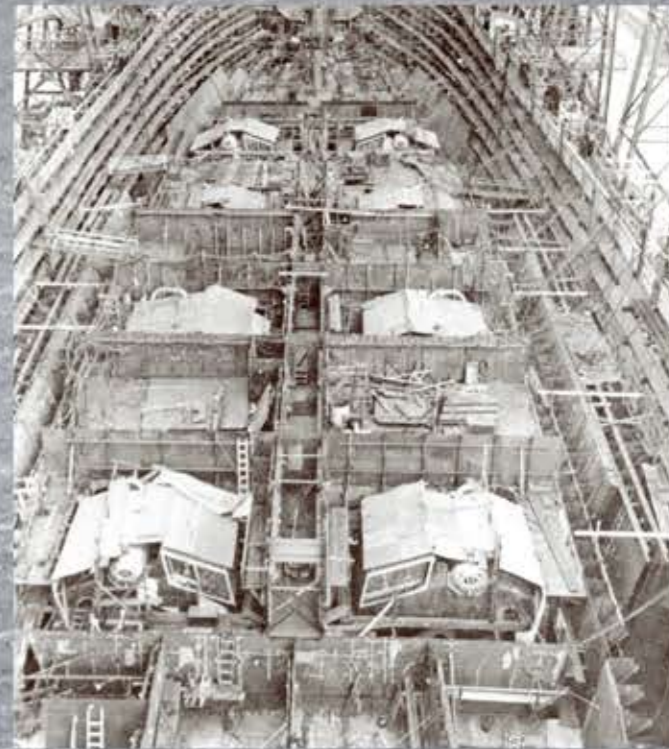




Missouri during November 1943, just two months before launch. The hull is complete up to the main deck and much of the superstructure is in frame. Amid the maze of scaffolding, air hoses, and welding leads, splinter protection for the lightweight 40mm anti-aircraft battery is being installed and the teak deck is being laid.



Missouri during mid-1942 with the engines and boilers in place and the torpedo defense system taking shape amidships. Segments of the lower main armor belt are visible. The keyway for fitting the upper belt and the adjacent plates of the lower belt can be seen. Also visible is the welded scalloped butt straps vertically joining the lower plates. At this point, there were 20,000 workers on the Missouri and their annual payroll totaled \$36 million per year.



Driving the first rivet during Missouri's keel laying ceremonies at the New York Navy Yard on 6 January 1941. Rear Admiral Clark Woodward, Commandant of the Navy Yard (second from right) did the honors.



THEIR GUNS WERE ALWAYS READY

BY JAMES THOMPSON

OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS — THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WARSHIPS. THIS SEGMENT BEGINS AN EXAMINATION OF THE USS MISSOURI (BB-63) - PART THIRTEEN

Magnificent view of USS Missouri (BB-63) shortly after commissioning and at anchor in Chesapeake Bay. Noticeable atop #2 turret is a quad 40mm gun mount. Except for the USS Iowa (BB-61), all of the class were completed with a mount at this location. The Iowa was designed as a Fleet Flagship, like the South Dakota (BB-57). The Iowa was completed with a 20mm gun array on the #2 turret so as to not block the view of the flag bridge, which was located below the conning bridge station. The Iowa was large enough and not restricted by treaty conditions, so she carried ten 5-inch/38 caliber twin mounts, like others in her class.



USS IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS