

I came aboard the USS South Dakota at time of sewing on the USS South Dakota at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, just out of Boot Camp. Looking at the big ship, I was scared and thinking, “How did I ever get assigned to such a big battleship?”

After many months of being aboard and being in Tokyo at surrender time, I was, and still am, very honored at being given the great ship — the best.

Out of many experiences on board and many general quarters, a few of which caught me in the shower with no clothes, the one which I still think about is the typhoon with 120-mile gale in January, 1945.

We lost three destroyers and all those men aboard. I was on five-inch gun watch at the time and all of us didn't know how we kept righting ourselves. We kept on saying, “Come back up, come back.” Our gun barrels would be in water, first to port, then to starboard. As many others are, I am very thankful that the Lord was with us at the time and with many others while aboard the South Dakota.