

U.S.A. South Dakota - Tokyo Bay -
Sunday 2 Sept '45.

The big moment is over and the Japs have signed the formal terms of surrender. Everything checked on a minute by minute schedule and the ceremony started at exactly 9 am Tokyo time. The Press came off in a transport destroyer before 8¹⁵ am - followed by another destroyer carrying all the guests except the Supreme Comdr's press party - which came alongside (as did all the destroyers) at 8³⁰. I don't see how I can describe this scene - or why I attempt it, because there present at least 200 correspondents who have by now written and broadcast thousands of words of description - which - even as I write at 11³⁰ am - is either being read or heard by you and all my children - wherever they may be. Many of our officers from the ships still at sea were present - they having flown in by planes. Among these was Shapforth who particularly asked that I include in this letter his best wishes to you and Mary. Fortunately the bad weather of the past two days passed and we were blessed with dry though overcast skies. Last night - I was tremendously pleased (and surprised) to receive your five letters of 23 and 24 Aug with enclosures - which were brought up from Guam by one of our officers who brought up important mail. This is rapid time - your 24 Aug letter - written on my 25 Aug was only 7 days from Peleliu to Tokyo Bay. Now must close.