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The Fall of the Rising Sun A British War Correspondent in Tokyo Bay

A search for information on the commemoration of VJ-Day marking the end of the war with Japan, unearthed souvenirs of James Watson, a BBC War Correspondent which were auctioned in 2019. An Internet search produced no details of his activities, but three albums provided interesting details of the work of James Brownlee Watson, easily recognised by his moustache.

An album titled *Invasion of Europe 1944-1945* the cover of which carries his bullion wire "British War Correspondent" badges, begins with photographs of personnel in Clevedon, Somerset in April 1944, suggesting he served with the US Army's Publicity and Psychological Warfare Battalion, a mixture of journalists, photographers, PR men, linguists, radio operators and drivers. A map in the albums and photos of destroyed tanks showed he was in France between July and September 1944 and then again from December 1944 to March 1945.



After some months in Britain he sailed to the Pacific Theatre in May 1945 dressed in US Army uniform carrying War Correspondent badges but described as a wireless technician, in July 1945 he embarked at San Francisco for Australia, later moving to Manila. On the 2nd September James B Watson was present on board USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay "at the formal surrender of the Japanese Forces to the Allied Powers".

