

December 14, 1943

U.S.S. TAYLOR (DD468)

FINAL NOTICE TO ALL HANDS

It is with a feeling of considerable sadness that I prepare my final "Notice to All Hands". That term, to me, recalls so many missions we have safely completed together and which I can never forget.

We will arrive in port soon; one half of the ship's company will go on leave and about one quarter will be transferred to new construction destroyers. We can expect about 100 new men to come to the ship. There will be many changes from the original crew with which we started. I will leave as soon as my relief reports on board.

It is not easy for me to see us break up, separate, and go our different ways. On board this ship we have had about sixteen months of duty which will be difficult to equal for the variety of tasks assigned, undertaken and accomplished. We have been through so much since we placed the ship in commission and have worked together so closely, that I have developed an affection and regard for the TAYLOR and this crew that will always be with me.

You have done a splendid job. The past year of combat operations has required the Engineers to make high speed and full power many times. With few tender overhauls, they kept the plant operating, frequently working long hours to make repairs so that we could keep in formation and take part in the tasks assigned. We have not had one single breakdown which required us to fall out of formation and that is an achievement of which the Black Gang should be justifiably proud, and for which they are to be admired. The Deck Force has done its part in the endless job of keeping the ship clean and free from rust. The Gunnery Department has always had the guns and torpedoes ready. The Bridge personnel, signalmen and radiomen have done their share in helping to complete our missions successfully. The Doctor and the pharmacist's mates have looked after us when we were sick and the cooks and steward's mates working under all variations of sea and temperature, have never failed to have hot and good food for us.

Our Squadron has a high reputation. I want each one of you to feel that you have helped to achieve that high reputation and to be proud of it.

You have given the ship's officers and me the fullest co-operation and shown us the highest loyalty; without those two factors we could have done nothing. I say this to all of you - thank you for that co-operation and loyalty. Whether you leave the TAYLOR for other ships or remain on board, give that same co-operation, show that same loyalty to your new Commanding Officer and ship's officers and you will continue to do your part toward taking that final step on the Tokyo Road.

Goodbye and the very best wishes for an excellent leave, a fine holiday season and hopes for a New Year that will see the beginning of the end to this war.

*Benjamin Katz*  
BENJAMIN KATZ  
Commander, U.S. Navy,  
Commanding.