

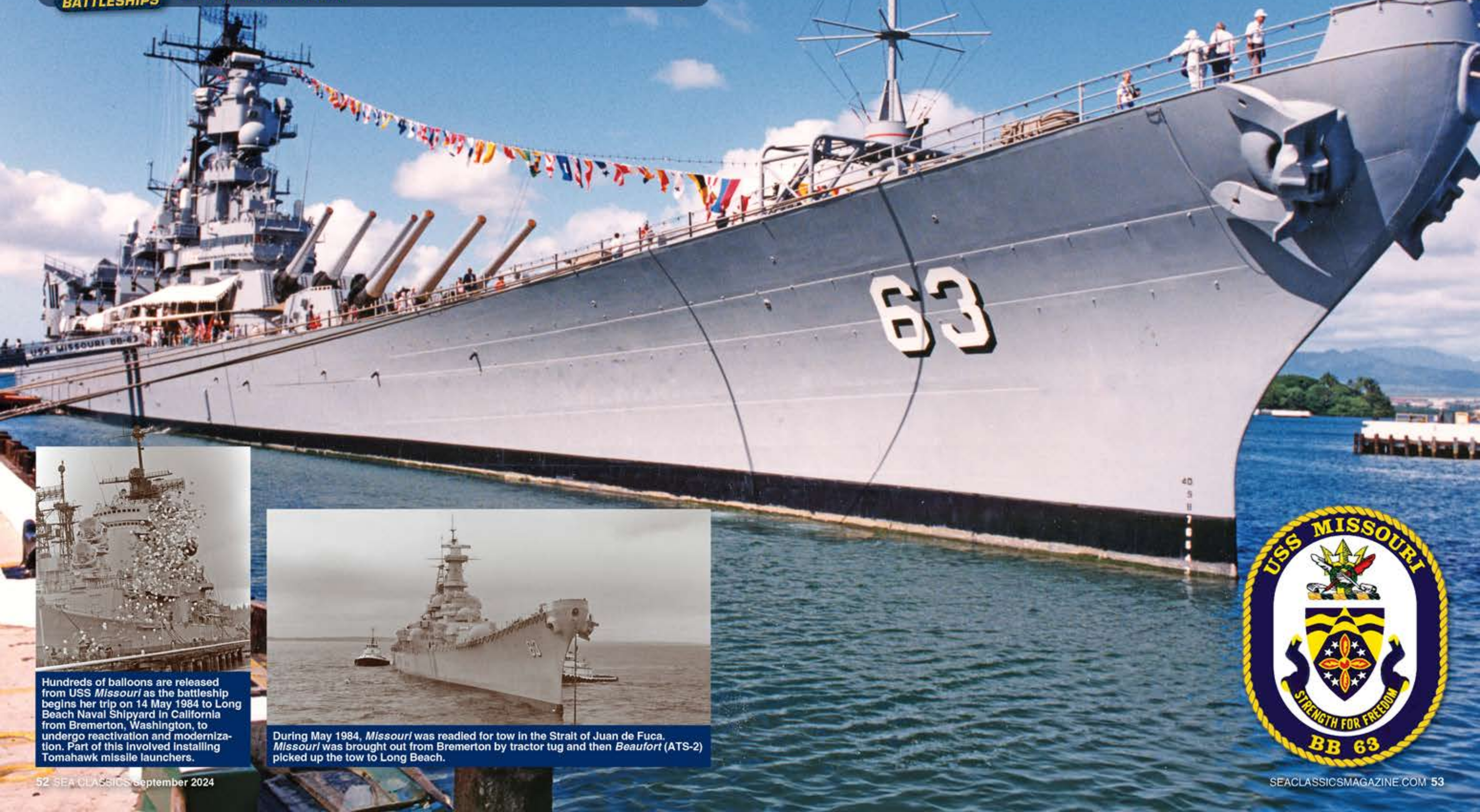


THEIR GUNS WERE ALWAYS READY

BY JAMES THOMPSON

OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF THE MIGHTY IOWA-CLASS BATTLESHIPS – THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS. THIS IS THE EIGHTH INSTALLMENT COVERING THE USS MISSOURI (BB-63) - PART TWENTY

USS *Missouri* at Pearl Harbor on Survivor's Day, a time when the sailors and Marines of the battleships that were sunk or damaged in the 7 December 1941 Japanese sneak attack are honored. At this point, *Missouri* was the world's last operational battleship as it celebrated the American sacrifice during the 50th anniversary of the attack. The ship had been brought out of mothballs and recommissioned in 1986. In 1986/1987, attacks on oil tankers going to and from Iran increased. *Missouri* was sent to the North Arabian Sea to escort Kuwaiti tankers now sailing under a US flag in Operation *Earnest Will*. On 11/12 October, the battleship escorted her first convoy through the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf.



Hundreds of balloons are released from USS *Missouri* as the battleship begins her trip on 14 May 1984 to Long Beach Naval Shipyard in California from Bremerton, Washington, to undergo reactivation and modernization. Part of this involved installing Tomahawk missile launchers.



During May 1984, *Missouri* was readied for tow in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. *Missouri* was brought out from Bremerton by tractor tug and then *Beaufort* (ATS-2) picked up the tow to Long Beach.

