

Submitted by Greg Hook on behalf of his uncle Wilson J. Hall, RM3/c USS Catoctin

NPM J FOX  
17, AUGUST 1945

U. S. S. CATOCTIN

Heading:

NR J 3770

RADIO SAN FRAN PASS TO PRESS ASSNS PRUS REUTERS X RDO WASH PASS  
TO ADMIRALTY LONDON X CINCPAC COMMUNIQUE NUMBER 470 RELEASED AS  
OF 1000 GCT 16 AUGUST 1945 AS FOLLOWI X PARA ONE X THE FOLLOWSI G  
SHIPS HAVE OPERATED WITH THE THIRD FLEET IN RECENT ACTIONS AGAIST  
THE JAPANESE HOME ISLANDS DURING THE PERIOD FROM 10 JULY TO 15  
AUGUST X PAREN X EAST LONGITUDE DATE X END PAREN X COLON X BATTLESHIP  
X MASSACHUSETTS INDIAN STOUT KOTA WISCONSIN MASSOURI IOWA NORTH  
CAROLINA ALABAMA X PARA X AIRCRAFT CARRIERS X LEXINGTON ESSEX BENNI  
HANCOCK REEDOLPH THUNDERBOLT YORKTOWN SHANGRI LA BON HOME RECHA  
RD AWSP SAN JACKSON INDEPENDENCE BELLEAU WOOD ONERAY BATAAN COWPENS  
X PARA X CAUISERS X QUINCY CHICAGO BOSTON ST PAUL SPRINGFIELD  
TOWPKA ATLANTA DAYTON OKLAHOMA CITY X SAN JUAN FLINT SAN DIEGO  
PASADENA ASTORIA WILKES BORE THUCHON OAKLAND DULUTH AMSTERDAM  
X PARA X DESTROYERS X DESAVEN SAMUEL N MOORE JOHN RODGERS SCHROEDER  
COGSWELL HEERMAN SOUTHERLAND AULT JOHN W WEEKS COLOSAN WEDDERBURN  
ROWE CAPERTOWN FRANC KNOX ERBEN BLACK MCGOWAN NORMAN SCOTT REMEY  
ABBOT HALE WALKER STEMBERUSHLARD CHAUNCEY HAROLSON MANSFIELD  
LYAN K SAENSON COLLETT MADDOX BRUSH TAUSSIG BLUE MCKEE RINGGOLD  
DASHIEL INGERSOLL KNAPP ENGLISH CHARLES S SPERRY WALDRON MURRAY  
HANK WALLACE L LIND BORIE WADLEIGH MERTZ MONSSEN MCDERMUT MCNAIR  
MELVIN CUSHING

## U. S. S. CATOCTIN

Heading:

FROM 17 WLY TO 15 AUGUST X COLON X BATTLESHIPS X HOS KING GEORGE  
V X PARA X AIRCRAFT CARRIERS X HOMFORMIDABLE HMS IMPLACABLE HMS  
VICTORIOUS HM S INDEFATIGABLE X PARA X CRUISERS X HMS NEWFOUNDLANDS  
HMSX ACHILLES HMCH UGANDA HMNXZ GAMBIA HMS BLACK PRINCE HMS EUR  
YALUS X PARA X DESTROYERS X HMS GRENVILLE HMS UNDAUTD SMS URCHIN  
HMS UNDINE HMS URANIA HMS ULYSSES HMAS QUICKMATCH HMAS QUIBERON  
HMS QUIBERON HMS QUALITY HMS QUADRANT HMS TROUBRIDGE HMS TENACIOUS  
HMS WRANGLER HMS WAKEFUL MSM ERPSICHORE HMS TEAZER HMS TERMAGENT  
X PARA XSREE X IN ADDITION TO THE SHIPS OF THESE TWO STRIKG FORCES  
NUMEROUS VESSELS CONSTITUTE THE UNITED STATES AND THE BRITISH  
SERVICE FLEETS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS OPERATION X THEIR MISSION  
HAD BEEN TO SUPPORT THE FAST CARRIERS FORCES BY REPLEESING THEM  
FREQUENTLY AT SEA X THE TANKERS AMMUNITION SHIPS ESCORT AIRCRAFT  
CARRIERS DESTROYERS DESTROYERS ESCORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS SUPPLY  
SHIPS CONSTITUTE THESE SERVICE FLEETS HAVE TRANSPORTS OIL GASOLINE  
AMMUNITION REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS OIL AND MANY OTHER  
COMMODITIES FROM OUR SUPPLY BASES ACROSS THOUSANDS OF MILES TO  
POINTS AT SEA IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC WHERE THEY HAVE KEPT FREQUENT  
CONTACT WITH THE CARRIERS FORCES BUT THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION  
OF THESE SERVICE FORCES IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR  
THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH CARRIERS PLANE AND BOMBARDMENT FORCES  
TO CONTINUE THESE SUCCESSFUL AND PUNISHING BLOWS ON THE JAPANESE  
HOMELAND X PARA FOUR X IN ADDITION SUBMARINES OF THE US PACIFIC  
FLEET SUPPORTED THE OPERATIONS OF THE CARRIER FORCES BY OFFENSIVE  
OPERATIONS SEARCH PATROLS AND RESCUE ACTIONS BT 162000 AR / JH

NPM J FOX  
16, AUGUST 1945

U. S. S. CATOCTIN

Heading:

NR J3535 -NDP NXZ QNL -A- L5B 150719/583 BLEW GR 58 BT  
CINCPAC HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM CINCLAN X SINCERE  
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF YOUR COMMAND  
ON YOUR DRAMATIC SUCCESSES CULMINATING ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY IN  
COMPLETE VICTORY X YOUR OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC AGAINST OUR BITTER  
ENEMY WILL BE RECORDED AS THE MOST BRILLIANT IN HISTORY X WE OF THE  
ATLANTIC SALUTE YOU X BT

TOR: 1345 / JH

NPM J FOX  
16, AUGUST 1945

U. S. S. CATOCTIN

Heading:

NR J3532 -0- 5D 934 BN 499 -OU- NR 243A ( BONE ) 151<sup>1</sup>~~009~~ A

BT ONE STOP H M GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE  
SURRENDERED STOP TWO ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ARE THEREFORE TO  
CEASE FORTHWITH STOP THREE STOP SOME TIME MAY ELAPSE THEREFORE  
THE ACTUAL INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER IS SIGNED AND BEFORE IT IS CLEAR  
JAPANESE FORCES HAVE RECEIVED AND INTEND TO CARRY OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS C  
OF THEIR HIGH COMMAND STOP ACCORDINGLY DANGER OF ATTACK BY INDIVIDUAL  
SURFACE CRAFT UBOATS AND AIRCRAFT MAY PERSIST FOR SOME TIME TO COME  
BT 151~~009~~A

TOR:1305 / JH

NPM J FOX  
15, AUGUST 1945

U. S. S. CATOCTIN

Heading:

NR J3390 -P- NDD NDI NDP NPN NPO NXZ -QNL- A - SNOW 142301 / 194  
RAFT QXL GR 119 BT

ALL HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD  
MAY TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN  
AND PRIDE IN THE PART PLAYED BY THEM IN ACCOMPLISHING THAT RESULT  
X PARA X THE DEMOBILIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

AND THE RETURN TO CONDITIONS OF PEACE WILL CREATE PROBLEMS TAXING  
PATIENCE AND CONTROL ALMOST AS GREAT AS THE TENSIONS OF WAR X

I ASK THAT THE DISCIPLINE WHICH HAS SERVED SO WELL TO BRING THIS  
DEMOCRACY THROUGH HOURS OF GREAT CRISIS BE MAINTAINED TO THE

END THAT NOTHING SHALL MAR THE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT AND GLORY  
THAT NOW BELONGS TO THE NAVY MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD X

JAMES FORRESTAL BT 142301 / 194

TOR : 2345 / JH

14 AUGUST 1945

FINIS FINIS FINIS

FOLLOWING IS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S MESSAGE ACCEPTING OUR TERMS, AS READ BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN:

COMMUNICATION OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OF AUGUST 14, NINETEEN FORTY FIVE, ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U. S., GREAT BRITAIN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND CHINA:

WITH REFERENCE TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S NOTE OF AUGUST 10TH REGARDING THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE POTSDAM DECLARATION AND THE REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U. S., GREAT BRITAIN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND CHINA SENT BY AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE TRUMAN UNDER THE DATE OF AUGUST 11, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE HONOR TO COMMUNICATE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FOUR POWERS AS FOLLOWS:

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR HAS ISSUED AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT REGARDING JAPAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE POTSDAM DECLARATION.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR IS PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE AND INSURE 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 REQUESTED BY THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ALLIED FORCES FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TERMS. THE END

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\* U.S.S. CATOCTIN \*  
\* \*  
\* Wednesday AFTERNOON PRESS August 15, 1945. \*  
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## WORLD WAR II ENDS

Following is the Japanese government's message accepting our terms, as read by President Truman:

Communication of the Japanese government of August 14, 1945, addressed to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, The Soviet Union and China:

With reference to the Japanese government's note of August 10th regarding their acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and the reply of the governments of the United States, Great Britain, The Soviet Union and China, sent by American Secretary of State Byrnes under the date of August 11th, the Japanese government have the honor to communicate to the governments of the four powers as follows:

His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japanese acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.

His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and insure 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 requested by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above mentioned terms.

The chain of events started when Japan's official reply to the Allied surrender terms was delivered to Secretary of State Byrnes late today. Byrnes immediately left his office for the White House.

Max Grassli, Swiss diplomat, arrived at the State Department at 2206 GMT carrying a dispatch case which presumably contained Japan's reply to Allied surrender terms.

Secretary Byrnes left his office at 2212 GMT and started on his short but historic walk to the White House.

As Grassli left the State Department, he confirmed the question that he had been carrying the note.

At 2245 GMT, it was announced that President Truman had called a news conference for 2300 GMT.

At 2307 GMT, President Truman announced Japanese acceptance of the Allied counter proposal on surrender terms. President Truman also announced that when the arrangements can be completed, the Japanese surrender will be formally accepted by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and that Chinese, Russian and British high officials will represent their countries in this move.

Following is the text of an official message by Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, to all hands:

All hands of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard may take satisfaction in the conclusion of the war against Japan and pride in the part played by them in accomplishing that result.

The demobilization of the Armed Forces of the United States and the return to conditions of peace will create problems taxing patience and control almost as great as the tensions of war. I ask that the discipline which has served so well to bring this Democracy through hours of great crisis be maintained to the end that nothing shall mar the record of accomplishment and glory that now belongs to the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. - Signed: James Forrestal.