

14 September 1945.

Subject: Commendation.

To : Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Area Command.

1. The splendid cooperation of all navy personnel concerned, made possible the outstanding publicity of the Surrender ceremony aboard the USS MISSOURI on second September 1945. Not only were the accredited war correspondents of all services highly pleased, but their editors and publishers throughout the world have expressed their complete satisfaction with the results. All of the navy personnel with whom the undersigned and his officers worked were most cooperative, made helpful suggestions and were eager to reach conclusions satisfactory to all concerned. Had it not been for the very special arrangements - such as providing the Destroyer USS TAYLOR (DD468) for the prompt conveyance of war correspondents to shore transmission stations, the entire release not only would have been delayed until a late hour in the United States, but would have seriously jeopardized its publication as a completed, well-rounded story with radio photos.

2. The radio broadcast including the ceremony, address by the President of the United States, remarks of the Supreme Commander and remarks of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Area Command, was pronounced an epic in radio history. The photo coverage of the ceremony was the most complete in the history of World War No. 2, and was also acclaimed by editors and pictorial executives. Over eight hundred thousand words were transmitted from shore stations alone concerning the ceremony.

3. I particularly desire to commend the following:

Captain Firzhugh Lee, USN, PIO - on the staff of CinCPac.

Cmdr. H.V. Bird, USN, gunnery officer on the USS MISSOURI, who was in charge of arrangements for the ceremony aboard the ship.

Cmdr. James Bassett, Jr., USNR, PIO on the staff of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr.

Lieut. Comdr. William J. Kitchell, USNR, flag Lieutenant to Admiral Halsey, who assisted in plans and arrangements.

Lieut. Comdr. H.H. deLAUREAL, USN, Commanding Officer of the Destroyer USS TAYLOR, whose efficient operation, perfect timing, orderly performance to duty and courteous treatment enabled the shore-based correspondents to meet the deadline which had been mutually agree upon prior to the ceremony.

Lieutenant J.F. GUASTAFERRO, USNR, Executive Officer of the USS TAYLOR.

The entire crew of the USS TAYLOR who so admirably assisted in every way possible.

/s/ L.A. DILLER,  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.