

X-017080

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN'S SPEECH.

of the Supreme Commander

I have to day received the surrender/ of the Japanese forces we have been fighting, and I have accepted the surrender on behalf of all of you. I wish you all to know the gratitude and the pride that I feel towards every man and woman of this command today. [You bet the Japanese ~~number~~ soldier in battle inflicting six times the number of deaths that he was able to inflict on you. - and you chased him out of Burma.]

In the new areas which you will occupy the Japanese have not been beaten in battle. They are mostly composed of either troops who haven't fought at all and so never discovered for themselves that we can lick them or else the troops who took part in the early day when we were not strong enough to hold them. So there is every likelihood that they may feel that they could have beaten us in battle if ~~them~~ Their Emperor had not signalled them to surrender. [You may well find, ~~therefore~~, that those Japanese who have a fanatical belief in their Divine superiority and who feel that we are too soft to put them in their place will try and behave arrogantly. You are to stand no nonsense from these people. You will have my full support in taking the firmest measures in any attempt at obstinacy,, non-cooperation.]

~~It is possible that there will be hopeless cases who may commit suicide if they are prevented from behaving arrogantly and insultingly towards the Allied troops. This must be their own responsibility for this a people which can never be re-educated. They have no contribution to make towards building a peaceful civilized country which Japan must become if she is not to continue to threaten the peace of the world.~~

For some months to come only SEAC will be in a position to undertake such vital tasks as repatriating our prisoners of war and civilian internees who number close on 200,000.. .and have the first claim on us.

I feel sure I can rely on you to do as well in peace as you did in war and to get down to this gigantic task so that we can all of us return to our homes as soon as is humanly possible....feeling that we have done a good job. [In the meantime I know you will agree that

our prisoners of war who have suffered for so long out there must have the first call on shipping space to take them home. But I shall do everything in my power to see that those of you who are due for release and repat. get home as fast as shipping and the rate of replacement permits.

In 1942 the Japanese ordered

I have come here today to see the formal surrender of all the Japanese forces within the South East Asia Command.

I have received this telegram from the supreme Commander of the Japanese forces concerned - Field Marshal Terauchi. The most important occasion of the formal signing of surrender at Singapore draws near. The significance of which is no less greater to me

On hearing of Field Marshal Terauchi's illness I sent my own doctor - Surg. Capt. Birt, R.N. to examine him and he certifies that the Field Marshal is suffering from the effects of a stroke. In the circumstances I have decided to accept the surrender from General Itagaki today. But I have warned the field Marshal that I shall expect him to make his personal surrender to me as soon as he is fit enough to do so.

When I visited the beaches yesterday men were landing in an endless stream. As I speak there are a 100,000 men ashore. This invasion would have taken place on the 9th SEPT. whether the Japanese had resisted or not. ~~I wish to make this plain - the surrender to day is no negotiated surrender.~~

The Japanese have surrendered to superior force... Now massed here. I now call upon Gen Itagaki to produce his credentials.

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN'S SPEECH.

of the Supreme Commander

I have to day received the surrender of the Japanese forces we have been fighting, and I have accepted the surrender on behalf of all of you. I wish you all to know the gratitude and the pride that I feel towards every man and woman of this command today. [You bet the Japanese ~~withstand~~ soldier in battle inflicting six times the number of deaths that he was able to inflict on you. - and you chased him out of Burma.] *shun*

In the new areas which you will occupy the Japanese have not been beaten in battle. They are mostly composed of either troops who haven't fought at all and so never discovered for themselves that we can lick them or else the troops who took part in the early day when we were not strong enough to hold them. So there is every likelihood that they may feel that they could have beaten us in battle if ~~them~~ Their Emperor had not signalled them to surrender. [You may well find, therefore, that those Japanese who have a ~~in~~ fanatical belief in their Divine superiority and who feel that we are too soft to put them in their place will try and behave arrogantly.

2

You are to stand no nonsense from these people. You will have my full support in taking the firmest ^{action} measures ~~in~~ any attempt ^{of} at obstinacy, *importance* non-cooperation.]

It is possible that there will be hopeless cases who may commit suicide if they are prevented from behaving arrogantly and insultingly towards the Allied troops. This must be their own responsibility for this a people which can never be re-educated. They have no contribution to make towards building a peaceful civilised country which Japan must become if she is not to continue to threaten the peace of the world.

For some months to come only SEAC will be in a position to undertake such vital tasks as repatriating our prisoners of war and civilian internees who number close on 200,000.. .and have the first claim on us.

I feel sure I can rely on you to do as well in peace as you did in war and to get down to this gigantic task so that we can all of us return to our homes as soon as is humanly possible....feeling that we have done a good job. [In the meantime I know you will agree that

3

our prisoners of war who have suffered for so long out there must have the first call on shipping space to take them home. But I shall do everything in my power to see that those of you who are due for release and repat. get home as fast as shipping and the rate of replacement permits.]

3

In 1942 the Japanese ordered

[I have come here today to see the formal surrender of all the Japanese forces within the South East Asia Command.]

I have received this telegram from the Supreme Commander of the Japanese forces concerned - Field Marshal Terauchi. The most important occasion of the formal signing of surrender at Singapore draws near. The significance of which is no less greater to me

On hearing of Field Marshal Terauchi's illness I sent my own doctor - Surg. Capt. Birt, R.N. to examine him and he certifies that the Field Marshal is suffering from the effects of a stroke. In the circumstances I have decided to accept the surrender from General Itagaki today. But I have warned the field Marshal that I shall expect him to make his personal surrender to me as soon as he is fit enough to do so.

When I visited the beaches yesterday men were landing in an endless stream. [As I speak there are a 100,000 men ashore. This invasion would have taken place on the 9th SEPT. whether the Japanese had resisted or not. I wish to make this plain - the surrender to day is no negotiated surrender.

The Japanese have surrendered to superior force... Now massed here.] I now call upon Gen Itagaki to produce his credentials.

①

inside