

Newsletter August 2020



Photo: Naval History and Heritage Command

Japanese surrender was signed on board the USS *Missouri*, September 2, 1945.



Photo: Naval History and Heritage Command

The 22nd Special Naval Construction Battalion celebrated V-J Day.

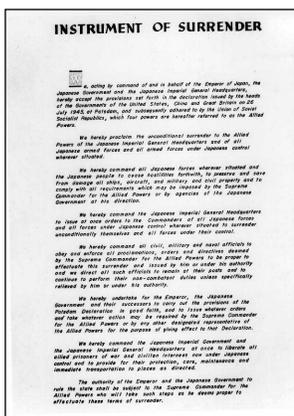


Photo: National Archives

First page of the surrender document. [Click here](#) for larger image and to read. more.

75th Anniversary – End of World War II

V-J Day

On August 15, 1945, a little after noon Japan Standard Time, Japan's Emperor Hirohito went on Radio Tokyo to broadcast an announcement to the Japanese people that Japan had surrendered. World War II had ended. The day became known as "Victory over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." Then on September 2, Japan formally surrendered.

Japan's surrender did not come easy. Allied leaders promised Japan a peaceful government if they surrendered unconditionally. If not, Japan would face "prompt and utter destruction." The Japanese government refused to surrender, and on August 6 and 9, American B-29 planes dropped an atomic bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively. The next day, August 10, the Japanese government communicated its intentions to surrender. Then on August 15, 1945, the official announcement was made; Japan had unconditionally surrendered.

Due to the time difference, it was actually August 14 in the United States, and as soon as the news of Japan's surrender was announced, celebrations erupted. Images came flooding in from around the world of people celebrating. Then on September 2, on board the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, Allied supreme commander General Douglas MacArthur, along with the Japanese foreign minister,

Mamoru Shigemitsu, and the chief of staff of the Japanese army, Yoshijiro Umezu, signed the official Japanese surrender.

With celebrations happening around the world, it was also a bittersweet time for the families of more than 400,000 Americans and over 65 million people worldwide who had died in the war. The death toll, the savagery, and suffering was more than anyone could have imagined.

Every state felt the effects of the war, and North Carolina perhaps more than most. Over 360,000 North Carolinians served during World War II, but for those left on the home front, the fear of an attack was all too real. Along their coast, the Battle of the Atlantic raged and more than 90 ships sank. The threat of the U-boat ended with Germany's surrender to the U.S. on May 7, 1945, but thousands of men and women continued to fight the war in the Pacific. Soon after V-J Day, they began to come home. Over the last decade, NOAA and its partners have worked to document and protect this significant collection of shipwrecks and to honor the sacrifice of those who served.

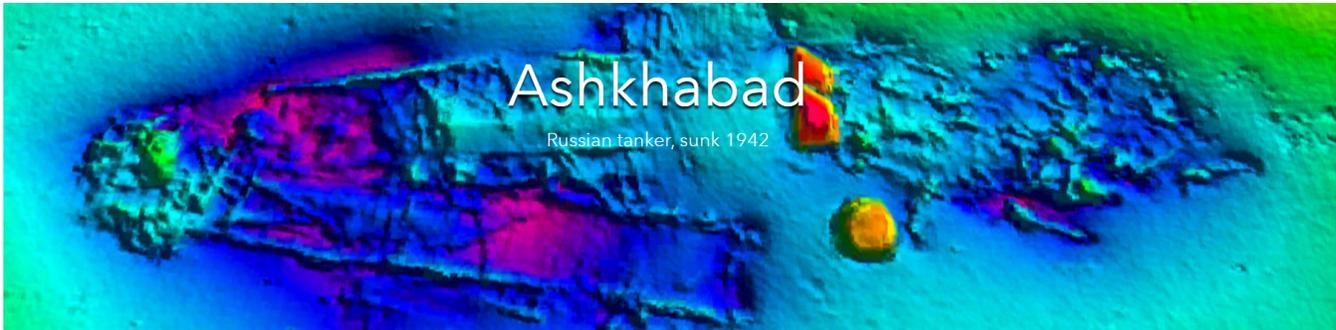
Today in the United States, V-J Day is celebrated on September 2. As we approach the commemoration of the end of World War II, we invite you to join us in pausing to remember the great sacrifices made both here at home and abroad. It is only through the sacrifices of so many that today we live in freedom.

World War II – V-J Day

To learn more about Victory over Japan, visit the following websites*:

- [The National World War II Museum – New Orleans](#)
- [History.Com](#)
- [Naval History and Heritage Command](#)
- [President Truman's Address on V-J Day](#) (audio recording)

*The inclusion of links in this newsletter does not imply endorsement or support of any of the linked information.



3-D model of *Ashkhabad*, NOAA

Register Today to Join Us on September 2

Living Shipwrecks 3D: Exploring North Carolina's World War II Heritage

In honor and commemoration of the 75th anniversary marking the end of World War II, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS), in collaboration with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Service (NCCOS), will host a webinar on September 2 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm EDT.

Off the coast of North Carolina lie the remains of a forgotten World War II battlefield that serves as the final resting place for nearly 1,700 men lost during the Battle of the Atlantic. Join us as researchers discuss the shipwrecks of this naval battlefield and how NOAA honors our nation's heritage both above and below the waves.

Join Tane Casserley, MNMS's Resource Protection and Permit Coordinator, and NCCOS's Research Ecologist Dr. Chris Taylor and Research Associate Dr. Avery Paxton as they highlight a decade of research to document the Battle of the Atlantic shipwrecks off North Carolina's coast. Hear about the advanced technologies used and see acoustic fish visualizations created of the surrounding marine life that thrive on these wreck sites.

Learn how this partnership and collaborative research not only honors the sacrifices of our Allied seamen and the heroism of the U.S. Merchant Marine, but also recognizes the role these shipwrecks play today in the region's health as habitat for vibrant and thriving marine ecosystems. These shipwrecks are truly both ecological and historical wonders.

[Click here](#) to register for the September 2nd webinar, and visit the [Living Shipwrecks 3D](#) website.



Dr. Chris Taylor, Research Ecologist, NCCOS



Dr. Avery Paxton, Research Associate, NCCOS



Tane Casserley, Resource Protection and Permit Coordinator, MNMS

Discovery of the USS *Monitor* - 47 Years Later

It was on New Year's Eve 1862, when the USS *Monitor* slipped to a watery grave off the coast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. For more than a century, the ship's final resting place remained unknown. Although there were numerous searches and the occasional claims of discovery, no one could show absolute proof that *Monitor's* location had been found. That is until 1973.

John G. Newton, geologist, oceanographer, and historian served from 1963 to 1975 as the marine superintendent of the Cooperative Oceanographic Program of Duke University Marine Lab (DUML). As chief scientist in 1973, Newton coordinated one of the most significant cruises aboard Duke's research vessel *Eastward*. The expedition had two missions. One included the study of the marine geology of the North Carolina continental shelf. The second, to locate the wreck of the USS *Monitor*.

Over the years in compiling and processing bathymetric data from previous *Eastward* cruises, Newton noted that shipwrecks had a distinct signature. Combined with his personal interest in Civil War history and his data analysis, he decided to search for the elusive *Monitor* in deep water, south of Cape Hatteras.

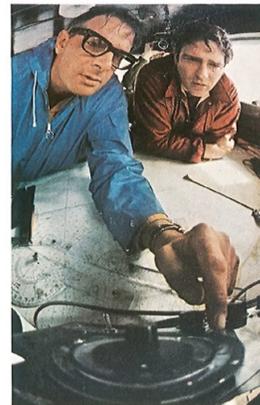
Newton secured funding for the mission from the National Geographic Society and assembled a team that included the pioneer in scanning sonar technology, Dr. Harold Edgerton of MIT, geologist Dr. Robert Sheridan of the University of Delaware, and Gordan P. Watts, Jr., an archaeologist with the North Carolina Division of Archives.

With only seven to eight days to accomplish their mission, the search was an extremely high-risk project. During the survey, 22 wrecks were located and each site was compared with *Monitor's* "footprint." All were eliminated except one. Although the size and shape matched *Monitor's* dimensions, the investigators were unable to quickly verify it as *Monitor*; identification was complicated since *Monitor* lay upside down.

After months of reviewing the data, on March 7, 1974, John Newton, jointly with the North Carolina Department of Archives, made the long-awaited announcement that the Duke survey team had confirmed the discovery of the USS *Monitor*. In April 1974, the U.S. Navy research vessel *Alcoa Seaprobe* began a systematic examination of the *Monitor* wreck site and collected over 1,200 quality photographs and several hours of video. A photomosaic was completed of the wreck convincing the last of any doubters that *Monitor* had indeed been found!

Monitor was arguably one of the most important objects in American history, and its discovery created much discussion on how best to protect and preserve this great ship. To accomplish that goal, the governor of North Carolina nominated the USS *Monitor* wreck site for status as a national marine sanctuary. On January 30, 1975, the 113th anniversary of its launch, the Secretary of Commerce designated the USS *Monitor* and a column of water one nautical mile in diameter surrounding the vessel as the nation's first national marine sanctuary.

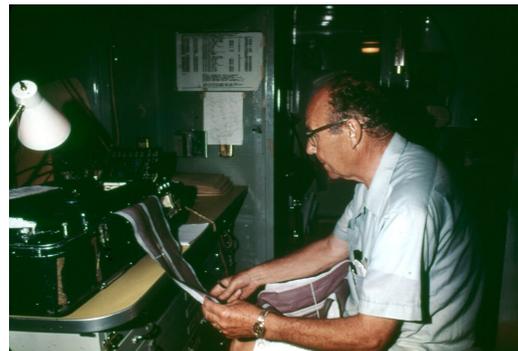
Learn more about the USS *Monitor's* [history](#), see the [wreck site](#) as it is today, download [educational](#) activities, and more at our website, <https://monitor.noaa.gov>.



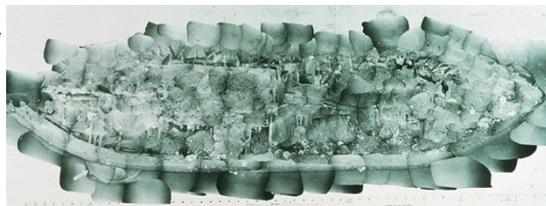
John G. Newton and Gordan Watts on board *Eastward*. Photo: NOAA, *Monitor* Collection



Team of researchers who discovered the USS *Monitor*. L-R: Gordan Watts, Robert Sheridan, John Newton and his daughter Cathryn, and Harold Edgerton. Photo: NOAA, *Monitor* Collection



Harold "Doc" Edgerton reviews the sonar data on board *Eastward* as they searched for *Monitor*. Photo: NOAA, *Monitor* Collection

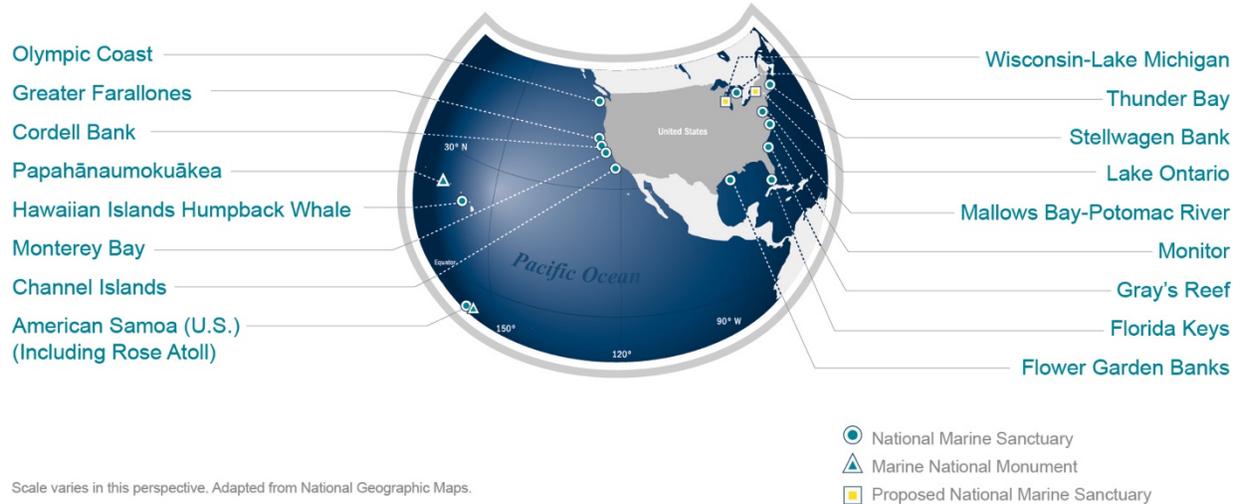


Above: 1974 photomosaic of the USS *Monitor* wreck. Photo: NOAA, *Monitor* Collection

Right: Twenty-one sites are identified as vessels other than *Monitor*. Photo: NOAA, *Monitor* Collection



NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



National Marine Sanctuary System

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 14 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Photo Contest



In celebration of national [Get Into Your Sanctuary](#) activities, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is hosting a photo contest. From **May 23 through September 7** (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend), send us your best photos of the National Marine Sanctuary System and help us celebrate the beauty and importance of these special places.

[Submit Your Photos](#)

Show the world what the ocean and Great lakes mean to you.

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photo-contest.html>

Writer and Editors: Shannon Ricles and Dayna McLaughlin
For more information, email monitor@noaa.gov.

<http://monitor.noaa.gov/>