

was recalled before reaching the ship, stating that the Japanese had officially accepted our surrender terms, had finally reached the ship. All scheduled combat air patrol were maintained, but all strikes against the Empire were cancelled. A "Judy" was shot down over Task Group 38.4 at 1123. Other enemy planes were reported but faded. At 1301 Admiral Halsey broadcast news of the Japanese surrender which our ship's announcing system sent over the ship. At 1315 a bogey was reported, and a few minutes later was shot down by a cap from another carrier of our Group. During the late afternoon the battle flags of all the ships in the formation were broken. The Bennington broke the two star Admiral's flag.

The next day, on 16 August, was anti-climax. We were still alert, however, and on the lookout for any trickery. We stayed in the area about 200 miles southeast of Honshu, moving out a little the following day when we participated in a mass photographic exercise of the entire Task Force. We were in the refueling area on the 18th and 19th and on the latter day transferred our Marine Detachment to the USS Garrard (APA 84) for temporary duty in connection with the tentative landing schedule on the Japanese mainland. Pursuant to orders, our ship formed various elements of Landing Party groups from ship's company in preparation for a call for hasty detachment of such personnel; but this did not occur. We replenished ammunition on 21 August, still about 300 miles off the Tokyo area, and our planes flew in mass photographic flights in formation over the Task Force on the 22nd.

On 25 August, operating in an area approximately 100 miles off the east coast of northern Honshu, we began launchings of search patrol flights over the Japanese areas in effort to locate prisoner-of-war-camps. Our planes daily carried food and medicines to the camps as they were located or reported, and made continuing