

My most vivid memories aboard the South Dakota were when NO.2 Powder Magazine blew up and I lost a good friend. Also when a bomb hit in the Marianas resulting in a very moving burial at sea ceremony.

On the lighter side, I recall coming back from liberty and getting confused in the galley. An officer came by and asked if I was lost. I replied, "No, I just don't know where I am".

During my tour in the navy, I was assigned to be one of Admiral Halsey's steward in his flag staff on board the USS Missouri (BB63). After the signing of the formal surrender of the Japanese force to the allied powers, September 2, 1945, Tokyo Bay, Japan, I was serving drinks to Admiral Halsey, Admiral Nimitz and General Douglas MacArthur in Halsey's wardroom. I over heard Admiral Nimitz ordering Halsey to transfer the Third Fleet Flag Staff on board the historical battleship, USS South Dakota (BB57) and to escort the rest of the fleet back to Honolulu then to San Francisco Bay in CA.

The USS South Dakota looked great flying the home pennant flag. I met many shipmates that told me a lot of war stories. The stories I heard made me very proud to be one of the crew. After being at sea for 3 months and away from my family for two years, I had a happy feeling to be back home again.

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