Japanese Surrender: September 2, 1945

It is easy enough to forget what was once most the most important event in the world. Every year, we have fewer eyewitnesses to remind us.

The Japanese officially surrendered—ending World War II—on Sunday, September 2, 1945. That morning, on the deck of the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, the Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu signed their names on the Instrument of Surrender. The time was recorded as 4 minutes past 9 o'clock. Afterward, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander in the Southwest Pacific and Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, also signed. He accepted the Japanese surrender "for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan."

Note: Click on the screen after the video loads if you need to go to the YouTube website for a bigger picture.