

# THE U.S.S. ALABAMA



This 35,000-ton battleship, commissioned as the USS Alabama in August 1942, is one of only two surviving examples of the South Dakota class. Alabama gave distinguished service in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of World War II. During its 40-month Asiatic-Pacific stint, it participated in the bombardment of Honshu and its 300-member crew earned nine battle stars. Decommissioned in 1947, the ship was transferred to the state of Alabama in 1964 and is now a war memorial, open to the public.

National Register of Historic Places

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[www.nr.nps.gov/writeups/86000083.nl.pdf](http://www.nr.nps.gov/writeups/86000083.nl.pdf)

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## INTRODUCTION

The U.S.S. *Alabama* is sailing quietly on the Pacific Ocean on the night of 26 November 1943. Most of the sailors are sleeping soundly in their racks while the night shift is on watch. At 22:15 the Officer of the Deck receives word there are enemy planes approaching and gives order to sound General Quarters. *General Quarters, General Quarters, all hands man your battle stations, forward starboard side aft port side General Quarters.*

Sailors jump out of their racks and others run to their battle stations in orderly chaos. As water-tight hatches are being closed, Captain Wilson runs to the bridge to take in the situation and starts giving orders. While signalmen search the skies with their signal lights for the approaching enemy aircraft, gunners and loaders ready their guns waiting for orders. Aircraft are sighted, fire orders are shouted, and the night comes to life when as the silence is broken by the deafening noise of rounds being shot out of the muzzles of the ship's mighty guns. Tracers and projectiles race through the air toward their targets in the sky as Japanese pilots in Zeroes on a mission to harm to the ship find themselves suddenly flying into a wall of lead. They decide to turn back home as their planes are rocked by exploding ordinance. Cease-fire orders are given and reports sounding like a foreign language to an untrained ear start to flow to the bridge from all parts of the ship. Once again the U.S.S. *Alabama* drives back her enemy and can go on sailing quietly through the Pacific night.

Come take a few moments and experience the history of this magnificent battleship. Find out how she came to life, and where her journeys took her during and after the war. Examine at what made the *Alabama* a formidable opponent on the open ocean. View pictures of how the ship looked while on active duty in the U.S. Navy and what she looks like now as a museum in Mobile, Alabama. Most importantly, have fun with learning about the *Alabama*, and in participating in the activities associated with this lesson!

## GETTING STARTED



[http://www.jim-frizzell.com/ww2/01-15-01\\_uss\\_alabama.jpg](http://www.jim-frizzell.com/ww2/01-15-01_uss_alabama.jpg)

Considering the climate of the times, what emotions might this photograph have evoked in Americans during World War II?

## SETTING THE STAGE

What do the following have in common?

- 1964
- school children from Alabama
- Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
- Cadillac's cost \$1000.00
- the average minimum wage is about \$1.00
- the battleship USS Alabama

While it may seem that the items on the list above have little in common, there is a bigger connection than you may think! The USS Alabama was sent to fight in World War II on August 20, 1943. The USS Alabama fought in many battles, often saving the lives of American men and women, earning nine Battle Stars, and never suffered any casualties or significant damage due to enemy fire. After the war, the USS Alabama was sent to rest on Puget Sound in Bremerton, Washington, in 1947. In May 1962, the Navy announced that the USS Alabama would be scrapped.

In 1964, a campaign was launched to bring the USS Alabama home, to Mobile, Alabama. The USS Alabama would cost \$1,000,000.00. This was a lot of money in 1964. The average minimum wage for a working person was about \$1.00, which meant a person usually earned about \$8.00 a day or \$40.00 a week. In fact, in 1964 a Cadillac only cost \$1000.00. In order to raise the needed money, Alabama school children were encouraged to help. The governor, George C. Wallace, gave a pass that would be honored while he was the governor to any student who donated as little as five cents to bring the USS Alabama home. Alabama school children raised almost \$100,000.00 in mostly nickels, dimes, and quarters!



THE USS ALABAMA IS THE FOURTH WARSHIP TO CARRY THIS NAME. SHE HONORED HER COUNTRY AND STATE B gallantly, SERVING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AS A WATCH GUARD DURING WORLD WAR II. UPON COMPLETING THIS TASK "THE MIGHTY A" READILY ACCEPTED AN ACTIVE ASSIGNMENT IN HELPING WIN THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC. SHE TOOK PART IN EVERY MAJOR NAVAL BATTLE IN THE PACIFIC AND WON NINE (9) BATTLE STARS FOR HER EFFORTS. HAVING RECEIVED MANY HONORS, SHE CAME HOME FOR A WELL DESERVED REST, AFTER ASSISTING IN PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE AND WAY OF LIFE, YOUR USS ALABAMA NOW STANDS READY TO SERVE AS THE ONLY MEMORIAL IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA DEDICATED TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE IDEALS FOR WHICH SHE SO B gallantly FOUGHT.

Corporate fundraising raised the balance of the money needed. In 1964 many insurance men went house-to-house so people could pay their premiums, rather than mailing them to the insurance company. One insurance company, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, was responsible for raising a great deal of the money needed by taking donations from people when they paid their insurance premiums.

On January 9, 1965, the USS Alabama was opened to the public. Since that time, more than 11 million visitors have visited the USS Alabama at her port in Mobile, Alabama.



Pictured above are Alabama school children who would ring the bell after they dropped their nickel, dime, or quarter donation in the bucket.

#### Resources:

##### Personal Interviews:

Bill Tunnell, Director, USS Alabama

Lorry Reditt, teacher, Foley Middle School

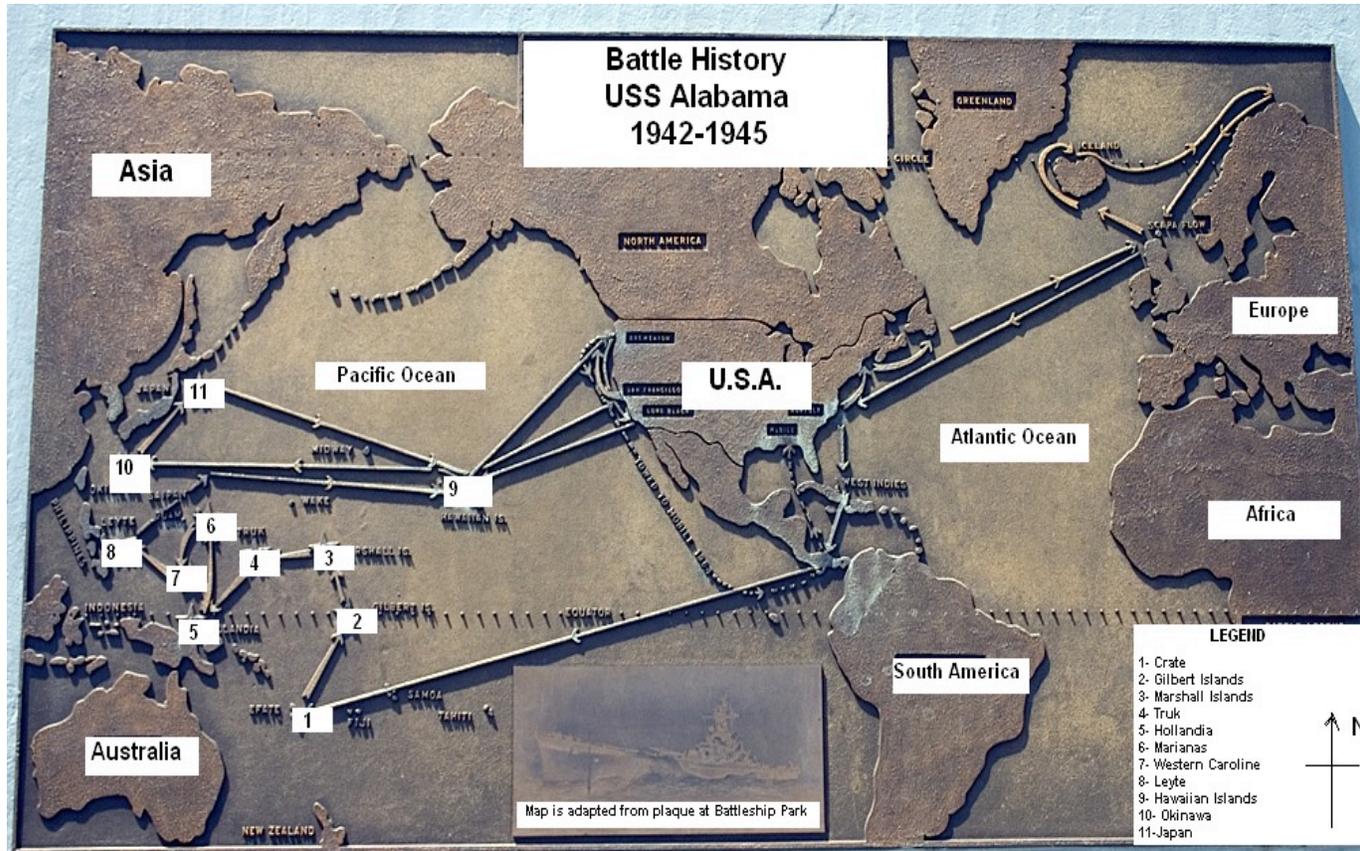
##### Websites:

<http://www.ussalabama.com/html/history/index.php>

[http://www.ussalabama.com/html/misc/how\\_to\\_help.php](http://www.ussalabama.com/html/misc/how_to_help.php)

## LOCATING THE SITE

**Directions:** Your task is to use the maps to answer the questions below each map.



### World Map

1. Did the USS Alabama circumnavigate South America?
2. How did the USS Alabama access the Pacific Ocean from the Caribbean?
3. True or False- The USS Alabama went to the Hawaiian Islands one time.
4. True or False- The USS Alabama's first stop in the Pacific Ocean was New Zealand?
5. Where did the USS Alabama go after Okinawa?

6. What type of military strategy, used during WWII, does this map represent?



### Alabama Map

1. On what body of water is the USS Alabama located?
2. The *USS Alabama* is located just off what interstate highway?
3. The *USS Alabama* rests between which two Alabama counties?
4. If you were traveling from Daphne, which direction would you travel to reach the *USS Alabama*?

5. Why was Mobile an excellent choice for the location of the *Alabama*?

**Alabama Map Answer Key:**

1. Mobile Bay
2. I-10
3. Mobile and Baldwin counties
4. East
5. Right on the water; could be easily accessed from the Gulf of Mexico, so the ship could sail in

**World Map Answer Key:**

1. No
2. Through the Panama Canal
3. False, 3 times
4. False, it was Crate.
5. To Japan
6. Island hopping

## DETERMINING THE FACTS

### Reading 1: U.S.S. Alabama General Story

The *USS Alabama* (BB-60) was one of the four *South Dakota*-class battleships built in the early 1940's, shortly before the beginning of World War II. This class of battleship was not only faster, but also far better protected than the preceding *North Carolina*-class, both by gunnery and construction. These ships provided welcome reinforcements to the naval armada as the U.S. entered the war.

The *USS Alabama* (BB-60) was the fifth completed ship by that name. Her keel was laid in the Norfolk Naval Yard in February of 1940, and she was commissioned in August of 1942 under the command of Captain George B. Wilson. Her initial operational and tactical training missions were conducted in the Chesapeake Bay and in Casco Bay, Maine in early 1943.

Captain Wilson was relieved of his duties in March of 1943 by Captain Fred D. Kirtland. It was under Kirtland's command that the *USS Alabama* and her sister ship, the *USS South Dakota* (BB-57) patrolled the North Atlantic, protecting British and Russian convoys.

In the summer of 1943, the *USS Alabama* returned to Norfolk for an overhaul before heading to the Pacific Theater of operations where she served many roles. Sailing with carriers as an anti-aircraft escort, her guns shot down 22 kamikaze aggressors. Her guns also provided shore bombardment, earning her nine battle stars as she protected amphibious assaults on the Japanese-held islands and provided carriers defense from both air and surface raids. During the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the radar of the *Alabama* detected enemy bombers an unprecedented 190 miles away, a warning that enabled US fighters to gun down 400 Japanese planes.

At the end of the war, the *Alabama* departed the Japanese waters and returned to Puget Sound, where she was decommissioned in 1947. In 1962, the *Alabama* was struck

from the naval register. The state of Alabama expressed an interest in her as a memorial, and she can now be found in permanent mooring in Mobile, where she proudly serves the public as an historical icon.

**Questions:**

1. The *USS Alabama* is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ class of ships built in the early 1940's, shortly before the beginning of World War II.
2. What was different about the *USS Alabama* from the *North Carolina* class of ships?
3. Who was the first to command the *Alabama*?
4. Under the command of \_\_\_\_\_ the *Alabama* and her sister ship the \_\_\_\_\_ patrolled the North Atlantic protecting British and Russian convoys.
5. During the Battle of the \_\_\_\_\_, the radar of the *Alabama* detected enemy bombers an unprecedented 190 miles away, a warning that enabled US fighters to gun down 400 Japanese planes.

**Answer Key:**

1. South Dakota
2. Faster and better protected by both gunnery and construction
3. Capt. George B. Wilson
4. Capt. Fred D. Kirtland; U.S.S. South Dakota
5. Philippine Sea

**Resources:**

[www.ussalabama.com](http://www.ussalabama.com)

This is the website of the *USS Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama.

[www.auburn.edu/~benjadp/tour/tour.html](http://www.auburn.edu/~benjadp/tour/tour.html)

This is a website created by a student at Auburn University that offers a brief overview of the battleship.

[www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/1056/alabama.htm](http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/1056/alabama.htm)

This website gives a basic historical overview of the battleship and some very general facts.

[www.hnsa.org/ships/alabama.htm](http://www.hnsa.org/ships/alabama.htm)

This website was created by the Historic Naval Ships Association and also gives a good background about the *Alabama*.

## Reading 2: U.S.S. Alabama Ship Description

<i>Name:</i>	USS Alabama (BB-60)
<i>Location:</i>	Battleship Parkway, Mobile, Alabama
<i>Owner:</i>	USS Alabama Battleship Commission
<i>Condition:</i>	Excellent, unaltered
<i>Displacement:</i>	35,000 tons standard / 42,500 tons full load
<i>Length:</i>	679 feet
<i>Width:</i>	108 feet
<i>Machinery:</i>	4 sets, Westinghouse Turbines, 8 Foster Wheeler Boilers
<i>Fuel Oil Capacity:</i>	6,959 tons
<i>Maximum Speed:</i>	28 knots
<i>Armament:</i>	9 16-inch/45 caliber Mark 6 guns, 20 5-inch/38 caliber Mark 12 guns, Various combinations of 40 mm and 20 mm antiaircraft guns
<i>Crew:</i>	2,300 wartime
<i>Builder:</i>	Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia
<i>Launched:</i>	February 16, 1942
<i>Commissioned:</i>	August 16, 1942

The *USS Alabama* (BB 60) is the fourth of four South Dakota class battleships laid down in the 1930s and 1940s. She was built by the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia. Her keel was laid on February 1, 1940; she was launched on February 16, 1942 and she was commissioned on August 16, 1942.

The design of the South Dakota class was influenced by the same limitations as the previous North Carolina class, because it, too, was intended to meet Washington Treaty limits. The chief difference was that the South Dakota class, including *USS Alabama*, was designed from the start to carry a 16-inch main battery. To accommodate the heavier armor needed for a 16-inch battery and keep the required weight under 35,000 tons, the waterline length of the South Dakota class was shortened from that of the North Carolina class while the beam remained the same. This change meant that the South Dakota class has a much fuller hull form than the North Carolina class. More powerful engines were also installed to maintain the same fast speed obtained by the North Carolina class.

The *Alabama* is painted grey on metal surfaces exposed to the elements with the exceptions of a black stack cap and black "boot topping" at the waterline. Three quarters of the ship's deck is covered with teak laid on a bituminous base and bolted to the deck. She was built with two explosively-driven catapults on the stern port and starboard, for launching observation airplanes. One of these was removed and discarded during the ship's inactive period. One catapult is still in place with a fully restored OS2U Kingfisher airplane in place.

The *Alabama* is in excellent condition and retains her World War II integrity. She was decommissioned by the navy in 1947 and remained unaltered until the time of her transfer to the State of Alabama as a war memorial in 1964. She entered Mobile, Alabama on September 14, 1964. In 1983 the navy removed some of her spare parts from for the reactivation of the Iowa class battleships.

*Reading was compiled by the National Park Service: World War II Warships in the Pacific; Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific: USS Alabama. URL: [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/butowsky1/alabama.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/butowsky1/alabama.htm)*

## Questions for Reading 2

1. What class of ship is the USS Alabama? How many ships of this class were built during the 1930's and 1940's?
2. Where was the battleship built? Who built it?
3. When was the USS Alabama launched? When was the battleship put into service?
4. List design improvements of the South Dakota class in compared to its predecessor, the North Carolina class.
5. How many explosively-driven catapults were on the USS Alabama at the time of her commission? Where are they located?
6. What was the purpose of the catapult(s)?
7. Are the catapult(s) still in place? Explain.
8. When was the USS Alabama decommissioned? When was the battleship transferred to Mobile?

## **Reading 2 Answer Key**

- 1.** South Dakota class; four.
- 2.** Portsmouth, VA; Norfolk Naval Shipyard
- 3.** February 16, 1942; August 16, 1942
- 4.** 16 inch main battery, heavier armor, shorter water line length, and more powerful engines
- 5.** 2; stern port and starboard
- 6.** Launching observation airplanes
- 7.** One is still in place; the other was removed and discarded during the ship's inactive period.
- 8.** 1947; 9-14-1964

### **Reading 3: USS Alabama's Role in World War II**

After the end of World War I the battleship continued to dominate naval strategy. In an effort to reduce the expenditures required to fund new battleships, the United States, Britain, France, Japan and Italy agreed to a suspension on new battleship construction in 1922 at the Washington Naval Conference. As a result of this agreement, new American battleships in construction were broken up and scrapped. No new battleships were built until 1936 when USS North Carolina was authorized by the Congress.

During these years the nature of naval power was changing as a result of the perfection of the airplane and the introduction of a new capital ship utilizing this new weapon--the aircraft carrier. Supporters of air power argued that the battleship as the principal capital ship of the navy was obsolete because of the long reach of naval aircraft. This view was strengthened early in World War II when the British carried out a carrier strike on the Italian battle fleet at Taranto on November 11, 1940. Subsequent Japanese carrier strikes on the American battle fleet at Pearl Harbor and air strikes from land based aircraft on the British ships HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse confirmed the new order of naval strategy.

While the rise of the aircraft carrier forever altered naval strategy it did not totally eclipse the importance of the battleship. In both the Atlantic and the Pacific, old American battleships carried out extensive bombardments on enemy held shores while new generations of fast American battleships escorted aircraft carriers and provided them with a dense thicket of antiaircraft fire when necessary.

Both old and new American battleships saw heavy service during the war, providing cover for other ships and eventually bombarding the Japanese home islands in 1945. When the war in the Pacific ended on September 2, 1945, the surrender of the Japanese was signed on board the battleship USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Harbor. Although replaced by the aircraft carrier as the principal capital ship of the navy, the battleship saw important and useful service during World War II, and contributed to the eventual American victory.

USS Alabama represents American battleships that fought against Japan in World War II for the following reasons:

1. USS Alabama is representative of the South Dakota class of American battleships that fought against Japan in World War II. Built later than the North Carolina class, the South Dakota class represents the continued American preparation for World War II and the development of a more advanced battleship design.
2. Beginning in 1943, USS Alabama saw continuous action in both the European and Pacific Theaters of operation. USS Alabama earned nine battle stars for her

World War II service. USS Alabama also earned the Navy Occupation Service Medal Pacific, for the period of September 2 to 23 1945.

3. USS Alabama is in excellent condition and retains all of her World War II integrity.

### Questions for Reading 3

1. What happened to new battleship construction in 1922? Why?
2. What altered the naval strategy between World War I and World War II?
3. Name two services battleships carried out during World War II?
4. What class of ships does the *USS Alabama* represent? List two things this class represents.
5. What honors did the USS Alabama receive because of its service during World War II?

*Reading was compiled by the National Park Service: World War II Warships in the Pacific; Warships Associated with World War II in the Pacific: USS Alabama. URL: [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/butowsky1/alabama.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/butowsky1/alabama.htm)*

### References:

Cheasnu, Roger. ed. *Conway's All the World's Fighting Ships 1922-1946*. New York: Mayflower Books, 1980.

McMahon, William E. *Dreadnought Battleships and Battle Cruisers*. Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1978.

Pater, Alan F. *United States Battleships--The History of America's Greatest Fighting Fleet*. Beverly Hills, California: Monitor book Company, 1968.

Stern, Rob. *U.S. Battleships in Action Part 2*. Carrollton, Texas: Squadron/Signal Publications, Inc. 1984.

### **Reading 3 Answer Key**

1. Battleship construction was halted. The United States, France, Britain, Japan and Italy made an agreement to halt construction at the Washington Naval Conference in an effort to reduce the cost of funding new battleships.
2. Perfection of the airplane and the introduction of a new capital ship utilizing a new weapon--the aircraft carrier.
3. Extensive bombardments on enemy held shores, escorted aircraft carriers, cover for other ships, and bombardment of Japanese home islands in 1945.
4. South Dakota class; preparation for World War II and advanced design development

## **Determining the Facts**

### **Reading 4: Battleship Arrives in Mobile**

#### **“Battleship Arrives in City Today”**

#### **Expected AT Pinto Island Around 10 A.M**

(September 14, 1964)

The USS Alabama arrived at the mouth of the Mobile Bay about 9 P.M. Sunday and waited for slack water to make its crossing of the Mobile bar into the bay.

Alabama Battle ship Commission officials said late Sunday, “We are overjoyed that it has finally arrived.” They added Governor George Wallace was attempting to arrange his schedule so he could greet the ship here.

They said the ship was expected to cross the bar between midnight and 2 A.M., then move slowly up the channel to an anchorage on the east side of Pinto Island about a mile into the new channel being dredged to its permanent berth.

She is expected at Pinto Island around 10 A.M. today.

A group of local, state, and national newsmen and photographers will leave the State Docks at 8 A.M. to meet the ship as it moves up the channel. Also on hand will be Frank Samford, state campaign chairman.

Officials said an effort would be made to stall the arrival of the ship at the point it turns into its newly dredged channel until at least 10 A.M.

“We appreciate the patience and understanding of the public in dealing with the delays and uncertainties that have made it impossible to predict the exact time of arrival,” officials said.

They also appealed for a final funds campaign to “finish the job” of financing the state shrine to Alabama’s war heroes.

Stephens G. Croom, secretary and Henri Aldridge, chairman of the commission (USS Alabama reported the drive to get \$1 million for the shrine is \$287, 000 short at present.

The new channel to the shrine site is not expected to be completed until Wednesday. The battle ship will remain in the channel about a week before moving to the shrine site just south of the Causeway. Sand will then be pumped around the battlewagon to hold it.

Aldridge said improving weather conditions allowed the ship, which is being towed by two tugs, to make up some of the previous lost time.

Aldridge said that pilots were planning to tow the ship across the bay between midnight and 2 A.M. Monday-the hour when tidal cross flow is expected to be least troublesome.

*Reading was excerpted from the Mobile Press Register September 14, 1964*

#### **Questions for Reading 4**

1. When did the battleship arrive at the mouth of the Mobile Bay?
2. What if anything in the article indicates this is a significant event in the lives of Mobile and Alabama citizens?
3. Why were officials thankful for the public understanding about the arrival of the battleship?
4. Where was the site of the memorial (called “shrine” in the article) to be? How was it going to be held in place once it arrived at the site?

### **Reading 4 Answer Key**

1. 9 P.M. Sunday
2. The governor was coming for the event; press interest
3. Delays due to weather, etc.
4. South of the causeway; sand will be pumped around it to hold it

## Reading 5:

William Park  
Summer of '42

As a young man, seventeen years and a few months old, I left for boot camp, June 20 1942, Newport, R.I. After a few weeks of training, and a seven-day leave, about three to four hundred men, lined up. About three hundred of us were selected to join the new Battleship U.S.S. ALABAMA, under construction in Norfolk, VA. We were put up in barracks, and waited sometime for crew's quarters to be finished. While in the barracks, we had classes about our new duties aboard ship, such as fire fighting, firing the 20 and 40 machine guns, and shooting at a drone towed by a Navy plane. Instructors kept yelling, "Shoot the drone not the airplane!"

Sometime later, we moved aboard the ship. I was assigned to the 7th DIVISION, a 5" Gun Mount DIV. a deck DIV. We had two rates to choose: if lucky, go Gun Striking on the 5" Guns and the Boatswain Rate. I wound up with the Boatswain Rate, COX, BM 21.

The first day I walked on board the ship my thoughts were: How can this big forty-five thousand ton collection of iron, steel, brass, etc. stay afloat, the weight should sink it. Much to my surprise we did not sink. On a trial run, we ran aground needing several sea going tugs to get us free. We had a lot of hard work to do. We went on fire watch, with a fire extinguisher, following ship yard workers around as they cut metal with a torch or welded, because sparks flew all around, possibly causing fires. Work parties meant loading all the materials needed to supply this giant monster: ammunition, on goods, food stuff, etc.

Liberty in Norfolk VA. was something else: go to a movie, burlesque show, watch sailors get tattooed. eventually getting one myself— an anchor with USN U.S.S. ALABAMA, never ashamed of it, at all.

Leaving Norfolk, VA. we had stops at Annapolis; heading north we stayed in Portland, Maine, where some of our "rebel" sailors got a taste of snow, and cold winds for the first time. I asked for and got on a boat crew, which meant I could go to the dock, which meant fresh milk and doughnuts. Of course the weather there was very cold, but coming from N. Attleboro, Mass. I was used to it. Leaving Portland, we went to Argentia, Newfoundland. More cold, snow, and ice. Going with a task force, and headed for Scapa Flow, Scotland and U Boat Submarines. We were told very little about what to expect. Less than six months later we returned to Norfolk, VA. and on to the Panama Canal to head out to the South Pacific. Arriving at a beautiful South Sea Island, going ashore, I looked for Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Dot Lamore, but none were to be there. We fired many shells in practice, but the real shooting was a lot different. Serious and down to business. The ship survived many combat patrols with minor damage. For the most part, a Great War Record .Arriving on board at seventeen years and a few months old and leaving four years later. Met may men, learned things, a lifetime of memories. As Bob Hope might say "Thanks for the Memories".

Excerpt from: *"The Mighty A" and the Men who were Mighty* by Rebecca and Heidi Brown

### Questions for Reading 5

1. How old was William Park when he joined the Navy?
2. What division was William Park assigned to on the USS Alabama?
3. What was William Park's rate (job description) on the USS Alabama?
4. Where did William Park look for Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Dot Lamore?
5. For what was William Park most thankful ?
6. In your opinion, what would have caused William Park, a seventeen-year-old, to join the Navy?
7. How do you think Park felt when he was assigned to a war ship?
8. Explain how you would feel if, as a senior in high school, you were preparing to go to war, possibly never to return home.
9. It is 1942. William Park is your son and he has just told you that he signed up to join the Navy. What response would you have?

### **Reading 5 Answer Key**

1. Just a little over 17
2. 7<sup>th</sup> Division
3. Boatswain
4. A South Sea island
5. Surviving, learning things, meeting people, a life time of memories
6. Questions 6-9 are personal opinion questions.

## VISUAL EVIDENCE



### Photograph Interpretation Questions:

1. Most women in the 1940s did not work outside the home. From the clothing and equipment these women are wearing, what do you think might be their occupation?
2. Do you think the man shown in the picture is doing the same work as the women? Why or why not?
3. What is happening behind the workers in the photograph?



Political Cartoon Interpretation Questions:

1. Who does the man in the ship represent? How do you know?
2. What might the sinking ship labeled “disunited states” mean?
3. To what do the words above the sinking ship refer?
4. What do the people in the water seem to be doing?
5. To what might the airplane labeled “Jap raid” refer?
6. What do you think is the overall message of this political cartoon?

**Photograph Interpretation Answer Key:**

1. Because of their heavy shoes, overalls and protective head gear, it appears they are doing some very hard labor.
2. The man is dressed in a suit and does not appear to be doing the same kind of work because he is so dressed up.
3. There is construction going on-actually construction of a ship.

**Political Cartoon Interpretation Answer Key:**

1. The United States-is Uncle Sam, has stars on hat and tie, in boat labeled United States.
2. The U.S. was having many problems just before World War II; there were lots of differences of opinion and problems in the country.
3. These words indicate some of the problems existing in the country just before World War II.
4. People are swimming toward the boat from the sinking ship, reaching out for the boat. They are coming from the sinking ship to the stable one.
5. The bombing of Pearl Harbor.
6. The message seems to be that the bombing of Pearl Harbor unified the people of the United States and that many of the problems that existed in this country were not as important as being united against Japan.

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