22-27, 1943.

Roosevelt, Churchill, and the Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek meet in Cairo in a conference, "Sextant," to discuss the strategic offensive in Burma. On *December 1* the conference declares that Japan must give up all Pacific islands acquired since 1914 and all other territories "taken by violence and greed."

November 28-December 1, 1943.

At the "Eureka" conference held at Tehrān, Roosevelt and Churchill meet with the Soviet leader Stalin, who promises that his country will eventually intervene against Japan in the Far East.

May-June 1944.

British and Indian forces repulse the Japanese in heavy fighting at the Battle of Imphāl-Kohīma and clear the way for an Allied advance into Burma.

June 15-July 7, 1944.

American forces assault the Japanese-held island of Saipan, in the Marianas, and overcome resistance after bitter fighting.

June 19, 1944.

About 350 Japanese planes are shot down in the Battle of the Philippine Sea.

September 11-16, 1944.

Churchill and Roosevelt meet at a second Quebec conference, "Octagon," and Roosevelt reveals plans for an offensive in the Philippines to be led by General MacArthur.

October 9-20, 1944.

Churchill, Stalin, and W. Averell Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, meet at Moscow. The scale of eventual Soviet participation in the war against Japan is discussed.

September 15-November 27, 1944.

The offensive in the central Pacific results in a victory for the Allies in the Battle of the Palau Islands.

October 20, 1944.

The U.S. 6th Army lands on Leyte, fulfilling MacArthur's promise to return to the Philippines.

October 23-25, 1944.

In the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Japanese are defeated in the greatest naval confrontation of the war. The Japanese were now employing suicidal *kamikaze* tactics in which pilots

crashed their planes, loaded with high explosives, into Allied ships. (*Kamikaze* means "Divine Wind" and refers to the legendary wind that blew in 1281 A.D. at the behest of the sun goddess Amaterasu, thus turning back the invasion fleet of the Emperor Kublai Khan on its way to invade Japan.)

February 4-11, 1945.

Roosevelt's last meeting with Stalin and Churchill takes place at Yalta in the Crimea. Stalin agrees to intervene against Japan within three months of the expected German surrender.

February 19, 1945.

U.S. marines land on the heavily defended island of Iwo Jima, finally securing it on *March 16*, when the U.S. flag is raised atop Mt. Suribachi.

March 3, 1945.

Manila falls to the Americans.

March 9-10, 1945.

Low-level incendiary bombing at night destroys a quarter of Tokyo's buildings, kills over 80,000 people, and leaves more than one million people homeless.

April 1, 1945.

Some 60,000 U.S. troops invade Okinawa.

April 6-May 8, 1945.

In Europe, Berlin is captured after a long siege. Adolf Hitler commits suicide on *April 30*; on *May 4*, at Lueneberg Heath, German troops in Belgium, the Netherlands, and northern Germany are surrendered; on *May 7*, at Reims, the unconditional surrender of all German military forces is signed, to become effective at 11:01 p.m. the following day; on *May 8*, at Berlin, the formal instrument of unconditional German surrender is signed.

Demand for Japanese Surrender

With the surrender of Nazi Germany, the Allied leaders were able to concentrate their attention on Japan. From July 17 to August 2, 1945, the last Allied conference of World War II, appropriately code-named "Terminal," was held at Potsdam, near the shattered ruins of Berlin. It was attended by President Harry S. Truman, the successor to Roosevelt, who had died on April 12, and by Secretary of State James F. Brynes; by Winston S. Churchill and Anthony Eden and, following the British general election, by Clement Attlee and Ernest Bevin; and by Josef Stalin and Vyacheslav M. Molotov. A new light was shed on the discussions concerning Japan by the news that on July 16 an atomic bomb had been tested in the desert at Almagordo, N.M. The question now arose as to whether an invasion of Japan itself would be necessary. Al-

ready, from the firmly established base on Okinawa, Allied planes flew virtually unchallenged on bombing missions while the American fleet could steam within sight of Japan's most important cities to shell them almost at will. But, while Japan's air force was destroyed and her fleet annihilated, she still had millions of troops in the field and still possessed a considerable empire. Further, there was clearly a grim determination on the part of the Japanese people, in keeping with their cultural traditions, to defend their homeland and preserve the status of Emperor Hirohito.

Therefore, on July 26, 1945, the Potsdam Proclamation, later called a Declaration, was issued by "The Heads of Government: United States, China, and the United Kingdom." Chiang Kai-shek's approval had been obtained by radio and the Proclama-

tion was issued pending a Soviet declaration of war on Japan. The document concluded:

We call upon the Government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all the Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is complete and utter destruction.

The copy of the Declaration in the National Archives of the United States is a reproduction on wartime quality paper. This copy belonged to President Harry S. Truman, who wrote in the signatures of the other heads of state himself.

P R O C L A M A T I O N
BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS,

UNITED STATES, CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

(1) We, the President of the United States, the President of the National Government of the Republic of China and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, representing the hundreds of millions of our countrymen, have conferred and agree that Japan shall be given an opportunity to end this war.

(2) The prodigious land, sea and air forces of the United States, the British Empire and of China, many times reinforced by their armies and air fleets from the west are poised to strike the final blows upon Japan. This military power is sustained and inspired by the determination of all the Allied nations to prosecute the war against Japan until she ceases to resist.

(3) The result of the futile and senseless German resistance to the might of the aroused free peoples of the world stands forth in awful clarity as an example to the people of Japan. The might that now converges on Japan is immeasurably greater than that which, when applied to the resisting Nazis, necessarily laid waste to the lands, the industry and the method of life of the whole German people. The full application of our military power, backed by our resolve, will mean the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitably the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland.

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(4) The time has come for Japan to decide whether she will continue to be controlled by those self-styled militaristic advisers whose unintelligent calculations have brought the Empire of Japan to the threshold of annihilation, or whether she will follow the path of reason.

(5) Following are our terms. We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.

(6) There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest, for we insist that a new order of peace, security and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.

(7) Until such a new order is established and until there is convincing proof that Japan's war-making power is destroyed, points in Japanese territory to be designated by the Allies shall be occupied to secure the achievement of the basic objectives we are here setting forth.

(8) The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku and such minor islands as we determine.

(9) The Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.

(10) We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation, but stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners. The Japanese government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among

the Japanese people. Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.

(11) Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those industries which would enable her to re-arm for war. To this end, access to, as distinguished from control of raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.

(12) The occupying forces of the Allies shall be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished and there has been established in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people a peacefully inclined and responsible government.

(13) To call upon the Government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all the Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.

POTSDAM

July 26, 1945

Harry Truman
Winston Churchill
by H.S.V.
President of China
by wire

Steps Leading to Surrender

Following the Potsdam conference, events moved swiftly and with terrible consequences. On August 6, 1945, at 2:45 A.M. by the watches of its crew, the B-29 *Enola Gay* took off from its base at Tinian. It carried an atomic bomb. Dawn over Japan was relatively clear; instructions from Washington had been to make a bombing mission on the first clear day in August. At 8:15 A.M. (7:15 P.M. August 5, Washington, D.C., time), the bomb was dropped on the industrial city of Hiroshima, base of the 2d Japanese Army. There was a dreadful, blinding explosion over the heart of the city. At least 70,000 persons were killed and many more were maimed by lingering diseases caused by exposure to radioactivity.

In Washington, prepared statements were released to the press. The one issued over President Truman's

name, revealing the power of the atomic bomb to the world, stated that the atomic bomb "is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East." The statement concluded:

It was to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction that the ultimatum of July 26 was issued at Potsdam. Their leaders promptly rejected that ultimatum. If they do not now accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth. Behind this air attack will follow sea and land forces in such numbers and power as they have not yet seen, and with the fighting skill of which they are already well aware.

Until the explosion at Hiroshima, the Japanese had not been warned in any way of the terrible new form of destruction now threatening them, although the phrase "complete and utter destruction" had, of course, been used in the concluding words of the Potsdam Declaration. The terms of the Declaration had been received over the radio by the Japanese, and a censored version had been published in the Japanese press.

The Hiroshima bomb, however, added a new element to the diplomacy leading up to the eventual Japanese surrender. On the afternoon of August 7, the Japanese Cabinet met and was informed of both the Truman statement about the bomb and the extent of the damage to Hiroshima. The Emperor was told the following day that more such bombs would be dropped unless the Pots-

dam Declaration was accepted. Military members of the Supreme War Direction Council, however, managed to postpone a meeting of that body. The delay proved costly. At about 11 A.M. on the morning of August 9 (Tokyo time), an atomic bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Another 35-40,000 people perished.

In Moscow, meanwhile, at 5 P.M. (local time) on the afternoon of August 8, Molotov as foreign minister summoned the Japanese Ambassador and stated that "the Soviet Government declares that as of tomorrow, that is, of August 9, the Soviet Union will consider that it is in a state of war with Japan." Soon, forces of the Red Army were thrusting into Japanese-occupied Manchuria.

In Tokyo, a long debate was held in a meeting of the Supreme War Direction Council that began on the morn-

ing of August 9, Tokyo time. Prime Minister Adm. Kantaro Suzuki and Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo recommended acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, but some military representatives held out for a prolonged struggle, perhaps hoping that better terms could be achieved if an Allied invasion force had to suffer heavy casualties. Finally, at 2 A.M. the following morning, the Prime Minister asked the Emperor himself to make the decision. (Such an Imperial pronouncement was known in Japan as the Voice of the Sacred Crane, because the cry of the crane could be heard even if the bird was hidden from sight in the sky.)

The Emperor then spoke. He recommended acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration with the sole provision that the prerogatives of the Emperor as a sovereign ruler not be

prejudiced. The Supreme Council unanimously approved the decision before the meeting ended at 4 A.M. on August 10. At 7 A.M. the message of acceptance was sent to the American, Soviet, and British Governments by the Foreign Office through the neutral Swiss and Swedish Governments. It declared that the Japanese Government was ready to accept the terms

... issued at Potsdam on July 26

... with the understanding that the said Declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a Sovereign Ruler.

After discussions in Washington and among Allied leaders, a reply was drafted and approved by the Cabinet and President Truman. It stated:

From the moment of surrender

the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate the surrender terms.

The Emperor and the Japanese High Command will be required to sign the surrender terms necessary to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration, to issue orders to all the armed forces of Japan to cease hostilities and to surrender their arms, and to issue such other orders as the Supreme Commander may require to give effect to the surrender terms.

Immediately upon the surrender the Japanese Government shall transport prisoners of war and civilian internees to places

of safety, as directed, where they can quickly be placed aboard Allied transports.

The ultimate form of government of Japan shall, in accordance with the Potsdam Declaration, be established by the freely expressed will of the Japanese people.

The armed forces of the Allied Powers will remain in Japan until the purposes set forth in the Potsdam Declaration are achieved.

After some delay while Stalin attempted unsuccessfully to assume powers of veto over the selection of the Allied supreme commander, the U.S. Government was able by the morning of August 11, 1945 (Washington, D.C., time), to send the Allied response back to the Japanese. The terms were received in Japan early

in the morning of August 12 (Tokyo time) via a short wave broadcast from San Francisco intercepted by the Japanese Foreign Office.

On August 13 (Tokyo time), however, successive meetings of the Supreme War Direction Council and the Cabinet revealed a continuing dispute over surrender terms, with some military elements still holding out. In Washington, D.C., during the long wait for a Japanese reply, the actual instruments of surrender were drafted and Stalin was informed that Gen. Douglas MacArthur would be designated Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to "accept, coordinate, and carry into effect the general surrender of the Japanese Armed Forces." Stalin assented to this and named Lt. Gen. Kuzma Derevyanko as representative of the Soviet High Command during the surrender

ceremonies.

Finally, on the night of August 14 (Tokyo time), the Japanese reply was relayed through the Swiss Government. It stated:

1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript [a personal proclamation] regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.
2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and ensure the signature by his Government and the Imperial General Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration. His Majesty is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval, and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations,

to surrender arms, and to issue such other orders as may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers for the execution of the above-mentioned terms.

Late the same afternoon (Washington, D. C., time) the American Government informed its Allies that they regarded this message as constituting full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration. The Japanese Government was then instructed to command all forces everywhere to stop fighting and to send envoys to General MacArthur in Manila to discuss arrangements for the formal surrender.

At noon on August 15, 1945 (Tokyo time), the Imperial rescript, or proclamation of surrender, was broadcast. An unsuccessful attempt had been made the previous night by rebellious

elements of the Imperial Guard Division in Tokyo to seize the recording of the rescript (a phonograph record) in order to prevent the broadcast. It was the first time that a Japanese Emperor had ever spoken to his subjects.

In Manila that same day, General MacArthur officially assumed his post as Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in charge of carrying out the surrender and, subsequently, the occupation and control of Japan. With all the difficulties of communication, distance, language, and differing Allied commitments, it took several days for the actual fighting to wind down in the Far East. On August 20, a revised version of what became known as General Order No. 1 was given to the Japanese emissaries who had gone to Manila to receive instructions from MacArthur. Under this order, procedures were

set up for ending hostilities throughout the Pacific and Asia, for signing the formal surrender papers, and for initiating the peaceful occupation of Japan. The formal surrender, to be held on the morning of September 2, 1945 (Tokyo time), was to be suitably impressive and dramatic.

President Truman and his advisors wanted the formal surrender to take place as close as possible to the capital of Japan in order to emphasize the full extent of Japanese capitulation. It was decreed therefore that the surrender ceremony should take place on board the U.S.S. *Misouri* anchored in Tokyo Bay. The ship was chosen for fear of demonstrations or fanatical assassination attempts if the ceremony were held ashore. Stalin, in fact, had advised the Americans that it would be better to have the ceremony in Manila. As it was, the

quarterdeck of the Nation's most powerful warship provided a suitably dramatic setting.

Because of the importance of the Imperial role in Japan, the credentials of the two official Japanese representatives, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and General Yoshijiro Umezu, are of particular interest. Shigemitsu's credentials bear the signature of Emperor Hirohito and the countersignature of the Emperor's cousin, Gen. Prince Higashikuni, who assumed the office of Prime Minister in order to emphasize the Imperial family's support of the surrender—a factor of great importance to the Japanese public. Umezu, a full general and Chief of the General Staff, presented credentials bearing the seal of the empire and the signature of Emperor Hirohito. Unlike Shigemitsu, he countersigned his creden-

tials himself with the concurrence of Soemu Toyoda, who was Chief of the General Staff of the Imperial Japanese Navy and head of the Overall Naval Command, the Naval Escorts Command (Sea Convoy), and Chief of the Navy General Staff.

The Japanese Government furnished the English translations of the credentials in plain typescript contrasting with the elaborate brushwork of the Japanese characters in the originals. The year Sy-owa (Showa) referred to in the credentials means "Enlightened Peace." It was the name Hirohito chose in 1929 to symbolize his hope for the future of his reign.

天佑ヲ保有シ萬世一系ノ皇祚ヲ踐メル
 大日本帝國天皇裕仁此ノ書ヲ見ル有
 衆ニ宣示ス
 朕茲ニ聯合國最高司令官ヨリ署名ノ要
 請アリタル降伏文書ニ朕及朕ノ政府ノ命ニ
 依リ且朕及朕ノ政府ニ代リ署名スルノ權限ヲ
 正三位勳一等重光葵ニ付與ス
 神武天皇卽位紀元二千六百五年昭和二十年
 九月一日東京宮城ニ於テ親ラ名ヲ署シ璽ヲ

鈐
 セシム

裕
 仁



內閣總理大臣

裕
 仁

Translation.

HIROHITO,

By the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty changeless through ages eternal,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

We do hereby authorise Yoshijiro Ueszu, Zyosanni, First Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Second Class of the Imperial Military Order of the Golden Kite, to attach his signature by command and in behalf of Ourselves and Our Imperial General Headquarters unto the Instrument of Surrender which is required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be signed.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set Our signature and caused the Great Seal of the Empire to be affixed.

Given at Our Palace in Tôkyô, this first day of the ninth month of the twentieth year of Syôwa, being the two

thousand

thousand six hundred and fifth year from the Accession of the Emperor Zinmu.

Seal of
the
Empire

Signed: HIROHITO.

Countersigned: Yoshijiro Ueszu
Chief of the General
Staff of the Imperial
Japanese Army

Soemu Toyoda
Chief of the General
Staff of the Imperial
Japanese Navy

天佑ヲ保有シ萬世一系ノ皇祚ヲ踐メル

大日本帝國天皇裕仁此ノ書ヲ見ル有衆ニ

宣示ス

朕茲ニ聯合國最高司令官ヨリ署名ノ要請

アリタル降伏文書ニ朕及朕ノ大本營ノ命

ニ依リ且朕及朕ノ大本營ニ代リ署名スルノ權

限ヲ陸軍大將正三位勳一等功二級梅津美

治郎ニ付與ス

神武天皇卽位紀元二千六百五年昭和二十年九月

一日東京宮城ニ於テ親ヲ名ヲ署シ璽ヲ鈐セシム

裕仁



參謀總長梅津美治郎

軍令部總長香月清司

Translation.

HIROHITO,

By the Grace of Heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne occupied by the same Dynasty changeless through ages eternal,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

We do hereby authorize Mamoru Shigemitsu, Zyosanni, First Class of the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun to attach his signature by command and in behalf of Ourselves and Our Government unto the Instrument of Surrender which is required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be signed.

In witness whereof, We have hereunto set Our signature and caused the Great Seal of the Empire to be affixed.

Given at Our Palace in Tōkyō, this first day of the ninth month of the twentieth year of Syōwa, being the two thousand

thousand six hundred and fifth year from the Accession of the Emperor Zinsu.

Seal of
the
Empire

Signed: HIROHITO.

Countersigned: Maruhiko-ō
Prime Minister

The Surrender

The document that the Japanese representatives were to sign was the official Instrument of Surrender, prepared by the War Department in Washington, D.C., and approved by President Truman. It sets out in eight short paragraphs the complete capitulation of Japan. The opening words: "We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan" signify the importance attached to the role of the Emperor by the Americans who drafted the document. The short second paragraph goes straight to the heart of the matter: "We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated."

That morning, on the deck of the

battleship in Tokyo Bay, the Japanese envoys stood before General MacArthur and the other Allied representatives and wrote their names on the marked lines on the Instrument of Surrender. The time was recorded as four minutes past nine o'clock.

After Shigemitsu and Umezaki had affixed their signatures to the Instrument of Surrender, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander in the Southwest Pacific and Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, also signed. He accepted the Japanese surrender "for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan."

The Allied representatives who then signed the documents were all distinguished military men. Adm.

Chester W. Nimitz who, as Commander in the Central Pacific, had headed the largest fighting fleet in history, signed as the U.S. representative. Gen. Hsu Yung-Ch'ang signed for the Republic of China, Adm. Sir Bruce A. Fraser for the United Kingdom, Lt. Gen. Kuzma Derevyanko for the Soviet Union, Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey for the Commonwealth of Australia, Col. L. Moore Cosgrave for Canada, Gen. Jacques Le Clerc for France, Adm. C. E. L. Helfrich for the Netherlands, and Air Vice Marshal Leonard M. Isitt for New Zealand.

At General MacArthur's side as he signed were two distinguished Allied soldiers who had been prisoners of war of the Japanese: Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, captured after his surrender at Corregidor in 1942, and Lt. Gen. Arthur E. Percival, British

Commander at the time of the fall of the Singapore garrison, also in 1942.

Following the surrender ceremonies, Col. Bernard Thielen brought the surrender document and a second Imperial rescript back to Washington, D.C., arriving shortly after 9 P.M. on September 6. The next morning, Friday, the documents were presented by Thielen to President Truman in a formal White House ceremony. At 11 A.M., Wednesday, September 12, following a dignified ceremony led by General Wainwright, the documents were exhibited at the National Archives of the United States. Finally, on October 1, 1945, they were formally accessioned by the National Archives.

In order to facilitate the surrender of Japanese forces in all parts of the Pacific and the mainland of Asia, Emperor Hirohito issued his second

rescript, also on September 2. This document had been dictated to the Japanese emissaries by General MacArthur in Manila. The second rescript called upon all Japanese military personnel to comply with the terms of the general Instrument of Surrender. In order that the full significance of the surrender might be emphasized and a prolonged guerilla conflict averted, the rescript was countersigned by Prime Minister Higashikuni and contained the names of the entire Japanese Cabinet, emphasizing their submission to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

The signatures included those of such prominent politicians as Fumimaro Konoe, a member of the Imperial Family and a former Prime Minister; Mitsumasa Yonai, Navy minister in three previous Cabinets and Com-

mander in Chief of the Joint Staff; and Sadamu Shimomura, former Minister of War.

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER

We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, China and Great Britain on 26 July 1945, at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft, and military and civil property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to the Commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

We hereby command all civil, military and naval officials to obey and enforce all proclamations, orders and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issued by him or under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.

We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government and their successors to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that Declaration.

We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all allied prisoners of war and civilian internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed.

The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender.

Signed at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 0944 1
on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945.

重光葵

By Command and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan
and the Japanese Government.

梅津美治郎

By Command and in behalf of the Japanese
Imperial General Headquarters.

Accepted at TOKYO BAY, JAPAN at 0908 1
on the SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, 1945,
for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom and the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other
United Nations at war with Japan.

Douglas MacArthur

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

W. H. H. H. H.

United States Representative

徐永昌

Republic of China Representative

Bruce Fraser

United Kingdom Representative

Leonid Brezhnev

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Representative

Ed Blamcy

Commonwealth of Australia Representative

Charles F. C. C.

Dominion of Canada Representative

Leclerc

Provisional Government of the French
Republic Representative

M. M. M.

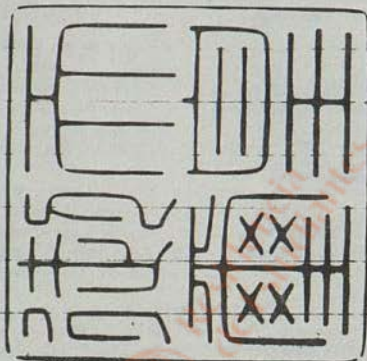
Kingdom of the Netherlands Representative

David L. L.

Dominion of New Zealand Representative

朕ハ昭和二十年七月二十六日米英支各國
 政府ノ首班カボツダムニ於テ發シ後ニ
 蘇聯邦カ參加シタル旨言、揭フル諸
 條項ヲ受諾シ帝國政府及大本營ニ
 對シ聯合國最高司令官カ提示シタ
 ル降伏文書ニ朕ニ代リ署名シ且聯合
 國最高司令官ノ指示ニ基キ陸海
 軍ニ對スル一般命令ヲ發スヘキコトヲ
 命シタリ朕ハ朕カ臣民ニ對シ敵對行
 爲ヲ直ニ止メ武器ヲ措キ且降伏文書
 内閣
 ノ一切、條項並ニ帝國政府及大本營ノ
 發スル一般命令ヲ誠實ニ履行セム
 コトヲ命ス

裕仁



昭和二十年九月二日

內閣總理大臣

國務大臣

海軍大臣

外務大臣

運輸大臣

藏務大臣

司法大臣

農林大臣

國務大臣

內務大臣

商工大臣

厚生大臣

文部大臣

陸軍大臣

海軍大臣

近衛文磨

重光葵

小磯山直登

津島壽一

岩田市造

依田義賢

內山正

中島信

小田多

村敏四

下村敏四

岩田多

下村敏四

岩田多

下村敏四

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Accepting the terms set forth in Declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and China on July 26th, 1945 at Potsdam and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, We have commanded the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to sign on Our behalf the Instrument of Surrender presented by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers and to issue General Orders to the Military and Naval Forces in accordance with the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. We command all Our people forthwith to cease hostilities, to lay down their arms and faithfully to carry out all the provisions of Instrument of Surrender and the General Orders issued by the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters hereunder.

This second day of the ninth month of the twentieth year of Syōwa.

Seal of
the
Emperor

Signed: H I R O H I T O

Countersigned: Naruhiko-ō
Prime Minister

Mamoru Shigemitsu
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Iwao Yamazaki
Minister for Home Affairs

Juichi Tsushima
Minister of Finance

Sadamu Shimomura
Minister of War

Mitsumasa Yonai
Minister of Navy

Chuzo Iwata
Minister of Justice

Tamon Maeda
Minister of Education

Kenzo Matsumura
Minister of Welfare

Kotaro Sengoku
Minister of Agriculture
and Forestry

Chikubei Nakajima
Minister of Commerce
and Industry

Naoto Kobiyama
Minister of Transportation

Fumimaro Konoe
Minister without Portfolio

Taketora Ogata
Minister without Portfolio

Shinshiro Obata
Minister without Portfolio

Surrender in the Philippine Islands

Camp John Hay, Baguio, Luzon, Philippine Islands, September 3, 1945.

In compliance with the Instrument of Surrender, the general capitulation at Tokyo Bay was followed by the surrender of individual Japanese armies in the fields of combat in the Far East.

The honor of receiving the surrender of the Japanese in the Philippines was given to the distinguished figure who had stood beside General MacArthur at the Tokyo Bay ceremony—Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, who had fought gallantly and suffered defeat and captivity in the Philippines. The ceremony took place on September 3, 1945. The setting offered a contrast to that of Tokyo

Bay. It was Camp John Hay at Baguio, in Mountain Province on Luzon in the Philippines.

For Japan, the "Instrument of Surrender of the Japanese and Japanese-Controlled Armed Forces in the Philippine Islands" was signed at 10 minutes after noon, local time, by Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, Imperial Japanese Army Highest Commander, Imperial Japanese Army in the Philippines; and Vice Adm. Denhici Okochi, Imperial Japanese Navy Highest Commander, Imperial Japanese Navy in the Philippines.

Although General Wainwright received the surrender, the document does not bear his signature. Acceptance was by Maj. Gen. Edmond H. Leavey, Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Forces in the Western Pacific.

Instrument of Surrender

of the

**Japanese and Japanese-Controlled Armed Forces in the Philippine Islands
to the**

**Commanding General
United States Army Forces, Western Pacific**

**Camp John Hay
Baguio, Mountain Province,
Luzon, Philippine Islands**

3 September 1945

Pursuant to and in accordance with the proclamation of the Emperor of Japan accepting the terms set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and China on 26 July 1945, at Potsdam and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and to the formal instrument of surrender of the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters signed at Tokyo Bay at 0900 on 2 September 1945:

1. Acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, We hereby surrender unconditionally to the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, all Japanese and Japanese-controlled armed forces, air, sea, ground and auxiliary, in the Philippine Islands.

2. We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated in the Philippine Islands to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft and military and civil property, and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, or his authorized representatives.

3. We hereby direct the commanders of all Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands to issue at once to all forces under their command to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control, as prisoners of war, to the nearest United States Army Force Commander.

4. We hereby direct the commanders of all Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands to surrender intact and in good order to the nearest United States Army Force Commander, at times and at places directed by him, all equipment and supplies of whatever nature under their control.

5. We hereby direct the commanders of all Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands at once to liberate all Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees under their control, and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed by the nearest United States Army Force Commander.

6. We hereby undertake to transmit the directives as given in Paragraphs 1 through 5, above, to all Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands immediately by all means within our power, and further to furnish to the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, all necessary Japanese emissaries fully empowered to bring about the surrender of Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands with whom we are not in contact.

7. We hereby undertake to furnish immediately to the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, a statement of the designation, numbers, location and commanders of all Japanese armed forces, ground, sea or air, in the Philippine Islands.

8. We hereby undertake faithfully to obey all further proclamation, orders and directives deemed by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, Western Pacific, to be proper to effectuate this surrender.

Signed at Camp John Hay, Baguio, Mountain Province, Luzon, Philippine Islands, at 1210 hours 3 September 1945:

Tomo-yuki Yamashita
TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA,
General, Imperial Japanese Army
Highest Commander, Imperial
Japanese Army in the Philippines.

Denhichi Okochi
DENHICI OKOCHI,
Vice Admiral, Imperial Japanese Navy
Highest Commander, Imperial
Japanese Navy in the Philippines.

By command of and in behalf
of the Japanese Imperial
General Headquarters

Accepted at Camp John Hay, Baguio, Mountain Province, Luzon
Philippine Islands, at 1210 hours 3 September 1945:

For the Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Forces, Pacific:

Edmond H. Leavey
EDMOND H. LEAVEY,
Major General, USA
Deputy Commander, United States Army Forces,
Western Pacific.

Surrender in Korea

Seoul, Korea, September 9, 1945.

Six days after the surrender in the Philippines, Gen. John R. Hodge, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces in Korea, together with Adm. Thomas C. Kinkaid of the U.S. Navy signed another formal surrender document, at Seoul, Korea. The document, couched in elaborate language but typed on standard military notepaper, was entitled "Formal Surrender by the Senior Japanese Ground, Sea, Air and Auxiliary Forces Commanders Within Korea South of 38° North Latitude to the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in Korea, for and in Behalf of Commander-in-Chief United States Army Forces, Pacific."

Planners in the U.S. War Department had selected the 38th Parallel as an arbitrary dividing line, with the Americans accepting the surrender of Japanese forces to the south of it and Soviet representatives carrying out the same responsibility to the north.

For the Japanese, the document was signed by Lt. Gen. Yoshio Sozaki, senior commander of all Japanese ground and air forces in the region, and Adm. Gisaburo Yamaguchi, who had similar responsibilities for naval forces. Beneath their signatures was affixed that of Nobuyuki Abe, Governor General of Japanese-occupied Korea, who pledged himself to carry out the instructions of the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Forces in Korea.

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 235, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FORMAL SURRENDER BY THE SENIOR JAPANESE GROUND,
SEA, AIR AND AUXILIARY FORCES COMMANDERS WITHIN
KOREA SOUTH OF 38° NORTH LATITUDE TO THE COM-
MANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN
KOREA, FOR AND IN BEHALF OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC

WHEREAS an Instrument of Surrender was on the 2d day of September 1945 by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial Headquarters signed by Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and by Yoshihiro Umezu by command of and in behalf of the Japanese Imperial Headquarters and

WHEREAS the terms of the Instrument of Surrender were substantially as follows:

"1. We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions in the declaration issued by the heads of the governments of the United States, China and Great Britain 26 July 1945 at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.

"2. We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.

"3. We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, air crafts, and military and civil property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.

"4. We hereby command the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to the commanders of all

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
APO 235, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.

"5. We hereby command all civil, military and naval officials to obey and enforce all proclamations, orders and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper and to effectuate this surrender and issued by him or under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.

"6. We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government and their successors to carry out the Provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated Representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that declaration.

"7. We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all Allied Prisoners of War and civilian internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed.

"8. The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender" and

WHEREAS the terms of surrender were, on the 2d day of September 1945 as given by the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other allied powers, accepted by the Imperial Japanese Government, and

WHEREAS on the 2d day of September 1945 the Imperial General Headquarters by direction of the Emperor has ordered all its commanders in Japan and abroad to cause the Japanese

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Armed Forces and Japanese controlled forces under their command to cease hostilities at once, to lay down their arms and remain in their present locations and to surrender unconditionally to commanders acting on behalf of the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom, the British Empire and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and

WHEREAS the Imperial General Headquarters, its senior commanders and all ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in the main islands of Japan, minor islands adjacent thereto, Korea south of 38° north latitude and the Philippines were directed to surrender to the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army Forces, Pacific and

WHEREAS the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army Forces, Pacific has appointed the Commanding General, XXIV Corps as the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in Korea, and has directed him as such to act for the Commander-in-Chief United States Army Forces, Pacific in the reception of the surrender of the senior Japanese commanders of all Japanese ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude and all islands adjacent thereto. Now therefore

We, the undersigned, senior Japanese commanders of all Japanese ground, sea, air and auxiliary forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude, do hereby acknowledge:

a. That we have been duly advised and fully informed of the contents of the Proclamation by the Emperor of Japan, the Instrument of Surrender and the orders hereinabove referred to.

b. That we accept our duties and obligations under said instruments and orders and recognize the necessity for our strict compliance therewith and adherence thereto.

c. That the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in Korea, is the duly authorized representative of the Commander-in-Chief United States Army Forces, Pacific and that we will completely and immediately carry out and put into effect his instructions.

Finally, we do hereby formally and unconditionally surrender to the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Korea, all persons in Korea south of 38 degrees North Latitude who are in the Armed Forces of Japan, and all military installations, ordnance, ships, aircraft and other military equipment or property of every kind or description in Korea, including all islands adjacent thereto, south of 38 degrees North Latitude over which we exercise jurisdiction or control.

In case of conflict or ambiguity between the English text of this document and any translation thereof, the English shall prevail.

Signed at SEOUL, KOREA, at /630 hours on the 9th day of September 1945.

上月良夫

Senior Japanese commander of all Japanese ground and air forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude.

山口 儀三郎

Senior Japanese commander of all Japanese naval forces in Korea south of 38° north latitude.

I, Nobuyuki Abe, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Governor General of KOREA do hereby certify that I have read and fully understand the contents of the foregoing Instrument of Surrender, and of all documents referred to therein.

I hereby acknowledge the duties and obligations imposed upon me by said documents, insofar as they apply to all matters within my jurisdiction or control as Governor General of Korea, and recognize the necessity of my strict compliance therewith and adherence thereto.

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA

HEADQUARTERS XXIV CORPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

APO 235, c/o POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

In particular do I recognize that the Commanding General, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN KOREA is the duly authorized representative of the Commander-in-Chief, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, PACIFIC, and that I am completely and immediately to carry out and put into effect his instructions.

Signed at SEOUL, KOREA, at 1630 hours on the 9th day of September 1945.

阿部信行

(Governor General of KOREA)

Accepted at SEOUL, KOREA, at 1630 hours on the 9th day of September 1945 for and in behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army Forces, Pacific.

John R. Hodge

JOHN R. HODGE
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding General
United States Army Forces in Korea

Thomas G. Kinkaid

T. G. KINKAID
Admiral, U. S. Navy
Representative of the United States Navy

Surrender in Singapore

September 12, 1945.

There were many separate Japanese surrender documents all told, reflecting the far-flung nature of the Far Eastern battlefields. These other instruments included documents accepting the surrender of the Marianas, the Ryukyus, Wake, and Truk. Of particular significance, however, is the Japanese capitulation in South-east Asia, which took place in Singapore on September 12. The site was symbolic, as the fall of Singapore to the Japanese in 1942 had been a severe blow to the Allied cause. The surrender document was formally entitled "Instrument of Surrender of Japanese Forces under the Command or Control of the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary

Forces, Southern Regions, Within the Operational Theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia."

The use of the British spelling, "theatre," and the recording of the time of signing as "0341 hours (G.M.T.," serve as a reminder that the Supreme Allied Commander in the region was Lord Louis Mountbatten, a distinguished figure in British military campaigns and later in his country's diplomacy.

Because Field Marshal Count Juichi Terauchi, Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, was too ill to appear, General Seishiro Itagaki, Commander at Singapore and Deputy Commander in Southeast Asia, surrendered Terauchi's sword to Lord Mountbatten.



INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER OF JAPANESE FORCES UNDER
THE COMMAND OR CONTROL OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER,
JAPANESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, SOUTHERN REGIONS,
WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL THEATRE OF THE SUPREME
ALLIED COMMANDER, SOUTH EAST ASIA.

1. In pursuance of and in compliance with:

- (a) the Instrument of Surrender signed by the Japanese plenipotentiaries by command and on behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government, and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at Tokyo on 2 September, 1945;
- (b) General Order No. 1, promulgated at the same place and on the same date;
- (c) the Local Agreement made by the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, with the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia at Rangoon on 27 August, 1945;

to all of which Instrument of Surrender, General Order and Local Agreement this present Instrument is complementary and which it in no way supersedes, the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions (Field Marshal Count Terauchi) does hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia (Admiral The Lord Louis Mountbatten) himself and all Japanese sea, ground, air and auxiliary forces under his command or control and within the operational theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia.

2. The Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, undertakes to ensure that all orders and instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or by any of his subordinate Naval, Military or Air Force Commanders of whatever rank acting in his name, are scrupulously and promptly obeyed by all Japanese sea, ground, air and auxiliary forces under the command or control of the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, and within the operational theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia.

3. Any disobedience of, or delay or failure to comply with, orders or instructions issued by the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or issued on his behalf by any of his subordinate Naval, Military or Air Force Commanders of whatever rank, and any action which the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or his subordinate Commanders, acting on his behalf, may determine to be detrimental to the Allied Powers, will be dealt with as the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia may decide.

4. This Instrument takes effect from the time and date of signing.

5. This Instrument is drawn up in the English language, which is the only authentic version. In any case of doubt as to intention or meaning, the decision of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia is final. It is the responsibility of the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, to make such translation into Japanese as he may require.

Signed at Singapore at 0341 hours (G.M.T.) on 12 September, 1945.

陸軍大臣 板垣征四郎
SUPREME COMMANDER
JAPANESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
SOUTHERN REGIONS.



Louis Mountbatten
SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER,
SOUTH EAST ASIA.

Epilogue

These surrender documents marked the formal end to a global conflict that began in Europe in 1939 and ended far away on the great rim of the Pacific Basin. The conflict had been enormously costly in terms of lives lost, injuries, war damage, prisoners of war, and the disruption of national economies and many other areas of national and international life among peoples of differing races, cultures, and political systems. The next quarter of a century, although it did not witness further use of the ultimate

weaponry made possible by the harnessing of the atom, was nevertheless not free of renewed conflict in the areas covered by several of the surrender documents. Civil war raged in the Philippines. A bitter conflict occurred in a divided Korea. A larger tragedy took place in Southeast Asia. All of these conflicts had some of their roots in the military collapse of Japan and in the pressures exerted by Asian nationalism and by Communism to remake the political map of the region.



Residencia
de Estudiantes



Residencia
de Estudiantes



Residencia
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For Further Reading

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