

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

THE RATTTLER

B-29s FROM PYOTE TO TOKYO!

Rattlesnake Army Air Field, Pyote, Texas

August 14, 1945

WAR OVER! JAPAN SURRENDERS!

"The Japanese have accepted unconditional surrender." So said President Harry S. Truman at 6 PM (CWT) and thus brought to a close the second and final phase of World War II.

Negotiations for surrender had been underway since Friday morning when the Japanese broadcast, and sent through diplomatic channels, a request for surrender providing the Emperor would be allowed to keep his sovereignty.

The United States, with Russia, Great Britain, and China concurring, informed the Swiss and Swedish legations (who handled the Jap request) that the Emperor could remain on the throne providing he obeyed the orders of the Allied Commander of the occu-

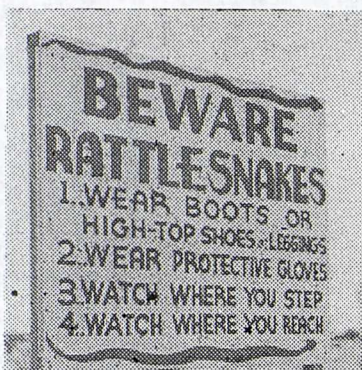
pation, ordered all troops to surrender in the field, and signed the surrender.

Since that time, diplomats have taken over, and after several false alarms and nervous delays the news finally came through. The war is over.

Three months after the fall of Germany, Japan met its defeat speeded by the entry of Russia and the use of the atomic bomb.

Arrangements are now underway for the formal signing of the surrender. Chinese, British, Russian and American officials will be on hand and that date—the date of the signing—will be designated by President Truman as V-J Day.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Twice selected by Camp Newspaper Service as one of the best GI newspapers in the world, 1944, 1945.

THE RATTLER

PYOTE, TEXAS

Published for the personnel of Pyote Army Air Field by the Information and Education section, with the cooperation of Public Relations. All material is reviewed prior to publication by the Public Relations Officer.

The RATTLER receives Camp Newspaper Service material, republication of which is forbidden without permission of CNS, 205 E. 42nd St., N.Y.C. All other material herein may be republished. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and should not be construed as necessarily those of the Army Air Force.

Pictures by Base Photo Lab.

COL. A. E. KEY, STATION COMMANDANT

Lt. W. C. Gruben, I & E Officer
Lt. Walter C. Van Buren, Public Relations Officer

RATTLER STAFF: S/Sgt. Robert H. Nash, Cpl. Edward C. Koops,
and Cpl. Marie A. Rados

Well, This Is It!

Well, boys, that's it.

The guys who were drafted from farms and offices and shops, who laid down their pencils, screw-drivers, and hoes, and got into uniforms, just finished licking the tar out of two of the mightiest war machines the world has ever conceived.

Yes, the "soft, milk-veined" Americans, who didn't want to wage war, dug in, rolled up their sleeves and beat the socks off the war-lords.

We've got a right to feel proud and a right to feel humble.

We've got a right to blow whistles and yell and laugh and shout at strangers on the street. Yet, there will be no shame in tears today.

We won a war against tyranny and oppression. It took an awful lot of blood to win it. It took Chinese and Russian blood, British and French blood, and negro and Nisei blood.

Remember that, guys, we didn't win it alone. We couldn't have won it alone. And don't let any sixth-grade schoolma'am teach you kids different.

And remember too, there were a lot of fellows who fought to make this day of Peace come true that didn't live to see it.

Don't let them down. Please God, don't let them down.

Yessir, fellows, that's it. We've done the job of waging war. Now we've got the job of waging peace.

We've got the job of making our country, our state, our hometown, and the home on Spruce street a better one than it was December 6, 1941.

We've got the job of raising families, running businesses, keeping our houses in order, and living a happy life.

And we've got the job of seeing that those kids of ours never have to go through this kind of hell again.

That's our job. It's a big one; it's a good one.

United, we've won a war we couldn't have won alone. Maybe from that we can take a lesson in teamwork.

From that war we have earned a right to peace a lot of guys didn't live to see. Maybe from that we can take a lesson in sacrifice.

And most of all, guys, we won a war and the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, with the help of Almighty God. Maybe from that, we can take a lesson in prayer.

We've won a war today, fellas, To celebrate that victory, regardless of faith or creed, or lack of it, make a visit to the Chapel today and thank God it's over and we won, and ask Him for help through the tough and lovely years that lie ahead. Amen.

Headlines from the War Against Japan

1941

Oct. 16: Japanese cabinet of Prince Koye resigns.

Oct. 19: Tojo named Premier of Japan.

Nov. 10: Churchill told Tokyo that Britain would declare war on Japan and the United States.

Nov. 17: President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull receive special Japanese envoys for conference on the Far Eastern situation.

Nov. 21: Negotiations between the State Dept. and Japanese envoys ran into difficulties.

Dec. 6: Roosevelt sent an appeal to Emperor Hirohito to avoid a conflict in the Pacific.

Dec. 7: Japan declared war against the United States, Great Britain; before the declaration reached Washington by air or cable, Japan attacked Hawaii, the Philippines, and other American possessions in the Pacific.

Dec. 8: Great Britain and Canada declared war on Japan, as did Panama, Yugoslavia and the United States.

Dec. 9: Japanese forces landed on Luzon.

Dec. 10: Japanese forces sink the Prince of Wales and Repulse off Malaya.

Dec. 12: Japan occupied Guam.

Dec. 23: Hong Kong gives up to Japanese.

Dec. 27: Japs bombed the undefended city of Manila.

1942

Jan. 2: Japanese forces occupied Manila.

Feb. 9: Japanese landed on New Guinea and New Britain.

Feb. 15: Singapore falls to Japs, surrenders unconditionally.

Feb. 23: Jap submarine shelled the California coast.

Mar. 9: Japan completed occupation of Rangoon.

Mar. 13: Japs made landings on Buka, on Solomon islands northeast of Australia.

Mar. 16: U.S. Troops reached Australia.

Mar. 17: MacArthur reached Australia from the Philippines.

Mar. 27: Sumatra fell to the Japs.

Apr. 8: Cebu captured by Japs.

Apr. 9: U.S. Forces on Bataan surrender to Japs.

Apr. 18: U.S. plane squadron bombed Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, and Osaka.

June 4: Midway Island attacked by Japs who suffered severe setback.

June 7: Japs land on Kiska and Attu islands in the Aleutians.

Aug. 7: U.S. Marines started attack on Guadalcanal.

Nov. 12: Great sea battle off Guadalcanal repulses Jap fleet.

1943

Apr. 28: Chiang Kai-Shek, premier of the Chinese people, revealed

ed that the Japs massacred every man, woman and child in the area in which Doolittle's fliers landed after the Tokyo bombing.

Aug. 15: Troops landed on Kiska Island in the Aleutians, discovered the Japs had already fled.

Nov. 22: Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang-Kai-Shek hold conference at Cairo, declare only Unconditional Surrender for Japan.

1944

Jan. 1: U.S. enlarges beachheads on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

Jan. 23: U.S. Navy planes bombs Paramushiru, back door to Japan.

Jan. 27: Death March from Bataan revealed by three escaping officers.

Jan. 30: Admiralty and Marshal Islands under continuous bombardment.

Jan. 31: Marine and Army men land on Roi and Kwajalein islands.

Feb. 3: Marshal Islands capture completed by U.S.

Mar. 31: Russia ends an agreement with Japan over fishing rights in Siberian waters.

Apr. 1: Task force destroys portion of Jap fleet near Palau Isle.

Apr. 20: Japs attempt to reinforce troops in China.

Apr. 21: Stilwell encircles Japs in central China.

Apr. 22: Japs continue retreat across Burma.

May 2: Air Force raids Truk again.

May 27: U.S. troops invade Biak Island in the Dutch Netherlands, 900 miles from the Philippines.

May 31: American forces cut the

June 15: B-29s roared into action, bombed Jap home islands.

July 18: Japan announces that Tojo has been succeeded as Premier by General Umezu. The Tojo cabinet resigned.

July 21: U.S. forces invade Guam.

Sept. 14: Burma road reopened.

Oct. 16: U.S. task force cripples Jap fleet off Formosa.

Oct. 19: Philippines invaded.

1945

Feb. 16: Carrier based planes attacked Tokyo.

Feb. 17: Americans invade Manila.

Mar. 3: Manila falls to Allies.

Mar. 30: Iwo Jima in Allied hands.

Mar. 30: American forces invade Okinawa.

Apr. 4: Russia denounced neutrality pact with Japan.

May 5: Japan began using suicide planes.

June 29: Blockade started against Japan.

Aug. 2: Potsdam ultimatum.

Aug. 3: B-32 in action against Jap.

Aug. 6: Atomic bomb spreads havoc in Japan.

Aug. 8: Russia declared war on Japan.



This was the face of the enemy — Japanese officers who formed the military clique that brought Japan to ruin and surrender.

WOMAN OF JAPAN



A Japanese woman looks to the sky. The women of Japan were given the hardest physical labors.



This is Tokyo as it looked during an air-raid drill in 1942. The city was rebuilt after the 1923 earthquake only to be shellacked by bombs and shells. It was the third largest city in the world and capital of Japan.

BLACK DRAGON



Mitsuro Toyama, chief of the Black Dragon Society, used terrorism, violence, and assassination to further the ends of the Jap dream of conquest.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS HORSE



The Emperor Hirohito, God of Japan, rides his famous white horse during a review of troops during the earlier days of the Jap conquest.



The Japanese prepared their youngsters for a war that was to last a hundred years. Children were given uniforms and guns, taught that Americans were barbarians and savages.

The Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces to represent the United States at formal treaty ceremonies will be General Douglas MacArthur. The other Allied powers will also be represented by high-ranking military officials.

Truman did not announce the time he received the Jap surrender, and the first official news came at a press conference at 6 p.m. (Central War Time).

The Japanese acceptance of unconditional surrender stated that they would abide by the terms of the Potsdam Ultimatum, which was declared at the Potsdam conference of the Big 3 by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill, and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

The news of the surrender came to a nation that had been waiting over 60 hours for a reply from Japan to the terms laid down by the four major powers Saturday morning.

Early Sunday morning, Tokyo time, Foreign Minister Togo held a lengthy conference with the Emperor. And Sunday editorials in Japan began to prepare the Japanese public for the unconditional surrender announcement. Though not informing the readers of the request for surrender, the newspapers played up the importance of keeping Japan alive, no matter what hardships the coming weeks might bring.

The editorials implored the people to obey strictly the demands of the Emperor no matter what they be. One editorial stated that the current situation was "the worst ever witnessed in Jap history". They also stated that Japan "must not sacrifice the future of the race".

Two main factors brought out about the Japanese capitulation (a) the atomic bomb whose widespread damage of Yumashima and Nagasaki spread havoc through Japan, and (b) the powerful Soviet armies who savagely and surprisingly attacked the Jap's crack troops of the Kwangtung Army, famed as the cream of the Jap divisions.

Friday morning Domei News Agency, official news organ of Japan, beamed a broadcast to America requesting that terms be arranged, and adding that Japan would accept the Potsdam Ultimatum providing the Emperor would be allowed to maintain his sovereignty.

Saturday morning the four major powers replied with the proviso that Japan would be allowed to keep its Emperor, if he would obey all orders from the Allied Commander, sign an unconditional surrender and order all Japanese troops throughout the far east to lay down their arms. If the Jap Emperor Hirohito would do that—he could stay.

These terms were forwarded to Japan by the diplomatic channels through Switzerland (acting on behalf of The United States and China) and Sweden (acting for Russia and Great Britain). Announcement of this proviso was made at 10:20 AM (CWT) Saturday morning.

From then until the dynamic news announcement, the Allied world has been waiting for the Japanese reply—a reply that was bound to be inevitable.

Saturday night, at 11 PM (CWT) the Japs discontinued broadcasting programs and switched to coded broadcasts. It was deduced that these coded broadcasts were final instructions to field commanders.

And thus Japan—for the first time in its history—lost a war. Emperor Hirohito, descendant of the Sun-God and proponent of "Enlightened Peace" rules Japan through the permission of United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China—and will govern only so long as he obeys all commands of the United Nations Military Governor.

All furloughs, passes, and leaves were cancelled at 5 PM Friday to allow for any possible exigencies pertaining to the Jap surrender.



Premier Suzuki, aging Jap diplomat, was the final wartime premier for the Japanese nation. It is presumed that Suzuki, close aide to Hirohito, was in on the surrender arrangements.

The text of the President's statement said in part:

"I am in receipt of a message from the Japanese government in reply to the message sent them by Secretary of State Byrnes on August 11th. The message from them states they wish to surrender and will meet the terms of the Potsdam Declaration. That is unconditional. The Japanese have accepted unconditional surrender without qualification. Arrangements are now being made for the official signing of the surrender document."

JAPS TOLD

As of 7 p.m. tonight, the Japanese people had not yet been informed that their government had surrendered unconditionally to the overwhelming might of the Allies.

However, Emperor Hirohito was to go on the air tonight at 11 p.m. (CWT) and inform the Japanese of the defeat.

POTSDAM TERMS

The terms of the Potsdam ultimatum would return Japan to the geographic boundaries it had at the turn of the century—prior to the Russo-Jap war. The boundaries will include only the Jap home islands plus a few adjacent islands.

MAC ARTHUR

The naming of General Douglas A. MacArthur as Commanding General of the Allied Forces occupying the Pacific came as no surprise to the American people. Since the start of the war, the canny 66-year-old General has been in the thick of the Pacific war. Chief-of-Staff of the U.S. Army from 1931 to 1935, he then went to the Philippines to command that country's Army and bring it up to fighting strength.

KEY'S STATEMENT

Col. A. E. Key, Station Commandant at Pyote Army Air Field, released the following statement:

"The announcement that the war had ended came almost as suddenly as that startling announcement of December 7, 1941, when our nation was plunged into this world struggle. It was not quite as surprising, however, since the military developments within the past few weeks brought the end of the war so much closer that it was anticipated in the hearts and minds of everyone.

"Now that the allied nations have brought about final and decisive victory, the huge task of securing the peace and returning to normalcy lies ahead.

"On this momentous occasion, let each of us remember that this victory was achieved only after long and bitter struggles, in which many American and allied people have made the supreme sacrifice. Today, then, in observance of this victory, let us pause on this happy occasion and offer our thanks to God. Let us also say a prayer for all our comrades in arms who have died in this fight for the freedom of mankind."

MONAHANS PRAYER DAY

Mayor Ed Duffey of Monahans announced that V-J day would be set aside as a day of prayer, with services to be held in the City Park an hour following the announcement of Japan's surrender.

"I earnestly request," the proclamation continued, "every citizen to think well upon the subject of what he or she shall do, as an individual, when this momentous news reaches us, and I request all to conduct themselves in a sane and orderly manner."

With the fall of Japan, Washington announced numerous changes in the domestic picture for wartime America. Secretary of Navy Forrestal announced that a \$1,200,000 shipbuilding program was cancelled. Thus the Navy ended the war with a combined tonnage of 15,000,000 tons of ships.

Job control was lifted Monday, the War Manpower Commission announced, permitting workers to change jobs without a specific release.

Good news for milady was the statement that nylon hosiery would soon be back on the market.

The future for rationing was still vague. Although shoes and probably gasoline would come off the ration list, food rationing will continue for sometime, though the point values will be trimmed.

Congress plans to reconvene September 4th to discuss surplus war property disposal, the full employment bill, unemployment compensation increase, and the final disposition of the numerous war agencies.

SAVE THIS "EXTRA" ISSUE AS A WAR SOUVENIR