

(Annex 1 to Appendix 1 to VINEP No 1092/14 of 1st October 1945)

SPEECH BROADCAST TO THE THIRD FLEET  
BY ADMIRAL HILSON

The war is ended. You, in conjunction with your brothers in arms of all services, have contributed inestimably to this final result. Our fighting men have brought an implacable, treacherous and barbaric foe to his knees in abject surrender. This is the first time in the recorded history of the misbegotten Japanese race that they, as a nation have been forced to submit to this humiliation.

I said in 1942 the Japs were no supermen. You have helped write finis on that estimate in 1945. Your names are written in golden letters on the pages of history - your fame is, and shall be, immortal. Wherever you have met the foe, on the sea, on the land or in the air, you have been supreme. From the early days of fighting with a very frayed shoe string, to the finish of fighting with the mightiest combined fleet the world has ever seen, the results have been the same - victory has crowned your efforts. The forces of righteousness and decency have triumphed.

At this moment our thoughts turn to our happy and fortunate homeland, to our loved ones. Deeply rooted in each and every heart is a desire, now that the tumult of war has ceased and victory - absolute and unconditional victory has crowned our efforts, to return to our homes.

A simple process of thinking will demonstrate how impossible this is at the moment. The boredom, the homesickness, the periods of fear, the tragedy, the sweat, the blood we have shed so freely, these have been endured by all with fortitude and brotherly comradeship and gladly. This is a common and proud possession of each and every rank and rating. We are and shall always remain a band of brothers tried in the fire of the greatest holocaust this world has ever experienced, and because of this, indissoluble. That which we fought and bled and died for has become a reality. That reality can not be - must not be - transient, it must rest on firm foundations. The structure that we build must be so firm that the storms of all ages to come can not touch its surface. Because of your fighting qualities and the fighting qualities of our brothers in arms of all services, our beloved land has not known the ravages of war, our dear ones at home have not been endangered.

Give praise to God Almighty for this and give humble and grateful thanks that He saw fit to use us as His instruments.

Victory is not the end. Rather it is but the beginning. We must establish a peace, a firm, a just, and an enduring peace; a peace that will enable all decent nations to live without fear and in prosperity; a peace that will glorify the inherent dignity and nobility of mankind. Never again should be permit the enslavement of decent human beings - never again should tyrants be permitted to rise in a civilised world. To attain this requires unremitting toil over a period of years. The enemy over the entire world is conquered and has been forced to bow his collective knee to us, the victors. He is unregenerate. It is our cross, our duty, to make him regenerate. This can not be done in a day. It may take decades and generations. The present and immediate duty of the Third Fleet is crystal clear. We must, in conjunction with all Allied forces so employed, reduce Nippon to military impotency. We must keep them militarily impotent. Following this, it is imperative that instrumentalities be set up to educate and divorce the Japanese from their barbaric traditions, teachings and thoughts. This is a matter of common sense, good judgement, policy and tenacity of purpose, and will require military might for implementation and very wisest understanding statecraft.

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SPEECH BROADCAST TO THE THIRD FLEET  
BY ADMIRAL HALSEY  
(contd)

The time necessary to attain this goal is unpredictable. Now that the fighting has ended there must be no letdown. We shall have long and trying periods of very watchful waiting. A busy man is a happy man. It behooves all in authority to take this to heart. Plans should be in the formulative period now - plans to provide work, study, and recreation. This is not only constructively necessary for the upkeep and preservation of our splendid ships but imperative for the morale of our incomparable fighting men.

I wish it were possible for me to meet, greet, and know each officer and man of our fighting Third Fleet. Owing to its size and dispersion, this can not be. You shall always occupy a special and honoured space in my mind and heart. We have been through this trying time together. We have shared the good, we have shared the bad. We are brothers - blooded by our active participation in combat operations in an unprecedented naval war.

When the time comes, many will return to civilian pursuits. Keep the torch burning. Join your forces in the pursuit of righteousness and decency. You have been tried in a cruel crucible - you have, thank God, been proved not wanting. Let no man tear down that for which you have sacrificed so much. Your civic responsibilities will be great. Meet them with the same fortitude you have displayed during this war. Then shall our great land be safe and sound.

You that remain in the Navy, keep your swords sharp. You accept a great responsibility. The great traditions and the constant state of preparedness of this our first line of defence are in your keeping. Maintain your powder dry and anticipate every new development. The applications change but the principles of war are immutable. God grant that we may never have to apply them again. A ready and efficient fleet is one of the greatest deterrents to the horrors of war. To you all I say I shall always be ready and glad within my means to render any **advice**, assistance, or succour.

To our fighting brothers of the British Pacific Fleet, my eternal gratitude for your efficient and generous services. I am proud, very proud, to have had you under my command during this last combat period of the Western Pacific war on the seas. He who knew you expected great fighting qualities. Our expectations have been more than fulfilled. Your co-operative spirit, your manner of meeting and anticipating our wishes, the way you have adopted and fallen into our scheme of manoeuvres, is little short of remarkable. The co-ordinated offensive and defensive fighting on the surface and in the air makes us in fact a single fighting team.

To those of us who have suffered injuries or been permanently maimed, my gratitude and thankfulness that you have been spared for further useful activity. May a grateful country never forget the sacrifices you made for the good of all mankind.

To those of our brothers that have given their all - who made the supreme sacrifice - Hal! Rest with God. The memory of you will never die. Your names and your deeds will rest with and be an inspiration to all decent mankind through all ages. To your loved ones my deepest sympathy. May time assuage your grief and bring a full realization of your dear ones immortal fame.

To all of you belongs the credit. And I shall do all within my limited powers to see that you receive it. Again and again God bless you and well done.