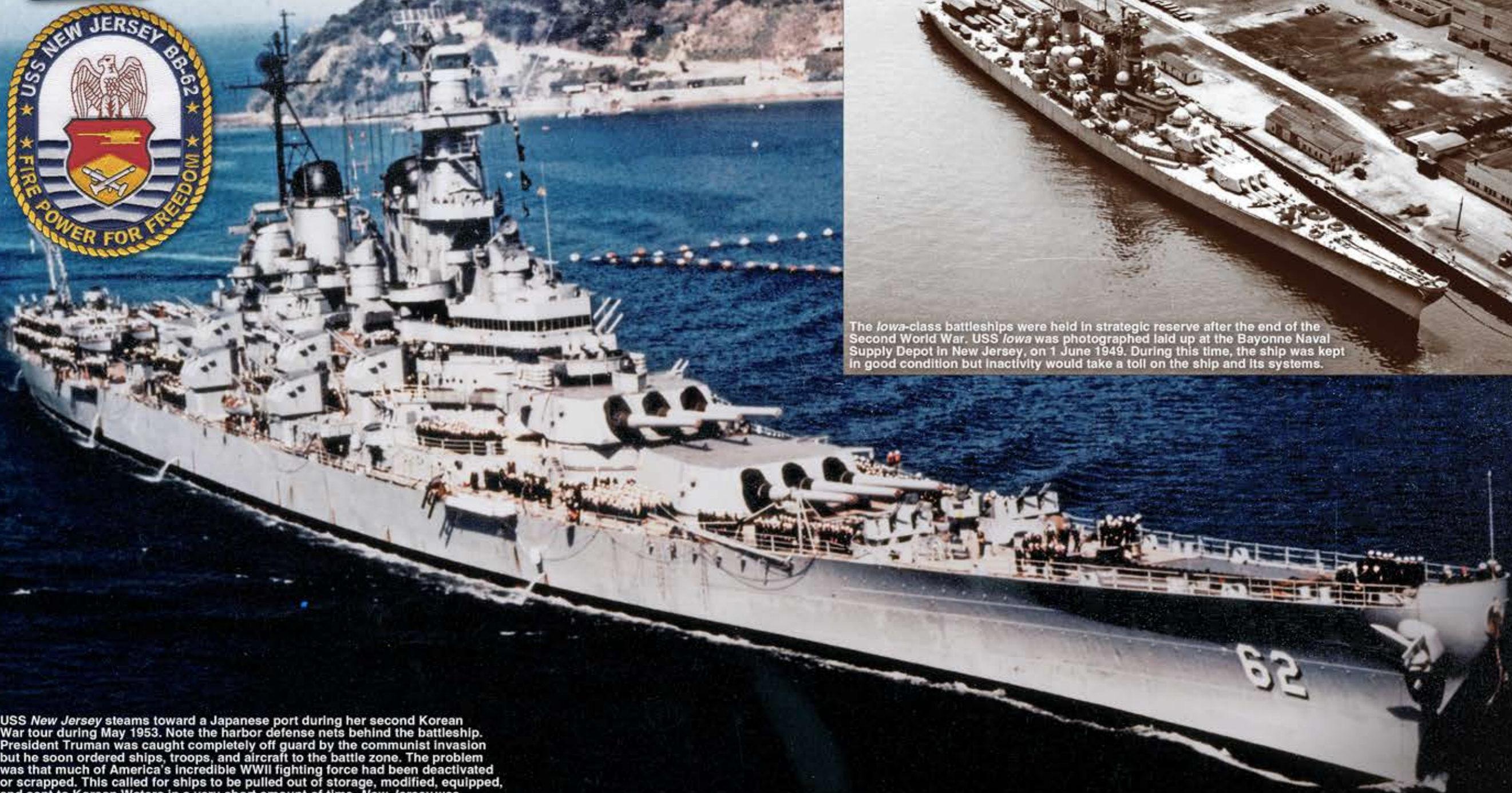




THEIR GUNS WERE ALWAYS READY

BY JAMES THOMPSON

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS – THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WARSHIPS. THIS IS THE FOURTH INSTALLMENT ON THE USS NEW JERSEY - PART NINE



The Iowa-class battleships were held in strategic reserve after the end of the Second World War. USS Iowa was photographed laid up at the Bayonne Naval Supply Depot in New Jersey, on 1 June 1949. During this time, the ship was kept in good condition but inactivity would take a toll on the ship and its systems.

USS *New Jersey* steams toward a Japanese port during her second Korean War tour during May 1953. Note the harbor defense nets behind the battleship. President Truman was caught completely off guard by the communist invasion but he soon ordered ships, troops, and aircraft to the battle zone. The problem was that much of America's incredible WWII fighting force had been deactivated or scrapped. This called for ships to be pulled out of storage, modified, equipped, and sent to Korean Waters in a very short amount of time. *New Jersey* was recommissioned at Bayonne on 21 November 1950 and Capt. David Tyree welded his ship and crew into an efficient fighting force, sailing from Norfolk on 16 April 1951 and arriving off the east coast of Korea on 17 May of that year. Vice Admiral Harold Martin, commanding the United States 7th Fleet, placed his flag on *New Jersey* for the next six months.