



THEIR GUNS WERE ALWAYS READY

PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS - THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WARSHIPS - PART THREE

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Vought OS2U-3 Kingfisher is launched off of *Iowa's* starboard catapult while the port catapult is prepared to launch a Kingfisher in the same direction. A third OS2U-3 is resting on a dolly on the deck. Note the many manned 20mm Oerlikon weapons. Kingfishers were ideal spotting aircraft. They could also carry depth charges and, on several occasions, they actually tangled successfully with enemy Zero fighters.



Church service at sea aboard *Iowa*. The services were always well-attended.



Crewmen aboard the *Iowa* enjoy some relaxation during April 1945. The stress of 24/7 combat duty could take its toll so the sailors were given a wide variety of relaxing activities - from movies, to boxing matches, to basketball games.



Patch commemorating the *Iowa's* many years of service.

Iowa entering Majuro on 4 February 1944 as seen from USS *Natoma Bay* (CVE-62). She is wearing anti-submarine camouflage measure paint applied in December or early January 1944 with Navy Blue (5-N) and Light Gray (5-L) and Deck Blue (20-B) horizontal surfaces. From 29 January to 3 February 1944, *Iowa* supported carrier air strikes made by R/Adm. Frederick Sherman's Task Group 58.3 (TG 58.3) against Kwajalein and Eniwetok atolls. Her next assignment was to support air strikes against the major Japanese naval and logistics base at Truk, Caroline Islands. *Iowa*, in company with other ships, was detached from the support group on 16 February to conduct an anti-shipping sweep around Truk with the objective of destroying enemy naval vessels escaping to the north. During this action, *Iowa*, along with her sister *New Jersey*, sank the Japanese light cruiser *Katori*, the cruiser having escaped Truk the day before following Operation *Hallstone*, the US air attack on Truk.