

USS ANZIO  
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V-J DAY EXTRA

# JAPAN SURRENDERED WAR IS OFFICIALLY OVER

TEXT OF THE OFFICIAL SURRENDER INSTRUMENT (on board the USS MISSOURI, Tokyo Bay):

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, July 26th, 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.
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, 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.
4. 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.
5. We hereby command all civil, military and naval officers 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-combat duties unless specifically relieved by him or 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 transportation to places immediately as directed, and to provide for their protection, care and maintenance.

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.

TEXT OF GENERAL OF THE ARMY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR'S REMARKS AS SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER AT THE JAPANESE SURRENDER CEREMONY (on board the USS MISSOURI, in Tokyo Bay):

"We are gathered here, representative of the major warring powers, to conclude a solemn agreement whereby peace may be restored. The issues, involving divergent ideals and ideologies, have been determined on the battlefields of the world and hence are not for our discussion or debate. Nor is it for us here to meet, representing as we do a majority of the peoples of the earth, in a spirit of distrust, malice or hatred. But rather it is for us, both victors and vanquished, to rise to that higher dignity which alone benefits the sacred purposes we are about to serve, committing all of our peoples unreservedly to the faithful compliance with the undertakings they are here formally to assume.

"It is my earnest hope and, indeed, the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past - a world founded upon faith and understanding - a world dedicated to the dignity of mankind and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish - for freedom, tolerance and justice.

"The terms and conditions upon which surrender of the Japanese Imperial forces is here to be given and accepted are contained in the instrument of surrender now before you.

"As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, I announce it is my firm purpose, in the tradition of the countries I represent, to proceed in the discharge of my responsibilities with justice and tolerance, while taking all necessary dispositions to insure that the terms of the surrender are fully, promptly and faithfully complied with.

"I now invite the Representatives of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to sign the instrument of surrender at the spaces indicated."

After the signing of the Japanese delegates, General MacArthur announced: "The Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers will now sign on the behalf of the nations at war with Japan," and signed the document himself. Then, continuing his announcements (such as: "The Representative of the United States of America will sign now"), the General of the Armies presided over the affixing of signatures of the high-ranking Admirals, Generals and Ministers of the Republic of China, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Australian Commonwealth, Canada, France, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

The Allied Supreme Commander then formally concluded the signing of the surrender instrument with these words:

"Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world, and that God will preserve it always. These proceedings are now closed."