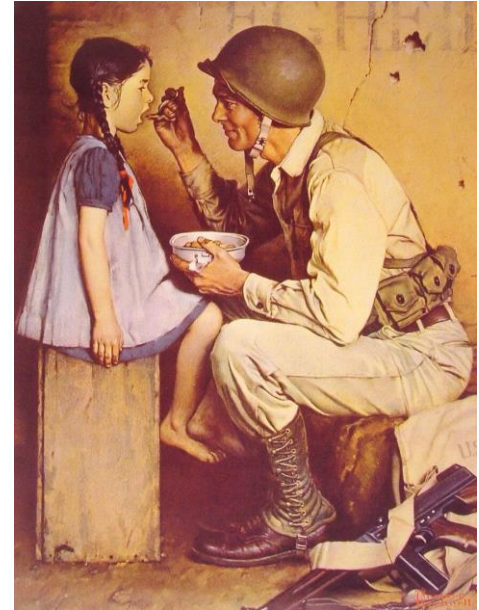




**Yalta Conference**

# 1945



**Norman Rockwell**

**Probably the most eventful and  
consequential year in history.**

**By George Gillow**



# Introduction

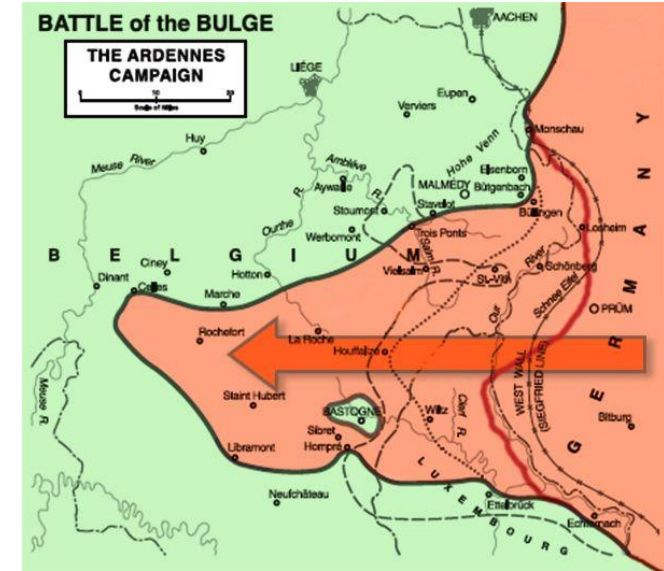


- World War II ended eighty years ago. The atomic bomb was dropped on Japanese cities, the United Nations was created and much more.
- This presentation covers some of the major events of 1945 and some interesting side stories.
- There were many other events that year including battles in the Philippines, battles on the Eastern Front in Europe, the bombing of Tokyo and Dresden and many other battles that were too many to include this in presentation.



# January 1945: Battle of the Bulge

- The **Battle of the Bulge** was still raging in Europe at the beginning of 1945.
  - It was officially known as the **Ardennes Offensive**.
- It started on December 16, 1944, when the German Army started a “last ditch offensive” through the Ardennes Forest in Belgium.
  - Hitler had hoped for it to be a path to victory or a way of getting a peace settlement with the US and Britain, independent of the Soviet Union.
  - The German effort to force their way into the Allied supply port of Antwerp failed because of the difficulty that they had with warfare in the dense Ardennes Forest in winter and the large Allied forces sent to that area. The Germans were defeated on January 25, 1945.





# February 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>: The Yalta Conference

- The Yalta Conference was held in the southern Crimea region of Russia. Yalta was a Russian resort.
- The conference was a meeting of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin.
- The purpose was to achieve agreements on the future of the war and post-war Europe.
- President Roosevelt had to travel over 5,000 miles to Yalta, much further than the other leaders had to travel.
  - See Appendix A for more on the trip.



**The three leaders looking tired at Yalta**

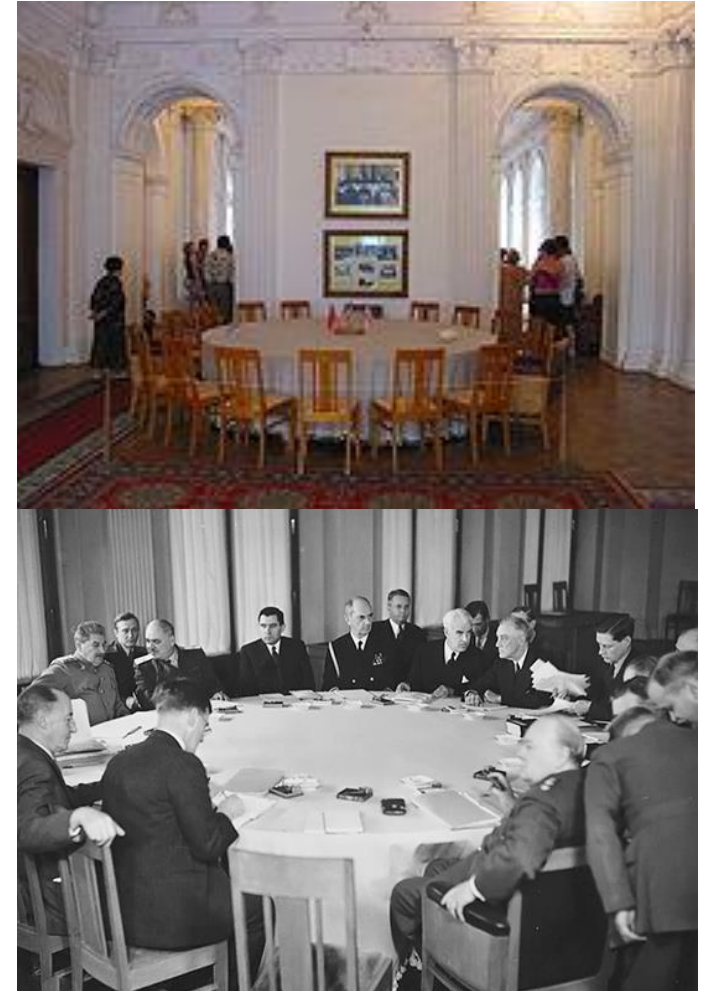


**The Livadia Palace where FDR and the Americans stayed. It once was the summer retreat of Russian Tsar Nicholas II.**

# Yalta Conference-continued

The following was accomplished:

1. Russia agreed to enter the war against Japan.
  2. Stalin agreed to support the creation of the **United Nations** as designed by an American plan.
  3. The future of Germany and the requirements for repatriations of war were determined.
  4. Churchill and FDR agreed that nations in Eastern Europe be “friendly” to the Soviet Union. A new Poland national government would be allowed to include communists.
- This proved to be a controversial agreement by the Americans and British which gave too much control of Eastern Europe to Stalin. Stalin promised free elections but that never materialized.



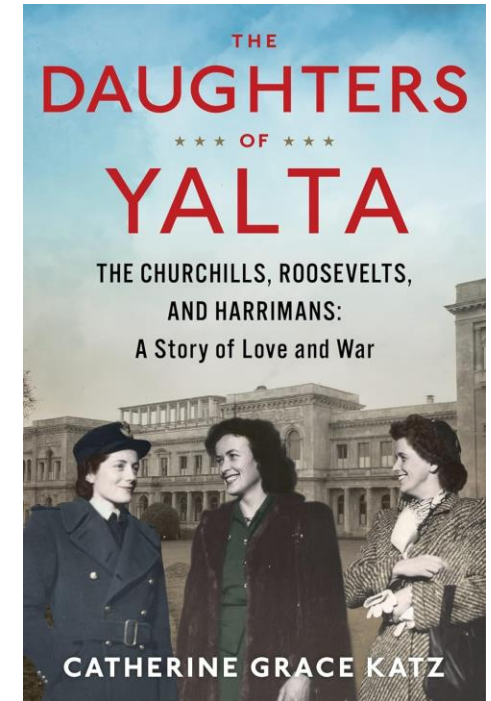
The meeting room at Yalta

# The Daughters of Yalta

- FDR, Churchill and Averell Harriman (US Ambassador to the USSR) brought their daughters to the conference instead of their wives.
- The daughters were the hostesses at various events.
- They were Anna Roosevelt (Boettiger), Sarah Churchill (Oliver) and Kathleen Harriman<sup>1</sup>.



Notice that Sarah Churchill is wearing a Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) Uniform. She was a Section Officer in the Photographic Interpretation Unit, which analyzed aerial photos. She developed a talent for identifying a ship by its shadow. She could also determine if there were troops or animals that had been in a field.



**An excellent book by  
Catherine Katz**

1. Anna was married to John Boettiger. Sarah was married to Vic Oliver. Kathleen was unmarried.



# March 1<sup>st</sup>: FDR Speech to Congress after the Yalta Conference.

- A frail FDR reports to Congress about his trip to Yalta.
- You can see a short YouTube video of the speech by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/x0nB5Hui5cs?si=cjcnXg2gQMx8AOfJ> or by searching on **“Roosevelt Reports on Crimea Meeting 1945”** or by clicking this picture:



FDR's last address to Congress on March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
He apologizes for being seated.



# February, March: Battle of Iwo Jima

- The U.S. and Japan militaries recognized the importance that Iwo Jima would have to the anticipated invasion of Japan.
  - The battle began on February 19<sup>th</sup> with heavy US bombing.
- The Japanese built a network of underground fortifications that made it difficult for the U.S. Marines.
- More Marines were lost than in any battle in history.
  - There were 6,140 Marines killed and a total of 24,053 casualties.
- Victory was achieved on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- After the victory, the island was used as an emergency landing site for B29 bombers.



**The famous photograph of the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi.**

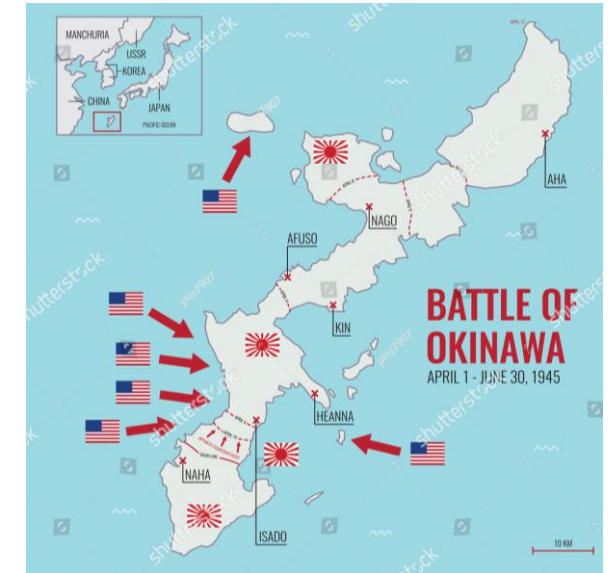


**Mount Suribachi today**



# April to June: Battle of Okinawa

- The Battle of Okinawa was the last major battle of WWII. It took place from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Like with Iwo Jima, the island was determined to be critical for the planned invasion of Japan.
- The U.S. Army and Marine Corps fought against the Japanese 32nd Army.
- The Japanese had strong underground fortification.
- Casualties were high with 5,000 American soldiers killed.
- The invasion fleet of 1,500 vessels was the largest of the War.



There are a lot of videos on YouTube about the Battle of Okinawa. You can click on the picture at the left to view a short video. You can search YouTube for **World War II in HD Okinawa History**. Or you can click on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/v3Lbv0K8gCs?si=U5cTWPbZEEKA9g3h>

# April 11<sup>th</sup>: Liberation of Buchenwald

- U.S. forces liberated the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, Germany, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1945.
- U.S. Military leaders were sickened with what they found.



# April 12<sup>th</sup>: Franklin Roosevelt Dies

President Roosevelt died at his “Little White House” in Warm Springs, Georgia. He felt a terrible headache and went to lie down. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage a few hours later.

His death was a terrible shock to Americans and people around the world.



**President Roosevelt lies in state at the White House**



**Artist Elizabeth Shoumatoff was painting a portrait of FDR the day he died. This is the uncompleted portrait.**



# April 30<sup>th</sup>: Hitler Dies

- Adolf Hitler committed suicide, via a gunshot to the head, in the Führerbunker in Berlin. Eva Braun, his wife of one day, also committed suicide by cyanide poisoning.
  - Their bodies were carried out to the Reich Chancellery garden where they were burned.
  - There have been rumors that Hitler had not died and possibly escaped to South America. However, dental remains were extracted from the soil in the garden. The dental remains have been analyzed for over 70 years and have been confirmed as belonging to Hitler<sup>1</sup>.
- Hitler's death was announced on German radio the next day on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945
- It is interesting that FDR became president and Hitler became Chancellor in early 1933.

1. From Smithsonian Magazine Article: ***Hitler's Teeth Confirm He Died in 1945.***



# May 8<sup>th</sup>: Victory in Europe (VE Day)

- Hitler's successor, Reichspräsident Karl Dönitz, signed an initial military surrender by Germany on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A modified version of the unconditional surrender was needed to satisfy the Soviet Union. It was signed by Field-Marshal Wilhelm Keitel on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Keitel was then the highest representative of Germany.
- Lieutenant General Walter Bedell Smith signed the German surrender document on behalf of the Allied Expeditionary Force (AEF). Smith was the Chief of Staff, SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters AEF).

Here is a link to a short YouTube video on VE day in Paris and London.

Or you can click on the picture below.

<https://youtu.be/GuhnGbkvu8o?si=QR1GDKQDeUohP8M0>



**Field-Marshal Wilhelm Keitel  
signing the surrender document.**



**General Eisenhower holds  
the signature pens in the  
shape of a V.**

# June 17<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Potsdam Conference

- The Potsdam Conference was agreed to at Yalta. It would occur after the German surrender.
- Initial attendees were Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, and Joseph Stalin.
- On July 26<sup>th</sup> an election was held in Britain, resulting in a large win by the Labor Party. This resulted in the new Parliament selecting Clement Attlee as Britain's new prime minister.
- Attlee replaced Churchill for the remaining of the conference.



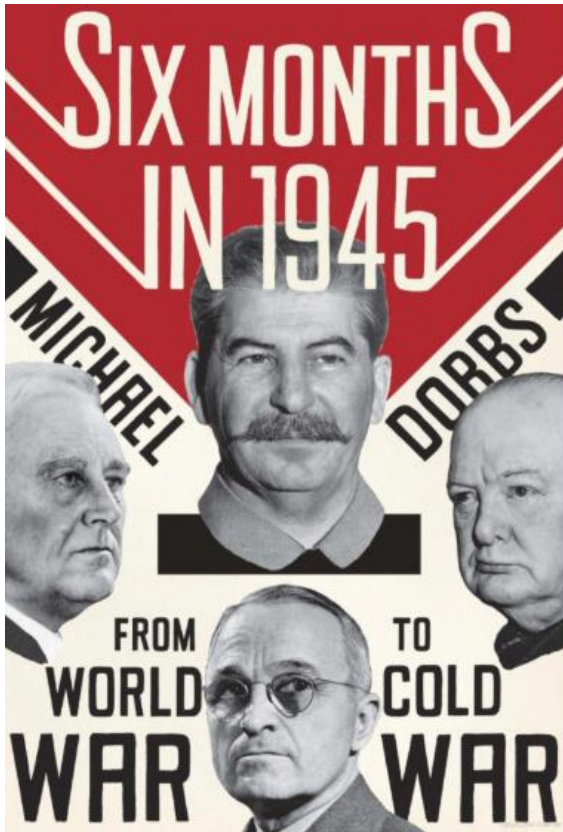
**Churchill, Truman, and Stalin**



**Attlee, Truman, and Stalin**



# June 17<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>: Potsdam Conference



**An excellent book about the history from February thru July 1945. It is mostly about the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences.**

- The focus of the Potsdam Conference was mainly Germany's future:
  - Germany was to be divided into four occupation zones.
  - Germany's military was to be completely disarmed, and its military industry dismantled.
  - Nazi laws were to be repealed and Nazi leaders and collaborators were to be arrested and tried for war crimes.
  - The Polish border was moved westward.
  - A council of representatives from the occupying powers was established to manage Germany until a future peace treaty was agreed upon.
- The conference also issued the Potsdam Declaration that called for Japan's unconditional surrender. The Declaration outlined Japan's future demilitarization, democratization, and return to the international community.
- Truman was able to limit reparations against Germany so as not to repeat the mistakes of WWI.

# July 16<sup>th</sup>: The Atomic Bomb Test

- The first atomic bomb (called “Gadget”) was successfully tested after several years of work by the Manhattan Project.
- The test location was near the town of Alamogordo, New Mexico. The location was called Trinity Site. It was in a desolated area know as Jornada del Muerto (Day of the Dead).



**A monument at the Trinity Site in New Mexico.**



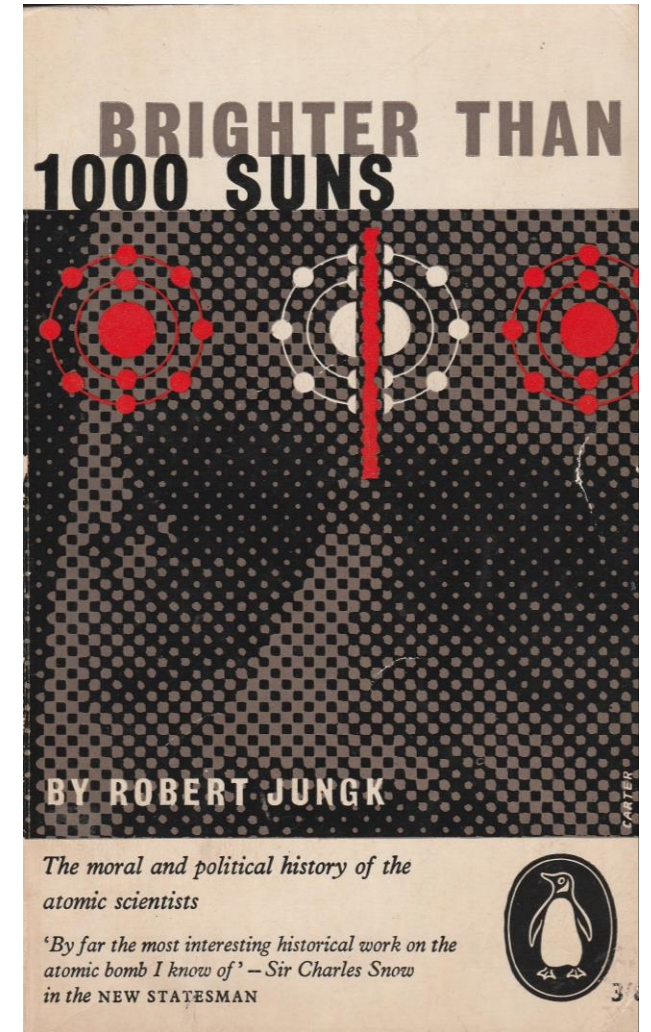
**The “Gadget” being lifted up to the tower where it was detonated.**



**“The Calutron Girls” operating the Calutron apparatus that produced the weapons-grade uranium in Oakridge, Tennessee.**

# July 16<sup>th</sup>: The Atomic Bomb Test

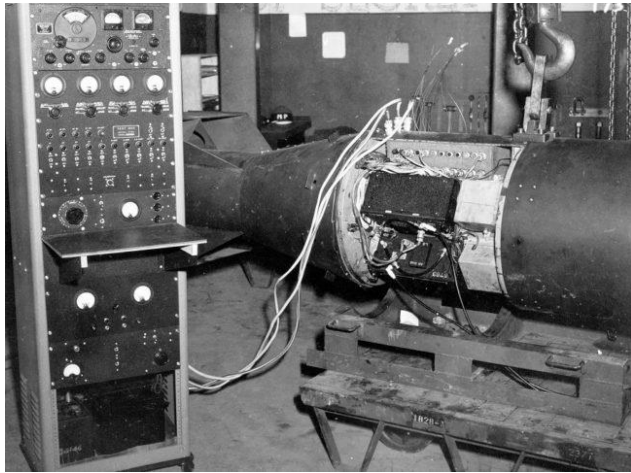
- An excellent book on the history of the development of the atomic and hydrogen bombs is *Brighter Than a Thousand Suns* by Robert Jungk.
  - It is about the story of the scientists and the challenges of making the first bomb, and later the hydrogen bomb.
- There were thousands of scientists and technicians who worked on the Manhattan Project. A few of the well known are:
  - General Leslie Groves: Manager of the Manhattan Project.
  - Julius Robert Oppenheimer: Project Leader
  - Richard Feynman
  - Harold Urey
  - Harold Agnew
  - Enrico Fermi
  - Edward Teller
  - Ernest Lawrence
  - Many of the rest were relatively unknown. One lady was Madge Blake who later acted in TV sitcoms. (See Appendix B)





# August 6<sup>th</sup>: Hiroshima

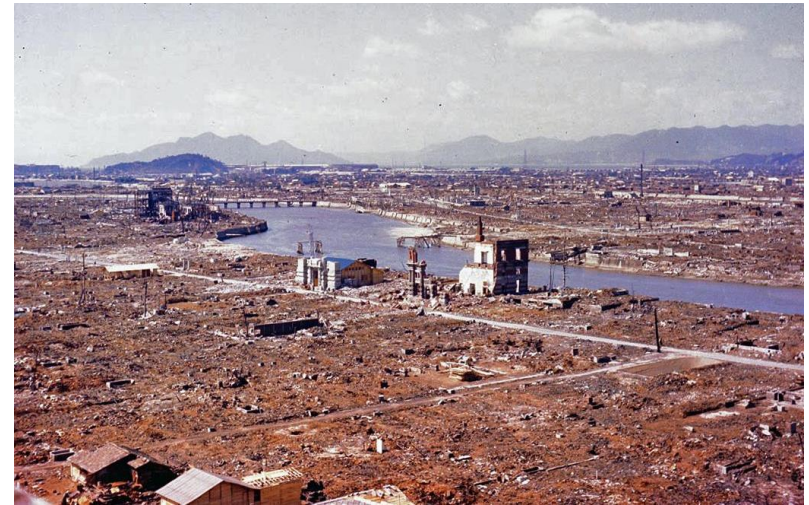
- The United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - The bomb was called ***Little Boy***.
- The bomb was dropped at 8:15 a.m. from a B29 bomber piloted by Paul Tibbets. It was called the *Enola Gay*, named after Tibbets' mother.
- Three other aircraft involved checked the weather in advance, carried instruments to analyze the bomb, and took photographs.



**"Little Boy" bomb being tested.**



***Enola Gay* Crew**

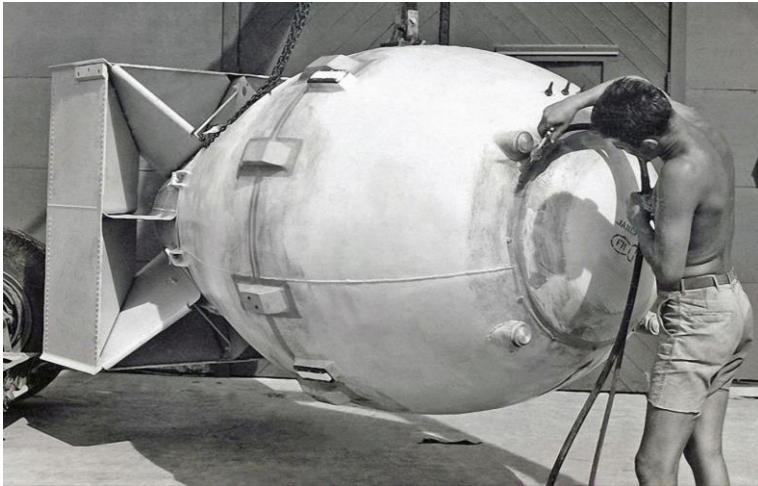


**Hiroshima Destroyed**

There are many YouTube videos about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings.

# August 9<sup>th</sup>: Nagasaki

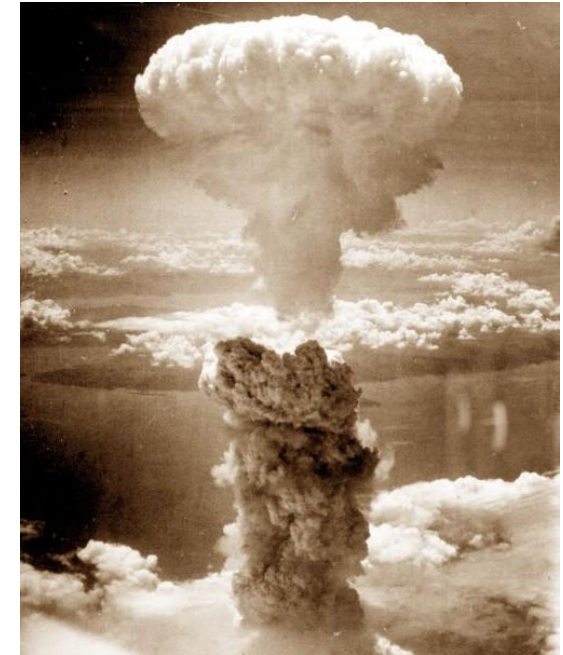
- Physicist, Dr. Yoshio Nishina, traveled with other scientists to Hiroshima to assess the damage and determine the nature of the bomb.
  - He reported to Japanese Prime Minister, Kataro Suzuki, and cabinet members that it was an atomic bomb. However, the cabinet voted to continue the war. That word got back to the Americans via codebreakers and the decision was made to drop a second bomb.
- The second bomb called ***Fat Man*** was dropped on the city of Nagasaki at 11:02 a.m. on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The B29 that dropped the bomb was called ***Bockscar***. It was piloted by Major Charles Sweeney.



***Fat Man Bomb (a.k.a. Mark III)***



***Bockscar Crew***

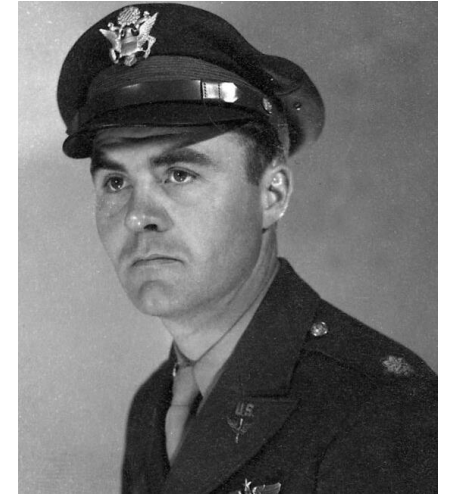


**Nagasaki Bomb photo by  
Lt. Charles Levy on a B29  
called *The Great Artiste*.**



# More on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings

- Captain Mitsuo Fuchida lead the first wave of aircraft that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He visited the U.S. in 1959 with a group of Japanese. They were given a tour of Air Force equipment by General Paul Tibbets.
  - Fuchida told Tibbets that the decision to drop the atomic bombs was the correct decision needed to end the war. He said that the Japanese attitude was that they would die for the Emperor. Every man, woman, and child would have resisted an invasion. It would be a slaughter, worse than anytime in the war. It would have been terrible. The Japanese people knew more about that than the American public will ever know, Fuchida told Tibbets.
- The tragedy of war, since 1914, is that cities were bombed and civilian men, women and children were killed or badly injured. The WWII bombings killed millions of people. The firebombings of Tokyo and Dresden by the Allies and the blitz bombing of Coventry, England, by the Germans were particularly horrible.
  - For example, **Operation Meeting House**, the March 1945 firebombing of Tokyo, resulted in 100,000 civilians killed and 1 million left homeless.
- The use of atomic bombs by the United States remains a controversial subject. There will never be a clear answer. But it is now history.



General Paul Tibbets



Capt. Mitsuo Fuchida



# August 14<sup>th</sup>: Victory in Japan (VJ Day)

- Following the atomic bomb attack on Nagasaki, the Japanese War Cabinet convened to discuss the issue of surrender. There was a 3 to 3 tie. Prime Minister Kantaro Suzuki was in favor of accepting the Potsdam Declaration. He called in the Emperor to get his support and for him to make the final decision. The Emperor supported surrender.
- Emperor Hirohito made a recording on August 14<sup>th</sup> announcing the surrender. It was broadcast on August 15<sup>th</sup>. It was still August 14<sup>th</sup> in the western hemisphere.
- That day, the Japanese Minister to Switzerland conveyed the message of unconditional surrender and acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration to the Swiss Government. He asked that it be sent to the allied governments.
- The message was conveyed to the State Department by Switzerland's Charge' d' Affaires in Washington, DC. Secretary of State, James Byrnes, took the message to the White House. (See next page for an interesting detail.)
- **President Truman read the message in front of the press corps at 7:00 p.m.** The news was celebrated around the world. (See Appendix C for the full text.)



Emperor Hirohito



President Truman reading the surrender message.

# August 14<sup>th</sup>: Victory in Japan (VJ Day)

## The U-turn that delayed the Japanese surrender message.

- The coded surrender message was sent by the Swiss Government to the RCA offices in Washington, DC. Young couriers, **Earl Allison** and **Thomas Jones**, were given the coded message to be delivered to the Swiss Legation. Allison was driving and made an illegal U-turn on Connecticut Ave. He was stopped by a police officer who gave him a ticket and lectured him for 15 minutes about driving safely. This delayed the delivery of the message.
- For days there were rumors that the end of the war would be announced soon. People were listening to the radio and on August 14<sup>th</sup> lots of people were out on the streets. The whole world was waiting while Earl Allison was getting the ticket.



**James Byrnes**

## The negotiations with the Japanese from August 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

- The negotiations of the acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration began on August 10<sup>th</sup> with **Secretary of State, James Byrnes**, negotiating with the Japanese via the Swiss Government. The main issue that was negotiated was the desire of the Japanese leadership to allow the Emperor to remain as a ceremonial leader.
- General Douglas MacArthur recommended that the Emperor remain. This would make it easier for the U.S. occupation of Japan. The Emperor remained.



**Douglas MacArthur**

# August 14<sup>th</sup>: Victory in Japan (VJ Day)

## YouTube Videos of VJ Celebrations

There are many YouTube videos on the celebrations of VJ Day. The first one is from Hawaii and the second one from a PBS documentary. They last about 3 minutes.

**Hawaii:** Click on the link or the picture:

<https://youtu.be/CZ85j6U2Fvs?si=g7R-tyQBvuCdhgVy>

Notice at time 1:40, it shows a **No U-turn** sign.



**VJ Celebration:** Click on the link or the picture:

<https://youtu.be/CrVw2cD4Hs4?si=j4ccl5jC5w9n4iwS>

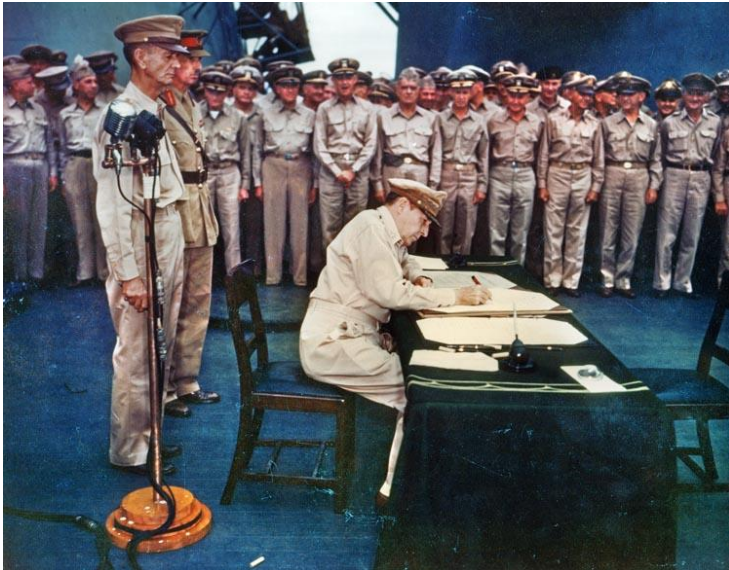
(The woman who talks about the condom balloons was a photographer in San Diego nightclubs during the war.)





# September 2<sup>nd</sup>: Official Signing of Surrender Document

- The official surrender was held on the battleship *USS Missouri* which was anchored in Tokyo Bay. General MacArthur signed the document as Supreme Commander for the Allied powers. The document was called the ***Instrument of Surrender***.
- The Japanese delegation was headed by Foreign Minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu.



General MacArthur Signing



Foreign Minister, Mamoru Shigemitsu



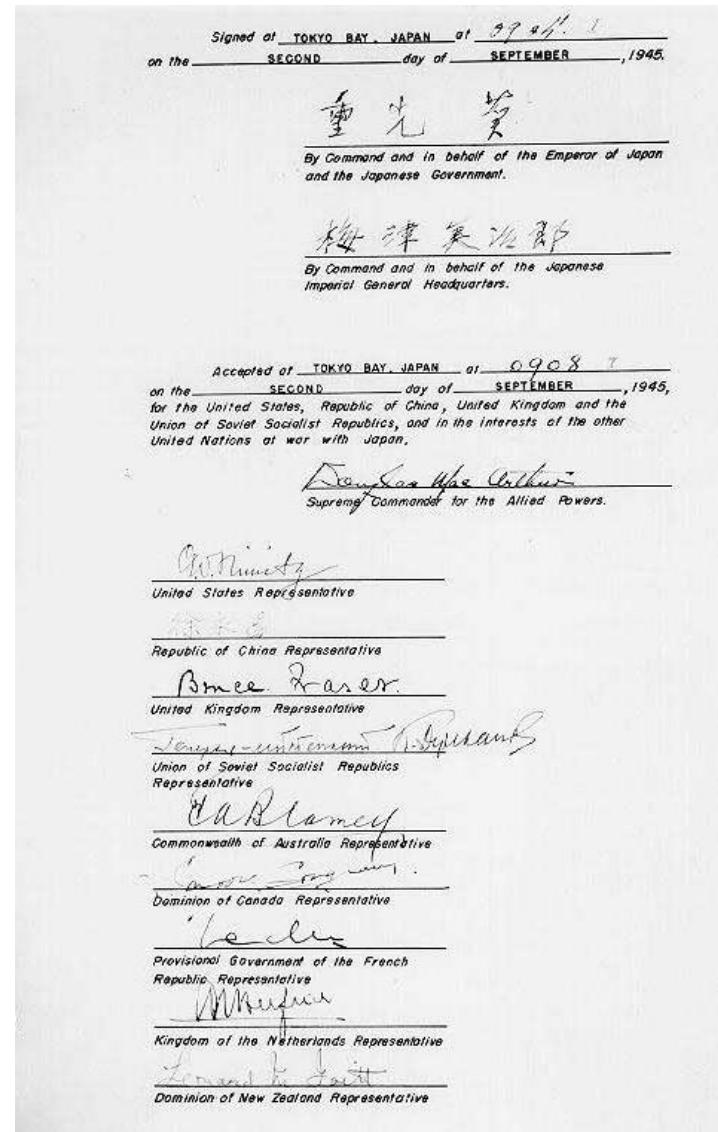
The Japanese delegation

# September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>: Instrument of Surrender

This is the signature page of the Instrument of Surrender, and a list of those who signed.



Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>: President Truman receiving the Instrument of Surrender document.  
From left: Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, Secretary of War Henry Stimson, General George C. Marshall.



## THOSE WHO SIGNED:

**Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu**  
For Japan

**General Yoshijirō Umezu**  
For Japan

**General Douglas Mac Arthur**  
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers

**Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz**  
For the United States

**General Hsu Yung-Chang**  
For China

**Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser**  
For the United Kingdom

**Lieutenant General Kuzma Derevyanko**  
For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

**General Sir Thomas Blamey**  
For Australia

**Colonel Lawrence Moore Cosgrave**  
For Canada

**Général Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque**  
For France

**Lieutenant Admiral Conrad Helfrich**  
For the Netherlands

**Air Vice-Marshal Leonard M. Isitt**  
For New Zealand

# October 24<sup>th</sup>: The United Nations Charter

- The **United Nations Conference on International Organization** met from April 25<sup>th</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco to create the Charter of the United Nations. It was completed and signed on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1945. The Charter came into force on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945.
  - Representatives from 50 countries drafted the document.
  - Meetings were held at various locations in San Francisco including the Opera House and Herbst Theatre auditorium where the charter was signed.
- The first meeting of the General Assembly was held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1946, at the Methodist Central Hall in London, England.
- After London, meetings were held at various locations in New York until the current United Nations complex was completed in 1952.



**Steering committee**



**San Francisco Opera House**



**Methodist Central Hall, London**

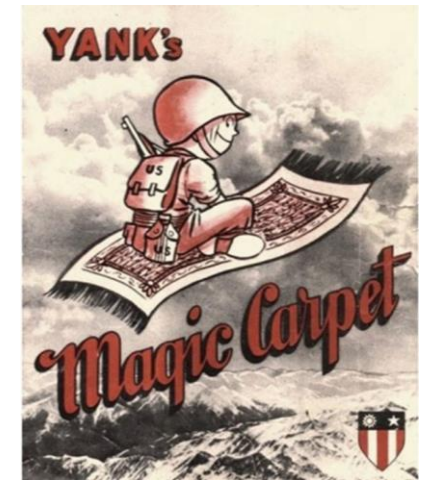


# Operation Magic Carpet

- Operation Magic Carpet was the land and sea operation to bring Americans home.
- It started on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945, and ended on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1946.
  - For one year an average of 22,000 Americans were brought home each day!
  - The number was higher in November and December 1945. This was an effort to bring as many Americans as possible home for Christmas.
- During this time military ships began returning Canadian, Australian and New Zealand troops to their countries.



*Queen Mary entering New York Harbor in late 1945.*



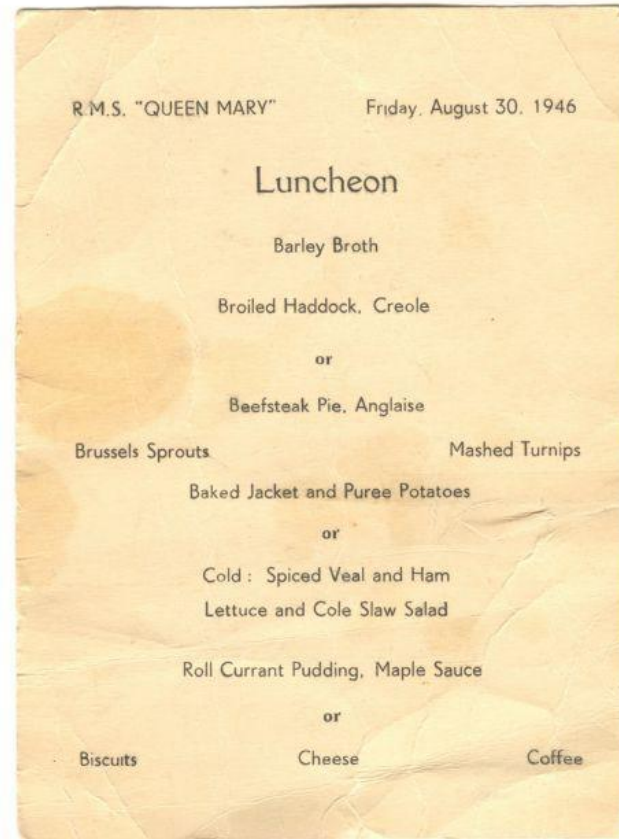
*Sleeping quarters on an aircraft carrier.*

# War Brides

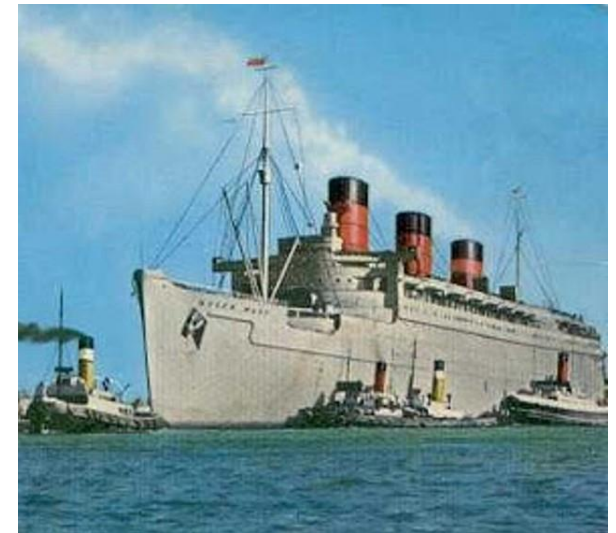
Troop ships also transported war brides to the United States and other countries. They traveled on the same ships as returning troops.



**British War Brides on the  
*RMS Queen Mary***



**Lunch Menu on the QM**

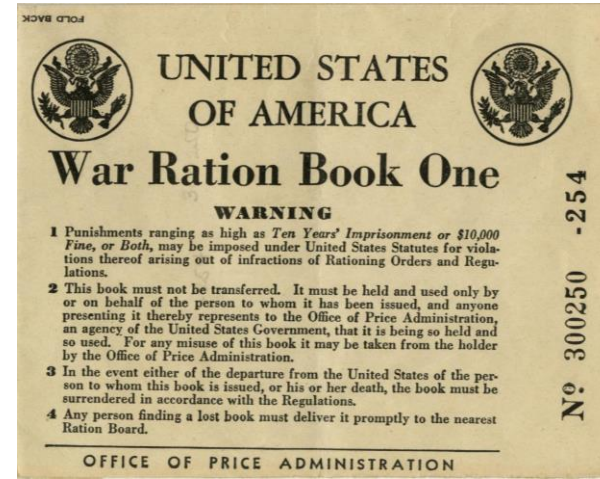


**The *Queen Mary* was still a  
troop ship. Its funnels were  
painted in pre-war colors.**



# October-December: End of Rationing

- Shoe rationing was the first to end in October, followed by meat and butter in November, and everything else but sugar in December.
  - Sugar rationing ended in June 1947.
- In 1944 manufacturing companies realized that the Allies would probably win the war. They knew how fast they had transformed operations from consumer to military products. They realized they could quickly do the reverse and transform operations from military to civilian products.
- Advertisements in magazines and newspapers began appearing in late 1944 and in 1945. The next slide shows some of the ads.
  - Ads promised "When the war is over," "Victory is near," or "Until the day we win."



All adults in the USA were issued these ration stamp books.



Sample of one of the designs of the stamps.



A young boy using his parents stamp book.



# Advertisements 1944/1945

LADIES HOME JOURNALS



*"The Best is always worth waiting for"*

When only the best is what you want, you know you'll be happy with nothing else. Your own experience in successful house-making is the best proof that you can rely on the quality of famous-name products. Now that Premier clothes are back in the stores, remember that Premier is a famous name in clothes... a name that has been justly earned over more than a third of a century.

Of course, enough Premier clothes cannot possibly be made at first to satisfy the post-war demand for them. If you are tempted to buy an unknown and unproved brand of clothes, just because it happens to be the only one available at the moment, remember that it is always worth your while to wait for the best.

Any Premier dealer is ready now to give you a complete demonstration of a brand-new Premier... and to loan to you a beautiful

**PREMIER PRIORITY CERTIFICATE**

This certificate entitles you to delivery of your new Premier in the order of your registration. When you buy a Premier you know what you're getting. And when you buy it under the Premier Priority Plan, you know you will be buying it the advantageous way for you—"First Come, First Served!"

Find out where to get your new Premier as soon as possible by using the coupon below!

**ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER COMPANY, INC., Cleveland 10, Ohio**  
THE PREMIER VACUUM CLEANER CO., LTD., Toronto, Canada

**P.S. (Premier Sings)** When you buy your new Premier from a mail order it will cost you \$10 to \$20 less than it would have cost if Premier maintained its own business here "specially" selected, selling Premier through mail order only, makes this saving yours!

**PREMIER**  
ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER CO., INC., 1710 Lorain Rd., Cleveland 10, Ohio.  
Please send me the name and address of my nearest authorized Premier dealer, so I can take advantage of the Premier Priority Plan.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PREMIER**  
*"All that the name implies"*

ONE 15

31855

WHEN YOUR WAITING DAYS ARE OVER...  
**NORGE**

BETTER PRODUCTS FOR A BETTER WORLD



**SEE NORGE**

The time is coming when you will again enjoy the privilege of greatest selection... when you will again be faced with the problem of selection. There, amid the confusion of new models, new names, claims and counterclaims, your duty to yourself will be clear: See Norge before you buy! For even while you wait in the production of vital commodities of war, Norge has been active in your behalf—thinking for you, planning for you, and, just lately, producing for you. In the Norge products now available to be available later, you will find that Norge fundamental progress and quality have been advanced by the new skills and techniques acquired as the result of Norge's war experience; that precise "best" has been established; new and higher standards have prevailed. More than ever before will Norge equip home appliances more convenient, efficient, longer lasting. More than ever before will it be available that you see Norge before you buy!

**BEFORE YOU BUY**

IN THE MEANTIME BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND KEEP THEM

TRYING TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR DEMANDS...THOUSANDS OF NEW PROCTOR IRONS AND TOASTERS

*Here they come!*



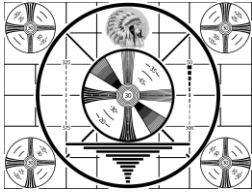
**Proctor Sling Automatic Toaster**  
Heavily designed... makes evenly browned toast in just one second.

**Proctor Champion Speed Iron**  
Covers between 10 and 12 inches... makes evenly pressed clothes in just one second.

*"It's new...it's exclusive...it's PROCTOR"*  
...Coming soon!

**PROCTOR**  
AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

For efficient repairs, 105 service stations from coast to coast—see local classified phone book.  
PROCTOR ELECTRIC COMPANY, DIVISION OF PROCTOR & SCHWARTZ, INC., PHILADELPHIA 40, PENNSYLVANIA



## August-December: Television

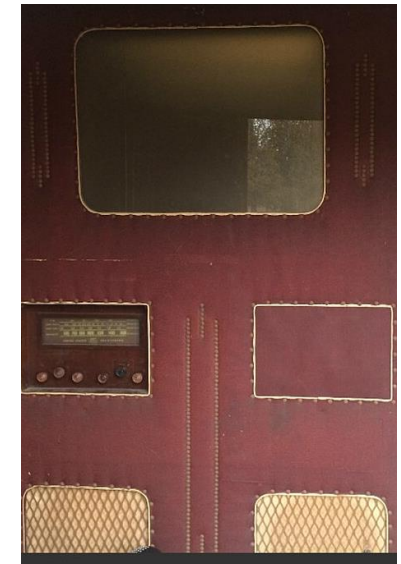
- There were three major TV networks in 1945: NBC, CBS and Dumont. (ABC Television started broadcasting in 1948. Dumont ended in 1956).
  - These stations had TV broadcasts from 1939 until mid 1942. Only wealthier families owned TV sets.
  - The U.S. War Production Board (WPB) placed a ban on TV set manufacturing in April 1942.
- Manufacturing of TV sets began again in August 1945 when the WPB lifted its ban. There were about 10,000 sets sold by December. TV set screen sizes varied from 7 to 10 inches.
- Many people were introduced to TV in public places, like bars and clubs. These sets had large screens like those made by the United States Television Manufacturing Corporation (USTMC). The price of a set was over \$2,000.
- By 1950 there were 6 million families who owned TV sets in the USA. Screen sizes varied from 9 to 21 inches.



TV sets, like the Viewtone TV, sold for \$100 in 1945.



The USTMC sets were sold to public places like bars. These projection systems were similar to digital systems in theaters today.





# Epilogue

- Americans had to make many sacrifices during World War II. There was rationing of food, clothing, gasoline, and much more. There were also restrictions on driving, curfews, blackouts, and others. Americans did not like these restrictions but knew it was their patriotic duty to put up with the hardships.
- The exact number of deaths caused by the war has never been accurately calculated. However, it has been estimated at about 55 million. This included 400 American civilians who died. The 5,600 merchant mariners who gave their lives were also civilians.
- The end of World War II in 1945 brought about many changes. Americans were beginning to see the economic prosperity that would come in the decades to follow. The United States emerged with the strongest military in the world and became the wealthiest country in the world.



**Children collected scrap and sometimes gave their own toys.**

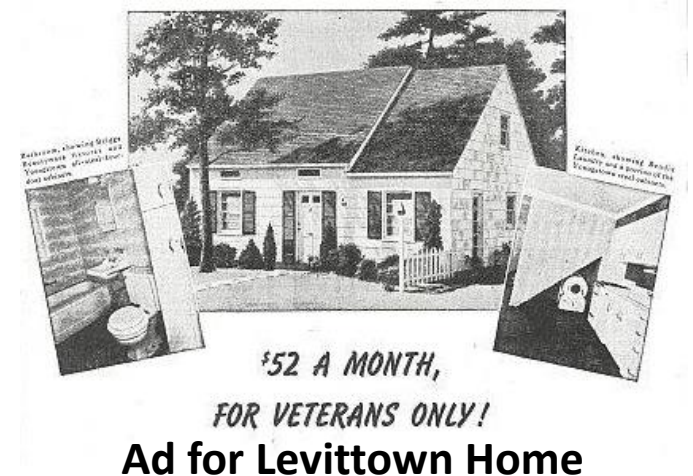


**Car headlights were darkened.**



# Epilogue, Impacts of WWII

- The **Servicemen's Readjustment Act** (also known as the GI Bill) passed by Congress in 1944 provided for funding for education, backing of loans (such as low interest home loans), unemployment allowances, and job-finding assistance for veterans.
  - An important part of the GI Bill was providing VA loans and low-down payments for new homes. Homes in new subdivisions all over the U.S. were being sold to veterans. The best known was Levittown in New York.
  - Unfortunately, Black and other minority families were not allowed to purchase homes in these new subdivisions.
- In the mid 1950s, 50% of manufactured goods sold world-wide were made in the United States. One third of the nation's workers were employed in high paying manufacturing jobs by the mid 1950s.
- Today, 80 years after the end of WWII, many products are made in other countries. About 70-80% of the products sold at places like Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Lowes and others, are made outside of the USA.



# APPENDICES

Appendix A: FDR trip to Yalta

Appendix B: Madge Blake--From atomic bomb to *Leave it to Beaver*

Appendix C: Text of Japanese Surrender Message on VJ Day

Appendix D: The man who survived both atomic bombs

# Appendix A: FDR trip to Yalta

- President Roosevelt, his daughter Anna and high-level officials traveled from the U.S. to the island of Malta on the *USS Quincy*.
  - FDR saw movies every night.
  - There was entertainment and games on the ship during the trip.
- FDR, Anna, and officials traveled by air from Malta to Yalta.
  - The aircraft was a Douglas VC-54C Skymaster called the *Sacred Cow*.
  - This is a link to a YouTube video about the airplane (FDR's quarters are shown at time 1:58 in the video):  
<https://youtu.be/V3yjN83NUcl?si=qJCkUwiGXo7Ksw89>



*USS Quincy*



*The Sacred Cow*



*FDR's room on the Sacred Cow.*



# Appendix A: FDR trip to Yalta--Continued

The FDR library has the detailed daily log of the trip to Yalta from Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. It is **very interesting**. Here is a link to the entire log<sup>1</sup>:

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/daybyday/daylog/january-23rd-1945/>



**This is a portion of the log on January 25<sup>th</sup> when the *USS Quincy* was traveling to Malta:**

**1:00am:** Ships of task group set clocks ahead one hour to conform to Zone Plus Three.

**12:00pm:** Course and position noted. Task group changed speed to 21 knots.

**4:58pm:** The USS Quincy slowed to 10 knots while maneuvering to transfer mail and dispatches to the USS Tillman, then following astern. The USS Tillman was directed to transmit the dispatches by radio after her relief as escort the next day forenoon, and to deliver the mail to the Commandant at the Naval Operating Base, Bermuda, for transportation by air to Washington, DC.

**5:29pm:** The USS Quincy resumed speed at 21 knots.

**8:00pm:** FDR and members of his mess attended movies. The picture shown was "The Lady in the Window."

1. The log describes the President's mess. The "mess" was the military officers, FDR's staff, Mrs. John Boettiger (FDR's daughter Anna) and other officials.

## Appendix B: Madge Blake

### From the Atomic Bomb to *Leave it to Beaver*

- During World War II, Madge Blake and her husband, James Blake, worked on the Manhattan Project.
  - They worked on the construction and testing of the detonator for the atomic bomb. They had top secret clearances.
  - The couple received a citation for their work from the U.S. government.
- Following the war (at age 50 and a grandmother), Madge Blake started acting at the Pasadena Playhouse, then went on to act in television and movies.
  - Her most recognized roles were Larry Mondello's mother on *Leave it to Beaver*, Flora MacMichael on *The Real McCoys*, and Aunt Harriet on *Batman*.



***Leave it to Beaver***  
**With Larry Mondello**



***The Real McCoys***  
**With Grandpa Amos**



***Batman***  
**As Aunt Harriet**

## Appendix C: Text of Japanese Surrender Message on VJ Day Read by President Truman

At 20.10 today (Swiss Time) the Japanese Minister to Switzerland conveyed the following written statement to the Swiss Government for transmission to the four Allied governments:

"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 10 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 11, the Japanese Government have the honor to communicate to the Governments of the four powers as follows:

"1. His Majesty the Emperor has issued an Imperial rescript regarding Japan's acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam declaration.

"2. His Majesty the Emperor is prepared to authorize and ensure the signature of 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 required by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the abovementioned terms.'

"Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

"Charge' d' Affaires of the Swiss Government in the United States"



## Appendix D:

# The man who survived both atomic bombs.

- Tsutomu Yamaguchihe lived in Nagasaki. He was on a business in Hiroshima on August 6<sup>th</sup>. He was 2 miles from the center of the city when the bomb exploded.
  - He suffered ruptured eardrums, temporary blindness and radiation burns.
  - He spent that night in an air raid shelter in Hiroshima. He returned to Nagasaki the following day.
- He got medical treatment for his wounds when he returned to Nagasaki. He returned to work on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. He was 2 miles from ground zero. He was telling his boss about Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped.
  - He did not receive direct injuries but suffered a high fever for a week.
- There are a number of other people like Fukui Kinuyo, a teenager, who survived both bombs. She was 94 in 2024.



**Tsutomu Yamaguchihe  
died in 2010 at age 93.**



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE U.S MINT

