

August 15th

Dear ones,

at 11 this morning, Corporal Squire came rushing up in a weapons carrier. The Truman announcement had come through! The war will officially be over when the agreed to surrender terms are put down on paper. The radio has brought us full reports of the news and of the world-wide reactions and commentaries. There is no jubilation or excitement here; the entire group on - we are relieved that there will be no more deaths, there will be no more suffering, there will be a return to the security of peace. But immediately we have nothing to celebrate, we have no place to celebrate, we have nothing to celebrate with. Our reactions will begin when we can see the results as they affect us here.

The surrender appears to be complete - the headed task of cleaning up all the by-passed boxes may well not have to be undertaken. This is not the time to argue the point of whether our use of the Emperor has compromised our "unconditional surrender." Only the effectiveness of our control and enforcement measures will let us judge. Certainly we have the opportunity to destroy all that is evil in Japan, including the Emperor - even in the long run. We will not forget, although we use him as a medium of control, that the Emperor is one of the forces we have fought for the true liberation of the Japanese people from military, economic, social, and political feudalism.

MacArthur is the obvious choice - though I hope that Nalsey gets his chance to ride down the streets of Tokyo.



in the Emperor's white charger. Certainly Stiboroff and Wainwright deserve positions in the occupation-control force if they desire them.

We are entering the era of peace; we are fortunate that though Constantinople, Tientsin, Yalta, and Potsdam we have evolved a working framework for Europe. Now we shall have the same thing in Asia - we will have new Polands and new Russias, new institutions and new unrest; but we will also work our way to the solution of all the difficulties that lie ahead. And to the European and Asiatic framework for world reconstruction, we must add the solutions for our readjustments at home. We must combine our post-war requirements with our post-war potential and evolve the best answer consistent with all our standards.

We are entering an era of peace and it will call for even more initiative and bravery and intelligence and sympathy and agreement and understanding than did the years of war effort. We are called upon for a greater and continuing effort; the task before us is of great proportions and of greater importance. We can not fail. We can not become slack and indifferent. We can not escape our responsibility and our commitment. We can not be afraid. We can not falter. We can not forget our honored dead. May God grant that the world will be blessed for ever more; may man prove his greatness.

all my love, Sumner