



# THEIR GUNS WERE ALWAYS READY

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PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS — THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WARSHIPS. THIS SEGMENT STARTS THE HISTORY OF THE USS NEW JERSEY - PART SIX



Patch commemorating the *New Jersey's* many years of service.

USS *New Jersey* (BB-62) fires her main 16-inch/50 caliber and 5-inch/38 caliber secondary guns in the northern Pacific. The *New Jersey* was the second of the *Iowa*-class battleships as well as the second USN ship to be named after the State of New Jersey. Although she has many nicknames, "Big J" seems to have been the favorite. The magnificent *New Jersey* earned more Battle Stars for combat actions than the other three completed *Iowa*-class battleships and was the only American battleship providing gunfire support during the Vietnam War. Her 16-inch guns could fire 2700-pound armor piercing shells some 23 miles and this range allowed her to devastate Japanese targets during WWII. As with the rest of the *Iowas*, her main battery consisted of nine 16-inch/50-caliber Mk. 7 guns in three three-gun turrets. Her secondary battery consisted of 20 five-inch/38-caliber guns that could hit targets nine-miles away. These were mounted in twin-gun dual purpose turrets. The remainder of her armament would change throughout her life and these will be detailed in following installments on *New Jersey's* history. Her first captain was Capt. Carl F. Holden. On 7 December 1941, Holden was aboard USS *Pennsylvania* as the ship's executive officer and he took part in the defense of the battleship against attacks by enemy aircraft. *Pennsylvania* received less damage than other American ships during the sneak attack.

