

11 August 1945

Dearest, Ruth,

I hope this is it. Japan as offered to surrender and now we are dickering whether we should accept it or not. This week Japan has felt two blows, the atomic bomb and Russia declaring war. We two, in the service have had two blows. The first is the possible military clique system after this war. The second is the possibility of the Nations not accepting this surrender by the Japanese. We are most disturbed by the attitude of the people at home. Immediate poles were taken of the attitude of the man on the street. The majority said not to accept and to hold out for unconditional surrender. On the other hand look at the attitude of the men who have to fight this war. They are overwhelmingly in favor of accepting this peace offer. Whose opinions in the states were taken. Those making money out of this war and those in the blackmarket?

Isn't Japan accepting unconditional surrender. She had agreed to all the specifications made at the Potsdam convention. Now that she asks that the Emperor retain his position some think she is dictating the peace policies. To my way of thinking and to many others the Emperor is just a symbol of religion. No country wants to have its religion dictated. The Japanese people have fought and died for the Emperor. If he should order them to cease fighting I think they would unquestionably. Was it not the war lords and business men who caused this war? We couldn't ask the king of Italy to be classified as a war criminal just because Duce caused Italy to go to war. He was forced to go along just the same as the Emperor of Japan.

No where along the line was mention made of the Emperor. The cause of the war was placed on the shoulders of the other influences. I believe that nothing was mentioned of the Emperor, for a reason. We did not bomb his palace, nor attempt to harm him in any way. Had he been killed perhaps the Japs would have fought to the last man. To the Japanese he is a spiritual being. I believe that we left that loop hole so that the people of Japan could decide for themselves if they wanted to retain their Emperor.

If anyone is interested in the fighting man's point of view it is, accept this unconditional surrender and let the people of Japan retain his spiritual position. After all, the ones who have to fight and die should have some opinion in the matter. Those that see war only in the movies don't know what it is all about.

The hourly broadcasts for the past few hours have been the same. It is about 5 AM back in the states. Actually no news will take place until the day begins. We expect that about midnight or noontime, state time, news should start coming in.

We are pretty much burned up about the attitude of those in the states. We are led to believe that there are some who don't want us to come back home. Kindly take note of who these people are.

Let us hope that tomorrow we will have the news that this is over.

I love you, miss you and hope it will be soon when I will

See you later.

Love Arthur