



## The second USS New Jersey (BB 62) and WWII

The present New Jersey was authorized by an act of Congress May 17, 1938 and the contract was awarded to the Philadelphia Navy Yard in July, 1939.

Launched December 7, 1942 (exactly one year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor), the ship was commissioned May 23, 1943. She fitted out at Philadelphia, departing on her shakedown cruise August 9, 1943 in preparation for her part in World War II.

New Jersey took to sea January 2, 1944 bound for the Pacific. She participated in operations in Truk in the Marshall Islands, Western New Guinea, the Marianas Turkey Shoot, the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Caroline Islands, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, Luzon, Formosa, the Battle of Cape Engano, Iwo Jima and finally Okinawa, earning a total of nine battle stars. The ship operated with both the Third and Fifth Fleets and was

flagship for Admirals William F. (Bull) Halsey and Raymond A. Spruance.

Even so, her World War II career was somewhat disappointing. Already, strategy had changed to favor the aircraft carriers. The battleships escorted them, serving as anti-aircraft platforms.

In 1947, New Jersey was attached to Atlantic Fleet and on June 30, 1948 was decommissioned and joined the reserve fleet at Bayonne, N.J. She and her sister Iowa class battleships — Iowa and Wisconsin — were put to rest with the exception of the USS Missouri.

**(Above Right) New Jersey's hull takes form. (Above) New Jersey bombards the Tinian Islands. (Right) ADMs Nimitz and Spruance confer next to Turret One.**

